## ROCK ISLAND ARGUS.

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## HESPER. BY HAMLIN CARLAND

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CHAPTER XXII.

AYMOND looked back occasionally, half expecting pursuit. He could see in the valley below the town the gleaming white tents of the little army hesitant to march, and its plan of invasion seemed born of folly and madness. He spurred his horse down the trail to meet the night which rose to meet him from the valley like a chill, engulfing flood. An hour's brisk ride brought him to the open, and just at the edge of the peak he came upon a forlorn camp, a small tent under a fir, and a group of four men sitting about a fire. At their call he turned and rode up to them. They were an outpost of Munro's guard, a part of the cordon he had thrown

round the peak and camp. One of them knew him and, greeting him pleasantly, asked where he had

He replied with candor, "I've been down to the Springs to induce those 'yaller legs' to put off their expedi-

"What luck did ye have?" "None. They're coming."

Significant glances passed, and the poral, said solemnly: "Well, if they want fight they can have it. But say, Rob, does the captain know you're on the road? There was a hullabaloo in town about you last night. A lot of the fellers think you went down to give Now, I guess you better stay here buildin' a fort." while I ride up and tell the cap you're here."

"I don't think that's necessary, but you might jog along with me if you want to go. Otherwise I'll go alone."

"Well, I'll tell ye, Rob," said Brown in an embarrassed way, "these monkeys on the peak have got an awful slant against you and Kelly, and they's two or three fellers who are working Nora know. It was plain that he no he hadn't time to pull the trigger. against you underhand right along. longer minimized the danger, and his Jack's bullet went through his arm." You don't want to take no chances. They'll do ye if they can."

Raymond was impressed with Brown's earnestness and by the adthere in the snow. "Boys, what are think of that?" you staying here for?" he asked, "This isn't a picnic. What do you do it for?" Brown answered, "We do it because we want to help these miners stand off

the plutes. Raymond mused. "But you're friend-

ly toward Kelly & Raymond?" "Sure thing. You fellers are all right. old broucho buster himself. But let me thought; tell ye this, Rob, we're goin' to need you and your men if these chaps come up here the way they talk o' doin'



"There they are building the fort." with Gatling guns and all that. The boys have been rollin' logs for a fort all day. You can just about see it from here-just on that point."

"Well, suppose we ride along," said Raymond, and as he took a last look around his heart warmed to these rough souls who had taken sides in a quarrel not their own, moved by a blind desire to aid their fellows in a war against privilege and social caste. Brown called another man out of the group to ride with them, and they started away. On the hill east of the Hfted his arm and pointed that way.

"There they are building the fort." Raymond's blood began to stir, his military instruction to freshen, and for a moment, as he paused there in the darkness, he understood something of Munro's joy in a defensive campaign, but he said aloud: "It's all a mistake, Brown. They can't afford to fight the sheriff. The law is on his side."

Brown grimly replied, "Well, we'll give him a little run for his money, anyway."

Raymond smiled at the boyish quality of this remark, but made no comment upon it, and allowed himself to be led by a roundabout path to the out with their comin' and goin', whip-west side of the town. At last his sawin' now on this, now on that side guide paused. "You're all right now." that I want to see him." said Raymond. "I'm much obliged to you."

"Good luck, boys."

As he rode up to Kelly's cabin and called out, "Hello, the house!" Matt opened the door and, with a lad on begin to draw me breath natural again, out upon the threshold and repeated wars. I am going up there as a citizen either side of him, peered out. "Is that | For weeks I've been wanting to put the failure of his mission, while the you, Rob?"

"The very same, Matt." "Well, now, wait a whist and I'll come and put out your horse." Mrs. Kelly called cheerily:

we're glad to see you safe returned. Are you hungry?"

ty as a wolf in March," he replied. "Where's Louis?" "Louis! He hasn't returned. Didn't you leave him at the Springs?"

"No. He left early this morning and Ann thought he had hit the stage road | the room. for the camp. I hope he hasn't gone

This news took away a large part of his pleasure in the friendly hearth to which he was welcomed and, removing his outer garments, he bent to the blaze in silence while Mrs. Kelly spread some food before him.

Kelly listened to the news of Louis' firelight brought out stern lines on run into some of Munro's men and is ginning and tell me why you sneaked bled in, eager to know what Raymond their faces. At length Brown, the cor- probably up at headquarters. He away again without saying goodby to had seen in the valley. couldn't get lost. He knows the road. Ann?" What's the word from the valley?"

"They're coming, Matt." "When?"

