The Chathaw Kecord

RATES -05-

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ROYAL RANGER RALPH: !

Strictly in Advance.

The Waif of the Western Prairies.

DY WELDON J. COBB.

on and on with the speed of the wind dashed the two lorses, bearing in flight to safety the intrepht Darrel Grey and the courageous and lovely inez Tracev. Refore them, mile after mile, spread the broad, level prairie, in places like an emerald carpot dotted with spangles of flowers of the rarest line and beauty, and again grown high with rank, heavy grass.

grass.

The horses they rode were rapid travelers, and within an hour, as they glanesid tae, ward, they saw no sign of their pursuers.

"Your enemies have either ahandoned the chase, or the ong grass hides them," remarked barrel, as he allowed the hoises to proceed more sowly and glanced over the fair monthly pictures spread b fore them, and then at the girl at his side.

his sale. Darrel Grey had led an adventurous life gold had seen many fair women in unity clime. but he confessed, as he gold at the lovely creature who was his companion is flight, none so beauti

ble companion is flight, none so beautiful is line Tracey.

Perhaps it was the novelty and excitement of their situation; perhaps it was because two carnest, ingenuous spirits had not and recognized a magnetic congeniality in youth and leastly; but at all events, as their eyes most love became mutual though inexpressed.

Incompanion to Darrel Grey, when she tricky related her past and the events that had entiminated in the adventure of the mark.

night.
In return, Darret told her who he was a surveyor sent West on business. He had become fascinated with a wid Western life, and had for some years been engaged in the law and mining business in California.

He was about to return East in a few.

weeks, and matte by see don't had come to the little station at Ten Spot, crossing thilter in a star couch from a mining settement local of in the mountains that

Darrel briefly related the episod, of the wounded messenger, and molestly referred to his electron at the treatle. The deep blue eyes of loss Tracey leoked into his own, as she listened for athlessly to his tery of the attempted signal to the train.

"We have been proceeding aimlessly, thinking only of evailing our foces," said Parrel, finally, "I am, in a measure, manguainted in tals locality except at the mining camps in the hills."

"I wished to reach Miner's Gulch, if possible," said face, but I am at a loss to leagh it." Darrel toriefly related the episods of

you have been here before?"

asked Harrel.

"You I came to see my father about five years ago. Since then I have been at school into Hownin, which I left last work when I received a letter directing in to come love, and that a friend of no dead lath r would meet and care for your last result of the meet and care.

my dead fath r would meet and care for me?

"And this man whom you call Despard whe is a readise, you say?" Inquired Darryl, sureads.

"A very distint one of my father, who mover liked him and warned me a fathet him. Lad summer he need me at a summer resert, whither our teachers had fathen of me at my tarbets ranch, be yould Miner's force, whither our teachers had fathen me for a week's vacation. I had meet him at my tarbets ranch, be yould Miner's fought, and I never liked him. He annoyed me with his attentions, and let m very anary when I also led him, and told him finally that I also led him, and told him finally that I also led him, and told him finally that I also led him, and told him finally that I also led him, and told him provided that he was a received and myself, and that he was a received and myself, and that he was a received and myself, and know that he must have some deep object in the work must have some deep object in the security of the met have some deep object in the security of the me. Why may you even that he me? You say you even that it meet you at the depath."

"Yes, an o'd friend of my father, a

depot?"
"Yee, an o'd friend of my father, a man who has been known in this region for years as a result. His name is Ranger Rutph." heard of him. Fo you know

"I have not seen him since I was a third. I do not think I would. Why do you ask"

while. I do not think I would. Why do you ask?"

"Bleause I have an idea that these horses belong to him, and that he is the man who tool me first of the trainwise kers. If this is so, the horses probably came from Miner's fulch, and we will allow them to proceed their own way. They may lead us to the very place to which you desire to go."

