

"I ask for no thanks," was the frank reply. "It has been a pleasure for me to work and plan for you while I have

watched you bud and blossom from infancy to childhood and from girlhood to womanhood " "You have always been good to me,"

pay the debt? "Perhaps 1 will tell you some day, if

answer, for at that moment Reuben K. made his appearance.

"I am just in time," thought the mar plot. "Another moment and the old which the delighted magnate proceeded fool would have been down on his to affix in his scarf, knees to her."

awoke and in that semisurprised and both felt and recognized. half injured tone which all good peoslept a wink.

"I heard every word you said, my dears," averred the good lady, at which tunity he stole away unnoticed and unannouncement ('hester muttered, "Good missed to solace himself with numer-Lord, I hope not!" in mock horror just loud enough for Madge to hear, which sent that young lady into convulsions of suppressed laughter.

Being awake and refreshed, it bebooved Mrs Hurst to do something for the general good. So a game of innocu ous and rather tame six handed euchre was proposed and agreed to, although Chester whispered to Madge that "be would as soon play old maid or beggar my neighbor. Filley was compelled to join the circle, but he suffered tortures and qualms like those experienced by a hard drinker who is forced to quaff Sunday school lemonade and make believe he likes it.

Mrs. Hurst was the only one who really enjoyed herself that afternoon. John Draper, usually bluff and debonair, was quiet and preoccupied. Flor-

II II - 22 -**H H** 23 A half puzzled expression crept into Uncle John's face; then a smile of rec-

ILLUNDATIONS BY L. W. TABER

OF

HE RAIL

ollection rippled out. "God bless me, so it is! I declare I had forgotten all about it. How good of you to remember it! What's all this?" he exclaimed as the ladies rose

she said simply. "How can I ever re and grouped themselves about his chair.

Each of them saluted the good fellow I may; not now," was the deep toned with a birthday kiss, and each left some little tangible token by his plate. Florence's gift was a four leaf clover pin, a diamond nestling in its heart,

"You have always brought me luck,

Advancing into the car, Filley took my girl," he said as he took her hand, up a magazine and flung himself into a and then, before them all, he drew her chair. No one spoke to him, yet both to him and kissed her on the brow, as couples widened the distance between he had often kissed her before, only them. In the slight bustle and move now there was a new meaning and ment thus occasioned Mrs. Hurst new consecration in that caress, which

During all this pretty scene Reuben ple affect when they are caught dozing Filley writhed as the serpent in old in public affirmed that she had not Eden must have contorted himself when he witnessed the bliss of the first pair of lovers. At the earliest oppor-



t rich "divey" for each of the minor rogues

The scheme was ingenuity personified and one that could be put through simply doing nothing but making love, with little or no bloodshed, for Dallon was growing cautious and crafty. He cealment. If Madge had told the truth had his paid and secret agents in Den- now she might have written back to ver and the surrounding towns and her "dearest Fan" that two weddings consequently was early apprised of the were in prospect. Reuben Filley had platform, five or six on each side, some coming gathering of railroad magnates from all parts of the Union. Then it was that his darling and daring plan | unhonored and unsung." was conceived. He had heard or read of the deeds of Italian and Sicilian bandits, so for a change he determined to take a leaf out of their book and do a little kidnaping on his own account, holding his prisoners for a rich ransom.

Calling the leading spirits of the gang around him, Dallon divulged the main points of the scheme, which was received with gross chuckles and strain of the heavy train composed hoarse grunts of satisfaction. It only remained to select the victims; the rest and slower became the speed until at Dallon believed would be easy.

