By Capt. CHARLES KING, U. S. A. Author of "Dunraven Ranch," "The Colo-

nel's Daughter," "Marion's

Faith," Etc., Etc.

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Their hostess led him to her piano. Facing the broad, bleak prairie, separated from it only by a rough, unpainted picket fence, and flanked by uncouth structures of pine, one of which was used as a storehouse for quartermaster's property, the other as the post trader's depository for skins and furs, there stood the frame cottage which Mr. Hayne had chosen mot help noting that he made no allusion to that part of the letter which spoke of Capt. Rayner's offer. It increased his respect for Mr. Hayne's perceptive powers. en as his home. As has been said, it was precisely like those built for the subaltern officers, so far as material, plan and dimensions were concerned. The locality made the vast difference which really well graded drive. Clear, sparkling water rippled in tiny acequias through the front yards of each, and so furnished the moisture needed for the life of the of the colonel commanding. The bachehad its recommendations in being convenient to the card room and billiard tables at "the store," and in embracing within its limits one house which possessed mysterious interest in the eyes of every woman and most of the men in the garrison; it was said to be haunted.

A sorely perplexed man was the post quartermaster when the rumor came out from the railway station that Mr. Hayne had arrived and was coming to report for duty. As a first lieutenant he would have choice of quarters over every second lieutenant in the garrison. There were ten of these young gentlemen, and four of the ten were married. Every set of quarters had its occupants, and Hayne could move in nowhere, unless as occupant of a room or two in the house of some comrade, without first compelling others to move out. This proceed ing would lead to vast discomfort, occurring as it would in the dead of winter, and the youngsters were naturally perturbed in spirit—their wives especially so. What made the prospects infinitely worse was the fact that the cavalry bachelors were already living three in a house; the only spare rooms were in the quarters of the second lieutenants of the infantry, and they were not on speaking terms with Mr. Hayne. Everything, therefore, pointed to the probability of his "displacing" a junior, who would in turn displace somebody else, and so they would go tumbling like a row of bricks until the lowest and last was reached. All this would involve no end of worry for the quartermaster, who even under the most favorable circumstances is sure nself, and that worthy was simply agasp with relief and joy when he heard Mr. Hayne's astonishing announcement that he would take the quarters out on "Prairie avenue."

It was the talk of the garrison all that day. The ladies, especially, had a good deal to say, because many of the men seemed averse to expressing their views. "Quite the proper thing for Mr. Hayne to do," was the apparent opinion of the majority of the young wives and mothers. As a particularly kind and considerate thing it was not remarked by one of them, though that view of the case went not entirely unrepresented. In choosing to live there Mr. Havne separated himself from companionship. That, said some of the commentatorsmen as well as women-he simply accepted as the virtue of necessity, and so there was nothing to commend in his action. But Mr. Hayne was said to possess an eye for the picturesque and beautiful. If so, he deliberately condemned himself to the daily contemplation of a treeless barren, streaked in occasional shallows with dingy patches of snow, ornamented only in spots by abandoned old hats, boots, or tin cans blown beyond the jurisdiction of the garrison police parties. A line of telegraph poles was all that intervened between his fence and the low lying hills of the eastern

Southeastward lay the distant roofs and the low, squat buildings of the frontier town; southward the shallow valley of the winding creek in which lay the long line of stables for the cavalry and on which he chose to live—"Prairie aveof the surgeon and his assistants, then the snug home of the post trader, then the "store" and its scattering appenwind swept like a hurricane, then the little shanty of the trader's fur house and one or two hovel like structures used by the tailors and cobbler of the adjacent infantry companies. Then came the cottage itself; south of it stood the quartermaster's storeroom, back of which lay an extension filled with ordnance stores, then other and similar you love me!-not even the mention of sheds devoted to commissary supplies, his name! I must have peace in my own the post butcher shop, the saddler's house. It is enough to have to talk of it shop, then big coal sheds, and then the elsewhere." brow of the bluff, down which at a steep grade plunged the road to the that morning asked him, as they were stables. It was as unprepossessing a going to the matinee: place for a home as ever was chosen by a man of education or position; and Mr. "Have you seen Hayne yet?"
"Not since he reported on the parade Havne was possessed of both.

