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SELECT STORY. CROWN ACME

CHAPTER L.

hour a man in a flannel shirt dirty sol-

dier trousers tucked in his boots and a

slouch hat on the back of his bronzed

bearded, unkempt head, materalized in the obscurity of the doorway of the station house, and shading his eyes with his hand, looked down the road.

As he stood there a cloud of dust be-came visible in the distance. It floated

and wavered nearer and nearer, until

the creaking and jingling of dry wood, leather and metal, and the pounding of hoofs were heard. Then, as the cloud approached the station, an ap-

parition of two horses and a stage coach was seen within it. The cloud stopped in front of the house, the dast settled and the coach, coated inside

and out with the white powder, was disclosed. The driver, looking like a miller, laid his whip on the roof and prepared to descend. The station

teeper, who meanwhile had stepped

out in the road and silently commenced to unhook the traces, looked up for

the first time. The next moment he

dropped the trace with an exclamation

of wonder, while his hand slowly but

instinctively sought the revolver which hung in a belt loosely about his hips. For a few seconds he scrutinized the

face of the man who was swinging himself down from the box and then

his look of surprise changed to one of

ecognition, his band relaxed its hold

on the pistol and he said heartily, "Well, I'll be durned! Lieutenant, is that you? Why, what's come of Jim?"
"He was taken sick down by Shotgun Creek, and had to lay off at the

milk ranch," said the man addressed, taking off his hat and beating out the

dust against his leg. He was tall and broad shouldered, but slender, and was

dressed in the same manner as the sta-

ion keeper, even to the revolver which

hung about his hips. His voice and bearing, however, the only character-istics unaffected by the dust, betrayed

"It leaves me in a purty fix," said

"I'll take it on as far as Pack City, you like," said the lieutenant. "The

old man will find someone there to

The st tion keeper, without replying, mechanically resumed his duties of taking out the horses, and watched

them meditatively as they walked slowly off to the stables. Then finally

turning to the lieutenant, with the air

of one whose mind is made up, he said: "By thunder, I guess that's the

only thing we kin do. I can't leave here. Iwouldn't have a head of stock

fleas on a dog's back. It's sort of

on't know what the old man'll say."

"He won't say thank you, at any

"You kin gamble on that," said the

passenger from the inside of the stage strolled toward them.

the lieutenant; "he's billed for Pack

And when the traveler, an elderly

"I reckon she's fainted," said the

moniously handed the baby. Taking

out his pocket-flask, he mixed a little

veil up from the unconscious mouth, ne succeeded in partially reviving the

brace you up quicker than anything.

The woman obediently arose,

ramped and worn out by the long

days ride, had to be assisted to the

down on its edge, sitently took her

"Supper is ready."
"Thank you, I don't want any sup-

As he heard her speak for the first

time the Lieutenant looked at the shrouded form in surprise. The voice

gentlewoman. It startled him with a

was low and trained, the voice of

per," was the reply.

ate." said the lieutenant.

the hostler. "Frank's out after stock,

and there's no one yere but me. Who's

a difference between them.

goin' to take the stage on?"

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June 18-7-41.

The stage when it left City of Rocks was twenty minutes late. But the jack-rabbits, which laid back their ears and soudded at its approach, found it no mean rival that afternoon.

"I'll bet \$10 he makes it up afore he gits to Stoney Creek and not turn a grant a cursa followed by snother re-THE STORY OF A WOMAN'S COURAGE. The Johnstown stage was due at City of Rocks at 5 o'clock. About that

There ain't many can copper the Lieutenant, now, if you year m

disappearing in the gloom of the inter-ior of the house, the City of Rocks

was left once more to the hot silence

of its fantastic stones CHAPTER IL -- IN THE SILENCE OF THE

CANON. The sun was setting behind Bald Butte as the Johnstown stage approached the five-mile grade which led in their harness, until, with a final jolt and lurch, they fetched up on the bank of Stoney Creek! The driver swung himself off the box and taking an iron pail out of the boot, proceeded to water his horses. The elderly passenger emerged from the stage with a tin cup, and scooping up some of the bright, cold water from the noisy mountain stream, gallantly took it to the lady inside. Then, helping himself, he said to the driver, with a laugh:

