CONTINUED.

"1 no," repried Thorpe, "unless you bark them, which process will cost you about \$1 a thousand. You can find any amount of small purchasers at reduced price. You can sell them easily at \$3. That nets you for your million and a half a little over \$4,000 more Under the circumstances I do not think that my request for five thousand is at all exorbitant.'

Daly laughed. "You are a shrewd figurer, and your remarks are interesting," said be

"Will you give \$5,000?" asked Thorpe "I will not," replied Daly; then, with sudden change of humos: "And new I'll do a little talking. I've listened to you just about as long as I'm going to. I have Radway's contract in that safe, and I live up to it. I'll thank you to go plumb to blazes!"

That's your last word, is it?" asked Thorpe, rising.

Then," said he slowly and distinctly, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I intend to collect in full the \$4 a thousand for the three millions and a half Mr. Radway has delivered to you. In return Mi Radway will purchase of you at the stumpage rates of \$2 a thousand the million and a balf be failed to put That makes a bill against you if my figuring is correct, of just \$11 You will pay that bill, and I will tell you why. Your contract will be classed in any court as a gambling cou tract for lack of consideration. have no legal standing in the world. eall your bluff, Mr. Daly, and I'll fight you from the drop of the hat through

every court in Christendom." "Fight ahead." advised Daly sweetly who knew perfectly well that Thorpe's law was faulty. As a matter of fact, the young man could have collected on other grounds, but neither was aware of that.

"Furthermore," pursued Thorpe in addition, "I'll repeat my offer before witnesses, and if I win the first suit I'll sue you for the money we could have made by purchasing the extra million and a half before it had a

This statement had its effect, for it forced an immediate settlement before the pine on the skids should deteriorate. Daly lounged back with a little more deadly carelessness.

"And, lastly," concluded Thorpe, play ing his trump card, "the suit from start to finish will be published in ev ery important paper in this country. you do not believe I have the influence to do this you are at liberty to doubt the fact."

Daly was cogitating many things. He knew that publicity was the last thing to be desired. Thorpe's statement had been made in view of the fact that much of the business of a lumber firm is done on credit. He thought that perhaps a rumor of a big suit going against the firm might fact, this considerat in had no weight whatever with the older man, although the threat of publicity actually gained for Thorpe what he demanded. The lumberman feared the noise of an it vestigation solely and simply because his firm, like so many others, was engaged at the time in stealing government timber in the upper peninsula. He did not call it stealing, but that was what it amounted to. Thorne's shot in the air hit full.

"I think we can arrange a basis of settlement," he said finally. "Be here tomorrow morning at 10 with Rad-

"Very well," said whorpe, "By the way," remarked Daiy, "I don't believe I know your name." "Thorpe," was the reply.

"Well, Mr. Thorpe," said the lumberman, with cold anger, "If at any time there is anything within my power or influence that you want Pil see that you don't get it." The whole affair was finally compro

mised for \$9,000. Radway, grateful beyond expression, insisted on Thorpe's acceptance of an even thousand, and with this money in hand the latter felt justified in taking a vacation for the purpose of visiting his sister.

For the purposes he had in view \$500 would be none too much. The remaining \$500 he had resolved to invest on siled paper of a district divided into in his sister's comfort and happiness He had thought the matter over and were colored, which indicated that they and gradually evolved what seemed to belonged to private parties. All the him an excellent plan. He had already perfected it by correspondence with It-was, briefly, this: He, Thorpe, would at once hire a servant found to contain a woolen and rubbe girl, who would make anything but sublanket, fishing tackle, twenty pound Dervision unnecessary in so small a or so of flour, a package of tea, sugar household. The remainder of the mount a slab of bacon carefully wrapped in oy he had already paid for a year's oiled cloth, salt, a suit of underwest tuition in the seminary of the town, and several extra pairs of thick stock Thus Helen gained her leisure and an lugs. To the outside of the pack has apportunity for study and still retain- been strapped a frying pan, a tin pal ad her home in case of reverse.

