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AVTHOR OF THE COLONEL'S DAUGHTER!

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The next thing he found to do was to ing. He, too, had struck soft sand when little whisky?" he leaped from the train, but after a somersault or two had been buried un- into his pocket and fishing up the silver der an avalanche of splintered board, distributed from the roofs, sides and and, sergeant, help yourself." flooring of the shattered cars. The heavy trucks, wheels and beams fortu nately had not been hurled more than a dozen yards from the track, but kin- alry four fingers. knot with the damaged men, were still grouped about the wreck, some detailing personal impressions and experiences, some noisy and nervous, others

piciously the while and saying something in a low tone to the lieutenant. "Do you know what became of that ed, traveling cap and big ulster?" poor fellow we picked up at Willow

coolly, "you'll have to follow the track whatever you call it, on that silver stop- "No," answered Gray as he seated Texas until a quarter century after, quickly to the side of the car, he held and before the 10th of November five miles or more. Perhaps you knew per. D'ye know what I think of that himself on the conductor's big wooden when, mirabile dictu, there hadn't even up to the window the handsome silver Miss Leroy found herself co a feather, I take it—bound for the Gap feller? He's first cousin or twin brother foot; "no, I don't believe I've got either dian to chase until late in the summer "but this belongs to that young gentle- movement that seemed to characteristics."

friend of yours, if that's what you Thunder Gap.

rould walk a mile.' stood aloof, his forage cap pulled down der he couldn't decipher it. There was and of the line, so you see how little I normal summer recreation—that the with the stranger's flask in her gloved of the officers thoroughly, and so, blithat over his brows, intently eying the no monogram. Instead there was a must have known about it. Yes," he regiment shouted for very joy when it stylishly dressed man in tweeds. Gray queer shaped shield with diagonal lines went; on with twinkling eyes, "I used heard that Sharp Knife, the young Hotbecame conscious of the scrutiny, and and odd little figures, like tiny leaves, to ride my own horse, but I've lost him, spur that headed the raid, had soundly it annoyed him. Of the passengers in out on the surface, and above it was the so it's got to be one of Uncle Sam's." thrashed the first detachment sent to the day coach none were men whom he paw of an animal grasping a dagger, For a moment nothing further was head him off, and, indignant at the diswould have been at all likely to meet and there was a scroll with some words said. A pair of frank blue eyes were courtesy of the Great Father in essayon equal terms in his past. Among in a foreign tongue, Long linew not gazing smilingly down into the engi- ing to curb his inclination to roam, was those of the forward sleeper only two what. He searched the cup of silver neer's face, and that ex-trooper could helping himself to all the horned cattle, or three appeared to be men of educa- that fitted on the base, but that was find no excuse for another expression of horses and household goods that lay in tion or social standing, and they were smooth and polished. The red Russia doubt. Slowly he held forth the half his way, not to mention a few of the nursing their bruises back in the lava- leather covering also bore no mark. tory. The young fellows of the rear "That don't look like a train robber," "Here," said he, "take this. I'm bound for a big time in the Big Horn Pullman were laughing and chatting said Kearney, pointing to the device on d——d if you're not too many for me! mountains, bragging to the northern noisily together as they rummaged about the top of the stopper. "Ain't that But," a sudden thought striking him, the wreck. The officer was the one man what you call a coat of arms, or some- "why don't you sell this and your aboard the train whom ordinarily Gray thing?" would have felt inclined to address. "Exactly, and what's an American mines and make a stake there?" But while the uniform and the assur- doing with a coat of arms? He's lifted "Because I'd rather soldier, man," ance of at least a certain social stand- it from some dook or other, touring was the smiling answer-Gray's good ing on the part of its wearer attracted through the west for buffalo and In- humor was indomitable—"and down in of the Ska that Sharp Knife and his him there was that in Rawson's face dians. He's a slick one, sergeant, but the bottom of your heart you know perwhich repelled. Nor was this wholly he can't fool me. Why, he just gave fectly well you never see the uniform' due to the fact that it lacked refinement himself dead away when he told me he _and here he laid a hand on Kearney's and was a trifle bloated, that the eyes wanted to ride up with me and Scut in shoulder—"that you don't more than is a stern chase so long a chase as when

was an army lady; so, doubtless, was of amazement.

