WEDNESDAY, MAY 7.

THE DESERTER.

By Capt. CHARLES KING, U. S. A. Author of "Denraven Ranch," "The Colonel's Daughter," "Marion's

Faith," Etc., Etc.

Copyright, by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, and published by special arrangement with them.]

ICONTINUED.1



The officers of Fort Warrener were custom, in the presence of the colonel commanding. It had long been the practice of that veteran soldier to require all his commissioned subordinates to put in an appearance at his office imhis custom to look up from his writing | was Capt. Rayner. as each officer entered and respond to the respectful salutation tendered him with an equally punctilions "Good morning, Capt. Gregg," or "Good morning. Mr. Blake," never omitting the mention ents of the group, and contented himself with a "Good morning, gentlemen."

When in addition to six troops of his own regiment of cavalry there were sent to the post a major and four companies of infantry, some of the junior officers of the latter organization had suggested to their comrades of the vellow stripes that as the colonel had no roll call it might be a matter of no great risk to "cut the matinee" on some of the fiendishly cold mornings that soon set in; but the experiment was never designedly tried, thanks, possibly, to the frank exposition of his personal views as expressed by Lieut. Blake, of the cavalry, who said, "Try it if you are stagnating for want of a sensation, my genial plodder, but not if you value the advice of ope who has been there, so to speak. The chief will spot you quicker than he can a missing shoe a missing horseshoe, Johnny, let me elaborate for your comprebension-and the next question will be, Mr Bluestrap, did you intentionally absent yourself? and then how will you

get out of it?" The matinees, so called, were by no means unpopular features of the daily routine. The officers were permitted to bring their pipes or cigars and take their after breakfast smoke in the big, roomy office of the commander, just as they were permitted to enjoy the post-prandial whiff when at evening recitation in the same office they sat around the room, chatting in low tones, for half an hour, while the colonel received the reports of his adjutant, the surgeon and the old and the new officer of the day. Then any matters affecting the discipline or instruction or general interests of the command were brought up; both sides of the question were presented, if question arose: the decision was rendered then and there, and the officers were dismissed for the day with the customary "That's all, gentlemen." They left the office well knowing that only in the event of some sudden emergency would they be called thither again or disturbed in their daily vocations until the same hour on the following morning. Meantime, they must be about their work-drills, if weather permitted: stable dury, no matter what the weather; garrison courts, boards of survey, the big general court that was perennially dispensing justice at the post, and the long list of minor but none the less exacting demands on the time and attention of the subalterns and

company commanders. The colonel was a strict, even severe. disciplinarian, but he was cool, deliberate, and just. He "worked" his officers, and thereby incurred the criticism of a few, but held the respect of all He had been a splendid cavalry commander in the field of all others where his sterling qualities were sure to find responsive appreciation in his officers and men-on active and stirring campaigns against the Indians- and among his own regiment he knew that deep in their hearts the -th respected and believed in him, even when they growled at garrison exactions which seemed uncalled for. The infantry officers knew less of him as a sterling campaigner. and were not so well pleased with his discipline. It was all right for him to "rout out" every mother's son in the cavalry at reveille, because all the cavalry officers had to go to stables soon afterward-that was all they were fit for-but what on earth was the use of getting them-the infantry-out of their warm beds before sunrise on a wintry morning and having no end of roll calls and such things through the day, "just to keep them busy? The real objection -the main objection-to the colonel's system was that it kept a large number of officers, most of whom were educated gentlemen, hammering all day long at an endless routine of trivial duties, allowing actually no time in which they could read, study, or improve their minds; but, as ill luck would have it, the three young gentlemen who decided to present to the colonel this view of the case had been devoting what spare time they could find to a lively some of poker down at "the store," and their petition for "more time to themse ves" brought down a reply from the oracular lips of the commander that became immortal on the frontier and made the petitioners nearly frantic.

