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## LORD OF THE DESERT

By PAUL DE LANEY

### CHAPTER VI. At the Foot of the Rimrocks.

It is the second night of Bertha's captivity, during the night of her capture. After securing her on the horse at the time of that fearful event, the Indians kept moving at a rapid rate until about five o'clock the following morning, when they stopped and butchered a mule for dinner. To them the mule meat was a dainty dish of which they partook with a ravenous appetite, but to the girl from Edinburg mule meat was not tempting, when in fact it was as repulsive as all. The gluttonous feast of these savages added to the disgust and horror that surrounded the captive. The whole had seemed like a terrible, horrible nightmare to her.

The first night out had been spent in a small basin, surrounded by rimrocks with narrow outlets and that had been carefully guarded by the dusky sentinels. No fires were kindled during the night and a stillness and quietude pervaded the camp, and this, with the demeanor of the Indians, showed that they were not only uneasy but strictly on their guard.

A vigilant watch had been kept over Bertha the whole night long, though she had been made as comfortable as an Indian's ingenuity could provide.

Early the following morning another mule was butchered, a hasty breakfast prepared, and the band moved on to the west.

The course during the day lay over a rough country. It was taken as if the Indians had intended to obscure their trail. To the right and left stood the towering rimrocks and their trail led through the lava beds. Only those who have attempted to pass through this section of country can comprehend what is meant in speaking of the lava beds. Huge boulders and smaller ones of every description, round rocks, flat rocks, standing upon edge, square rocks, and diamond-shaped rocks, of all sizes, and as rough and rugged and uneven, that it was difficult for the party to keep together without even its own members becoming lost from one another. Up and down the steep declivities, around the high ridges of boulders and over the lava beds, the mule tracks made the travel difficult and precarious, but no trail was left behind. To track the red men to this vast section of the lava beds was to lose them. Here, only courses are followed, and not trails, for it is properly called, "the trailless" section of the desert, and a day in the lava beds it would have told on most men, but with the slightest indication of fatigue Bertha looked as firm and defiant as ever. She was a Lyle!

In the middle of the afternoon a halt was made and a consultation held by the Indians. The main body with most of the animals proceeded to the southeast, while Chief Egan, with a few of the animals in charge of a dozen of his chosen warriors, took a westerly course and the wily chief took with him a young woman captive. The main band proceeded on its way to a designated meeting point, while the chief made this detour to consummate the last object of his trip.

The chief and his small band were more guarded than ever. Realizing that his mission was a serious one and to avoid falling into traps, he traveled through a more obscure country than ever, and was still more cautious about not leaving any trail behind. That night he camped at the foot of a high wall in the shadow of the projecting rimrocks. No fire could be kindled in the immediate vicinity for the boulders that lay about him, and the smoke from his camp was silhouetted against the rock walls and mingled with the clouds above.

At the camp the scarred faced old warrior chief took much interest in his white captives. He had her quarters prepared some distance from the main camp and while he, himself, looked after her wants two of his most trusted warriors were placed on guard. At supper time Egan, by gestures, plead with the young woman to eat. While the terrible experience through which she had gone would have taken the appetite of most women of her age, she was too common sense and matter-of-fact to lose her permanently. She was really in a state of starvation when she felt as if she could partake of mule meat. But a lucky incident occurred. Even while old Egan was tendering her a slice of mule prepared in the most dainty manner from the Indians' standpoint, a warrior close flushed a sage hen, to the animal's unacquainted with this bird knew that it must be palatable. She pointed to the bird in its flight with a sign to old Egan that she had one of these for her. No sooner had she done this than he wished her to go and made her wishes known to the chief went to the quiver of his hunting arrows, drew forth the choicest ones, and in a few moments she was speeding among the rocks.

Long the bird was gallantly dropped time he returned and at her feet, and with an expression of pride pointed to a scar in its neck through which his arrow had passed.

But of this gallantry Bertha took no notice. Soon a fire was kindled and with woman's culinary knowledge and soon prepared a meal to which she was in much need.