west the mountain tops loomed, dim, you are. How are you feeling?" That faithful seldier of his country and aboard the cab." that would have forced itself through my horse." soldier, the sergeant, full of sympathy. Kearney, as though he would say, bound about her head. Wouldn't a little whisky help you?" ly popped the question. said he, the cavalry ours all of the

"I don't know but what it would," groaned the engineer. "The lieutenant Kearney and the incredulous disdain of Mainwaring, and my husband, Major

And, jumping from the car, Sirgeant help straighten out the fireman of the Kearney went straight to Mr. Gray. freight, who was shaking like an aspen, "Our engineer, sir," said he, "is badly completely demoralized and almost cry- stove up. Could you oblige me with "Certainly," said Gray, going down

> topped flask. "Give him a good swig, The sergeant grinned, thanked him, hurried back to his new friend and gave him what he called an honest cav-

dling wood in distracting quantities had "God!" said Long, smacking his lips, been showered far and near. The hand- his eyes snapping. "That was an old some silver topped flask, so admired by timer." Then as the potent liquor, long the sergeant at the Junction, was a stranger to his once case hardened syspromptly produced, and the fireman tem, began glowingly to assert litself he took a long, long pull. Then Gray be- blinked his gratitude and looked admirhought him of his tramp. The recruits sigly at the handsome flask. "That's a and passengers, mingling in a confused swell stopper you've got to that canteen, sergeant. Where'd you capture it?" "Tall young fellow in the first sleep-

er. Seems to have money and whisky, cigars and good nature, till you can' silent and doubtless thankful for their rest," said Kearney in the vernacular escape, others still thinking only of the of the day, surprised at Long's sudden injured. Of these latter was Gray, at interest. The engineer braced himself whom the conductor was scowling susup on an elbow, all eagerness. "Smooth face, with light mustache, regular six footer, slim, broad shoulder-

particular one-the -th, in fact." "That's the feller. Treated half my Springs?" asked Gray of the brakeman, squad to pie and coffee back there at the who was ruefully contemplating a Junction. No end of a swell, I- Why, ing's as he returned to the attack : "One ruined lantern. The man looked up in- what's amiss? Say, I wouldn't take anand glanced significantly at the con- broke off anxiously, for Long was reach- could command influence enough to get tomahawk, shot, saber and shell. A the major and delighted Kearney. A this or Miss Leroy to come and see stantly, but instead of answering turned other drink just now, would would suppose a feller-a man like you ing for the flask.

"I'm very glad to hear he isn't hurt," hadn't run over or run our mose slap what's in an old trunk somewhere along dred up in the Powder river country, the recruiting depot, and he's stopped terms with Mesdames Ray, Truscott a said Gray. "You've sent for help, I into No. 12 right here at Alkeli Flats the road here." I'm betting my bottom dollar we'd have "Didn't you say something about thought of asking anybody's leave. The came on this train at all, but he de- hostess. She admired the con "I've sent a message by that tramp found his gang waiting for us back of quitting railroading to take up soldier- -th had been having, as Ray said, so clared he was coming up to Fort Ran- his accomplished wife. She "to

mean. None of my crew or the freight Kearney drew back, startled. Long he was forgetting his pain. had seized the flast and was studying "I did. Two years ago I did some upland prairie, instead of scouting and And before she knew what to say the thuse over her as everybody el

porter had told him Mrs. Mainwaring Kearney's answer was a long whistle see you again after awhile." And with loose from all semblance of a base and hand—the stranger whom she could looted the groggery of Laramie Pete at

