The Spoilers.

By REX E. BEACH.

CHAPTER XV. the morning after the episods the Northern, Glenfster awoke under a weight of discouragement and desolation. The past twenty four hours with their manifold experiences seemed distant At breakfast he was ashamed to tell Dextry of the gam-bling debauch, for he had dealt treacherously with the old man in risking half of the mine, even though they had checked the senseless, unreasoning lust for play that possessed him later. revolt in him were dead. He felt that

best him bereafter. Dextry spoke. "We had a meeting of the 'Stranglers' last night." He always spoke of the vigilantes in that way, because of his early western

"What was done?" any odd jobs of lynchin', claim jumpin' or such as needs doin'. There's a lot of law sharps and storekeepers in the bunch who figure McNamara's

"It was bound to come to this." "They talked of ejectin' the receiver's men and puttin' all us fellers back "Good! How many can we count on

gang will wipe them off the man next."

to help us?" "About sixty. We've kept the num ber down and only taken men with so much property that they'll have to

keep their mouths shut." I wish we might engineer some kind would reach Washington. Everything else has failed, and our last chance seems to be for the government to step in-that is, unless Bill Wheaton can do something with the California courts."

"I don't count on him. McNamara don't care for Callfornia courts no more'n he would for a boy with a pea do no good we'd better go in an' clean "A doctor! What for?"

"I read somewhere that in the United States every year there is 40,000,000 his spology." gallons of whisky used for medical purposes."

laughed. "Speaking of whisky, Dex, I notice that you've been drinking pretty hard of late-that is, The old man shook his head. "You're

mistaken. It ain't hard for me. "Well, hard or easy, you'd better cut it out."

It was some time later that one of the detectives employed by the Swedes met Glenister on Front street and by an almost imperceptible sign signified his desire to speak with him. When they were alone he said:

"You've been shadowed," "The district attorney has put or some new men. I've fixed the woman who rooms next to him, and through her I've got a line on some of them but I haven't spotted them all. They're bad ones, 'up river' men mostly, ren nants of Soupy Smith's Skagway gang. They won't stop at anything."

"Thank you. I'll keep my eye: A few nights after Glenister had reato recall the words of the sleuth and to realize that the game was grow ing close and desperate. To reach his cabin, which sat on the outskirts of the town, he ordinarily followed one of the plank walks which wound through the confusion of tents, warehouses and cottages lying back of the two principal streets along the water front. This part of the city, was not laid out in rectangular blocks, for in the early rush the first comers had selzed whatever pieces of ground they found vacant and erected thereon some kind of buildings to make good their titles There resulted a formless jumble of huts, cabins and sheds, penetrated by no cross streets and quite unlighted.

At night one leaving the illuminated

portion of the town found this darkness intensified. Glenister knew his course so well that he could have walked it blindfolded. Nearing a corner of the warehouse this evening he remembered that the planking at this point was torn up, so to avoid the mud he leaped lightly across. Simultaneously with his jump he detected a movement in the shadows that banked the wall at his elbow and saw the flaming spurt of a revolver the building and was so close that it seemed impossible to miss. Glenister upon his side, and the thought flashed over him, "McNama- had been shoved back against the walls

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hiding place and ran down the walk. sound of his quick, soft footfalls thudding faintly out into the silence. The young man felt no pain, however, scrambled to his feet, felt himself over with care and then swore round-He was untouched. The other and missed him cleanly. The report, coming while he was in the act of leaping, had startled him so that he had lost his balance, slipped upon the wet boards and fallen. His assailant was lost in the darkness before be could rise. Pursuit was out of the

incident to Dextry. "You think it was some of McNa mam's work, ch?" Dextry inquired when he had finished, "Of course. Didn't the detective

it. May I ask what is on foot?"

the houses of McNamara, Stillman at

Voorhees, take them prisoners, and"-

Glenister made no answer for a mo

"You have discussed this fully?" he

"We have. It has been voted on, an

"My friends, when I stepped into thi

room just now I felt that I wasn't

wanted. Why, I don't know, becau-

I have had more to do with organizing

this movement than any of you are because I have suffered just as much

as the rest. I want to know if I wa

omitted from this meeting intention

put me in," said the chairman gravely "but I shall answer as spokesman for

"Yes; go shead," said those around

"We don't question your loyalty, Mr

niece-er-family. It has come to us

from various sources that you have been affected to the prejudice of your

own and your partner's interest. Now.

