

LORD OF THE DESERT

By PAUL de LANEY.

CHAPTER XIX. Thieves "Fall Out."

Another morning finds the Indians holding the ground. They are well entrenched and the besiegers in the Stone House can only remain cooped in until relief shall arrive from the fort.

If they are even spared this privilege they will feel thankful for it requires time to communicate with the military authorities and then soldiers move with deliberation and prepare before they move.

Old Egan's messages are already sent and his reinforcements are doubtless on the march. While soldiers are preparing "rations" and rolling their blankets and seeing to their equipments generally, Indian warriors are already in the saddle and riding night and day toward the seat of their campaign.

If the Indians should surmise that relief had been sent for they would hurry the final attack, and the besieged felt much alarmed for fear that they might discover the tracks of Metzger, who had borne the message to the trapper. There was no some fear of delay in communicating with the military post as the trapper was known to spend a great deal of his time away from home, working among his traps in the rimrocks.

While it was considered best that the trapper should make the journey to the fort, yet Metzger had received instructions to go, should he be unable to find Hammersley.

The besieged determined to die rather than fall into the hands of the Snake, for they knew that Old Egan would show no mercy, having caught the Lord of the Desert in his treachery, and they guarded the loopholes with close scrutiny never failing to send a bullet at the slightest exposed portion of an Indian's body.

The Indians were likewise prepared for the siege. Besides the pure water that flowed from the mountains above the Stone House, they had the great meadows for their stock to graze upon and had the Lord's choicest bullocks to select from when they became hungry.

tato moral means and ends. He was naturally inclined the other way. His spirit for revenge knew no bounds. He had already determined his course should the Lord delay settlement longer.

CHAPTER XX. Mountain Lion and Desert Coyote. There was no time for hesitation on the part of the trapper. Although he bore no concern for the safety of the Lord of the Desert, under ordinary circumstances, he would not have him slain by Indians at the present time.

He announced his intention at once upon the arrival of Metzger of going to the fort but thought best to take

He gave her hand an assuring clasp. A few hours later before starting out on so fatiguing a journey. Before lying down, however, all preparations were made so that upon his waking he would be able to start at once on his mission.

In the preparations for the journey he had an able assistant in the person of Bertha Lyle. Her companionship, however, was more valuable to the trapper than her assistance. He had grown accustomed to doing everything himself and did not feel safe in depending upon others.

But still they did not quarrel. The man of the desert knew how he wanted things arranged and the woman from Edinburg only desired to please him. While he was practically a child of the desert, yet he was intelligent and had not become one-sided in his views.

Thus would reason this man of the frontier when nature awakened his heart to love. After making preparations for the trip he had given instructions to his companions concerning their action in his absence.

As was his custom the trapper awakened on time, and dressed himself noiselessly to prevent disturbing the other sleepers. He came forth quietly and was about to take up the equipments of his journey when he

was astonished by finding Bertha awaiting him. "You, up too!" he exclaimed in a low tone. "Yes, I wished to speak with you before you left," she cried.

"Does a coyote ever attack a lion?" inquired Bertha. "No," replied the trapper, "not single handed; a pack might attack one under proper conditions—if they were cornered, or hungry, and they thought they might benefit by it without too much risk."

"It was a foolish dream, I know," she said, "but I will be brief: I saw a mountain lion, such as you caught in your trap, on a long journey. It climbed among the rimrocks, then passed along through canyons, and then crossed stretches of the plains. It seemed to be very tired, but it was intent on its trip, and plodded on. Behind it came a coyote—just like the coyotes you capture, except its hair was dark; it was almost black. It would trail along the rocks behind the lion and then cut across a near way and lie in wait for the lion; then it would stalk across the approach of the lion, and follow again. It kept this up all through the day. But at night it grew more bold and it again hid behind the rocks on the trail. As the lion approached, tired and long-winded, the coyote attacked it from the rear and the lion turned and a great fight ensued, and in the midst of the fight—I know it is foolish, but it was so exciting—my heart leaped into my throat and I wakened—the mountain lion changed into your own person and the desert coyote assumed the form of Dan Follett, and you and he were in desperate combat among the rocks and cliffs of the far away desert."

"Never fear little—Ber—Miss Lyle, Dan Follett surrounded me in the Stone House by Indians and I will be on my guard against all enemies to mankind that roam the desert," and buckling his revolver about his waist, and throwing the other equipments of his journey across his shoulder, he took his hand and giving it an assuring clasp, stepped out into the darkness, taking a course to the southward.