"I jedge you've been making up ime. Ye herded 'em along pretty lively down that grade.' The Lieutenant nodded his head The position in which he found him-self had responsibilities that discouraged sociability. Going to the other side of the stage he got out his overcoat and put it on. It was a garment made of rough blue cloth, long and voluminous, with a cape that came to door, and, stepping out, found herself his waist. Quietly slipping his revolver from its holster he put in a narrow pocket in the lining of his coat. This pocket, apparently made for the purpose, dispensed with the ostenta ti us and cumbrous method of bolting

tom land. Dark forms shaped thembushes and dissolved again into the

crowdin' you, though, lieutenant, and I darkness, while the fresh odor of the earth and growing things scented the cool night air. "Have a drink?" said the passenger, sociably, drawing out a bottle. hostler, approvingly. "Who's this "No, thank you," said the Lieuten-Johnny come lately?" he added, as a ant: "I don't drink on the box."

"Right you are," said his companion; "well here's luck! You h'aint been "Jim said he was a stockman," said long on the line, I take it.
The stage had commenced to ascend City."

"Jim," growled the hostler, contomptuously. "Jim's a stranger him a canon or guleh in the bottom of self in these parts. How should he which was the dry bed of a winter torrent. It was a long, tedious pull to And when the traveler, an elderly the top of the mesa, and the horses man, joined them with a sociable rethat "it was pretty tol'able standing that a thin line of light on warm," the hostler vented his scorn for the brow of a distant mountain signal-Jim by ignoring him altogether, and ed that the moon had risen, it was very continuing his talk with the heutenant dark in the canon; so dark that al-

corner, half holding a crying baby, the lieutenant said, "Supper station, with a cup of water; "try this yere."

The lieutenant got inside, followed alarm. At the same time the stationby the old man, to whom he uncere-

keeper's open secret that the paymaster's funds were aboard flashed across his mind. It would never do for him, whisky and water, and pushing the an army officer, to hand down Wells-Fargo's box to the first road agent who asked for it. Professional pride exhausted woman. "Now, then," he if naught else, forbade it. He said said, in an authoritative tone, "you nothing to the man at his side, but unmust come outside in the open air and der cover of his cape he slipped the if naught else, forbade it. He said lines and whip into his left hand, and with his right cocked the revolver in his pocket. The elderly passenger, Then, when you have had some dinner, you will be all right. We haven't much time," he added.

his pocket. The elderly passenger, notwithstanding that his eyes were also fastened on the clump of oaks,

seemed quite unsuspicious, and contin ued to talk. ground. She succeeded in walking the silence of the night. The passen-over to the water trough, and, sitting ger on the box, almost without a baby. The lieutenant brought her a hand on the lines, with the other point-basin and towel, and left her to her toilet. Presently he returned and said, but no longer in the accents of an

> The Lieutenant turned pale and stared in awazement at the man by

"If bet \$10 he makes it 'p afore he and a curse followed by another re-bair!" said the station keeper to bimself. Then, after a further contemplation of the fast receding cloud of dust. he added in a more reckless tone, "I'll duller noise of the pistols. When the dose of whisky and water he commence and a curse followed by another replaced that a substant and a curse followed by another replaced the massive arm he helped her to improvise a tourniquet with his handker-chief and a piece of stick, and the bleeding was stopped. After a second dust are also as a function of the fast receding cloud of dust. There was a humber report, a shriek and a curse followed by another replaced the massive arm he helped her to improvise a tourniquet with his handker-chief and a piece of stick, and the bleeding was stopped. After a second dust in the massive arm he helped her to improvise a tourniquet with his handker-chief and a piece of stick, and the bleeding was stopped. After a second dust in the massive arm he helped her to improvise a tourniquet with his handker-chief and a piece of stick, and the bleeding was stopped. After a second dust in the massive arm he helped her to improvise a tourniquet with his handker-chief and a piece of stick, and the bleeding was stopped. After a second dust in the massive arm he helped her to improvise a tourniquet with his handker-chief and a piece of stick, and the bleeding was stopped. out \$10 he makes it up afore he gits sounds ceased the man in the road was to Dick Day's ranch, and not turn a crawling on his hands and knees to ward the shadow of oaks whence he hair!" As no one accepted either of these generous propositions he shook his head and remarked confidently, "There was no one on his head and remarked confidently, the box but the Lieutenant and he was to be a crawling on his head. The fellow with the rifle did that," he said. There was no one on his head and remarked confidently, the box but the Lieutenant and he was to be a crawling on his head. There was no one on his head and remarked confidently, the box but the Lieutenant and he was to be a crawling on his head. The fellow with the rifle did that, he said. the box but the Lieutenant and he was standing erect. The next moment he pitched head first over the dash-board on to the off-horses back, and from there rolled on to the road. It needed but this to goad the frightened anibut this to goad the frightened animals into a stampede, and, with the lines under their heels, kicking and shying, they galloped out over the

