## THE TROUBLESOME



CHAPTER. I.

The steady rain of the fall afternoon had obliterated the mountains and sunk the trail, at best narrow and dangerous, into the bed of an erratic brook. Down this Craig Oliver's fine mare slipped hopelessly, while his shepherd dog, a mass of disconsolate wetness, trotted sullenly behind, his nose close to the horse's heels. Oliver's cor- ily wetting her shoulders, Oliver was forced duroys were soaking, from his sombrero a to go up under the roof of the veranda. stream of water dripped down his back, and the damp carcass of a defunt antelope | merrily," at what I said to her : she does swung to his saddle became painfully not know a word of English, and she's ing as if he took morphine, from his strange hastily down the steps. He wished one of oderiferous. That very antelope had lured gone and won't come any more. Half the him to the top of Sisty's Peak and had tak. fun I have is calling her names and en revenge for the first shot which had saying things to her she would so like almost-was his wife. "This is odd," he to silence him. No one spoke, however. brought its demise.

impatient, swore audibly. He wond- tricks, for Monsieur might this once like to nately, Mrs. de Restaud had left the door ed the man a dollar, and said, as he cantered ered why a man should want to be friendly: you never can tell: he and go hunting in the Rockies; why Lord Morris were. Monsieur can be agree. her conversation: if he did, he could not tell when it was able, quite lovely to strangers, if he wants going to rain, -or did anybody ever know to be. Colorado weather? why, if a man knew | The man, grumbling to himself, led the | though, of their bargain !- let me get that enough to go to the top of a peak, he could [ mare to the barn. not find his way down. He had no idea where he was, and night was near at hand: | said Oliver, uneasily, as he watched man under the aspens that slapped him merrily and horse from the perch. "Somehow I out of a book, -a big, broad-shouldered with wet branches as he passed, it was al- have not overmuch confidence in your ready dark.

That ass would make a jest of the matter: thinks he is beautiful. But Louis will be he was offensively personal in his jokes. | good to your horse : he is fond of them, and He would not think of going to look for a a thoroughbred, too, like that one, will comrade, -- not he, the laziest man in the delight him. His liking for horses is the world. Why, then, should Craig Oliver only human trait he has. Do come in, just take meat to Doctor John, antelope steak a little while : we're not robbers or Benda cloud-reaching peak? Yet that invidious lovely dog. Will he fight a little mite of bullet-hole in your lovely cap-frill." doubt of Doctor John's! there must be one? evidence, or he would tell the story of an imaginary antelope and imaginary shot.

It grew darker, --- if possible, wetter. The sodden antelope flounced about, and the terrier, and, holding it in her arms, led the dog whined dolefully.

you are bored, what must I be? Do you and evidences of travel and culture in bricthink I'm doing this for pleasure? Besides, a-brac. It was strangely at variance with you can shake the rain off your coat, and it the wild and lonely country outside, but soaks into mine. If I stay outside to-night oddly natural in Colorado. In the Rockies it means rheumatism, sure. I'll bet the the unexpected is always happening : a daydoctor is huddling over the fire now with laborer is often a college graduate, waiting that infernal pipe of his, and Mike is clean- for a stake, or a cowboy may be the son of ing his boots, -- the doctor's boots. I pay an earl acquiring experience. Mike, but he cleans the doctor's boots first, faculty of imposition."

ing them in midsummer. "He's toasting his thin shanks at my shirt-sleeves." hearth, smoking my tobacco, ordering my Talking all the while, she set a chair for servant about, and he would leave me out his coat, one for himself near the hearth, here to perish. He knew it was going to and then, kneeling down by the big dog, rain: that is why he said he had the tooth- she put the little one on the floor and proache. I swear he hasn't one of his own | ceeded to make them acquainted. Skye left. I believe it is gout ails him. And instantly became a fluff of growl and fight; Mike hasn't sense enough to go out with a but Mac, with an ennuyeed sigh, stretched light. Ha! there's one!"

