

TAMING A BAD MAN

With a Passing Glimpse of Native Life in Alaska.

AN INDIAN WHO WENT WRONG

In the Absence of Uncle Sam's Commissioner He Cut Loose and Terrorized His Tribe, and Then the Judge Returned—The Meeting and Result.

There are precincts in Alaska with a large native population where it is policy to try a case at times without actually having a session of court.

A good illustration of this is the case of a native in one of the small interior towns. Now, most Alaska Indians are tame—very tame—and this fellow became a bad man unexpectedly and accidentally.

This native knew that the commissioner for his precinct had gone to Seattle, and "going to Seattle" means, to the Alaska native, all or any part of the universe outside the boundaries of the territory.

So every day it was necessary for this wild native to make a demonstration before one or more members of the little tribe. It amused them and besides, it was profitable.

To which the wild one asserted, "No 'frail judge, no 'frail marshal, no 'frail skookum house" (jail). At last the news came to the village that the commissioner had returned.

A committee of three natives called on the commissioner at his office that afternoon and explained the situation. Among other things their spokesman stated that "this furor talk, no 'frail judge, no 'frail marshal, no 'frail skookum house," that's what's aint it."

The commissioner ordered the native released. One fellow produced a knife, cut the bonds and assisted the bad one to his feet.

There were only two ways out. The native must be jailed or bluffed into being good. As the natives' family must be provided for, the latter course was adopted.

A method of taking the oath far more hygienic than kissing the book was that observed at the Forest of Dean Mine court for about 500 years, beginning in the thirteenth century.

ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE

Cats, Dogs and Monkeys Seem to Be in a Class by Themselves.

Horses are generally given credit for a great deal more intelligence than they actually possess. Scientific tests show that in wisdom such as human beings display horses are hopelessly surpassed by dogs, monkeys and even rats.

The horse can be taught to do certain things just because he is too stupid to have any ideas of his own. Like many human prize pupils, he can learn, but cannot think.

So far as intelligence goes, psychological experiments show that it is practically a dead heat between cats, dogs and monkeys.

Monkeys undoubtedly seem more intelligent than they really are because they resemble human beings in motions and outward appearance so much more closely than other animals.

BLACK OPALS.

These Gems Fairly Blaze With Mysterious Shades of Color.

Those exquisite gems, black opals which were practically unknown until comparatively recently, are the rarest of rare stones, and diamonds even.

Black opals are dear, not only because they are so beautiful, but because they are so rare. They are found only at one spot, a comparatively small tract of ground in New South Wales.

The field is called Lightning Ridge—it is a wild and desolate spot. The nearest towns to it are Walgett and Collaredahl, and it is about 300 miles from Sydney as the crow flies.

Black opal mining is about the biggest gamble extant. There is really nothing to guide the miner in selecting a likely spot. The work is hard.

How We Read. Oliver Wendell Holmes owned up to his preference for reading in books to reading through them. "When I set out to read through a book," he once wrote "I always felt that I had a task before me, but when I read in a book it was the page of the program that I wanted, which left its impression and became a part of my intellectual furniture."

Ancient Trades. Bygone trades have a way of paying on investigation to be only modern industries under another name. A miller, for instance, was only a miller.

Book Consumption. In the United States but one person in 7,000 buys a book in the course of a year while in Great Britain it is one in 3,800; in France it is about the same; in Germany and Japan it is rather better, and in Switzerland it is one in 872.

The Giant's Organ. One of the most interesting features of the Giant's Causeway is "the giant's organ." This huge "instrument" consists of a group of pillars of various lengths set apart on the side of the main cliff.

THE REMITTANCE MAN

A Story of a Partnership.

By IZOLA FORRESTER.

Crutten stepped out of the post office at Goldspur, with his usual monthly letter from London town in his pocket.

In front of the store was Mollie Owen mounted on her brown pony. The sight was enough to make any man pause, but there was more than her beauty and grace to check the Englishman, for a moment later she began to cry.

"What's got her dead to rights. She can't meet the payments on the Upper Bond street, and she won't give her time. No fool woman can run the ranch no matter how good looking she is."

Who would ever know whether the spark of British chivalry collided with the instantaneous appreciation of Mollie's points or whether it was purely subconscious action regulated by fate's decree, sex attraction and opportunity.

"What are you thinking about, Mollie?" gasped Mollie hotly, crushing the letter in her hand. "You know I've never done a thing that was crooked."

John looked at her from under his long eyelids. "I'm not a fool kid. You can't stop them now. What do you want with me?"

"I've got thirty days, haven't I, Mollie? If I can raise the balance?" The interest is paid up to the 10th.

"John, you sure have, responded and whistled—Lin swung around at Lin's happy. 'And I hope you can raise it. If you can't, I guess I'll have to take the piece off your hands.'"

"I'm not three other men working here, the worst of what's going on," she told him. "To be back after the sheep and one stays around handy to keep me here at the ranch."

She saw his eyes and his great longing in them and handed him the letter from her pouch. "I found it by the panny bed, John. He told me with her old dressmaker."

"You're a bully foreman," she added firmly. "But would you stick? I've heard all about you, of course."

here the outlook is white. I will make a good partner, Miss Owen.

"I'll promise anything if you'll let me stay," he retorted, with sudden recklessness, and Mollie at once discontinued the personal circuit.

That evening Mollie went out in the moonlight and looked longingly up the valley toward the sheep camp, four miles away on the mountain side.

Instead she found Crutten's latest letter from London, carefully folded as it had fallen from his pocket.

"It's on account of this here Crutten you've taken in as partner, Mollie," he told her. "You've turned the whole thing over to him, and he's made a mess of it."

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"What have you heard?" "That you are a remittance man."

"Then Crutten told her simply without any show of repentance or excuse for the past. He had made a failure of life at home. He was no criminal, but he had been a spend-thrift and general ne'er-do-well."

She turned at that, one hand on the pony's back, her lips parted. "But why?" "Why?" He reached for her suddenly. "Because I have the right to mean to have from tonight. Your eyes were the spur that started me on the new road, Mollie. I've been trying to keep the trail since."

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