

HIS ROMANCE.

By SANBORN DARRAH.
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Jack Conover was a city boy and the son of a plumber. Jack read a great many novels based on life in the wild west and became imbued with a desire to mingle in the exciting scenes of that region. He was twenty-three years old when his father died and left him \$20,000. Jack at once set about obtaining a realization of his boyhood dream. Going to Arizona, he purchased a ranch and became a sheep raiser.

The ranchman continued to read romantic tales and longed for a chance either to kill a few dozen Indians or rob a stagecoach. But the Indians were no longer there to be killed, and the stagecoach had given place to other methods of transportation. Not meeting with adventures and waiting for sheep to multiply being an unexciting occupation, Jack grew lonely. He wished for some young woman to keep him company as his wife.

One day, while riding over his broad acres inspecting his herds, looking up suddenly he saw a speck in the far distance. That it was moving toward him was evident from the fact that it was growing larger. Then he could see a thin film of dust about it. Next it revealed itself as a galloping horse. A man with a burden in his arms rode the horse, and before long the burden could be distinguished as a woman. The two were coming licker-split, rising and falling with the contour of the undulating country, and it was not long before, arising from low ground, they appeared on the crest of a rise not half a mile away.

Jack saw the opportunity of his life. Here was a clear case of abduction. Though the girl was yet too far for him to see her face, he knew she was beautiful and he was just the man for a rescue. Riding directly before the pair, he whipped out his revolver and called a halt. The man drew rein, shouting:

"Git out o' the way!"
"Throw up your arms!"
The man threw up his arms.

"Dismount."
The man slid off to the rear, leaving the woman in his place. Jack glanced at her. She was a young girl and fairly good looking. In his eyes, gazing through the roseate hues of romance, she seemed a pearl. The man on reaching the ground fell in the dirt. Jack, seizing the bridle rein of the horse he had stopped, put spurs to his own horse, gave the other the lash of a quirt, and the two animals, with their burdens, dashed away.

"What are you?"
"Don't be afraid," he interrupted. "I'll get you away from him."

With that he cast a glance to the rear. The man had risen and was beckoning to a dozen horsemen who appeared far back where the single horse had appeared a few minutes before. It was plain to Jack that where at first he had one man to deal with he now had a dozen. Urging on his own horse with his spurs and the girl's with the quirt, the two went galloping over the country like mad. The girl made no further attempt to communicate with him. She did not look exactly pleased at being rescued. At first she looked angry. Then she burst out into a hysterical laugh. Jack kept looking back and was urged to fresh efforts by seeing the men behind gaining on him. Coming up to the man who had been abducting the girl, they pulled up, he said something to them and pointed to the fugitives, and they started on.

The chase was long and exciting. The girl held the reins of her own horse and guided him in the path she wished to take. Coming to a turn that led up to Jack's ranch house, Jack endeavored to turn their course in that direction. But the girl pulled her horse's head in a path of her own choosing, giving Jack at the same time a beseeching look to permit her to go as she wished, whereupon he yielded. After all, perhaps it would be as well in the end. There was no force at the ranch house to prevent the girl being taken by her pursuers.

By this time the girl's horse began to lag. Jack laid on the quirt and urged him forward as best he could. Looking behind, he saw that the pursuers were close on his heels. He was about to give way to despair when, riding between two clumps of trees that flanked the road, he heard the crack of rifles and saw puffs of smoke emerge from between the trees. Casting a glance behind him, he saw his pursuers one by one falling from their saddles and biting the dust.

Astonished at the rising up of this friendly force, Jack pulled rein and stopped at the door of a small house. A man, followed by a woman and several girls, came running out, and the girl he had saved fell into the arms of the woman. The man, seeing Jack, looked surprised, but started at once to administer restoratives to the girl. The woman laid her tenderly on the ground and was reviving her when a voice from up in a tree called:

"That'll do. The show's done."
Jack was thunderstruck.
"Who's your friend, Ellen," asked the woman, "and where's Mart?"
Ellen burst into a laugh.

"Come, explain."
"We were coming on all right when suddenly this man stopped us on the road and made Mart dismount. Then this man seized my bridle and hurried me on. The only way to prevent his spoiling the job was to let him take Mart's place."

"My friends," said Jack, "will you kindly explain what you mean by 'the job'?"

"We've been running for a moving picture show," said the girl, again giving way to boisterous laughter.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

Wild goats have so multiplied in Hawaii that they are now killed as pests. Jute covers are used in Russia to protect sawed wood from rain and snow.

