The Girdle of the Great

A STORY OF THE NEW SOUTH
By John Jordan Douglass

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CHAPTER XXV.

"The Mills of the Gods."

the who chanced to see Mr. Hector his appearance. His smooth-shaven ace was thinner than usual and noriceably wrinkled and careworn. Much of his cool, calculating attitude had been lost; he was almost a nervous The strain of the desperate came which he had been playing with fortune and misfortune had sapped his The Wall Street speculations had long been going against him: he had reached the ebb of his golden de. Still, like the desperate gambler, he was always hoping for a lucky turn, comforting his perturbed spirit with original proverbs, such as "It's an ill Bear that growls nobody good," etc.

For another reason, too, the banker and continued to speculate; that whenover one gets entangled in the intricare meshes of the great Wall Street not one never knows how to get out. Mr. MacDonald had depended on a fortunate rise in cotton.

We must make a big throw today,' said to Gabriel one morning. "Evrything is ripe for it. We'll yet make hig haul. What say you?"

"It's high time we were doing something," growled Gabriel, who had just received a rebuff from an unexpected quarter and was, therefore, in no great Accordingly, the banker cast his

bank bills, or the bank bills of his depositors, upon the "water." He was confident of a "big haul." He had supreme confidence in "Poindexter & Co.," his agents. They were old and reliable. They knew all the wiles and whims of the "Bulls and Bears." They had always kept Mr. MacDonald fully

after this deposit (which was by far the largest he had made The news came to Mr. MacDonald like a thunderclap from a clear sky. It almost prostrated him. His eyes receded in his head, his face became coloriess and flabby. He knew that he was doomed. The figures on were soon far from possible pursuers. the wall-paper of his sanctum changed form again; this time they became stripes of felons. Almost on the heels reported Wall Street disaster the State Hank Examiner arrived in Ansonville. rie was the pale eashier whom Mr. MacDenald had discharged, and the Allen. maker new what the rigid examina-

Owing to the lateness of the train, it was night when the Bank Examiner MacDonald, having learned from Ananias Blake that the Bank Examiner had arrived, hurriedly summoned Gabriel to his private office.

"We've got to get away from here, or else go to the Penitentiary," said We have only \$500 in the bank. Let's city in the crime, it being generally Mr. MacDonald with a strangling sigs.

divide and skip.' "Hold on, old man," observed Gabriel brutally. "You haven't toted fair with me. You got me into this busigot me to ruin my old daddy, and you ain't offering me but \$250 for H. You've frequently promised to unently broken your word. Marriage posited a large sum, having mortgaged drug store, 50. with her is now my only means of get-

ting any money. She's got property apart from what you embezzled from her"—the banker's pallid face showed a stain of color at this charge—"and I am going to have it."

He suddenly rose and pressed a pistol to the banker's temple. "Now, come right along and tell that contrary niece of yours what she's got to do. I'm a desperate man, and if you do. I'm a desperate man, and if you

Mr. MacDonald started visibly, his jaw dropped, his teeth chat-"Why-what-has-possessed -you-Gabriel?" he gasped.

"The devil-you-but don't possess me any more. I'm going to be my own boss awhile-and Maxine's." He took the banker roughly by the shoulder. "Come on and let's fix up

the fun. We'll take along Ananias Blake, J. P."

Mr. MacDonald arose tremblingly, trying crisis without suffering. brief out into the street.

At the corner they were joined by Ananias Blake. Gabriel's stride and that of Ananias was steady and strong, the banker's faltering and feeble, his cane careening on the loose boards of the sidewalk. They silently entered the banker's

house like black birds of ill-omen. Maxine was seated in the parlor reading a magazine. She rose stiffly as they filed in

'Maxine," the banker began, abruptsummoning up all his failing Strength, "we've some to marry you to

To marry me to Gabriel?" she echoed. "You are thoughtful ,uncle. It is kind of you to tell me. I might not have had time to arrange my

Tall and graceful she confronted them, her fair cheeks shot through

"Oh, it doesn't matter about the frousseau." Gabriel broke in impatient-"Come, Ananias, get your cere-

mony ready." "What ceremony, sir!" Maxine cried, her bosom heaving, her eyes blazing 🚣 with half controlled anger. "I am aware of no ceremony in which I am in the slightest degree interested. I am surprised, uncle," she went on, turning to Mr. MacDonald, "that you allow me

to be insulted in your own house, and before your eyes." "You haven't any license, Gabriel,"

official envelope from his pocket, was down South on business and Doc-"well, this tells another tale, Come tor Allen had merely deposited the on, Maxine," he continued, "I am not money for safe-keeping. going to have any foolishness tonight."