young lady. After the first delight of seen any indications of man excepting meeting had passed they sat elde by always the eld blaze of the govern side on the haircioth sofa and took with survey. Many years before stock of each other.

some girl, possessed of a slender, well section, the township and the on and quadron and a will to back! The map he had procured at the

big!" she cried, kissing her brother. "You've had such a strange winter, haven't you?"

were going to toward the last, and I made a little money."
"Oh, I'm so glad!" she cried. "Was it

much?" "No, not much," he answered. The actual figures would have been so much better. "I've made arrangements \$2.50 and \$1.25 an acre, cash down with Mrs. Renwick to hire a servant But he relied on the good sense of capgirl, so you will have all your time free, italists to perceive from the statistics and I've paid a year's tuition for you which his explorations would furnish in the seminary.

"Oh," said the girl, and fell silent. After a time, "Thank you very much. Harry dear;" then, after another interva!, "I think I'll go get ready for supper."

Instead of getting ready for sur

"Oh, why didn't he say what he was about?" she cried to herself. didn't he? Why didn't he?"

The days, however, passed in main pleasurably for them both. They were fond of one another. The barfler slowly rising between them was not yet cemented by lack of affection on either side, but rather by lack of bellef in the other's affection. Helen imagined Thorpe's Interest in her becoming daily more perfunctory. Thorpe fancled his sister cold, unreasonly and ungrateful. And yet this was but the vague dust of a cloud. They could not forget that but for each other they were alone in the world. Thorpe delayed his departure from day to day, making all the preparations he possibly could at home.

Finally Helen came on him bustly unpacking a box which a dray had left at the door. He unwound and laid one side a Winchester rifle, a variety of fishing tackle and some other miscellanies of the woodsman. Helen was struck by the beauty of the sporting implements.

"Oh, Harry!" she cried. "Aren't they fine? What are you going to do with them?" "Going camping," replied Thorpe,

with his head in excelsior. "When?" "This summer."

Helen's eyes lit up with a fire of delight. "How nice! May I go with you?" she cried. Thorpe shook his head.

"I'm afraid not, little girl. It's going to be a hard trip a long ways from anywhere. You couldn't stand it." "I'm sure I could. Try me."

"No," replied Thorpe. "I know you couldn't. We'll be sleeping on the ground and going on foot through much extremely difficult country."

"I wish you'd take me somewhere pursued Helen. "I can't get away this summer unless you do. Why don't you camp somewhere nearer home, so I can

Thorpe arose and kissed her tenderly "I can't, little girl; that's all. We've got our way to make."

She understood that he considered the trip too expensive for them both At this moment a paper fluttered from the excelsior. She picked it up. A

glance showed her a total of figures that made her gasp.
"Here is your bill," she said, with a strange choke in her voice, and left the

"He can spend \$60 on his old guns but he can't afford to let me leave this hateful house," she complained to the apple tree. "He can go way off campng somewhere to have a good time, but he leaves me sweltering in this miserable little town all summer. I don't care if he is supporting me. He ought to. He's my brother. Oh, I wish

I were a man! I wish I were dead?" Three days later Thorpe left for the north.

CHAPTER X.

OR more than a week Thorpe est. His equipment was simple in the extreme. Attached to a heavy leather belt of cartridges bung a two pound ax and a sheath knife. In his pocket reposed a compass, an air tight tin of matches and a map drawn sections. Some few of the sections rest was state or government land. He carried in his hand a repeating rifle. The pack, if opened, would have been

Therpe found his eister aiready a He had not met a human being of Helen had developed from the school Die country along the section bound child to the woman. She was a hand- aries. These latter stated always the rounded form and deep-imzel eyes, with east or west by number. All Thorpe the level gaze of her brother, although had to do was to find the same figures a figure rather aloof, a face rather im- on his map. He knew just where he

United States land office to Detroit.

He had set out for the purpose of "looking" a suitable bunch of pine in the northern peninsula, which at the time was practically untouched. Ac cess to the interior could only be obtained on foot or by river. The South Shore railroad had as yet penetrated only as far as Seney. Marquette, Menominee and a few smaller places along the coast were lumbering near at home, but they shipped entirely by water.