prairie.

It is not easy for two horses to run away with a Concord coach, especially after coming up Stoney Creek grade down to Stoney Creek. Down grade the stage went, with the driver on the brake and the horses trotting loosely mile or so, the horses came down to a trot, and then to a walk, and finally stood still and gazed around trembling and ready for a second flight. The moment that the vehicle stopped the reiled face of the lady passenger appeared at the door and her terror-stricken voice cried, but almost inaud-

bly, "My God! what has happened! Aroused from a troubled sleep by the report of a pistol, followed by a man's shrick, more shots, curses and groans, she had opened her eyes just in time to see a heavy body fall over the wheel and on the ground. Then the stage had started forward the wheel going over the thing on the ground with a sickening jolt. As the stage bounded on she had been thrown violently to and fro, clinging convulsively to her baby, unable to realize what this grisly horror of the night might be. With horror of the night might be. shaking hands she now unfastened the

veil from her head, and with it came her hat. Great masses of black hair fell down her shoulders, and a white the pistol on outside. These preparations for the night completed, he mounted to his place and made the mounted to his place and made the was but the piping of an insect, but it sounded like a distant shriek. Then sounded like a distant shriek. "I don't mind," sas the Lieutenant, and the elderly stranger climbed laboriously to his side. The horses' hoofs splashed and the stage wheels grant. splashed and the stage wheels crunch-ed their way through the stream, while in her arms. What should she dof the water fretted and foamed noisily about the wet fetlocks and through the cleaned spokes. The hoofs and wheels came out of the soft bank and the left by the time I got back. Them came out of the soft bank and the plains and obstructing sagebrush. If damned Injuns is gittin worse and stage sped silently along the dam bot she could but get upon the stage and worse, not to mention the hose thieves tom land. Dark forms shaped them and road agents that's gittin' thicker'n selves into cottonwood trees and alder spoke to them. One of them whined town in the direction whence the stage in reply, and that encouraged her. had come. The next day She crept between them, talking to nant was informed that Whistling them all the time in trembling, bethem all the time in trembling, befrom beneath their hoofs. Then, holding the reins and the baby on one arm, near the hody and was thoughtfully she scrambled on the wheel, and from there to the driver's seat. Everything was so big, the lines, the seat, the brake, her little feet did not reach the dash-board but rested on some sacks of barley that filled the forward boot. In this barley she made a nest for the baby. When she was ready to start it was evident that she was not ignorant of driving. She held the lines and whip like the amateur drivers of the New York coaching cinbs. The horses had been restive during these prolonged preparations, and they started

freely at her timorous word. CHAPTER III. -- A DRIVE FOR LIFE. At this the amateur driver opened the stage door and looked in. There was the usual litter of mail bags and small bundles, and smell of dust and leather. Addre sing the woman, who in a long linen duster and with a veil over her face, reclined limits. in a long linen duster and with a veil mals, but as he did so, he looked sharp-over her face, reclined limply in one ly in the direction of the oaks. Was she still hesitated. The recollection of corner, half holding a crying baby, not something a oving there? Or was the tall, broad shouldered young driver, it the moonlight shadows playing their who had been so kind and courteous usual tricks on highly strung nerves? to her, persisted in obtruding itself on This announcement producing no reply, he repeated it in a louder tone. The only result was an added force to the baby's cries.