of an escort's functions, so far as the cleaning out stalls. Hush," suddenly flask from Long's unresisting hand, Sioux at the great reservations in Da- had forgotten the handkerchief with array and decided that he could afford damsel was concerned. Gray could not lowering his voice, for at the instant "here's"—the top came off, and the kota, others scattered far and wide, which he had stanched the flow of blood to wait and pick for himself. Sergen remember the officer's busying himself Mr. Gray came briskly into the car. flask was lifted to his pa-"here's broke up into little squads of three or from her temple—an unsightly relic at Kearney had gone back to the recruiting True, he was still half stunned and was the night lights were no longer needed Late that morning the relief train circuitous routes to the southern plains stowed in her little satchel for all that, been designated as recruiting officer at bathing his bruises, while Gray was car- and were burning blear and dim. The came down from Pawnee, the east and swore they'd only been hunting and already searched and not vainly for the station and had disdainfully reject ing for the very attractive if somewhat battered baggage man, in no pleasant bound express at its heels. Passengers along the Arkansas. There's only one a trace of ownership. Bathed in her ed one after another half a dezen seedy disheveled girl in the pale blue wrap- humor, because an excursionist from and baggage were laboriously transfer. creature that can beat an Indian—mur- own blood were the letters D. H. G. looking tramps, when one day, perhaps his loneliness and isolation during the larity had asked him how he liked the the scene of the wreck. Mr. Long, bid. piety the next—and that's a cat. It with that handsome flask and that once the sergeant major put his handsome earlier night—a man without a home, taste of his own medicine, was mutter- ding mournful adieu to No. 783, asked the would be sharer of the fireman's ing profane comment on excursionists Sergeant Kearney to see that the now seat, the companion of the rude sol- in general and this one in particular, empty flask was returned to the tall diery, the aider and abettor of tramps- as he took down the nearest lamp and feller that talked of enlisting. "He may and the exaltation of his present tickled extinguished it. Gray's tall figure, be- talk till hell freezes over," said Long, The subscriber begs to inform the his sense of the humorous. Had he not reft now of the ulster, was outlined "but not till I see him in uniform to The subscriber begs to inform the won the gratitude, the almost effusive against the brighter light at the rear people of Milton and vicinity that he thanks of Mrs. Mainwaring, the elepeople of Milton and vicinity that he thanks, of Mrs. Mainwaring, the elo-has purchased the business of Mr. count if silent recognition of a very head and stared at him consisted the first recognition of a very has purchased the business of Bit.

Richard Jones and is prepared to make Richard Jones and is prepared to make a protty girl and now the undoubted jeal. a moment, coming as he did from the Richard Jones and is prepared to make pretty girl and now the undoubted jeal- a moment, coming as he did from the But of this and other unflattering and repair all kinds of Harness on the and dislike of an army officer? Outer air where it was now almost all the company of the same and dislike of an army officer? "There's some fun left in life, even broad daylight, though the sun was not By 8 o'clock some railway men arrived tents, and, to the unspeakable—not major reported the carpets down and "Not if he's like the lot that have ousy and dislike of an army officer? outer air where it was now almost comments Mr. Gray was unconscious. now," was his grim comment, as he yet peeping over the eastern horizon, from the Gap on a hand car, proving speechless—indignation of nine-tenths the stoves up. The next two or three been here so far." calmly studied Rawson's reddening the newcomer was not quite sure that the suspected tramp had at least of the ladies in the —th and the finan-were devoted to unpacking furniture, "He isn't, sir, but I don't know face, gazing speculatively into the lat- whether the dark object on the floor delivered his dispatches. People were cial though unconfessed comfort of pictures, glass and crockery and putting about him." ter's shifting eyes until uneasily they was or was not the engineer, but he getting hungry by that time, and it many of their lords, the order was is everything where it belonged and much "What's the matter? I haven't time

slopes about them, and farther to the "I hear he's badly wrenched. Ah, there the hand car to see what he could buy the older, smaller, but just now rather at all hours of the day and not a few of wooden porch as though in search of paint and white war sifting down even here, and half a dozen somersaults in the mud. could come. Then the porter addressed can," said the general cheerfully, "and ing part. Such gay good humor, such sir," said the sergeant major, a half

alry on that account, did you?"

likes of you that generally take a so admired much earlier that morning. "And I want to say, yet I don't know "Oh, I used to shoulder arms in the how to say, how very much I thank militia," laughed Gray, "and do the you," she murmured, her words fallfour exercises, but I'm green as any re- ing hesitatingly, "and-pray, do not cruit in your party, as you'll probably think me impertinent, but did I not see you-were you not on the Rhine last find cut, if you're going to Ransom." Kearney looked at Long, and Long May?" glared at Kearney. This was simply

too brazen a fraud for the engineer's instantly. Quiet good humor and cour-"Do you mean to tell me a man who awkwardness. wears clothes like them and carries a flask like this can't find any easier way he faltered. "I-I hope you'll have a of making a living?" said he.

the smiling answer.