"Tonight or tomorrow."

away the camp, and some said if you posters and all kinds of warnin's. It's early." ever came back they'd string you up. been a lively day on the hill. They're "So Frank Brown told me. How do

> our men feel?" Matt rubbed his chin. "They're

little uneasy, to tell the truth." Mrs. Kelly interrupted. "Sit up and

eat. Rob. Talk afterward." Raymond could see that Kelly was face fell easily into stern lines.

left the room to put the youngsters to him: "Now, see here, Louis, you sit bed, the big miner laid a sheet of paper down here by the fire. Don't let your mirable loyalty of his fellows camped before his partner. "What do you

Joke. In one corner glared the conven- midnight." drawn, and to the right and beneath with grave eyes. The boy was tremthem sprawled the word "Beware!" All this was amusing, but the logic of was high and strained. You've punched cows, and Kelly is an the argument which followed gave him

This neutral business is played out. Either you are for us or you are for the If you are for the dudes, get out. If you are for us, send in your men to help us repel the invaders. This is our first warning. Remember the Red Star! COMMITTEE.

Raymond rose. "Let's go down to my shack. We can talk matters over there more freely." "I'll be with you in a few minutes,

answered Kelly. It was warm in the cabin, for the faithful Perry had built a fire early mond. "When do they intend to in the evening, and after he had light- come?" ed a couple of candles and kicked the fire into a blaze the room resumed its for which they are waiting." cheerful glow, but he was too deeply disturbed over Louis' nonappearance to fully enjoy it. He took out his revolver and was examining it carefully as

Kelly entered. "Did ye meet with any trouble, Rob!" "None. Some of the committee of safety wanted to arrest me and hold me as hostage, but Barnett stood 'em off. I didn't see a soul till on my way back I came on one of Jack's picket thing for us to do now." posts, where I found four men camped in misery and eating snowballs for

supper." "It's strange the power he has over feel so cold," he ended, drawing nearer they do as he tells them. His trouble chest." will come with Brock and Smith, who are neither miners nor cowboys, for they are all tryin' to derive their power from Carter, who is dead sick of the business and likely to fly the coop at any minute. Where you goin'?"

"Uptown to take a look round for "You go not! 'Tis a poor time for he drew his breath with a hissing

in their heads that you are playin' the cold, Rob. My breast aches so."

"I must find that boy. He left the bring her little medicine case. This Springs at 8 this morning, and his sister is worried about him." "I will go for ye, Rob. It's too dan-

gerous for you." Raymond rose and laid a hand on Kelly's shoulder. "See here, Matt, I want to talk plainly to you. You've furs, his heart deeply stirred with anxgot to bundle up that little wife and town and overlooking the valley lights the boys and get out of here. I'm go- the excitement of his day's experiing to take a hand in this game. I'm going to call the independents together and make a stand."

Kelly faced him. "If ye make a stand I must be beside ye. What is your plan?"

"I will not tell you unless you promise to take Nora out of danger."

Kelly's face grew stern, and his on this partnership. We share and into a hot, uneasy doze. share alike. I am with ye and so is Nora. I am ready to dig a hole in the ground and stand 'em off. I'm worn out with their comin' and goin', whipo' the question. They've declared war "I wish you'd tell Jack I'm here and on us. Now, by the powers, we'll meet 'em halfway!"

Nora and the mine too. When your over his temperature and pulse than | and flamed with wrath. "Have you | dispute between us."

scallions, but for fear of Ann and Nora his horse's rein across his arm. At the that boy there to suffer alone." I could not."

"Very well, we'll send out a call for them come; they will find us ready. a meeting tonight. The quicker we Did the kid turn up all right?" move the better. I feel as you do-now | "He turned up, but he has taken a we are acting a man's part. There is chill and is burning with fever." He slid from his horse. "I am emp- a big element here that is sick of this Munro seemed concerned. "He had monkey business. Half the camp will nothing on but that little gray jacket. for." and a moment later Louis burst into are you going to do-help us or the

"Oh, Rob, I'm glad you're here. Heleyes shining. "You ought to be up- cisive to say to you." town. Jack is makin' 'em sit up. He fort, and a drunken fellow"-

"Take your time," said Raymond boy's condition." coldly. "There are several minutes left

The boy was not daunted. "As soon as I heard what the sheriff's plans you a bed, for Louis, my boy friend, Miss Rupert. I understand. I saw were I wanted to leave, but it was so is very sick. Dolan, I wish you would the note about your brother. It will be dark; that was last night. I was afraid "I've been receiving delegations and to try it, so this morning I pulled out him there's money in it if he comes

