A TALE of the FRONTIER

THE REAL PROPERTY. RANDALL PARRISH Author of "Keith of the Broth, "My Lady of the Poult, " etc., etc.

> Illustrations by V. L. BARNES

toright, 1912, by a. C. McClurg at Co.

see it was after Mrs. Dupont had Captain Barrett came, and took usar. I was sitting here thinking so two mer came into the parlor." The were they? Do you know? the soldier who drives you -Connors; the other a black-God burly fellow called 'Reb.'"

% Dupont" That? Is that Dupont? Lord! No

and run cattle once, years ago. z mily ofraid of."

a stooped, her eyes deserting his and stared out into the darkness. anited feeling vaguely that he had shard all she intended to say, That more do you know?" he What was it you expected of

as turned again, aroused by the direct reply.

Ma I must tell you as quickly as 1 lasins. I realized there was to this man." what brought me here was a | Hamlin's. the other-the motives, I mean. | was the game?" I hout's maiden name was Vera

word would convince him, concerned." rassens thoroughly under her inas There has been such a change of the man. Lately he has been friendly?" With all so unpleasant."

ad them; I shall refuse to be your purpose here at Dodge." his not won him by charms; he

hid! Are you certain of that?" a lannotiell you how I know; with all womanly instinct, but how that he is terrorized; that to toppose her wish. I have touth in his eyes, and I am ts is harsh to me only because Attiven by some threat. What

mare never spoken to him of ssicions? Asked him?"

and no. I tried once, and shall light the expression of his face. timed on me in a perfect of anger. I never even stat the matter again." Sergeant stared out into the

ist knowing what to say, or Value. Almost unconscious of the his hand stole along the Mit touched hers. Manual has not engaged him

methods," he said sober-I that myself you are right at for I watched them togethsince hall—I did not comprethat it meant then, but it seemed successly disliked being in her the has uncovered In his past of which he is

and the unknown to you, culiar." is the not desire you ever to

\$100.

four

schly, "that must be true." may not be true; it may all oncocted for a purpose. an might so manipulate ciras to convince him she in her hands. We must at in this case."

w, Sergeant Hamila? He will

Maha will tell me if I can Some," he said grimly, "or aband of hers-Dupont the whole story. It would stature to choke it out of the Then there's guess?" hat the sort of sneaking rat is the caught with the goods; a not likely he knows much. to think it all out, Miss a smiled at her confidently. a bit slow figuring puzstatically get them in time. me all you know?" . It almost seems silly

"I was mistaken this time," she ac-

"Not to me. I knew enough before to understand. But, perhaps, you had better go-hush, some one is entering | girl had escaped notice.

She got to her feet in spite of his made a hit with her all right, and she restraining hand, startled and un-

there no other way?"

He stepped forward, his grasp already on the curtain, when a woman's

voice spoke within: "Yes, that was what I meant; be does not know you-yet. But you mest keep away."

CHAPTER XXI.

Molly Disappears.

The speaker was Mrs. Dupont, but Hamlin's one thought was to prevent any discovery of Miss McDonald. Without an instant's hesitation he drew aside the curtain, and stepped into the room.

"Pardon me," he said quietly, as the two started back at his rather abrupt entrance, "but I did not care to overhear your conversation. No doubt it was intended to be private."

The woman stepped somewhat in she's gone bad. Why, I advance of her companion, as though with her husband was a ranchman to shield him from observation, inmouth somewhere! This fellow stantly mastering her surprise.

"Nothing at all serious, Mr. Sergeant Hamlin," she retorted scornfulwhite was quite well off, but drank ly. "Don't be melodramatic, please: it ambied it away. Papa told me gets on the nerves. If you must know, that it, but I found out he was I was merely giving our ranch foreand by accident. He—is the one man a few final instructions, as he leaves tomorrow. Have you objec-

"Assuredly not-your ranch fore- play with. It will be worth your while man, you say? Met him before, I think. You are the fellow I ordered i. out of this room, aren't you?"