Tarrel lossened the rudely improvised bridle and allowed the steeds to take their own course. They may began to leave the prairie and finally entered a canyon, following the course of a little stream

"There seems to be a requiar trail here," said Burrel. "I believe we are on the right road at last, Miss Tracey." "You are taking a great deal of trouble for me," murning away from the outlaw myself to a place of safety?" laughed Larrel, banteringly, "No. no; we were partners in peril at the ratiroad train, and but for son I might have remained and been killed. As it is, as soon as a have placed you out of danger, I will return and learn the fate of those who were attacked by the train weekers."

As they rade on, however, Darrel wished that such charming companion-ship could last always.

The dawn had come while they were riding through the canyon. It was scarcely distinguishable from the moonlight as yet, but roon they knew the full always would break, enabling them more accurately to determine their where-should.

The dawn had come while they were riding through the canyon. It was with difficulty that she induced the steed to pro wed, and, when he did so, and it will be steed to pro wed, and, when he did so, and it will be so, and had he so, and had so, and had he so, and had the so, and had entered accurately to determine their where abouts.

That the horses were leading them direct to Miners (sinch Darrel did not doubt; but a new discovery soon caused the fathful animals to come under the guidance of 1 arrs) again. For at a point where the canyon with widen again, here urged the horse over a sandy street; rof soil.

Aboys her the ledges of rocks frowted down ominously, and she left a vague sense of uncasiness, as once or twice the herse came to a deal stop and

"Look!" He repeated her own elaculation of

concern, as the advancing daylight show-ed an obstacle to their onward progress down the main canyon Coming rapidly toward them from the direction in which they were going were

Coming rapidly toward them from the direction in which they were going were four horsemen.

They were some distance away, but as Inez shuddered and paled, her escert knew that, like himself, she had recognized the leader of the quartette.

"It is Despard and his mon!" she gasped, in tones of horror and alarm.
"I fear so, Miss Tra ey."

"And they are coming straight toward os. Oh, what shall we do."
Darrei Grey had taken a revolver from his heit and a determined look came into his fare.
"Drive the borses around the rocks vonders a you will be shallered," he said, as he prepared to dismount.

A trembling hand detained his own.
"No, not Mr Grey, you must not meet these men, they are armed and desparate, and four to one."
"I see no way except to meet and repet them," said Parrel, stanchly, "these men have not come across us again by accident."

"By design."
"Evidently. They know the country

men have not come across us again by accident."

"By design."

"Evidently. They know the country and knew we would probably come this way, and have intercepted us by reaching the canyon here in advance of us."

"An we discover d."

"Incy cannot but have seen us. Miss Tracey, I beg of you to obey me, and leave not here alone."

"But your peril—for my sake."

"I will not make any unnecessary risk. Ride as rapidly as you can down once of the side canyons, and do not wait for me nor delay on my account. I will cover your escape and, once satisfied you are out of danger of recapture, will religing you unless you reach the guide before I do so."

Darrel cut losse the connecting strip.

Darrel cut loose the connecting strip
of lassons he stoke.
Inexeast an anxions, longing glance

Inezeast an anxious, longing glance at her brave protector.

"Heaven grant you may not be forced to meet Despard and his ment?" she breathed ferventix.

"Fly?" spoke Parrel, excitedly.
He could see that the horizonen down the earyon were winding in and out the rocks as rapidly as they could, and would soon rea in the spot where he was barrel dismented and led the horse toward the sheater of a small c ump of high, thick bushes.

Then he his self selected a place of exploning and defore behind some rocks.

The four riders came into view as he cast a quick shance down the canyon where lines had gone.

To his surprise he could observe no trace of her.

eshe must have reached some diverg ing gulch and have purshed a new course," he decided. "At all events, she is not in sight for the bandits to di-

eover?

Darrel 1c o ved to force no encounter with the latter unless necessity demanded it; for his single revolver would be a poor match for the full accontenuous of his encounter.

The hoofs of horses rang out sharply on the clear morning air, and the quartette rounded the last of the rocks which had temporarily shot could view of the persons they cought.

"Nowhere in sight Pespard" spoke one of the mea.

one of the men, certain'y saw them here," remarke I Pante

"We estrainly saw them here," remarked Planton.