him a sudden glimmer of light across the best of it in peace. She jumped up, the murk be ow, like a fallen star. He urged | dog under her arm, and flung a log on the the mare forward down a steep hill, and fire. found from her quickened pace he was on a travelled road. Then she shied and stop- ed, standing and smiling on him, a lovely ped, and he was close to a shut gate. He flush on her face. dismounted, opened it, and, mindful of cattle, closed it after him. After a short walk he saw the dark outlines of buildings, a house with corrals and barns; from the figure, but beautifully formed, tiny hands last came the savage barking of dogs and and feet, a mass of short reddish curls the clank of their stretching chains as they around her neck, parted smoothly in the strangers?" leaned from their kennels. Mac, in duty middle, hazel eyes with dark lashes, a nose bound, set up a challenging uproar, silenced retrousse, piquantly so, and a rose bud only by his master's whip. From the mouth that showed small white teeth of lighted windows Craig saw the house proper dazzling brilliancy. Her skin was almost was built of logs and raised considerably unnaturally pale, and a dimple in the left from the ground, with a wide veranda ap- cheek drew attention to its soft roundness. blue-black color his face looked deadly bangles on her right arm. pale.

thought; but he said, politely. "I have Skye in her arms. lost my way."

"I do not need your assurance of that, dog, and this circus business seemed derogmy civil friend; but if I insulted you atory to his dignity. with a bribe could you put up my horse and give me shelter for the night?"

your line. I fancy New York or the ad- his paw?" jacent islands are more to your taste than a ranch in the mountains. Perhaps you could mered Oliver, who was thinking what a direct me to Lord Morris's shooting box : pretty picture the girl made. it's on the Troublesome, about five miles from Parkville. I am a stranger here, as I jumping up and standing by the fire, "you only bought the lodge this spring."

"I don't know where it is." "Ah! a stranger too. You own this

place?"

"I don't see that that is your affair." "I might make it mine, if the odds were darkness.

Restaud? Is-is he hurt!"

house," called the man rudely.

seized the girl's arm, and tried to drag her | woman, "suits delightfully. I was named frightened look came over her face. Oliver eye."

, in the door; but the young woman defended her rights vigorously, and, freeing herself, ran down the steps.

travelling in extremely beaten paths for am not more dignified and stop being pleas. evil mood. forty years, I have suddenly achieved an ant to me because I am married." adventure." "I have lost my way," he all, but a neighbor, -even a landed propri- married makes any difference." etor. I did hope for shelter, but I will "I am glad; for up here they daren't the girl said, trembling. "He lost his way,

only ask a direction-" and I wouldn't trust Louis's, he'd like to to. I know I run on foolishly; but I am get any one into trouble. I am thankfully like an exile meeting a neighbour from ignorant of this horrid country: I want to the home country. No gentlemen come hand clinched the whip-handle tighter. be: I hate it. But you must come in and here: Lord Morris was not; he might have get dry and have your horse rubbed down. been once, but liquor changes everybody. exploits. I thought we should have met What a lovely dog !"

steps unobserved, here interposed an object soul here I even endured. By the way," tion, clutching the girl's arm tightly, and smiling again, "are you hungry?" talking hastily in whispered French that sounded like a prolonged hiss, so great was Oliver. her agitation.

"Hush up, hag!" said the singular young woman, again freeing herself. "And now do come in for a little while."

She was bareheaded, and wore some kind of a sleazy gown. As the rain was speed-

"You needn't be shocked," she went on, Craig, naturally hot-tempered and horse and give her good care. None of your will never believe a word of it." Unfortu- Oliver looked her over as he mounted, toss-

"I don't fancy leaving her to his mercies," servant."

He wondered where Doctor John was. | "Isn't he evil looking? Annette, though,

"If he did I'd disown him," smiled

Craig. She stooped and picked up a fluffy Skye way into a luxuriously-furnished room with "Confound you, Mac," cried Gliver, "if piano and fine pictures, a bright open fire,

"If we tried to snare travellers," said last, and all the time. Some men have a the young lady, coolly, "Louis would rather hurt our business, his manners are The more uncomfortable Oliver became, so bad. This is the den of Monsieur de the more he thought of his guest snugly Restaud, who came here to avoid the war ensconced in his hunting-cabin miles away with Prussia: he was only a young lad on the Troublesome, -an untrustworthy then, but a born coward; and his brother little stream that meandered through the is a colonel in the French army, his father mountain park, irrigating the crops boun- a general. He daren't go back to France. tifully in the spring, but often annihilat- Sit down. Here's a chair for your coat; bought this manch it, my money has you will feel better dry. I'll excuse your

himself and lay down to rest. He realized The trees more widely scattered showed he was intruding, but meant to make the

