

of the long line of naked mountains

and lean lands that formed the neck

of the valley gave a snub of casuai-

swift as a bullet. "Though some

people think them worse than that. 1

don't go so far; I'm willing to say

they've tried. I'll say that much. But

The window seats, Rickard could

see, were filled before the cars halted,

by the experienced ones who had not

waited for the train to be made up.

window on the sunny side and made

Every window in the car was open.

Each red velveted, dusty seat was

filled. A strong desert wind was blow-

ing sand into their faces, discoloring

The engineer turned to his compan-

"Do you mind this window being

"I'd mind if it were not. It's always

into the cultivated country you will

see what the valley will be like when

He Was "Going In."

it is all planted. The wind is not

one." He coughed again. "Going in?"

about fifty, Rickard decided, with a

desert tan of apparent health. His

"Just looking the country over?"

"Go slow," admonished his compan-

away. It is a wonderful country. But

go slow. It's the ones who expect to

make millions the first year that be-

come the worst knockers. Go slow

"It's not a good time to buy, then?"

"Not so good as it was ten years

ago! But land is cheaper than it was

a year back. In some districts you

can buy a good farm for a ticket back

home, the farmers are so discouraged.

Cold feet." The slang sounded oddly

somehow. The man's voice had the

"Cold feet. The river's chilled them.

The valley's losing faith in the com-

"What company?" inquired Rickard

"There's but one company to the

valley, the one that brought them here, the D. R. They don't call the

railroad the company. They won't rec-

ognize that problem! It's had hard

luck from the first, the D. R. At the

very start the wrong man got hold of

it. Sather, the first promoter, was a

faker-a pretty thorough faker. The

bad odor with the public ever since."

Rickard's eyes left the deep cuts in

"I thought Estrada was the original

"Estrada's a recent comer—oh, you

mean the general. He started the ball

rolling; that was all. Bad health, fol-

lowing the Bliss complication, tied his

The man in the seat ahead was lis-

tening. His head was leonine, his

the neck the ancient burns that had

spared the magnificent head. The rest

of the man had been shriveled and

twisted into terrible deformity. Rick-

ard found himself puzzling over the

acle. There was not a scar on the

the land made by the ravening waters

and looked at his companion.

promoter?" he inquired.

presentul fata.

"Don't let yourself be carried

face was clear cut and intelligent.

"You might call it that."

I always tell them. Go slow."

"I don't know."

Rickard said he was going in.

It is the desert dust that nags

The inquisitor was a man of

falfa.

pany.'

again.

the seats and covering the floor.

ion, who was coughing.

they haven't the know-how."

"No. Fools!" The answer was as

ness to the question.

seat beside him.

open?

CHAPTER I-K. C. Rickard, an engi-CHAPTER I.—K. C. Rickard, an engineer of the Overland Pacific, is called to the office of President Marshall in Tucson, Ariz. "Casey" is an enigma to the office force; he wears "dude" clothes, but he had resigned a chair of engineering in the East to go on the road as a freman and his promotion had been spectacular. While waiting for Marshall Rickard reads a report on the ravages of the Colorado, despite the efforts of Thomas Hardin of the Desert Reclamation company. This Hardin had been a student under Rickard and had married Gerty Holmes, with whom Rickard had fancied he was in love.

CHAPTER II-Marshall tells Rickard the Overland Pacific has got to step in to save the Imperial Valley and sends him to the break. Rickard declines be-In the scramble he spied a vacant cause he does not want to supplant Har-din, but is won over. "Stop the river," damn the expense," says Marshall. for it. A stranger dropped into the

CHAPTER III.

The Blessing of Aridity.

When Rickard left the main line at Imperial Junction the next afternoon his eyes followed the train he was deserting rather than the one that was to carry him to his new labors. He felt again the thrill of detachment that invariably preceded his entrance into a new country. With the pulling up of the porter's green-carpeted stool, the slamming of the train gates, the curtain fell on the Tucson set scene.

