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The Canadian Post.

LINDSAY, PHIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1800.

TWO SOLDIERS.

By Capt, OHARLES KING.

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She had sent him, as she promised, a lovely cabinet photograph of herself that had been taken expressly for him. It came to the old frontier fort just as the men were marching up from evening stables, and the messenger, distributing the mail about the post, handed the packet to the captain as he stood with a little knot of comrades on the walk. There was instant demand that he should open it and show the picture to them, but, blushing like a girl, he broke away and hid himself in his room; and then, when sure of being uninterrupted, he took it to the window and feasted his eyes upon the exquisite face and form there portrayed. Ho kept it from that time in a silken case, which he locked in a bereau drawer whenever he left the house, but in & white excit moment he could look abe. and almost worship it.

And then came her letters announcis; their safe arrival at Deer Park: "Our journey was most trying, for the

heat was intolerable until we get well up among the mountains. Papa came; but I know he is simply fretting his heart out with anxiety to get back to the office. Mr. Clark only returned from his vacation the day we started. Gordon Noel came down to the train to see us off, and brought mother a basket of such luscious fruit. He says that he has no home to go to now that we are gone. Indeed, he has been very thought-ful and kind, and I don't think he is guite happy despite his efforts to be always gay and cheerful.

"Do you really me in that you will be gone a fortnight? How I shall miss your dear letters, Fred. And now indeed I will try to write regmerly. There's no one here I care anything about, though the botel seems very full. and there is much dancing and gayety, You say that my letters will reach you. but I wonder how."

fame read this with a sigh of relief. He had persue led him off that it was because he dreaded the effect of the long continued hot weather upon her that he no desired her to get to the mountains, Any other thought would have been dislocalty to his queen. He wished-just a little bit that she had not written of Min as Gordon Soel; he much preferred that she should call him captain. She would not write so fully and frankly of him if he were any thing but friendly, he arguel, and she would not tolerate his visits on any other grounds. Yet she did not tell him that they had walked up and down the platform together for ten minutes before the train started, and that when it was there to part he had bent down and said, almost in a whise

"Do you want to soud a message for me to Fred lane in your next letter?" "I will do so, if you wish," she musmured; but ber eyes fell before the gaze in his, and the hot blood rushed to her

"Tell him there's no man in all the regiment I so long to see, and no man in

all the world I so envy." Probably conscience smote her, for during the week that followed five letfore came five letters in seven days! His heart went wild with delight over their tenderness. The last was written Saturday, and then none came for three days; and when the fourth day came and brought the longed for missive it

was a disappointment, somehow.

The a disappointment, somehow,

"Papa left he to so back to the office to the office the night," she wrote, "He could stand the longer. I few it did him little good here. The Witherees came on Raturday, and that strange girl, Miss Marshall, is with them. She always impresses me with the idea that she is enviring to read my throughts. She speake so admiringly of rou, and says for were to consteams to her the night you dined at the Witherees; and I do not remember your ever several ansating not remember your over saying anything about her to me. You see, sir, I am much more communicative about my

the had most a delightful surprise faturity night. Who should appear in the hop room but Grades Noel. He stayed until the midnight train Sunday; and I really was very glad to see him. And here Lane stopped reading for a



For some reason or other the scout which Lane's company had been ordered to hold itself in readiness to make was to hold itself in readiness to make was could get it by sending couriers once in postponed, no further orders coming a while, provided there was no danger from department headquarters which rein doing so, Lane marched away one quired sending any troops into the mountains west of Fort Graham. The captain, far from being disappointed, seemed strangely relieved that he was not required to take his troop into the field at that particular moment. "Something had happened," said Mrs. Breese, who was a keen observer, "to change the spirit of his dream within the last few days." His face lacked the radiant and joyous look that it had had ever since he came back from the east, "Is he getting an inkling of the stories that are in circulation?" was the natural inquiry. "Is he beginning to learn that others were before him in that fair charmer's regard? Still, no one could question him. There was something about him, with all his frankness and anything like confidence.

kindliness, that held people aloof from He never had a confident of either sex: and this was something that rendered him at one time somewhat unpopular among the women. Younger officers almost alway;, as a fule, had chosen some one of the married ladies of the regiment as a repositary of their cares and anxieties, their hopes and fears; but Lane had never indulged in any such luxury, and all the better for him was it. Now it was noticed with what eagerness and anxiety he watched for the coming of the mail. It was also observed that during the two weeks that followed only four letters were received in her, by this time, well known superscription. Lane, of course, reading the contents, could readily account for the scarcity. Her letters were full of descriptions of dances and pienies and riding parties evening of when writing at his desk ha to the neighboring mountains. They brought it forth to light again and set ? had met scores of pleasant people, and had become acquainted with a large circle from all parts of the country. They danced every evening regularly in the hop room, and were so thoroughly acquainted and so accustomed to one another's moods and fancies that hardly an hour passed in which they were not occupied in some pleasant recreation. Lawn tennis had always been a favorite game of hers, and her mother was glad, she said, to see her picking it up again with such alacrity. The open air was doing her good; her color was returning; the languer and weakness which had oppressed her when she first arrived after the long hot spell at home had disappeared entirely. But with returning health came all the longing forout door,

