

Out on the Pampas

By G. A. HENTY

CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

As the party went through the town they were struck with the narrowness and straightness of the streets, and at the generally European look of everything. Once out of the town, the riding horses broke into a canter; for the road was so good that the horses in the light carriage were able to go along at full speed. As they proceeded they passed many houses of the rich merchants of the place, and all were charmed with the luxuriance and beauty of the gardens. Orange and lemon trees scented the air with their delicious perfumes; bananas, tree ferns and palms towered above them; lovely butterflies of immense size, and bright little humming birds flitted about among a countless variety of flowers. The delight of the young ones was unbounded.

Presently they left the mansions and gardens behind and drove out fairly into the country. Upon either side the plains stretched away as far as the eye could reach, in some parts under the plow, but far more generally carpeted with bright green grass and many-colored wild flowers. Everywhere could be seen droves of horses and cattle, while dotted here and there over the plain were the estancias of the proprietors.

It was a most delightful ride. Finally they drew up at their host's estancia. Here Mrs. Thompson came out to greet them. She had been a great friend of Mrs. Hardy in their young days, and great was their pleasure at again meeting after so long a separation. Mr. Thompson's estancia was a large and picturesque building. It was entirely surrounded by a wide veranda, so that at all hours of the day relief could be obtained from the glare of the sun. In front was an extensive garden. At a short distance behind the house were the houses of the men, and the corrals, or inclosures, for the cattle.

The interior was handsomely furnished in the European style, except that the floors were uncarpeted, and were composed of polished boards. Everywhere were signs that the proprietor was a prosperous and wealthy man. Mr. Thompson had only one son, a lad of about the same age as Charles Hardy. To his care Mrs. Thompson now assigned the boys, while she conducted Mrs. Hardy and her daughters to their rooms.

In half an hour the party reassembled at dinner, to which they all did ample justice. The conversation of Mr. Hardy and his friend turned upon the country, its position and prospects, and upon the advantage which the various districts offered to newcomers. Presently the dusk came on, followed rapidly by darkness, and in half an hour Ethel came to summon them to tea. The boys were full of delight at the immense herds of cattle they had seen. As they sat down to the tea table covered with delicate English china, with a kettle over a spirit lamp in the center, and lit with the subdued light of two shaded moderator lamps, Maud said, "It is not one bit like what I expected, papa, after all you have told us about hardships and working."

"Do not be afraid, Maud," her father said, laughing; "you won't be cheated out of your hardship and your work, I promise you. Mrs. Thompson will tell you that it was a very different sort of place when she first came here."

"Yes, indeed," Mrs. Thompson said, smiling; "this was considered a very lonely place when we first settled here. We had a little hut with two rooms, and it was more than six months before I could get a woman servant to come out. In time the country became more settled, and there are stations now sixty or seventy miles beyond us."

The next week was spent in riding over the estate, which consisted of four square leagues—that is to say, six miles each way—and in examining the arrangements of the inclosures for the cattle. At the end of that time Mr. Hardy started on a tour of inspection through the provinces most likely to suit, provided with numerous letters of introduction from his host. While he was away the boys were to assist upon the estate, and to accustom themselves to the work and duties of the life they were to lead. Into this they entered with the greatest zest, and were in the saddle from morning till night, until, as Mr. Thompson told them, they looked like two young gauchos. The gauchos are the natives of the country. They are fine-looking men, with Spanish faces. Their dress is very picturesque. They wear loose trousers, worked and fringed round the bottom. Above this is a sort of shawl of bright colors, woven in stripes, and sometimes of black cloth edged with scarlet. Above a colored flannel shirt is worn. The boots are long and are made of undressed leather. They wear a broad leathern belt, with pockets in it; in this a knife, too, is always stuck.

After an absence of a month Mr. Hardy returned with the welcome news that he had made his choice, and had bought at the public auction a tract of four square leagues, upon a river some twenty miles to the south of the town of Rosario, and consequently only a few days' journey from Buenos Ayres. Mr. Thompson looked a little grave when he heard the location of the property, but he only said that he was very glad that his friend had fixed upon a spot which would make it easy for the families to see something of each other.

"It is six miles square," said Mr. Hardy, "that is, about 25,000 acres. There is a good-sized stream running through it; there are a good many trees, considering that it is out on the Pampas; there are several elevations which give a fine view over the plain, and upon one of

these our future home will stand. A small stream falls into the larger one, and will, I think, be useful. There is an abundance of game; ducks, geese and swans swarm upon the river. I saw a good many ostriches out on the plains. And, lastly, the soil appears to be excellent. A great point is, that it is only distant twenty miles from Rosario, a most rising town; so that the value of the land is sure to increase yearly, as new settlers come around us."

"That is a most important point," Mr. Thompson said.

