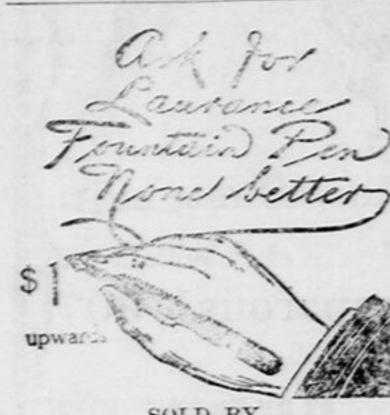
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shone. "I must have seemed a bandit. I'm very glad I went to meet Barnett. ble, and I would have missed the pleasderin' scalawags as far from this cabin another for you." as ye can."

"I will see that you are not dis-"You speak as one having authority,"

remarked Ann. "I am captain of the vedettes," he re-

"What are they?"

"A company of mounted police which I have organized to keep order here in the camp. The lockout leaves many men idle, and the local authorities need help to maintain peace and quiet. My force represents the union and its desire to prevent violence in the camp. You are quite safe here under our pro-

"You are very kind," replied Ann. "But aren't you one of those for whom the sheriff comes?"

Munro laughed a silent, boyish laugh. "I believe I am included in his list of

notables, but I assure you the honor is quite undeserved." the hill and put the mouth of his gun

to his ear," said Kelly, "but that's a trifle not worth mentioning." Munro winked. "A mere practical

"When shall we start on our trip?" way to reach it." asked Ann, turning to Raymond.

"I will bring the horses round very turned to Kelly and asked in a low voice, "Do you see any objection to "What are they going to do?" this trip to Bozle?"

"Divil a bit. The sheriff will find safely out of this." Jack and his men waitin' for him on the road. He'll get no farther than ride down the hill meself just to know what's goin' on. Go ahead, lad; only don't loiter." The big fellow smiled.

Raymond resented Munro's call and forced introduction to Ann more deeply than he cared to admit even to looking down the hill, they saw the Kelly. It hurt him to think that Ann's sheriff and his posse coming six abreast hand had lain within the clasp of a man to whom women had ever been merely a lower order of life, to be used silent citizens of the great camp. Each as playthings.

"And yet I cannot say anything to mel of his saddle, and at their head, her," Raymond said to himself. "I preceding even the sheriff, rode Matcan't tell her what his life is. I dare thew Kelly. His head was bare, and not even hint at it. But I can stop his coming" - and his lips straightened grimly-"and that I will do!"

CHAPTER XIV.

T 2:30, prompt as a groom, Raywarm, and as they went winding down | peace." the trail to the southwest Ann exclaimed over the exquisite quality of the tant peaks and the cloudless serenity through his set teeth. of the sky.

After a short and steep descent they Go help him." came out into a wagon road and were able to ride side by side.

"You must be prepared for very poor goods and very small stores," said Rob. "Bozle is by no means to be compared even with Valley Springs. Everything is temporary. No one really intends to live there; they are all just staying. and I fear the millinery is not of the latest fashion."

"What a power lies in the idea of gold! See the people who have come from all over the world! Don tells me that every European language is spoken here. Did I see Perry, the Mexican boy, at your cabin this morning?" "Yes, Perry is here, and so is Baker.

You have cause to remember Baker." When they entered the town Ann

"Please take me to a shop where I can get some chairs and a small table. I am going to present Mrs. Kelly with

an easy chair." "Very well," said he. "I know the the streets alone. Of course you are

very place, but please do not go about and Strictly Cash. perfectly safe, but you are a stranger and might wander into the wrong doors. Wait till I tie the horses and do one or two errands, then I will join

you, and we can go where you please." "Very well," she replied, with a feeling of pleasure in his care of her. "I will want to visit several shops."

When Raymond returned for Ann, whom he had left at a furniture shop, he was filled with anxiety. The street was full of men drawn together by a report that the sheriff had stolen a march on Skytown and was already on his way to intimidate Bozle and demand those for whom his warrants called. Horsemen were galloping up the hill to warn the miners, and the chief of police and mayor were mingling with the growing throng, pleading on?" for peace. The whole camp resembled a nest of ants into which an ox had planted a boot.

Ann observed Raymond's abstraction and restlessness and asked, "Are you in haste to return?"

He answered quite calmly: "Yes, we a lady." He turned to Ann. "Come;

He smiled again, and his white teeth I am going after the horses. Please re-

main here until 1 get back."

When Raymond returned the second Brock might have made you more trou- time he was breathing rapidly. "Some one has borrowed our horses," he exure of being your guide and protector." plained quietly, "and I must ask you Kelly growled out, "Kape your mur- to wait a little longer while I secure

"Will they not return them?" "I am afraid not. They have probably gone up the hill to join Munro's men, and they will be returned at the stable. If you are not afraid"-

"Oh, no; I am not afraid!" He looked at her in admiration. "I don't believe you are scared. Well, now, stay here till I can see what I can do about a horse."

Again Ann stood alone in the doorway, watching a group of men crouching on the flat roof of a two story building opposite. Two of them had rifles in their hands, and some man was shouting from the walk, "Keep them guns out o' sight!"

The girl began to tingle with a foreknowledge of violence. As she listened a wild cry went up from the roof tops, "Here they come!"