He took a step forward. "You earth scum!" she cried, her certainly foreclose. The dector dis-MacDonald on a certain day in July beautiful eyes aflame with infinite covered later that the Brandon Place would have noticed striking changes scorn. "Do you think you can frighten had been "salted" and possessed no me, coward!" Her hand fell swiftly gold-bearing quartz at all. He was to her side, and from her girdle she eventually forced to give up Rocky removed an expuisite pear-handled pen- Heights and move to Ansonville, where knife. "I do not fear death. Why he spent the remainder of his days in over 200 names pledging themselves should I fear you? Only this-death- a little tenement house.

is preferable to you." "Maxy! Maxy!" remonstrated Mr. Maxine had received a letter from Ma-MacDonald, his face purple from the jor Graves, urging her to come to New nervous strain he was undergoing, York and make her home with him. "try to be reasonable, dear. Gabriel His house was kept by a maiden sister only means to do right. He loves -a most companionable woman, de-

"I hate him!" she exclaimed, stamp- consented to go. ing her foot. "I would sooner love a

"You hate me, then!" Gabriel cried, the South. It was doubly dear to hera terrible expression in his eyes. "Take her birthplace and birthright. Morethat back or die!" He drew a pistol over, it was the land of his hope. Fate and leveled it at her heart. Ananias had been cruel to her-had by unusual Blake's earth-colored face faded to a circumstances plucked from her the lifeless gray; he stood rooted to the idol of her soul. floor, paralyzed in every limb. But Very sadly she packed her trunks, the banker, with a last noble impulse lingering over every little faded flower, -the supreme cleaving of blood to every little keep-sake, bedewing them blood-grasped Gabriel's arm and, with with tears. all his feeble strength, sought to wrest the pistol from him. In some way, whether intentionally or not was never known, the weapon discharged, the ball entering the banker's breast. He sank to the floor with a groan, the blood weltering from the wound. He tried to speak, but his voice sank with a gurgling gasp. A convulsive shudder passed through his frame, and he was dead. He had robbed the pale cashier of his triumph, and gone up to face his record on the greater book.

Maxine had fainted and lay upon the

Gabriel threw the pistel beside her and, in company with Ananias, rushed from the room and ran rapidly down the street. Near a crossing they passed a man who was coming towards the

In the glittering glare of a nearby street lamp they recognized the Bank but beneath the cover of the night they

The Coroner's Jury summoned to long bars of white and black, like the hold an inquest over the banker's body

"We find that Hector MacDonald came to his death from a pistol-shot wound at the hands of one Gabriel

The conclusion was reached by the jury on the evidence given by the State Bank Examiner and the merchant who had sold Gabriel Allen a pistol and arrived, and the examination was, cartridges. It was further substantiated by the Register of Deeds, who swore that Gabriel had purchased a marriage license the evening before the tragedy.

Neither Gabriel nor Ananias Blake could be found. Maxine was therefore fully exonerated from even a suspicion of compliknown that she had repeatedly refused relief in dyspepsia, liver complaint

to marry Gabriel A careful examination of the bank revealed the fact that Doctor Allen and bility. Its action on the blood, as a other large depositors had been robbed thorough purifier makes it especially

of all they had on deposit. The doctor was almost beside him- grand alterative tonic is sold under self with rage. He had recently de- guarantee at Woodall & Sheppard's

remedy is always ap-

of women through the

tight or too loose.

low as other makes.

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Let us show you our line.

The critical ordeal through which the expensant mother must pass,

however, is so fraught with dread, pain, suffering and danger, that the

very thought of it fills her with apprehension and horror. There is no

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on the market that has rubber lining around the doors which

makes them air proof, and prevents the doors from getting too

Refrigerator

of timber land, which he meant to sell

The mortgage on Rocky Heights was

spite her spinstership-and Maxine

(To be Concluded Tomorrow.)