The long line of cars was pushing off with its linen-covered Pullmans and diners, steaming down grade toward the Sink, the depression which had been primeval sea, and then desert, and was now sea again. Old Beach, rechristened Imperial Junction for railroad convenience, was itself lower than the ancient sea line where once the gulf had reached. Rickard knew he could find shells at that desert station should he look for them. He picked up his bag that the porter had thrown on the ground and faced the rung-down curtain.

Its painted scene was a yellow station house broiling under a desert sun; a large water tank beyond, and in the distance the inevitable cardboard mountains, like property scene shifts, flat and thin in their unreal hues of burnished gink and purple. A dusty accommodation train was backing and switching, picking up the empty refrigerator cars to carry into the valley for the early melon growers.

Already the valley had asserted its industrial importance; the late rampage of the Colorado had made it spectacular. Those who would pay little attention to the opening of a new agricultural district in the heart of a dreaded desert opened their ears bad when it blows over grain or alto the vagary of the river which had sportively made of a part of that desert an inland sea. Scientists were rushing their speculations into print; would the sea dwindle by evaporation, as it had done before? Or would the overflow maintain the paradoxical

The flood signs were apparent. There cracks had split the desert sand: here water fissures had menaced the track; and to the south a fringe of young willows hid the path of the Colorado's debouch.

The men crowding the platform wore the motley of the new country. In Tucson the uniform of the male citizens, with the exception of those reckless ones who found inevitably that lotus is a liquid, was the wilted pretense of a gentle civilization; despondent ducks and khakis and limp cellars. Imperial Junction marked the downfall of the collar. The rest of the composite costume was irregular, badly laundered and torn, faded and sunburned; the clothes of the desert soldier. Rickard saw buttonless shirts, faded overalls, shabby hatsthe sombrero of Mexico. The faces under the broad-brimmed hats made a leaping impression upon him of youth and eagerness. He noted a significant average of intelligence and alertness. This was not the indelent group of men which makes a pretense of occupation whenever a train comes in!

"Going in?" asked a voice at his ear. A pair of faded eyes set in a youngold face, whether early withered or well preserved he had not time to determine, was staring at him.

He assured his interlocutor that he was going in. His mood isolated the phrase; its significance vastly different from "going on."

"Buying?" "I think not."

"It is a good time to buy." Rickard suspected a real estate agent. "For land is low-rock bottom prices on account of the uneasiness about the river. People are afraid. They want to see the company redeem some of its promises before they come in; and the company isn't in much of a hurry."

Rickard asked what company he re-

The young-old face with the faded eyes looked at him in surprise. "The D. R. company, Desert Reclamation, which brought us all here."

"Estrada's business methods were then not different from Sather's and Hardin's!" It was a deep, rich organ. "Oh, you can't class Hardin with

Sather, protested Rickard's companion. "Sather used Hardin. Hardin's honesty cannot be questioned. It's not money's he's after. His whole heart is in this reclamation scheme."

"Hardin's a false alarm," growled the owner of the massive head. "He makes promises. He never keeps them."

The older man's smile was tolerant. "Barton," he indicated, "is the president of the water companies. And if you want to hear about a rogue and a scoundrel ask the water companies their opinion of Hardin."

"Well, what sort of a hole has he got us into?" demanded the other with heat.

"Hardin's in a hole himself.

"No one seems to remember that he crucified himself to save the valley. I've a great respect for Thomas Har *n."

"Yes?" returned Rickard, whose likag had been captured by the speaker. The impression of distinction sharpened. The stranger wore a laundered pongee silk shirt, open at the neck but restricted by a brown silk tie; and it was trimly belted. There were but two neckties in the entire car, and they occupied, Rickard observed, the same seat.

"The beginning of the canal sys-

tem. Rickard looked out upon a flat, oneconed country, marked off in rectangles by plows and scrapers. Farther south these rectangles were edged by young willows. He fancied he could see, even at that distance, the gleam of water.

It was the passing of the desert. A few miles back he had seen the desert in its primitive nakedness, which not even cactus relieved. He was passing over the land which man and horses were preparing for water. And he bad at the Junction. When we get could see the land where water was.

