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The Two Partners

A Story of a Merited Revenge

By SARAH J. RATHBUN

Peter Morehead and John Springer were partners in a mine they were developing in one of the western gold fields. Several other prospectors had their eyes on Morehead and Springer's hole in the ground, and their glances were covetous, for it was strongly suspected that there was wealth at the bottom of the digging.

These other men were Henry Seymour, Ben Lyle and Sam Miller. They met one evening in Seymour's shanty, and the topic of conversation fell upon the Morehead-Springer property. Different plans were proposed by which they might get possession of it, and finally one was suggested by Seymour that met with favor on the part of the other two. The scheme was to put its owners in such a position that the property could be had for a song.

A few days later Springer disappeared. Miller produced a knife on which were human blood spots that he said had been found near the Morehead-Springer mine. The conspirators went to Morehead's shanty and accused him of murdering his partner. Morehead indignantly denied the charge, but could give no cause for Springer's disappearance. Whereupon the three men invited a number of miners to join with them and hang Morehead to the limb of a tree.

Under the leadership of the three conspirators an effort was made to force Morehead to confess, medieval methods being employed for the purpose. They put a rope around his neck, threw the other end over the limb of a tree and slowly raised him off his feet. Twice under this strain he fainted before he yielded. Then he agreed



THEN HE AGREED TO CONFESS.

to confess if they would grant him a regular trial. By this time the number of lynchers had grown to quite a crowd, and the conspirators lost the control. The majority were in favor of granting a trial, and Morehead was taken to jail.

Seymour visited the prisoner and told him that he had become convinced of his innocence, that Morehead would need money for his defense and that he (Seymour) would buy his interest in the Morehead-Springer mine, which would give the accused the necessary funds.

This gave Morehead a suspicion that the accusation made against him was a plot to gain possession of his property. He declined to sell. The trio, who now realized that they must get him out of the way or in the end suffer for their crime, besides not gaining their end in acquiring the mine, manufactured evidence against Morehead.

At the trial they produced a witness who swore that he had seen the knife found by Miller in Morehead's possession. Other witnesses were brought forward who swore that they had heard high words between Morehead and Springer the day before the latter had disappeared. There was not a scrap of evidence that did not come indirectly and secretly from the conspirators, but there was quite enough of this to convict the prisoner.

Trials, except by Judge Lynch, are necessarily prolonged. Seymour and those in league with him endeavored to create a feeling among the people that Morehead's conviction would fall through and they had better take the matter into their own hands. They went so far as to incite a mob to attack the jail, possess themselves of the

prisoner and hang him. It was only by the steadfastness and bravery of the sheriff that the plan failed. Hearing of it in time, he armed a number of deputies, and when the mob appeared declared that Morehead would not be given up without a battle. This was more than the conspirators had bargained for. In order to make capital for themselves they advised the mob they had incited to retire, and Morehead was again saved from being murdered.

Working in this way, under cover, the three men created so much bitterness against the accused that he was finally convicted and sentenced to be hanged. By this time he had become sensible that his enemies were determined to put him out of the way and felt sure they would succeed. He went for Seymour and offered to sell him the mine if he would arrange with some of the witnesses to confess that they had been mistaken in their evidence or had perjured themselves. Seymour said he couldn't consent to purchase evidence, but he would buy the mine, and the condemned man could use the money received for it, as he might see fit. They did not come to terms, and Seymour went away saying that he would think the matter over and come to see Morehead again the next day.

But the next day some one else came who was not expected. Morehead was pacing his cell in an agony of suspense when he heard steps in the corridor and in another moment who should stand looking at him through the bars, but his partner Springer.

It was a joyful meeting, though Morehead was so overcome by the change from death to life that he sank down in a swoon. When he recovered Springer, who was in full possession of his faculties, sent away the jailer, and the partners held a conference alone. Springer revealed the fact that he had been told on the day of his disappearance that there was a telegram for him at the railroad station some ten miles distant; that his informant believed that it announced the serious illness or death of his wife, who was in the east. He had ridden on a gallop to the station and on his arrival had been arrested and spirited away on the next train that came along. Extradition papers had been procured by creditors of his in the east in support of a criminal charge of embezzlement, and he was taken east for trial.

How much the conspirators had had to do with this kidnaping the partners did not know except that Lyle had informed Springer as to the telegram and had kept the matter a secret, so that Springer's arrest, which occurred at night when no one was at the station who knew him, did not become known.

Fortunately Morehead had not let Seymour know that he suspected him and his two pals of having hatched a plot against him, and Springer had not since his return seen either of the three. Springer had been detained some time in the east, during which he had made an arrangement with his creditors. He had written his partner, and the conspirators had been on the watch for a letter from him and intercepted it. Had Morehead consented to the sale of his interest in the mine, which was two-thirds of the whole, the plot would have succeeded. His refusal had played the plotters in a position that grew more hazardous every day.

And yet, now that their plan had been frustrated, the partners saw the futility of proving it against them. They decided not to take advantage of the law to obtain redress, but to achieve their revenge themselves and by concealed methods.

Morehead was set at liberty without any prolonged legal process. He was permitted to go without even the form of a pardon. He wrote a note to Seymour thanking him for his kind offer of relief when he was in trouble, and Springer spoke of his partner's arrest and accusation as a mistake—a mistake that had nearly cost Springer his life. So interested was Morehead in securing the vengeance he was determined on that he played his game with remarkable naturalness, and so far as Springer was concerned all he had to do was to say as little as possible.

One day Springer went to Seymour and told him that they needed a little capital in order to proceed in the development of their mine. If he would like to invest a little money or had any friends that would like to do so he and Morehead would be glad to take them in. Seymour bit at the hook, and Springer, who knew by this time who were his accomplices in the plot that had nearly cost Morehead his life, felt sure that Miller and Lyle would be taken into the investment and on the "ground floor."