Long had lost another point, but ral-

"Positive fact," laughed Gray, de- thus far, you know"- He barely my tether or soon will be, and I've Goodby, Mrs. Mainwaring. come all the way out here for no other they're waiting for me with that hand car." And in an instant he was hasten-"Why didn't you save your money ing away.

> er your address," persisted the elder "Oh, it's of no consequence. You remember Mr. Toots, don't you?" he called back over his shoulder as he made his escape from the car. But on the platform without the flitting smile vanished and his face grew gray and sad as he stopped and took a long, long breath. "Lesson number one, and a tough

> > CHAPTER V.

tain Ray called a "poky" time most that year, and when Ray's usually sunside of the man. His domestic side was "Because I'd rather soldier, man," was perennial joy. The regiment had known battle. Its long exile in Arizona in the ing by. The young lady, too, was at a noon. Parades were fine, guard mo from?" asked Long, prodding Kearney with his too to call attention to his as-"For the simplest of reasons. Had I enlisted there they might have sent me to any regiment, whereas I wanted a

and the new majors, and eight "husky troops, full tilt for the hills, only t find when they reached the broad valley ahead and were circling westward across the Little Missouri by that time. Never were somewhat dull and clouded, but the cab, pretending he was out here to half wish you were in it again and rid- the Indian has the lead. The departin them Gray read unerringly an ex- enlist in the cavalry and wanted to talk ing the trail or the prairie rather than ment commander followed by rail, pression of distrust, even of hostility, with me about the officers that were the iron track. I don't have to sell any stagecoach and buckboard, and half the and the pugnacious in him was aroused coming there to Ransom. Yes, sir." thing yet," he added, with almost a troops in the territories of Dakota, Mon-You've more need of it than I have. I'll the Cheyennes when Sharp Knife cut

presently transpired that "the tall gent" sued that it should not return to Rus- where it didn't. It seemed to make hit to waste if he isn't good enough to suit The gray dawn was sheeting the "I'm looking for Mr. Long," he said. in the first sleeper was going back with and send to them, as it would be noon more important post of Fort Ransom. the night, the young officers, in shirt the would be trooper.

flat of his back on the floor of the hag- never practiced mounting and dismount- She was calm and collected now, and most objected to being crowded, for guard, police and stables, were suspend- didn't have something wrong with 'em, gage car, with some car seats for mating at a gallop from a locomotive, evidently ashamed of the trouble she then they had their friends from the ed until officers and men were comfortant and he says he wants to take on with gage car, with stiffing the moan of pain though I've tried it often enough from had given. The young lady was seated east and their social pleasures, did these ably housed and settled down. The Captain Ray." by an open window, languidly drinking dames and damsels of the army, while bachelor lieutenants pitched tents on the "He'll take on where we see fit to put that would have toron have all parade and placidly awaited their turn him," said Dana, with the dogmatism soldier, the service. There's see the gentle"You're badly shaken, Mr. Long. "Now watch out for a lie," and prompt"We are so very much indebted to could afford it, went east. Few had impressed Miss Leroy as something in man who wants to dictate where he'll you," said the matron, rising at the en- done so this year, because the regiment comprehensible. It was not easy to go." the old "So you thought you'd join the cav- trance of the young man, "and both my was not sent out for summer camp, and make her realize just why Captain Ray So the sergeant major opened the niece, Miss Leroy, and I wished to when the Sharp Knife chase was or- couldn't move Mrs. Ray and he baby door, jerked his head backward in en-

Mr. Long the calm reply was: "That's Mainwaring, whom I expect to meet marched in to Ransom. Then, so many Blake should remain at Cheyenne near "Yes, he has," was the half hesitant what I'm going to Butte fer. I expect today, will be glad to add his thanks to reply. Then the freemasgary of the to be at squad drill in a day or two. mine if you will kindly give me your to Russell to supervise the packing and and Rays had settled on what houses followed, half comical, half confiding, ing me my setting up," sa d he, turntollowed, mail companies and c

His whole manner seemed to chang tesy gave place to embarrassment, even "It was-possibly a brother of mine

very pleasant journey. Such ill luck

"But you haven't told us your name

one, Darcy, my boy," he panted. God, what is my name to be now?"