"That was the way Riverside looked when I first saw it," commented the other man who wore a tie. "Come out on the rear platform. We can see bet-

(To Be Continued Tuesday.)

HERBERT RAWLINSON, STAR OF "COME THROUGH", NOW "SMASHING THROUGH"

At the Opera House To-Night. Some poor fish who paid ten cents

to see Herbert Rawlinson in "Come Through", at a small house, overlooking the gripping story and the whirlwind fight, complained to the manager that Rawlinson did not look used up and had not a mark on his face in the final close-up. Now that wouldn't faze some people, but the manager wrote to Rawlinson and the star got peeved.

"I want a story," he told Henry McRae, "that shows that I'm being placed in danger of my life. I've taken all kinds of chances in films Moses from making intercession for and been hurt many times. But this guy makes me sore. He wntas to see me suffer. All right, it doesn't hurt me any more if he sees it. I plead any merit on their part. His have to feel it either way. So give me a story that has all the stunts "Are you going to settle in the val- you ever saw."

> The scenario department was then searched and a story which was under consideration for enlarging into a serial was shown to him. It was called "Smashing Through." All the hero had to do by way of exercise was to figfiht a posse of cowboys who were after another man, escape down a mine shaft with the girl in his arms pursue the girl in an auto, permit it to be wrecked by a collision with another car, steal a motorcycle and ride like _____, jump from the motorcycle going at full speed to a freight train, and land on the trucks just over the track, while the train is making thirty miles an hour.

Of course, there were such minor things as personal combats to do, but cultivated precision of the purist. these did not particularly interest the

The stunts did, however, and that's why the Universal is releasing "Smashing Through" as a Herbert Rawlinson Special Attraction instead 33). of as a serial. It bears the same relation to "Come Through" as the word smashing does to the word come. It will be seen in this city first at the Opera House, where all company reorganized, but it's been in the Specials have been playing lately, tonight, (Friday). Elmer Clifton is responsible for the remarkable speed and dash of "Smashing Through."

HOUSE TO TAKE UP PLAN FOR ARMY OF 175,000

Washington, Feb. 19 .- The House late Tuesday afternoon, by a vote of 172 to 162, adopted a special rule to consider the Senate bill, providing body shriveled. Rickard could see on for a peace tame army of 175,000 men to be raised by voluntary enlistment.

—Buy W. S. S.—

incident with its accompanying mir- Subscribe to The Press and Banner

(By Rev. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) (Copyright, 1918, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 23

THE BREACH OF THE COVENANT AND MOSES' PRAYER FOR IS-

(May Be Used With Missionary Application.)
LESSON TEXT—Exodus \$2:1-34:9.
GOLDEN TEXT—The effectual fervent

prayer of a righteous man availeth thuch.—James 5:16.
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Deut. 9:6-29; Epb. 3:14-21; James 5:16-18.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Ask God's help for

ethers. Memory Verse-James 5:16. JUNIOR TOPIC-Praying for other

INTERMEDIATE TOPIC-Interceding for others.
SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC-The value of intercessory prayer.

Less than six weeks have elapsed since Israel took the oath of allegiance to Jehovah. In less than forty days they flagrantly break the first and second commandments.

I. The Golden Calf (32:1-6). 1. Moses' delay (v. 1) This they interpreted to mean that their leader had either lost his way in the dark-

ness or had perished in the fire that hovered over the mount. 2. The people's demand (v. 1). They

demanded of Aaron that he make them a god to go before them. Their profession of allegiance to God collapsed as soon as the strong personality of their leader was no longer felt.

3. Aaron's cowardly compliance (VV. 24). He was an eloquent man, but lacked moral courage. Many today can talk fluently, but vacillate before the real issues of life. In order to gain time with the rebels he demanded that they cast off their jewelry and bring it to him. Perhaps he thought that their love for it would cause them to forego their demands, but they cheerfully gave up their jewelry for a false god. Aaron, like many compremising men of this age, opened a door which he could not shut.