"Are there any settlements near, Frank?" Mrs. Hardy asked.

"The next plot to ours belongs to three young Englishmen, and the ground between us and Rosario is also principally occupied by English; so that we shall have neighbors near, and I do not suppose that it will be long before we have them all around us."

"If the advantages of the place are so great, Frank, how is it that you have got it so very cheaply? I understood from Mr. Thompson that land in a rising neighborhood, and that was likely to increase in value, was worth two or three shillings, or even more, an acre."

Mr. Hardy hesitated. "Well, Clara, the land is at present upon the extreme verge of the settlements, and the Indians are apt sometimes to be a little troublesome, and to drive off a few horses or cattle. No doubt, the thing has been exaggerated; still, there is something in it, and the consequence is people are rather afraid to bid, and I have got this splendid tract of land for about twenty-five hundred dollars; and, not improbably, in ten years it may be worth ten times as much."

"A great proportion of these Indian tales are built upon very small foundations," Mr. Thompson said, cheerfully.

CHAPTER III.

The voyage up the river Parana was marked by no particular incident. The distance to Rosario from Buenos Ayres is about two hundred and fifty miles, which was performed by the steamer in about a day and a half. The river is nearly twenty miles in breadth, and is completely studded by islands. The boys were disappointed at the aspect of Rosario, which, although a rising place, contained under a thousand inhabitants, and looked miserably poor and squalid after Buenos Ayres. Here they were met by a gentleman to whom Mr. Thompson had introduced Mr. Hardy, and with whom he had stayed on his first visit to Rosario. He had brought horses for themselves and bullock carts for their luggage.

"What! are these your boys, Mr. Hardy? I had not expected to have seen such big fellows. Why, they will be men in no time."

Charley and Hubert deserved Mr. Percy's commendation. They were now sixteen and fifteen years old, respectively, and were remarkably strong, well-grown lads. In a few minutes the luggage was packed in two bullock carts, and they were on their way out to Mr. Percy's station, which was about half way to the camp of Mr. Hardy. The word camp in the pampas means station or property; it is a corruption of the Spanish word *caspos*, literally plains or meadows.

Here they found that Mr. Percy had most satisfactorily performed the commission with which Mr. Hardy had entrusted him. He had bought a couple of the rough country bullock carts, three pairs of oxen accustomed to the yoke, half a dozen riding horses, two milk cows, and a score of sheep and cattle to supply the larder. He had hired four men—a stock keeper named Lopez, who was called the *capitaz* or head man, a tall, swarthy fellow, whose father was a Spaniard and his mother a native woman; two laborers, the one a German, called Hans, who had been some time in the colony, the other an Irishman, Terence Kelly, whose face the boys remembered at once as having come out in the same ship with themselves. The last man was an American, one of those wandering fellows who are never contented to remain anywhere, but are always pushing on, as if they thought that the further they went the better they should fare. He was engaged as carpenter and useful man, and there were few things to which he could not turn his hand.

They waited the next day at Mr. Percy's station, and started the next morning before daylight, as they had still ten miles to travel, and were desirous of getting as early to the ground as possible.

The boys were in the highest spirits at being at last really out upon the pampas. There was no road or track of any kind, and consequently the party straggled along in a confused body. First came the animals—the sheep, bullocks and cows. Behind these rode Lopez, in his gaucho dress and a long whip in his hand, which he cracked from time to time, with a report like that of a pistol. The first bullock cart was driven by Hans, who sat upon the top of a heap of baggage, his head covered with a very old and battered Panama hat, through several broad holes in which his red hair

bristled out in a most comical fashion, and over his blue flannel shirt a large red beard flowed almost to his waist. Terence was walking by the side of the second cart in corduroy breeches and gaiters and blue coat, with a high black hat, battered and bruised out of all shape, on his head. In his hand he held a favorite shillalah, which he had brought with him from his native land, and with the end of which he occasionally poked the ribs of the oxen. The Yankee rode sometimes near one, sometimes by another, seldom exchanging a word with any one. He wore a fur cap made of fox's skin; a faded blanket, with a hole out in the middle for the head to go through, fell from his shoulders to his knees. The mastiffs trotted along by the horses, and the two fine retrievers, Dash and Flirt, galloped about over the plains. Lopez acted as guide, and after three hours' riding pointed to a clump of trees in the distance, and said: "That is the camp."

"Hurrah," shouted the boys. "May we ride on, papa?"

"Yes, boys, I will ride on with you. Mind how you gallop, the ground is honeycombed with armadillo holes, and if your horse treads in one you will go over his head."

"I don't think that I should do that," Charley said; "I can stick on pretty tightly, and—" he had not time to finish his sentence, for his horse suddenly seemed to go down on his head, and Charley was sent flying two or three yards through the air.

