The Home Reading Circle



AVTHOR OF RED MEN AND WHITE

young chin.

-raise you. Only I do vish, I do cer-

tainly vish you had some beard on that

"No, no, my son," said the sharp, old

German, "I don't want gunpowder in

dis affair. You must act kviet and de-

cisif und keep your little shirt on.

"It would annoy me some, too," re

torted the boy, eyeing the capitalist.

"Don't leave me out of the proposi-

"If you don't contemplate trouble,"

The boy glanced at his pistol,

What you accomplish shootin'?

get hot mit old Max for nothing."

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PART I. One day at Nampa, which is in Idaho, a ruddy old massive jovial man stood by the Silver City stage, patting his beard with his left hand and with his right the shoulder of a boy who stood beside him. He had come with the boy on the branch train from Boise, because he was a careful German and liked to say everything twice: twice at least when it was a matter of business. body kills you. What goot is all that This was a matter of very particular business, and the German had repeated himself for nineteen miles. Presently the east bound on the main line would arrive from Portland; then the Silver City stage would take the boy south on his new mission, and the man would journey by the branch train back to Boise, From Boise no one could say where he might not go, west or east. He was a great and pervasive cattle-man in Oregon, California and other rection places. Vogel and Lex; even today you may hear the two ranch partners spok-en of. So the veteran Vogel was now once more going over his notions and commands to his youthful deputy during the last precious minutes until the east bound should arrive.

"Und if you only haf someding like dis," said the old man, as he tapped his beard and patted the boy, "it would be five hundert more dollars salary in your liddle pants."

The boy winked up at his employer, He had a gray, humorous eye; he was slim and alert, like a sparrowhawk; the sort of boy his father openly rejoices in and his mother is secretly in prayer over. Only the boy had neither father or mother. Since twelve he had looked out for himself, never quite without bread, sometimes attaining champagne; getting along variously on horse or afoot in his American way across regions of wide plains and mountains, through towns where not a soul knew his name. He closed one of his gray eyes at his employer and beyond that made no remark.

"Vat you mean by dat vink, any-how?" demanded the elder. "Say," said the boy, confidentially. "Honest, now. How about you and me? Five hundred dollars if I had your beard. You've got a record, and I've got a future. And my bloom's on me rich, without a scratch. How many dollars you gif me for dat bloom?" The sparrow hawk sailed into a freakish imitation of his master.

'Your are a liddle rascal!" cried the master, shaking with entertainment. "Und if der peoples vas to hear you sass old Max Vogel in dis style they would say: 'Poor old Max; he lose his gr-rip.' But I don't lose it. Haf you understand that?"

"Yes, sir." "How old are you, son?"

"Nineteen, sir." offle voong for the "Oh, my! that is job I gif you. Some of dose men you go to boss might be your father. You go to set an example where one is needed very bad. If those men see you drink a liddle, they drink a big lot. You forbid them, they laugh at you. You must not allow one drop of whisky at the whole place. Haf you under-

"Yes, sir. Me and whisky are not necessary to each other's happiness." "It is not to you, it is them. How are you mit your gun?"

The boy took his pistol with solwhich was sticking in the thin, December snow, and the glass splintered into shapelessness.

"You are a darling," said Mr. Vogel, "Gif me dat lofely weapon." A fortunate store) of bottles lay, leaned, or stood about in the white

snow of Nampa ,and Mr. Vogel began at them. "May I ask if anything is the matter?" inquired a mild voice from the

"Stick that lily head indoors," shouted Vogel; and the face and eyeglasses withdrew again into the stage. "The school teacher, he will be beautifool virtuous company for you at Malheur agency," continued Vogel, shooting again; and presently the large old German destroyed a bottle with a crashing smack. "Ah!" said he, in unison with the smack. "Ah-ha! No you shall say der old Max lose his grip. I shoot it efry time now, but the train she whistle. I hear her." The boy affected to listen earnestly.