"Beats the express business all holler!" exclaimed Leather Jack, the second in command, flinging his sombrero on the ground in an ecstasy of delight. "Right you are. my boy," echoed Bill Root. "Best of it is there'll be no shootin to bring Shurff Ramsey smellin

Trusty emissaries rode off in different directions, one toward Denver and 30 miles away, with orders to pick up Iyon the platform of the private car and any news that might be stirring. By with one stroke of his keen knife sevmidday of Friday, May 14, they were all back in camp with the necessary two ends to prevent their sagging 'a information, and then Dallon's plans either car. In an instant the air coupwere rapidly matured.

hills midway between Colorado Springs train by the coupling pin only. Two of and Denver. Here the whole face of the gang then ran to the rear platform the country is seamed and cut up as of the Pullman, two more stowed though in some past age the rival themselves away on the rear steps of giants Fire and Water waged mighty the Miranda, while Dallon and the rest battle with Mother Earth. To heighten | remained on the front platform, guns the havoc and confusion the hand of in hand, ready to menace any one who man has still further marred and scar- | might appear from the cars ahead. red the surface in a mad quest for the precious metals. But mining in this the station such an insignificant affair locality was soon "played out," and that no one troubled to get out. Two

had rung and dug and delved. Leading to one of these worked out chain of the coupling pin, and the en-

by a locomotive sent down for the pur- ed up from his game, while Madge and

wicker chair, John Draper and Florence were playing a desultory game of chess, while Madge and Chester were and that without any attempt at conretired to the Pullman after dinner to smoke and think and swear-"unwept,

Six miles north of a little place called Greenland the track makes & sudden bend to the west, and then just before Paimer Lake is reached as quickly turns nearly due east and begins the long ascent of one of the steepest places on this part of the road. The great engine puffed and pulled, and every coupler and pin told of the sagging mainly of Pullman coaches. Slower length the head of the grade was reached, the track for a mile being then quite level before commencing the descent of a down grade nearly if not quite as steep as the one just surmounted.

Here was situated a watering tank, and here No. 89 paused for a drink.

At this instant a man, all dusty and begrimed, crept from under the trucks of the Mranda. A half dozen human figures appeared as if by magic from the desert shadows at the side of the track. Dallon himself leaped noiselessered the belirope, defily knotting the lings were disconnected, so that the The robbers' retreat was in the foot- Miranda was held to the rest of the But the stop was such a slight one and

from sight when Dallon yanked the

Dallon slapped his log and chuckle with she at the auccess of his plan s far. The rest, he thought, would be comparatively plain sailing. When the Micanda and the Pullman came to a standstill, guards were post ed all around the cars, two on each 18 or 20 in all, with strict orders to prevent any one getting away. As the doors were securely barricaded from without the only possible chance for

escape was through the windows. Within the Miranda all was dismay. The brightly lighted interior-the car had its own gas tank-only served to make the darkness outside more paips. ble and intense. After the car came to a final stop and it was discovered that the doors were fast Draper and Chester both rushed to a window, but on opposite sides of the car.' Scarcely had the sashes been flung up than there came the peremptory command? "Shet that winder!" accompanied by

the ominous click of a Winchester. Draper obeyed, but Chester tried to parloy. The only answer he received was the reiterated command:

*Shot that minder and shet it derned quilek!"

Though his blood boiled with indignation at being thus caught like rats in a trap, Chester was compelled to obey out of regard for the feelings of the la-



There came the peremptory command "Shet that soludir!" dies huddled together in the middle of

the car, who begged him to come away before he was shot. "Well, Mr. Draper," said Ives, "this is exciting. Whit scheme do you suppose is afoot?"

"It seems to me that we have been stolen-kidnaped-abducted!" was the grim reply. "But just how it has been done or who, the villains are I can't say. You may uset assured, however, that we shall be missed the instant Lehigh No. 80 gets into Denver, and there'll be a search party out long before day. light"

"But what motive can there be for such an outrage?" queried Florence. "Ah, girl, that's the question I've Residence, 389 Central Aw ay I don't know?" "Do you suppose we are the victima of train robbers?" asked Mrs. Hurst-"It certainly looks that way" re plied Uncle John, smilling in order to lied the laugh as he turned an anxious glance toward the windows, where the glint of gun barrels could be seen in paced to and fro. Well, if they're train toblers," said Madge, "I don't see why they don't be gin to rob and badone with it." From the farthest corner of the la dies' boudoir, where as yet there wat Mr. Draper in a low tone. Going to Mechanics Tools. her side, she drew him to the window, densiy an animated colloquy going on, and voices could be heard in excited argument. One of the men raised his side of the car and tapped on one of the Sal siloon windows with his gun barrel. "Open th' winder" he shouled Ches ter obeyed and then demanded!

