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ly large. Look them over.
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Men's Brogans and Plow Shoes at 75c. to \$1 and \$1.25. All solid, fine shoes at \$1—not shoddy, seamless tip laces. Elegant—\$1.25, \$1.50 and \$2 get you the finest in the land for the price. You can buy Men's Genuine Calf Shoes at \$1.25 and a dandy at \$2. Come and see!

Our Infants' and Children's Shoes are lower in price than ever. New ones added. See our new Dongolas at 50c. patent tip and very fine; 5-8, 11-12 solid at 75c; these are very fine. Infants' 1-6 25 cents and up. Children's School Shoes, heavy, 50c. to \$1.00.

Women's Heavy Shoes at 75c. to \$1, all solid. Boys' and Youth's Shoes, high-cut, spring-heel, or heel, \$1 to \$2 in button or laces. WE PLEASE ALL THE BOYS!

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Toilet cases, manicure sets, shaving sets, gloves and handkerchief boxes in leather and plush.

Odor cases in leather, plush and celluloid. Smoker's sets, vases, perfume stands, and an endless variety of fine goods, which must be seen to be appreciated. All finer, nicer and cheaper than ever before. The public is invited to call at REDBORN'S Drugstore, next to Lowry House.

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SHE WAS IN EARNST.

"Hallo, stranger! might you be looking for somebody?"

The man who had been addressed—a goodly-looking young fellow, wearing a costly overcoat, and bearing in his hand a traveling bag—turned as the words were spoken and saw behind him a heavily built, elderly man of the farmer sort, who carried in his hand a long whip, and wore a broad-brimmed felt hat well pulled over his eyebrows.

"Am I looking for somebody?" he repeated. "Yes, sir. I'm looking for Mr. Mark Mellich. He was to meet me here and take me down to his place. I've been waiting at the station platform for a full hour, and as the sun is going down and I have no idea where I am and I—"

Here he paused, evidently thinking it best not to utter the remainder of his sentence.

"Mellich had good reasons for wanting to see me," he added. "I'm beginning to think that he never got my telegram. Have you a hotel or tavern hereabout?"

"Nothing but the boarding house at the mines," said the farmer, "and when you've got there you can see Mellich's. But if you're Mr. Nelson Noble, then—"

"I am," interposed the young man. "Then," proceeded the farmer, "I've come to fetch you, and you haven't any need of a hotel."

"Good!" cried young Noble, "this great, grand, stony country of yours, with its bald hills and nothing growing, gives a man from Connecticut a feeling of having all the giants of the world as Jack of the Beanstalk did. Your depot must be a good one, and your people must be good."

"Very likely," replied Noble, "but it is going to be a decidedly gloomy night. The idea of spending it here was unpleasant—in fact I was getting nervous over it when you spoke to me."

"You don't seem to be among home-coming people," said the farmer, "till you look at the big cities, where there are robbers, and bunks men, and pickpockets, as I've heard tell, and traps set for you everywhere. You'll find every man a thief here."

"I don't know," replied Noble, "with a laugh; 'however, I'll glad you came for me, Mr. —'"

"Smith, you can call me," said the old man, "and we might as well be off; my wagon is in the hall here. The horse is a setter queer, and I wouldn't give him the pull up-hill. Any baggage, Mr. Noble?"

"Only this," answered Noble, with a swing of the traveling bag. "I'm only going to stay overnight, and I'll follow Mr. Smith over the rocky road and down a steep slope until the horse reaches the where a cover-wagon, drawn by a bony old white horse, stood waiting."

"You sit inside out of the draft," said Smith, "seeing you've got chilled at the depot. The wind and rain are coming. 'Thank you,' Noble answered, and shortly finding the old man indisposed to talking, he fell asleep under the dirty canopy, and slept until the sudden stopping of the wagon and loud shouts from the driver roused him."

"What's the matter?" he cried, thrusting his head through a rift in the awning, and from the shadow beyond—right night had fallen white he slept—Smith's rough voice replied:

"'Darn it all, the horse has done it at last. He's dead as a door nail, and you can't get to the mines to-night, stranger, unless you can fix it.'"

"Let me look at the animal," said Noble. "Perhaps he's not dead."

"I know more about horses than you do," said Smith, "if you'll excuse my saying it. I'll have to take you to stop at my place to-night. I'll borrow a team to-morrow and take you up to Mellich's."

"You are very good," said Noble. "Personally, I'm not in haste, but Mr. Mellich has been waiting for me since the morning, and he would not be pleased if I did not come."

"Oh, that's my horse," said the farmer, laughing. "He gave me the job to fetch you. Guess he had no other way of saying it. He's a good horse, well, losses are to be expected, I suppose. This way, stranger; I'll take hold of you. I know the way in the dark."

And shortly Noble found himself emerging from the darkness of the starless night into a little area of yellow light that fell from a lantern swinging before the porch of a shabby-looking house.