In garrison, despite the flat parade, there was a grand expanse of country to help him get those quarters into habitabe seen stretching away towards the ble shape?"
snow covered Rockies. There was life

and the sense of neighborliness to one's kind. Out on Prairie avenue all was wintry desolation, except when twice each day the cavalry officers went plodding by on their way to and from the stables, muffled up in their fur caps and coats, and hardly distinguishable from so

many bears, much less from one another. And yet Mr. Hayne smiled not unhappily as he glanced from his eastern window at this group of burly warriors the afternoon succeeding his dinner at the colonel's. He had been busy all day long unpacking books, book shelves, some few pictures which he loved, and his simple, soldierly outfit of household goods, and getting them into shape. His sole assistant was a Chinese servant, who worked rapidly and well, and who seemed in no wise dismayed by the bleakness of their surroundings. If anything, he was disposed to grin and indulge in high pitched commentaries in "pidgin English" upon the unaccustomed amount of room. His master had been restricted to two rooms and a kitchen during the two years he had served him. Now they had a house to themselves, and more rooms than they knew what to do with. The quartermaster had sent a detail of men to put up the stoves and move out the rubbish left by the tailors; "Sam" had worked vigorously with soft soap, hot water and a big mop in sprucing up the rooms; the adjutant had sent a little note during the morning, saying that the colonel would be glad to order him any men he needed to put the quarters in proper shape, and that Capt. Rayner had expressed his readiness to send a detail from the company to unload and unpack his boxes, etc., to which Mr. Hayne replied in person that he thanked the commanding officer for his thoughtfulness, but that he had very little to unpack, and needed no assistance beyond that already afforded by the quartermaster's men. Mr. Billings could not help noting that he made no allusion

respect for Mr. Havne's perceptive While every officer of the infantry battalion was ready to admit that Mr. Hayne had rendered valuable service to the men of the cavalry regiment, they were not so unanimous in their opinion as to how existed. Theirs stood all in a row, front- it should be acknowledged and requited ing the grassy level of the parade, sur- by its officers. No one was prepared for rounded by verandas, bordering on a the announcement that the colonel had well kept gravel path and an equally asked him to dinner and that Blake and Billings were to meet him. Some few of their number thought it going too far, but no one quite coincided with the vehement declaration of Mrs. Rayner that various little shrubs and flowering plants. it was an outrage and an affront aimed The surroundings were at least "socia- at the regiment in general and at Capt. ble," and there was companionship and Rayner in particular. She was an enerjollity, with an occasional tiff to keep getic woman when aroused, and there things lively. The married officers, as a was no doubt of her being very much rule, had chosen their quarters farthest aroused as she sped from house to house from the entrance gate and nearest those to see what the other ladies thought of it. Rayner's wealth and Mrs. Rayner's

lors, except the two or three who were old qualities had made her an undoubted in the service and had "rank" in lieu of encumbrances, were all herded together social matters in the Riflers. She was along the eastern end, a situation that an authority, so to speak, and one who had disadvantages as connected with du- knew it. Already there had been some ties which required the frequent pres- points on which she had differed with ence of the occupants at the court mar-tial rooms or at headquarters, and that it was a difficult thing for her to that was correspondingly far distant come down from being the authorityfrom the barracks of the soldiers. It the leader of the social element of a garrison-and from the position of second or third importance which she had been accorded when first assigned to the sta-

> ed that it was because she found her new position unbearable that she decided on her long visit to the east, and departed thither before the Riflers had been at Warrener a month. The colonel's wife had greeted her and her lovely sister with charming grace on their arrival two days previous to the stirring event of the dinner, and every one was looking forward to a probable series of pleasant entertainments by the two households, even while wondering how long the entente cordiale would last-when the colonel's invitation to Mr. Hayne brought on an immediate crisis. It is safe to say that Mrs. Rayner was madder than the captain her husband, who hardly knew how to take it. He was by no means the best liked officer in his regiment, nor the "deepest" and best informed, but he had a native shrewdness which helped him. He noted even before his wife would speak of it to past, they believed either that he was inhim the gradual dying out of the bitter feeling that had once existed at Hayne's expense. He felt, though it hurt him seriously to make inquiries, that the man whom he had practically crushed and ruined in the long ago was slowly but surely gaining strength, even where he would not make friends.