4. Wanton revelry (vv. 5, 6). Seeing their disposition, Aaron erected an altar and proclaimed a fast unto Jehovah. He no doubt wished them to worship the Lord through the image, but he had made a god for them and it was a very short step to the heathen orgies connected with idolatrous

II. God's Burning Wrath (82:7-10). God's nature is such that he cannot tolerate a rival. No gods shall be before his face. The rival must be removed or the people must be consumed with divine wrath. God does not own them as his people, for they had cast him of.

III. The Mediation of Moses (82:11-

The declaration of a divine purpose to destroy the Israelites did not deter them. What was his threefold plea? (vv. 11, 12, 13).

Moses knew full well that the people deserved to die, therefore he could not plea was based wholly on God's purpose for Israel. Through his intercession God releats.

IV. Judgment Falls (32:15-35). 1. Moses broke the tables of testimony (vv. 15-19) emblematic of the breach of their covenant with God.

2. Moses destroyed the image (v. 20) and made the people drink of the water which contained its dust, thus making them to experience in a physical sense the bitterness which results from

3. Moses showed Aaren that he was inexcusable for his part in the disgraceful affair (vv. 21-24).

4. Moses called for those who would take a stand for the Lord to gird their swords and slay all who stood out in rebellion. The tribe of Levi ranged themselves on his side and became the instrument by which God chastened his people (vv. 25-29).

5. Moses confessed the great sin of the people and begged that God would forgive them. He was willing to suffer the punishment himself, if possible, and let the people go free. The Lord man should bear his own sin (vv. 30-35). declared to him in answer that every

V. The Covenant Renewed (33:1-

1. Moses' commission renewed (Ch.

2. The second tables of the law given (34:1-9). In the giving of these tables he reiterated God's justice, but gave particular emphasis to his mercy. The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and fourth generation."

Oh, do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.-Phillips Brooks.

What to Pray For.

Fellowship.

Those who follow Christ are blessed with the fellowship of Christ. Where there is followship there is fellowship.



Their Medicine Chest For 20 Years

T is characteristic of folks after they pass the allotted "three score years and ten," to look back over the days that are gone and thoughtfully live them over.

and thoughthing five them over them over the first and first and

For many years while I was perfecting my For many years while I was perfecting my formula I studied and investigated the laxatives and cathartics on the market and became convinced that their main fault was not that they idd not act on the bowels, but that their action was too violent and drastic, and upset the system of the user; which was due to the fact that they were not thereugh enough in their action, come simply acting on the upper crismal intestines, while others would act only on the lower or large intestines, and that they almost invariably produced a habit requiring augmented doess.

I believed that a preparation to produce

quiring augmented doses.

I believed that a preparation to produce the best effect must first tone the liver, then act on the stomach and entire alimentary system. If this was accomplished, the medicine would produce a mild, but thorough elimination of the waste without the usual sickening sensations, and make the user feel better at once.

After experimenting with hundreds of different compounds, I at last perfected the formula that is now known as Mature's Remedy, which I truly believe goes further

and does more than any laxative on the market today. The thousands of letters fr m users have convinced me I was right, and that the user of Nature's Remedy as a family medicine, even though he may have used it for twenty-five years, never has to increase the dose.

My knowledge of medicine and the results of its use in my own family and am ng my friends, before I ever offered it for sile, caused me to have great faith in Kalure's Romedy from the very first.

Nature's Romedy from the very first.

And now as I find my elf nearing the age when I must bow to the inevitable and go to another life, my greatest pleasure is to siteach day and rend tho letters that each mail brings from people as old or older than I, who tell of having used Nature's Remedy for ten, fifteen and twenty years, and how they and their children and grandchildren have been benefited by it. grandenitoren nave been beneatted by it.

It is a consoling thought, my friends, for a man at my age to feel that aside from his own success, one has done something for his feilow man. My greatest satisfaction, my greatest happiness today, is the knowledge that tonight more than one million people will take a Nature's Remedy (NR Tablet) and will be better, healthier, happier people for it. I hope you will be one of them.

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