ontared from First Page aid back sail and int hough out in ive stend gran, whose heartiness per ade-his whole being. "Singu-hal ed," how circumstances after counter." cases. Rich as I am I can't afford to laugh aloud, lest the peons below hear me. They alone can enjoy that hixury." "But where does this quartz come from?" I

Hearese, went forward a few steps to the base of the precipice where it joined the thelf, and turned over a few bushes carlessly laid against the rock. There, low down near the ground, was a streak of white quartz. Then I observed on closer inspection that it had been dug into here and there to the depth of a few feet. Looking closer still I saw the yellow metal, and in places where ruptured by the pick it shone with a glint like gilt-very different from the duller color of the "river wash" gold or that of "bank diggings."

"Yes, there's the tank," said Broener.
"The Bank California, and if I wasn't a man of most than ordinary strength of mind of more than ordinary strength of many to death nights fearing lest the many transfer the strength of the more than the strength of the more flat of them coming on I say; off ye death Because all fears are the mind. Hard to be put out if once let in, and bound to kill if you can't drive 'em out."

"How do you get the gold out of the rock?" most of it I carry to Sar Francisco to be Want some! threated, such as that piece you threw down to know where I dug them and how and all the habit of thinking each other liars." a ship in an open roadstead with a gale sudbest bower. I half believe they didn't quite stuck for the drinks." set a watch on me to see which way I traveled No knowing, you know, what some Bo Strause such a one would know what in a low voice, referring to myself. "No, nephew," was his reply.

> CHAPTER VIII COMPACT.

might do under the same sore trial.'

"But why." I asked, "do you trust me. *almost a stranger to you, with your secret? Afraid I shan't get another like it." "For this reason," replied Browner. "First, because I believe I can trust you; secondly, I have long wanted a companion and assistant in one and the same person. The honest ones among the Bull Bar crowd will get drunk, things easy:" and whisky reveals more secrets than women -though, for that matter, I think quite as of the boys," was the answer. ord in thirty on every claim in order to don't want to seem mysterious, and if I you break no regular path going up and down. It's very natural for men prost twice a day to be filled," said a slow, heavy on me too heavily." it's the cattle instinct in man-the same

with me, for there's no law now to regulate that description of claims—except the law of John Barleycorn." you? You're quiet, shy and not talkative. Those qualities are all helps to me. A talk-

on the face. Make people suspect you know

jacks for supper."

we took our way homeward. Ascending far out of sight and sound of the busy crowds below the eye fell ou peak after peak, far and near, their sides covered with the dark green carpet of chapperal, which in places, a: thrown in shadows, was almost black. There was no sight nor sound of living thing. A shadow floated along on the red earth. I looked up. It was a huge furker buzzard wheeling through the air as noiseless as the shadows he cast.

There was something weird and gloomy in it all. The land did not seem made for human habitation. It seemed new, unfinished as of recent date from some tremendous volcanic upheaval

This impression quickly vanished on reach- grub." ing Broener's cabin, now cast into a grateful and cooling shade by the afternoon sun. The stream were rapidly stealing up the sides of those on the other. The direct and oppressive of a pet hole myself." outpour of noon heat was over, and now, past the middle of the afternoon, there seemed to come to men, animals and vegetation a new flood of vitality.

all about his cabin.

5 "It screens me from observation," said be. "and I find it advantageous not to be seen in all my comings and goings." me went.

regulation with five sixths of the Bull Bur- | cruzery mountain which be seed in the black ites," said Broener. "They would consider hessagainst the sky. It was store, boarding house, bar, post and | Chaps. Its the best they can do. They're | small one, the "First, let" compound some whisky with the line and both of them are killing. By approheusions were increased on some which with fields resistance. I stooped "First, let" compound some whisky with the line and both of them are killing. By approheusions were increased on some control of the Bank of Loskel.

The "First, let" compound some whisky with the line and both of them are killing. By approheusions were increased on some control of the Bank of Loskel.

The "First, let" compound some whisky with the line and both of them are killing. By approheusions were increased on some control of the Bank of the Bank of Loskel.

The "First, let" compound some whisky with the line and lost of the Bank of the Bank of the Bank of Loskel.

The "First, let" compound some whisky with the letter of the Bank express office combined—full of miners in good fellows. But haff of them are killing. By apprehensions were increased on some from a belof givening coals, and in the second of them are killing. By apprehensions were increased on some from a belof givening coals, and in the second of them are killing. The branch was clustered was clustered was clustered as a second of the first time in the second of them are visit in the second of the first time in the second of the second was used as a war. So well codes, alone and the state of the state of

"Big Dick"-for sitting on the counter. business. "I want you to know," said he, "that this "They're fiving now," he continued, "on

counter is to sell goods on, and not to sit on. The stable sand much infliended life, and Lyou want to retail yourself, get a counter | call it independence. That is to say, the leof your own. You come up here every night pendences with them means disregard for and plank yourself on my counter as if I had | dress, rough language, and a extint a av twilt is for an arm chair. If you want to be | from all the amenates, manuers and post in said I'll lay you on the shelf with the other of the older's ttlements. It is a great mis-



This counter is to sell goods on

The giant took the reproof good naturedly, and moved off as desired. "Mr. Rankin," said another customer, those canned eysters of yours good?" "Good," replied Mr. Rankin. "Of course not. They're Baltimore oysters, put up rot ten, shipped round Cape Horn rotten, sold to me in Stockton rotten, and hauled up here by a builteam rotten. Just smell of 'em?" and Mr. Rankin shoved the can under his

"I'll take a can, anyway," said the miner. who did not seem at all affected by Mr. Rankin's peculiar recommendation of his wares. "How much are they?" "Two dollars."

ensioner's nose.

