

A Bargain for a Woman At last Edna spoke in low, even agony.

"We shall have to do whatever is best for yourself," I managed to answer. "That will be determined when we reach the stage line, I suppose," "Thank you! Once at the stage line and I shall contrive. You must have no thought of me. I understand yery well that we should not trave!" she whispered, pointing. "Cheek!" she whispered, pointing. "Look! They're Indians. We must get away before they see us."

We worked rapidly, bridling and sddling while the fog rose with mensured steadiness.

"Hurry!" she bade.

far in company and you may not wish to go in my direction. You have plans of your own?"
"None of any great moment. Everything has failed me, to date. There is only the one place left: New York State, where I came from."

"You have one more place than I," she replied.

Her voice had a quality of definite estimation which nettled, humbled, and isolated me, as if I lacked in some essential to a standard set.

"Well at home you will live com-fortably. You will need to wear no beit weapon. The police will protect you. You can marry the girl next door or even take the chance of the one across the street, her parentage being comme if faut. Your children will love to hear of the rough mulewhacker trail-yes, you will have great tales but you will not-mention that you killed a man who tried to kill you and then rode for a night with a strange woman alone at your stirrup! Your course is the safe course. By all means take it, Mr.

That I shall do, madam," I retorted. "The West and I have not agreed. I wish to God I had never seen it-I did not conceive that I should have to take a human life—become an outlaw in the night, riding for refuge-"You deserve much sympathy," she

I lapsed into a turbulence of voice less rage at myself.

For a time our mules plodded with sundry snorts and stares as if they were seeing portents in the moon-shine. Eventually their imaginings

dulled, so that they now moved care-less of where or why.

I could not but be aware of my companion. Her bair glinted palely, for she rode bareheaded; her Mor-mon gown, tightened under her as she sat astride, revealed the lines of par havis limbs. ner boyish limbs.
She was a woman, in any guise; and

I being a man, protect her I should, as far as necessary! I found myself wishing that we could upturn some-thing pleasant to talk about!

The drooning round of my thoughts revolved over and over, and I dozed, and kept dozing, until she spoke. "Hadn't we better stop?"

That was a curious sensation.
When I stared about, uncomprehending, my view was shut off by a whiteness veiling the moon above and the south helps earth below except immediately un-

derneath my mule's hoofs, "What's the matter?" I asked. "The fog. I don't know where w

"Oh! I hadn't noticed."
"I don't think there's any use in riding on," she said. "We've lost our bearings."

"Yes, we'd better stop where we are," I agreed. "Then in the morning we can take stock."

She swung off before I had awk-She swung off before I had awk-wardly dismounted to help her. Her limbs failed—my own were clamped by stiffness—and she staggered and collapsed with a little laugh. "I'm tired," she confessed. "Wait just a moment." "You stay where you are," I or-dered, staggering also as I hastily landed. "I'll make camp." But she would have none of that:

But she would have none of that; pleaded my one-handedness and insisted upon cooperating at the mules. The animals were staked out, fell to

I sought a spot for our beds; laid down a buffalo robe for her and placed her saddle as her pillow. She sank with a sigh, tucking her skirt under her, and I folded the robe over.

under her, and I folded the robe over.

Hor face gazed up at me; she extended her hand.

"You are very kind, sir," she said, in a smile that pathetically curved her lips. There, at my knees, she looked so worn, so slight, so childish, so in need of encouragement that all was well and that she had a friend to serve her, that with a rush of sudden symmathy. I would—indeed I could

serve her, that with a rush of sudden sympathy I would—indeed I could have kissed her, upon the forehead, if not upon the lips themselves. It was an impulse well-nigh overmastering; an impulse that must have dazed me so that she saw or felt, for a tinge of pink swept into her skin; she withdrew her hand and settled composedly.

"Good-night. Please sleep. In the morning we'll reach the stage road and your troubles will be near the end."

Under my own robe I lay for a long time debating over what she might have done had I actually kissed her

to comfort her.
Daniel had been disposed of, Montoyo did not deserve her; I had won her, the could inspire and guide me her, he could inspire and guide me if , stayed; and I saw myself going home, and I already regretted a host of things, as a man will when at the forking of the trails.

When I awakened we were still enshrouded by the fleece of fog. As

I gazed sleepily about me I could see Edna's eyes were open. She looked

at me.
"Sh!" she warned, with quick shake of head. The same warning bade me listen. In a moment I heard voices, They were indistinguishable except as vocal sounds. "I've been hearing them some little

"Adam's men trailing us?"
"I hope not," she gasped, in sheer agony. "If we might only know in

"What do you expect to do with me, lease?"
"We shall have to do whatever is est for yourself," I managed to anwer. "That will be determined when "Look! They're Indians. We must

adding while the fog rose with measured steadiness.
"Hurry!" she bade.
The whole desert was a golden haze when having packed we climbed The fog lingered in patches. From patch to patch we threaded, with many a glance over shoulder.

many a glance over shoulder.

At last we came to a rough out crop of red sandstone, looming rud-ally on our right. Edna quickly

swerved toward it.

"The best chance. I see nothing else," she muttered. "We can tie the mules under cover, and wait. We'll surely be spied if we keep on.

In a moment we had gained the ref-uge. The sculptured rock masses, de-tached one from another, several jut-ting ten feet up, received us. We fied the mules short, in a nook at the rear; and we ourselves crawled in until we lay snug against the shadowing buttresses with the desert vista opening before us.