For a week the trio was the butt of all the wits at Fort Warrener And vet the entire commissioned force felt that they were being kept at the grindstone because of the frivolity of these youngsters. and the; did not like it. All the same the eavalrymen stuck up for their colonel and the infantrymen respected him, and the matinees were business like and profitable. They were rarely unpleasant in any feature, but this particular morn-

Rayner and her sister—there had been a Hayne's features; he seemed rather to scene of somewhat dramatic interest, eriev the situation: and the groups of officers in breaking up and going away could discuss nothing else. The colonel had requested one of their number to remain, as he wished to speak to him further, and that man was

Seven years had that young gentleman been a second lieutenant of the regiment of infantry, a detachment of which was now stationed at Warrener. Only this very winter had promotion come to him, and, of all companies in the regiment, he

was gazetted to the first lieutenancy of Capt. Rayner's. For a while the regiment when by itself could talk of little else. Mr. Hayne had spent three or four years in the exile of a little "two company post" far up in the mountains. Except the officers there stationed, none of his comrades had seen him during that

No one of them would like to admit that he would care to see him. And vet, when once in a while they got to talking among themselves about him, and the question was sometimes confidentially asked of comrades who came down on leave from that isolated station, "How is Hayne doing?" or "What is Hayne doing? the language in which he was referred to grew by degrees far less truculent and confident than it had been when he first went thither. Officers of other regiments rarely spoke to the "Riflers" of Mr. Hayne. Unlike one or

two others of their arm of the service, this particular regiment of foot held the affairs of its officers as regimental property in which outsiders had no concern. If they had disagreements they were kept to themselves: and even in a case which in its day had attracted widespread attention the Riflers had long since learned to shun all talk outside. It was evident to other commands that

the Hayne affair was a sore point and one on which they preferred silence. assembled, as was the daily morning | And yet it was getting to be whispered around that the Riflers were by no means so unanimous as they had been in their opinion of this very officer. They were becoming divided among themselves: and what complicated matters was the mediately after the ceremony of guard | fact that those who felt their views unmounting. He might have nothing to dergoing a reconstruction were comsay to them, or he might have a good | pelled to admit that just in proportion deal: and he was a man capable of say- as the case of Mr. Hayne rose in their ing a good deal in very few words and estimation the reputation of another offimeaning exactly what he said. It was cer was bound to suffer, and that officer

Between these two men not a word had been exchanged for five years-not a single word since the day when, with ashen face and broken accents, but with stern purpose in every syllable, Lieut. of the name, unless, as was sometimes | Hayne, standing in the presence of tried, a squad of them came in together | nearly all the officers of his regiment, and made their obeisance as a body. In had hurled this prophecy in his adverthis event the colonel simply looked sary's teethe "Though it take me years. each man in the face, as though taking I will live it down despite you; and you mental note of the individual constitu- will wish to God you had hitten out your perjured tongue before ever you told the lie that wrecked me."

No wonder there was talk, and lots of it, in the "Riflers" and all through the garrison when Rayner's first lieutenant suddenly threw up his commission and retired to the mines he had located in Montana, and Hayne, the "senior second," was promoted to the vacancy. Speculation as to what would be the result was given a temporary rest by the news that war department orders had granted the subaltern six months' leave-the first he had sought in as many years. It was known that he had gone east; but hardly had he been away a fortnight when there came the trouble with the Chevennes at the reservation—a leap for liberty by some fifty of the band, and an immediate rush of the cavalry in pursuit. There were some bloody atrocities, as there always are. All the troops in the department were ordered to be in readiness for instant service, while the officials eagerly watched the reports to see which way the desperate band would turn; and the next heard of Mr. Hayne was the news that he had thrown up his leave and had hurried out to join his company the moment the eastern papers told of the trouble. It was all practically settled by the time he reached the department; but the spirit and intent of his action could not be doubted. And now here he was at Warrener. That very morning during the matinee he had entered the

"Permit me to introduce myself, colonel-Mr. Hayne. I desire to relinquish my leave of absence and report for duty." The colonel quickly arose and extended

office unannounced, walked up to the

desk of the commander, and, while every

voice but his in the room was stilled, he

"Mr. Havne, I am especially glad to see you and to thank you here for all

your care and kindness to our men. The doctor tells me that many of them would have had to suffer the loss of noses and ears, even of hands and feet in some cases, but for your attention. Maj. Stannard will add his thanks to mine when he returns. Take a seat, sir, for the present. You are acquainted with the officers of your own regiment, doubtless. Mr. Billings, introduce Mr. Hayne Whereat the adjutant courteously

greeted the newcomer, presented a small party of vellow strapped shoulders, and then drew him into carnest talk about the adventure of the train. It was noticed that Mr. Havne neither by word nor glance gave the slightest recognition of the presence of the officers of his own regiment, and that they as studiously avoided him. One or two of their number had indeed risen and stepped forward, as though to offer him the civil greeting due to one of their own cloth; but it was with evident doubt of the retentative-which was that of a gentle man-with a cell look of utter repudia-

cavalrymen. To re were only a few ward. The introductions were courteous and formal, there was even constraint among two or three, but there was civility and an evident desire to refer to his services in behalt of their men. All such attempts, however, Mr. Hayne waved aside by an immediate change of the subject. It was plain that to them, too, he had the manner of a man who was at odds with the world and desired to make