The miner produced his buckskin and pour d'a little dust into the gold scales. Mr. Rankin looked critically at it and put it in a flat brass pan, narrowing toward one end. with sides half an inch in height-a blow "Mr. S. P. Willets," said Rankin, "I don't

sell my ovaters for sand. Your dust isn't clean-repen is. Maybe some other storekeyper will buy black or gray sand of you. but I can't." Black sand, in reality an oxide of iron, is the invariable accompaniment of gold as

washed from the soil, and very difficult to be separated from the dust. "Have you any good butter?" asked an-

"I've an article here which for axle grease I asked the gold oct of the bigger lumps will beat the oldest man in the mines. Engwith morter and pestle," he replied, "but her majesty's carriage. Dollar a pound,

"Yes, Gimme half a pound." just now. It looks werthless. You can't see ... He plays that well on the boys," whisany ported have a see that gold pered Promer to me "Did you ever notice, fine as flow ves finer—fine a the dust on with nine people out of ten, that if you tell man lo assaver. How the mint officials opened their bad thev'll believe the contrary! Maybe it's eyes at them. First they ever saw. Wanted because we've all dropped unconsciously into

about it. Of course I told them. I located There was a noisy game of cards, and at my diggings in the farthest possible country every second the well-worn pasteboards were ifrom this and fired volleys of lies otherwise thumped on the table with resounding sat them. A man must protect himself, you whacks. Mr. Rankin, while not selling know, and cut and run from truth just as | goods, was setting rows of tumbiers on the bar and a black bottle before them is redealy coming on must cut and run from her sponse to the frequent call of the players

Broener seemed well acquainted with the place and its habitues. My presence with him attracted some curiosity. "Broth r." I heard some one inquire of him

"No nephew," was his reply. -"Just out seek, for it diligently, and do-just as I from the states. Been down to the bay to bring him up." "How does your claim pan out?" asked

> "Good for five dollars a day yet." said Broener. "I don't want to work it all out. "You seem to take life pretty easy," remarked the last inquirer. "Why should I take life hard?" replied

Broener. "But why do you think I take Because you don't work hard like the rest "I don't believe be hard work," replied

a should work on my bogus claim while I work is the work that's easiest done. I knock am in San Francisco. There I must go from off early he the afternoon so that I may have and assayed Miners law requires one day's flamels and make my cabin comfortable may grow into us that it make us friendly. The cases out of ten but one mode of settlewithout using up every bit of strength in my | indifferent or hostile to each other. That's | 2 ent. That was by knife or pistol. This ssion of it I want you to potter body. You see I expect to be dodging around my doctrine. In plain, old-fashloned words. the bank in front of the cabin. In the hard are cold in you, graves—if you're lucky Old Scratch take the hindmost. You don't estimated heresbouts you are enough to get a grave. You're using up now like it, I see. You believe in friendship to to be my partner in that claim. I more strength than you've got to spare and the last and clinging to whatever you like don't keep up a clatter of work about here all very nice working in the river till you you with its poison. You believe in hanging shiver, and then coming out and warming up on to a friend while he, maybe, out of pure I shall be through leaving so often and shiver, and then coming out and warming up on to a friend while he, maybe, out of pure letting the bank stand adde. Then I want with whisky every fifteen minutes. But ignorance or selfishness, is, through his weakyou to slide up from time to time to our you'll pay for it ins. le of ten years. How ness, dragging you to ruin slong with him. real claim on the mountain and see that | much rum per day did the Willow Bar boys | I don't. I like strong people, so long as they

pecting about in strange places on finding voice, and the manner of saying it seemed to any sort of a trail to follow it. I think imply that it was something to boast of. "And amongst ten of you. All right. Minthat makes sheep and cows follow each let's all take a drink," said Broener. "Come!

your travelings up and down from the banners." you can out of the same tracks. We must bar. The bottle and glasses were again set | man a hyperite and pretent a sentement | and even gentiled I was to find I could strike keep shady and lie low. It's not so much out. All waited with a rigid decorum until which is not felt." Plove short bere now that I fear, each glas was filled and ready, and then re arriving all the time- with a "here's luck!" and a solemn, simuling in the sunlight and reflecting that light taneous galo, the fuid was poured down, from a thousand pinnacles, but call to the reaching as I have done on this with an ecasional rasper. "He-me," or an touch; ran o power, too, but unpleasant to and their eyes fall on a bit of reager grasping for the water pitcher, testinear approach; pleasing only so long as one con the mountain side or at filed to the vigorous rawness of corn maintained the proper distance.

whisty.

Yet so field, he was ever to me most fasdefined as one and
he possession it would be all up

Power who hosses this her was or men his not a stant heir language but coffins. For who bosses this bar, we or man, but not a pedant; book learned but "Barleycorn, I guess," said a piping voice.

Now do you see how much I need Barleycorn, I guess, Sau a paper in his present, and especially keep in seeing and received talketing Reed's got lem. Snakes. Alone in his present, and especially keep in seeing and egbin for two weeks with a five-gallen more in making others see the "points" in the ative this secret inside of him roulding here inside of him which is the property of himself and knowing grimace. The best way to keep a secret is to forget it vouselfs till its wanted. What's and beetles, snakes and contipedes, horned always and here it is the send, "the head work to feel foods and here its like the send, "the head work to feel foods and here its like the send, "the head work to feel foods and here its like the send, "the head work to feel foods and here its like the send, "the head work to feel foods and here its like the send, "the head work to feel foods and here its like the send, "the head work to feel foods and here its like the send, "the head work to feel foods and here its like the send, "the head work to feel foods and here its like the send, the head work to feel foods and here its like the send to the head work to feel the send to the head work to Asked him what was the matter. Lord, terlarded with the slang and common phrase-

'em out." I vamoosel." something they don't and you start 'em on em out. I vancouse a sternion, previously arranged for you by some old the hunt to find it out. But what in thunder said another. "Come walking into the store polant. Why couldn't there be a compromise from his name are, he said another to me walking into the store polant. Why couldn't there be a compromise from his name are, he said another to me walking into the store polant. Let's go home and start a new broad of flap- quiet enough until he saw Rankin behind the made between book English and every day counter; took him for a mule team, I guess. English: Twould make life casie; There's hands all that to the north of the first. The Anyway, he made for him with a black-snake a good d ad of slang, too, born of new sairy, a sail of this was an ascent d, in tring from Brown filled a sack with as much of the danyway, he made for him with a black-snake a good dud of slang, ten, bern of new sair, seemed, judging from the countries he could conveniently carry, and with singing out. When the sair seemed in the countries of the washing seemed, judging from the countries of the washing seemed, judging out. When then then Git up than! How Rankin did git from be- which can only belong to that time and era. | travel did thousand her further up stream, hind that counter and old Re d after him. People must have their every day words as a scheded the mountain again, day a holm up the hill. The toys got after 'em ant | they have their every day of the s. up the hill. The coys got after 'em and they have their every day clashes.