> mountain roads and through the beantiful scenery by which they were surfounded, "And so," she said, "Fred, dear, in regaining health and color, I fear your Mabel has very sadly neglected His reply to her letter telling him of Mr. Noel's unexpected appearance at the Park was rather a difficult one for him to write. It was dawning upon him that the attentions of his regimental comrade to his flances were not as entirely platonic as they might be. Desire to show all courtesy and kindliness to the lady love of another officer was all very well in its way, but it did not nocessitate daily calls when at home, and far less did it warrant his leaving his station without permission -- running the risk of a reprimand, or even possible court martial and taking a long journey, being absent from his post all Saturday, and certainly not returning there

active occupation, and, instead of hav-

ing, as she had planned, hours in which

to write to him, almost all her time now

was taken up in joyous sports, in horse-

back rides, in long drives over the

before the afternoon of Monday. If this were known at the headquarters of the recruiting service Lieut. Noel in all probability would be rapped severely over the knuckles, if nothing worse. Lane could not, and would not, for an instant blame his fiances, but he gently pointed out to her that Mr. Noel ran great risks in making such a journey, and that it would be well on that account to discourage similar expedi-tions in the future. To this she made

so direct reply, but that she observed he cantion is quite possible.
At all events no further mention of fisits on the part of Mr. Noel appeared in any of the letters which reached him before the orders for the scont actually did arrive; but that was not until near the very end of the month. It was just about the 28th of August when rumors came of turbulence and threatened outbreak among the Indians at the Chiricahas reservation. Troops were already marching thither from the stations in Arisona, and Capt. Lane was ordered to orces the range and scout on the east side of the reservation, in order to drive back any renegades who might be tempted to "make a break." Just one day before the start he was surprised at receiving a letter from Mrs. Vincent. She spoke gladly of Mabel's improved health and appearance; she spoke hopefully of Mr. Vincent, whose letters, she said, were more cheerful than they had been, and who had been able to come up and spend two funders with them. Habel had doubtless told him of Mr. Nool's

their contract before his leaving for the frontier. He doubtless remembered that the had promised that in the near future.

It was daybreak when the train came.

It was daybreak when the train came. frontier. He doubtless remembered that the had promised that in the near future the would give him the reasons why it seemed best to her that the engagement should not be announced. It would take should not be announced. It would take a pretty long letter to tell all the reasons why, so she would not venture upon that at the moment; but the necessity no longer existed, and if he so desired she would gladly have it made known to his relatives, as she would now proceed to announce it to Mabel's.

Lane was greatly rejoiced at this. He had been a trifle uneasy and despondent of late, yet scarcely knew why. Her letters were not all he had hoped they would be by this time, but then he did not know but that it was all natural and right; he had never had love letters before had a never seen them and his fore—had never seen them—and his ideas of what a woman's letters to her betrothed should be were somewhat vague and undefined. However, there was no one in the garrison to whom he specially cared to formally announce his engagement. People had ceased of late making remarks or inquiries, as nothing had been successful in extracting information from him in the past. Giving directions that his mail should be forwarded once a week, or twice a week if possible, to the railway station nearest the Chiricahua mountains, where he evening on what proved to be an absence of an entire month. He never again saw Fort Graham until the end of September, and then only long enough to enable him to change from his scouting rig into traveling costume, to throw s few clothes into a trank and to drive to the railway station as fast as the ambulance could carry him in order to catch

Nothing of very great importance had occurred on the scout. A few renegades managed to escape eastward from the reservation and to take to the mountains. through which Lane's command was then scouting; and to him and to his troop was intrusted the duty of captur-ing and bringing them back to the reservation. This took him many a long mile south of the railway. It was three weeks and more before he made his way to the reservation with his prisoners. There he found a small package of let-ters, which had been forwarded direct from Graham, where they evidently knew that he would go into the agency before reaching the railway, where his other letters were probably awaiting him. Among these which he received was one from Mr. Vincent. Briefly it said to him, "If a possible thing, come to us as soon as you can obtain leave of absence. There are matters which excite my greatest apprehension, and I feel that I must see you. My health, I regret to say, is failing me rapidly. Come, if you can."

the first express train going east.

Another was from Mrs. Vincent. She spoke with great anxiety of Mr. Vinbeen formally announced to all their relatives, and that letters of congratula-tion had been showered on Mabel from all sides, although there was some little surprise expressed that she should marry an army officer. "She herself has not been well at all, and I really believe that a visit from you would do much to restore her health and spirits. She has been unlike herself ever since we came back from the mountains."