The -th had been having what Capmany a hard winter, many a fierce sumold days was full of peril and suffering.

lied. His tone was gruff as Mainwar-

drilling, drilling on that wide sweep of him. miss?"

Then away went Colonel Atherton, watch and them clothes and go to the with Stannard and Mainwaring, the old

Now, the winter was the time they duties, it seemed, except the necessary knew fellows like this one to enlist that

here, you know. But—I can find you powerless against the gay, frank good humor of the civilian, "and it lim't the sending the pretty white hand he had row was to have been there, but as we sending the pretty white hand he had row was to have been there.

have seen, became involved in a collision in the mountain division. The major burried eastward to meet his bely mate at Pawnee, and there got full details of the crash and sought among the passengers for the young man in the ulster and traveling cap who had been so belpful in time of need, but he had disappeared, said the conductor who took Mr. Jarvis' load. The last seen of him he was taking dinner at Ford's restaurant with a couple of cowboys and a dilapidated party who had been fellow passengers with him on No. 3 at the time of the wreck. Then the cowboys had gone one way and the young man another. Sergeant Kearney, who under Lieutenant Rawson was in charge of the recruits, said, begging the new major's pardon, that the conductor and engineer of No. 3 were sure there was something queer about that party. It

was believed they were all connected the tug of war. The Greggs had mo with a gang of train robbers. Whereat into No. 5 confident the doctor work the major scoffed until Rawson came up prefer the other side of the garrison. and corroborated what Kearney had very house the Truscotts and Ra said and was presented by the major to thought to occupy together, but the his wife and Miss Leroy, who were not for came, saw and concluded that the overcordial. Women learn so much house he and Mrs. Doctor wanted w. more about their fellow passengers in No. 5 and no other, whereat Mrs. Great the course of a few hours than do men. was furious and the captain phil Then the major, in his happy way, "I told you so, M'riar," he was un "My went on to chaff the wife of his bosom ing enough to say a dozen times a upon her having nearly captured a train until she flew to the Stannards for sym robber, and then Miss Leroy spoke her pathy.

mind. She didn't believe a word of it. It seemed to Miss Leroy that whether At Butte, where they arrived late at these families got settled or not th night, while the major was bustling feuds never would be, and yet in lea about after the ambulance and baggage thau ten days even the young n wagons, Ma. Mainwaring, sitting at couples were snugly stowed awa sure to be amiss with the professional an open window and gazing out at the Smiles and sunshine met her on ev flitting lights on the platform and side. The men, who looked like awaiting the summons to leave the car, was suddenly attracted by the sight of beards and donned their neatly fit a little detachment of recruits march- uniforms. The band played every after ing a glimpse of her face, remembered suppers and dances were just as Its sometimes desperate encounters with the conversation he had heard at Pawnee friendly and delightful as could pol the red warriors of the northern plains and her prompt defense of the absent, bly be. Many of the young n and mountains had made sad inroads and he had felt ill at ease and shame were charming companions. Se on its membership. Its records of casual- stricken ever since. What right had he | the young officers danced divinely, ail ties embraced every conceivable catas- to brand a man as a criminal on the of them rode well, and none of the trophe-death by sunstroke, starvation, mere suspicion of some railway employ- thought anything of coming banging at freezing, lightning, flood, fire, rattle- ees? The young lady's spirited stand in the hall door at any hour of the day to snakes, explosions, thirst, arrow and defense of the defamed had astonished ask Mrs. Mainwaring to con assigned to any regiment he wanted. peaceful year it never knew from the sudden thought struck the honest trooper. The ladies ran in and out from house

day of its first muster on the plains of as he was marching by, and, springing house as though it were one big famil chest and carelessly swung his slender been a horse thief to follow or an In- topped flask. "I beg pardon," said he, carried away by the life and swing an and a spree on what's left of that \$10 to the foxiest gang of bank and train friends or influence or anything in the it occurred to a band of Cheyennes to man. I was to have given it to him, everything that went on in the old n robbers in the whole country, and if we wide world but what I've got on and ride northward and call on some kin-but I've got to return to St. Louis to ment. She was on the pleasantest ing?" queried Long, so astonished that poky a time at Russell-just drilling, som later. Would you please give it to Mrs. Stannard from the start and