'You listen to me," he continued to the boy. "You are offle young. But I



THE BOY WINKED UP AT HIS EM-

watch you plenty this long time. I see you work mit my stock on the Owyhee and the Malheur. I see you mit my oder men. My men, they say always more and more: 'Young Drake he is a goot one,' und I think you are a goot one mine own self. I am the biggest cattle man on the Pacific slope, und I am also an old devil. I have think a lot, und I like you."

"I'm obliged to you, sir." "Shut oop. I like you, und therefore I make you my new scoperintendent at my Malheur Agency r-ranch mit a bigger salary as you don't get before. For salary as you don't get before, lously into the air, drew its slow You make those men at Malbeur length out of Nampa, and away. Agency behave themselves und I

woolly old man, "That's what I'm

"Why, hello!" shouted Vogel. "Hello, Uncle Pasco! I heard you was dead." Uncle Pasco blinked his small eyes to see who halled him.

"Oh," said he, in his light, crusty pice. "Dutchy Vogel. No. I ain't dead .You guessed wrong. Not dead. Help me up, Dutchy," A tolerant smile broadened Vogel's "It was ten years since I see said he carrying the old man's

"Shouldn't wonder. Maybe It'll be another ten till you see me next." He stopped by the stage step, and wheeling nimbly, surveyed his old-time acquaintance, the good hat, the prosperous watch chain, the big, well-blackened boots, "Not seen me for ten years. Hee-hee! No. Usen't to have a cent more than me. Twins in poverty, that's how Dutchy and me started." "I stick to von business at a time,

said good-natured, successful Max. A flicker of aberration lighted in the old man's eye. "H'm, yes," said he, pondering. "Stuck to one business. So you did. H'm." Then, suddenly sly, he chirped; "But I've struck it rich He tapped his box. "Jewelry,"

he half whispered. "Miners and cow-Yes," said Vogel. "Those poor, debody kills you. What goot is all that nonsense to me?" luded fellows, they buy such stuff." And he laughed at the seedy visionary who had begun frontler life with him on the bottom rung and would end it on," there. "Do you play that concerting "Proposition! Proposition! Now you yet, uncle?" he inquired.

"Yes, yes, I always play. It's here with my toothbrush and socks." Uncle pursued the boy, "what was your point Pasco held up the bandana. "Well, just now in sampling my marksmanship?" He kicked some snow in the direction of the shattered bottle, "It's
understood no which a shatter of the shattered bottle, "It's this shrill comment was at sight of understood no whisky comes on that the schoolmaster, patient within the



"WHY, HELLO!" SHOUTED VOGEL. "HELLO, UNCLE PASCO."

ranch. But if no gunpowder goes stage, "What business are you in?" long with me, either Buy some other fool."

"You haf not understand, my boy, Und you get very hot because I happen to make that liddle joke about somemay be old Max not care what happen

the answer came: "Supposing we talk

to me like you haf done many times, it schoolmaster. s not they who does the getting hot. emnity. He fired at an empty bottle It is me, old Max. You invite me to buy some oder fool. Oh. my boy, I w., buy no oder fool except you, for that was just like me when I was yoong Max!" Again the ruddy and grizzled magnate put his hand on the shoulder of the boy, who stood looking away at the bottles, at the rallroad track, at any-

thing save his employer. The employer proceeded: "I was afraid of nobody and nodding in those I feel gratified." And Mr. Bolles, the days. You are afraid of nobody und noding. But those days was different, There was Indians, there was offic bad bidden to drink whisky on the ranch? white men, und if you was not offic H'm." His eyes wandered to the jewwhite men, und if you was not offle yourself, you vanish quickly,"

The magnate smiled a broad, fond becoming thoughtful, he laid back his smile over the past he had kicked, driven, shot, bled and battled through ther with Mr. Bolles. to power; and the boy winked up at him

"I don't propose to vanish myself,"

"Ah-ah! you was no longer mad mit der old Max! Of coorse I care what happen to you. I was alone in the happen to you. vorid myslef in those lofely, wicked out any beard."