Thorpe, with the farsightedness of the ploneer, had perceived that the exploitation of the upper country was an affair of a few years only. The north would not prove as accessible as it now seemed, for the-carrying trade would some day realize that the entire waterway of the great lakes offered an unrivaled outlet. With that "Yes," he replied absently. "Things discovery would begin a rush to the came a little better than I thought they new country. He resolved to anticipate it and by acquiring his holdings before general attention should be turned that way to obtain the best.

He was without money and practi-cally without friends, while government and state lands cost respectively the wonderful advantages of logging a new country with the chain of great lakes as shipping outlet at its very door. In return for his information he would expect a half interest in the enterprise.

Thorpe was by no means the first to she paced excitedly up and down her see the money in northern pine. Outside the big mill districts already named cuttings of considerable size were already under way, the logs from which were usually sold to the mills of Marquette and Menominee.

But work was on a small scale and with an eye to the immediate present only. It was accomplished by purchasing one forty and cutting a dozen Thorpe's map showed often near the forks of am important stream a section whose coloring indicated private possession. Legally the owners had the right only to the pine included in the marked sections, but if eny one had taken the trouble to visit the district he would have found operations going on for miles up and down stream. The colored squares would prove to be notliing but so many excuses for being on the ground. The bulk of the pine was stolen from unbought state or government land.

This in the old days was a commo enough trick.

Thorpe was perfectly conversant with this state of affairs. He knew also that in all probability many of the colored districts on his map represented firms engaged in steals of greater or less magnitude. He was further aware that most of the concerns stole the timber because it was cheaper to steal than to buy, but that they would buy readily enough if forced to do so in o der to prevent its acquisition by another. In his exploration, therefore, he decided to employ the utmost circumspection. He would pose as a hunter and fisherman.

For a week he journeyed through magnificent timber, working always more and more to the north, until finally he stood on the shores of Superior. He resolved to follow the shore west to the mooth of a fairly large river called the Ossawinamakee. It showed in common with most streams of its size, land already taken, but Thorpe hoped to find good timber near the mouth. After several days' hard walk ing with this object in view he found dimself directly north of a bend in the river, so he turned through the woods due south, with the intention of strik ing in on the stream. This he succeed ed in accomplishing some twenty miles inland, where also he discovered a well defined and recently used trail leading up the river. Therpe camped one night at the bend and then set out to follow the trall.

It led him for upward of ten miles early due south, sometimes approaching, sometimes leaving, the river, but keeping always in its direction. country in general was rolling. Low arallel ridges of gentle declivity gilded constantly across his way, their valleys sloping to the river. had never seen a grander forest of pine than that which clothed them.

At the ten mile point he came upon a dam. It was a crude dam, built of logs, whose face consisted of strong buttresses slanted up stream and whose sheer was made of unbarked timbers laid smoothly side by side at the required angle. At present its gate was

The purpose of the dam in this new country did not puzzle him in the least, but its presence bewildered him. Such constructions are often thrown across logging streams at proper intervals in order that the operator may be independent of the spring freshets. The device is common coough but it is expensive. People do not build dams except in the certainty of some years of logging, and quite extensive logging at that. If the stream happens to be navigable the promoter must first get an improvement charter from a board of control appointed by the state. So Thorpe knew that he had to deal not with a hand to mouth lumber thief, but with a great company preparing to log the country on a big

weather; the tangle of tops and limbs once at his side. was partially concealed by poplar growths and wild raspberry vince. gravely.

To Thorpe this particular clearing be-

came at once of the greatest interest. He screenhed over and through the gaze of his race. ugly debris which for a year or two "How do?" replied Thosps.

after leveling operations cumbers the The Indian without further exce

he found what he sought—the "section corners" of the tract, on which the government surveyor had long ago marked the "descriptions." A glance at the map confirmed his suspicions. The slashing lay some two miles north of the sections designated as belonging to private parties. It was government land.

Thorpe sat down, lit a pipe and and a little thinking.