It was finally arranged that Seymour and the other two should visit the mine at night, since the partners expressed a fear that some outsider might get wind of what the property was producing.

On the appointed evening the three accomplices visited the cabin of the partners and were shown some specimens of ore that they were told had recently been taken out of the mine

These lumps were so rich in gold that they made the would-be purchasers' eyes turn green with covetousness. Then Springer offered to take them into the mine and show them ore not yet detached that would correspond perfectly with the specimens they had inspected.

All five proceeded to the mine and went down into it. Springer carried a candle, which he lit at the entrance. When they reached the bottom of the mine the candle went out. Whether it was blown out or extinguished by a draft is not known. A few moments later Springer dashed by Morehead, who gave a post a blow with an ax and let down a dozen tons of earth.

The next day the partners reported that they had lost their mine by its caving in, but that it had turned out to be worthless, so it didn't matter. That was the last that was seen of the partners in that region, and they were never heard of in any other. Three men were noticed to be missing, but they were not sufficiently identified with the community for their disappearance to cause any especial comment. The Morehead-Springer mine cave-in still remains a monument to a case of covetousness wherein there was nothing to coveted.

WE ARE MERELY TRUSTEES.

What is happening now is simply this: That we are trying to create everywhere in the men of large business this fundamental conception—that any man who handles any affair bigger than himself is a trustee for the rest of the community—and in proportion as we lift ourselves to the full dignity of that conception we shall lift ourselves above the difficulties of private life and against all the confusions and difficulties of public life. If a man does not provide for his children, if he does not provide for all who are dependent upon him and if he has not that vision of conditions to come and that care for the days that have not yet dawned which we sum up in the whole idea of thrift and saving, then he has not opened his eyes to any adequate conception of human life. We are in this world to provide not for ourselves alone, but for others, and that is the basis of economy. So that economy and everything which ministers to economy supplies the foundations of national life. The reason we are interested in the postal savings banks and hope that they may develop very much beyond the present meager beginning is that we want men who have only pennies to save to save them. We want men who have only little glimpses of the future not to lose those glimpses. We do not want to discourage the most humble against entertaining a confident hope for tomorrow, because the man who does not look for tomorrow cannot sustain the enterprises of national life.—Woodrow Wilson.

SELF KNOWLEDGE.

By all means use sometimes to be alone. Sature thyself; see what thy soul doth wear. Dure to look in thy chest, for 'tis thine own. And tumble up and down what thou findest there. Who cannot rest till he good fellows flude. He breaks up house, turns out of doors his misde. —George Herbert.

MODESTY AND MERIT.

If anything can give a modest man more assurance it must be some advantages of fortune which chance procures to him. Riches naturally gain a man a favorable reception in the world and give merit a double luster when a person is endowed with it and supply its place in a great measure when it is absent. 'Tis wonderful to observe what airs of superiority fools and knaves with large possessions give themselves above men of the greatest merit in poverty. Nor do the men of merit make any strong opposition to these usurpations, or, rather, seem to favor them by the modesty of their behavior. Their good sense and experience make them difficult of their judgment and cause them to examine everything with the greatest accuracy, as, on the other hand, the deficiency of their sentiments makes them timorous lest they commit faults and lose, in the practice of the world, that integrity of virtue, so to speak, of which they are so jealous. To make wisdom agree with confidence is as difficult as to reconcile vice to modesty.—David Hume.

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School year opens September 23. July 23-Sept 30.

So It Does.

Professor—I tell you the phonograph is a great invention. Pupil—Yes; it speaks for itself.

Notice to the Public.

My wife, Ellen Hemple, has left my bed and board and I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by her, after this date, Sept. 17, 1912. 74-14x R. P. HEMPEL.

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Lodges are requested to notify this office on election of officers and on change of meeting night. Cards under this head are 75c per inch per month.

Lewah Tribe No. 48, Imp. O. R. M.

MEETS: First and Third Tuesdays of each month at 8th run at the Bandon Wigwam. Sojourning Chiefs in good standing are cordially invited to attend. A. J. Hartman, J. C. Shields, C. of R. Sachem.

Rebekah

OCEAN REBEKAH LODGE, No. 126 I. O. O. F., meets Tuesday nights at 1 O. O. F. Hall. Transient members cordially invited. Ada Still, N. G. L. I. Wheeler, Secretary.

W. O. W.

Keep the logs rolling boys! SEASIDE CAMP NO. 212, WOODMEN OF THE WORLD. Meets First and Third Thursdays. Visiting Neighbors welcomed. C. M. Gage, C. C. H. E. Book, Secretary

Masonic.

BANDON LODGE, No. 130 A. F. & A. M. Stated communications first Saturday after the full moon of each month. Special communications second Saturday thereafter. All Master Masons cordially invited. W. E. Craine, W. M. Phil Pearson, Secretary

Eastern Star

OCCIDENTAL CHAPTER, No. 45, O. E. S., meets Saturday evening before and after stated communication of Masonic Lodge visiting members cordially invited to attend. Louise M. Boyle, W. M. Merta Mehl, Secretary.

I. O. O. F.

BANDON LODGE, No. 133, I. O. O. F. meets every Wednesday evening. Visiting brothers in good standing cordially invited. A. Knopp, N. G. Harry Armstrong, Sec.

Knights of Pythias

DELPHI LODGE, No. 64, Knights of Pythias. Meets every Monday evening at Knights hall. Visiting knights invited to attend. C. R. Moore, C. C. B. N. Harrington K. of R. S.

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