ligible, but Mrs. Dupont prevented any The sound of shuffling chairs evi-

"That's all right, John," she broke in in prepartation to return to the ballimpatiently. "You understand what I room. If Miss McDonald's absence want now, and need not remain any were to escape observation, she would wholf Mrs. Dupont and Lieuten- longer. I have a word to say myself have to slip out now and rejoin the

but scarcely gave that a the room; then her eyes defiantly met the curtain.

more serious matter, yet this "I was told you had driven every one himstion helps me to compre- out of here," she said coldly. "What ment. He stepped outside, thinking

"This room was reserved-" family, I knew her family well." some one else. You wanted the room sure she was not crouching in the

her sister. If true, her maiden "Whether there be any one or not," then, was why Mrs. Dupont had failed would have been Sarah Counts. he answered, leaning against the win- to see any one when she glanced out. mind no reason to suspect the de- dow frame, and thus barring the pass- But where could the girl have gone? the does not now, and I doubt if age, "I fail to see wherein you are How gotten away? He had heard no

She laughed.

"Which remark is equivalent to a was not far to the ground, five or six in since she came; not all at confession. Dave," suddenly changing, feet, perhaps; it would be perfectly am know, but gradual, until now / "why should we quarrel, and misjudge safe for one to lower the body over analy seems like the same man. each other? You cannot suppose I the rail and drop. The matted prairie in not dislike Lieutenant Gas- have forgotten the past, or am indiffer- grass under foot would render the act a le les been pleasant and atten- ent. Cannot you forgive the mistake noiseless. No doubt that was exactly thil do not care for him in any of a thoughtless girl? Is there any the way the escape had been accom-Fuy. Yet papa insists that I reason why we should not be, at least, plished. Alarmed by the presence of

all shock his head, but without ness over the past," he answered light- their conversation to become frightly. "I am willing enough to blot that ened at the final outcome, Miss Mchavil not tell me? Then I will out. What I am interested in is the Donald, in sudden desperation, had M I shall say no! no! no! in present. I should like to understand surmounted the rail, and dropped to

But how does that woman con- "Surely that is sufficiently clear. I to hasten around the side of the house. wher?" she leaned closer in am merely an exile from home, on ac- and slip in through the front door. enstress, lowering her voice. | count of Indian depredations. What more natural than that I should take refuge in my uncle's house."

> "You mean Major McDonald?" "Certainly-he was my mother's

only brother." "I think I have heard somewhere that the Major's only sister married a

man named Counts." She drew in her breath sharply. "Yes, of course-her first husband." "You were a daughter then of her

first marriage?" "Of course." "But assumed the name of Carson

when she married again?" "That was when you met me." "The change was natural enough," he went on, "But why did you also be-

come Vera in place of Sarah?" "Oh, is that it? Well, never attempt to account for the vagaries of a girl," she returned lightly, as though dismissing the subject. "I presume I took a fancy to the prettier name. But

how did you know?" everything, and it is not very kind to possessed out of him. But neither you, Mes. Dupont. I hope I am doing worthy appeared. Having assured himyou a favor in saying this. Your rath- self of their absence, Hamlin turned er open dirtation with Lieutenant Clas- to depart, but found himself facing a kins is common talk, even among enlisted men, and I have heard that your relations with Major McDonald are pe-

"Indeed!" with a rising inflection of the voice. "How kind of you, and so delicately expressed." She laughed. "And poor Major McDonald! Really. that is ridiculous. Could you imagine

my firting with him?" "I have no recollection of using that term in this connection. But you have strange influence over him. For some reason the man is apparently afraid of

"Afraid of me? Oh, no! Some one has been fooling you, Dave. I am . merely Major McDenald's guest. wonder who told you that? Shall I

Before he could realize her purpose the woman took a hasty step forward, and swept aside the curtain, thrusting her head past to where she could gain a view outside. Hamlin pressed her back with one hand, planting himself squarely before the window. She met

his eyes spitefully.

when I try to explain what I feel to like to know why you were so amxious knowledged drawing away, "but I'd to prevent my looking out. Do you know whom I thought you had there?" "As you please," rejoicing that the

certainly don't like me. Well, delight-"Oh, I must not be seen here. Is be going." She turned away, and then ful as it is to meet you again, I must "No; be still for a moment; step "Don't you think it would be just as back there in the shadow, and let me safe for you to attend to your own business, Sergeant Hamlin?"