started Reed home. Nice man to be laying in a letter from home it was calcully menantished his head. I presumed he did not

> this winter's provision." said Rankin. "I prysterious than ever, and had quite sunasked him to make out his order. Well, he dered herself from Eastport people From coulment. Evidently this prospect did not said be guessed held have a sack of flour, ten Bizache berself I heard nothing. One of her satisfy him. The next, taken within one pounds of pork, for pounds of sugar, the remarks on the evening we parted was that bundred feet of the last, seemed to yield involuntarily jork dupward, and the pistol vision to the carries, their feast, of coffee, and so on, as he went along beening sine would "write if she had anything to semething. The afternoon was now far adthe number of pounds until he got to the write," and would like me to do the same whishy. He said of that held have a barrel. | She dishilted, she said, to have letters ex- war home. So did L. Text him dowe to five gulfus. I show he people of her at regular intervals by any

way, on that point of rocks. They say he's stranger came sountering along the bank long shadows of the hills on our bank of the rot pickle jars full of dust buried under his and stopped at the hole from which I was tent. I saw him take ten ounces one day out taking and washing gravel. I was somebock and a Boston sailor go together. But I ledge and in a deep crevice. It was yielding

buck and a Boston sailor go together. Put bedge and in a deep crevice. It was yielding peet boles, I noticed, were dug over an area. That now a dead man on my hands and breed without a cent on a bar nobody ever richly and without aid of any of Browners, broad at the base of the mountain, but now dishet know what to do with him. Pratt whisky, and give him a pan and an iron backet he draugs into his "head sive" is to get a more and more as he went up. What Lore on me mentally with as great a weight, its dark mahogany stem contrasting so strongby with its dark green leaves, to remain uncut

its dark green leaves, to remain Seed classes on the bar. Ef I could manage comes more like play. Occase gold from the Reed Fd brook him in and use him for a gold which plater, as I would Brass here to plat for dirt, and dirt must be very rich to the gold which plater, as I would Brass here to plat for the dirt, and dirt must be very rich to the gold which had we had down from the "Bank". The would bring the search in the neighborhoot of the claim. If I told my story of the manuer

In an my comings and goings.

Or passed ans unformallies each of tear in the Bull way home, and heard him carsing the fields dency to sink undern ath the light a gray defend at the base of the mountain much to the discovery of the "Earls." In whatevery Bar store (or trading post, as many called its as many called summaned by his repeated hery draughts.

The stranger watched are some mirutes in be found at the base of the menagain much to the discovery of the "Earle."

Single of the discovery of the "Earle."

The stranger watched are some mirutes in be found at the base of the menagain much to the discovery of the "Earle."

Summaned by his repeated hery draughts. Silence. He was a more finishing peaked to the length. Our side of this, at either end the line countries and the discovery of the "Earle." be went. 1: To go to the store' after supper is the micht. Issuing as it did, from the bass of a list appearance I will say only that he micht. Issuing as it did, from the bass of a list appearance I will say only that he micht. Issuing as it did, from the bass of a list appearance I will say only that he micht. Issuing as it did, from the bass of a list appearance I will say only that he micht. Issuing as it did, from the bass of a list appearance I will say only that he micht. Issuing as it did, from the bass of a list appearance I will say only that he micht. Issuing as it did, from the bass of a list appearance I will say only that he micht. Issuing as it did, from the bass of a list appearance I will say only that he micht.

a small, energetic, bustling man, was scold- man can do pretty unich as he pleases so one of the new met. Recence had become

continually trying to do cach other's work.

the right the shaking and the left the pair don't was year gold. It spote man can ingest least, they'd make efforts to that effect—and often was I so irritated by the seeming contrariness, both of my arms and my reply with them have a right to my arms and my reply with them have a right to was seeming contrariness, both of my arms and my reply with them have a right to was seeming contrariness, both of my arms and my reply with them have a right to was seeming contrariness, both of my arms and my reply with them have a right to was seeming contrariness. seeming contrariness, both of my arms and the machine, that I was tempted to kick it to pieces.

Brown and the machine, that I was tempted to kick it to pieces.

Brown and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to pieces.

Brown and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to pieces.

Brown and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to pieces.

Brown and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to pieces.

The could be where he has a right to was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine this arrangement to the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than in my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than it my hours, and the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than it my provide the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than a my provide the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than a my provide the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than a my provide the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than a my provide the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my ground here than a my provide the machine that I was tempted to kick it to our my g Broener would laugh, saying: "Take it He clambered out of the bole, taking all, in strong contact the and was, ording his partner, who acted

trying to educate your body to the unaccustomed with the yellow moral, I sow no end tomed movement, and it's hard work at first of future trouble. It was giving the bound abruptly, making a perpendicular face four off you buy any more cigars like them." for both teacher and scholar. Don't get the true scent, and I felt that this man or five feet in Leight. Fratt could new see sail he, I want you to hise and bring up angry. Recollect how many times you fell would never cease his effor a till he had run that the quarte had rolled from this shelf, some men to smoke them. These poor crealown when you were trying to walk. The game to earth.

In a few days I mastered the rocker. Be All this came to me in a moment. The near its top. down when you were trying to walk."

fore leaving Browner thus advised met "I brightness of the day had gone, Before, I "It's up there?" I heard bite matter, "and to draw rocks out of the bed of the river, will leave you twenty owness of river dust.

Use it when you treds at Rankin's. Even and living in bits of air custies, as fairly built.

I hard him samuables entire wall of rock.

Salted the claim here beside. You don't then—among which my specify return to residing him of the part. All because of the release that it's formy interest to see that it's for my interest to see that it's for the purpose, at the rate funchalk than—among which my specify return to residing him of the purpose, at the rate funchalk than—among which my specify return to residing him of the purpose, at the rate funchalk than a purpose, at the rate funchal than a purpose, at the rate funchalk than a purpose, at the rate funchalk than a purpose, at the rate funchal than a purpose at the dans river gold dust broadcast in it, so it's the smellest or least glittering.