The coional quickly noted the general silence and constraint, and resolved to man to his society who would not first chorten it as much as possible. Dropping his pen, he who led around in his chair with determined cheerfulness:

"Mr. Havne, you will need a day or two to look about ands bet quitiers and pressive and persistently mistaken, no more about it? get ready for work, I presume." Thank you, colouel. No, sir. I shall innocent? he has lived the life of a move in this aft raccor and be on duty. Parish ever since,

choosing quarters according to your rank "Well, here, gentlemen," said Buxton, tell him I want particularly to see him kind. Out on Prairie avenue all was anything you need in their line before buy-Hayne; but have you considered that in it into his own system. want time to pack."

"I have considered, colonel. I shall turn nobody out, and nobody need be incommoded in the least." "Oh! then you will share quarters

with some of the bachelors?" asked the colonel, with evident relief. "No, sir:" and the answer was stern in tone, though perfectly respectful; "I shall live as I have lived for years-ut-

One could have heard a pin drop in the office-even on the matted floor. The

"Why, Mr. Hayne, there is not a vacant set of quarters in the garrison. You will have to move some one out if you decide to live alone." "There may be no quarters in the post,

sir, but, if you will permit me, I can live near my company and yet in officers' quarters." "How so, sir?"

"In the house out there on the edge of the garrison, facing the prairie. It is within stone's throw of the barracks of Company B, and is exactly like those built for the officers in here along the parade." "Why, Mr. Hayne, no officers ever lived there. It is utterly out of the way and isolated. I believe it was built for | ton, I think you did." the sutler years ago, but was bought in

there now, Mr. Quartermaster?" "No one, sir. It is being used as a tailors' shop; half a dezen of the company tailors work there; but I can send them back to their own barracks. The house is in good repair, and, as Mr. Hayne says, exactly like those built for officers' use." "And you mean you want to live there alone, Mr. Hayne?"

"I do, sir, exactly." The colonel turned sharply to his desk once more. The strained silence continued a moment. Then he faced his

"Mr. Hayne, will you remain a few moments? I wish to speak with you. Gentlemen, that is all this morning." And so the meeting adjourned. While many of the cavalry officers

strolled into the neighboring club and reading room it was noticed that their comrades of the infantry lost no time at intermediate points, but took the shortest road to the row of brown cottages known as the officers' quarters. The feeling of constraint that had settled upon all was still apparent in the group that entered the club room, and for a moment no one spoke. There was a general settling into easy chairs and picking up of newspapers without reference to age or date. No one seemed to want to say anything, and yet every one asked "the mole," wheeling suddenly on felt it necessary to have some apparent excuse for becoming absorbed in other matters. This was so evident to Lieut. Blake that he speedily burst into a laugh -the first that had been heard-and do?" quire into the cause of his mirth that light hearted gentleman was seen sprawling his long legs apart and gazing out of

"What do you see that's so intensely funny?" growled one of the elders among

"Nothing, old mole - nothing," said Blake, turning suddenly about. "It looks too much like a funeral procession for What I'm chuckling at is the absurdity of our coming in here like so many mutes in weepers. It's none of our

"Strikes me the situation is damned awkward," growled "the mole" again, around. Here's a fellow comes in who's cut by his regiment and has placed ours under lasting obligation before he gets inside

"Well, does any man here know the rights and wrongs of the case, anyhow?" said a tall, bearded captain as he threw aside the paper which he had not been reading, and rose impatiently to his feet. "It seems to me from the little I've heard of Mr. Havne and the little I've seen, that there is a broad variation between facts and appearances. He looks like a gentle-

"No one does know anything more of the matter than was known at the time of the court martial five years ago," answered "the mole." "Of course you have heard all about that, and my experience is that when a body of officers and gentlemen find, after due deliberation on the evidence, that another has been guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a one Le has been doing something disreputable, to say the least."

"Then why wasn't he dismisse!?" queried a young lieutenant. "The law

"That's right, Dolly; pull your Ives and Benet on 'cm and show you know all about military law and courts martial," said the captain, crushingty. "It's one thing for a court to sentence and another for the president to approve. Hayne was dismissed, so far as a court could do it, but the president remitted the whole

"There was more to it than that, though, and you know it, Buxton," said Blake. "Neither the department commander nor Gen. Sherman thought the evidence conclusive, and they said so, especially old Gray Fox. And you ask for." any of these fellows here now whether they believe Hayne was really guilty, and I'll bet you that eight out of ten will flunk at the question."

