THE SKY PILOT

RALPH CONNOR

Author of
"The Man From Glengarry"
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CHAPTER XXI.

HOW BILL HIT THE TRAIL. HEN "the crowd" was with us the Pilot read us all sorts of tales of adventures in all lands by heroes of all ages, but when we three sat together by our dre the Pilot would always read us tales of the heroes of sacred story, and these delighted Bill more than those of any of the ancient empires of the past. He had his favorites. Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, never failed to arouse his admiration. But Jacob was to him always "a mean cuss," and

tle Paul, whom he called "that little chap." But when the reading was about the one Great Man that moved majestic amid the gospel stories Bill made no comments—he was too high

By and by Bill began to tell these tales to the boys, and one night, when a quiet mood had fallen upon the company, Bill broke the silence. Say, Pilot, where was it that the

little chap got mixed up into that riot?"
"Riot!" said the Pilot. "Yes. You remember when he stood

off the whole gang from the stairs?" "Yes, that's the spot. Perhaps you would read that to the boys. Good garn! Little chap, you know, stood up

Ad told 'em they were all sorts of blanked thieves and cutthroats, and stood 'em off. Played it alone too." Most of the boys failed to recognize the story in its new dress. There was much interest.

"Who was the duck? Who was the gang? What was the row about?" "The Pilot here'll tell you. If you'd kind o' give 'em a lead before you begin, they'd eatch on to the yarn better." This last to the Pilot, who was preparing to read.

"Well, it was at Jerusalem," began the Pilot, when Bill interrupted: "If I might remark, perhaps it might help the boys on to the trail, mebbe, if

you'd tell 'em how the little chap struck his new gait." So he designated the

apostle's conversion. Then the Pilot introduced the apostle with some formality to the on his feet. company, describing with such vivid touches his life and early training, his sudden wrench from all he held dear with caution.

"All right! Shake!" he said, holding out his hand, which the other took with caution. under the stress of a new conviction, his magnificent enthusiasm and courwas surprised to find myself regarding group that gathered around the Pilot him as a sort of hero, and the boys for the nightly reading. were all ready to back him against any odds. As the Pilot read the story of the arrest at Jerusalem, stopping now and then to picture the scene, we saw it all and were in the thick of it. The raging crowd bustling and beating the life out of the brave little man, the sudden thrust of the disciplined Roman guard through the mass, the rescue, the pause on the stairway, the calm face of the quieting of the frantic, frothing mob, the fearless speech-all passed be-

fore us. The boys were thrilled. "Good stuff, ch?" "Ain't be a daisy?" "Dalsy! lie's a whole sunflower

"Yes," drawled Bill, highly appreciating their marks of approval. "That's vhat I call a partickler fine character of a man. There ain't no manner of in-

"You bet!" said Hi.
"I say," broke in one of the boys, who was just emerging from the ten-

derfoot stage, "o' course that's in the Bible, ain't it?"
The Pilot assented.

"Well, how do you know it's true?" The Pilot was proceeding to elabo rate his argument when Bill cut it somewhat more abruptly than was his

"Look here, young feller!" Bill's voice was in the tone of command. The man looked as he was bid. "How No you know anything's true? How do you know the Pilot here's true when he speaks? Can't you tell by the feel? You know by the sound of his voice, don't you?" Bill paused, and the young fellow agreed readily.

"Well, how do you know a blanked son of a she jackass when you see him?" Again Bill paused. There was

Reply. Well," said Bill, resuming his deliberate drawl, "I'll give you the informa-



"PU larn you agnostics and severa other kinds of tricks,"

nettled at the laugh that went round, "that don't prove anything. You know," turning to the Pilot, "that there are heaps of people who don't believe

The Pilot nodded. "Some of the smartest, best educated

men are agnostics," proceeded the young man, warming to his theme and failing to notice the stiffening of Bill's lank figure. "I don't know but what I am one myself."

"That so?" said Bill, with sudden in-

"I guess so," was the modest reply. "Got it bad?" went on Bill, with a She was the wife of Mr. Sidney A. note of anxlety in his tone. But the young man turned to the Pilot and tried to open a fresh argu-

"Yh tever he's got," said Bill to the there in a mild voice, "it's spoilin' his

yes," went on Bill meditatively aftithe slight laugh had died, "it's ruin-to the judgment. He don't seem to when he interferes with the ame. Pity too!" still the argument went on. "Seems as if he ought to take some-

du'," said Bill in a voice suspiciously ild. "What would you suggest?" "A walk, mebbe!" said III in delight-

"I hold the opinion that you have mentioned an uncommonly vallable ramedy—better 'n pain killer almost." Bill rose languidly.

"I say," he drawled, tapping the young fellow, "It appears to me a little walk would perhaps be good, mebbe." "All right; walt till I get my cap,"

was the unsuspecting reply.
"I don't think perhaps you won't need it, mebbe. I cherish the opinion you'll perhaps be warm enough." Bill's voice had unconsciously passed into a sterner tone. Hi was on his feet and

"This here interview is private and confidential," said Bill to his partner.
"Exactly," said Hi, opening the door. At this the young fellow, who was David he could not appreciate. Most strapping six footer, but soft and of all he admired Moses and the apos-He was too late. Bill's grip was on his collar and out they went into the snow, and behind them Hi closed the door. In vain the young fellow struggled to wrench himself free from the hands that had him by the shoulder and the back of the neck. I took it all in from the window. He might have been a boy for all the effect his plungings had upon the long, sinewy arms that gripped him so flercely. After a min-ute's furious struggle the young fel-low stood quiet, when Bill suddenly shifted his grip from the shoulder to the seat of his buckskin trousers. Then began a series of evolutions before the house, up and down, forward and back, which the unfortunate victim, with hands wildly clutching at empty air, was quite powerless to resist till he was brought up, panting and gasping, subdued, to a standstill,