Sile was still the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not bound to yield four or five dollars a day with easy work. The till keep up the reputation of the Mr. Jededlab Prait beared a thirty-three save a back buzzard wheeling above, his "Yes," replied Rankin "Splendid lot—"Only black your next batch of heard Rankin's hal rank the rest of the call strength and the reputation of the smellest or least glittering.

Sile was still the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not been deen miner, who, just coming in, hal not been deen through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not been miner who, just coming in, hal not be a back a miner who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner, who, just coming in, hal not be a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner who is a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner who is a stream through the still loss of the California acked a miner who is a stream th the claim. We must seem to be making feet claim a ljoining ours and commenced the shadow floating along the ground. something here If I selted it with Tuchnune | building of his cabin on it. That his prin- | Pratt bad gained the top of the shelf. He

all things to ward off." "I want to make as quick work as possible "he continued, "of the Bank up the moun- Next day came more cause for appr Len- "You have." tain. I don't think it's a vein that'll hold out sion. Pratt was joined by a partner, a thicklong. It's not the right formation. The set, black-hearded, course-boking man. Here "Well, well." He was evidently at a loss hoisted his hage proportions on the limited ledge is the same on both sides—granite—and were two near neighbors, and both enemies. What next to say or do. "It's a hot day, area of counter nacovered by goods, and that's not a good holding ledge for gold. A War was fully declared between us, though isn't it?" quartz vein to hold out should lie between two no high words passed. It was the silent, "Fretty hot." I remarked. I thought it was different kinds of rock-say, granite and secret war of intent on one side to find, on or would be seen in every sense, and the sation. slate. How this gold-bearing quartz gets the other to ornceal.

poured in between them, as it is apt to lie, the Of course. Pratt and his companion would of "talking weather" at such a juncture Lord only knows. I think ours is a short- remark my frequent absence from my claim. Mr. Pratt sat himself also down upon a lived deposit - mighty rich so long as it lasts. They would be hunting quartz up and down rock, drew a rusty red bandana, momed but when it gives out it will peter all at once the mountain, and would be certain to inter- with it his face and partly bald head and -like some people's goodness when the temp- | cept me in my daily trips to not from the said "Whew." Then he toked the ground tation becomes too strong."

leaving, he said to me: "Watch the 'Bank' very carefully, but don't touch it. I want to do all the work on it

I was left alone. But six months had with Pratt & Co. elapsed since I left Eastport. I had now I wrote immediately to Brocher, informing only while Mr. Pratt hoped that the du time and solitude to think things and myself self seemed of some remote period. I was | Broener could get my letter and return. part and parcel of a new life, amid new surroundings and new men-not a mere lookeron, but a watcher vitally interested in every movement about me, because it might deeply affect my own fortures.

Above and beyond all in my reflections stood out this man Broener. In one sense, I was his follower, absorbed by him, led by him. He was entire master of the situation. I looked up to him and admired his keenness of judgment, his ease and adaptability to men and circumstances, his outside appearance of recklessness, which seemed but a cloak for the caution underneath.

Yet I did not feel wholly to like Broener. One reason was, he repelled anything like a warm expression of friendship. "Don't try to thank me for what you say I've done for you." he remarked one evening, when in certain set and to some extent previously-composed phraseology, I attempted to do so. "You owe me nothing. You are as useful to me as I am to you. We suit and fit into each other for the time being. Some power fashioned us to do so. Thank that, whatever it is, not me. When things shape loons as in pettigoats. I need you to keep up Broener, filling his pipe. "I think the best themselves for us to part, we part-according to the same law-for our matual advantage. We may part friends, perhaps enemies. We when most of you fellows that take life so its every man for himself in reality and the

patching up the rents in it with whisky. It's | until it's in the last stage of decay and killing it's all right. And while I think, of it mind use when they were building that wing dam?" are strong. I pity them if they become "Used to send a two gallon demijohn | weak. I cut from a cripple when he leans

MAnd how with women?" I asked "That's somewhat another affair. I am as to women a tyrant in this way. I, or rather ing by steam power. Speaking of whisky, the nature inside of me, exacts of a woman who attracts my admiration-or come la it. erally go out of beaten paths. So mind in All hands! Fall in! Forward with your rather—that she shall continue to do so. If The company present gathered before the 'remain true,' as it is called is for the to re-

Broomer seemed to me an imberg edition

"A sed and solerum performance," said einering, and when he chose could reake one not bookish or book talkative; elive to the pact, but as much if not more fully so to the

> port and was living, they believed, in New York. She had become, it was added, more

what excited that day from baving come on pew and most planning theory, based on his "Yes, he's one of your lacky ones. Rung I a deposit of band, heavy gravel lying on the init, said Dig Dick.

On the surface, Usually that metal is about with the colors washed from it by the elementary would not be seen, so marked is its tent mental wear and tear of centuries would not by epsilorst. Then it would lead indirectly

"How's't persiant" asked the stranger.

There have been

"An around over here to new concret" "I don't know."

gasier. Sit down and let your mind rest. my peace of mind with him as he went. In . He rawled up gradually feward the sholf as buyer and teamster comitted, for the

But I want you to keep your beef off my trying to educate your body to the unaccust fleeked with the yellow metal, I said: "I want to "pour forth my thanks."

There's where the trouble lies. Your mind is his discovery of that bit of white rock, on which my thanks."

The words came: from him in a feeble, wanted to "pour forth my thanks."

I said: "I wanted to "pour forth my thanks."

I said: "I wish I could filly expression to the unaccust fleeked with the yellow metal, I saw no end what toward then jumped off | up.

river dust from the dry diggings, the cival object was to hant quarks in the neigh much his way directly toward the face of the grader would detect it. That would excite | Lochood I was certain. That he had, with | precipice He burst through the chapparal, | You smoke too nuch. These cigars are got their enriesty, and that's what we want of | out knowing it, placed binnself in the best and I was disclosed to binn, seated on a rock position for saying our movement; was also, about tou feet from the vein.