Long after nightfall, when all the clouds had passed away and the moon had risen above the distant rimrocks on the east and its light had fallen upon the camp beneath the rimrocks, the old Egan appeared at Bertha's quar-

### rest of the world saw for it was in the winter time that the wild animals of the desert widened their range in search of food, and many of all kinds were tempted to partake of the fresh morsels of anti-elope, deer, rabbit and sage hen, so attractively prepared and placed in their trail and many of these animals found by a jagged iron circle that closed with a merciless clamp around their legs or noses and held them prisoners. The traps of the Trapper of the Rimrocks always held their prey.

The Trapper of the Desert was a young man of eight and twenty years. For ten years he had been known upon the desert. While he was a man of peace, yet his keen grey eyes and firm set chin told those who saw him that he would face the worst of the human race in any kind of an encounter as readily as he would the fiercest animal of the desert. If the necessity arose, his hair was also light and he wore a plain of friendliness upon his face. But the cloud that drove his gleam of sunshine away when he became angered was an immediate warning not to trespass against the will of this man of firmness, and his well proportioned form was able to carry out the desire of the mind. He was five feet, ten, weighed 180 pounds, and with all this possessed well proportioned muscles, as light as rubber and strong as gutta serena.

He was known simply by the name of William Hamersley, but his ancestry and place of birth were as mysterious as the man himself. When first known he was on the desert engaged in trapping, and as he had no competitors, he had no enemies. His abode, a crude affair, partly a cave and partly a house in the rimrocks, was always welcome to the weary traveler or stockman, who happened to pass his way, but this did not happen often, as few people traveled that way. He was a friendly host and looked to the comfort of his guest, but he had little to say and asked but few questions. A guest after leaving his place knew no more of him than when he came, and there was always a feeling on the part of the visitor that no extended conversation was desired. And the wishes of William Hamersley were usually respected.

But the reader shall know more about this trapper of the desert and his abode than the visitors of those days know. He was not alone, and the compartments which the visitors saw were not all that were possessed and occupied by this man. The small corral made rock in front of the premises and the few traps and skins that hung about the rooms opened to visitors were only small indications of interest compared with what was concealed in the background.

A subterranean passage led to a large cave beyond that occupied as the open home of the trapper. A crevice, a hole in the wall, one day led to the finest beds supplied with bed with warm covering and a soft place to lie while others lay upon the floor as rugs and hung from the walls to keep out the cold of winter. A perfectly constructed fireplace, connected with the crevasse in the rocks which was utilized as a chimney, supplied the room with warmth in cold weather.

Upon the bed lay an invalid. Once a gigantic form with powerful physique and muscle, he was now emaciated to almost a skeleton. His limbs had been frozen and his hands and feet were mere crabs, though he still retained his intelligence and was a great comfort to the trapper who brought him the tenderest and best prepared morsels of the table. He fed him with his own hands, and attended him as carefully as a mother tends her own child.

"I sometimes fear that I worry you, and that my monotonous life may effect yours," said the invalid one day to the trapper, "in carrying out my desire to strike for vengeance and wait until I can strike the most killing

blow. I fear that I impose upon your good nature, my preserver, and tax your patience."

"Oh, no, no," replied the trapper, as he stroked the pale forehead of the invalid tenderly, "without your life would be truly monotonous to me, besides, your counsel and company are worth all the trouble, if your condition could be construed to cause me trouble, and outside of all this, your cause has become my cause from an interest in humanity and justice. You have been grossly outraged, and I look as anxiously to the day of reckoning as yourself."

On the second night after the attack of the Indians on the pack train and the capture of Bertha Lyle, the trapper brought in a large supply of prepared provisions and placed them on a table beside the invalid's bed. The latter knew what this meant.

"So you are off for a trip to my friends," said the invalid. "How long will it be before you return?" he continued.

He was interested, for the difficulty in hobbling about and waiting upon himself with his stubby hands and feet in the trapper's absence was a great, and the lack of his companionship was greater.

"I will only be gone for a few days," replied the trapper. "I am going to visit the traps near the picture rocks as I am trying to catch a mowbat that frequents the place and have some hopes of getting a grizzly."

And it happened that at this time Chief Egan and his warriors with their captive were making for the same vicinity.