He had that very morning passed through beautiful timber lying much nearer the mouth of the river than either this or the sections farther south Why had these mendeliberately ascended the stream? Why had they stolen timber eighteen miles from the bend when they could equally well have stolen fust as good fourteen miles nearer the terminus of their drive?

Thorpe suddenly remembered the wo dams and his idea that the face in charge of the river must be wealthy and must intend operating on a large scale. He thought he glimpsed it. After another pipe he felt sure.

The unknowns were indeed going in on a large scale. They intended even tually to log the whole of the Ossaluamakee basin. For this reason they had made their first purchase, planted their first footboid, near the headwaers. Some day they would buy all the standing government pine in the basin, but in the meantime they would steal all they could at a sufficient distance from the lake to minimize the danger of discovery. Every stick cut meant so much less to purchase later on.



"How do?" greeted the newcomer. Thorpe knew that men occupied in so precarious a business would business

ly on the watch. At the first hint of rivalry they would buy in the thinker they had selected. But the situation had set his fighting blood to anding. They undoubtedly wanted the tract down river. Well, so did he!

He purposed to look it over carefully. to ascertain its exact boundaries and what sections it would be necessary to buy in order to include it, and perhaps even to estimate it in a rough way. In the accomplishment of this he would have to spend the summer and perhaps part of the fall in that district. He hardly expect to escape no By the indications on the river he judged that a crew of men had shortly sefore taken out a drive of loss. After the timber had been rafted and towed o Marquette they would return. He sconer or later, he was sure, one of the company's land lookers or hunters would stumble on his camp. Then his very consealment would tell them what he was after. The risk was too great, for, above all things, Thorpe needed time. He had, as has been said to ascertain what he could offer. Then he had to offer it. He would be worded to interest capital, and that is a matter of persuasion and leisure.

Finally his shrewd, intuitive good sense flashed the solution on him. returned rapidly to his pack, assumed the straps and arrived at the first dam the straps and arrived an about dark of the long summer day.

There he looked carefully about Some fifty feet from the water's edge a birch knoll supported, besides the birches, a single big hemlock. With his belt ax Thorpe cleared away the little white trees. He stuck the sherpened and of one of them in the bank of the shaggy homlock, fastoned the other end in a crotch eight or ten fett distant, slanted the rest of the suplings nlong one side of this ridgepole and turned in, after a hasty supper, leaving the completion of his permanent camp to the morrow.

In the morning he thatched smooth the roof of the shelter, using for the purpose the thick branches of bemiocks. placing two green spruce logs side by side as cooking range, slang the pot on a rod across two Torked sticks, cut and split a quantity of wood, serend his blankets and called himself established.

For some days he made no effort to look over the pine, nor did he untend He continued his fourney. At noon to begin until he could be sure of doing he came to another and similar struc-ture. Here he left his pack and pushed give his knoll the appearance of a About trapper's camp.

ight miles above the first dam and, Toward the end of the week be re ighteen from the bend of the river ceived his first visits Evening was he ran info a "slashing" of the year drawing on. Thorpe was builty enbefore. The decapitated stumps were gaged in cooking a pancel of trout, already beginning to turn brown with Suddenly he became aware of a pres-

"How do?" greated the passenger

The man was an Indian, all and soiema, with the straight, unwinking "How do?" replied Thorne

ground. By a rather prolonged search | mony threw his pack to the ground, and, squatting on his heels, watched the white man's preparations. When the meal was cooked he coolly pro duced a knife, selected a clean bit of hemlock bark and helped himself. Then he lit a pipe and gazed keenly about him.

"What you do?" he inquired after long silence, punctuated by the puffs of tobacco.

"Hunt, trap, fish," replied Thorpe, with equal sententiousness.

"Good," concluded the Indian after

a ruminative pause. That night he slept on the ground. Next day he made a better shelter than

Thorpe's in less than half the time and was off hunting before the sun was an hour high. He was armed with an old fashioned smooth bore muzzle loader, and Thorpe was astonished after he had become better acquainted with his new companion's method to find that he hunted deer with fine bird shot The Indian never expected to kill or even mortally wound his game, but he would follow for miles the blood drops caused by his little wounds until the animals in sheer exhaustion allowed him to approach close enough for a dispatching blow. At 2 o'clock he re turned with a small buck, fied scientifically together for toting, with the waste parts cut away, but every ounce of utility retained.