CHAPTER X.

DEATH! Within three days Pratt and his partner, Hillyear, had completed their cabin. Pratt I saw starting out one morning with horn and hammer. I knew by these tools he was after quartz. Hillyear remained behind to work the bank near them, probably to make

Quartz prospector; used to carry a bit of cow's horn, so cut as to form an elliptical shaped bowl. It was better for washing pulverized quartz than the larger gold pan. Pratt took a rouse through the chargonal near the base of the mountain on the side where lay our "Lark" I worked a couple of hours is a mismable to sell wint and then belook my cli to the "lant," intending theretes we all detaniqued in he imagination I saw Pratt airea by these glowing

over the rich find. I composed the tests in which is only first address him. I framed his de-wer and attitude toward me. I pic- going toward him. tur door eradual working up to actual bosfilities and then-I stopped in a slough of had commenced.

These were days when all disputes, es- fool around me any more. You must be off cenerally a mocked at and diregarded for- in this form

and I lenged for something in my come that's my claim by right of discovery." position which would make me face a pistol to "take the chances" as I had known some indispensable to hold a claim. We had none. men to do. I admired such men for this Broener had put none up, knowing it would onality whether a real absence of fear or in- attract attention. sets.bility to results I know not) and deprehave it. I saw in imagination everything most important process of possession. Browner tending to such termination between my- had hidden away there he used-where I or not I never asked. I put him up uncon-

of the Ann Macy Ana, and quite surprised riol Pract had the lest of me. I felt the I doubt have goingd the to me larged-for

come. I wish d at times he would and end the writing and su peaks. I wondered white he might be. Finally, my anxiety becoming unenderable. I resolved to try and find out. Boftly I let nev-eif clown the monatain side

through the chapparal toward the sixer. and reard here let the sound of a pick. Creeping through the brush I saw it was Pratt. He duy to the ledge, here but a few inches from the surface, tille it his hern with fosds and bumble bees, and I can't keep fobliged continually to express oneself in a the red dirt and true all down to the river to dinner dress of rouns, verbs and propositions | west it. Terrest coffly after alm. Washing

round loose. Some ody ought to look after tioned that Plauche Seften had left Eastper the "color." He dug another horn about two hundred feet nearer the first. The char-

varied. Pratt coasel work and took his It was some entistaction for me to find that Pract had not "lit" directly on the "Bank."

Pendering over the matter that night after I had refined. I drew for a time some comfort in the hope that he might drift in his work. away from it. This gave me some mental rest until a ficial dropped into my head -a me ions as seen that day. Fratt's little preslength. Outside of this, at either end, the | Out something must be done. The day The day, narrowing as he went up, was be limited me-

tracking the pame to its den't bank there. Seen anothing of Pract?" to stay by the claim and watch the spend see What was blooms? I had seen the last of gradual approach. Fig. 1 telt already like a mard-res, be an e. Next norning I reloaded my six decrees, currently results in the position of the previous to have the old charges, which I despite talk as it a beleat conscience was

"Yes, Tin here," I replied.

shadow of a laugh came over me as I thought

"Bank." Then I remembered with dismay before him with the end of his pammer, and It was about the first of March when | that the mountain side was strewn with bits | I poked Mother Earth before me with a stick Broener made this trip to San Francisco. On of quartz, its milky whiteness bringing it out to the that Mr. Pratt intended in small and large fragments, it was especially- clear to me that I should remain—though I thick near the claim. Now these before una did not like so to do. The situation was kept him company. myself. Go to it every day, and keep an | considered masses of rock seemed to me as so, somewhat akin to that in which two gentleeve on all stragglers, prospectors and stran- many finger posts pointing out to all our men call ng on the same lady sometimes find gers, and the more ragged and no account a reasure. I passed the whole night in a themselves-and of all work sitting your man meaning of that look man looks, the more you want to look out fener, and suffered a dozen realities in out ranks among the hardest. Both of us imagination concerning my couring troubles recognized silence as the factor most efficacious for the removal of his adversary - | Without his partner he seemed lost. him of the trouble. But in those days com- ness of his company might remove me, I had over. I seemed to have lived ten years in as munication by mail with San Francisco was no hope that my taciturnity would remove mistress be know was near.

So we sat one-full hoter, and the longest hour of my life. Pratt made the first move. He commenced examining the rock mar the solid mountain formation. Nearer he advanced toward the place where Bromer had screened the worked portion of the vein witha layer of cut brush. He was in the art of touch that brush, blease!" "Why note" said Pratt, looking back.

said, advancing toward him, feeling as if on my way to the scaffold. "Well, young man, do you own this mourttain?" he said.

"I own that brush, that's all," was my streak of rock for not more than ten or twelve feet. Fratt passed it. His eye fell on one end of the vein-untouched there by the pick. He communed chipping it with

Lishammer. "Non noust let that rock alone." I said. Pratt was now up and doing. The war "Oh come!" he exclaimed, "don't you that country-and cases were mentioned

time to time to get my quartz gold smelted some time to cook my grub decently, washing the time to get my quartz gold smelted some time to cook my grub decently, washing the can't tell what we shall grow into or what nine cases out of ten but one mode of settlewhich had finally been traced to men-neighstronger far than the written, which was eves that any one else should know of gold be most lacked. Slow men he spoke of as

> "Your chim," said he, "up here! What resort." I despised myself as a physical cow- Perhars you know as well as L. But or go into a row with as much apparent zest. The written notice on the ground was then mark:

"Where's your tools," he continued. ented ave, loathed myself, because I did not Tools left on a claim were regarded as ist. "That's what he knocks off work so

"No notices, no tools and no work dene, moral weakness of the situation. Fratt discovering such an affair, revolving balltaken out his six-shooter and cocked it.

no. I was powerless, "New, young has a peace ach other on the narrow, rocky trail, of this ground and if you don't I'll put as the dark suspicion which I feared existed in and undistributed. I remained the - several (One-two) three- As he spoke he made a | I felt when about him that his was one of had bicked him up as he would a stray dog looking for a master, and that with the in-



facting, sumbled over beliand a buz-bowt-

CHAPTER XI.