They soon crossed a little stream, running east to fall into the main stream, which formed the boundary of the property upon that side; and Mr. Hardy told the boys that they were now upon their own land. There was another hurrah, and then, regardless of the risks of falls, they dashed up to the little clump of trees which stood upon slightly rising ground. Here they drew rein and looked round upon the country which was to be their home. As far as the eye could reach a flat plain, with a few slight elevations and some half-dozen trees, extended. The grass was a brilliant green. Objects could be seen moving in the distance, and a short examination enabled Mr. Hardy to decide that they were ostriches, to the delight of the boys, who promised themselves an early hunt.

"Where have you fixed for the house, papa?" Hubert asked.

"There where those three trees are growing upon the highest swell you can see, about a mile and a half further. We will go on at once; the others will see us."

Another ten minutes took them to the place Mr. Hardy had pointed out, and the boys both agreed that nothing could be better.

They now took off the saddles and bridles from their horses, and allowed them to range as they pleased, knowing that the native horses were accustomed to be let free, and that there was no fear of their straying away. "Now, boys," Mr. Hardy said, "let us begin by getting our first dinner. You go straight down to the water; I will keep to the right. You 'ake Dash, I will take Flirt."

In another ten minutes the reports of the guns followed close upon each other, and the boys had the satisfaction of knocking down two geese and eight ducks, which Dash brought ashore, besides others which escaped. In five minutes more they heard a shout from their father, who had bagged two more geese and three ducks. "That will do, boys; we have plenty for the next day or two, and we must not alarm them by too much slaughter."

"Four geese and eleven ducks, papa, in five minutes," the boys said, when they joined Mr. Hardy; "that is not bad shooting to begin with."

"Not at all, boys. What with wild fowl and armadillos, I think that at a pinch we could live for some time upon the produce of the estate."

"You don't mean to say, papa, that they eat the armadillos?" Hubert said with a look of suspicion.

"They do, indeed, Hubert, and I am told that they are not at all bad eating. Now let us go up to the rise again; our carts must be nearly up."

By the time they reached the trees they found that the rest of the cavalcade was within a quarter of a mile, and in a few minutes they came up.

The carts contained three small portmanteaus with the clothes of Mr. Hardy and the boys, and a large case containing the carbines, rifles and ammunition. There was a number of canisters with tea, coffee, sugar, salt and pepper; a sack of flour; some cooking pots and frying pans, tin plates, dishes and mugs; two sacks of coal and a quantity of firewood; shovels, carpenter's tools, a sickle, the framework of a hut with two doors and windows, three rolls of felt, a couple of dozen wooden posts, and two large coils of iron wire. While the others were busy unloading the German had cut some turf and built a rough fireplace, and had soon a bright fire blazing.

"Shall we pluck the ducks?" Charley asked.

"I reckon we can manage quicker than that," the Yankee said; and taking up one of the ducks he cut off its head and pinions; in another minute he had roughly skinned it, and threw it to the German, who cut it up and put the pieces into the frying pan. A similar process was performed with the other ducks, a little pepper and salt shaken over them, and in a wonderfully short time the first batch was ready. All drew round and sat down on the grass; the tin plates were distributed, but were only used by Mr. Hardy and his sons, the others simply taking the joints into their hands and cutting off pieces with their knives. The result of this primitive cooking was pronounced to be excellent, and after drinking a mug of tea all felt ready for work.

(To be continued.)

Germany owns 742,000 acres in Central America, with 20,000,000 coffee trees.

The only jewel which will not decay is knowledge.—Langford.

DOCTOR ADVOCATED OPERATION— PE-RU-NA MADE KNIFE UNNECESSARY.

Catarrh is a very frequent cause of that class of diseases popularly known as female weakness.

Catarrh of the pelvic organs produces such a variety of disagreeable and irritating symptoms that many people—in fact, the majority of people—have no idea that they are caused by catarrh.

If all the women who are suffering with any form of female weakness would write to Dr. Hartman, Columbus, Ohio, and give him a complete description of their symptoms and the peculiarities of their troubles, he will immediately reply with complete directions for treatment, free of charge.

Mrs. Eva Bartho, 133 East 12th street, N. Y. City, N. Y., writes:

"I suffered for three years with leucorrhoea and ulceration of the womb. The doctor advocated an operation which I dreaded very much, and strongly objected to go under it. Now I am a changed woman. Perunacured me; it took nine bottles, but I felt so much improved I kept taking it, as I dreaded an operation so much. I am today in perfect health and have not felt so well for fifteen years."—Mrs. Eva Bartho.