"Cut be blowed! By gad, if any man in by noon." asked me to testify on oath as to where the cut lay, I shouldsay he had cut them. Did you see how he ignored Foster and

"I did, and I thought it damned un-

centlemanty in him. Those fellows did the proper thing, and he ought to have acknowledged it," broke in a third officer. should you want to know, Kate, if you the great stacks of hay; while the row the dreadful admission, "I was wrong. "I'm not defending that point; the disapprove of her revelations?" Lord knows he has done nothing to encourage civility with his own people; but there are two sides to every story, and I that it was something unfounded, as ered the whole eastern front. The big, handed to his comrades, and had sought to the city. their adjutant last fall, when usual there was some talk of his company's being sent here, what Hayne's status, the colonel was going to give a dinner was, and he told me. There isn't a quarer than or sounder soldier in the army then the adjurant of the Riders: and he said that it was Hayne's stubborn pride that more than anything else stood | to give -a dinner party-this eveningin the way of his restoration to social to Mr .- Havne," standing. He had made it a rule that I every one who was not for him was against him, and refused to admit any come to him of his own volition and say he believed him atterly innocent. As that it volved the necessity of their looking up a Rayner as either perjured or resolute: "Didn't she tell you anything sheds devoted to commissary supplies, of suffering. This showed out that very ore felt called upon to do it. Guilty or

to-morrow morning," was the calm reply. "I want to open out to him, today," And Mils Travers was evidently having stables. It was as unprepossessing a his name." I must have peace in my own There was an awkward pane for a said Capt, wreat, "but the moment I moment. The officers Loked blankly began to speak of his great kindness to right. from one to another, and then began our men he froze as stiff as Molligan's craning their necks to search for the ear. What was the use? I simply said her big sister, and flounced suddenly post quartermaster, who sat an absorbed couldn't thaw an icicle. What made out of the room and up the stairs, listener. Then the colonel spoke again: him so effective in getting the frest out. A moment later she was at the parlor, be seen stretching away towards the

you will necessarily move somebody out? impatiently, "we've get to face this thing | before he goes out again. We are crowded now, and many of your | sooner or later, and may as well do it juniors are married, and the Lylies will now. I know Rayner and like him, and don't believe he's the kind of man to moment An anxious silence again. Capt. Ray- wilfully wrong another. I don't know ner was gazing at his boot toes and try. Mr. Hayne, and Mr. Hayne apparently Buy your Ice Cream Churns, Water many bears, much less from one another. No need to take those big cathartic pills; ing to appear utterly indifferent; others don't want to know me. I think that Coolers, Hammocks and Fly Faus at E. E. leaned forward, as though eager to hear | where a man has be a convicted of dis- Remort & Co.

ing-two days after the arrival of Mrs. | the answer. A faint smile crossed Mr. | honorable-disgraceful conduct and is cut by his whole regiment it is our business to back the regiment, not the man. Now the question is, where shall we draw the line in this case? It's none of our funeral, as Blake says, but ordinarily it would be our duty to call upon this officer. Shall we do it, now that he is in Coventry, or shall we leave him to his

own devices?"

"I'll answer for myself, Buxton," said Blake, "and you can do as you please. Except that one thing, and the not unusual frivolties of a youngster that occurred previous to this trial, I understand that his character has been above reproach. So far as I can learn, he is a far more reputable character than I am, and a better officer than most of us. Growl all you want to, comrades mine; 'it's a way we have in the army,' and I like it. So long as I include myself in these malodorous comparisons, you needn't swear. It is my conviction that the Riflers wouldn't say he was guilty today if they hadn't said so five years ago. It is my information that he has paid every cent of the damages, whether he caused them or not, and it is my intention to go and call upon Mr. Hayne as soon as he's settled. I don't propose to influence any man in his action; and excuse me, Bux-