days." Reserve again set the boy's face. "Neider did I talk about my feelings, entinged Max Vogel, "but I nefer show them too quick. Now I talk business mit you where you intercopt me. If cowboys was not so offle scarce in the ountry, I would long ago hat bounce the lot of those drunken fellows. But they cannot be spared, we must get dong so. I cannot send Brock, he is needed at Harper's. The dumb, fellow at Alvord lake is too dumb; he is not quickly cooragious. They would play high jinks mit him. Therefore I send you. Brock, he say to me you haf loodgment. I watch; und I say to myself, also, this boy haf goot joedgment. Und when you look at your pistol so quick, I tell you quick I don't send you to kill men when they are so scarce slready! My boy, it is ever the moral, the say noding strength what gets there-mit always the liddle pistol behind, in case; Haf you understand? I ask you to shoot. I see you know how, as Brock told me. I recommend you let them see that aggomplishment in a friendly way. Maybe a shooting match mit prizes-I pay for them-pretty soon after you come. Und joodgment; und is dangerously ill, and two of his children joodgment. Here comes the train. Haf have scarlet fever.

you vell understand?" Upon this the two shook hands, looking square friendship in each other's eyes. The cast-bound, long, quiet and dark beneath its flowing clots of smoke, slowed to a halt. A few values and legs descended, ascended, herding and hurrying; a few trunks were thrown resoundingly in and out of the train; a woolly crooked old man came with a box and a bandana bundle from the second-class car; the travelers of a thousand miles looked torpidly at him through the jaded windows of their Pullman, and settled again for a thousand miles more. Then the east-bound shooting heavier clots of smoke labor-

"Where's that stage?" shrilled the

7 am in the spelling business," reolied the other, and smiled faintly.

"Hell!" said Uncle Pasco. this." He handed his bandana to the body killing you. Was you thinking, traveler, who took it politely. Max Vogel lifted the box of cheap jewelry and both he and the boy came behind A moment of silence passed before to boost the old man upon the stage step. But with a nettled look he leaped usiness."
"Very well, very well. Only notice and then, light as a husk of grain, got this thing. When oder peoples talk oop himself to his seat and scowled at the

Vogel held a flask in his hand. He eached it to his new superintendent. "Drink hearty," said he. "More, son! Don't be shy. Haf you forgot it is forbidden fruit after now?" "Kid sworn off?" inquired Uncle Paso of the schoolmaster.

"I understand,' replied this person, "that Mr. Vogel will not allow his cow-boys at the Malheur agency to have any whisky brought there. Personally, new schoolmaster, gave his faint smile "Oh!" muttered Uncle Pasco. "For-"H'm," said he, again; and, elry box. becoming thoughtful, he laid back his

and the vehicle started. "Goot luck, goot luck, my son!" shouted the hearty Max, looking after "I hope he come back," the stage. "I think he come back. If he said be come, I r-raise him fifty dollars with-

Dean Drake climbed into the stage

TO BE CONTINUED.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

Omene is in Mexico. Anna Held weighs 122 pounds. Florence St. John has diphtheria. Bernhardt says she will act Hamlet. Ballet Dancer Fonfanti has retired. Jennie Winston has joined the Carleton Opera company. Isabelle Irving wili replace Maud Adams

in John Drew's company,
Max Bleiman's daughter is a member of the "Girl from Paris" company.

The "Money Spider" is the title of a comic opera shortly to be sung in London. Zelle De Lussan will be a member of the Metropolitan company next season.

"A Royal Roundhead" is the title of a

comic opera shortly to be given in Lon-Wilton Lackage will shortly produce a play based on an episode in the life of Mo-Julia Arthur fell on the stage in Lonion the other night and sprained her an-

Princess Chimay has signed a contract to appear in Berlin in a series of living The wife of Playwright Charles Klein

Playwright Pinero will furnish the book of a new opera, the music of which has been supplied by Sir Arthur Sullivan. Clara Morris, Felix Morris, Burt Havudeville theatres.