Hamlin Elbowed His Way Into the

"Exactly; and let me alone. I am hardly the sort of woman it is safe to to remember that."

He walted, motionless, until assured that she had passed down the hall as The man growled something unintel- far as the door of the dining-room. denced the breaking up of the party, others as they left the house. He again She waited an instant while he left turned down the light, and held back

"The way is clear now, Miss Molly." There was no response, no movethe girl must have failed to hear him. The porch was empty. He stepped "Pish! keep that explanation for from one end to the other, making Some here, and was received for some purpose. Who have you got darkness, scarcely able to grasp the bur family as a daughter of my out there?" she pointed at the window. fact of her actual disappearance. This, sound behind him; not even the rustle of a skirt to betray movement. It

those others, suspecting that the womtuind about it, and and I am There was an appeal in her voice, an within would insist on learning the surging him on. What can but the man's face did not respond. whom Hamlin was attempting to con-"I cannot say that I feel any bitter- ceal, possibly overhearing enough of the ground. The rest would be easy-Assured that this must be the full

explanation, the Sergeant's cheerful-

ness returned. The company of officers and guests had already filed out through the hall; he could hear voices laughing and talking in the street, and the band tuning up their instruments across in the dance hall. He would go over and make certain of her presence, then his mind would be at ease. He passed out through the desert hallway, and glanced in at the dining-room, where a number of men were gathering up the dishes. Beyond this the bar-room was crowded, a riffraff Hned up before the sloppy bar, among these a number in uniform-unattached officers who had loltered behind to quench their thirst. Hamlin drank little, but lingered a moment just inside the doorway, to observe who was present. Unconsciously he was searching for Dupont, half inelined to pick a quarrel deliberately with the fellow or with Connors, determined if he found the little rat alone "Gerrison rumor picks up nearly to frighten whatever knowledge he little man with long hair, roughly dressed, who occupied the doorway. The hooked nose, and bright eyes, peering forth from a mass of untrimmed gray whiskers, were familiar.

"You keep the junk shop down by the express office, don't you?" "Yep," briskly, scenting business in

the question. "I'm Kaplan; vot could I do for you-hey?" "Answer a question if you will, friend. Do you recall selling a haver sack to a traveler on the last stage out

for Santa Fe in June?" "Vel, I do' no; was he a big fellow? Maybe de von vat vas killed-hey?" "Yes; his name was Moylan, post-

sutler at Fort Marcy." "Maybe dot vos it. Why you vant

to know-hey?" "No harm to you, Kaplan," the Ser geant explained. "Only I picked it up out there after Moylan was killed, and discovered by some writing on the flap that it originally belonged to a friend of mine. I was curious to learn

how it got into your hands." The trader shrugged his shoulders. "Vud it be worth a drink?" he asked

"Of course. Frank, give Kaplan whatever he wants. Now, fire away." "Vel," and the fellow filled his glass deliberately, "it vas sold me six months before by a fellow vet had a black beard-"

"Dupont?" "Dat vos de name ov de fellar, yes. Now I know it. I saw him here again soon. You know him?"

"By sight only; he is not the original owner, nor the man I am trying to trace. You know nothing of where he got the bag, I presume?" "I know notting more as I tell you

alreatty," rather disconsolately, as he

realized that one drink was all he was going to receive. Hamlin elbowed his way out to the street. He had learned something, but not much that was of any value. Undoubtedly the haversack had come into Dupont's possession through his wife, but this knowledge yielded no information as to the present where grateful and friendly. You know how abouts of Le Fevre. When the latter had separated from the woman, the old army bag was left behind, and, needing money, Dupont had disposed of it, along with other truck, seemingly of little value.