All this time Lieutenant Rawson the stopper with keen interest. No won- railroading at the general manager's fighting through the mountains, their sergeaut was gone, and there she sat She liked bluff old Stannard and h



And Long grinned sardonically, despite laugh. "Keep the whisky, Mr. Long. | tana and Wyoming were centering on And what on carth was she to do with and, except for the voice of one crying that he rose and, nedding smilingly to took to the woods in earnest. His peo- have sworn she saw at Bonn and Co- the Dry Fork of the Ska, noth ple scattered to the four winds. Some logne not four months before-who was heard of them till they joined at the lieutenant was their escort, and the it if he hadn't made that break. Fancy "Well, if that's a train robber," said hid among the northern bands of the thought it might have been his brother, Winthrop, none the worse for their escort was wrathful over his usurpation a swell like him a-grooming horses and the latter as he reached and took the same tribe, some slipped in among the who wouldn't give his name, but who wintry march. Ray had looked over the

Russell. It was poor kind of campaign- problem that confronted Miss Leroy two fully shut the door behind him, stoo ing, said that same authority, but better weeks later, after she had begun to feel scrupulously at attention and hemme than none. It was the move that follow- reasonably at home at Ransom. It was behind his hand to attract his superior's ed that stirred the social fabric of the the queerest phase of life that ever she notice. -th to its foundations. The regiment had encountered. City bred, convent Mr. Dana looked up from the tangled had been stationed for some years at educated, she found frontier ways at an mass of figures at the foot of his regi-Russell, a big post on the Union Pacific, army post so full of novelty and sensa- mental return, laid down his pen and but the department commander decided tion as her first explorations in foreign said. "Well?" that he wanted Atherton and his season- parts. For two or three days they had "Will the acintant see a man that ed campaigners closer to the malcon- lived at the hotel in Butte until the wants to enlist?" "Squeeze into quarters as best you sleeves and the best of spirits, bore will "He's good enough, I don't doubt, Long's prediction was being verified. You can thank God you didn't get Mr. Gray with a message. Mrs. Main- you won't mind crowding this winter. waring begged to see the gentleman be- We'll fit you out better in the spring." ity, she had never seen. All drills and mouth, "as far as looks go, but I never

And to the amazement of Sergeant thank you before we parted. I am Mrs. dered it was too late in the season. So the two battalions, then so called, Freeman had chosen and why Mrs. the outer office and said, "Come in! shipment of their household goods, they would take. They wanted the big last year analyzed 1,580 samp



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monsters at first, had shaved to busy, "on the go," as they said, from

morn till late at night, she had well nigh ceased to think of the shock she had sustained on the night of the coll. sion or to speculate about the tall young gentleman who had restored her to con sciousness and to whom she had not restored the handkerchief and flask, when the 10th of November came, and with it ber birthday, a new sensation and a

excitement at the fort. The recruits brought to Ranson by Lieutenant Rawson were for d tion to those troops of the regime. most in need of new blood, and, as luck would have it, these were all of battalion at Fort Fred Winthrop. outlying post close to the now crowder reservation of the Sioux. Thither had Atherton ordered Rawson without de lay of a day, partly because recruits were needed, but mainly because lieutenant showed symptoms of an oncoming attack of a bibulous character, and Atherton would have none of that in his garrison. Rawson was ord northward forthwith and marched wit. his Johnny Raws at dawn next day,

but all significant. But—he sin t sine and penasort of man I'd ask for anything. "You talk as though you knew the
sort of man I'd ask for anything. "You talk as though you knew the
sort of man I'd ask for anything. "You talk as though you knew the
clumsy, I fear," said Gray, smiling, as
'Tain't like as if it was Captain Ray or drill already, sir," said the sergeant,
like as if it was Captain Ray or drill unable to credit the statement, yet
Blake or Truscott or any of them was still unable to credit the statement, yet

Sary. I am only too nappy to nave been
the new surgeon ordered out from Omathe new surgeon ordered out from Oma-