"Where have you been all day?" "I've been with Jack. I met his men story, and then I went to supper with tantly, to meet with the leaders of the Jack; and then this big row came on, and I stayed to see that. Oh, but Jack lution, for he, too, loved the sick lad. is fine! He faced the whole crowd alone. One man wanted to clean out disturbed, and that he had something your cabin. He said it was a nest of to tell which he did not care to have traitors. He drew his gun on Jack, but

Raymond, who had been studying the Selzing the moment when his wife lad with softening glance, interrupted words all try to get out of the corral at the same time. We want to know Raymond looked at the death's head all about it, but we don't want you to warning, for such it was, with amaze- hurry. It's only 10 o'clock, and you ment. It seemed at first sight a rough can get over a whole lot of ground by

> bling with excitement, and his voice Kelly said gently: "My lad, 'twould serve your sister better if you kept out

of this. I don't like to see you riding between the lines as a spy." "I didn't intend to be a spy, but when I heard the trick they were going

to play I couldn't help hurrying back." "What trick?" "Why, they're going to load all their

men into freight cars and make them keep quiet, and then they're going to care." run them through Jack's guard at Boggy clear to the end of the rails." "That's a very nice plan," said Ray-

"Tomorrow night if the guns arrive

"How did you drop on to this?" "I heard Cousin Don tell Dr. Braide He wanted Dr. Braide to follow next

day in case of accidents." "You've told this to Jack?" "Yes. I wanted to come and see you, Matt, but he said I could tell you aft-

Raymond again looked at his partner.

"Well, I don't see that there is any-"Jack told me to tell you to be on your guard tonight. He said he'd come down and see you if possible. Oh, I

them wild cowboys. Drunk or sober, the fire, "I'm all trembly over my "I reckon you better strip off your clothes and go to bed. This has been a

hard day for you." He seemed stiff, and was shivering

convulsively. "I believe I will. Rob, I don't feel any good." As Raymond helped him to undress the boy's teeth began to chatter, and

you to visit the street. They have it moan. "I guess I've taken an awful "Matt, go ask Nora to come over and

boy's got a chill right now." "A swallow of whisky will fix that." answered Matt as he went out. "I'll be back in a jiffy."

Raymond bundled Louis into bed and heaped him with blankets and lety, for as the boy's mind turned from ences to his condition he became deeply depressed. He fairly collapsed.

Mrs. Kelly, with her "emergency case" of medicine and a knowledge of sickness gained in years of maternal care in the rough country, was a great comfort to Raymond, but she could not keep down his growing anxiety. The boy's body was so small and frail voice fell to a level hoarseness that when stripped of its clothing! Under sent a quiver through the young man's their vigorous ministrations the sufblood. "See here, boy, we struck hands ferer ceased to shake and at last fell deep obligation to that watcher.

Raymond, seeing this, whispered: "You must go home. I will watch." "No, Rob, you must sleep. I forgot you had no sleep last night."

"Oh, yes, I did. I took a nap at Bar-

nett's. Please go to bed." To this arrangement she submitted. and, taking his seat close by the boy's must not go! It isn't safe for you, and "Oh, that's all right. Rob; take keer e' Matt, here's my hand. We'll defend face, more concerned at that moment Who will protect you?"

fighting blood is up I don't want any with the brawling crowds, the invading no law out here that will protect a girl stage load of people and several freight after. At the foot of the hill be called: force or the fate of his mine. When who goes to nurse her sick brother? I ers, and every man's mouth was agape. "Keep that winding road. It will bring Kelly's eyes began to twinkle. "I Munro knocked on his door he went have nothing to do with your idiotic me fist beneath the noses of these rap- captain of the vedettes listened with side in this struggle. I shall not leave

end he merely said: "All right. Let

rally in our support. I know it. Then I tried to warm him up with some we will serve notice on Munro" The whisky and a supper. I hope he won't sound of hurrying feet interrupted him, be laid up. Well, now, old man, what dudes?"