The captain looked wrathful. Blake as a storehouse for quartermaster's propwas an oddity of whom he rather stood erty, the other as the post trader's deposiby the government afterwards. Who lives in awe, for there was no mistaking the tory for skins and furs, there stood the popularity and respect in which he was | frame cottage which Mr. Hayne had chossomewhat remarkable for being emphati- precisely like those built for the subalcally an "outspoken crowd," and for some tern officers, so far as material, plan and to that part of the letter which spoke of years, thanks to a leaven of strong and dimensions were concerned. The localitruthful men in whom this trait was pro- ty made the vast difference which really nounced and sustained, it had grown to existed. Theirs stood all in a row, frontbe the custom of all but a few of the offi- ing the grassy level of the parade, surters of regimental policy and utterly to well kept gravel path and an equally discountenance covert action of any kind. | well graded drive. Clear, sparkling Blake was thoroughly popular and genrant and rattle on most occasions. Never- the moisture needed for the life of the theless, there were signs of dissent as to various little shrubs and flowering plants. the line of action he proposed, though it were only for his own guidance.

ton, after a pause.

events, I mean to see.' "What are you going to do, Gregg?"

his brother troop commander. "I don't know," said Gregg, doubtfully. "I think I'll ask the colonel." "What do you suppose he means to within its limits one house which pos-

when two or three heads popped out "I don't know again; but I'll bet we every woman and most of the men in from behind their printed screens to in- all know as soon as he makes up his the garrison; it was said to be haunted. mind; and he is making up his mind now-or he's made it up, for there goes Mr. Hayne, and here comes the orderly. from the railway station that Mr. Hayne | tion. Something's up already.

the window after the groups of infantryway as the orderly's stee was heard in have choice of quarters over every secthe cuter hall, and every reice stilled to ond lieutenant in the garrison. There hear the message, it was so unusual for the commanding officer to send for one four of the ten were married. Every of Lis-subordinates after the morning set of quarters had its occupants, and meeting. The soldier tapped at the Hayne could move in nowhere, unless as charming grace on their arrival two days panel, and at the prompt "Come in" pushed it partly open and stood with one white gloved hand resting on the knob, the other raised to his cap visor in salute. ing would lead to vast discomfort, oc- ments by the two households, even while "Lieut. Blake?" he asked, as he glanced curring as it would in the dead of winter,

quickly from the window.

"The commanding officer's compliments, sir, and could be see the lieutenant one minute before the court meets?" "Coming at once," said Blake, as he pushed his way through the chairs, and the orderly faced about and disappeared. terms with Mr. Hayne. Everything. apparently unanimous sentiment as the his 'displacing" a junior, who would in cavalry party broke up and scattered for turn displace somebody else, and so they the morning's duties. Some waited pur- would go tumbling like a row of bricks

nel's presence as Elake knocked and en- for the quartermaster, who even under rained in the long ago was slowly but tered. All others had gone. There was the most favorable circumstances is sure a moment's hesitation, and the colonel to be the least appreciated and most paused and locked his man over before abused officer under the commandant "You will excuse my sending for you.

matter that has to be decided at once. In this case you will consider, too, that gentleman, the chances are a hundred to I want you to say yes or no exactly as you would to a comrade of your own grade. If you were asked to meet Mr. Havne at any other house in the garrison than mine, would you desire to accept? You are aware of all the circumstances, the adjutant tells me." "I am, sir, and have just announced

my intention of calling upon him." "Then will you dine with us this evening to meet Mr. Havne?"

"I will do so with pleasure, sir." It could hardly have been an hour afterwards when Mrs Rayner entered the library in her cosey home and found

Miss Travers entertaining herself with a "Have you written to Miss Van Antwerp this morning?" she asked. "I

thought that was what you came here "I did mean to, but Mrs. Waldron has

been here, and I was interrupted." "It is fully tifteen minutes since she left, Nellie. You might have written "And yet they all cut him dead. That's two or three pages already; and you know prima facie evidence of what they think." | that all manner of visitors will be coming

> "I was just thinking over something she told me. I'll write presently." "Mrs. Waldron is a woman who talks about everything and everybody. I adrise you to listen to her no more than tier town; southward the shallow valley you can help. What was it she told you?"

"Oh," with visible annovance, "it is to

"She said she had just been told that party this evening to Mr. Hayna" "What?" "She-said-she-had-just-been-

told-that-the-colonel-was-going-

"Kate, I didn't osk." "Who are invited? None of ours?" "Kate, I don't know." "Where did she say she had heard it?"

"She didn't say." Mrs. Rayner paused one moment, ir-

hard work to keep from laughing out- place for a home as ever was chosen by house. It is enough to have to talk of it "You had better write your letter,"

"Where are you going, Kate?"



Their hostess led him to her piano.