Worse than all, he was beginning to doubt the evidence of his own senses as the years receded, and unknown to any soul on earth, even his wife, there was | was evidently enjoying it. Mrs. Rayner to be the least appreciated and most growing up deep down in his heart a was flitting nervously in and out of the abused officer under the commandant gnawing, insidious, ever festering fear parlor with a cloud upon her brow, and that after all, after all, he might have for once in her life compelled to preserve been mistaken. And yet on the sacred | temporary silence upon the subject upoath of a soldier and a gentleman, against permost in her thoughts. She had been TEA, the most searching cross-examination, again and again had he most confidently and positively declared that he had both seen and heard the fatal interview on which the whole case hinged. And as to the exact language employed, he alone of those within earshot had lived to testify for or against the accused; of the five soldiers who stood in that now celebrated group, three were shot to death within the hour. He was growing nervous, irritable, haggard; he was getting to hate the mere mention of the case. The promotion of Hayne to his own company thrilled him with an almost superstitious dismay. Were his words coming true? Was it the judgment of an offended God that his hideous pride, obstinacy and old time hatred of this officer were now to be revenged by daily, hourly contact with the victim of his criminal persecution? He had grown morbidly sensitive to any remarks as to Hayne's having "lived down" the toils in which he had been encircled. Might he not "live down" the ensnarer? He dreaded to see him-though Rayner was no coward-and he feared day by day to hear of his restoration to fellowship in the regiment, and yet would have given half his wealth to bring it about, could it but have been accomplished without the dreadful admission, "I was wrong.

I was utterly wrong." He had grown lavish in hospitality; he had become almost aggressively open handed to his comrades, and had sought the great stacks of hay; while the row to press money upon men who in no wise needed it. He was as eager to lend nue," as it was termed-was far worse as some are to borrow, and his brother at his end of it than at the other. It cov- officers dubbed him "Midas," not because ered the whole eastern front. The big, everything he touched would turn to brown hospital building stood at the gold, but because he would intrude his northern end. Then came the quarters [gold upon them at every turn. There were some who borrowed; and these he struggled not to let repay. He seemed to have an insane idea that if he could dages, then the entrance gateway, then but get his regimental friends bound to a broad vacant space, through which the him pecuniarily he could control their opinions and actions. It was making him sick at heart, and it made him in secret doubly vindictive and bitter against the man he had doomed to years of suffering. This showed out that very morning. Mrs. Rayner had begun to

talk, and he turned fiercely upon her: "Not a word on that subject, Kate, if

Talk of it he had to. The major early

yesterday," was the curt reply.

"I will, of course, major, if he ask it. I don't propose sending men to do such work for an officer unless the request

"He is entitled to that consideration, Rayner, and I think the men should be sent to him. He is hardly likely to

"Then he is less likely to get them," said the captain, shortly, for, except the post commander, he well knew that no officer could order it to be done. He was angry at the major for interfering. They were old associates and had entered service almost at the same time, but his friend had the better luck in promotion and was now his battalion commander. Rayner made an excuse of stopping to speak with the officer of the day, and the major went on without him. He was a quiet old soldier; he wanted no disturbance with his troubled friend. and, like a sensible man, he turned the matter over to their common superior, in a very few words, before the arrival of the general audience. It was this that had caused the colonel to turn quietly to Rayner and say, in the most matter of fact way:

"Oh, Capt. Rayner, I presume Mr. Hayne will need three or four men to help him get his quarters in shape. I suppose you have already thought to

And Rayner flushed, and stammered, 'They have not gone yet, sir; but I had -thought of it."