"Then they have taken the side canyons," spole Despard.
I anton langhed triumphantly. "They are our game if they have," he said:
"Whys. 2" asked one of the men.
"Recause every last one of them ends in a blank wall."
Intered Grey, from his place of concealment, started violently.
"What shall we do, Captain?" asked one of the men of Despard.
"Divide. Here are four of these side canyons. Down one of them our people have certainly game."
"They are movieure in sight."
"They could have gone newhere size Let each man follow une of these side branches, and signal, when he discovers.

branches, and signal when to discover-

"They will be found, never fear," said banton. "They thought to escape, but they are in a true this time. Hold on, Vanue."

The man be had addressed had started his horse toward the side canyon slown which here had disappeared a few no ments before. "With, what's the matter?"

"You needn't sear in that

You needn't sea Not search 11.7

"It would be no use and dangerous to yourself. That is Qubeksand Gully." "I never heard of it before." said

That's because you don't know the country as I do. The man who rides into the shifting ands at the end of that

into the shifting and a rine more than gully never comes out again."

The heart of the horrhed watcher behind the rocks stood still. An appulled sonse of peril overwhelmed the startled barrel Grey.

"Quickwand Gully! Great heavens!" he

gasped wildly. "I an this be true? The quicksands! Is that the meaning of the sudden disappearance of Thez Tracey."

CHAPTER V.

"Help."
The cry rang out wild and starmed, but it met no responsive crite from the gloomy depths of Quicksand (fully.
It emanated from the hits of face Tracey, and announced precisely the peril to which Danton had alluded—the quick-

sands! When Inex had left Dagred Grey she started down the side empon, satisfied that to delay or disobey her brave pro-tector would be only to enhance her own peril and to obstruct his movements

When he sees I am at a sale distince he will fellow me, and a conflict with Despard and his men may be a coided, "murmured hier bejefully." The horse she rede made rapid progress, but when she came to a point where the read bed of the guily narrowed and descended, the animal sessued leath to unexer!

leath to proceed

It was with difficulty that she induced

helghed and trembled with a stranga-terror she could not comprehend.
At last his fore feet sank deep in the sand, he made a desperate effort to fifth his hoofs, and then, stumbling, came to a second step, panting with fright and mobility to proceed.
This is strange," murmured Inco-tencemedly. "The horse must be e-hansted with the long drive."
Her face became white as marke the next moment, however. She and make a sudden discovery, so startling and ap-paling that a low cry of dreades apel her figs.

where the contraction of the section of the color of the those that come immediately after, but the whole flock will follow its leader to destruction. No more exasperatingly stupid brute than a sheep walks. New York Tribune.

When the time comes for us to wake out of the dreams of the world's sleep, why should it be atherwise than out of dreams of the night? Singing of birds, first broken and low, as not to "dring eyes," but to eyes that wake to life, "the casement slowly draws a glummering square," and then the gray, and then the rose of dawn; and last the light, whose going forth is to be the ends of the leaven.—Hussia.

MINING OUR **BLACK DIAMONDS.**

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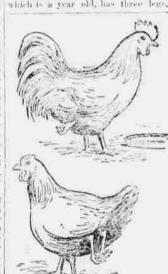
Have you ever been down in a coal pushed by little steamers, and so fastened together that a single steamer will push heres of coal. Loads of tweaty thousand tons are taken. A vastamount of easlie carried on the canals and the great lakes form one of the chief highways of the coal traffic.

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names.
Boys, however, have been largely mosel. They drive the coules, and in the authrasite regions they pick ever the coul, taking the slate and refuse out of it. They get from lifty to stryy cents a day for benching over the dusty coul, vaccing in the smoner and almost freezing in the winter. They are frequently burt, though it is by no means as had with our children as





known as "Devil's Head." Prespec-tors rule a spot above the eyes, which is said to bring them luck. The Innothing more or less than the petrilled head of a great warrior who came from their "happy limiting ground" to proteet the tribes of the Northwest against