Facing the broad, bleak prairie, sepa

rated from it only by a rough, unpainted

picket fence, and flanked by uncouth

structures of pine, one of which was used

held in his own regiment. The -th was en as his home. As has been said, it was cers to discuss openly and fully all mat- rounded by verandas, bordering on a water rippled in tiny acequias through erally respected, despite a tendency to the front yards of each, and so furnished The surroundings were at least "sociable," and there was companionship and "And how do you suppose Rayner and | jollity, with an occasional tiff to keep the Riflers generally will regard your things lively. The married officers, as a calling on their black sheep?" asked Bux- rule, had chosen their quarters farthest from the entrance gate and nearest those "I don't know," said Blake, more seri- of the colonel commanding. The bacheously, and with a tone of concern. "I lors, except the two or three who were old like Rayner, and have found most of in the service and had "rank" in lieu of those fellows thorough gentlemen and encumbrances, were all herded together good friends. This will test the question | along the eastern end, a situation that thoroughly. I believe most of them, ex- had disadvantages as connected with ducept, of course, Rayner, would do the ties which required the frequent pressame were they in my place. At all ence of the occupants at the court martial rooms or at headquarters, and that was correspondingly far distant from the barracks of the soldiers. It had its recommendations in being convenient to the card room and billiard tables at "the store," and in embracing sessed mysterious interest in the eyes of

A sorely perplexed man was the post quartermaster when the rumor came out | accorded when first assigned to the stahad arrived and was coming to report | There were many, indeed, who assert-Every head was turned to the door- for duty. As a first lieutenant he would were ten of these young gentlemen, and occupant of a room or two in the house | previous to the stirring event of the dinof some comrade, without first compel- ner, and every one was looking forward ling others to move out. This proceed-"What is it?" asked Blake, stepping | turbed in spirit-their wives especially

so. What made the prospects infinitely worse was the fact that the cavalry bachelors were already living three in a house; the only spare rooms were in the quarters of the second lieutenants of the infantry, and they were not on speaking best informed, but he had a native "I'll bet it's about Hayne," was the therefore, pointed to the probability of until the lowest and last was reached. The adjutant alone stood in the colo- All this would involve no end of worry

himself, and that worthy was simply agasp with relief and joy when he heard Mr. Blake, when I tell you that it is a Mr. Hayne's astonishing announcement soul on earth, even his wife, there was that he would take the quarters out on growing up deep down in his heart a "Prairie avenue."

It was the talk of the garrison all that izv. The ladies, especially, had a good deal to say, because many of the men seemed averse to expressing their views. "Quite the proper thing for Mr. Havne to do," was the apparent opinion of the majority of the young wives and mothers. As a particularly kind and considerate thing it was not remarked by one of them, though that view of the case went not entirely unrepresented. In choosing to live there Mr. Hayne separated himself from companionship. That, said some of the commentatorsmen as well as women-he simply accepted as the virtue of necessity, and so there was nothing to commend in his. The promotion of Hayne to his own comaction. But Mr. Hayne was said to pos- pany thrilled him with an almost super sess an eye for the picturesque and beautiful. If so, he deliberately condemned himself to the daily contemplation of a treeless barren, streaked in occasional shallows with dingy patches of snow, ornamented only in spots by abandoned old hats, boots, or tin cans blown bevond the jurisdiction of the garrison police parties. A line of telegraph poles was all that intervened between his fence and the low lying hills of the eastern

of the winding creek in which lay the Miss Travers smiled roguishly: "Why long line of stables for the cavalry and on which he chose to live-"Prairie ave- I was utterly wrong." nue," as it was termed-was far worse "Nothing, sister mine. Why should | shop, then big coal sheds, and then the | talk, and he turned ficrcely upon her: a man of education or position; and Mr. | elsewhere,' Havne was possessed of both.

In garrison, despite the flat parade, there was a grand expanse of country to "I appreciate your promptness, Mr. of them was his capacity for absorbing door with a wrap thrown over her snow covered Rockies. There was life shoulders, "if Capt. Rayner comes in. and the sense of neighborliness to one's wintry desolation, except when twice ing elsewhere. each day the cavalry officers went plod-"Oh, just over to Mrs. Waldron's a ding by on their way to and from the after eating, can be cured and prevented by coats, and hardly distinguishable from so Pillets (little pills.) pily as he glanced from his eastern win- Pillets is quite sufficient and more agreeable.