"I show," said the Indian, and he did. Thorpe learned the Indian tan.

The Indian appeared to intend making the birch knoll his permanent headquarters. Thorpe was at first a little suspicious of his new companion, but the man appeared scrupulously honest, was never intrusive and even seemed genuinely desirous of teaching the white little tricks of the woods brought to their perfection by the Indian alone, He ended by tiking him. The two rarely spoke. They merely sat near each ther and smoked. One evening the Indian suddenly remarked: "You look 'um tree?"

"What's that?" cried Thorpe, star-

"You no hunter, no trapper. You look 'um tree for make 'um lumber.' "What makes you think that, Charley?" he asked.

'You good man in woods," replied Iujun Charley sententiously, "I tell by way you look at him pine." Thorpe ruminated.

"Charley," said he, "why are you staying here with me?" "Big frien'," replied the Indian promptly. "Why are you my friend? What have

I ever done for you?" "You got 'um chief's eye," replied his companion, with simplicity.

Thorpe looked at the fudian again. There seemed to be only one course. "Yes, I'm a lumberman," he confessed, "and I'm looking for pine. But, Charley, the men up the river must not know what I'm after."

"They got 'um pine," interjected the "Exactly," replied Thorpe, surprised

afresh at the other's perspicacity. "Good!" exclaimed Injun Charley and fell silent. With this, the longest conversation

the two had attempted in their peculiar acquaintance, Thorpe was forced to be content. Three days later he was intensely

thankful the conversation had taken After the noon meal he lay on his blanket under the hemlock shelter,

smoking and lazily watching Injun birch bark canoe. So idly intent was Thorne on this

piece of construction that he did not notice the approach of two men from the down stream side. They were short, alert men, plodding along with the knee-bent persistency of the wood walker, dressed in broad hats, flannel shirts, coarse trousers tucked in high laced "cruisers" and carrying each a bulging meal sack looped by a cord across the shoulders and chest. Both were armed with long slender scalers rules. The first intimation Thorpe recelved of the presence of these two men was the sound of their voices.

"Hello, Charley!" said one of them. What you doing here? Ain't seen you since the Sturgeon district." "Mak' 'um canoe," replied Charley rather obviously.

"So I see. But what do you expect to get in this God forsaken country? "Beaver, muskrat, mink, otter."

"Trapping, oh?" the man gazed keen ly at Thorpe's recumbent figure. "Who's he other fellow?" Thorpe held his breath, then exhaled

it in a long sigh of relief. "Him white man," Injun Charley was replying. "Him hunt too. He mak' 'um buckskin."

The land looker grose lazily and sauntered toward the group. "Howdy?" he drawled: That eas

smokin'? "How are you?" replied one of the scalers, eying him sharply and tender ing his pouch. Thorpe filled his pipe deliberately and returned it with a

heavy lidded glance of thanks. To all appearances he was one of the lazy. shiftless hunters of the backwoods Seized with an inspiration, he said: "What sort of chances is they at your camp for a little flour? Me and Charley's about out. I'll bring you ment, or I'll make you boys moceasins. I got some good buckskin." It was the usual proposition.

"Pretty good, I guess. Come up and " advised the scaler. "The crew's

right benind us." "I'll send Charley," drawled Thorps

"I'm busy now makin' traps." waved his pipe, calling attention to the pine and rawhide deadfails. They chatted a few moments. Then

two wagons creaked lurching by, followed by fifteen or twenty men. The last of these, evidently the foremen. was joined by the two seniers. Injun Charley was setting about the

splitting of a order ion

frien. In the days that followed Thorpe ernised about the great woods. It was knew that when he should eigh his attempt to enlist considerable cap-Ral in an "unsight, unseend investment he would have to be well supplied with statistics.