fred places at cheap rates are reserved for people, who cannot afford expensive It is said that James T. Powers has been

engaged by Augustin Daly to take Mr. Lewis' parts in the Daly comedies. S. Miller says that he and Miss John-stone Bennett have been engaged to play in "The Girl from Paris" next season by Mr. Rice. A daughter of Jenny Lind has composed

the incidental music, for the new play, "The Alchemist," which is to be tried in The Frederick Bond Summer Stock com-

pany will shortly begin its season at Wednesday evening by Charles Froh-Louisville, The company engaged includes Robert Drouet, Maud Odell, Maud Allan Willie Collier, Louise Allen, Lulu Taber

and M. A. Kennedy play the chief roles in "The Man from Mexico," a comedy by the author of "My Friend from India." Henry E. Dixey will have another chance to rehabilitate himself in spite of his discharge from Koster & Bial's, New York, for drunkenness on the stage, has been engaged by Weber & Fields for their new buriesque.

their new buriesque.

Marie Geistinger will give twenty-eight performances in the United States for which she will be paid \$12,000, according to the Vienna newspapers. Since her retirement she has been living at her country place in Austria.
"Camille," says Olga Nethersole, "is my own favorite and I like to play Juliet, but there are times when I feel that I

must play Carmen—that it will suit my mood exactly to assume the role of the cruel, heartless Spanish woman." Anna Held frowns on bloomers-not only s indecorous and unbecoming, but use-

less in promoting comfort for the female rider. She wears a short skirt, and de-clares that the bicycle boot laced to the knee is the most modest and sensible foot-When he is playing in cities outside of

New York, John Drew follows the exam-ple of Richard Mansfield and allows no late arrivals to be shown to their scats during the performance of "Rosemary." They must wait for the intermissions in rima donna, has made a hit in New York.

She married the organist of a Kansas City Catholic church several years ago and two children were the result of the union, Three years ago the couple separated. The lasting success of "Carmen," based one of Merimee's stories, has tempted on one of Merimee's stories, has tempted another composer to follow Bizet's exam-ple and go to Merimee for a plot. The new opera, "Ines Mendo," has already been accepted for this season at Covent

Abel Hermant, the young author who wrote a play founded on the Lebaudy scandals, had a diel with the Prince de Sagan in consequence of his play, has written another satirical drama. He ridicules the diplomatic service in his second

In the "Secret Service" company that will go to London are two players who have had the distinction of being engaged to a Gould. Oldette Tyler not long since was about to marry Howard Gould and Harry Woodruff was to have been the husband of the young woman who is now

Countess Castellane. One of Yvette Guilbert's most successful songs has been "Les Ingenues," and this was written by a shopkeeper, who fills in his spare moment's by writing stanzas suited to Yvettes talents. It seems that she paid only fifty francs, or \$10, for this song, published it herself and sold 10,000 copies.

AMUSEMENTS.

At the Frothingham theatre to-day two productions will be given of Hoyt's most amusing comedy, "A Texas Steer." For the first time in the history of the play it will be presented at the matinee to-day at 10, 20, 30 and 50 cents, which could only be accomplished by the theatre managemen purchasing all the rights in the performance, as otherwise Mr. Hoyt would not consent to play at those Amusement goers in all the prices. large cities are familiar with the theme and general scope of now what is generally conceded to be the masterpiece of this successful author. At the evening performance regular prices will prevail.

This evening "A Nation Exiled," drama that is the joint work of M. J. Coyne and James Flynn, of this city, will have its first production on any stage. The Academy of Music has been selected as the place for the debut of the new drama, which will be presented under the auspices of the Columbus Council, Young Men's Instiillustrates the condition of the Irish peasantry during the trying periods n Ireland when English avarice supplanted justice and the Irish were the victims of their cruelty. The features which usually environ an Irish drama are omitted and every successive portion of the production awakens new interest until the finale clinches the whole and leaves the lesson intended firmly impressed on the minds of all Many catchy specialty features will be

"A Divorce Cure," the merry comedy revelation, which has met with unstinted praises since its production by the distinguished comedienne, Emily Bancker, several months ago, will be introduced to Scranton for the first time at the Academy of Music Wednesday, April 21. It comes heralded as one of the most popular hits of the season. The story it tells is a pretty one, sparkling in its originality, and scintillant in its constructive ingenuity. It is singularly devoid of the conventional and commonplace, having no villain, no tragic element and nothing suggestive of the familiar lines upon which other dramatic compositions of the day are constructed, but it is plethoric with sweetness and humanity and flows in a palpitant vein of light, rippling humor,