there isn't going to be any sentimer

in the affairs of the vigilantes. We ar

simplest way was to ignore you in thi

hard feeling in every quarter."
"It's a lie," shouted the young ma

iter and spare all discussion an

earsely, "a damned lie! You wouldn't

let me in for foar I'd kick, ch? Well.

con were right. I will kick. You've

dated about my feelings for Mis-

Chester. Let me tell you that she l

engaged to marry McNamara and that

she's nothing to me. Now, then, let

me tell you further that you won't

break into her bouse and hang her un

cle, even if he is a reprobate. No, sir:

This isn't the time for violence of that

sort. We'll win without it. If we

in a pack like wolves. If you want to

do something, put us back on our mines and help us hold them, but, for

God's sake, don't descend to assassina

We can't seize the claims.

back him up. They'd shoot us down You ought to be the last one to object."

He saw that dispute was futile. De

termination was stamped on their

faces too plain for mistake, and his

argument had no more effect on then

than had the pale rays of the lantern

"I don't deny that McNamara de

serves lynching, but Stillman doesn't

He's a weak old man"-some on

laughed derisively-"and there's a

woman in the house. He's all she has

in the world to depend upon, and you

would have to kill her to get at him

If you must follow this course, tak

They only shook their heads, whill

several pushed by him even as he

favors equal," said a man as he lef-

called justice, and he could not sway

them. The life and welfare of the

thought, and there was not one to hest

tate. Glenister implored the chairman

"It's too late for further discussion

and let me remind you of your prom

ise. You're bound by every obligation

but the man answered bim:

"We're going to distribute our

were actuated by what the

were in their hands; as the;

others, but leave him alone."

beside him, yet he continu

tion and the tactics of the Maffa!"

them spoke up.

can't let's tight like usen and not bun

se men if they wish.

question, so he continued homeward, considerably shaken, and related the

warn me today?" Dextry shook his head, "It don't seem like the game is that far along The time is coming when we'll go to the mat with them people, but they've got the size on us now, so This lapse was the last stand of his what could they gain by putting you old, untamed instincts. The embers of away? I don't believe it's them, but whoever it is you'd better be careful he would never again lose mastery of or you'll be got." himself, that his passions would never

after this," Roy suggested, and they arranged to do so, realizing that dan ger lurked in the dark corners and that it was in some such lonely spot that the deed would be tried again. They experienced no trouble for a time though on nearing their cubin on "They decided to set quick and do night the younger man fancied that he cinity and out into the blackness of the tundra as though some one had stood at his very door waiting for him, then became frightened at the two fig ures approaching. Dextry had not ob served it, however, and Glenister was not positive himself, but it served to give him the uncanny feeling that some determined, unscrupulous force was bent on his destruction. He determined to go nowhere unarmed.

A few evenings later he went home early and was busted in writing when Dextry came in about 10 o'clock. The old miner hung up his coat before of an encounter with the court crowd speaking, lit a cigarette, inhaled deepand create such an uproar that it by, then, amid mouthfuls of smoke, be-

"I had my own toes over the edge tonight. I was mistook for you, which compliment I don't aim to have re

Glenister questioned him eagerly. "We're about the same beight, an these hats of ours are alike. Just as I shooter-he's got too much pull at came by that lumber pile down yonder headquarters. If the 'Strauglers' don't, a man hopped out an' throwed a 'gai under my nose. He was quicker than out the bunch like we was killing light and near blowed my skelp into snakes. If that fails I'm goin' out to the next block before he saw who I was. Then he dropped his weepon and

"'My mistake. Go on.' I accepted "Could you see who he was?"

"Sure! Guess." "I can't." "It was Bronco Kid."

"Lord?" ejaculated Glenister. "Do on think he's after me?"

"He ain't after nobody else, an' take my word for it. It's got nothin' to do with McNamara nor that gamblin' row. He's too game for that. There's some This was the first mention Dextry

had made of the night at the Northern. "I don't know why he should have It in for me. I never did him any favors," Glenister remarked cynically. "Well, you warch out anyhow.

sooner face McNamara an' all the crooks be can hire than that gambler. During the next few days Roy un lertook to meet the proprietor of the Northern face to face, but the Kid had anished completely from his haunts He was not in his gambling hall at night nor on the street by day. The young man was still looking for on the evening of the dance at the hotel when he chanced to meet one of the igilantes, who inquired of him

"Aren't you late for the meeting?" What meeting? After seeing that they were alone the

ther stated: There's an assembly tonight at 11 o'clock. Something important, I think. I supposed, of course, you knew about

"It's strange I wasn't notified," said Roy. "It's probably an oversight. I'll go along with you."

