

THE IRON TEST

(Continued from last week.)
Chapter 9—"The Pill of Lost Hope"

Roaring and snarling, the lion freed through Red Mask's willowy stand over the unconscious Edith, as the rescue party rushed up. All hesitated but Bert, who, drawing a pistol, emptied it in the very face of the great brute which backed away, still snarling fiercely. The other rescuers taking courage, closed in and drove the lion back to his cage while Bert picked Edith up and placed her on a mattress where a doctor from the audience attended her.

O'Doherty, the detective, from the first kept his eyes on Craven, safely back in the crowd, and when the trainer showed the cord and explained how the animal had got loose, the detective started a searching investigation.

In a few moments, the doctor reported that Edith's wounds were superficial and suggesting a night of rest in a nearby hotel, Jenkins ordered her removal there. There was a laugh as Bert halted a moment to inquire if he had killed the lion and Jenkins replied:

"You're a good shot and all that but it takes more than good shooting to kill a lion with blank cartridges."

The laugh was hushed, however, when O'Doherty returned and asserted with positiveness:

"I am not sure but what Craven knows something about these accidents."

Bert was quick to disclaim such, while Jenkins gave no reply. Peaky who overheard, gave the detective a look of hatred and hurried away.

Edith had scarcely been made comfortable in the hotel when her fears for Bert overcame her and she sent for the detective.

"He's in great danger," she said. "Promise me that you will watch him all the time at the night performance."

O'Doherty promised, but even as he spoke Craven and Peaky, in an adjoining room, were planning a new and desperate attempt on Bert's life, the former also swearing that his next victim would be the detective whose outspoken suspicions plainly worried him.

That night, Bert appeared in a new act, riding two spirited horses in a class, and despite the careful watching of O'Doherty, Peaky contrived to slip a burr beneath the girth of one of the horses which bolted in pain as the act began and threw Bert, who luckily escaped with a few bad bruises.

Bert was standing on the horse farthest from the entrance to the ring hooking his toes under the girths when Peaky entered and pretended to examine the girth. He stooped down and under the horse, slipped the burr under the girth without being noticed. He then explained that everything

was ship shape, the attendants cracked their whips and Bert raced away.

Bert had not circled the tent when the horse with the burr began to prance around, giving Bert all he could do to keep his balance. He tried desperately to keep them under control when he was thrown violently. Jenkins and the detective were quickly at his side and as they were assisting him to his feet, Peaky stealthily took the burr from beneath the girth. Stepping up to O'Doherty, as though he had made a discovery, he exclaimed:

"Just what I thought. Some scoundrel tried to get him in this way."

The detective, suspicious, demanded to know why he had felt under the girth and Peaky bluffed it out by replying:

"I examined this horse just a moment ago. I saw he was acting peculiar."

The detective questioned Peaky further, but without result and then pecking the burr left the tent.

Stirred by Bert's bravery, the crowd demanded he reappear and so Bert with rifle and glass balls climbed to a trapeze to perform one of his most spectacular acts. As he swung head down at a height of fifty feet and prepared to toss the first ball, Red Mask stealthily cut a slit in the side of the tent not a dozen feet distant and thrusting an automatic pistol through aimed at one of the trapeze ropes knowing that Bert, in his position, could not avoid a probably fatal fall if he should sever the rope.

But for once O'Doherty's alertness was not vain. He caught the glint of Red Mask's pistol and drawing his own three reports rang out as one in the tent. The crowd caught only one but they saw the rope holding Bert snap and saw him fall, only to catch himself, climb back to the dangling trapeze and with the aid of attendants make his way to the ground.

The detective did not wait to watch for Bert. He was examining this, surrounded by a crowd when Craven entered and boldly approached the group, exclaiming with a sneer:

"Begin to look like put-up-jobs—clever advertising stunts to enhance the value of our star performers."

Jenkins started threateningly at Craven but was seized by O'Doherty while Bert grabbed Craven by the arm. The latter winced in pain but quickly regained his composure and walked away. The detective, however, had not missed the wince and exclaimed:

"Did you see him wince," going on to reiterate his conviction that Craven knew a lot about the accidents to Bert. But the latter shut him up.

"Nonsense. Why, he's my cousin. No Beresford ever—"

O'Doherty could not repress his astonishment and insisted that Bert tell about his relationship to the

Leather King. Then he hurried away with a new idea concerning Craven and the attempt to kill Bert.

An hour later in their room in the hotel, Peaky had finished bandaging Craven's arm. Both were plainly worried.

"This place is getting too hot for us," said Craven. "We'll have to settle it quick or beat it." Peaky nodded and replied:

"Settle it quick AND beat it, you mean."

