Ten Years' Trial

By Gen. CHARLES KING

Continued from First Page. Books, but he loved a pretty face, and that Ethel Grahame's was pretty beyoud peradventure not more than five en at Pawnee could be brought to deny even in sacred and secret confidences. Mrs. Melville was not Sant-



"Good wight to you-both."

lev's attraction, for she spent the early evening hours with her children as a rule and considered Santley a milksop and snob. Snob he was, as defined by Thackerny, but milksop-that was still 'not proved." Santley was a dawdler in the parlor, but no dolt upon parade. He rode, shot, sparred and danced well, and what he might do in the event of active service was yet to be determined. Now, Langdon had been Miss Grahame's escort on three occasions in saddle before his arrest and court martial, and then sharp weather set in. Miss Grahame, who had been "devoted to riding" in the early fall, seemed to lose her fondness for it when the No-vember winds blew cold over the baid bluffs along the Pawnee. It was Miss Grahame on whom the duty of enter-taining Mr. Santley generally devolved. and it was the conviction in Melville's usehold that no better arrangement was desired by that gentleman. What the major and his wife only conjectured was that for Miss Grahame the arrangement was less charming, but she made no remonstrance. There was very much in Mr. Santley she did not fancy at all, but she would have been less than woman had she not seen that her half formed aversion was anything the winning are destitute of coquetry, however diluted, and Ethel Grahame had found pleasure and interest in spite of herself in Mr. Santiey's visits,

was her placid reply.
"I thought the rule was 'first come first served,'" he said in sulky sur-

for she delighted in puzzling, perplexing, even in tormenting, bim. She had

gone to two dances with him, to one

with Woodrow or May and then refus-

ed to go with him to a third. He asked

why. "Because you ask so far ahead,"

"I know you did, and if that rule were universal no woman could be afforded a choice. She might be compel led to go through an entire season with the least desirable man in society. Now, I like variety."

You went riding three times hand running with Mr. Langdon," complained the youth. "Did you refuse him the

"The fourth never came, but if it had I should have gone. There is great difference between an exhilarating outdoor ride and an indoor party. sides- Mr. Langdon could teach so

mean," said he disconsolately. Then, with an upward glance, "Is he going to teach riding for a living, do you

The words were hardly spoken when he regretted them. Miss Grahame flushed hotly, and the light in her eyes "I-I really beg your pardon," he hastened to say. "That was very clum-

sy of me, you know. I didn't mean-it was only in sport, you know." They were walking along the broad

gravel path toward the commanding officer's at the moment. The Tor-rances' gate was just ahead. Three or four women, joyously chatting and laughing, were entering. They nodded, with smiling significance, toward the approaching pair, thereby augmenting Miss Grahame's annoyance.

"Say I'm forgiven, Miss Grahame," pleaded Santley hurriedly, "and that you will go with me to the Thanksgiving hop. I've got to go to stables now, you know. There won't be any men at the Torrances' till after retreat. Indeed-I'm-I'm awfully sorry I vexed you," and, to do Santley justice, he looked it. She turned and faced him. "Mr.

Santley," she said, "I knew very few officers till our coming here. It is the first garrison I ever visited. My uncle and two of his old comrades formed my ideas of what our soldiers were and should be, and Mr. Langdon seemed to be of the same caliber, as you artillerymen say. I never heard them sneer at a man in such misfortune as had fallen to him. Your having vexed me is a small matter. My ideals of the army have been decidedly shaken, not by one, but by several of your associates. I thought officers were above such-

And now it was Santley's turn to redden. "If you stop to consider how Mr. Langdon's miscon-misfortunesreflect on the regiment. Miss Grahame you may understand why we feel it so deeply, and, feeling it, it is no wonder we occasionally speak. If it's anything you-care about, of course I'm hoping won't have to teach riding-or anything else."

"Good afternoon, Mr. Santley," said she, for they had reached the open gate, and she desired no further words.

"But about the hop, Miss Grahame?"
"I shall take it under advisement until tomorrow," was the mischievous and provoking answer, "with all the chances against acceptance. I doubt now if I go at all."

But when Major Melville returned from stables he found his wife in deep concern. It was dark enough at that time to call for lights in many of the

rances' were brilliant. Some of the women folk had already sauntered me; others were still abroad, chatting in eager, subdued tones. Mrs. Melville met the major at the door and drew him into the parlor. "What is this news about Mr. Long

him safely cornered. "That he is at Sheridan and has been III. I gather," was Melville's calm re-"Now, I ask because Ethel came back

don?" she asked as soon as she ha

all adame with indignation and has gone to her room to bathe her eyes. Mrs. Nathan said publicly that Mr. Langdon had been picked up by the police drunk in the gutter of a crowded street and that the soldiers clubbed together, paid his fine and took him out "I have a letter from Nelson giving me full particulars," said Melville in the same unruffled manner as he gently

drew his wife to a seat by his side.
"There is no truth in the story of drunkenness or police. You remember Ryan, who used to be in my battery? Twas he who found Langdon fainting, and they took him to Sheridan as a matter of course."