Bertha looked forward with alarm and dread. She imagined that some evil spirit had happened to her. But under the theory of modern intelligence she would try to disabuse her mind of evil omens and imagine that all would come out right. The trapper looked upon the matter differently. He thought more about the dream than the dream. As he picked his way over the plains and among the rocks, her form became more beautiful to him and her words of friendship echoed and re-echoed in his ears. And while he did not believe that there was any significance in dreams, yet he did not forget the warning of the fair friend, and kept a more guarded lookout for his safety than ever before.

His trip so far had been an uneventful one. Night and day he pushed on, only sleeping a few hours at a time and stopping a few minutes to lunch. The distance now did not divide him far from the fort. It was the last evening of his journey when he discovered fresh tracks of a horse which had preceded him on the trail. The tracks led toward the fort and he concluded that it was made by someone going to the fort. There

were no shoes on the animal's feet, but the soldiers frequently pressed the plains horses into service, and there was no reason to suspect anything out of the ordinary from a mere horse's track. But, as the reader knows, Hammersley was beset by one of the most unscrupulous villains of the plains. The trapper, on his trip from home, while Follett had been on the scent like a hungry wolf. Although compelled to go long distances out of his way on account of being mounted, to get around the numerous walls of rimrocks, he had gotten the trapper's course and was determined to head him off ere he should reach the fort, and kill him to prevent the Lord of the Desert from receiving aid. He had no hatred for Hammersley, but he would have sacrificed a bosom friend to gratify his revengeful spirit.

He had already discovered the trapper's approach and had preceded him to a point near the fort where he expected to hide among the boulders and stop the trapper forever from the desert trail. Hiding his horse in a gulch in the background he secreted himself near the trail and waited the approach of the trapper. When he was within a few paces Follett leveled his revolver and when the trapper approached within a few feet of him the scoundrel pulled the trigger. But fortunately the percussion cap did not explode. Drawing his knife hurriedly the would-be assassin rushed upon his intended victim from behind like an infuriated tiger. The noise of the hammer of the revolver had aroused the trapper from his meditation and when Follett rushed upon him he dropped the bundle from his shoulder and turning received his assailant in an unexpected manner. He seized the half-breed by the updrawn wrist with one hand and by the throat with the other and in a few moments the half-breed was dead. The trapper turned and looked back at the dead man and then turned and looked forward at the fort. He was alone in a little house near the top of the fort, where he conducted a confectionery and cigar store.

CHRISTMAS AT WASHINGTON.

President and Foreign Ministers Observe the Day With Festivities. Washington, Dec. 26.—Snow, which began falling late last night, gave Washington a genuine Christmas appearance. Public and private business was practically entirely suspended. Interest centered in the happenings at the White House. Early in the morning the President, and all the members of his family repaired to the library, where presents were exchanged and many boxes and packages which had come from out of town opened. There were a large number of callers, and many gifts in the shape of handsome floral pieces were received.

Soon after breakfast the President, Theodore, Jr., and Lieutenant Ferguson, of the Rough Riders, who is a White House guest, took a long horse-riding tour, to get the rest of the family at luncheon with Commander and Mrs. Cowles. At the homes of the Cabinet officers the day was quietly observed, while among the Embassies and Legations elaborate preparations had been made for celebrating official dinners. Parties were given by the British and Russian Ambassadors. The Argentine Minister and wife gave a children's party at the Legation, while the Minister of Peru and his wife entertained a number of Peruvian students in the various schools and colleges of the United States.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt entertained a number of friends at dinner. The table was set in the newly furnished state dining-room. The guests included Senator and Mrs. Lodge, John Lodge, Captain and Mrs. Cowles, John Elliott, of New York; Mrs. Charles H. Davis, Miss Davis, the Messrs. Davis and Robert Ferguson. At the Mexican Embassy the feast day was celebrated by a supper to-night.

THE DAY IN ENGLAND.

King Edward Plays Lord Bountiful and the London Poor Have a Feast. London, Dec. 26.—King Edward and Queen Alexandra spent the day at Sandringham, being the first Christmas their majesties have spent at their favorite residence since their accession. The royal family, including the Prince of Wales, Princess Victoria, the Duchess of Fife and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, at a sumptuous dinner at Sandringham church, which was beautifully decorated. The King afterwards personally directed the annual distribution of the beef and game to the employees and tenants on the Sandringham estate.