Sydney Grundy's "sex against sex" drama, "Sowing the Wind," which we are to see at the Frothingham

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man's New York company, discusses one of the oldest questions that has agitated humanity, but it does so in a way so new, delicate, fascinating and yet forceful as to make it appear one that has arisen in the moment, and to set the audience flaming with a desire to see it settled, and in the way laid down by the famous author of the play. It is declared by the critics and it will so prove itself here, not to be in any way didactic, for it hides its problem in the guise of one of the most absorbing and intensely human stories ever told from the stage.

Rose Sydell's London Belles will appear at the Davis theater, commencing today, Easter Monday, matinee. performance begins with a laughable skit called "Widow Winn's Reception," in which Rose Sydall, Eva Allen, char acter comedienne; W. S. Campbell and Billy Hart, clever comedians, figure ominently. They are supported by the full strength of the company which includes a bevy of handsome girls. In the olio will appear the four emperors of music, a quartette of high class mu-sucians and comedy entertainers, Hart and Walling in a new novel sketch Campbell and Shepp, German comed-ians; Frye and Allen, sketch artists and vocalists. The finale of the show is an uproarious burlesque called the "Isle of Sham Pain." It abounds in side-splitting situations, catchy music and taking specialties. It is staged with elaborate settings and the girls of

tumes.

the company wear some stunning cos-

To Destroy the of Order Iedoform. It is said that the disagreeable odor It is said that the disagreeable odor of iedeform may be completely removed from mortars, spatulas and other atensils used in compounding iedeform combinations by simply adding a little turpentine to the water used in washing, with soap, and rinsing well. This might be found useful in removing the odor of iodoform from the hands.

An Old Friend Gone.

Kansas Farmer-I don't know how it is ut I don't feel comfortable any more he old place ain't what it used to be. Visitor-What's the trouble? Kansas Farmer-Well, yer see my son, he come home a few days ago, and he paid off the mortgage!-Up-to-Date.

Didn't Want to Be Held Up for a Model. De Auber (the artist)-What objection have you to becoming an artist's bride? De Rurale—Oh, everybody would always be pointing me out as a mode! wife.—

THE LAZY MAN.

I'm the laziest man, I reckon, that a mor tal ever seed! Got money? Nary a dollar! I wasn't built for greed, For grastin' and fer gripin' where the revenue is found; I'm what you call a lazy 'un-jes' built fer lyin' round!

Contented? Mighty right I am; when spring winds whistle sweet. In the meadows where the daisies make

a carpet for your feet;
Where the nestin' birds are chirpin';
where the brook, in witchin' play, Goes laughin' on a-pushin' all the lillies out of his way, You'll find me almost any time a lyin' at

my ease, With the lull song o' the locust and the drowsy drone o' bees Above me and aroun' me; I'm a poet in my way. And I'd rather hear the birds sing 'an

'Jes' laziness." they tell me, an' I reckon they are right; But the world's so full o' beauty, an' you can't see much at night!
But different folks has different minds,
nor drink from the same cup;

When I'm talkin' to the lillies, they're aplowin' of 'em up. My field's a pasture for the cows, an though it never pays, It't a source o' pleasure to me jes' ter

see the creatures graze! The tinkle, tinkle o' the bells is such a pleasin' sound. But I'm a lazy chap, you know, jes' built

-James Whitcomb Riley.

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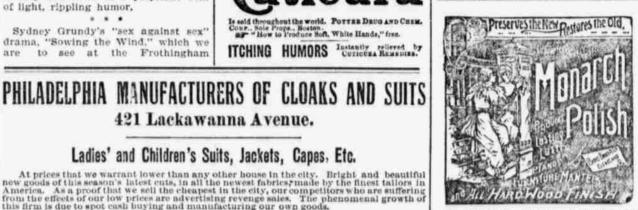
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What Sarah Bernhard says