

ow of frowning

mountvins the

mining town of

Las Cheritas

stretched itself

in one long

street upon the

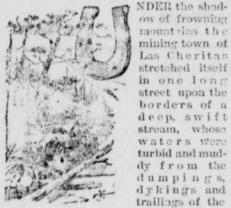
borders of a

deep, swift

stream, whose waters were

turbid and mud-

dy from the



trailings of the sinice. A year ago this turbid stream was as clear as crystal and mirrored only upon its pellucid bosom the red berries of the mountain ash, the campfire of the Indian or the gaunt form of approached her with a hearty greeting, the grizzly who came down from his there was nothing improper in her rocky fastness to slake his thirst in its mode of riding or in her dress, which Physician and cool waters.

A party of wandering mountaineers discovered gold in the sands upon the little below the knee, bound at the water's edge, and suddenly, as if by magic, a town sprang up of two thousand souls, who toiled all day hidden from the light of the sun down in the ravines or worked at huge windlasses extending over unsightly holes in which they had sunk or were sinking shafts, dragging up by sheer strength of muscle great buckets of dirt from the bowels of the earth.

It was evening in Las Cheritas. The avn kissed the snow-capped summit which towered over the town, let his touch linger for an instant as if in benediction, then vanished, and far up, streaming from behind the mountain, a fow rosy rays trombled, then melted into the clear purple of the sky, and the aliver horn of the young moon hung in the beavens.

The sounds of the blows of pick and shovel were still, the buckets swung idly upon the ropes and a hving stream of men from every country and of every race and type poured down the slopes an I through the streets of the town. with the implements of their toil upon their shoulders and their gold pans under their arms. They shouted justs to each other, sang fragmonts of son 73. walked by twos or in groups conversing, or slouched moodily and sullealy toward their cabins.

Smoke curled in pearly gray spirals from the rude chimneys, and soon t fragrance of coff se and fried bacon fills. th

Upon ar near a shaft at the si le of the trail, one of this toiling arm / of fcontier life, and left him with Burb. of gold sockers lingered, looking down a child of seven, some ten years before u on the familiar scene. He sat in a our story opens. thoughtful attitude, with his shovel and pick at his feet. A magnificent speci- and had inherited refined tastes from mon of man'rood, he was, fully six feet her mother, and as she grew older was REALESTATE AGENT i height, with a strong intelligent face, a comfort to her lonely father, who clear dark eyes, and curling hair falling guarded her with jealous care from the over the collar of his clay stained rough associations of the various min-"josie." Sitting thus in the waning ing eamps to which he wandered in light, he was a figure in harmony with search of wealth. his surroundings, the mountains behind him, and at his feet the noisy stream, which lashed itself into a yellow white foum, as it fell over a miniature preci-miners' camp. Their cabins were near pice, the basalt of the rocks seeming black by contrast.

to himself, as if thinking aloud. "A tryin' and a wearin' life, but this is the last of it. I've struck it rich and have sold out before my makturns."

He tool: a alip of blue paper from his bosom and read it over. "Forty thonsand dollars from Ginnes and Hoyle for nevelaim. Ray's schoolin' is done and his prospects are good. Thank God I've done well by the kid. An' he's twentyfive come this month. I'll go back to the states an' marry Agnes, an' settle

down on the farm." The sound of approaching hoofs disturbed his reverie, and as he stooped to gather up his tools a girl of seventeen, riding astride a ragged clay-colored cayuse, came in sight. She would have been a ludierous spectacle to eyes accustomed to the conventional equestrienne; but to Capt. George, who consisted of a coarse blue blouse, and a skirt of the same material reaching a slender waist with a bright Mexican searf in which were seen the handles of a pair of pistols. Leggins and moccasins of untanned leather were upon her feet and a gray sombrero covered her head. In spite of her uncouth dress the girl was strikingly handsome, with chestnut brown hair, clear blue eyes, a red mouth and a firmly molded chin. There was an air of dignity and resolution about her, and fearlessness in her

tion and respect. "Hello, Barb, you are out late," said

home.

was a certain refinement in her tones.

"Barb," as she was called by the entire camp, was the datchter of Sandy Ellis, one of the better class of minera who, in his young days in Scotland, had been the master of a village school. He married a pretty English girl whem he met upon a summer journey in Darby-shire, and lured by storie of fortunes to be made in the transit, atle world sought the western gold mines quickest road to wealth. His do wife soon succumbed to the has

Dyspepsia

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gaze, which at once challenged admira-

Capt. George, approaching the girl. who slid lightly from the cayuse and gave it a cut with the switch she held in her hand. The shaggy little beast bounded away up the trail, nothing loth, for he knew himself to be near.

"I've bin down the valley for medieine fer pap. Am just gettin' home." she answered, an l. alt'roh theire spoke the rude vernacular of the region, there

for he smiled to himself and took no heed of the gathering shadows.

slope, away from that babel down mountains had no power to stay the below, with its fights and brawls, gin shops and gambling hells, but he did not seem in his usual haste to seek it tonight. "It's been a hard pull," he said



"HELLO! BARB, YOU ARE OUT LATE."

Barb had picked up some education

Capt. George and Ellis were chums, each other whenever their rude home had happened to be. A year ago they His thoughts were evidently pleasing, had come together to share in the toils and triumphs of Las Cheritas. Sandy's toil and triumphs, however, would soon His cabin was half a mile up the be over, for even the healing air of the progress of consumption, brought on by a winter of severe privation, and it was plain to Barb that she would soon be fatherless, as well as motherless,

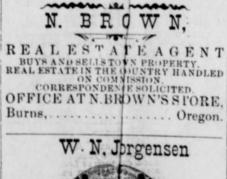
With the proverbial hopefulness which is a phase of his malady, Sandy was confident of his recovery, and Capt. George seemed to share his belief. Barb was not deceived as to the truth, and as she rode slowly along this particular evening she thought of her future with sad forebodings. "Come, set down here, Barb, I want to talk to other standared articles is solid ye." The girl's face flushed to the Silver. roots of her brown hair, but she refused to take the seat upon the bowlder to which George motioned her.

"George, pap is waitin' fer me."

"Well, lot him wait. Ye're my girl as much as pap's. Come, I want to talk to yer. And mind ye, don't tell yer pap what I say, not for two or three days at least.

The girl's blue eyes sought the ground and the blush deepened, for her heart throbbed painfully under the coarse blouse







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