some about time. I felt from the Lisenest went up the mountain until it marked the cable door, exclude support. They built their reached be less branch covering it. I at-"They call it living," said Browner, "Poor his look was fixed on me a danger chelled from the formula band, the out of the Bank? Laskel.

the first of the second of the

and it's for my interest to see that it's saved for that purpose, at the rate I'm chalking up

"Got any better circura than the last lot?" one. Try one. You'd find fell lat you a month. Just the aughiv to suit your easy

"Holice!" was his involuntary exclamation: my partner. He had 'em made to order." Rankin's gabble was a relief. Big Dick this wit wandering and said: came in, and torgetting past admonitions, immediately got off again with a quickness that suggested some uncomfortable sen-

"Glad it works," said Rankin. "Nothin" that a needle stuck through the wood. Some folkers heads are too thick to take a hint. Then we try some other part. 'If at first you don't succeed try, try again." chimed: Rankin, and then added: "Needles and pins, Needles and pins, When you get married your trouble begins." Presently Hillyear enterel A cloud in strong contrast with the red soil, and that, is stay here as I wait for my going. It was seemed to come with him. To me it was as

if the vindictive spirit of the dead man He looked about anxiously, as if with the hope that Fratt might be present. I knew the Hillyear was a slow-moving man, apparemay a follower of Pratt and led by him.

"Has anybody seen Pratt to-day? He hasn't come back," after a time he asked, in his heavy, drawling wey in sentence with many weeks. Eastport and my East; pet slow. A week at least would claps before Mr. Pratt from the vicinity of the golden him seemed always a matter of previous deep and labored study, and when asked the simplest question the time that elapsed before be replied was exasperating to an eager in-

"Why, I saw him piking along Serub mountain to-day," said one of the crowd. "What's be gurroin after up there, anyhow?" "Holder, didn't I see vou crawlin' among removing this when I called out: "Den't | the bushes up there to-day?" said one Bill Sefter. "That red shirt you've got on looks like the one I saw." "Never mind why not. Don't tou hit," I Fool that I was! I had not thought of

> wearing a garb which would show so conspicuously against the dark bottle green of the chapparal. "Yes, I took a stroll that way," I sail. felt forced into such reply. He continued:

"What did yer find to shoot up there! Rattlesnakes or jackass rabbits! I heard a That was Pratt's pistol. Sights and

sounds seemed drawing their meshes about me. Hillyear was looking at me in his stolid fashion as if some faint glimmer of an idea were creeping into his brain. "I shot nothing," was my reply. The talk then drifted toward mysterious murders and robberies-then common in

Rankin's humor incline i h marvels of dispatch taciturn men as disturbing all about by the clatter of their I was not a fighter. I dreaded the "last" sort of diggings do you call these anyway? tongues. I, with my shy, quiet, reticent manner, evidently ranked with him as a most peaceable character. It seemed to me then as if some fiend prompted him to the re-

> "Shouldn't wonder if Holder had waylaid and murdered Pratt. Put another man in his private gravevard." "Yes," added another second fiddle humor-

early for in the morning." "And the hist man's blood is on his pants pow!" gdded a third. i had worn a pair of white duck working sciously as a man who was "on the shoot" -a and you call this a claim?" said Fratt derist transers and a spot of the blood from Fratt's body had smeared them near the feet-I had not noticed it before.

This remark called to me the attention of

all in the diagy store. Their eves seemed to burn through me. I felt as if in the dock I left soon afterward. Hillyear's route it living it over in mind, I would not like to He stood facing me, and but the "drop" on home was mind. We were obliged to walk his mind concerning med felt sorry for him, those natures, Lorn to tollow-that Pratt

> stinct of the animal he had become attached to Pratt and was grieving for him. I tried in vain that night to sleep. So soon final remark, as he trudged off home. as my bory was at rest, and my brain be- I saw by his manner that he was full of came more active than ever, its picturings curiosity, and being full of curiosity would everybody's at the top. Hence there's now, viere ing from Pratt's body to the store, and be soon full of theories as to the cause of no bottom. Nor are these Mexican and Chilefrom the scenes of that day to the possible | Pratt's hurt, and that as curiosity and eanean girls like the 'abandoned' of our

> Where it was it must not remain vision that night can, the black buzzard I these wounds had affected his brain was very I followed his example. The dance over, we had soon in the sky the day before the scene evident without the pompons declaration of of the tragedy, and has bit of black shadow the physician, who had been summoned, to floating on the ground by me. That buzzard: That buzzard and his com-

panions would to-morrow show to the search- was lying on his bed silent, but the sight of ers surely where the body lay! No animal in | me seemed to excite his brain to action, and | that country may die on highway or byway. on plain, gulch or mountain, and though it be ever so thickly screened by bushes, and fallen bowlders about. He missed his though not one of these scavengers be visible, vet within a few hours trooping they come, der, his right arm, with finger on the trigger. Red by some wen leass faculty of scent or way to hold a claim."

That body, I must remove, and this very I steed in the same spot, how many minutes | night, | 1 jumped up, dressel myself in the Howa not expecting half hoping, to see that I darked s, and handes maintee was stambling reaspear. All was siled. Full of desail layering the mount cassile. An "old moon" gave that the got where he had fallen. I have its fading vellowish light. Much of the stool on the rock and looked over it. There trail, both up and down, lay in aimost total lar Pratt, the pistel drooped from his hand, darkness. Where the pines grow thickly someand the blood oozing from a wound in the times I lost my way entirely. I groped and stumbled over bush and rock. In two hears ! I was again on the spot.

It was my intent to drag the body down the monneain side and throw it in the river. Whether it was found far or near, it would, fer's remark, as we left the house together. I thought, I seen and break the web of cire of think he's find a shooting scrape with some of treated our partners at the bar, as cuse cumstantial evidence I saw weaving about body." me. It would put Pratt off the ground I The fragment of moon remaigher was just ders.

should be left in total darkings Fremes al the housh from the head. I had

ing taintly: "It's not your mountain." CHAPTER XII. SUSPECION.

from all the amounts, and points. The great mistake They exist shows remain in the They won't the beautiful flower the most of the orders and the states of the orders and the order than the order th "Prair ore were aline."