**CHAPTER VII.  
A Woman's Scalp.**

It is at another point in the lava beds from that described in the last chapter. While many walls join together here from different directions, yet one point on the rimrocks commanded a view in all directions. Upon this point stands an Indian. His arrow-like form silhouetted against the horizon gave him the appearance of an inanimate rather than an animate body. The afternoon sun was not far above the distant rimrocks. It was a picture for an artist to draw. The ragged rocks along the earth's surface, the walls which converged from many directions toward the pedestal formed center at the top of which stood the statue of the trapper, and those crowned by the statue-like form of the Indian, whose quiver war bonnet indicated that he was a chief, made the view a romantic one indeed.

"If they disappoint me," murmured the Indian in his own tongue, "it will take many more white scalps to pay the penalty," and at the same time toyed with a scalp of long hair, that of a woman, tossed by the wind at his belt.

But his mind was soon relieved on this point. From the shadow of the

rimrocks in the distance, a little north of west, he saw a lone horseman coming in a swift trot. He he descended to the same side upon which the horseman was approaching, taking care to examine his bow and quiver, tomahawk, and scalping knife to see that all were intact. Seating himself upon the ground, he jettied from the high wall many feet above the level plain, he waited the approach of his visitor. When the latter came within hailing distance a familiar salute from each showed the mutual recognition.

The two met on the top of the rimrocks conversed familiarly. While the reader already knows that one was Chief Egan he has also surmised that the other was Dan Follett, which is true. To look upon the countenances of these two men was an interesting study. The old Indian chief, a man-gone, bore scars showing the terrible episodes of his life, while the Canadian Frenchman bore marks placed there by time which showed the villainous character of the man. The one, robbed of his country, and forced to live in a state of outlaw from necessity. The other, containing a mixture of blood of the evil criminals of a superior race mixed with that of the most blood-thirsty and treacherous of an inferior race, was a villain from choice and by nature.

There were bluffing looks and grim smiles from each, but the arrival of the band of horses caused them to rise to their feet, and with a shout from old Egan's lips his warriors appeared before them unobserved, and took charge of the band of animals remaining. The prize money for the murderer of the woman's scalp, Dan Follett climbed down the rocks and joining his men down the horses and into the road away. The Indians drove the horses into a deep canyon beneath the rimrocks, and the stillness of approaching night closed the scene.

**CHAPTER VIII.  
The Trapper of the Rimrocks.**

He was known from one end of the desert to the other, as well by the red man as the white. His life was spent men in the snows of winter began to fly and others fled to shelter he worked the more persistent. For eight months in the year his solitude was complete, so far as the

### NEWS OF OREGON

#### ITFMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.

##### Commercial and Financial Happenings of the Past Week—Brief Review of the Growth and Development of Various Industries Throughout Our Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

The postoffice at Pokeama, Klamath county, has been discontinued.

The building boom, which has been in progress at Weston for several weeks, shows no signs of abatement.

The citizens of Helix will hold an election December 10 to vote on the proposition of incorporating the town.

But very little of the 1903 wheat crop in the big Umatilla belt will be fall wheat, the rain proving so heavy that all seeding has been stopped.

Dr. Leckenby, of Union, has discovered a process whereby he can take photographs in which all natural colors are reproduced. He will not keep the discovery a secret, but will give it to the world.

The soldier who was arrested at Fort Stevens for setting the numerous recent fires has escaped from the officers and no trace of him can be found. He confessed to having started the fires as accused.

The second term at the state normal school at Monmouth shows a marked increase in interest and attendance. One section of the school is the annually \$190

##### An Indiana Attempt.

Akron, O., Nov. 28.—Early today a desperate attempt was made to rob the Exchange bank at this place. The robbers captured and bound the two night telephone operators and cut all telephone wires leading out of the local exchange. They also bound and gagged a physician whose office is in the same block with the Exchange bank. The first explosion of dynamite at the bank aroused the citizens, who hastened to charge with fire arms. Many were exchanged, but the robbers escaped without any body.

##### Got 300 Stamps.

Colfax, Ind., Nov. 28.—The office at Clark's Hill was entered today and the safe dynamited. 300 stamps were taken. The robbers were also looted. No other robbers.