dow at this group of burly warriors the afternoon succeeding his dinner at the colonel's. He had been busy all day long unpacking books, book shelves, some few pictures which he loved, and his simple, soldierly outfit of household goods, and getting them into shape. His sole assistant was a Chinese servant, who worked rapidly and well, and who seemed in no wise dismayed by the bleakness of their surroundings. If anything, he was disposed to grin and indulge in high pitched commentaries in "pidgin English" upon the unaccustomed amount of room. His master had been restricted to two rooms and a kitchen during the two years he had served him. Now they had a house to themselves. and more rooms than they knew what to do with. The quartermaster had sent a detail of men to put up the stoves and move out the rubbish left by the tailors; "Sam" had worked vigorously with soft soap, hot water and a big mop in sprucing up the rooms; the adjutant had sent a little note during the morning, saying that the colonel would be glad to order him any men he needed to put the quarters in proper shape, and that Capt. Rayner had expressed his readiness to send a detail from the company to unload and unpack his boxes, etc., to which Mr. Havne replied in person that he thanked the commanding officer for his thoughtfulnes, but that he had very little to unpack, and needed no assistance beyond that already afforded by the quartermaster's men. Mr. Billings could not help noting that he made no allusion Capt. Rayner's offer. It increased his respect for Mr. Hayne's perceptive While every officer of the infantry battalion was ready to admit that Mr. Hayne

had rendered valuable service to the men of the cavalry regiment, they were not so unanimous in their opinion as to how it should be acknowledged and requited by its officers. No one was prepared for the announcement that the colonel had asked him to dinner and that Blake and Billings were to meet him. Some few of their number thought it going too far, but no one quite coincided with the vehement declaration of Mrs. Rayner that it was an outrage and an affront aimed at the regiment in general and at Capt Rayner in particular. She was an energetic woman when aroused, and there was no doubt of her being very much aroused as she sped from house to house to see what the other ladies thought of it. Rayner's wealth and Mrs. Rayner's qualities had made her an undoubted though not always popular leader in all social matters in the Riflers. She was an authority, so to speak, and one who knew it. Already there had been some points on which she had differed with the colonel's wife, and it was plain to all that it was a difficult thing for her to come down from being the authoritythe leader of the social element of a garrison-and from the position of second or third importance which she had been

ed that it was because she found her new position unbearable that she decided on her long visit to the east, and departed thither before the Riflers had been at Warrener a month. The colonel's wife had greeted her and her lovely sister with to a probable series of pleasant entertainwondering how long the entente cordiale to Mr. Hayne brought on an immediate crisis. It is safe to say that Mrs. Rayner was madder than the captain her husband, who hardly knew how to take it. He was by no means the best liked officer in his regiment, nor the "deepest" and shrewdness which helped him. He noted even before his wife would speak of it to feeling that had once existed at Hayne's expense. He felt, though it hurt him seriously to make inquiries, that the man whom he had practically crushed and surely gaining strength, even where he would not make friends.

Worse than all, he was beginning to doubt the evidence of his own senses as the years receded, and unknown to any gnawing, insidious, ever festering fear that after all, after all, he might have been mistaken. And yet on the sacred outh of a soldier and a gentleman, against the most searching cross-examination, again and again had he most confidently and positively declared that he had both seen and heard the fatal interview on which the whole case hinged And as to the exact language employed, he alone of those within earshot had lived to testify for or against the accused; of the five soldiers who stood in that now cele brated group, three were shot to death within the hour. He was growing neryous, irritable, haggard: he was getting to hate the mere mention of the case stitious dismay. Were his words coming true? Was it the judgment of an offended God that his hideous pride, obstinacy and old time hatred of this officer were now to be revenged by daily, hourly contact with the victim of his criminal persecution? He had grown morbidly sensitive to any remarks as to Hayne's having "lived down" the toils in which he had been encircled. Might he not "live down" the ensuarer? He dreaded to see him-though Rayner was no Southeastward lay the distant roofs | coward-and he feared day by day to the regiment, and yet would have given half his wealth to bring it about, coulit but have been accomplished without He had grown lavish in hospitality; he