Chile supports fifteen industrial schools, giving instruction to about 3,300 pupils.

It has been estimated that rats in England do damage to the extent of \$75,000,000 annually.

By resolution of the Vienna city fathers a plot has been set aside in St. Mark's cemetery for the Strauss family.

Finland's parliament has eighty-four Socialists out of 200 members, a higher proportion than any other European legislature.

The Masonic grand lodge of New Mexico is to appropriate a sum of money sufficient to erect a suitable monument over the grave of Kit Carson in Taos.

The area of Alaska is so great the government maintains five agricultural experiment stations there in order that crops may be tested under all the climatic conditions.

According to the London hospital, some English physicians are ordering patients to eat oysters that have been well soaked in sea water as a cure for dyspepsia and tuberculosis.

Artificial nitrates are made extensively in Norway and sold in competition with the natural product of Chile. The annual production of nitrate of soda in Chile is 1,800,000 tons.

Algeria, in common with many other of the backward countries of the east, is taking with avidity to one product of western civilization—condensed milk. The Swiss exporters get nearly all the trade.

In Belgium 170,000 men and women workers out of a group of 613,000 earn less than 38 cents a day; from 38 to 57 cents is the daily wage of 172,000; from 57 to 77 cents of 108,000 and over 77 cents of only 102,000.

There is so little interest in motor-boating among those who live near Lake Geneva that a company formed for this purpose failed and paid back shareholders 22 per cent of the nominal value of its stock capital.

It was Halley's comet which appeared in 1066 at the time of the invasion of William the Conqueror and again in 1456, when Constantinople was besieged by the Turks, and the crescent shaped tail was a mighty omen.

A Boston firm of building wreckers has brought out a circular saw that will cut through nails and bolts as well as through wood, enabling them to cut into regular sizes secondhand lumber that otherwise would be valueless.

Abject poverty is the condition of much of Haiti's population. There is a brisk demand there for old condensed milk, preserve, butter and lard cans, of which are made practically all the cooking and table utensils they use.

Noah's ark has been built anew in Denmark according to the Biblical specifications. Those who are inclined to doubt the truth of every Scripture story will be interested to learn that the vessel had no difficulty in floating.

The Manila government has in contemplation a plan for grading to fixed standards the Philippine cigars that are sent to the United States, and it is very probable that the project will be carried out. It is planned to have at least four grades.

Subterranean streams of water have been detected by sound, according to a recent United States consular report, by a French instrument known as the "acoustele," with which the Belgian Society of Geology, Paleontology and Hydrology is said to have made extensive experiments.

Manufacturers of rubber goods are becoming interested in what is known as balata gum that is grown in Venezuela. A process has been discovered by which the brittle gum can be made into good rubber, and as there are millions of balata trees in the Venezuelan forests the industry looks promising.

Business transactions between Chinese merchants and foreign firms are usually in taels. The tael is not a coin, but a Chinese ounce of silver. It varies in different places both as to weight and "touch" (or fineness), and the exchange between the tael and the dollar or between the former and the copper coinage is constantly fluctuating.

The department of agriculture is taking a census of the birds of the United States and even before its completion is able to estimate that there are about 1,414,000,000. The census is also for the purpose of finding out what birds help and what birds harm the crops with a view to diminishing the injurious ones and increasing the insect eating varieties.

Mrs. Catherine W. McCulloch of Evanston, Ill., said to be the only woman justice of the peace in this country, astonished the Society of Anthropology at a recent meeting by declaring that Eve was the mother of all the arts and sciences, and by data which carried her back to the paleolithic age she sought to prove that woman was the originator of most of the good things in the world.

Copernicus, the German astronomer who formulated the theory that the sun instead of the earth is the center of the system of which the earth is a part, has been dead 350 years. His astronomical theory has been his chief monument, but the Germans, concluding that a more material memorial should be erected, have lately dedicated a monument to him in Frauentburg. He was a canon of the Frauentburg cathedral for forty years and published his theory while living there.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Poets and Their Woes.

Poets may have some feelings—most of them have no wives, so to speak—that editors ought to respect, but they don't always. If the sensitive souls are to be believed. Anyhow, not long ago Hamilton Holt of the editorial staff of the Independent, a famous plous periodical, received a poem from a poet which was almost spiritual in its sentiment. The poet, of course, thought he would have his spirit promptly transformed into cash; but, lo and behold, he got his poem back, accompanied by the usual printed slip that goes to those who have not yet risen to the importance of a written letter of declination with the regretful thanks of the editor.