##### Better Luck in Texas.

Dallas, Tex., Nov. 28.—The national bank at Morgan, county, was dynamited by robbers early today and \$5,000 in gold, silver and currency was secured by the burglars. Before the citizens, who were aroused by the explosion, could reach the bank, the bandits had secured the money and made their escape.

##### ANARCHISTS HERE.

Street Fight Believed to Have Revealed Secret Meeting Place.

New York, Nov. 26.—As the outcome of the arrest of two Italians fighting fiercely in the street, the police of the Oak street station, in this city, believe they have discovered an anarchist meeting place within a stone's throw of the station. The prisoners gave their names as Dominic Santo and Tony Menz. Santo had a big revolver, with which he was trying to shoot Menz. The latter carried a dangerous looking knife. When searched, 15 cartridges were found in Santo's pockets. Besides, there was an unopened letter from Cannalelli, Italy. Menz had a rough map of Paris and the department of the Seine, with a dozen of the largest building numbers. He also had a bill head from the Carlton hotel, London, and admitted that he came to this country three weeks ago.

According to the police the fight started in a hall in Roosevelt street, where a meeting was in session. Santo was charged with having revealed secrets, and the fight in the street followed, resulting in their arrest. Menz is said to have admitted that he is an anarchist.

##### Havana Strike Under Control.

Washington, Nov. 28.—A cablegram received at the state department today from Minister Squiers at Havana reports that the government is taking a firm stand and that the strike situation is better. Senator Quesada, the Cuban minister, talked over the situation with Secretary Hay today. The conditions are being watched with the closest interest, as it is believed that the ability of the Cuban government to maintain law and order and adequately safeguard the heavy investments of foreign capital at Havana is about to be subjected to a severe test.

##### Railroad Money for School Fund.

Indianapolis, Nov. 28.—The state went the long-fought case against the Vandalia railroad in the supreme court today, and the school fund, unless an appeal should be taken to the United States supreme court and the state supreme court be reversed, will receive an addition of \$685,424. The Marion superior court is affirmed and the Vandalia must pay the judgment of \$913,003. Of this sum the prosecuting attorneys will receive 25 per cent.

##### Death of a Coin Expert.

New York, Nov. 28.—The death of Francis G. Meyers, chief of the coin division of the sub-treasury, was announced today. He was considered one of the best coin experts in the country. He was 57 years of age.

##### French Coal Strike is Ended.

Clermont, Ferrand, France, Nov. 27.—The strike of the coal miners in this region is terminated. The men have resumed work at all the pits, and troops who were guarding the proprietes have been withdrawn.

##### BLOCKS THE CANAL.

United States May Not Take Up Nicaragua Route Again.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The cabinet meeting yesterday was devoted almost exclusively to the consideration of the status of the reciprocity treaty with Cuba and the canal treaty with Colombia. The hitches that have occurred in the negotiations were discussed, as were also the prospects of settlement.

Secretary Hay, while presenting the subject of the canal negotiations, was not able to report that any progress had been made during the past week. In fact, it appears that the negotiations have come to a dead stop, and while no such thing as an ultimatum has been passed, the precise situation may be described in the statement that the Colombian minister here, Concha, has distinctly informed the state department that he cannot, in behalf of his government, accept the latest proposition of the United States as a basis for a canal treaty. The state department has already let it be known that it has come to the end of its concessions, so the chances of a renewal of the negotiations in the near future are not very bright.

This state of affairs will stimulate the negotiations with Nicaragua and Costa Rica for the alternate route, but it now appears that the diplomatic representatives of those countries are not disposed to allow themselves to be used to coerce Colombia, and therefore are desirous of remaining in the background until it shall be clearly established that no treaty can be made between Colombia and the United States.

One of the statements of fact in connection with the Panama route which has been brought to the attention of the state department is that the original canal concession will expire in 1904, and it has been suggested that the Colombian government has that belief in mind, and is disposed to refrain from making a treaty now, in expectation that the franchise will lapse, and it thus may be in a position to make the canal itself, or to sell a new concession. Such a course would raise a very serious question between the Colombian government, the Panama canal company, the French government and the government of the United States as to whether or not a supplementary decree extending the concession 10 years from 1904 was valid.