In this same package of letters were two from Mabel. These he read with infinite yearning in his heart, and they only served to increase the wordless anxiety and the intolerable sense of something lacking, which he had first felt after the letter that announced Gordon Noel's visit to Deer Park. One more letter there was. This he opened, saw that it was type written and had no signature, indignantly tore it into fragments and tossed them to the wind.

The commanding general of the department-an old and kind friend of Lane's-was then looking over affairs for himself, at the reservation. Lane obtained a few moments' conversation with him, briefly stated his needs, and showed him Mr. Vincent's letter. The instant the general saw the signature he looked up, startled, and then arose from his seat, put his hand on the captain's shoulder, and drew him to one side.

"My dear boy," he said, "there is later news than this. It is dated Sept. 14, you see. Have you heard nothing

"Nothing, general. What has happened?" answered Lane, his voice trembling and his bronzed face rapidly paling. "Am I—am I too late?" "I fear so, Lane. Had Mr. Vincent . partner named Clark?"

"Yes sir: his junior partner." "Clark defaulted, embezzled, hypothecated securities and heaven knows what

all, blew out his brains in his private office, and Mr. Vincent stumbled over the body an hour afterwards, was prostrated by the shock, and died of heart failure three days later. The papers were full of the tragedy for nearly a week; but there are none to be had here, Fm afraid. Now you will want to start st once. Never mind your troop. Just tell your lieutenant to report here to Capt. Bright for orders, and I'll have them sent back to Graham by easy

Late at night Lane reacted the railway, only to find his train five hours behind. He telegraphed to Mabel that he would come to her as fast as train could bring him—that the and news had only just reached him. He strode for hours up and down the little platform under

the glittering stars, yearning to reach her, to comfort and console her. Time and again he turned over in mind the few particulars which he had obtained from the department commander. They were all too brief, but pointed conclusively to one fact—that Clark had been encouraged by the me pointed conclusively to one fact—that Clark had been encouraged by the success of June to plunge still more deeply, in the hope of retrieving the losses of the past two years. Luckily for Vincent, he had used his June winnings in lifting the mortgage from his homestead and in taking up any of his outstanding paper, and so had little wherewith to supply his confident partner; but Lane wondered if were more cheerful than they had been, and who had been able to come up and spend two Sundays with them. Mabel had doubtless told him of Mr. Noel's visit, and how glad they were just them to see any face so pleasant and familiar. And now die wished to manifel him of written to first letter Mr. Vincent had ever written to him.

bulance sent to meet him in response to bulance sent to meet him in response to his telegraphic request. Were there any letters? he eagerly asked. None now. A small package had been forwarded to the reservation last night, and must have passed him on the way. Others had been waiting for him at the mountain station until he was reported by wire as arriving with his prisoners at the server. agency. Everything then had been sent thither, and there would be no getting them before starting. At Graham the telegraph operator showed him the duplicates of the telegrams that had come for him in his absence—only two. One announced Mr. Clark's suicide and Vincent's prostration and danger; the other, two days later, briefly read, "Mr. Vin-cent died this morning. Mrs. Vincent and Mabel fairly well."

Both were signed "Gordon Noel." and a jealous pang shot through the poor fellow's heart as he realized that in all their bereavement and grief it was Noel's privilege to be with them and to be of use to them, while he, her af-fianced husband, was far beyond hail. He was ashamed of his own thoughts an instant after, and bitterly upbraided himself that he was not thankful that they could have had so attentive and thoughtful an aid as Noel well knew how to be. Yet-why was not Reginald sufficient? He had torn into fragments the an-

onymous sheet that had met him at the reservation, and yet its words were gnawing at his heartstrings now, and he could not crush them down: "Why was your engagement denied? Because she still cared for Will Rossiter

after all "Why did Gordon Noel stay at the other hotel the second and third times he spent Sunday at Deer Park? Because she wished to hide from her mother, as she did from you, that he

and hoped he might come back to her

"Why does she meet him on the street nstead of at home? Because her father interposed in your behalf; but all the ame you are being betrayed."

These words, or others exactly of their import, were what met his startled eyes at Chiricahua, but the instant he noted that these carefully type written sentences were followed by no signature at all-not even the oft abused "A Friend" -indignation and wrath followed close on the heels of his amaze, and in utter contempt he had destroyed the cowardly sheet; but he could not so easily conquer the poison thus injected in his veins. All the long, long journey to the east they haunted him, dancing before his eyes, sleeping or waking, and it was with haggard face and wearied frame that he reached the Queen City, and, taking a cab, drove at once to her home.