"I can't decide anything tonight. I'm lo, Matt." He shook hands, breathing worried about this boy. If he is better heavily. His skin was flushed and his in the morning I'll have something de-

"All right; take your time, only don't shot one man. They were building a take too long. It's up to you to decide, Good night. Keep me posted on the

A half hour later Jim Dolan and two disappearance with less concern. "He's in the box. You might begin at the be- or three of his fellow reporters tum-

To them he said: "Boys, I haven't a word to say. I'm sorry I can't offer swift, eager. "Certainly, certainly, send up the best doctor in Bozle. Tell

tonight." To Matt, Raymond turned. "Go on with your meeting without me. I can way down the canyon, and they took do nothing till this boy dodges this room. me to headquarters, where I told my fever." And Kelly went away, relucneutral party, robbed of half his reso-

At 12 o'clock, when some of the men were passing, Raymond went out and called Baker and said in the tone of one who had at last decided on a plan of action, "I want you to carry a message to Boggy and see that it gets there." And Baker, having a long training as

cowboy behind him, accepted his order like a soldier. The telegram was addressed to the sheriff and read:

They're on to your box car game. Look A PEACE LOVER. At 1 o'clock Kelly returned with low-

ed me down. We are to do nothin'." Raymond, submerged in the rising flood of his anxiety, looked at his partner dully, "Well, perhaps it's better will be our safeguard. I will telegraph so, Matt. I gave my word to Ann that to Mr. Munro that we are coming, and I would care for this boy as if he were he will see that we are protected." my brother, and I'm going to do it, regardless of every other consideration. If he grows worse I shall send for Ann, and then I will have double real horses and a light cart we can drive to son to keep out of the movement."

Toward daylight Raymond called Kelly. "Send a message to Ann. Louis is a mighty sick boy and needs her

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE morning paper, which the maid brought to Ann while she still drowsed in her bed, contained the news of Louis' arrival at Raymond's cabin and his col-

"All the early part of the night," the reporter went on to say, "bands of clamorous men marched from mine to mine, calling upon the gangs to lay down their tools. Only two firms remained unintimidated - Reese Bros.



and Kelly & Raymond. In the midst "Raymond, one of the men most concerned, was standing guard over a sick boy and would not leave his side for a moment." Ann glowed with a sense of | not at all terrible."

Mrs. Barnett knocked on her door Ann Marie?"

"Yes." "What are you going to do?" "I am going up there."

Mrs. Barnett entered. "How can you go, with that mob in possession? You of New York, not as a partisan of your

"I can't find Don," said Mrs. Barnett. "He must have gone downtown. Some one has just phoned a message from Rob. He says Louis has taken a chill and that you are to come, if you can, but not to worry. He is well cared

"Can we reach him by telegraph?" asked Ann.

"The operator says there is no direct connection with Skytown, but that the wire from Bozle to the south is uncut. We can try."

"Tell Don to wire Mr. Raymond that I am coming at once, and that I will bring Dr. Braide if possible," answered Ann, alert and self contained.

She rang Dr. Braide's telephone a few moments later and called firmly, "Dr. Braide, I want you to go with me to Skytown". His cool, indifferent voice cut her

short. "Who is it, please?" "It is Ann Rupert"-"Ah!" His voice changed-became a privilege. I will run over at once and discuss the best plan for getting there." Ann was eating her breakfast when

der brought the doctor into the dining "I am asking a great deal of you, doctor. I will gladly recompense you for any loss of patients," said Ann. "Please don't trouble about my pa-

tients. It is a pleasure for me to serve

the bell rang, and the maid at her or-

you. I beg you not to bring it down to so mercenary a plane." "That's very kind of you, but I must insist on making it a matter of professional service," replied Ann. for he, too. was a suitor, and she liked him, but at this moment she wanted his skill-his training as a physician, not his adoration. This he had insight enough to

perceive. "We can go by the Southern railway and drive from Sage Flat, or we can go over the stage road. In either case ering brow. "I wish you'd been there, we must meet and pass Munro's guard. lad. They're afraid of Munro and vot- According to all accounts, he has a

complete circle. "I am not afraid of Munro or his men," she answered. "In fact, they

"If you feel that way, then the simplest and quickest route is over the old stage road. With a good span of before dark."

"I will order a carriage at once and you the road." call for you in half an hour." "I will be ready," he alertly replied.

span of horses to a mountain buckboard. "No, I do not need a driver," help to the miners." she sharply answered to his query. "Get them here quick!"

Before she left the receiver Barnett He was plainly warning us, and his all this? Jeannette tells me you're go- ed guard." ing back to Skytown today."