##### SPANISH WAR CLAIMS.

United States Took the Place of Spain in Cuba.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The Spanish claims commission has announced the principles by which it will be governed in passing upon the various demurrers which have been submitted to it in connection with the claims now under consideration on account of the war between Spain and Cuba.

The general basis is laid down that in assuming the responsibility which would have otherwise been Spain's the United States is bound to pay all claims for which Spain could have been held. It is further held that the insurrection in Cuba had gone beyond the control of the Spanish government and that it was not responsible for damages done to foreigners by the insurgents. If, however, it be shown that the Spanish authorities might have prevented the damage done in any particular case by the exercise of due diligence the commission announces that it will hold that Spain is liable.

The commission announces further that it will take judicial notice that the Cuban insurrection passed from first being under the control of Spain, and so continued until the intervention of the United States. It is further held that Spain was entitled to adopt such war measures for the recovery of her authority as are sanctioned by the rules and usages of international warfare. If, however, it be alleged and proved in any particular case that the acts of the Spanish authorities or soldiers were contrary to such rules and usages, Spain will be held liable in that case.

This decision does not, however, go to the extent of saying that the recalculation orders were legitimate acts of war. There is to be a further argument on that subject.

Ex-Senator Chandler, chairman of the committee, and Commissioner Maury dissent from the rules adopted.

##### Called to Washington.

Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 27.—General Luke E. Wright, vice governor of the Philippines, left last night for Washington, where it is understood he has been summoned by the president for a conference on the proposed Philippine legislation. It is expected that general Wright will assist in the preparation of the bills which will be presented to congress at the forthcoming session, among which will be one for the establishment of a stable currency and an extension of the civil service laws in the archipelago will be recommended.

##### Big Coal Land Deal.

Indiana, Pa., Nov. 27.—By a deal consummated here today, 6,000 acres of untouched coal land in Young and Conestoga townships, this county, changed hands for a consideration approximating \$1,200,000. The transfer of the coal is but preliminary to the formation of a mining company with a capital of \$2,000,000, which will begin in the spring to develop the field and to construct a new railroad into the field.

##### Fatal Locomotive Boiler Explosion.

Pittsburg, Nov. 27.—A trainman was killed and several seriously injured by the explosion of a locomotive boiler at Thompson's, this county, today. Of the three all are railroad employes and are expected to die.

##### PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 71¢@72¢; blue stem 77¢@79¢; valley, 74¢@75¢.

Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; brewing, \$24.00.

Flour—Best grade, 3.60@3.75; Graham, \$3.20@3.60.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$19.00 per ton; middlings, \$23.50; shorts, \$19.50; chop, \$18.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.15@1.17; gray, \$1.12@1.15 per cental.

Hay—Timothy, \$10@11; clover, \$9.00; cheat, \$8@9 per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 60¢@80¢ per sack; ordinary, 50¢@55¢ per cental; growers' prices; Merced sweets, \$1.75@1.82 per cental.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.50@4.25; per pound, 10¢; hens, \$4@4.50 per dozen; per pound, 11¢; springs, \$3.00@3.50 per dozen; fryers, \$2.50@3.00; broilers, \$2.00@2.50; ducks, \$4.50@6.00 per dozen; turkeys, young, 12¢@15¢; geese, \$6.00@6.50 per dozen.

Cheese—Full cream, twin, 15¢@16¢; Young America, 16¢@17¢ factory prices, 1¢@1½¢ less.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 30¢@32¢ per pound; extra, 30¢; dairy, 20¢@22¢; store, 15¢@18.

Eggs—25¢@30¢ per dozen.

Hops—New crop, 23¢@26¢ per pound.

Wool—Valley, 12½¢@15¢; Eastern Oregon, 8¢@14¢; mohair, 26¢@28¢.

Beef—Gross, cows, 3¢@3½¢ per pound; steers, 4¢; dressed, 6¢@7¢.

Veal—7¢@8¢.