Miss Maud Steinbach, 1399 12th St., Milwaukee, Wis., writes:

"Last winter I felt sick most of the time, was irregular and suffered from nervous exhaustion and severe bearing down pains. I had so frequently heard of Peruna and what wonderful cures it performed so I sent for a bottle and in four weeks my health and strength were entirely restored to me."—Miss Maud Steinbach.

Everywhere the women are using Peruna and praising it. Peruna is not a palliative simply, it cures by removing the cause of female disease.

Dr. Hartman has probably cured more women of female ailments than any other living physician. He makes these cures simply by using and recommending Peruna.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.



MRS. EVA BARTHO.

Has Posed Many Presidents.
George G. Rockwood, photographer, has posed every president since Van Buren. He has been a photographer over fifty years.

The Three Causes.
"Congratulate me, old chap. I'm the happiest man on earth today."
"Engaged, married or divorced?"

Piso's Cure is a good cough medicine.
It has cured coughs and colds for forty years. At druggists, 25 cents.

Time Table Told the Story.
"It strikes me that this is about the slowest railroad in the country," said the impatient tourist.

"I knew you were going to kick," replied the conductor, genially, "as soon as you asked for a time table. You are one of these people who believe everything they see in print."

Useless Tip.
His Honor—Don't you know honesty is the best policy?
Erastus—"Deed I don't believ in p'lyain' policy no more sah; I's done reformed."

You Can Get Allen's Foot Ease FREE.
Write Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y., for a free sample of Allen's Foot Ease. It cures chapped, sweating, damp, swollen, itching feet. It makes new or tight shoes easy. A certain cure for Corns and Bunions. All druggists sell it. 25c. Don't accept any substitute.

Russian Photographers.
In Russia no photographer can practice his art without a license.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first use of Dr. Kline's Great Kidney and Bladder Remedy. Send for FREE TRIAL BOTTLE and true test. Dr. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 431 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Mer Comment.
Softleigh—Yass, I always carry an umbrella, doncher know.
Miss Cutting—I always suspected that you didn't know enough to go in when it rains.

A Good Beginning

If the blood is in good condition at the beginning of the warm season, you are prepared to resist disease and are not apt to be troubled with boils, pimples, blackheads and blotches, or the itching and burning skin eruptions that make one's life a veritable torment and misery.

Now is the time to begin the work of cleansing and building up the blood and strengthening the weak places in your constitution. During the cold winter months we are compelled to live indoors and breathe the impure air of badly ventilated rooms and offices. We over-work and over-eat, and get too little out-door exercise, and our systems become clogged with impurities and the blood a hot-bed of germs and humors of every kind, and warm weather is sure to bring a reaction, and the poisonous matter in the blood and system will break out in boils and pustules or scaly eruptions and red, disfiguring bumps and pimples. Make a good beginning this season by taking a course of S. S. S. in time; it will not only purify your blood and destroy the germs and poisons, but promote healthy action of the Liver and Kidneys and give you a good appetite at a time when you need it most.

S. S. S. improves the digestion and tones up the Stomach, and you are not continually haunted by the fear of indigestion every time you eat, or troubled with dizziness, nervousness and sleeplessness. There is no reason to dread the coming of warm weather if you have your system well fortified and the blood in a normal, healthy condition. It is the polluted, sluggish blood that invites disease germs, microbes and poisons of every kind and brings on a long train of spring and summer ailments, break down the constitution, and produce weakness, lassitude, and other debilitating disorders. Eczema, Acne, Nettle-rash, Poison Oak and Ivy, and other irritating skin troubles are sure to make their appearance unless the humors and poisons are antidoted and the thin, acid blood made rich and strong before the coming of warm weather.

A course of S. S. S. now would be a safe precaution and a good beginning and enable you to pass in comfort through the hot, sultry months and purely vegetable and is recognized as the best blood purifier and the most invigorating and pleasant of all tonics. Write for our book on "The Blood and Its Diseases."

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

HORRIBLY AFFLICTED WITH BOILS.
I had a horrible attack of boils that broke out all over my body and from which I could get no possible relief until I began taking your medicine, and from my experience I can safely say S. S. S. is the best blood purifier in the world.

Mrs. M. P. BMYTHERS, Wytheville, Va.

THE BEST TONIC AND APPETIZER.
While living in Sherman, Tex., I became a victim of impure, watery blood. I ran down in appetite and energy; was scarcely able to get about and had to stop off and rest occasionally. I took S. S. S. and began to improve at once, and after a thorough course became strong and well.

I think S. S. S. the best medicine I ever used as an appetizer and general tonic. J. G. SCOTT, 611 Railroad street, Rome, Ga.

SSS

escape the diseases common to spring and summer. S. S. S. is guaranteed

vigorous and pleasant of all tonics. Write for our book on "The Blood and Its Diseases."

SSS

are antidoted and the thin, acid blood made rich and strong before the coming of warm weather.

SSS

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.