"In twenty minutes I shall be on the road." "Alone?" "No: Dr. Braide is going with me."

attack is to be made tonight. The Munro's pickets." whole hill will be a battleground tomorrow." my brother. He needs me all the more. the timbered slopes. Think of that poor boy lying there

ish, wicked, anyhow. What good will fairly level ground the road entered it do? You will only kill men or get killed yourself." up to his door. He carried a big bear- very swift stream of water. skin robe over his arm and held a medicine case in his hand. "Have you

around your feet. Shall I drive?" "No, thank you. I will drive." The horses were marvels. They steady stride, their heads swinging. Not till they entered the canyon did they lag into a walk. The clouds hung low, in great gray masses, covering even the secondary peaks. Patches of snow began to appear at the roadside. It was a bleak, inhospitable and silent world.

"There is something ominous in this stillness," Ann said at last. "Where do you suppose we will meet

Munro's men?" "Anywhere after we leave the halfway house, according to report." "You know this man Munro?"

"I've met him."

"Is he as terrible as people think him?" "He seemed very boyish to me and

"The morning papers stated that he had assumed absolute control up there, | flection in his voice. and called, "Have you seen the papers, and that his men were drilled in true military fashion." "So much the better for us," answer-

At about 11 o'clock they reached the wide mountain meadow out of which the Bear creek fell. The clouds hung Raymond surrendered. "All right, couch, Raymond studied his flushed I will not consent to have Don go again. just above their heads, a broad, seamless gray roof.

ed Ann, "for he will see that we are

The tayern was a survival of the you to the top near Kelly's. I'll meet days when railroads were of the far- you there." away future-a long, low log structure with a roof of dirt out of which dead was silent. It was as if a palsy had weeds flaunted. The front room, which fallen upon every ablebodied workman, swarmed with men in rough clothing, causing a swift devouring decay to set seemed to be a country store and postoffice as well as an eating house. A "What a change!" exclaimed Braide. small, active old woman met Ann with | "I was here just before this trouble betoothless grin. "Step right this way gan and these hills teemed with men"-

and get out o' the smudge." Ann followed her into a minute bedroom which opened off the dining room. Ann pointed away up the hill. The old woman began to clatter. "Put off your things here. My, but them's fine furs! Did ye drive up from the Munro and Raymond are old acquaint-Springs? Are you going on to the camp?"

"Yes." As near as I can learn they mean biz!" so deeply was he moved, but with a ro's men are in there now eatin'. They threw back the robes and reached a keep a mighty sharp watch on who hand to help her. "How is he?" she comes in these days. Soon's you're asked, with a catching of the breath. ready I'll put you and your man down at my end of the table and I'll look after ye."

Ann laid aside her furs, but retained her hat, and as she re-entered the room made a dazzling appeal to those rough It's all my fault!" she wailed. "It's all fellows, who eyed her with sly side

Braide, already seated, rose to meet her, "We have reached an outpost of the guard and will be interrogated before we leave, I fear."

"I am quite ready to meet them," she replied, bending to her plate. "They can't refuse to let us pass." The talk at the table was not illu-

to fill his paunch before his fellow. and her companion with candid inter- girl," he said tenderly. est. This was a small man with a chin beard and an eye as keen as that of a blue jay. As the other men filled came to meet her with arms opened up and left the table he came down and wide, her sweet face pale with pity. carelessly took a seat near Braide.

began pleasantly. "I shouldn't wonder. I'm Dr. Braide of Valley Springs." "Where you aimin' to go now, if it's

"I reckon I've seen you before," he

a fair question?" "To Skytown." "Goin' to treat somebody?" asked the old woman, who was hovering near.

cat my brother Louis, who is lying

Lat Mr. Raymond's cabin." The stranger glowed again, "Didn't way, did ye?" Here he winked at Braide, The doctor smiled, "Not a thing. I

don't think they've left the valley yet." "I'd advise 'em not to. I'm going Bozle by 4 o'clock and reach Skytown over to the camp myself, and if you don't mind I'll jest næcherly jog along "Then let us go!" she cried, rising, a rod or two ahead of you-to show As he rose to go the stranger said:

"If so be it you folks have any influ-By means of the telephone Ann or- ence with Rob Raymond, preach him dered the liveryman to harness his best into joining the movement. It'll be a mighty sight safer for him and a big dence which even the most intelligent feel when the doctor is present. Ray-After the miner left the room Braide mond soon followed. He was tiredsaid: "We're in the enemy's country.

tired! His long ride to the valley and came rushing into the room. "What's going along is in the nature of an arm-"His escort may be of use to us," replied Ann. "Who was that man?" she

asked of the old woman, who fairly whispered her answer. "That's old Steve Adams. He's boss "Impossible! You mustn't do it! Our of this squad. All six o' them men are