-I wanted to know so as to let you see at his end of it than at the other. It cov- had become almost aggressively open brown hospital building stood at the to press money upon men who in no northern end. Then came the quarters | wise needed it. He was as eager to lend of the surgeon and his assistants, then as some are to borrow, and his brother felt and straw. the snug home of the post trader, then officers dubbed him "Midas," not because the "store" and its scattering appen- everything he touched would turn to dages, then the entrance gateway, then | gold, but because he would intrude his a broad vacant space, through which the gold upon them at every turn. There wind swept like a hurricane, then the were some who borrowed; and these he little shanty of the trader's fur house struggled not to let repay. He seemed and one or two hovel like structures to have an insane idea that if he could adjacent infantry companies. Then him pecuaiarily he could control their came the cottage itself; south of it stood opinions and actions. It was making the quartermaster's storeroom, back of him sick at heart, and it made him in which lay an extension filled with ord-secret doubly vindictive and bitter nance stores, then other and similar against the man he had doomed to years the pert butcher shop, the saddler's morning. Mrs. Rayner had begun to you feel such an interest in what Mrs. brow of the bind, down which at a "Not a word on that subject, Kate, if Waldron says, if she's such a gossip?" steep grade plunged the road to the youlove me!-not even the mention of TO BE CONTINUED

Cleanable Refrigerators - Durant & Belitzer. New style Flower Pots-Durant & Belitzer. Get E. E. Rembert & Co. to quote prices in

stables, mufiled up in their fur caps and taking Dr. J. H. McLean's Liver and Kidney And yet Mr. Hayne smiled not unhap- one of Dr. J. H. McLean's Liver and Kidney

Dizziness, nausca, drowsiness, distress

RYTTENBERG & SONS.

SPRING

AND

SUMMER STOCK.

PROFUSE WITH NOVELTIES,

GREAT IN ASOSRTMENT.

And Unapproachable in Price.

We have the Goods. We have the Quantity. We have the Quality. We have the Variety.

All the Leading and Representative Styles for Spring and Summer.

Our Aim—To keep the Best. Our Principle—Fair Dealing. Our Ambition—To please our trade. Our Price—The Lowest.

and the youngsters were naturally per- would last-when the colonel's invitation OUR DRESS GOODS AND TRIMMING DEPARTMENT.

This department is a very striking feature of our stock. We have desired to make our season's display of Dress Goods a notable one and if the large variety of fabrics, unlimited choice in patterns, dainty designs and fine finish can make a display him the gradual dying cut of the bitter notable, then ours must easily bear off the palm. But our goods, it will be found, not only appeal to the eye, and to the good taste of buyers, but also to their good judgment. For we have laid special stress upon quality in our purchases.

As to Price, we invite comparisons in this and all other de-

In White Goods and Wash Fabrics the season's patterns are very attractive, and we are showing a line of these goods in every way representative of all that is novel in style or pattern. An immense line of Laces, Embroideries, Hosiery, Gloves, Ruchings and Handkerchiefs, Parasols and Fans. We give

buyers a wide range of choice and of price. In our Domestic Department we shall win the praise of skillful housekeepers and experienced buyers by a very extra line of goods which are veritable bargains.

CLOTHING, IFAT'S AND FURNISHING DEPARTMENTS.

We are showing everything that goes to make up a perfect and incomparable stock of Men's, Youth's, Boys' and Children's Clothing, embracing all the newest fabrics of both Foreign and Domestic manufacture.

We are sole agents for Strouse & Bro's. Fine Tailor-made, Square-Shoulder Garments, the fit and workmanship of which are equal to custom work. If you are hard to fit we will make you a suit to order and guarantee a fit or no sale. 800 samples to select from. Don't pay a tailor \$50.00 for what we will furnish for \$35.00.

An immense line of Alford Benjamin & Co.'s celebrated make of Summer Clothing. White and Fancy Vests. Recollect that in quality we are at the top; in price at the bottom. In Boys' and Children's Suits we are offering inducements

and the low, squat buildings of the fron- hear of his restoration to fellowship in that no careful buyer can afford to pass. Our style, fit and finish are the perfection of artistic skill. A handsome line of Neglige Shirts in Silk, Madras and Flan-

nels, a full line of Boys' Shirt Waists, ali ages. See our stock of Underwear, Hosiery and Furnishings. The largest, handsomest and cheapest line of Neckwear ever brought

A nobby line of Hats in all the late shapes and blocks in

OUR SHOE AND SLIPPER DEPART-MENT

Is one of the leading features of our business. We carry the used by the tailors and cobbler of the but get his regimental friends bound to largest and greatest variety of standard and best make of goods in the trade. Don't miss seeing this stock.

OUR GROCERY DEPARTMENT

Is stocked with choicest goods both staple and fancy. The maximum quality at the minimum price. Come and see and wonder at the value we give.

OUR JOBBING DEPARTMENT.

We offer special inducements to the trade. Merchants will find they can buy as cheap here as in any market and a call and inspection of stock will soon convince you.

J. Ryttenberg & Sons.

All mail orders will receive prompt attention. Samples sent on application.

April 2