Later, when the sergeant sent the required detail he reported to the captain in the company office in five minutes: "The lieutenant's compliments and thanks, but he does not need the men." The dinner at the colonel's, quiet as it was and with only eight at table, was an affair of almost momentous importance to Mr. Hayne. It was the first thing of the kind he had attended in five years, and though he well knew that it was intended by the cavalry commander more especially as a recognition of the services rendered their suffering men, he could not but rejoice in the courtesy and tact with which he was received and entertained. The colonel's wife, the adjutant's, and those of two captains away with the field battalion were the four ladies who were there to greet him when, escorted by Mr. Blake, he made his appear-How long-how very long-it seemed to him since he had sat in the presence of refined and attractive women and listened to their gay and animated chat! They seemed all such good friends, they made him so thoroughly at home, and they showed so much tact and ease that never once did it seem apparent that they knew of his trouble in his own regiment; and yet there was no actual avoidance of matters in which the Riflers were generally interested.

It was mainly of his brief visit to the east, however, that they made him talkof the operas and theatres he had attended, the pictures he had seen, the music that was most popular; and when dinner was over their hostess led him to her piano, and he played and sang for them again and again. His voice was soft and sweet, and, though it was uncultivated, he sang more skill but less feeling and effect than he sang. Music and books had been the solace of lonely years, and he could easily see that he had pleased them with his songs. He went home to the dreary rookery out on Prairie avenue and laughed at the howling wind. The bare grimy walls and the dim kerosene lamp, even Sam's unmelodious snore in the There were many, indeed, who assert- back room, sent no gloom to his soul. It had been a happy evening. It had cost him a hard struggle to restrain the emotion which he had felt at times; and when he withdrew, soon after the trumpets sounded tattoo, and the ladies fell to discussing him, as women will, there was but one verdict-his manners were perfect.

But the colonel said more than that. He had found him far better read than any other officer of his age he had ever met; and one and all they expressed the hope that they might see him frequently. No wonder it was of momentous importance to him. It was the opening to a new life. It meant that here at least he had met soldiers and gentlemen and their fair and gracious wives who had welcomed him to their homes, and, though they must have known that a pall of suspicion and crime had overshadowed his nocent of the grievous charge or that his years of exile and suffering had amply (ESTIMATES: FURNISHED atoned. It was a happy evening indeed to him; but there was gloom at Capt.

Rayner's. The captain himself had gone out soon after tattoo. He found that the parlor was filled with young visitors of both sexes, and he was in no mood for merriment. Miss Travers was being welcomed to the post in genuine army style, and forbidden to speak of it to her husband; yet she knew he had gone out again with every probability of needing some one to talk to about the matter. She could not well broach the topic in the parlor because she was not at all sure how Capt. and Mrs. Gregg of the cavalry would take it; and they were still there. She was a loyal wife; her husband's quarrel was hers and more, too; and she was a woman of intuition even keener than that which we so readily accord the sex. She knew, and knew well, that a hideous doubt had been preying for a long time in her husband's heart of hearts, and she knew still better that it would crush him to believe it was even suspected by any one else. Right or wrong, the one thing for her to do, she doubted not, was to maintain the origi- | Leave Chatham, nal guilt against all comers, and to lose no opportunity of feeding the flame that | Arrive Chatham, consumed Mr. Hayne's record and reputation. He was guilty-he must be guilty; and though she was a Christian according to her view of the case-a pillar of the church in matters of public charity and picturesque conformity to all the rubric called for in the services. and much that it did not-she was unrelenting in her condemnation of Mr.