allay her fears. But there was a seri ous undertone in his yoles which be 90 North St. the gleam of the lamps as the sentries no lamplight, Miss Grannius called to Steel Barrows. and there, peering out, the forms of ave or six men could be seen standing Contractors Suppl and lounging about, while to and fro paced those on guard. The cars were completely invested. There, was avis farm and pointed overhead and around. Then another of the gang came to the



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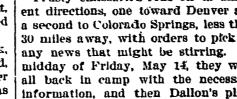
194 Weer Main

BOCHESTER.

Adolph F. Schlick

of every descript





round. The hull job can be done in a nice, genteel style so as nobody's feelin's 'll be hurted." a second to Colorado Springs, less than

nothing but abandoned claims, rusting short blasts of the whistle, and the exmachinery and rotting cabins remained press was in motion again. Scarcely to mark where once a thousand picks had the lights of the station faded

camps a few miles back from the rail- gine and cars shot into the blackness road a spur of track had been built on away from the Miranda and her escort. which cars had been loaded with ore As a result the two conches soon slack for the smelters at Denver. This side ened speed and came almost to a standtrack; after leaving the main line, still. Then there was a sudden jolt as made a gradual descent to the bed of the Miranda took the disused switch, a dry canyon, along which it led for a and immedately the speed increased couple of miles until it ended abruptly again, but the hoarse cough of the locowhere the solid cliffs of granite quarts motive was gradually dying away in narrowed so as to almost touch each the distance, and the motion of the other. The empty cars used to run cars became of a gentle sliding nature. down this gentle incline by gravity Chester sprang to his feet and peered and when loaded were drawn up again out of the window. "Uncle John" look-

ence was distruit and on more than one occasion had to be recalled from a reverie when it was her turn to "pass" or "make it." Madge Hurst was feverisbly lively and had to be mildly rebuk. Filley stole away to solace himself with ed by her mother for her pertness.

event a cozy feeling supervenes.

Herrmannlike, magical stores of good

things. The snowy cloth is spread be-

traveling companion.

before.

and remarked:

John Dreper.

rejoinder.

marvels of ingenuity and resource."

inquired Mrs. Hurst of her brother.

....

. Aver

numerous drinks and cup irs Chester Ives thought of the precious ous drinks and cigars in the solitude of time being wasted, while Reuben K. the Pullman. sat glowering at the cards, ill at ease | In order to break the journey for the and mentally cursing every revolution ladies. Draper had arranged for the

of the wheels that bore him farther party to sleep at a St. Louis hotel that night, resuming the journey in the from New York.

Perhaps the astute Mrs. Hurst took morning. So thither they went. Filley note of these things and, like a born regarded this as a prime opportunity to diplomat, adopted this simple experimente his escape fle would "accidendient to keep everybody out of mis | tally" miss the train in the morning! chief. But to have seen her smilling But when the morning came there was benevolently at the players, prompting a great pile of mail to be opened and one, rallying another and jesting with answered, and Draper kept him busy a third, you would never have dreamed until breakfast. Then after that meal that she, too, had something on her was over, as if divining the man's intention, he took his arm and started mind.

While the interior of a private car- for the Union station, telling Chester to or even of an ordinary Pullman or look after the ladies.

a scene of luxury, it is at night that the into work again, nor did he cease until ready coaled and watered, with a full fied and puzzled. They were far from full sense of comfort and convenience the limited was well under way, speedcomes over the traveler. One by one ing over the Atchison system, on the the silver plated lamps are lighted. The last lap of the journey to Denver.

window shades may be drawn down if Filley was livid with chagrin and the night be stormy, or if left up the rage. Things Legan to look serious. dying day is seen slowly fading over a However, he must and would escape at constantly changing horizon. In either Denver and by traveling night and day might hope to reach New York in time Then the white capped and aproned to prevent exposure and shipwreck.

waiter comes to take your order for So, with all its freight of human arations in the mysterious region of Deaver express sped westward, the the buffet, hardly bigger than a con- Miranda and its satellite Pullman jurer's box, yet out of which come, again coupled on at the rear.