"But Mrs. Nathan says Colonel Sharpe was furious at his being brought there and has ordered him put off the post as soon as he can be mov ed, and the papers are full of stories about a duel. She says Dr. Armistead declared he would publicly insult and horsewhip Mr. Langdon if he showed his face in the garrison."

The major smiled. "Never mind what Mrs. Nathan or the newspapers say, dear," he answered in the same gentle, reassuring tone. "Nelson tells me that there is some old trouble between this young doctor and Langdon, but that they have not met and are not likely to meet. Channing hopes to secure an opening for Lauxdon as soon as he is able to work."

"Oh, yes, and that reminds me, Mrs. Nathan said Mr. Langdon had the impudence to go to her uncle, who is vice president or something in the Chicago and Seattle rallway, and demand em ployment, saying he was an officer in her husband's battery here, and Mr.— whatever his name is—you remember him; he was here-just told him they had no use for such a character. Now, do you suppose that can be true?" And Mrs. Melville looked up at her stalwart husband as though the wisdom of the universe were centered in him. "I dare say Langdon applied there

poor fellow!" said Meiville gravely, the deep brown eyes softening still more at the thought of the rebuff the sad, heartsick fellow probably met if indeed it was to Mrs. Nathan's uncle to whom he applied. "But there are other roads open to Langdon that exact less and pay far more than railroads, only Langdon always had a predilection for rallway engineering and service. Captain Channing is writing to Langdo now and has written to an elder brother who is general manager of the Seat tle's greatest rival, the Missouri Val-Now, there is trouble on both roads, and men are very much needed, so I think Langdon will be provided for in the near future. I hope Ethel did not allow herself to be much-disturbed?" and when the major finished in this half interrogative way it was meant to imply that while he might be hopeful he was by no means confident. He had known Ethel, a beloved sister's only child, since her babyhood and knew her to be fearless, resolute and anything but politic. He was wondering as he stroked with his one disen

But there was no immediate oppor tunity for inquiring. The papers that version of the scandals at Sheridan had hours old, and second in local interest were the details of the serious situation on some of the great transcontinental railways. Officials and operatives had come to the final clinch. An ultimatum had been prepared "in the interests of labor." If not acceded to by the managers within 24 hours, not only the transcontinentals complete, but the Se-attle and Missouri Valley roads, would

gaged hand the heavy brown mustache

what Ethel might have said in reply to

be tied up forthwith. Before Mrs. Melville could frame her reply to the major's question there came a step on the piazza, a ring at the hall bell, and then "Cat's" voice was heard in an animated converse with

colonel and his silent adjutant.
"Melville, here's a go!" began the commanding officer, without prelimi-nary of any kind. "I'm ordered to send a reliable officer at once to Omaha to act under special instructions that are to meet him there, and you're the most reliable man I have, Can you make the night train?"

"Easily, colonel. "So be it, then. I'll have the order made out at once.

Several of the battery officers went down to see their leader off. Channing. too, was there and led the major aside a moment. "I've written direct to Langdon," he said, "and given blm letters to my brother with instructions how to find him. He'll be somewhere out on the line now, I suppose. The only question is, Will Langdon be well

Melville pondered a moment before

"Nelson wrote three days ago that it night be a week-that would be till Priday, say. This is Wednesday night. I fancy he'll bardly be strong enough Channing, but thank you all the same,' Yet when Friday evening came it

brought a dispatch for Channing that gave him keen anxiety: Letter for Largdon here. He disappeared du ing morning. No trace. Nanon.

CHAPTER V. Ninety miles west of the "Big Missourl" and in the heart of the thriving town of Brentwood the rival lines of the Chicago and Scattle and the Chica-go and Missouri Valley, popularly known respectively as the "Scattle" and the "Big Horn," crossed each other and the beautiful stream that drained the valley. The Pawnees long ages ago had called it after the prairie wolf, but their despoilers, the Sloux, rechris-tened it Red Water, declaring it so thick with the blood of their hereditary foes that it had lost all semblance of blue, and Red Water it remained in name, at least, though it speedily lost the sanguluary tint and outvied all the storied streams of Indian land in that stock baned, bellowed and squealed

ry never suiked and sank out of sight | for lood and water. Still passenger to beds of quicksand, never turned into traffic was at a sund. The division raging torrent and tore things out by superintendent and his assistants were the roots, as did the mountain born "Minnes" and "Wakpas" that streaked kines, threw switches and "brakesi" the lands of the Dukotas to the north, cars, the rails were susped, the bollers never failed to freeze over in clear, solid fee at the appropriate rime in the early winter and to bubble forth again, sparkling and smiling, in the early spring. Fed by lanumerable springs and brooks from pine crested heights long as only callway hands were perwhere the snow lay deep all winter long and only slowly melted for the northering sun, draining a broad, beautifel and fertile valley through which it meandered in long, sweeping, graceful bends and "reaches." renely, steadily, placidly, through mile after mile of fair and peaceful landscape, rarely ruffled by the gales that swept the uplands long, long leagues to the west or stirred by the savage blizzards that tore through the Dakota wastes, it drew to its willow shaded shores by hundreds the hardy settlers and ploneers-the farmer, rancher and herdsman. Brentwood became the the road, called for strennous action. market town and grew, apace. Raff- | The wires flummed with appeals and ways from St. Paul and St. Louis crawled and from Chicago scrambled thither, and before the Slonx were fairly out of the country and the set tlers fairly in Brentwood the Red Water valley was the objective point of half a dozen corporations. Brentwood grew from market town to country sent, to railway terminus (a had time that), to division station, with round-