Then he remembered that there was a her mind. Perhaps if he was only wounded he might be dying now for were always around it; or perhaps a stray deer from the mountains might her in her need; he had helped her "I reckon she's fainted," said the have come there to drink. His mili-baby. In common humanity ought other passenger, appearing at his elbow tary training and frontier experience she not to go back to his assistance? made him guard against unreasoning Was it not cowardly to take the stage and desert him? Longing to go the other way, and weeping hysterically, she finally turned the reluctant horses

toward the canyon. vas silent and deserted. Suddenly the A shrill whistle suddenly startled as her own and smirched with blood water!" Then, as she hesitated, he

THE COLUMBIAN, VOL. XXII, NO 26 COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT, VOL LII, NO 17

the massive arm he helped her to im-provise a tourniquet with his handker-chief and a piece of stick, and the Justus Schwab, the notorious New

her baby and hushing its cries. dont think so. The horses ran away. "The horses ran away!" he said, staring wonderingly for the first time at the pretty white face that was rais-ed to his. "Well, but—why—bow

did the stage get back here?"
"I brought it back," she replied,
lowering her head under his persistent gaze. "You brought it back!" he exclaim

ed; "you!"

For a few minutes the wounded eutenant looked down at the slight form of the woman who stood before nim in the moonlight, veiled in her ong black hair. Then, as he realized what she had done, he took off his hat and dropped it in the road, having but one available arm, and offered her his hand. she placed hers frankly within it, and be raised the little gauptlet respectfully

my life."

The Johnstown stage was later than ever that night when it drew up in front of Abe Goldstein's store in Pack City. Simultaneously with its arrival the drinking and gambling saloons and other places of public resort suddenly became deserted. It was said that a woman had driven the stage in, and that a man with his head bandaged and his arm in a sling was sitting along side of her holding a baby. While Wells-Fargo's box and the mailsacks were being taken out (for Goldstein's store was also the express and post-office) the story was briefly given to the crowd Then a cheering, pistolfiring procession accompanied the stage the muscular landlady. The lieuten- adventure. ly asked to drink in the aggregate liquor enough to have stocked a whole-

Meanwhile a party of horsemen seeching tones, and got the lines out at the head of Stony Creek grade. A alone and finds that in this country a offered to the lieutenant as a memento "We struck the other fellow's trail." said the informant, "in a clump of scrub oak. He was wounded, there wasn't any trouble in following it. We finally corraled him down in Stony Creek. But he was game, and played that gun of his for all it was worth before we took him in. never would have guessed, now, that it was Jim Gatesby himself, the com-pany's new driver. But that's who it was, for a fact. I've heard since that the express folks kind of suspicioned him of standing in on that last rob-

bery.

continuing his talk with the heutenant about waybills, express, mail and other stege matters. But the passenger appearing in nowise affected by this lack of cordiality held his ground, and if he did not join in the conversation, listened to it so persistently that the listened to it so persistently that the hostler finally turned to him and said, rather sarcastically, "Stranger, is there anything I can do for yout"

"Well, no, pard," replied the traveler good humoredly, "there's nothin' yer kin do fer me, but I reckon you kin do somethin' fer that lady inside; she's petered plumb out, and the kid's yelling like all possessed."

At this the amateur driver opened to the passenger appearance of the canon; so dark that all though the Lieutenant kept peering ahead of the horses, he could see but though the Lieutenant kept peering ahead of the horses, he could see but though the Lieutenant kept peering ahead of the horses, he could see but though the Lieutenant kept peering ahead of the horses, he could see but though the Lieutenant kept peering ahead of the horses, he could see but though the Lieutenant kept peering and the sense of motion diminished her first ghastly horror, and replaced it with nervous excitement. She had no outline in the shinancing his steady flow of talk, seemed affected by the denser obstitution of it. The passenger of it. The passenger himself, notwithstanding his steady flow of talk, seemed affected by the gloom, and maintained an alert gaze upon the side of the road. The Lieutenant spoke to his horses, which were showing a restive disinclination to proceed. They were almost at the top of the grade now. A clump of serub-oaks at the top of the canon was in sight. The shadows here were very wondered what had become of the blackness of the bushes. She with a shudder of what might be there, and said: "Well, I'll be durned!" Frank looked up inquiringly, Terank looked up inquiringly

nan of few words. "Ye rec'lect how many questions he asked about that little rumpus? Spe-cially bout the lady with the kid, who

showed such a heap o' sand? That old gen'l'man was her father." "I knowed that," said Frank in a tone that resented having his interest excited to no purpose.' "Of course ye knowed it," replied