"There, are you comfortable?" she ask-

"Delightfully so." Oliver looked at her in wonder. Was she child or woman? A slight, girlish proached by a long flight of steps. A door | Her gown of yellow china silk clung to her in the L that was on a level with the ground | beautiful curves, and the wide ruffle of the suddenly opened, and a man came out with | vellow around her throat was like the a lantern, -an under-sized man, with a petals of a flower. He looked at her left white face, deep-sunken black eyes, and a hand: there was no ring: in fact, all the

"Do you live here?" he asked, lamely, "What a State's prison mug!" Craig as she knelt again on the rug to pat his dog,

Instead of replying, she made her dog "Well, this is not it," said the man, sit up on its hind legs and beg, - an accomdesired to get acquainted with the new

"See !" said the young woman, breathlessly; "isn't he cunning? But he does it much better when there is not company: "Western hospitality is evidently out of he never will show off. Can your dog give

"I don't think I ever asked him," stam-

"Well, he is too tired to tease now. Oh," asked who I was."

" No : if you lived here." "Do you think," half sadly, "a person

could live here?" " I--I don't know."

"I do," said the young woman, emphatnot so against me," Oliver muttered, ically. "I have tried it two years and turning, and tightening his saddle-girths. winters, all the long shut-in months. I A door in the house suddenly opened, and eat, sleep, breathe, but I don't live. I am in the flood of light streaming out Oliver | called Minny, -christened Minerva, after | When one has lived long in the world he | each written in the owner's language. saw a slight girlish figure peering into the my father's ship, -a funny name, that does has sorted the wheat from the chaff; and I not suit me. Children ought to be allowed can count my friends on my fingers, -on whites and full-blooded negroes or Indians; without melting. The manner of procedure "What is it, Louis? Not Monsieur de to name themselves : don't you think one hand, indeed."

"Orly a tramp. Go back into the "It might be better, but Minny is a said, shyly. pretty name, and," with a smiling glance A fat little woman in a cap ran out, of admiration, for Oliver liked a pretty her withdraw her hand suddenly, and a

Peter, -think of that !- but luckily had a picked up his riding-whip, bit his lower lip, middle name. Allow me to introduce my- and waited. Mac, with a growl, slunk up to self : Craig Oliver, of Denver, and your his master's heels. The door was flung rudely neighbor in the valley of the Trouble- open, and a man stepped into the room, so

"I am"-she hesitated a moment and no word,-a little man with a dark evil looked at him defiantly-" Mrs. de Restaud. face, sunken eyes, and long black beard. I knew you'd have to know. I put it off His corduroy suit was dripping, and the "I have entered a romance," thought on purpose. Now please don't look at me hat he flung on the table soaking wet. He Craig, advancing to the steps. "After out of the corner of your eye and wonder I had the air of one who has ridden fast in an

said; lifting his hat. "I am not a tramp at becoming more distant, "that your being pleasant surprise for a man."

"But I don't know any directions, sir, fact, for weeks I only have Skye to talk Lord Morris's place." Since Aunt Hannah was sent away, six before this; but Doctor John and I are The fat woman, who had descended the months ago, there has not been a living unsociable sort of men and don't go about

"Well, I'll get you something to eat.

Please let me: it's such fun to have a visitor. And don't you mind if you hear always remember it. Good-night." growls from the kitchen."

She ran out before Oliver could object: so he sat and watched his steaming coat, wondering if the proprietor would shoot on you will find your road." sight. He remembered now seeing the ajar, and Oliver became painfully aware of off .-

"Annette dear, -- how I wish the Utes would carry you off! how tired they'd be, tea. Don't you touch me. Witch! they'd hung you in Salem days. I am getting cabin, and with an odd sense of comfort, this for the stranger who looks like a hero man; not a little, evil thing, like your dear Monsieur or your own pet Louis with his Sing Sing manners. Such a charming Oliver, without a word, went into the house. stranger, with the kindest smile, and eyes that smile too, and a gentleman like I used to know before I was shut up here. Cat, let the waiter alone! I hate your Monsieur! his own father called him a coward. Oh, wait, my love, until I practise shoothe so favored, brought from the summit of ers, though things are funny. Bring your ing: some day I will put a little round