Cirst of all he walked over the country at large to find where the best timber lay. This was a matter of tramping, though often on an elevation besucceeded la climbing a tall tree whence he caught birdseye views of the country at large. He always carried his gun with him and was prepared at a moment's notice to seem engaged in hunting.

Next he ascertained the geographical location of the different clumps and forests, entering the sections, the quarter sections, even the separate forties, in his notebook, taking in only the "descriptions" containing the best pine.

Finally he wrote accurate notes concerning the topography of each and every pine district-the lay of the land, the hills, ravines, swamps and valleys, the distance from the river, the character of the soil. In short, be accumulated all the information he could by which the cost of logging might be estimated.

For this he had really too little experfence. He knew it, but determine! to do his best. The weak point of his whole scheme lay in that it was going to be impossible for him to allow the prospective purchaser a chance to ex-

amine the pine. That diffculty Thorp. hoped to overcome by inspiring per sonal confidence in himself. If is fulled to do so be might yeturn with & hand looker whom the investor trusted and the two could re-enact the comests of this sammer. Thorpe hoped, how ever, to avoid the necessity. He see about a rough estimate of the timber. One evening just at sunset Thorpe was helping the Indian shape his craft. The two men beat there at their task. the dull glow of evening falling upon them. Behind them the knoll stoodout in picturesque relief against the darker pines. 'the river rushed by with a never ending year and turnoil. Through its shoulding one perceived, as through a mist, the stin with peace of evening.

A young fellow, hardly more than a boy, exclaimed with keen delight of the picturesque as his cause shot around the bend into sight of it. .

The cance was large and powerful but well filled. An Indian knelt is the stern. Amidships was well laden with duffle of all descriptions. The young fellow sat in the bow. He was a bright faced, eager eyed, curly haired young fellow, all enthusiasm and fire. His figure was trim and clean, but rather slender, and his movements were quick, but nervous. When he stepped carefully out on the flat rock to which his guide brought the canoe with a swirl of the paddle one initiated would have seen that his clothes, while strong and serviceable, had been bought from a sporting catalogue.

"This is a good place," he said to the guide. "We'll camp here." Then he turned up the steep bank without looking back.

"Hello!" he called in a cheerful, unembarrassed fashion to Thorpe and Charley. "How are you? Care if I camp here? What you making? By Jove! I never saw a canoe made before. I'm going to watch you. Keep right at it.

He sat on one of the outeropping bowlders and took off his hat.

"Say, you've got a great place here! You here all summer? Hello! You've got a deer banging up. Are there many of 'em around here? I'd like to dil a deer first rate. I never have, It's sort of out of season now, lan't it?" "We only kill the bucks," replied Thorpe.

"I like fishing too," went on the boy, "Are there any here? In the pool? John," he called to his guide, "bring me my fishing tackle." In a few moments he was whitning

the pool with long, graceful drops of the fly. He proved to be adent. At first the Indian's stolld countenance seemed a trifle doubtful. After a time it cleared. "Good!" he grunted. The other Indian had now finished

cook supper over a little sheet iron camp stove. Thorpe and Charles could smell ham. "You've got quite a pantry." remarked Thorpe.

"Won't you eat with me?" proffered

the erection of a tent and had begun to

the boy hospitably. But Thorpe declined. In the course of the evening the boy approached the older men's camp and, with charming diffidence, asked per mission to sit awhile at their fire.

"It must be good to hee in the wrods," he said with a sigh, "to de all things for yourseif. It's so from" "I just do love this!" he cried again and again. "Oh, it's great after all that fuss down there!" And he cried it so fervently that the other men present

smiled, but so genuinely that the smile had in it nothing but kindliness. "I came out for a month," said be suddenly, "and I guess I'll stay the rest of it right here. You'll let me go with you sometimes hunting, won't you?

I'd like first rate to kill a deer.' "Sure," said Thorpe. "Glad to have

"My name is Wallace Carpenteg." said the boy, with a sudden unmistale able air of good breeding.

"Well," laughed Thorpe, "two old woods loafers like us haven't got much use for names. Charley here is called Geezigut, and mine's nearly as bad, but I guess plain Charley and Harry wiff

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