Nate, calmly. "Didn't he perk up his head like a grass-fed cayuse and tell ye so when he brought her down the line agin about two weeks afterward? The moon had lit up the vicinity of course ye knowed it. Didn't he tell the scrub oaks by the time the stage every mother's son all along the line moved slowly back on the scene. All that it was his daughter? Why, when he went out to the Sahatlin orses snorted and shied at a mass of and got her to give up teachin' the In blue cloth lying in the road. The wo-man turned the team to one side and tell me that he set up the drinks for drove it against some trees. Then the whole derned town. But ye did'nt taking her baby in her arms she crept year how it was that the lady ever down from her perch, and, starting at come out into this country to teach every sound, stole her way to the prostivashes, did yet No! Well, then, trate form. It was the driver's face the way of it was this: she bucked which she uncovered, as ghastly white agin the old man in gittin' married. She lowed her jedgment laid over his the silence of the night. The passen and dust. Then she slipped her hand but it didn't pan out worth a durn ger on the box, almost without a under his coat and laid it over his Her husband was no good, and when pause, leaned over, and leaning one hand on the lines, with the other points and application of the driver's head, and that he had used in her service but a back on her. But she didn't go nos-"Hold up your hands, Lieutenant!"

At the same instant a man with a masked face and holding a gun appeared in the middle of the road and stopped the horses.

Some had lifted his head and poured the raw whisky generously down his an appointment as school teacher out throat. He responded with a groun and a gasp that frightened her anew, and then struggled to a sitting a second git. But she had not be tak back. few hours before. It was her turn now. ing 'round the old man to be tuk back. She had lifted his head and poured the That warn't her style. She just got more'n gone when her husband passed in his checks in a railroad smash-up. Well, the old man didn't know where

Nat'rally. Well, I'm a sluice robber of him and she ain't got married! Yes, sir, yere it is in the paper. They say the old man's richer than Blue Gulch. the old man's richer than Blue Gulch, give 'em a couple of hundred thousand to start on, and wot's more, among the weddin' presents they got was a solid silver tea set with 'scription on it, as how it was presented to Lieutenant ard Mrs. George W. Calverly by Well's, Fargo and Company's Express, 'In grateful remembrance of their gallant defense of the Johnstown stage."

— Robert Howe Fletcher, in the Argenting

MISSING LINKS.

A Vermont minister has reached 121 funeral sermons, with net returns of two barrels of apples and a silver dol-

There is not a cross-eyed base ball player in the country. It is a general superstition that a cross-eyed man would irretrievably hoo-doo the game. An Eric County, New York, physicoan issued a certificate stating that the cause of a little girl's death was "information of the lungs."

York Socialist, is one of the fugitives from military service in Germany am-nestied by Emperor Frederick's pro-The North China Herald says that

agents of the Panama Canal made arrangements to kidnap 30,000 Annamese coolies to work at Panama, but the enterprise failed.

Mrs. P. L. Collins who is employed at the Dead Letter office at Washing-ton at a large salary to decipher "blind" handwriting, can read every known language except Russian and Matthew Arnold drew a pension from the British Civil List. The pen-sion lapsed at his death, but it is

understood that Queen Victoria will be asked to continue the pension to Mr. Arnold's widow. The cornflower that was the favor ite of Kaiser William—the blue "bach-elor's button" of this latitude—is said

to be the badge of the Liberal party in Belgium, while the red poppy is that of the Conservative or Clerical party. As an evidence of the progress that to his lips. "You are very brave," he said with considerable feeling; "I am is stated that that country is now glad to think that perhaps I owe you building thirty-four new railroads, at a cost of over \$50,000, and it has hungled to the sailroads already

> king was to be succeeded by his eldest son, and the heir was always to have some maiformation or damaged limb, has been broken, and even the most superstitions have begun to doubt the John Hutchinson, the only brother