A crash of crockery, the slam of a door, and Mrs. de Restaud came back; flushed and triumphant, with a loaded waiter and

a conquering air. ". Cold ham, fresh bread, and tea," she said, setting it on the table. "It is better than nothing. I have been on a foraging expedition and outgeneralled the enemy. Now do eat. Perhaps you ought to have whiskey; but Monsieur has the keys." "I have a flask," smiled Oliver, "but

his tea is much becter." "I think so. And are things nice, truly?" "The very best, and how good you can imagine to a man who has fasted since seven this morning. You see, I was bound to have that antelope: I was on his trail the

whole day." "It seems cruel to kill the poor little things," she said, wistfully, "they have such a hard time in the winter, and the elk are so starved then they come down to the corral to eat hay with the cattle. I would like to put hay out for them, but I am not bought this ranch: it was mortgaged for all it was worth, -Monsieur spent everything, you know; but you don't know, and think I am dreadful." She ran to the window and looked out. "You would not mind," she said, anxiously, "hurrying a little? Monsieur ought to be back any moment. If he and his friends have been drinking very much, they are ugly, especially Monsieur. Oh, I did not

"I am through," said Oliver, uneasily "It was very nice indeed; but I am afraid I have made you trouble, will do you harm by being here. You must know where Morris's place is."

mean you should stop.

"Down the road here somewhere, but I don't know just where. I never was there: it was not a fit place. Don't you think," she went on, feeding his dog scraps from the waiter while she spoke, "that it is funny of me to talk of my husband to

"I don't want to be a stranger," said Oliver, gently, "and you know one could not live here without hearing something of

"The crazy Frenchman."

Oliver put on his coat in silence. The big shepherd dog leaned his beautiful head against the girl's knee while she fed him, and little Skye, quite content with a stray bite now and then, looked on in approval. Oliver thought he would like to take her in scrubby beard around his chin of such a jewelry she wore was a bunch of silver his arms, as if she were the child she looked. That pretty little yellow gown, the bright girl's face, with its saddened look, touched him sorely. He was not wont to be interested much in women; those he met were of two classes, and this child was of neither class, -a different being, -a pathetic, holding his lantern rudely near Oliver's plishment Skye disliked showing, as he haunting one; a child in years, and yet two years a wife, and of such a man. She glanced up and saw his grave face. Her lips quivered.

"Don't think me dreadful," she said, piteously. "I am so lonely, so forsaken, and you brought back the old days. You look so kind, the words just came: I could here, my father lost at sea, my mother dead two years ago, and my only friend, my only relation, saying it was my duty" (a sob) that you would try to like me, and that I could feel there was somewhere in the world a good man who would be a friend to me and pity me."

He took her little hand in his big one and looked down on her sunny head. "You are a little child," he said, softly.

"I know your life must be bard; I cannot bear to think of it. I shall be proud and happy to be your friend : I haven't many.

"Then let me be the little finger," she

overcome with anger he could at first form

"Are you keeping a hotel, Madame de "I don't see," said Oliver, unconsciously Restaud?" he hissed. "Truly this is a very

"The gentleman asked shelter, Henri," talk politely to me because of Monsieur : in | and Louis would not tell him how to find

"You can of course give me the direction," Oliver said, courteously, though his "Lord Morris told me of your hunting-

"The road you came, straight down two "I breakfasted this morning," answered miles, turn to the left," said De Restaud, coldly. "My man has your mare ready." "Thanks .- Mrs. de Restaud, you have

shown true Western hospitality. I shall He could not look at that shrinking fig-

ure, with its frightened eyes. "Good-by," she said, sadly. "I hope As he closed the door he heard her give a

"crazy Frenchman," as he was called in cry of pain, as if she had been rudely the valley, a small, wizened creature, look- seized, and he almost stopped, then went color and the unnatural brightness of his the ruffians dismounting before the porch eyes. The pity of it! the girl-a child, would speak to him : he would have liked to know,-Louis, take the gentleman's thought, "an adventure, and Doctor John Even Louis led the mare up in silence.