The tender seemed bristling with blue ouse and machine and car shops. Brentwood dammed the Red Water and began grinding its own wheat be fore Minneapolis reached for it. Brentwood jumped from a population of 15 now the Seattle and the Big Horn had handsome stone depot buildings. The St. Louis and Northwestern had graded to within ten miles of the town, and the Minneapolis and Southwestern had a spur that tapped mills, elevators and factories and a switch engine that screamed defiance at those of the big transcontinentals. The Scattle was not built through to "the sound" by any minuner of means, and the "Big Horn," for which its rival was named. looked very little when viewed from the outermost stake. But the grain and cattle business was tremendous, if through passenger was not. Chicago took all the wheat and corn and live stock the Red Water valley could spare and eagerly bid for more. But a bad time had come for the Seattle and Big Horn both. Long, long lines of grain and cattle cars, especially cattle, stretched westward on both main line and sidings from Brentwood. The mercury had dropped to within a few cattle and five times as many sheep Bitters." Try them. Only 50c. had deluged the post with Chlengo's and hogs were clamoring for food and water and couldn't get it, for a thouand yards of the Scattle and as many in the Big Horn had sworn no whee should turn and no hand should minister until "the road" came to their terms. If the trains had been passenger coaches and the passengers hungry and thirsty women and children, the rule would have been the same. The strikers proved that in a later and flercer grapple when the authority of even the United States was set at naught by the labor leader who established his headquarters in Chicago and checked the commerce of the world. But this earlier insurrection against law and order was serious enough in some companion. Melville himself all conscience. For 24 hours only the opened the door to bid them enter-the mail trains had been allowed to leave the Chicago stations. For 24 hours east bound passenger trains had been side tracked at faraway towns in the interior. Train crews were coazed or driven from their posts. The few determined and devoted men who remained steadfast were assaulted and mobbed, and away out here at Brentwood the division shops poured forth an array of strikers who, aided by gangs of tramps from all over the west and toughs from the Missouri river towns, were more than sufficient to bid defiance to a dozen sheriffs' posses and to ditch a trainload of Pinkertons three days' march away. The national guard was on duty in Chicago, and the gov-ernor of Nebraska bad ordered out such militin as was then organized. The people of Dakota, just budding into twin star statebood, had appealed for federal troops, but at Brentwood the striker had full sway. Two companles of militia arriving to re-enforce the local command found a few of the latter wandering disconsolately about in small squads and civilian dress, the laughing stock of the town, the leaders of the strike having early and thoughtfully possessed themselves of their arms, armory and uniforms. Received with ironical cheers, the newcomers sought to communicate with the sher-iff, as their instructions required. Po-lite and sympathetic citizens bade them remain aboard the train and they would be switched over into the yards yards-40 miles beyond, in fact-at

Omaha, Council Bluffs and Sloux City

powerless. Though they manned enfeamed and their engines were "killed" under their very neses, all without vio lence of either word or deed. The strikers liked their division thief and hated to be at odds with him now. So mitted about the yards or stock trains there had been no wanton description of property, but to such scenes ever flock the blackguard element of the community, and the news that troops

were coming proved an excuse for desperate deeds. That night the wintry sky shove the Red Water reflected th glare of a mile of flame. Cars, grain sheds and an elevator went up in smoke. There was a barbeeue where one section of a cattle train could not be resented and run out in time. All this, telegraphed to Chicago and the orders, and a calm, placid man, a dark, brown eyed man, who looked the soldier in spite of civilian dress, drove into Brentwood at dawn the following day, sent certain telegrams to eastern points and one to old Fort Pawnee, far away to the south, got a light breakfast and another buggy at the hotel and drove out to the yards. When he returned, an hour before noon, the eyes of many citizens followed him in cager curlosity. The first of the regulars was here. At 2 o'clock the news was whispered about the streets that a big force of strikers had gone down to the narrows of the valley where the Red Water, turning from the rectitude of its ways, inshed and foamed between rocky bluffs and heights and the rival lines, Senttle and Big Horn, twisted and turned for some 20 tailes not 400 yards apart. A troop train had left the river bent on forcing a way to Brent-

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" the stream.

wood, and in desperation the strike

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shere until they were hauled back and to five meantime on the country. For over 24 hours the strikers had things all their own way and were jubilant. Then came the backward sweep of the tide. A wire from the south announced tide. Then the south announced tide is not south announced tide. A wire from the south announced tide tide. I saw the south as the south announced tide tide. I saw the south as the south announced tide tide. I saw the south as the south announced tide tide tide. I saw the south as the south

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