"No, not not that way. The lead's higher

up-mighty rich, too!" managed to get him off the delf. ther I could not. The only nessible route that you can't. I have effusiveness. You home wound in places about projections of may in part thank your retirence and unthe mountain several bundred feet perpaidicular above the foaming river, where a to keep a sure footing.

Havanas-only it wants a bull term to draw in till beans be boiled so you can squash | do you what's caffel a favor, never forget it, 'em-else, hard as rocks."

So he rambled on. His words concerning the mint people suggested to me Broener's up express to cure people of smoking. One'll remark as to their curiosity regarding his last an ordinary non a whole year. Ask Mike, quartz assays and their wheresboats. Prait | You need a change from the ghas ly buzwas evidently desirious. I thought to stillize zard spying and holy heating business. Get "Did the mint people send you up here?"

his mind seemed to leap into the old channel. "It's rich-mighty rich-and that can't held it all. The thing to be done was to get Pratt to

his cabin. Evidently his brain was affected Their cabin was built as thousands were inthose days-an envelope of cotton drilling about a light woo len frame. There was no wooden door to knock against, or any other

method to rouse the inmates save by calling. Call I did, but Hillyear seemed sleeping the sleep of the just. At last, out of patience, I pitched a rock into the frail structure. It tore through the cloth. Hillyear's reply was a shot which was not to be wondered at. "For heaven's sake, Hillyear, don't fire! It's mo. I've found Pratt. He's hurt badly," I

"Who's me?" asked Hillyear, after one of his periods of silence.

I heard him cocking his pistol. "It's E-Holder. Come and help me get Pratt down off the mountain. He's lying there with a gash in his head." Mr. Hillyear now relapsed into silence. I knew not whether he was trying to frame an idea into a sentence or peering out to get an

"Ain't you coming?" I cried at last. "Are rou going to help me get Pratt down. He'll die before we get to him." "How-did-vou-come - to - and-him?" came at length from Mr. Hillyear's lips, with a sort of clownish judicial gravity.

"Good heavens!" I said. "Will you stay there all night and ask questions, while your partner is bleeding to death! Do you suppose I'd get out of my bed to stand and call here like a fool for nothing?" "What's the muss?" cried a voice in the darkness. It was Bill Sefter, who lived

come, rousel by the shot and the sound of "I've found Pratt badly hurt on Scrub mountain, and am trying to get Hillyear to help me down with him. Hillvear won't believe me, and that's what's the matter."

Hillyear finally replied: "A"1-right! I'm -comin' !" with an expression as if he hadhad no doubts as to the genuineness of the news, and had but momentarily heard of it. him. With great difficulty we managed to ances on the way down all bore vaguely on quartz hunting and the last scene of which he had been conscious while in his right mind. To Sefter, they were a puzzle. To it up that the best plan is to get all the Hillvear, I knew not how much or how little meaning they conveyed. To myself they were a source of great uneasiness. They bore first on the secret of our claim. Next. they might confirm a suspicion, which, if not already developed. I knew was likely to be, through the singular circumstances attending my finding Pratt so far up Scrub mountain in the dead of night. It needed but a word of his delirious utterance to make a flood of light, for every house on the street, known that we bad-quarreled.

me, just what I expected be would: "How did you come to find Pratt away up the night up the mountain, which was true, by broad bands of pure gold. Riders were but not in the sense I left Sefter to infer. | momentarily coming in, some urging their I held that crasion was justifiable under the borses at a breakneck pace through the street. circumstances. It's not so much what we The air was filled with a medley of soundstell that may damage us as the construction music, shouts, laughter, the hum of several, placed on it by those it may be to'd to The hundred voices gathered in so small an area, are asked that many people will ask, to avoid evasion or untruthfulness, is to say "it's none | the emotions within him developed by whisky. of your business." That, as society is now

We left Pratt in his cabin. Sefter, who-e

curiosity was evidently much aroused, said to

impossible.
"I wonder who shot him?" continued "Shot hir self, maybe," I replied. theories are contagious, he would in a short | American or English cities. They don't get Something must be done with that body. time ineculate all Buil Bar with them. You know how in our minds come floating | been hurt both by the ball and the fail. The | they have a certain respect for themselves memory-re-cut or remote, important or bullet had gashed the temple-not very deeply, which keeps them out of gutters. trivial and of no apparent relation to the The concussion from the fall seemed to have main sabject of thought. So in my mental most affected him. That one or other of

> Sefter was present when I entered. Pratt set in motion the thoughts, scenes and emotions common to the occurrence at the claim. They ran dangerously near, but did not actually revexi use as a participator. "No tools! no notices!" he cried. "Pretty

> "What claim, Pratt," said Sefter. The sick man's eye fell on Sefter with a gleam of cunning. "No claim," he said, We're after rattlesnake oil. Hunting snakes in the chapparal. There's one now-on the lead, if ver not off while I count ten, I'll put a ball through ye. One-two-threeoh!" and he shrickel as if v ith pain.

> "He-must-bekept-quiet, It-is the-doc ter's orders. The loctor says his sary -brullum-is-something-or-oth w." "Queer business-queer pusiness" was Sef-Bromer returned I felt that I could now shift a part of the lasiness to other shoul-

Hittverr spoke:

above the durk optime of the halls on the He heard my stary. At its conclusion said: "You must go han alone to night, I other side of the river. In ten minutes I he settled back and laughed. Regular dime novel, isn't it?" said be, "Write it, print it, sell it. Well, young man, Pratt's body. I took it first from the legs you're improving rapidly. I congratulate and trunk. The face I didn't want to you I couldn't have wished you anything say if rossible I worked the shower as latter than the experience you've gone I apprenched the head. The moon sunk turough. You needed it. You're the kind entirely behind the dark ridge expedite. That must be put in very hot water to draw anything out of you." "But won't this put all Bull Bar on the trasgive him up. Dr. Acker's Fugish Remeay