It was a lovely evening in early October. The sun had been shining brilliantly all day long, and almost everywhere doors and windows were open to woo cent's waning health; said very little of the cool air now gently stirring. The Mabel, nothing whatever of Mr. Noel. | cab stopped before the well remembered She told him that the engagement had steps, and Lane hastened to the broad rway. No need to ring: the portals stood invitingly open. The gas burned brightly in the hall and in the sitting room to the left. He entered unhesitatingly, and stood all alone in the room where he had spent so many happy hours listening to the music of her voice. watching the play and animation in her lovely face. He caught a glimpse of his own, gaunt, haggard, hollow eyed, in the mirror over the old fashioned mantel. What was he that he mould have

won a creature so radiant, so exquisite? There was the heavy portiere that shut off the little passage to the library. His footfall made no sound in the deep, rich carneting. It was there she welcomed him that wonderful Friday afternoon-that day that was the turning point, the climax, of his life. Hark! was that her voice, low, sweet, tremulous in there now? Hush! Was that a sob?-a woman's suppressed weeping? Quickly he stepped forward, and in an instant had thrust aside the second portiere; but he halted short at the thresh-

old, petrified by the scene before him. Mabel Vincent, clasped in Gordon Noel's embrace, her arms about his neck, gazing up into his face with almost worship in her weeping eyes, raised her lips to meet the passionate kiss of his. "My darling," he murmured, "what can you fear? Have you not given me the right to protect you?" And the handsome head was tossed proudly back, and for one little minute was indeed heroic. Then, with instantaneous change, every drop of blood fled from his face, leaving it ashen, death like.
"Gordon!" she cried. "what is it? Are

you ill?" Then, following the glance of his star-ing eyes, she turned and saw and swooned

CHAPTER XIL

A dreary winter was that of 188- at old Fort Graham. Capt. Breese became major of the -th, and his troop was ordered to exchange with K, which had been so long at headquarters, and this brought old Jim Rawlins up to take command of the little cavalry battalion at "the casis." There were many of the officers-Rawlins among them-who thought that after his success with "the Devil's Own," as D troop had been called. Lane was entitled to enjoy the position of battalion commander; but Mrs. Riggs

had promptly asserted her belief that he was not in position to enjoy anything. He had come back to the post late in the fall, looking some years older and graver; had been very ill at Jefferson barsacks, said a letter from that point, while waiting to take out a party of recruits to the regiment; he had resumed duty without a word to anybody of the matters that had so suddenly called him east, but there was no need of telling: they knew all about it; at least they said and thought they did.

Mrs. Riggs had had such complete ac-

counts from Noel, and had received such a sweet letter from Miss Vincent in reply to the one she had written congratu-lating her upon her engagement to her (Mrs. Riggs') "favorite among all the officers-and the colonel's too." "She was so sorry—so painfully distressed—about Capt. Lane," said Mrs. Riggs. 'She never really cared for him. It was gratitude and propinquity and pleasure in his attentions that she mistook for love; but she never knew what love was until she met Gordon. They were to be married early in the spring and would take only a brief tour, for he had to be at his station. She dreaded coming to the regiment, though she would follow Gordon to the end of the world if he said so, for she knew there were people who would blame her for breaking with Capt. Lane as she had to; but she knew long before she did so that they could never be happy together. She had written to him, telling him all, long before he came east, and they had that dreadful scene in which Mr. Noel had behaved with such perfect self command and such excessive consideration for Capt. Lane's feelings. Of course, as Gordon said, all possibility of reconciliation or future friendship between them was at an end unless Capt. Lane humbly apologized. She had been mercifully spared hearing it; for the fearful expression of his face when they discovered him listening at the portiere had caused her to faint away, and she only came to, Gordon said, in time to prevent his pitching him out of the window, so utterly was he tried. She was so thankful to have in Mrs. Riggs a friend who would not see Gordon wronged, and who could be counted on to deny any stories that poor Capt. Lane, in his disappointment, might put in circulation."

But Lane never mentioned the subject. As for the letters to which she referred, they all followed him east in one bundle and were sent to her unopened; and she knew when she wrote to Mrs. Riggs that, though she might have "told him all," as she said, he never knew a word of it until his eyes and ears revealed the truth that wretched night in the library where his brief. sweet love dream began and ended.

There were other matters wherein Mr. Noel himself was consulting Mrs. Riggs. He was now senior first lieutenant. Any accident of service might make him a captain, and then, if precedent were followed, "he might be ordered to join at once. Ordinarily, as she well knew, nothing would give him greater joy; but now-solely on Mabel's account—he hesitated. A friend at the war department had said that, if Col. Riggs would approve, a six months' leave to visit Europe, for the purpose of Continued on third name.

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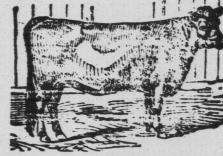
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