- FOURTH DAY. THE DALLON GANG.

fore your eyes and set with glittering crystal and shining silver. Last, but While the Denver express was breastnot least, a dainty meal is served in ing the long rising plateau of the great course and in style to compare favoraplain which forms the eastern part of bly with the best restaurants in Paris. Colorado and leads up to the foothills London or New York. After which, if of the Rockies foes in ambush were you belong to the masculine gender. preparing a rare surprise for John Dracomes the postprandial cigar in the per and his party.

smoker or, in the case of a woman, the Hounded from camp to camp, their novel and the cozy chat with one's hands against every man's, a band of choice and congenial spirits known as All these varied experiences were "the Dallon gang" had taken avlast refgone through with on the evening of uge in the broken country lying bethis third day of which I write. They tween Colorado Springs and Denver, were an old story to some of the party, but back from the railroad. Under the but Madge and Florence and Chester lead of the notorious Jim Dallon, who were like children in their gratified was "wanted" by the sheriffs of half amusement and entertainment at every a dozen counties, these desperadoes fresh feature and incident. None of herded together and made a final stand, them had ever taken a similar journey for months defying every attempt at capture.

It turned out that this was John Horse stealing, highway robbery, Draper's birthday, and in honor of the murder, the rifling of express messenevent Mrs. Hurst had dropped a hint to gers and on occasions "holding up' Gustave, the chef. to make a few extra stagecoaches and rairoad trains were preparations. So they were treated to a sumptuous repast, at the close of which the host leaned back in his chair that the governor of Colorado had offered a reward of \$5,000 for the cap-"Well, Gustave has surpassed himture of Dallon himself and \$200 a head self tonight! These Frenchmen are for the arrest of the subordinate members of the band. "Have you forgotten what today is?"

This proclamation had for a time a deterrent effect, and for some weeks | The conductor went through the cars | number where a handful of armed des-"Thursday, is it not?" responded the country was quiet. But it was for the last time and then proceeded to peradoes "held up" and held at bay an merely a lull. Jim Dallon, like Reuben | make himself snug in the smoker. | entire train crew and a hundred pas-Filley, was meditating and planning a Eighty-nine would be in Denver by 11 sengers, the latter being stripped of "Yes; Thursday, May 13, and the fortieth birthday of a certain distingrand coup, one that if successful o'clock. guished friend of ours," was the arch would land him in comparative afflu-

Florence excitedly exclaimed, "What is Of course there had been switch at the point where the spur left | It?" the main track, but when the workings

bly withdrawn the lever ' :'.e switch.

were

bis:

undound the railroad men had

ar ' · ... known to r allon, and the scheme he fastened. had hatched was certainly an ingenious one The whole force of the band moved over to Bone guich, as the dry tor rential ravine was named, and proceeded to make themselves as snug as haps 20 minutes of this suspense the circumstances would permit.

nightfall 'cept to lie low," said Dallon | light of a torch flashing back and forth. "But remember- no fires and no shoot the latter half of Friday and the fore- giving quick commands, a joit, and all i noon of Saturday.

The Denver express was due in Colorado Springs at 7 o'clock p. m. on Saturday, May 15, but she was nearly two per nor Chester Ives could satisfy hours late. However, a fresh engine, head of steam, was ready and walting. The mail bags and newspaper bundles were flung out before the train fairly' stopped, the half dozen invalids for the famous sanitarium disembarked, and in five minutes the "Thunderbolt" was once more on its way, the dying fires of day lingering on the summit of Pike's peak away to the westward in ter tank, the two cars, as we have full view of our friends in the Miranda dinner. You hear the appetizing prep- hopes and fears, loves and hates, the as the express cleared the town and once more breasted the desolate ribbon fore reaching the old switch they were of track on the last lap for Denver, 75 disconnected, when the main body of miles away.