As Smith, with the freedom of the owner of the place, flung open the door, Noble caught sight of the figure of a girl of seventeen, who sat crouched upon the hearth before a bright fire.

"The girl was a handsome creature; and as she sprang lightly and alertly to her feet, Noble saw that she owed nothing to the assistance of dress. Her hair was cut short like a boy's, her dress was a faded calico, made with the regard to the fashion and her shoes were the roughest specimens of the work of the cobbler's art."

She stood in the blaze of the firelight and looked at them with great dark eyes that reminded Noble of those of a stag at bay.

"Brought home company, Middy," said the man, with an air of jollity. "Get supper as soon as you can, for we're starved. Mighty plain don't you'll find here, stranger, but you'll have to stand it."

Noble sat down upon a splint, bottomed chair near the fire, and looked at the girl. She stood staring at him. Evidently the advent of a stranger had alarmed her. A curious feeling of awkwardness came over the young man. Middy, as her father had called her, was too old to be spoken to carelessly, as though she were a child, and too untrained to greet him as woman would. He compromised the matter by smiling, in return she frowned.

"I'm afraid I intrude," said the young man, gently.

"Well," said the girl, "if truth is to be told, I don't want you here. Your legs seem long enough to walk it. You'd get me a long supper there. I could tell you how to go."

"The idea that the girl was half-witted occurred to Noble."

"Oh, I'll go early to-morrow, Middy," he said jestingly.

"For my part," answered Middy, "I wouldn't stay at all where I wasn't wanted."

"The prettiest idiot that I ever saw," thought Noble.

He turned toward the fire and began to stir the coals with his long poker. Meantime he kept his traveling bag between his feet. Heavy steps were heard going about overhead.

The girl began to set the table. Soon she said:

"You'll have to move. I'm going to eat. Then he left the fire and walked to the window, carrying his bag with him. "You haven't a bit of pride," she said, "or you'd get out of a place where your good looks are begrudged you. There's the door, and straight along the footpath is the road. Go to the left and keep on to Mellich's. May be they want you there."

Just then the feet of the elderly man were heard upon the rough steps that led

from the garret, and he appeared smiling.

"I've fixed you up a bunk, stranger," said he. "Where you can put up with it for one night."

"You are very kind," said Noble. "I'm afraid I am giving you trouble."

"Not a bit of it," replied Smith. "I got you into this fix through the horse dying—I'm bound to see you out of it."

Noble laughed.

The old man sat down near the table, to which he summoned his guest when the meal was ready, and shortly a young man came in, nodding and took his seat.

"My son, stranger," said Smith, as he did so. But all Noble's efforts to make talk were fruitless, and soon after supper he decided to go to bed.

"All right. Early to bed is said to be good for folks," remarked the elder man. He lighted a candle, and preceded his guest up stairs. A hammock swung between two beams; a couple of blankets and a pillow were arranged in it. The broken window let in the damp night air. Bunches of herbs and ropes of onions dangled from the beams in the beam.

"Sleep well," said the old man and descended the stairs again.

Noble placed his portmanteau under the pillow of the hammock and sat down on an old stool. He was very tired, and not having reached the mines that night, for his mission was to bring a sum of money, it reminded him of a long day's work.

It was not his fault, and it was a pity. It was not his fault, and it was a pity. It was not his fault, and it was a pity.

"The best thing I can do is to sleep and forget it," he said, and had pulled off his cravat and collar, when a whisper fell upon his ear:

"Come here," said a voice—"come to the window!" and he saw, appearing mysteriously at the broken pane, the girl's brown face and great dark eyes.

"Come softly," she said, "come quick!" He went to her. She had climbed upon a shelf beneath the window, and stood with her chin on a level with the sill.

"Well, Middy," he said, frowning this on another. "I've not a word to say to you. I have a long way to go, and I don't want to be there as you are here."

"Yes, I'm here," said the girl in a whisper. "Lift the sack and put your head out."

He obeyed.

"I want you to come down and go with me. I'll show you where the Mellichs live. Come I want you to."

"I'll go in the morning, Middy," said Noble.

"Morning," said the girl, "will be too late. I don't wish to be talking sense. Your name is Noble, isn't it?"

"You've got a lot of money in that bag," said the girl.

"What makes you think so?" asked Noble.

"I've heard you talking about you," said the girl—"uncle and Sam."

"Oh, they're mine, Middy," said Noble, carelessly.

"Mr. Noble," said the girl, "I'm risking my life to tell you this. Uncle and Sam are not rich. I've a hunch that I don't know what I've heard, that makes me sick to think of it. I've heard my tongue about. But this is the first murder they've planned to do."

"Murder?" repeated Noble.

"They had a man as a door nail, and you can't get to the mines to-night, stranger, unless you can fix it."

"Let me look at the animal," said Noble. "Perhaps he's not dead."

"I know more about horses than you do," said Smith, "if you'll excuse my saying it. I'll have to take you to stop at my place to-night. I'll borrow a team to-morrow and take you up to Mellich's."

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