The throng below uttered answering shouts. Men began to run to and fro aimlessly, filling the street facing to "'Tis true he kicked Mackay down the south. In the hands of hotheads guns began to glitter. Their action was unreal, spectacular; but their voices shook her, benumbed her. Raymond came hurrying back, his

lips set and resolute, his brow frown-With the punctilious grace of a danc- ing with anxiety. "I cannot find a ing master he bowed himself out, horse that you can ride. I have ordered swung to his saddle and galloped away. a team. We will have to go the back

A wilder yell arose. The leaders began to run down the street which led soon." As they stepped outside he to the south. Ann took hold of Raymond's arm with nervous clutch.

"It's hard to tell. I wish we were

"Can't we run?" "Run! Dear girl, you couldn't walk Sage Hen flat this night. I'm goin' to four blocks in this altitude. If you will come with me we will cross to the barn and get our carriage there."

Unconsciously clinging to his arm, "Get back before sunset, whatever ye Ann went down the back street as in a

They were already too late. The cross street was packed with men, and, like a squad of cavalry, riding slowly up between the wails of stern and deputy carried a rifle across the pomin his hand a long revolver gleamed. There was something in his face, in the lift of his head, that awed men. As he came he called out, not loudly, but

every word could be heard: "Aisy now, boys! Respect the law. mond brought the horses round Aisy, I say! This is no fight of yours. to the door. Midwinter though | Down with your guns. There are wo-Let was, the sun was clear and men and children to think of. Kape the

Raymond looked at Ann with eyes whose light amazed her. "By the Lord, air, the crystalline clarity of the dis- I wish I were by his side." He spoke "Go!" she said. "Do not mind me.

Her voice recalled him. "No, my place is here," and his look meant more than any word he had ever

dared to speak to her. In the square Kelly halted, and the sheriff, throwing up his hand, commanded silence. He was visibly trem-

bling, but he blustered to his purpose. "Where is your mayor and your chief of police?" The chief stepped forth. "Here I am!

What do you want of me?" "I want you to deliver to me the

men who assaulted Mackay." The chief waved his hand toward the hills. "They are up there; go get them!" and a roar of derisive applause

Kelly raised his hand. "Boys, hear me! This is the sheriff, the properly constituted authority of this county. Be quiet, now, and listen to reason." The sheriff, gaining courage, took up

the theme. "I have no war with Bozle," he said. "I came to get the men who abused Mackay and who defled my authority."

"Well, go get them," repeated a man in the crowd. "What are you doing here? You came here to intimidate us, and you can't do it."

The crowd, moved by some sinister impulse, closed round the sheriff and Kelly, cutting them off from the main body of deputies. This movement opened a way of escape, and, expecting each moment to hear the crackle of guns, Raymond hurried Ann across the street and into the musty waiting room of the livery barn.

"Where is that team?" he shouted to a hostler who was looking out of a "The boss took it."

"Whose horse is this with the saddle

The hostler looked down for a moment. "Superintendent of Loadstone." "Maynard's?" "Yep."

"I thought so. Well, you tell him that Rob Raymond borrowed him for we must get out of this."

She obeyed like a child, all her imperious nature in subjection to his will. Lifting her to the saddle, he led the horse out the back way and through an alley into the main street and so to the hills. As they reached a fairly level spot in the trail he turned and looked

"The sheriff is retreating-wherein he shows good sense." He pointed above them, where on Pine mountain Munro's vedettes stood waiting, backed by a thousand miners, jocular with battle hunger, shouting faint defiance. "I am sorry to be such a burden to

you," said Ann. "I know you longed to be there with Matthew Kelly, and I have forced you to flight."

pulse. You see, I've been so in the



"Boys, hear me! This is the sheriff." habit of mixing in-but it was only a flash, for you were beside me." And then he added, "And you are more to me than any other thing in the world. She had no reply to this, no neat turn of phrase, no smile. She looked away in silence, her breath a little troubled, her throat contracted.

In fear of the effect of his words Raymond hastened to the impersonal. "If this trouble is turned aside it will be due to Matt."

an officer?"

"Not now, but he was the first marshal of the camp and afterward chief of police. Everybody knows him, and his influence is as great as that of any one man. His presence here today un doubtedly prevented a desperate bat-

As they neared the Kelly cabin Raymond said: "I am deeply chagrined by this experience. I really thought we were going away from disorder." "Please do not trouble your mind

with it any more," she answered decisively. "It was an experience" which will give me something new to think Kelly did not return till late. At

about 9 o'clock he knocked at Raymond's door. "Get your gun," he said Woman's Home Companion. quietly. "We're on guard tonight." And together they paced to and fro on the hillside, listening to the yells "I'm surprised at you," said Jigley, of drunken men up the street and to "trying to borrow a dollar from that distant gunshots as the storm of battle fellow Harduppe. You're surely not in swept away to the south of them. By such awful need of money."

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period were called "nyght vails." In car be carried in the purse or vest-Queen Anne's time it was the fashion | mck+t. and carries medication to just to wear them over the customary dress | the spot where relief is needed. in the streets in the daytime, when out on a pleasure walk. And, as was fitting, ladies who indulged in night- 50 cents. We do not want anyone's caps had them also made of silk or velvet, with "much pretty garnishing of lace and glittering cords," and the fair ones made presentation of costly caps to each other as tokens of respect or affection.

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"Well, this man is too sick to see you tonight. You'll have to come again."-

Self Defense.

midnight all was silent. The sheriff's "No," replied Shrude, "but I felt sure forces were either repulsed or cap- Harduppe was. Anticipated him, that's all."-Catholic Standard and Times.

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