"I'll larn you agnostics and several other kinds of tricks," said Bill in a terrible voice, his drawl lengthening perceptibly. "Come round here, will you, and shove your blanked secondhanded trash down our throats?" Bill paused to get words; then, bursting out in rising wrath:

"There ain't no sootable words for ich conduct. By the livin' Jeminy"-He suddenly swung his prisoner off his feet, lifted him bodily and held him over his head at arm's length. "I've a

"Don't! Don't! For heaven's sake!" cried the struggling wretch. "I'll stop

Bill at once lowered him and set him "All right! Shake!" he said, holding

It was a remarkably sudden conver sion and lasting in its effects. There age, his tenderness and patience, that I was no more agnosticism in the little

> The interest in the reading kept growing night by night.

"Seems as if the Pilot was gittin' in his work," said Bill to me, and looking at the grave, eager faces I agreed. He was getting in his work with Bill, too; though perhaps Bill did not know it. I remember one night, when the others had gone, the Pilot was reading to us the parable of the talents and Bill was the little hero beckening for a hearing, particularly interested in the servant who failed in his duty.
"Ornery cuss, eh?" he remarked.

'And gall, too, ch? Served him blamed well right, in my opinion!" But when the practical bearing of

the parable became clear to him, after long slience, he said slowly: "Well, that there seems to indicate that it's about time for me to get a rustle on." Then, after another si

he said hesitatingly: "This here church buildin' business now, do you think that 'll perhaps count, mebbe? I guess not, ch? 'Tain't much, of course, any way." Poor Bill, he was like a child, and the Pilot handled him with a mother's touch.

"What are you best at, Bill?"
"Bronco bustin' and cattle," said

Bill wonderingly. "That's my line." "Well, Bill, my line is preaching just now and piloting, you know." The Pilot's smile was like a sunbeam on a rainy day, for there were tears in his eyes and voice. "And we have just got to be faithful. You see what he says: Well done, good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful."

Bill was puzzled, "Faithful!" he repeated. "Does that mean with the cattle, perhaps?" "Yes, that's just it, Bill, and with everything else that comes your way."
And Bill never forgot that lesson, for heard him, with a kind of quiet enthusiasm, giving it to Hi as a great find. "Now, I call that a fair deal," he said to his friend. "Gives every man a show. No cards up the sleeve."

"That's so," was Hi's thoughtful re-ply; "distributes the trumps." Somehow Bill came to be regarded as an authority upon questions of religion and morals. No one ever accused him of "gettin' religion." He went about his work in his slow, quiet way, but he was always sharing his discoveries with "the boys." And if any one puzzled him with subtleties he never rested till be had him face to face with the Pilot. And so It came that these two drew to each other with more than brotherly affection. When Bill got into difficulty with problems that have vexed the souls of men far wiser than he, the Pilot would either disentangle the knots or would turn his mind to the verities that stood out

"That's good enough for me," he would say, and his heart would be at

sure and clear, and Bill would be con-

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

TAKEN WITH CRAMPS. tion without extracharge. It's by the sound he makes when he opens his blanked jaw."

"But," went on the young skeptic, nettled at the least that went record. of the crew waitupon him and Mr. Gif-ford was coll d and consulted. He told them he bad a medicine in the form of Chamberlain's Colic. Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy that he thought would help his out and accordingly second does were administered with the result that the fellow was able to be presented in the control of the color of the colo be next day. The incident speaks quie highly of Mr. Gifford's medicines. Elkader, I wa, Argus.

Mrs. Sidney Armstrong.

This good woman passed away July 21 t at her home in the Eden section Armstrong and was about 60 years o'd. Her husband and a large family of children sur vive her.

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In contrast, if the reader will fairly consider the picture after treatment with D. D. D., a new man is seen. Study this picture; contrast the two. Something has worked a wonder here. Reader, it was nothing on earth but D. D. D. and a kind Providence which directed the attention of this man to a public announcement about this medicament and its wonderful work in such cases. Providence went farther than this; it gave him some confidence in what he read. He made up his mind that he would try it. To this fact he owes all the peace, content and happiness so plainly seen in his face in the second picture. He states that after the third application of the remedy all his previous distress had disappeared entirely. The fevered condition resulting from continued irritation had subsided and he slept soundly nights.

The name of this getleman is Mr. Henry Walters, of St. Louis, Mo. We have the sworn affidavit of Mr. Walters that in just twenty-nine days after starting treatment with D. D. D. he discontinued further use of it, every visible trace of the disease having disappeared. Since that time not a trace of the trouble has shown itself on any part of his body. His hair has since grown long and the scrubby beard previously grown on his face to hide the sores, is kept cleanly shaved, and he is today a man of strikingly fine appearance, with the highest ambition and If you are addicted to these hab'ts you think you will quit it. You won't; you can't unaided; but you can be cured you think you will quit it. You won't; you can't unaided; but you can be cured and restored to your former health and vigor without pain or the loss of an hour from your business at a moderate cost. The medicine builds up your health, restores your nervous system to its normal condit in; you feel like a different person from the beginning of treatment, LEAVING OFF THE OPIATES AFTER THE FIRST DOSE. You will soon be convinced and fully satisfied in your own mind that you will be cured.

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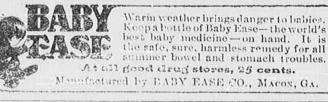
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