London and the south of England generally enjoyed an unusually cold day, in spite of the low temperature, there was the usual gathering in Battersea Park, where 20 men who take their open-air silver morning dip all the year round had their Christmas swim in the lake. Silver medals were presented to several among the bathers who had not missed a single day during the previous year. The prevailing distress among the unemployed brought forth an unusual number of charitable dinners in all sections of London, especially in the East End. A severe gale swept the north coast of Great Britain and caused considerable damage to shipping and waterfront property on the Clyde and the Tyne.

SENDS A CHECK INSTEAD.

President Too Busy to Play Santa Claus at Oyster Bay. New York, Dec. 26.—For the second time in 15 years, says a Press dispatch from Oyster Bay, President Roosevelt did not act as Kris Kringle in person at the Cove school, where the children were taught prior to his elevation to the head of the Nation. Last year the President could not spare the time to come here, and this year events have been pressing too fast about him to admit of his coming. Some days ago Mr. Roosevelt sent a check to the school, enclosing his autograph, which enabled the principal to deal more liberally with her charges than she had been able to do before. The sleds, games and dolls were more costly than usual and the candies in greater quantity. There were two trees instead of one, and Miss Provost, the principal, read a letter from President Roosevelt telling the boys and girls how sorry he was that he could not be with them.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 70c; blue stem 75c; valley, 75c. Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; brewing, \$24.00. Flour—Best grade, 3.90@4.40; Graham, \$3.20@3.50. Millstuffs—Bran, \$19.00 per ton; middlings, \$23.50; shorts, \$19.50; chop, \$18. Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.15@1.17 1/2; gray, \$1.12 1/2@1.15 per cental. Hay—Timothy, \$11@12; clover, \$9.00; cheat, \$8@9 per ton. Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 60¢@70¢ per sack; ordinary, 50¢@60¢ per sack; growers' prices; Merced sweets, \$1.75@2 per cental. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 9c; young, 9¢@10¢; hens, 9c; turkeys, live, 17¢@18c; dressed, 20¢@22¢; ducks, \$7@7.50 per dozen; geese, \$8@8.50. Cheese—Full cream, twins, 16¢@17¢; Young America, 17¢@18¢; factory prices, 16¢@17¢ less. Butter—Fancy creamery, 27¢@30¢ per pound; extras, 30c; dairy, 20¢@22¢; store, 15¢@18¢. Eggs—25¢@26¢ per dozen. Hops—New crop, 23¢@26¢ per pound. Wool—Valley, 13¢@15¢; Eastern Oregon, 8¢@14¢; mohair, 26¢@28¢. Beef—Gross, cows, 3¢@3 1/2¢ per pound; steers, 4c; dressed, 6¢@7¢. Veal—7¢@8¢. Mutton—Gross, 3¢ per pound; dressed, 6c. Lamb—Gross, 3 1/2¢ per pound; dressed, 6 1/2¢. Hogs—Gross, 6 1/2¢@6 3/4¢ per pound; dressed, 7¢@7 1/2¢.

Death of Col. Lockwood.

New York, Dec. 27.—Colonel Henry Clay Lockwood is dead, in Bellevue Hospital, of a short illness. He was 63 years old. Colonel Lockwood was educated for the bar, and enlisted in 1862 in the Union Army. He was brevetted Major for gallantry at the storming of Fort Fisher. He was the author of "The Abolition of the Presidency," in which he advocated a plural executive, to be known as the Executive Council, which should be chosen in joint session by the two houses of Congress, and several other works.

Search for Mutineers.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 27.—According to advices received from Honolulu, the British cruiser Sherwater has left here for Pitcairn and other southeast islands, and will make a search for the mutineers who left the ship Leister Castle after shooting the captain and killing Second Mate Dixon. The mutiny occurred 300 miles from Pitcairn and it was believed that the mutineers might reach that island, if they did not perish at sea.

Frost Steeped a Warm Heart.

Duluth, Minn., 26.—George Plydell, aged 65, with his arms full of Christmas presents for friends and relatives, fell from exhaustion when within five feet of his home, and froze to death last night. Plydell lived all alone in a little house near the top of the fort, where he conducted a confectionery and cigar store.

NEWS OF OREGON

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.

New Church at Brownville—A Christmas Pardon from Governor Geer—Prosperous Hop Raisers of Yamhill County—Great Prune Industry at Dallas—The Roseburg Poultry Show. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Elliott, of Dallas, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary December 23. Governor Geer has granted a full pardon to George Morey, who was serving a life sentence for killing Gus Eerry in Portland in 1893. A night pumpman at the White Swan mine, at Baker City, is dead from falling into an old shaft containing boiling hot water from the exhaust of the engine.