Mutton—Gross, 3¢ per pound; dressed, 6¢.

Lamb—Gross, 3½¢ per pound; dressed, 6½¢.

Pigs—Gross, 8½¢@9½¢ per pound; dressed, 7¢@7½¢.

##### NEGOTIATIONS OFF

### COAL TROUBLE BACK TO COMMISSION FOR SETTLEMENT.

Will Be No Private Conference to End the Affair, On Account of the Independent Operators—They Demand a Full Hearing, and Assert Moreover, That They Have a Good Defense.

Washington, Nov. 26.—All prospects for an understanding between the United Mineworkers and the coal operators outside the anthracite coal strike commission came to a sudden termination late yesterday afternoon through the receipt of a dispatch to Wayne MacVeagh, representing the Pennsylvania coal company and the Hillside coal and iron company, notifying him that at a meeting of the anthracite coal road men in New York it had been decided not to grant any interview to Mr. Mitchell and his associates, which had been suggested for Friday next.

The announcement, coming as it did after an all day conference in this city between Mr. MacVeagh and Mr. Mitchell and his associates, attended part of the time by Carroll D. Wright, in an endeavor to adjust some details of the proposed agreement between the operators and the miners, completely surprised everyone here.

From a reliable source it is learned that the proposition that the operators meet Mr. Mitchell on Friday next was made at the instance of Mr. MacVeagh, who was no less surprised than Mr. Mitchell himself at this turn of affairs today. From statements made by Mr. Darrow early in the day, the impression had spread that a complete agreement would be effected at today's conference, but when the meeting broke up Mr. Darrow read to the newspaper in the corridor outside his room in Willard's hotel a statement which made it clear that no agreement was likely. The statement was as follows:

"The conference today was simply a continuation of the conference held at Scranton, and with precisely the same object—that of trying to reach a basis of hopeful discussion for an amicable settlement. Mr. MacVeagh has not been in Scranton since Thursday, and some matters have since developed as to whether a further conference might be useful before either the operators or the representatives of the miners approached the serious task of formulating a different agreement for their signatures."

Mr. Mitchell, when shown the dispatch from New York telling of the action of the operators, simply smiled and said that he had not asked for the conference, but that when he was asked if it would be agreeable to meet the operators he said it would. Mr. Darrow and Mr. Lloyd, however, were outspoken regarding the action of the operators. Mr. Darrow said it was "newspaper talk," and that he would not return at once to Scranton and on Tuesday next would appear before the commission ready to go on with the hearing. Mr. Lloyd, holding in his hand the Associated Press dispatch, referred to the fact that Friday's conference had been suggested in order to adjust some matters on which there was still some disagreement.

"Yet," said Mr. Lloyd, "the same men who only last week wired the commission their assent to the general provisions of the tentative agreement, and upon the strength of which the commission adjourned for a week in order to give the parties time to get together, now go completely back on their former action and call it off. We are satisfied to go before the commission and continue the hearing."

### MILES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Found the Army in a Fair Condition—The People Very Poor.

Manila, Nov. 27.—General Miles will leave here for China, Japan and Russia at the end of the week. Discussing the Philippines with the correspondent of the Associated Press, General Miles said:

"I have seen 13,000 of our troops, and will inspect more of them before leaving. I found them to be in fair condition. This is a hard country for campaigning. I inspected the principal defenses of the islands and some of the harbors which the government has fortified. I found the people generally impoverished from the effects of the war and the pestilence which followed it, and I fear some may suffer from famine. The death of many animals leaves the people no means of recovering."

### Bread Riots in Assia.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 27.—Bread riots are reported from 13 Ural districts, where thousands of the iron works, cause of the closing of Siberia have been granted a amnesty, some unconditionally and some are allowed to return immediately but are subjected to police supervision. The secret police have been increased by one third the number men heretofore employed in that department.

### Mexico Getting Tired of Silver.

Mexico City, Nov. 27.—The heavy advance in the price of silver has caused great excitement in financial and business circles. The premium has been rising all week, and has reached 171. It is generally conceded that a gold standard cannot be long delayed, as silver fluctuates in value so rapidly that it cannot be relied on as a basis of currency.