We had been just in time. Round-ing a knoll there appeared a file of mounted figures, Indians unmistak-

ably.
"A war party! Sioux, I think," she said. "Don't they carry scalps on that first lance? They-ve been raiding the stage line. Do you see any squaws? "No," I hazarded. "All warriors, I

zhould guess."
"All warriors. But squaws would

On they cantered; indeed, seemed to be diverging from our ambush and making more to the west. And I had copes that, after all, we were safe,

Then her hand clutched mine firm-r. A wolf had leaped from cover in the path of the file; loped eastward across the desert, and instantly, with a whoop that echoed upon us like the crack of doom, a young fellow darted

from the line in gay pursuit.

Away they tore, while the file slackened, to watch. Our trail of flight bore right athwart the wolf's projected route. There was just the remote chance that the lad would overstink in his contract. overrun it, in his eagerness; and for that intervening moment of grace we stared, fascinated, hand clasping hand.
"He's found it!"
she announced, in a little wall.

In mid-career the boy had checked his pony so shortly that the four boofs ploughed the sand. He wheeled on a pivot and rade back for a few

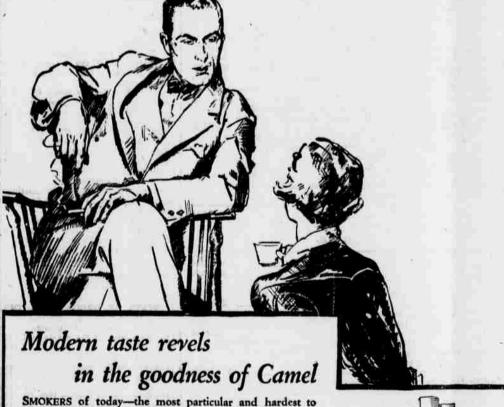
on a pivot and rode back for a few yards, scanning the ground, letting the wolf go.

The youth flung up a glad hand and the band galloped to him. "Yes, he has found it," she said.
"Now they will come."

"I'll do my beat, with revolver," I promised.
"Yes," she murmured. "But after

fore me this 4th day of April, 1927. JOS. J. NYS.

J. W. BEYMER, President. J. D. FRENCH, J. G. THOMSON



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hem."
"But they're coming." I rasped.
"They're getting in range. We've got the gun, and twenty cartridges. May-be if I killed the chief-

Ere I could stop her My Lady had sprung upright, to mount upon a rock and, all in view, to hold open hand above her head. The sunshine glinted upon her hair.

fugitive little breeze bound her They had seen her instantly. The

"Keep down! Keep down, please," inc directed to me, while she stood notionless. "Let me try." The chief neared until we might

see his every lineament—a splendid man, his eyes devouring her so covet ously that I felt the gloating thoughts He called enquiringly: a greeting and a demand in one, it sounded. She replied. And what they two said, in "It would be madness on these paor word and sign, I could not know. Then mules." She murmured to herself. he cantered back to his men, while

Charter No. 11007

my calculations.
"Shall we make a break for it?"

Reserve District No. 12 REPORT OF CONDITION OF THE

Farmers & Stockgrowers National Bank

AT HEPPNER, IN THE STATE OF OREGON, AT THE CLOSE OF

RESOURCES	
Loans and discounts, including rediscounts, acceptances of other banks and foreign bills of exchange or drafts, sold with indorsement of this bank. Overdrafts, unsecured. J. S. Government securities owned: All United States Government securities (including premiums, if any). Other bonds, stocks, securities, etc., owned. Fourniture and fixtures. Seal estate owned other than banking house. Ask in vault and amount due from national banks. Checks on other banks in the same city or town as reporting bank. Total of last two items above	\$207,820.4 587.5 7,700.0 10,814.9 2,719.2 17,057.2 18,780.7 50,703.3 227.4
Total	321,552.8

LIABILITIES		
Capital stock paid in		50,000.00
Undivided profits	\$5,110.79	2.000
Less current expenses paid		1,987.5
Amount due to national banks		158.3
Cashier's checks outstanding		3.6
Total of last two items above	\$162,05	
Demand deposits (other than bank deposits) sui	ject to Re-	

serve (deposits payable within 30 days): Individual deposits subject to check Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days (other than Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days (other than for money borrowed)

Total of demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve \$205,577.17

Time deposits subject to Reserve (payable after 30 days, or subject to 30 days or more notice, and postal savings):
Certificates of deposit (other than for money borrowed)

State, county, or other municipal deposits secured by pledge of assets of this bank or apprais a county. 11,606.66

of assets of this bank or surety bond 44,519,44 Total of time deposits subject to Reserve \$63,826.10

\$321,552.85

State of Oregon, County of Morrow, ss. I. J. W. Beymer, President of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge

Subscribed and sworn to be- | CORRECT-Attest: SEAL) Notary Public. commission expires June 8, 1927.

JOS. M. HAYES.

'Yes, they're Sioux! I must talk with Edna stepped lightly down; answered sonage—he won't inquire into my my querying look.

ddly subtle-a tremulous amile in a

white face, "Where? We are free, you mean? What's the bargain?"
"I go to them. You go where you

have his promise. No, no," she tald, checking my indignant cry.
"Really I don't mind. The Indians are about the only persons left to me. You can go home, and I shall not be unhappy. Please believe that! The wife of a great chief is quite a per

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past. But if we try to stay here you "It's all right. I'm going, and so will certainly be killed, and I shall se you," she said, with a faint smile, suffer, and we shall gain nothing. You must take my money. Please do. Then good-bye. I told him come out, under his promise," I told him I would

(Concluded next week) Copyright by Edwin L. Sabin

A Smart Maid He kissed the parlor maid and the

irl screamed The wife came in and looked about

uspiciously. "Fifi, why did you scream?" "Through joy, madam. The master sjust doubled my wages."

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