Together they crossed the river to the less frequented part of the town and knocked at the door of a large un lighted warehouse, flanked by a high board fence. The building faced the street, but was inclosed on the other three sides by this ten foot wall, inside which were stored large quantities of coal and lumber. After some delay they were admitted and passing down through the dim lit, high banked lanes of merchandlse came to the rear room where they were admitted again. This compartment had been fitted up for the warm storage of perishable goods dur-

ing the cold weather and, being with

that exists for an honorable man"windows, made an ideal place for "Oh, don't think that I'll give the clandestine gatherings. Glenister was astonished to fine warn you again not to enter Stillman's every man of the organization present, including Dextry, whom he supposed He followed out into the night to to have gone home an hour since. Evifind that Dextry had disappeared, evidently a discussion had been in progdently wishing to avoid argument ress, for a chairman was presiding Roy had seen signs of unrest beneath and the boxes, kegs and bales of goods the prospector's restraint during the His assallant leaped out from his threescore men of the "Stranglers," for seats. On these were ranged the

past few days, and indications of a fierce hunger to vent his spleen on the sacred rights. He was of an intolerant. viudictive nature that would go to any length for vengeance. Retribution was part of his creed. On life way home the young man looked at his watch to find that he had but an hour to determine his course Instinct prompted him to join his friends and to even the score with the men who had injured him so bitterly. for, measured by standards of the lives forfeit. Yet be could not coun tenance this step. If only the vigi

frontier, they were pirates with their lantes would be content with making an example-but he knew they would not. The blood hunger of a mob is easy to whet and hard to hold. McNamara would resist, as would Voorhees and the district attorney, then there would be bloodshed, riot, The soldiers would be called out and martial law declared, the streets would become skirmish grounds. The vigilantes would rout them without question, for every citizen of the north would raily to their aid, and such men could not be stopped. The judge would go down with the rest of the ring, and what would happen to-her? He took down his Winchester, oiled

and cleaned it, then buckled on a belt

himself. He felt that he was being their serious faces lighted imperfectly scattered huterns. A certain conground between his loyalty to the vigistraint seized them upon Glenister's inntes and his own conscience. The ever. Glenister himself felt that trag-

then's attitude and spake eloquently whom he hated with fanatical fury. from their strained faces. He was Why should be think of her in this We will assemble here quietly with to lead the vigilantes, but this change our arms at 1 o'clock. And let me caution you again not to talk or do anything to scare the birds away."

that had mastered him-what was it? Not cowardice, nor caution. No. Yet, being intangible, it was none the less

business, however, and I want to be in mob might do as it pleased elsewhere. but no man should enter her house. He Things have reached found a light shining from her parlor such a pass that moderate means are window, and, noting the shade up a ward him, and he stroped to catch her uscless. We have decided to not and act quickly. We have exhausted every legal resource, and now we're going to the shadows and complete hidden for the shadows and complete hidden for the highest statement. the shadows and remained hidden for a considerable time after the lawyer stamp out this gang of robbers in our We will get together in an left, for the dancers were returning hour, divide into three groups of twen ty men, each with a leader, then go to from the hotel and passed close by When the last group had chattered away down the street, he turned to the front of the house, and mounting the He waved his hand in a large gesture steps, knocked sharply. As Helen ap-peared at the door, he stepped inside ment, while the crowd watched him in and closed it after him.

> The girl's hair lay upon her neck and shoulders in tumbled brown masses. while her breast heaved tumultuously at the sudden, grim sight of him. She stepped back against the wall, her troubled, the blush of modesty struggling with the patter of dismay.

The picture pained him like a kuife thrust. This girl was his bitterest nemy-no hope of her was for him. He forgot for a moment that she was false and plotting, then, recalling it, spoke as roughly as he might and stated his errand. Then the old man had appeared on the stairs above, speech ess with fright at what he overheard. It was evident that his nerves, so sore ly strained by the events of the past reck, were now snapped utterly. human soul naked and panic stricken Glenister, but we didn't ask you to is no pleasant sight, so Glenister dropthis meeting because we know your at ped his eyes and addressed the girl titude—perhaps I'd better say senti-ment—regarding Judge Stillman's

"Don't take anything with you. Just ress and come with me." The creature on the stairs above stammered and stuttered inquiringly: "What outrage is this, Mr. Glenis-