Just before the train pulled out a dark and stealthy figure stole from did not immediately discover the loss the shadow of a freight train on the of part of his load.



Dallon divulged the main points of the scheme.

side farthest from the well lighted among the crimes chalked up against platform, crept under the trucks of make his terms with them at leisure. this particular gang, with the result the Miranda and disappeared. This The railroad people might find the was Jim Dallon himself.

Gradually the speed increased. There were no stops for passengers to be made, and the only stations passed were mere hamlets or watering tanks, have been stolen again and again; train showing only one or two dim lights. robberies there have been without

ence for the rest of his days and yield situation: Mrs. Hurst was doning in a away with a train itself or part of a

Then Mrs. Hurst awoke and added her questions and ejaculations to the the trouble of taking it out, rest of the clamor. By this time it was plain to all that something out of the ordinary was going on. Chester was perfectly well ran to the forward door, but found it

Meanwhile the cars were moving at a fair speed over a rough and uneven track, being evidently controlled by means of the hand brakes. After perpace slowly slackened, and the win-"There's nothing to do, boys, till dows reflected the uncertain flickering Then there was a sudden grinding of in." These preparations had occupied the brakes, the sound of rough voices was quiet!

In vain the ladies implored to know what had happened. Neither John Drathem, being themselves utterly mysti-

> FIFTH DAY. SIDE TRACKED.

This is what had happened. The Dallon gang had stolen the Miranda and the Pullman! When No. 89 pulled out from the wa-

seen, were held to the rest of the train i by a single coupling pin only. Just bethe train shot away on the down grade, which was the reason that the engineer

The instant the last car of the main train passed the switch to the spur track the spike was picked up, having previously been loosened, so that when the Miranda came along she and her consort, propelled by their own momentum, the switch was pushed over. and they went creaking and sliding down the gentle incline toward the gulch. A half dozen blows of a hammer in the hands of one of the gang served to spike the switch back in its old position, and then a few handfuls of loose dirt were cast on the frogs and dusted off again with a sombrero so as to hide the marks of the tools. It would have needed a practiced eye after that to detect that the switch had been tampered with.

Of course the two coaches would be missed as soon as the "Thunderbolt" reached Denver, but this Jim Dallon had foreseen. Before any effective search could be made his captives would be safely hidden where he could

coaches and welcome, though this was doubtful, but the birds would have flown.

Talk of consummate daring! Engines their valuables, but robbers had never In the Miranda the following was the before been known to attempt to get

"What do you want?" "Them lights has got to be put out?" Every car in the Miranda was on the slert, and a chorus of protests came from the ladies.

"Keen us in the dark! What a perlect shame!" said Mrs. Hursh? "Whoever you are," said Chester, "re

member that there are ladles on board. They are already terrified beyond endurance, and darkness will only in crease their alarm." "Carnt help it, boss. Them lights is too bright!" A confirmatory murmur came from half a dozen throats in the darkness-Chester tried one more an neal.

"We can pull down the shades. Won't that do?"

The figure turned round and address ed some words to his unseen confederstes, and an enrnest discussion ensued, during which Chester caught such fragments as:

"Too much bloomin gaslight" "Reglar Fourth of July Illumina tion !"

"See it from one end of the gulen to. th' other!"

"Put 'em out, I says!"

At length the leader of the gang-for it was Jim Dallon who spoke came under the window again and said "Only one light'll be allowed and you'll pull down them shades!" Ives was about to parley again, hoping to gain some explanation as to the meaning of the strange events of the past couple of hours, when John Draper thrust his bead into the narrow opening and began: "You impudent rascals"

"Shet that winder!" came the curt command, emphasized as before, and feeling two soft hands on his shoulder dragging him away be turned to be hold Florence, who had followed him into the milcon.



Howard, Pa., June To U. S. Army and Navy Tr No. 17 East 1419 Ser. N Sica-I again write 10 Y can make any use o my wile was a great at Atomach and that you doing her very since g tall-you now that my be entirely cured afters lets less than a mouth

COME ON TOMOVE STORES the last 15 YELRED desciollares (G ich de l'insta