The Southern Pacific has been petitioned by the interested residents in the neighborhood to make some important changes in its train service on the Yamhill division. The agent of the Oregon rail company reports good progress in obtaining the right of way for the proposed logging railway up Milton creek, and surveyors will be placed in the field at once to take levels. The new Methodist church at Brownville was dedicated last Sunday morning. After the ceremony was completed the sum of \$1,200 was pledged by the people to pay off the remaining indebtedness. J. H. Olds and son, pioneer hop raisers of Yamhill county, have leased 20 acres near Lafayette and are settling it out to hops. They contracted their hops this year at 13 cents, but they won't contract next year's crop.

The poultry show at Roseburg has closed, and was a great success in every way. As a novel testimony as to the climate of Oregon, the judge of the show was furnished with a dish of fresh-picked raspberries every morning. Frank Wallace, a Grant county sheep man, was recently arrested on a charge of stealing 28 valuable bucks, but was subsequently acquitted. He now brings suit for \$10,000 damages against his accusers, one of whom is county stock inspector. Salem is making preparations to enlarge her city limits.

The superintendent of the Tunnelton mines, in the Gold Creek district, has gone to Denver to purchase a milling plant for the development of the properties. A joint "log-rolling" given by Ashland and Phoenix Camps, Woodmen of the World, was largely attended by delegations from Southern Oregon and Northern California, and was a grand success. The prune industry around Dallas is being enlarged this season, as evidenced by the large sales of nursery stock being made. J. B. Nunn, agent for a Portland nursery, reports having sold to date over 10,000 prune trees. This fall in the immediate vicinity of Dallas, with large orders on hand filled. This locality last season had very near a full crop of Italians, which it is claimed cannot be said of any other locality in the world. The fruit was par excellent, and 50 per cent of the crop was shipped direct to London, 10 carloads leaving Dallas in a single shipment.

Prof. G. L. McKay, head of the dairy department of the State Agricultural College of Iowa, says: "There is no question in my mind but that dairy products and bacon pork can be produced cheaper in Oregon than in any other country in the world." Prof. McKay has visited Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, and England, and his investigations on this subject make him an authority unsurpassed. Burglars Made a Rich Meal. Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 26.—A burglary of more than usual magnitude was committed at the Westminister hotel, last night in a suite occupied by W. A. Williams, of Hartford, Conn., and his wife. While they were at dinner the lock on one of the doors leading into their apartments was picked and their trunks broken open. One of these contained over \$3,000 worth of jewelry. This was all taken.

Proze to Death in Wyoming.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 26.—John Donovan, a pioneer resident, veteran of the Civil war and Indian fighter during the early days in Wyoming, is dead at his home in this city. He had been ill for some time with paralysis, and his wife being away at the time, he made an effort to attract the attention of the neighbors by throwing a pall through the window. He was unable to get back to bed and froze to death on the floor.

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STORY NOT HALF TOLD.

Number of Dead in Russian Earthquake Disaster Now Reported 5,000.

Ashkaba, Russian Turkestan, Dec. 26.—Even the worst of the earlier reports of the recent earthquake disaster at Andijan quite underestimate the appalling loss of life. A telegram today from the scene of the catastrophe put the number of victims in the native quarter of the town at 4,000. Already 800 corpses have been disinterred from the ruins. The work of excavation progresses slowly. The state treasury, containing 5,000,000 roubles, is in the ruins, and excavations to get the money are carried on under the supervision of a strong cordon of police. The water in the wells has disappeared, and a general subsidence of the site of the town is feared. Large numbers of laborers are being sent to excavate. Sappers have arrived and are expected to make more rapid progress. The shocks continue with increasing violence. The area of seismic disturbance comprises 200 square versts. The Russian population is camping at the railroad station, where 500 cars are placed at the disposal of the population. The local government officials are quartered in cars. Sheds for the destitute are being built as rapidly as possible. Free soup kitchens have been started and officials are aiding the departure of the inhabitants by distributing food, money and free railroad tickets.

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP.

End Came Peacefully to Aged Prelate of English Church. London, Dec. 26.—The Most Rev. Frederick Temple, archbishop of Canterbury, and primate of all England, who has been ill for some time past, is dead. The archbishop passed away quite peacefully at 8:15 o'clock in the presence of his wife and two sons. His death had been anticipated for some days, and only the archbishop's remarkable vitality enabled him to counteract his extreme weakness. The final collapse occurred about 6 o'clock, and he was unconscious toward the end. The primate died of old age. The scene in Westminster Abbey, at the coronation of King Edward, was one of the earlier indications of his falling strength. Then came the collapse in the house of lords at the conclusion of a vigorous speech in support of the education bill. He had not left his bed since. He will be buried at Canterbury. The bishop of Winchester is expected to be the successor.