Hayne. To those who pointed out that he had made every atonement man could make she responded with the severity of conscious virtue that there could be no atonement without repentance and no repentance without humility. Mr. Hayne's whole attitude was that of stubborn pride and resentment. His atonement was that enforced by the unanimous verdict of his comrades, and even if it were so that he had more than made amends for his crime the rules that held good for his crime the rules that held good for set applicable to an officer of the army. He must be a man above suspicion, incapable of wrong or fraud, and once stained he was forever ineligible as a gentleman. It was a subject on which she waxed declamatory rather too often, and the youngsters of her own regiment wearied of it. As Mr. Foster once expressed it in speaking of this very case, "Mrs. Rayner can talk more charity and show less than any woman I know." So long as her talk was aimed against any lurking tendency of their own to look upon Hayne as a possible martyr, it fell at times on unappreciative ears, and she was quick to see it and to choose her hearers; but here was a new phase—one that might rouse the latent esprit de corps of the Riflers-and she was bent on striking while the iron was hot. this public recognition by the cavalry, cut as a criminal was the thing of all others to do it, and she meant to head the revolt.

[To be Continued.]

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Chatham, Nov. 13th, 1889.

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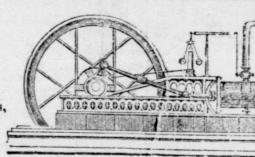
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O's and after MONDAY; NOVEMBER 13TH., Trains will run on this flailway in and get them. connection with the Intercolonial Railway, daily, (Sunda nights excepted) as tollow

LOCAL TIME TABLE. No 1 EXPRESS. No.3 ACCOM'DATION EXPRESS. ACCOM'DATION. Leave Chatham. 10.00 p. m. 2,55 p m 12.18 a. m. 6.65 " 2.15 " 9.15 " Arrive Chatham Junc., 10.30 11.00 GOING SOUTH LOCAL TIME TABLE. No. 2 EXPRESS. No.4 ACCOM'DATION RXPRESS ACCOM'DATION 11.30 a m | Leave Chatham, 4.40 a m 11.30 a m Chatham June n, Arrive, Arrive Moneton 7 30 a m 3.25 p m Leave, Arrive, Trains leave Chatham on Saturday night to connect with Express going South, which runs through o St. John, and Halifax and with the Express going North which lies over at Campbellton.

Close connections are made with all passenger Trains both DAY and NIGHT on the Inter-

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Pullman Sleeping Cars run through to St. John on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and to Halifax Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and from St. John, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and from Halifax Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The above Table is made up on I. C. Railway standard time, which is 75th meridian time. All the local Trains stop at Nelson Station, both going and returning, if signaled.

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Arrangement. On and AFTER MCNDAY, NOV. 25th, until further notice, trains will run on the

CHATHAM TO FREDERICTON. FREDERICTON TO CHATHAM. EXPRESS, EXPRESS, FREIGHT. 7 15 a m 6 30 a m Chatham 8 05 " 9 15 Marysville Blackville Cross Creek Boiesto wn 10 35 Doaktown 11 35 " Blackville 12 45 p m 1 20 p m 3 05 " Marysville Chatham Junction Fredericton Chatham

N. B. The above Express Trains will run daily Sundays excepted. The Freight Train from Fredericton to Chatham will run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and that from Chatham to Fredericton on Tuesdays Thursdays and Saturdays.

The above trains will also stop when signalled at the following flag Stations:—Nelson, Derby Siding, Upper Nelson Boom, Chelmsford, Grey Rapids, Upper Blackville, Blissfield, McNamee's, Ludlow, Astle Crossing, Clearwater, Portage Road, Forbes' Siding, Upper Cross Creek, Cross Creek, If anything would provoke unanimity of action and sentiment in the regiment, this public recognition by the caveley.

in their very presence, of the man they for St John and all points West, and at Gibson for Woodstock, Houlton, Grand Falls, Edmundston

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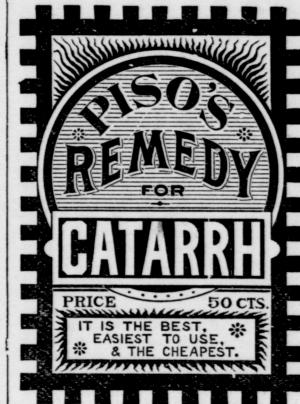
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December 23rd 1889.

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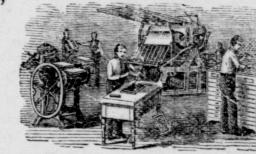
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