Now Mr. Holt is in receipt of a printed slip exactly similar to hundreds he has sent out on their visits of disappointment, but below the notice in the blank is written this sentiment:

When poets, moved by grace divine,
Pour out the spirit, line for line,
Their truths to tell,
And in return get only this:
Hard printed form of cold dismiss,
It hurts like—

This cry of the soul is ungodly, and Mr. Holt is wondering which one of them did it and whether, if grace divine moves the muse in that profane manner, he hadn't better change the form of declination.—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Hotel Clerk's "Kittie."

"The 'kittie' is the latest thing for the protection of hotel clerks," said John Rohman, chief clerk at the Old Inn.

"The 'kittie,'" he continued, "is a strong box with a slit in the lid, in which we drop any excess change that comes along. For instance, if a guest overpays his bill and gets away before the mistake is discovered we drop the extra money into the kittie, which is never opened until some of the clerks and themselves short. The other day one of our boys came up \$2 ahead in his accounts. One of the guests had evidently paid \$2 more than he should in settling his bill. There was no way to locate the guest, and the \$2 went into the kittie. A day or two later I came up \$2 short, so I went into the kittie and got out the \$2. The management of every hotel makes the clerk or cashier stand for any shortage of the cash drawer that occurs on the particular clerk's watch. The 'kittie' is an invention of the clerks at the French Lick hotel, but many hotels have adopted the plan."—Louisville Times.

Banknotes in a Book.

Every buyer of secondhand books dreams one day of finding between the leaves of one of his acquisitions a banknote.

According to the Gaulois, a celebrated London novelist has just had a stroke of luck of this kind. He was poring over the boxes arranged along the walls by the side of the Seine and decided to buy for a couple of francs a "Henriade" in quarto type published last century, in which were a number of engravings. He went off with his prize and in the evening began reading it. He found two of the pages of scene 3 well stuck together and on opening them with a knife found three banknotes of 1,000 francs each and the following message:

Friend, whoever thou art, thou who hast read this book to the end, be legated without remorse of this little fortune. It is all my pen has brought me in fifty years. May the muses be more favorable to thee, for thou art surely a man of letters.
H. Z. 10 Jan., 1848. Paris, 3 Rue Mazarine.

A Lincoln Tablet.

A bronze tablet containing a bas-relief head of Abraham Lincoln is being completed by John Paulding, a Chicago sculptor, to mark the site of the "wigwam" in which Lincoln was nominated for president in 1830. The site is at Lake and Market streets, Chicago. The tablet will measure about two feet and a half by four. The medallion at the top shows Lincoln's head a little less than life size. The tablet bears the inscription:

Site of the wigwam in which Abraham Lincoln was nominated for president, 1830. Erected by the Chicago chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Feb. 12, 1909.

Dance Forbidden by Uncle Sam.

Fiercest of all the wild orgies of the aborigines of North America is the festa which culminates in the fire dance of the Sabota Indians, a small tribe living close to the Sierra Madre range of mountains, which walls off the seacoast of California from the desert. Up to 1908, when the Indian bureau of the United States government finally forbade the holding of these fiestas, the Sabotas had gathered every year at the base of old Mount San Jacinto to sing, dance and gamble and finally to throw themselves into a pit of fiery coals, roll over and over on the burning bed and then dance with bare feet on the red-hot floor of the pit.—Wide World Magazine.

The World's Population.

It is probable that the population of the earth has doubled since 1800, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. No one knows within 10,000,000 of what it is today, but no doubt the figures just published by B. L. Putnam Weale are as good as any others. He gives a grand total of 1,825,000,000. Of these only about a third, or 540,000,000, are white, with 85,000,000 in North America and 452,000,000 in Europe.

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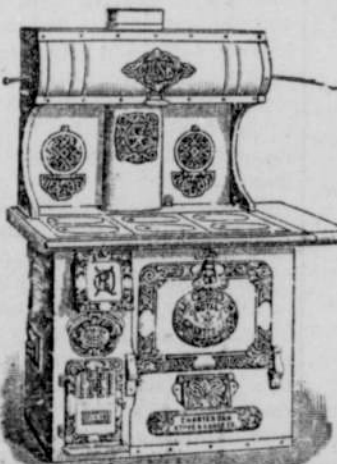
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