veneral kins reducing the state of which the second who has ever a deal look held by on with a deal look held by on the second by the second b A small, energetic, bushing man, was seed to be a seed to the beauty. Then I ment library species say the far less drunkenels if every man was come, are the first stages of consumption. Dr. Acker's polled by law to dress up and trim up his rightly Remedy for Consumption (8) cure drinks in this way before he swallowed these teartid symptoms, and is sold under; a them." He continue t as he sipped his punch: Positive guarance by J. F. W. D. Lorme. "Make yourself easy, Holder, about the claim. You have five, that all right, or the Mis, W. C. Ivv. will dean kid and sikk Pates have for you. Pratt won't go up gloves and felt hats in first class order at there for a while, now that his wits are reasonable rates. Orders from the country knocked out of his bead, which for our purprocedule the far than knocking them out of the profession seems and the procession seems are the procession of the profession seems and the procession seems are the procession of the profession seems are the procession of the procession seems are the procession of the procession seems are the procession of the proce lieve that if his wills were out of his body they'd be in much better shaps to SUMTER WARBLE WORKS. his buly. Feenuse I'm fool enough to become back and reveal our screen then as they now are channel to a erasked skull, and therefore in lad work ing order. Hillcom, from also yen say is, I judge only an appendance of Pratt's and not also to de anything with at nine. At also events, it find out soon. As her the Brook. I think I we get the common of a month.

> ther this est shows you. We'll get that down the way's and inclinip things hat the press at There's, I turns, year fair share of diver, so tar as we've gone," and he put me my bands a mink certificate of deposit for Site 5. "If the rock that's monel out gives down as I think it will, vor'll have as much here coming to you. Are you satisfied " Satisfied! Less than a year-from frome and . the persessor of what in Eastport was deemed a small fortupe ha the well worn phrass,

despitato That one ley for awards I've

set door on two enclose of a cott anothers.

I said: "I wish I could fi ly express my feeling and gratitude to you." "I'm glad you can't," said Broener, interrupting me. "It's a good thing for you

demonstrativeness for what you call your lack I don't want our gradiers about mex sound man needed all his strength and nerve Besides, you've earned what you got every cent of it. Fate pur you and ine together, "Them mint fellows are shorp. Jack Hill- and with that put it in your way. There's no thanks nor gratitude in the matter. I hat twomie niways overwhelmed with grati--dough sticks if tain't dene; den't put pork tude. They're the sert who, if ever they and, in effect, want to be paid for it forever afterward. Let's change the subject. There's a travellar theatre company at Chinese Camp to-night. Le's go and see the show. Rankin's horse. I'll take mine, and we'll

gallop over there." "Put fresh salt on a bird's tail, an' you'll On applying, Mr. Rankin aid he would catch a weasel asleep," was his reply. Then | glally hire me his horse. The animal, he added, was vicious, shied at his own shadow, "bucked frequently and had been the death of two men. As we were leaving he called out to Broener: "The coroner lives at one end of the camp and is lightenin' on an inby the wound. I left him and kurried to quest when sober. The undertaker lives at the other. You'll letter take the cloth for the young man's shroul along with you. They know that horse up there and always

put an extra ten cents a yard on white linen when they see han comin." It seemed snother world in that land when rilling by night. The sun's hot glars was goas. The air after nightfall was always (9) and refreshing, for it came off the snowbanks on the Sierra summits. Our horses were full of life and apparently as glad to make the trip as ourselves. The life of the hoss seems to add life to the rider, providing he is a "horseman." Distance at night seems annoti el. It is more like a dream, One travels forward without so much of that mental straining to reach one point after another as do so often our unhappily constituted harrying minds in the day time. So galloped Brooner and I, regarding those

stars. "Lot's of 'em sren't there?" said he. "The stars! Ves

myriad shining wonders of all ages-the

"Small potatoes we are under them. Smaller than asts in comparison, and moving about on this planet for these shining atoms we call gold. I wonder, now, of what importence poor Pratt. if he had his senses, would consider that biggest star alongside of a pan full of dust. Pratt would trade Venus for a quartz claim."

"Stars, speculation, immortality, etc.," said

Broener, as we rode on. "The three seem to: go together; or, at all events, stars always start one on those topics. I wonder what we are, anyway-who we are, where we came from, and all the rest. I am a certain amount about an eighth of a mile distant. He had of life and intelligence in a body. Body's only a garment, a wrap, a machine. Hit a a part of the body hard enough, just one blow, and in one second life's all gone, and with it the 'gumption' I've been storing up. for years. Hit it not quite as hard like the "Hillyear, get up! Don't be a fool," said crack poor Pratt gave himself, and the intelligence stays but goes to flinder all burly. burly. Problem: when you bore a hole with a bullet through a man's head, does all his intellect go out through that hole, and, if so, where does it go to: and might there not be Our party reached Pratt, where I had left | some way of putting a bucket or basin under such a man's head when he's dving, and collecting his intelligence, his q trees for maple sugar? Well, one thing's certain; we're here, anyway, and I put fun we can out of it-body, soul, mind, spirit. and any other little addition the theologia philosophers and metaphysicians can tack on

We rode into the "camp." In the language

of the time, it was "bilin"." The thestre

company had brought in miners from far and near. It was a single straight street. From every door and win low on either side poured of wood or cloth, was either store, saloon, gambling tent or some place of public resort. Sidewalk, street and houses were alike full of men. The "fandango" was already in full blast. Here, alone, were seen women-dark-skinned secoritas in white-I told Softer that I heard Pratt's voice in dresses, some having their waists encircled the clink of glasses and an occasional yell from some miner giving vent in this way to "Come," said Broener. "Let's take a look constituted and complicated, would be quite at the fundango. Everybody goes there either to dance or look on. It's not the lowdance house of an old city. You will find there the leading merchants of the place. the banker, the lawyer, the judge, and all "Queer ousiness, anyway," was Sefter's the other present pillars of society, in this new world of adventurers. Society here, you see, is in a state of efferve course, and drunk, won't pick your pocket, and Next day I visited Pratt. His head had though morality sits lightly on them, still We went in. Breener was soon whirling one of these tawny beenties about in a waltz.



I followed his example. tomary, to harmless soils, the only beverage they took, made a preference of drinking ourselves and left for the theatrs. As we were enter up the theatre Broener. shall not return till some time to morrow."

TO BE CONTINUED

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