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York St.

and the air was vital and heady, tast- flow ing like wine to the palate. Every-thing on the burgeoning earth seemed the was calculating on fifteen in the said. It was they together who had

thing on the burgeoning earth seemed to leap and stir, and a miraculous haze hid the black holes of the briggalows at the edge of the swelling plain. Two turkeys rose in front of the man as he rode, and buzzed over his head into the vault above him, but unheeding he galloped along with loose rein, exulting in the sense of freedom in his soul that seemed to coincide with the day and the wide spaces of the cattle tountry he was going to leave.

"He who loves and rides away, "he thought.

But there was no room in his mind now for any shame or self-reproach. He would break it to her gently,perhaps lie a little to soften the edge of things, for he was one of those who have made love lightly from their youth. Round a curve came two teamsters with heavy loads of wool fron further down the river, big men with sunburnt faces and the brand of the bush in their eyes. The first one reigned up his sweating team and gave Lamont greeting.

"Selling out, Rod? They've got it was they together who had decided on the spot where the drilling was to be begun. He remembered that ride home in the twilight, their horses walking neck to neck, and the way his future seemed to lie in these town plains and swelling foothills, aglow somewhere with the dusky gentleness of her presence. Queer, the change of perspective a few months could bring!

"Grant's not very venturesome."

He had a queer feeling that they were trying with difficulty to talk in a foreign tongue. There was an odd unreality about his own voice and the things that he said.

"She takes it well enough. * * ." he thought.

And with this came a desire to endow the parting with still more grace and amenity. They rode on and on The glamor of the coming dusk softened the outlines of the hills, and everything was zealously quiet under the blue sky; but their own silence lasted so long that it seemed like a cord drawn taut. He said at last,

A shadow flickered across Lamont's face.

"Well, it's true enough," he said curtly. "T'm cutting clear."

He jabbed the spurs into his horse and cantered off again. She would know, then, before he could tell here, she would draw her own conclusions. He might not have allowed it to happen like that, for it was due to her to be given the news first. His conscience convicted him of a course of acting that was graceless, and cut across his ideas of honor. But that to come and go beneath the brown of of a world of dress suits and the chatter of his equals in clubs and country houses—all the old, familiar life just was now his inheritance. Back along the road the teamster paused to straighten a loafing horse in the shafts.

"He's going to leave that little girl," he muttered, reflectively.

"Well there are better men."

than if she had been crushed and utterly broken. A wave of emotion swept over him, and he said, thickly.

"Lexie! I was going, but—you have only to ask me, and I'll—give it all up."

He leant towards her, filled with the glow of renunciation, and he saw something leap into her eyes. But it was only pride. The delicate fibres

But Lamont, feeling the joy of his in every fibre, had no time to philsophise. He had liked this life passing well, but it was not part of him as was Boxley Hall and the intimate things of his boyhood. It had not the first call on his affections now.

"I?" she said with a laugh. "Oh no; it isn't for me to ask you. Bestie first call on his affections now. It am going to marry from the core." he first call on his affections now, no time to come he would remember the long morning rides through grass that reached to his horse's withers; he noons of hot racing on the cathle camps along the creek, the camp tres and the starry nights, and the nen, who had been his mates. Estated the result remember the white garden; but all this was already given him his earliest memories and chought. "She could not be trans-planted, even if she wished. It is New York, Jan. 20—Society

rew beside the track. So preoccu-the Ostinction of being the first led was he that he did not notice York hostess to entertain Br

face was as it had always been. How queerly he had misjudged her in thinking there might be a scene!

There was a rain-washed sky above there was anything like a decent

to leap and stir, and a miraculous cided on the spot where the drilling

the blue sky, but then own Elections ("Selling out, Rod? They've got it cord drawn taut. He said at last, with a jerky laugh.

with Grant's offer."

"Who said that?" said Lamont, quickly.

"Everyone. Mike Williams told me at the shanty. These things travel faster than a man rides."

A shadow flickered and the sely at the reins.

"Why do yet for the content of the sely at the reins."

aster than a man rides."

A shadow flickered across Lamont's "It isn't true. You know it isn't

come and go beneath the brown of the loud did not remain long. His brain was inflamed just now with thoughts made that she appealed to him more f a world of dress suits and the chat than if she had been crushed and ut

Well, there are better men."

But Lamont, feeling the joy of life of her soul had been bruised so com

ecision."

ing vint of the Duke of Connaught,
His imagination could not connect
governor general of Canada and his her with Bexley Hall or in any of the ways in which he would walk familiarly, which called him back now. He let his horse fall into a rolling canter, and hegan flicking idly with his whip at the young mulga shrubs that white and the court of St. James and Mrs whip at the young mulga shrubs that white her ways beside the truck. So process, the Control of being the first New with the court of the court of St. James and Mrs white and the court of pied was he that he did not notice that the girl was riding across the plains to the right of him. They were within speaking distance before he heard the click of her horse's hoofs.

"Rod!" she said as she joined him. He started a little, and his mount shied away from her.

"I was just coming over to see you," he began.

His eyes took in her lithe heauty days of their stay here. The social

you," he began.

His eyes took in her lithe beauty her brown face, and the soft grace that enfolded her. There was just that poise in her every word and movement that came from her being one with the things about her, with the rough cattlemen as well as with the shimmeving magic of the plains.

It was that which had appealed to

the shimmering magic of the plans. It was that which had appealed to him a year ago; it was that which showed him plainly that she would not fit in with his visualised future now.

"You're selling out," she said.

"The boys told me."

"Yes," he said. "I meant to have told you before, but things were mixbold you before you have you hav They rode for a while in silence.

"I'm glad it is Grace who is taking the place over," she said.

"He was there when the letter came," Lamont went on jerkly. "You know I've come in for property in England. Grant made me a good offer, and I closed."

He looked at her stealthily, but her face was as it had always been. How meanly her looked to the statistics, obeyed the law at an extra expense of \$1500 a day during the holiday season being compelled to employ 1000 additional persons.

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down at the back of the run," she said slowly. "The place would easily carry another thousand head if