The gate was open, so he went easily past all pitfalls, and, the mare being rested, in a short time he saw the light from his own too. A lost, homeless man is a pitiful object the world over. Mike rushed out to take the mare; he was just going to look for him; the doctor had worried. But He went to his cigar-box, lit a cigar, then stood before his own hearth with a queer air of possession. It was just as he thought. There sat Doctor John in that ridiculous flowered dressing-gown and embroidered cap, with his eternal pipe, as unconcerned

"Back at last, old man?" said Doctor John, cheerily. "We were getting wor-

ried about you." "Thanks," growled Oliver.

"We waited supper," continued the other, a little, elderly man, with bright blue eyes, close-cut gray hair, and long gray beard. "Mike was bound to go for

"And you to prevent him," sneered

"Well, I did think it nonsense. Where could be look? Let's eat."

"I am not hungry; I had supper. "Where?"

"At a house," Oliver answered, briefly, as Mike entered with the supper-things. However, he sat down, and found himself

eating heartily, Neither man spoke, Doctor John being used to Oliver's moods. The meal over, they sat before the fire. Oliver took a cigar, while Doctor John lit his pipe.

"I was at the summit of Sisty's Peak to-day," said Oliver, after a long silence. "Ah?" interrogatively from Doctor

"I followed an antelope,-a splendid shot, the best I've had; a big buck." "Too bad you did not bring it. We're stored by artificial respiration.

out of meat." smiled. "The evidence is on my saddle." alongside in Bombay harbor at prices rang-"There's a butcher-shop at Parkville,"

said Doctor John, meditatively. "Is there?" said Oliver, indifferently. trying some of it. "I was not that way. I had supper at De Restaud's."

Craig?"

sweet little woman.' "They are all to you, my boy. Your weakness. You don't say !-at De Restaud's!" Doctor John smoked a while over it; "actually got in his house! Why, they say he is the very devil. You were lucky you didn't lose your life instead of

your way." Craig looked into the fire. He thought of the little girl in the yellow gown. How plainly he remembered even the bangles, the Skye terrier, the dimple in her cheek? perhaps he had lost his heart.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

ECONOMY OF GOOD ROADS.

Ontario Farmers Might Save Halfa Million Dollars a Year.

To illustrate the loss which the farmers sustained through bad roads, Mr. Andrew Pattullo, of Woodstock, pointed out at a recent meeting of dairymen that there were over 350,000 work horses in Ontario. It was quite certain that these were kept idle more than a month in each year owing to the impassable condition of the roads in most parts of the province. Allowing a dollar per week for the keep of the horses, this would show a direct loss of nearly \$1. 500,000 in a year on the horses in ordinary use in the province; but the real loss through such enforced idleness was enornot help it. Suppose you were me shut up | monsly larger. There were about 2,000 dairy factories in Canada. The average cost of what might be called haulage would not be less than \$1,000, or \$2,000,000 in all "to live here for ever and ever. I wish per annum. It was quite certain that a saving of one-quarter of this amount, or Florentin Gosreider who was charged with \$500,000 per year, could be easily effected by such reasonable improvement of the roads as could be made by the farmers during the next few years.

> The register of a country hotel in Maine one day recently contained names of Mongolians, Russians, Prussians, Italians, Turks, Greeks, Canadians, French and Germans,

others legalize marriages between whites is to lay a bottom piece, then cress pieces and octoroons; in one or two no degree is of scrap layers; the composition is then mentioned, but marriage is forbidden applied, laying on that a top piece, all of The sound of horses' hoofs outside made between a white man or woman and a which is strapped together with iron, mak-"person of color to be perceptible to the ing a bundle 24 inches thick, all of which is

## BRIEF AND INTERESTING.

Italy exported 480,000,000 dozens eggs last year.

Three minor asteroids were discovered last month.

Dust is responsible for many explosions

n coal mines. Greece has more public holidays than any ther country in the world.

In proportion to their size spiders are seven times stronger than lions.

One London gas company alone was 2 000,000 tons of coal each year.

Canadians and Americans are said to be the best penmen in the world, and the Brit. ish come next.

