

you never honest-even with your- self. You drew his chair closer to the table, his eyes fixed on his watch, and his fingers strayed to his waistcoat pocket and fumbled there. Loder saw the gesture. "Look here," he said, "I'm not a man who's afraid of the law. I'm not a man who's afraid of anything. You look at me."

Chilote lifted his eyes with a relieved glance. "Thank you," he said, "but I'm not a man who's afraid of anything. I'm not a man who's afraid of anything. You look at me."

CHAPTER VII. It was a little less than three weeks since Chilote and Loder had drunk their coffee and again Loder was seated at his desk. His head was bent and his hand moved restlessly as he traced lines of meaningless words on a sheet of foolscap. Having covered the page with writing, he rose, moved to a central table and compared it with another sheet that lay there. The comparison seemed to please him; he straightened his shoulders and his head was bent in an attitude of critical satisfaction. So absorbed was he that when a stop sounded on the door outside he did not notice it, and only raised his head when the door was thrown open unceremoniously. Even then his interest was momentary.

"Hullo!" he said, his eyes returning to their scrutiny of the paper. "Chilote shut the door and came hastily across the room. He looked ill and harassed. As he reached the desk he put his hand to his forehead. "What is it?" he asked. "Any new development?" Chilote tried to smile. "Yes," he said, huskily. "It's come."

Loder freed his arm. "What? The end of the world?" "No, the end of me," the words came feverishly. The strain that had endured them during the night was still fresh in Loder's mind. He was not understanding; he could not or would not understand. Again Chilote caught and jerked at his sleeve. "Don't you see? Can't you see?" "No."

Chilote dropped the sleeve and passed his handkerchief across his forehead. "It's come," he repeated. "Don't you understand? I want you. He drew a chair then stepped back again anxiously. "I know I'm taking you unawares," he said. "But it's not my fault. On my soul, it's not. The thing seems to spring at me and grip me." He stopped, sinking weakly into a chair.

Loder went on without heeding. "This thing happened eight years ago at Santa Lusa, and it's a little place between Lusa and Pistoria—a mere handful of houses wedged between two hills. A regular relic of old Italy crumbling away under the present century except the suggestion of a present century in the shape of one of the hills. I had literally stumbled upon the place on a train trip to Switzerland, and had been tempted into a stay at the little inn. The night after my arrival something unaccountable happened. I was sitting on the train at the point where it skirted the village."

"I have just been waiting for somebody like you," she said. "My stupid maid has got herself smashed up somewhere in the second-class carriage, and I have nobody to help me to find my dog."

"You're right to pull me up. We have no time to waste. It must be the clock," he pulled out a watch. "How quiet you are here!" he said. "How abruptly a new thought struck him and he wheeled back into the room. "Loder," he said, "I have an idea. While you are here, why shouldn't I be you? Why shouldn't I be John Loder instead of the varied and complicated everything it explains everything. It's magnificent. I'm amazed we never thought of it before."

Loder was still beside the desk. "I thought of it," he said, without looking at him. "And didn't suggest it?" "No." "Loder said nothing and the other colored. "Jealous of your reputation?" he said, satirically. "I have nothing to be jealous of."

PREMIUMS ON OLD COINS

RARITIES TURNED OUT BY MINTS. The Four Half Dollars Struck by the Confederacy at New Orleans—Twenty-Four Dimes Much Sought After—Dollars of Gold or Silver Scarce. High.

The new Denver Mint, which with the beginning of this year started to make half dollars and quarters, is the eighth authorized by the United States government. The coins now made there bear the mint letter "D" stamped on their face. While this mint was originally authorized in 1864, it was used only as an assay office up to the present year, and previous to 1898 issued no coins.

The same mint letter was used on the coins struck at the mint at Dahlonega, Ga., for which Congress provided in 1835. It was intended to issue gold coins made from metal taken from the Georgia mines and regular coins were begun in 1838. The Confederates seized the mint.

After peace was restored the United States government made no attempt to resume operations there. Many of the gold coins bearing the mint mark "D" are now of the highest rarity. The rarest are the gold dollars of 1855, 1856 and 1860, the \$2.50 gold pieces of 1861. Some of these coins are worth a hundred dollars.

By the same act of Congress of 1855 another mint was established at Charlotte, N. C., also to be devoted exclusively to the coinage of gold, which was taken from North Carolina mines. The letter of this mint was "C." The rarest of its issues is the gold dollar of 1854, with a liberty head. Coinage was stopped in 1862.

The act of 1855 also authorized a mint at New Orleans, whose coins were to bear the mint letter "N." When Louisiana seceded the mint was closed and operations were continued under the joint authority of the State and the Confederate government.

Altogether under their management there were struck 129 gold pieces and \$1,101,816.50 in silver half dollars, the United States dies of 1861 being used. In May, 1861, the Confederate government having ordered its own dies, those of the United States were destroyed. The dies were made for the half dollar, but they were found to be unsuitable for the regular mint press.

Four pieces were struck from a common screw press and these coins were the only ones of any denomination issued by the Confederacy. The obverse of this half dollar was similar to the design borne by the United States half dollar, but the reverse was radically different. On this side there is a shield, on which are seven stars, representing the seceding States. Above the shield was a liberty cap, entwined with a wreath of cotton and tobacco, with the words "Confederate States of America." At the bottom was "hald dol."

One of these rare half dollars sold for \$500. The dies afterwards fell into private hands and it is estimated that about 500 coins were struck before the dies broke. These rarities are also held at a high premium.

Many of the regular New Orleans coins are highly valued. The half dollars of 1858 and 1859, the latter without arrows or rays, are especially rare, the former being worth between \$75 and \$100. Of the rare and twenty dollar pieces struck by the mint the rarest are the eastern dated 1857, 1859, 1879 and 1883, and the double eagle dated 1856 and 1879.

The Carson City mint coins bear the letters "C. C." Some of the coins bearing these two letters are of high value, among the rarest of United States issues, such as the standard silver dollars of 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1873. A branch mint was also authorized in 1854 to be operated at Dahlonega, Ga., for the coinage of gold and silver, but it never issued any coins.

The San Francisco mint was authorized in 1852 to coin both gold and silver, and since that year has coined a great amount of gold and silver. The other mint, excepting the main mint at Philadelphia, its mint letter is "S."

Some of the smaller denominations issued at San Francisco are now valuable. The half dime of 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 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