AT LEAST TEN DEAD.

List of Victims of Trinidad Train Wreck Growing Larger. Trinidad, Col., Dec. 29.—Developments indicate that the wreck on the Colorado & Southern Railroad just outside of this city last night, which was caused by a collision between a merchandise freight train and a heavily-loaded coal train, was the most disastrous in the history of the road where freight trains alone were concerned. It is known tonight that at least 10 persons were killed. It is feared that several more bodies will be unearthed before the wreckage is cleared away. Two unidentified bodies are exposed to view but have not yet been removed from the wreckage. It is feared that several miners, who were supposed to be riding on the coal train and were on the way to Trinidad to spend Christmas, are under the debris. Information received by friends of Trinidad people residing in this city was to the effect that they would be in Trinidad today and it is learned that men were seen boarding the coal train at Hastings, Ludlow, Walsenburg and Aguirre as it pulled through. As they paid no fare there is no record of who they were on the train, if any. Wrecking crews have worked diligently all day clearing the tracks and succeeded in removing the wreckage of the engines. The freight cars are piled in a great heap on the right of way and it will require a day tomorrow to get things in shape for running trains over the road at this point. In the meantime all Colorado & Southern trains are running over the tracks of the Denver & Rio Grande.

HANGED BY A MOB.

Negro Kills an Officer, and is Hung to a Telephone Pole. Pittsburg, Kans., Dec. 27.—Montgomery Godley, a Negro, was taken from the jail today and hung to a telephone pole, because early this morning he shot and killed Milton Hinkley, a policeman, while the officer was trying to protect himself from a crowd of unruly Negroes. The Negro jerked the officers pistol from its scabbard and shot the officer with a bullet behind. Two hours later a mob gathered and took the Negro from the city jail, where he had been taken after he was caught, and hanged him to a telephone pole. As he was choking to death one of the members of the mob cut his throat and ended his suffering.

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Plague Epidemic in Manila.

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—The transport, Thomas brings news of a fresh outbreak of cholera in Manila. When the Thomas left there 30 cases of cholera were being reported daily. Army surgeons arriving on the Thomas say the disease is raging unchecked in the southern provinces. In Ilo Ilo the death rate is very heavy and the authorities seem powerless to check the epidemic.

Crown Princess Ran Away.

Dresden, Saxony, Dec. 25.—The crown princess of Saxony fled from her home on the night of December 11 or 12, according to the Dresden Journal. She is said to have suddenly, in a state of intense excitement, deserted her family at Salsburg and to have gone abroad. The Saxon court functions for the winter have been canceled, including the New Year's reception.

HORRORS OF OCEAN

CASTAWAYS SUCK ONE ANOTHER'S BLOOD FOR LIFE.

Death Releases One Victim—Salt Water Drives Another Crazy, and He Jumps Overboard—Fight to the Death for an Apple—Survivors Finally Rescued by a Passing Steamer. Victoria, B. C., Dec. 25.—Australian papers received by the steamer Night for the terrible privations of the survivors of the wrecked steamer Ellingman, lost on the Three Kings, a trio of towering heights of the northern extremity of New Zealand. The blood of the unfortunates were sucked while they slept, the stewardess, Miss McDair, being so weakened that she died of exhaustion. On a raft 15 people left the vessel and were four days with nothing but two apples and no water. One apple was divided the first day, and the second they indulged in a desperate fight for possession of the other apple. Three deaths occurred on the raft on the second day, the bodies being left until putrefaction set in before the survivors pushed them into the sea. Several started to drink salt water, and, maddened by this, four jumped overboard. On the third night a steamer was sighted, and the shipwrecked people shouted. The vessel lowered a boat, but it did not find the raft in the darkness, and the steamer proceeded, leaving the unfortunates to their fate. It was that night that the blood-letting commenced. The stewardess, weakened from loss of blood, had died in the arms of the second steward, he began to rave and a few minutes later lowered himself from the raft, singing a hymn as he went. Finally, four days after they left the wreck, H. M. S. Grampus found the drifting raft and saved the few remaining survivors.

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Pope Leo Takes a Hand.

London, Dec. 23.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphs as an outcome of the negotiations with the Saxon Court, the pope has sent a prelate to Geneva to inquire into the circumstances of the flight of the Crown Princess of Saxony, with a view to arranging a separation.