A piece of clean tissue paper is the best thing with which to clean spectacles. At a water-drinking contest in Paris

recently the winner drank twelve quarte, Wild tobacco, said to be equal to the real Havana, has been found growing in Texas

In France the doctor's claim on the estate of a deceased patient has precedence over all others.

It is said that the human hair will turn white during violent emotion if the hand is laid upon it.

The part of the human body least susceptible to touch is between the shoulder blades just over the spine. Italian soldiers are given cigars every

day, but have to pay for their underclothing, washing and all toilet articles. France claims to have invented artesian wells in 1462, but they were in common use

in China in the eleventh century. America sent to France last year 514,000-000 pounds of bacon, 84,000,000 pounds of

ham and 81,000,000 pounds of pork. The smallest book in the world contain, "I trust you and I will meet again, my 384 pages, weighs forty-four grains and requires a strong magnifying glass to read.

In some places in Berlin an insurance coupon for \$500, good for seven days from date of sale, goes with every 6-cent drink

In proportion to the numbers engaged, Waterloo was the bloodiest battle of modern times. Over 35 per cent. of the men engaged were killed or wounded.

During the civil war the confederates cruisers captured or destroyed 80 ships, 46 brigs, 84 barks, 67 schooners and 8 other vessels flying the American flag.

The cost of the world's wars since the Crimean war has been \$13,265,000,000, or enough to give a \$10 gold piece to every man, woman and child on the globe.

Two Scotch scientists have figured out that power equal to 145 horses would be required to propel a whale through the water at the rate of twelve miles an hour. It is estimated that there are 100,000,000

guns in the world. At an average of \$10each,

the cost of the world's rifles, shotguns and muskets would be \$1,000,000,000. During the five years that the American revolutionary war continued 288,200 Americans were enlisted, but there were rarely

more than 30,000 in the field at any one In some of the ancient temples of Egypt perfectly sound timber of tamarisk wood has, it is said, been found connected with the stone work which is known to be at least

4,000 years old. Coffee is intoxicating if taken in sufficient quantities, though differing in its effect from alcoholic stimulants. The nerves may be disturbed in a degree approaching delirium

A current of electricity does not always kill when it appears to do so. It simply produces an appearance of death, from which the subject may in many cases be re-

Japanese coal has found its way to Bom-"But I did. I know you." Oliver bay. A quantity of it was lately delivered ing from 11 to 12 rupees per ton. The great Indian Peninsula Railway Company is

One hundred domestic servants are killed annually in England in the process of win-"The crazy Frenchman's? Honestly, dow cleaning. An invention recently patented is a window of which the outside may "I give you my word. His wife is a be cleaned without exposing the cleaner to any chance of a tumble.

According to an advertisement contained in the Danish government Gazette, published in Copenhagen, two big volancees are for sale. They are situated in Iceland and are the principal attractions of the island. The owner asks for them the sum of \$400

The Egyptian minister of public works proposes that Sir Benjamin Baker, M. Boule, of Paris, and Signor Torricelli, of Rome, should be invited through their respective governments to proceed to Egypt in order to study and advise upon the question of a reservoir for storing the water of the Nile and utilizing it for irrigation during the months when the river is at its

Farmers in Kent County, Maryland, have found that ground planted in tomatoes yields from \$27 to \$50 per acre, and one farmer reported a yield of \$72 per acre, while the average of reports received indi. cated a yield of a little less than \$40.50 per acre. All these facts came out at a meeting of farmers. It was the sense of the meeting that the landlord should furnish half the fertilizer and half the tomato plants and that he should receive one-third

the returns. Although French law prohibits women from going about disguised in men's clothes, except when they have obtained permission from the prefect of police, curiously enough, there is no legal obstacle to men parading the streets in women's clothes. This fact has just been brought to light by the Paris courts, which have acquitted a man named wearing an unauthorized disguise with the object of concealing himself from the pursuit of a revengeful wife.

A process by which scrap steel can be heated and rolled into shape is in use at the Jefferson Iron Works. Steubenville, Ohio. Messrs. Harden & Woods, the inventors, after much work, finally perfected a mineral composition, which, with certain chemicals, when mixed with the scrap Some States forbid marriage between enables it to be heated, rolled and welded heated and rolled into any shape desired.