The Sergeant reached this conclusion quickly, and, satisfied that any further investigation along this line would be worthless, reverted to his earlier quest-the safety of Miss Mc-Donald. Merely to satisfy himself of her presence, he crossed the street and glanced in at the whirling dancers. There were few loiterers at the doorway and he stood for a moment beside the guard, where he was able to survey the entire room. Mrs. Dupont was upon the floor, and swept past twice, without lifting her eyes in recognition. but neither among the dancers, nor seated, could be discover Miss Molly

Startled at not finding her present, Hamlin searched anxiously for the Ma jor, only to assure himself of his absence also. Could they have returned to the fort as early as this? If so how did it happen their guest was still present, happily enjoying herself? C. course she might be there under es cort of some one else-Captain Bor rett, possibly. He would ask the in fantryman.

"Have you seen Miss McDonald since supper?" The soldier hesitated an instant, as

though endeavoring to remember. "No, I ain't, now you speak of it. She went out with that kid over there, and he came back alone. Don't believe he's danced any since. The Major was here, though; Connors brought him a

hat and went out." Hamlin drew a breath of relief. "Girl must have sent for him to take her home," he said. "Well, it's time for me to turn in-good-night, old

his mind occupied with the events of the evening, and those other incidents leading up to them. There was ther had returned to their home. But attached thereto. threads, discover the motive, find out 40 ft, two stories. the various conspirators? What were they really after? Money probably, but these problems if given an opportuni ty, but he was handicapped by his position; he could not leave his troop, foot, by army discipline. He could not

even absent himself from the post without gaining special permission. He swore to himself over the hopelessness of the situation, as he tramped guard-house. The sentinel glanced at his pass, scrutinizing it by the light of a fire, and thrust the paper into his pocket. Hamlin advanced, and at the corner saluted the officer of the day. house door.

said genially. "Just in from town? I expect they are having some dance down there tonight." "Yes, sir," hesitatingly, and then

Major McDonald has returned to the "McDonald? No," he glanced at his

wetch. "He had orders to go east to Ripley on the stage. That was due out about an hour ago."

geant repeated the words, dazed FWhy-why, what has become of Miss

"I'm sure I don't know, my man," he returned carelessly. "Come back with Barrett and his ladylove, likely. Why?" suddenly interested by the expression on the other's face. "What's happened? Is there anything wrong?"

CHAPTER XXII.

A Deepening Mystery. \* Startled and bewildered as Hamlin was by this sudden revealment, he at once comprehended the embarrass ment of his own position. He could not confess all he knew, certainly not the fact that the girl had met him secretly and had vanished while he was endeavoring to turn aside Mrs. Dupont. He must protect her at all hazards. To gain time, and self-centrol, , he replied with a question:

"Did not Conners drive them do

"Yes, the four of them." "And Major McDonald knew th that he was ordered East?"

"No, the order came by telegra later. An orderly was sent down and ten o'clock. But, see here, Sergeant, am no Bureau of Information. If yo have anything to report, make brief."

Hamlin glanced at the face of the other. He knew little about him, e cept that he had the reputation of by ing a capable officer.

"I will, sir," he responded quickly "you may never have heard of the a fair, but I was with Miss McDonal during a little Indian trouble out or the trail a few months ago." The officer nodded.

"I heard about that; Gaskins brough

"Well, ever since she has seeme! some women are; well, she is that kind. Tonight she came to me, because she didn't seem to know whom else to go to, and told me of some trou ble she was having. I realize, Captain

Kane, that it may seem a bit strange I second hand buggy in good repair. adjoining worth two thousand dolto you that a young lady like Miss Mc | 75 cattle must be sold. Donald, an officer's daughter, would 1 dozen lingd dash rugs. turn for help to an enlisted man, but I am telling you only the truth, sir You see, she got it into her head somehow that I was square, and-and, well, that I cared enough to help her."

"Wait a minute, Sergeant," broke in and under, cash. A discount at the Kane, kindly, realizing the other's em- rate of 7 per cent. will be allowed FARM TO RENT-100 acres, 85 clearbarrassment, and resting one hand on for cash on credit amounts. his sleeve. "You do not need to apologize for Miss McDonald. I know something of what is going on at this post, W. A. Fanning, Geo. Jackson, although, damn me if I've ever got on to the straight facts. You mean that Dupont woman?"