The Year and the Calendar.

days outright. In order to provide for

the future he ordered that all century

ordinary be leap years should be com-

of 400. This arrangement, which still

holds good, leaves only one day too

much in 3,400 years. A French scien-

tist has proposed dropping an addi-

tional day in the year 3,200 and repeat-

ing the process every 3,200 years. This would leave us short one day every

30,000 years, which may be considered

poses. At any rate, the matter is not

Wigg-"Bejones has joined a suicide

I saw him buying a chafing dish the

Tell a woman she is clever and she

will like you; tell her she is beautiful

NEIGHBORHOOD FAVORITE.

Maine, speaking of Electric Bitters

says: "It is a neighborhood favorite

here with us." It deserves to be a

favorite everywhere. It gives quick

useful as a spring medicine. This

Mrs. E. D. Charles, of Harbor

and she will be your friend for life.

other day."-Philadelphia Record.

Wagg-"I suspected as much

pressing.—New York Post.

Lenoir, N. C., April 22 .- A large number of the business and professional men of Lenoir met at the graded school auditorium Monday night to discuss ways and means incident to or ganizing and maintaining a Young Men's Christian Association for our town. The movement was enthusiasti-"Haven't I?" cried Gabriel, pulling an to a syndicate. The owner of the land cally endorsed by nearly every man present and several speeches were made by some of the most influential men of our town in favor of this organization, urging the necessity for an held by a crusty old miser who would early establishment of an institution of

For two weeks past Messrs. J. B. At kinson and A. V. Miller have circulated two papers asking the support of all of this kind and succeeded in securing to support this movement, and, if or Shortly after the banker's burial ganized, to help maintain the organization, thereby assuring the premoters of this good work that they will do their several parts toward making an institution of this character as part of the town of Lenoir.

HOW IS YOUR STOMACH?

It was not without a severe struggle, Easy Way to Strengthen It and Get however, that she turned her face from

A good digestive system, one that acts so that you do not know that you have a stomach, is God's birthright to every man-to every woman.

If digestion is weak, if food turns into gas, if you suffer after eating, if you are sleepless, nervous and out of sorts -the the stomach is diseased and prompt action should be taken. W. A. Ennis, a well known builder

in Syracuse, tells an easy way to strengthen the stomach and get well when he writes: "Mi-o-na Stomach After Julius Caesar corrected the cal- Tablets have done more for me in one endar the year was still 11 minutes week than all the doctors the two 14 seconds too long, amounting to years I was under their care. Thanks to Mi-o-na, I can work once more, the one day in 128 years. As the centuries first time in over a year."

passed the interval between the com-It is an easy thing to strengthen mencement of the year and the spring the stomach and cure indigestion by equinox grew less. It was not, how- using Mi-o-na. Get a 50-cent box from ever, until 1582 that anything was done Woodall & Sheppard with their guarabout it. Then Pope Gregory XIII. set antee to refund the money unless the out to remedy the difficulty. This he remedy does all that is claimed for it did by directing the suppression of ten

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You no doubt have been wanting one for a long while, but have delayed your purchase because of price. This sale clears the way of that objection and makes it possible to buy a

\$20.00		Cabinet	•	\$15.00
32.50	KITONON	1 ohingt	ton	24.00
35.00			1()1	26.50
36.50	N WE POSTORI	S CONTRICT		27.50

Only a Few and They Must Be Sold. Now is Your Chance

You should not forget that our entire stock, shown on our second and third floors, which includes an immense stock of a great variety of goods, is now being offered at

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Allan's Magnetic Cough Syrup

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correct enough for all practical pur-



kidney derangement, malnutrition, During the Remodeling Sale pric es are cut to the lowest point on nervousness, weakness and general deverything and in our immense stock, we have a large variety of Parlor and

3	Beautiful Mahogany Parlor Tables, \$7.50, Sale Price\$ 5.75
1	Beautiful Mahogany Parlor Tables, \$8.50, Sale Price\$ 6.50
- 1	Beautiful Golden Oak Parlor Tables, \$3.50, Sale Price\$ 2.50
- 3	Reantiful Colden Oak Parlor Tables, \$18.00. Sale Price\$13.75
1	Beautiful Golden Oak Library Tables, \$12.50, Sale Price\$10.00
1	Beautiful Golden Oak Library Tables, \$14.50, Sale Price\$11.75
- 3	Beautiful Mahogany Library Tables, \$16.50, Sale Price\$12.25
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