The old Hohenzollern curse that no

left of the once famous Hutchinson family of singers, now lives at Lynn, Mass., and is as earnest a worker for temperance and women suffrage as the family were in the cause of the slave. The two-year-old son of a Bohemian farmer living near Oakdate, Neb., fell into a dry well seventy feet deep, and was there sixty hours before he was rescued. When taken out the lad sppeared to be none the worse for the

Out in Sydney, Australia, according to report, if you want to use the telephone, you must ring the person up with whom you wish to communicate and then take a cab and go and see him. An answer by telephone is never expected. Mrs. Lillie M. Pavy, of London Eng

siting the Western States in the inter-

est of an English house. She travels

woman does not need an escort to protect her from annoyance. Senator Muruaga, the Spanish Minister at Washington, sometime ago presented Mexican opals to three young ladies, two of whom have since been married, and the third is engaged. So it seems there is really something in

the ancient superstition concerning the ill luck attached to the opal. There is said to be a blind jeweler There is said to be a blind pair in Bradford, Pa., who is able to repair jewelry and watches entirely through touch. The blindness is sense of touch. The came upon him after he had become a proficient workman, and then, by cul-tivating the sensibility in his finger ends, he overcame in a great measure his lack of eye-sight. This is certainly a most remarkable instance.

The pony ridden by the late Prince imperial of France when he received his "baptism of fire" at Baarbruck during the Franco-Prussian war has just come to a sudden end, like its un-fortunate master. After Sedan the pony was bought by a German baron and was kept on his estate in Silesia for his children to ride. Recently it fell down on a slippery road and broke its leg and had to be shot.

The emancipation of slaves is progressing rapidly in Brazil. There still remain about 3,500 black bondmen in Rio Janeiro, but it is proposed to liberate these on the 20th of June, in connection with the celebration of the Emperor's return from his protracted tour abroad. In other parts of the Brazilian Empire the planters are set-ting free their slaves in large numbers and paying them wages for the work performed

Herman Gottschalk, a New York merchant, possesses one of the rare and valuable coins of King Solomon's time known as a hoty shekel. It is of bronze and gold, about the size of au ordinary copper cent, and derives its name from the fact that it was only used inside the old temple at Jerusa-iem on certain festival days, Gottschalk is said to have been offered £500 for it by the authorities of the Antiquarian Department of the British

Roscoe Conkling was strongly averse to being interviewed, but his freedom in general conversation often led to his being victimized without his know-ledge. When Sullivan and Ryan had their famous meeting in Madison Garden the ex-Senator occupied one of the press seats. While awaiting the ap-pearance of the pugalistic stars he chatted freely with those around him, and the next day one of the afternoon papers had a column interview with im, in which the whole range of athletic sports was discussed in a peculiarly happy manner.

A LETTER FROM \$10,000 KELLY,' THE AUTHOR OF PLAY BALL' Pond's Extract Company, New York

City: DEAR SIRS: I have used POND'S EXTRACT and find it particular good for sprains, wounds, and bruises, I have continued, faintly: "My hat. There's she were, till one day he came across a also used it successfully when the a spring over there," and lay down newspaper tellin bout a stage being muscles of the arm became contracted swift suggestion of perfumed lace and six-button kid gloves, of waltz music, yachting and low murmured words in dim conservatories. The recollection of the fried pork and beans awaiting them in the station, however, brought from the station, however, brought for the first state in awazement at the man by swift and lay down a spring over there," and lay down with another groan.

"It's no use," said the elderly passion of perfumed lace and six-button kid gloves, of waltz music, "It's no use," said the elderly passion of the recollection on you! Be quick or I'll—"

"We'ly said the elderly passion of perfumed lace and lay down with another groan.

Her fear was dispelled by the sound of his voice. She found the spring, and, filling his hat, let him drink and both two months afterward the lieutenant, defeatedly when the were, till one day he came across a spring over there," and lay down with another groan.

Her fear was dispelled by the sound of his voice. She found the spring, and, filling his hat, let him drink and bathed his face and head. He revived the lieutenant went back to the States.

Boston, May 16, 1888." Boston, May 16, 1888."

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