As Ann and the doctor drove on the clouds began to lift, rolling slowly, "I can't help that, Don. I must go to ponderously, reluctantly upward from Their guide rode rapidly, signaling burning with fever and a battle going the doctor now and then to keep pace on! Put off your attack. It's all fool- with him, and after nearly an hour of

along a prodigious wall, which beat Dr. Braide was waiting as Ann drew | back the clashing roar of a small but It must have been about 5 o'clock when they rounded the great base of plenty of wraps? It's cold up there, the Black Cone at the head of the they say. Let me arrange this robe canyon and looked away across the big camp and far out upon the valley

to the west. Adams, their guide, was a considerpushed up the steep, winding road with able distance in, advance when a couple of horsemen encountered them. After a moment's conference one turned back, and the other came on swiftly. Ann's heart glowed with the hope that it might be Raymond with a message from the sick one, but it proved to be Munro. He came up swiftly and, setting his horse upon his haunches,

leaped cavalierly to the ground. "Good evening, lady," he called as he approached the wagon. "Have you journeyed far?"

"How is Louis?" asked Ann quickly, with instant revolt of his assurance. He felt the impersonal rebuke of her by looked at Ann. manner and replied simply: "He is better this afternoon, so I hear. I have slowly - "doubly sweet because of not had time to call. It is a pleasure to see you again." He fixed his eyes on I was in agony for fear you would not her companion. "I don't think I know you," he said, with a challenging in-

"I am Dr. Braide of Valley Springs." Ann explained, "Dr. Braide comes to attend my brother."

Munro's face lost its reckless smile, and he looked worn and pale. "Doctor, I'm glad to meet you."

Braide chirped to his horses and

At the halfway house they found a | Munro swung to his seat and followed

The peak was more than quiet-it

"There is one smoking chimney. It must be the Raymond & Kelly mine."

"How do they keep going?" "The strikers fear them, and, besides,

ances. I think he protects them." Raymond was standing at the Kellys' door as they drove up, his face somber, "Waal, you'll find it lively up there! his eyes clouded. He could not speak, she whispered. "Some o' Jack Mun- nod at Braide and without a word

"He is very ill, but I think"- His voice failed him for a moment. "I'm glad to see you, doctor. He needs you." Everything whirled before Ann. "If he should die-oh, if he should die! my fault!" and her numb limbs refus-

ed to move. "Don't say that," he urged, "I've gone over it a thousand times. I don't see that any one is to blame. I know you are not. Come, we must go to

In that instant something seemed to pass between them-some invisible, inminating. Each man apparently strove tangible bond was established. Ann put out her hand, and he took it gently Only one of them seemed to study Ann between his palms. "Be brave, dear

She suddenly roused herself and hurried toward the cabin. Mrs. Kelly

"Oh, Ann, darlin', we're needin' ye!" Ann went to her for an instant, then put her aside and knelt beside the bed. Her heart grew icy cold with the horror and the pity of seeing that blithe, boyish face set and livid, the brows grave with the gravity of battle. His eyes were closed, and, at the moment, he appeared to be dying. She caught his lax hand and kissed it passionate-Ann interposed. "Yes, he is going up ly. "Louis, speak to me! Speak to sister!

Her low cry pierced Raymond's heart, and while he stood helpless, sick see nothin' of the sheriff's army on the | with sympathetic pain, the doctor took Ann gently by the arm. "Please leave me alone with Louis for a few minutes. Trust him to me." Raymond turned comforter. "The doctor is right. His case is not decided yet. You must remember how strong

and well he has been. He's not the pale slip he was when he came here. Please go over to the house and let Nora make some tea for you," he pleaded, and at last she yielded and, with a final look at the sick boy, went out with Mrs. Kelly. With that half superstitious confi-

another canyon and crawled upward

'Louis, speak to me! Speak to sister!' back, his lack of sleep, but especially his anxiety, had worn upon him so that now, when he could shift some part of his responsibility, his steel woven frame began to quiver and his brain to thicken. He sank into a chair and lax-

"It is sweet to see you," he uttered Louis. We've done our best, Nora and I. come tonight. I didn't want to shirk responsibility or labor-but-I-I wanted you. It's been a long day for me."

Mrs. Kelly explained: "Rob is dyin' for lack o' sleep. That's the truth. He wouldn't leave the boy, and after riding all the day and the night before. But come now, have some tea-both. My mind is easier since the doctor "We must hurry on," interrupted came. Sure I know he will check the Ann, warmly impatient of Munro's fever, never fear that."

(Continued on Page Ten.)