Meanwhile O'Doherty went to the telephone office and sent a message to his correspondents in Los Angeles requesting them to look up all details concerning Beresford, Leather King and his heirs and report to him at once. This done, he returned to the tent and after carefully measuring the footprints near the tent, went to his quarters, saying to himself:

"Guess this means a warrant for you in the morning, Mr. Craven Beresford."

But the conspirators did not wait till morning, for as the detective watched by the hotel, they took two fast horses from the stable, one of them Bert's favorite, Seabird. Then Peaky by firing his pistol in the air and riding away, easily drew the detective on a wild goose chase. And while he was gone, Bert received a decoy note, apparently in Edith's writing, summoning him to the hotel. Hastily dressing he hurried to the hotel but in the corridor was struck down and bound and placed on Seabird's back by Craven and Peaky, who had returned after eluding O'Doherty.

Only one person saw Bert as he was driven helplessly from the town. Edith roused by the noises threw open her window just as the horses started and recognized the man she loved and realized his desperate predicament.

Peaky, with Bert across the saddle, Craven having returned to his room, drove swiftly two miles from town to a deserted house well off the road. Here he halted and examined an old well some fifteen feet deep. It was dry and, without ceremony, Peaky slipped a rope about Bert's waist and lowered him roughly into the well, throwing the rope in after him.

"You'll be quite comfortable there till your finish comes," he shouted at the helpless man and rode away back to town leaving Bert to starve in his open tomb.

For an hour, Edith searched the town and the circus tents for some clue to Bert, finally entering the horse tent just as Peaky left after his return from the well. The girl saw that the horses had just come in from a hard ride and recalling the animal's affection for Bert, grasped at the slim chance that the animal might lead her to him, if he knew. Mounting, she talked gently to the animal and gave him his head and he trotted away through the early dawn.

Edith had guessed well for Seabird took her right up to the well just as Bert succeeded in getting the

sag out his mouth and hearing the horse, shrieked. It was a matter of a few moments for Edith, by means of her corset strings, to secure the rope by which Bert was lowered into the well and grasping this she braced for the supreme test of her strength, that of bringing Bert to the surface. Then her face blanched and the rope sagged in her nerveless hands.

Approaching on the other side of the well were Peaky and Craven. She drew back in terror as Craven advanced with a wicked sneer said:

"I'll relieve you of that rope, Miss Paige."

Before Edith could make a move to warn Bert, he had snatched the rope from her hands and tossed it back into the well. Then he seized her, covering her face so she could not cry out, and with Peaky's assistance placed her on a horse. Whispering a few directions to his companion, the man rode away with their prisoner, again leaving Bert to perish in the dry well.

(To be continued.)

LINEBORO.

George Rupp, H. T. Wentz and Edward G. Geitz, of Lineboro, attended a Masonic banquet at Westminster.

Mrs. Clayton Miller, of Lineboro, visited friends in Hanover Friday.

Miss Adelaide Kerchner, a student of Gettysburg College, has returned to her home.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Landis Friday, a boy.

Mrs. Oscar Cramer and son, Ralph, of Lineboro, made a trip to Hanover, York and New Windsor recently.

Geo. Armstrong, of Lineboro, purchased a Ford touring car from dealer Wm. Wertz.

Mrs. W. M. Boyer visited friends in Baltimore.

David Nickey, of Baltimore, spent Sunday here.

Mrs. Jeremiah Shaffer is visiting her mother, Mrs. Grogz, at Hanover.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gettler and family, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Miller, of near Lineboro, took a motor trip to Gettysburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Greene, of Baltimore,

spent Sunday with C. Miller and family.

Miss Blaise Conaway, of Eastview Md., is the guest of Miss Eva Gentz. Samuel Warner made a business trip to Reisterstown on Tuesday.

UNION MILLS.

At the conclusion of the Children's Day service at St. Mary's Reformed church, Silver Run, fifty men, tried and true, who had volunteered for the service, were requested to present themselves at the church hall where the pastor of the church, Rev. John S. Adam, publicly commissioned them to make the annual every-member canvass of the congregation to receive pledges for church expenses and general benevolence.

The B. F. Shriver Co. installed two new pea-viners at their Union Mills factory this year and began packing peas. The company has also torn down the old corn shed which will be rebuilt, and equipped with an up-to-date dump.

Corn came up well this spring and is growing finely, although the wet weather we are now having is rather bad for meadow haymaking.

Maurice Lester, who has been critically ill with pneumonia, we are glad to say is on the mend.

Shoots Bird in Church.

W. A. Wray, pastor of the Baptist church, Sandersville, Ga., created a mild sensation at his morning services Sunday when he stopped in the midst of his sermon, got a shotgun and killed a jaybird that had been flying around the auditorium and singing while the services were in progress.