"Yes, she's concerned in the matter, but there are others also." "Why couldn't the girl tell her fa

to be continued.

## Afministratrix Valuable Property in the Village of Omemee

There will be offered for sale by note a few minutes ago, and he got his Elias Bowes, Auctioneer, on Saturday, the 25th day of October, 1913, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon upon the premises, Lot Number Twelve, and Lot Number "A" South of King Street in the said Vil-He tramped along the brightly illu- lage of Omemee, which property is mined street, and out upon the dark known as "The Evans Property" and road leading up the bluff to the fert, upon which there is erected a two storey solid brick building, 40 ft. x 90 ft, which was used as a foundry doubt that Miss McDonald and her fa- and machine shop, with a dwelling

what could he do to assist her? The The building is in a good state of very knowledge that she had volun- repair, and contains a foundry and tarily appealed to him, that she had blacksmith shop 30 ft. x 43 ft., and brought strange happiness. Moreover machine shop, 40 ft. x 50 ft, a store his former acquaintance with Mrs. Du. room, 23 ft. x 40 ft, a wood shop, pent gave him a clue to the mystery. 73 ft. x 40 ft, and a dwelling 16 ft. x Yet how was he going to unravel the 73 ft. x 40 ft, and a dwelling 16 ft. x

There will also be offered at the possibly revenge. What did the wom- same time and place a quantity of an know which enabled her to yield machinery consisting of pulleys, such influence over McDonald? What shafting, clutches, and hangers, a set was the trap they proposed springing? of boiler makers' tools, carpenters' The Sergeant felt that he could solve tools, pony surface planer, band saws, wood drilling machine, mortice machine, wood lathe, circular ,aw could not meet or mingle with the sus. frame and saws, set of brass and iron pected parties; was tied, hand and castings, a number of clutch pulleys, a quantity of rod iron bars, a quantity of iron plate, quantity of scrap cast iron, a forge, set of binding rolls, lever punch, bolt cutter, screw press, pair of Fairbanks scales, through the blackness toward the blacksmith anvil, and forge and other blacksmith outfit, one large Mc-Dougald lathe, 20 ft. x 14 ft, with compound rest power feed complete; (This is new.) a heavy drill press who had just stepped out of the guard- with sockets and chucks, a quantity of other tools and machinery used in "Good evening, Sergeant," the latter connection with the foundry and woodworking plant, which articles

are too numerous to mention. Terms: The Real Estate will be ofventuring the inquiry: "May I ask if fered for sale subject to the reserved and subject to the approval of the Official Guardian. 10 per cent of the purchase money to be paid at the time of the sale, and the balance within thirty days thereafter, with-"To Ripley? By stage?" the Ser- out interest. The said machinery will be offered for sale in separate art. icles and sold for cash.

For further terms and particulars The officer smiled, shaking his head. of sale apply to McLaughlin, Peel, Fulton & Stinson, of the Town of Lindsay, Solicitors for the Adminis-

Dated at Lindsay this 9th day of October, 1913.

FARM FOR SALE-Being the west half of lot 32, first Concession Township of Fenelon, on the Victoria Road, containing one hundred acres more or less. Less one fifth an acre taken off for long Point Methodist Church on the farm. Post office on the adjoining farm. Sixty acres under cultivation, balance second growth timber, suitable for ranch or grain. For further particulars apply to Myles Haygarth, Victoria Road P. O.

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FOR SALE-In the beautiful village of Kirkfield, one frame house with good stone cellar, soft water cistera with pump, and an acre of land, stable for two horses and a cow, 4 her 1 nearly new Gladstone in good re- pens well wired, six beautiful maple shade trees in front with property lars. Just the spot for a retired farmer. Three churches, large school and good stores, and a good doctor in Two months on cattle and horses, village. For price and all particulars,

> led and in good state of cultivation, lot north half of 3, con. 10, Emily, & miles from Lindsay, two miles from Auctioneer church, school, post office and two stores. Leading road from Lindsay. Buildings on farm medium. For particulars apply to W. O'Neil, Lindsay, Ont .- wtf.

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