Mr. Wray announced just before the congregation began the hymn that he would kill the bird if it sang again. The jay began again. The preacher stopped the services, went to his home, got his gun, returned to the church and fired once. Services were resumed.

SALE BILLS PRINTED ON SHORT NOTICE AT THIS OFFICE.

**IT'S NOT YOUR HEART
IT'S YOUR KIDNEYS**

Kidney disease is no respecter of persons. A majority of the ill-suffering people today can be traced back to kidney trouble.

The kidneys are the most important organs of the body. They are the filters, the purifiers, of your blood. Kidney disease is usually indicated by weakness, sleeplessness, nervousness, despondency, backache, stomach trouble, pain along the lower abdomen, gall stones, gravel, rheumatism, eczema, and lumbago.

All these derangements are nature's signals to warn you that the kidneys need help. You should use GOLD MEDAL Haasium Oil Capsules immediately. The soothing, healing oil stimulates the kidneys, relieves inflammation and destroys the germs which have caused it. Do not wait until tomorrow. Go to your druggist today and insist on GOLD MEDAL Haasium Oil Capsules. In twenty-four hours you should feel better and vigor returning and will bless the day you first heard of GOLD MEDAL Haasium Oil.

After you feel that you have cured yourself, continue to take one or two capsules each day, so as to keep in first-class condition and ward off the danger of other attacks.

Ask for the original imported GOLD MEDAL brand. Three sizes. Money refunded if they do not help you.

NOTICE!

An Old Reliable Firm with a New and Up-to-Date Stock

As I sold my entire stock on March 18, I have reopened with a fine line of

Clothing, Shoes, Hats and Furnishings FOR MEN AND BOYS.

Come in and look us over, all visits will be appreciated.

H. ROSENSTOCK,

6 W. Main St., Westminster, Md.

April 25

Think of The Unmarked Graves

AND SEE

JOSEPH L. MATHIAS, WESTMINSTER, MD.
Phone 127 East Main St., Opposite Court St.

Marble and Granite Dealer
250
Monuments and Headstones
IN STOCK TO SELECT FROM. ALL STONES DELIVERED ANYWHERE BY AUTO TRUCK.



Agricultural Lime

The more LIME you use the more Wheat, Corn and Grass you grow. When you want a good car of LIME either Hydrated, Ground or Lump LIME call,

GEORGE E. BENSON
Phone 23R June 6-61 Westminster, Md.

New Mill Work and Commercial Body Enterprise

TO THE PUBLIC:— We beg to announce that having equipped a plant with the most Modern and Labor-Saving Machinery, we are now prepared to do

Mill Work of All Kinds

Commercial Truck Bodies, AND IN FACT ANYTHING THAT CAN BE MADE OF WOOD.

Painting and Lettering

M. Walter Noel has severed his connection with Herr & Babylon and in the capacity of a Manager of this enterprise will welcome the patronage of all his friends and patrons and the public generally. Our prices defy competition. Give us a call and we will be glad to furnish estimates on anything in our line.

Second Hand Truck Body and Cab For Sale

Suitable for a 1 or 1 1/2 ton truck; can be bought reasonable.

Bring in Your Bodies and Have Them Sold.

YOURS FOR BUSINESS,

Westminster Mill & Body Co.

JOHN STREET WESTMINSTER, MD.
OPPOSITE OLD FOUNDRY SITE.
PHONE 132-J. M. WALTER NOEL, Manager.

All kinds of Syrup

Loose Syrup 20 cents per quart.

Country Lard and Meat wanted.

JOSHUA N. CORBIN,

Court and Main Streets Phone orders given prompt attention



STAR

Tuesday, June 24th

MABLE NORMAND

In

'MICKEY'

You will never forget
"MICKEY"



MABEL NORMAND in "MICKEY"

"MICKEY," the mischievous little tomboy from the far-off mountain country, heiress of a gold mine, found an old friend in the cold, unsympathetic city, their mutual humiliation binding them pathetically. "Mickey" is a history-making masterpiece, interweaving humor, pathos, adventure and love.

"Mickey" is Motion Pictures Epitomized

A Masterpiece

That is making Motion Picture History—

That runs the gamut of every human emotion.

The Humor
The Pathos
The Love
The Adventure

Tear stained world in laughing with "Mickey" the naughty little tom boy with the pranks of a "Peck's bad boy" and she is from the mountain country; brought east to her aunt that she may become a lady. She is made to do all the hard work—Until they learn she has a big Gold Mine and then it all begins to happen. What? Be sure and see this picture, you will never forget her pranks, adventures, hardships, love and sorrows.

You Will Never Forget "MICKEY"

Afternoon Shows Start At 2.00 and 4.00 p. m. Night Shows at 7.00, 8.30, and 10.00 p. m.

25c PLUS WAR TAX **35c PLUS WAR TAX**

RAIN OR SHINE.