"The people of Nome are up in arms. going to do justice, and we thought the and I've come to save you. Don't stop to argue." He spoke impatiently. "Is this some r-ruse to get me into

our power?" "Uncle Arthur!" exclaimed the girl sharply. Her eyes met Glenister's and begged him to take no offense. "I don't understand this atrocity They must be mad?" walled the Judge. You run over to the jall, Mr. Glen ister, and tell Voorbees to hurry guards here to protect me. Helen. hone to the military post and give the alarm. Tell them the soldiers must

cut; and I won't notify Voorhees-he can take care of himself. I came to help you, and if you want to escape you'll stop talking and hurry up. "I don't know what to do," said Still-man, torn by terror and indecision. "We knew you would make that kind "You wouldn't hurt an old man, would

"Hold on!" said Glenister. "There's

o use of doing that-the wires are

of a talk," said the speaker, while the rest murmured grudgingly. One of you? Wait! I'll be down in a min-Clientster and it's a question of their

on his robe, seemingly forgetting his niece till she called up to him sharply: lives or our liberty. The law don't "That's right," echosel another at his run away." She stood erect and deter-mined, "You wouldn't do that, would because McNamara's got soldiers to you? This is our house. You repre-



sent the law and the dignity of the meet them, of course. "Good Lord!" said Glenister. "That's

madness! These men aren't ruffians. They are the best citizens of Nome. You don't realize that this is Alaska and that they have sworn to wipe out McNamara's gang. Come along. "Thank you for your good Intentions," she said, "but we have done nothing to run away from. We will

get ready to meet these cowards. You had better go or they will find you She moved up the stairs and, taking the judge by the arm, led him with her. Of a sudden she had assumed control of the situation unfaiteringly. and both men felt the impossibility of thwarting her. Pausing at the top,

she turned and looked down.

"We are grateful for your efforts just the same. Good night." "Oh, I'm not going," said the young "If you stick, I'll do the same. He made the rounds of the first floor rooms, locking doors and windows. As

stand upstairs. When sufficient time had elapsed, he called up to Helen: "May I come?" "Yes." she replied. So he ascended, to find Stillman in the ball, half clothed and cowering, while by the light from the front chamber he saw

he saw that he would have to make his

her finishing her tollet. last chance." She only shook her head. "Well, then, put out the light. back tomorrow and tell it to me?" I'll stand at that front window, and of entiridges. Still be wrestled with reach the gate."

She did as directed, taking her place judge crept in and eat upon the bed, cutrance. The chairman was embargirl was one of the gang, he reasoned his heavy brentiding the only sound in
a philable state, and for a long time
rassed. It was but momentary, howshe had schemed with them to betray the room. The two young people shoot
she believed to see the line at the property. blm through his love, and she was so close to such other that the sweet edy was in the sir, for it showed in the pledged to the one man in the world scent of her person awake in him an almost irresistible longing. He forgot her treachers again, forgot that she which was like an agony to him. Her soft rustling of her gurment at her breast as she breathed. Some one Glenister arose. "I came late, Mr. marked, as his friends had shown him passed in the street and she laid a hand upon him fearfully. It was very cold, very tiny and very soft, but he He slipped out into the night. The made no move to take it. The moments dragged along, still, tense, interwhispered words. At such times ber Out in the night a wolf dog saddened the air, then come the sound of others wrongling and snarling in a nearly corral. This is a chickless land an no cock crow breaks the midnight peace. The suspense enhanced the Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. We Judge's perturbation till his chattering

> The watchers had lost truck of time ture; but she would not be denied, and church. returned to his side.

As the foremost figure reached the gate Roy leaned forth and spoke, not loudly, but in tones that sliced through the silence, sharp, clean and without warming.

"Hall! Don't come Inside the fence." There was an lostant's confusion; then, you don't advertise. before the men beneath had time to "This is Roy Gleaister talking. I told you not to molest these people, and I habit."-Philadelphia Press. warn you again. We're ready for

The leader spoke. "You're a traitor

He winced. "Perhaps I am. You betrayed me first, though; and, traited er not, you can't come into this house." There was a murmur at this, and me one said: "Miss Chester is safe. All we want

is the judge. We won't hang him not if he'll wear this suft we brought long. He needn't be afraid. Tur is good for the skin." "Oh, my God!" groated the limb of

the law Suddenly a man came running down

"McNamara's gone and so's the mar shal and the rest," he panted. There was a moment's silence, and then the ader growled to his men, "Scatter or and rush the house, boys." He raised his voice to the man in the window This is your work, you damned turn cont." His followers melted away to right and left, vanited the fence an lodged into the shelter of the walls The elick, click of Glenister's Winches ter sounded through the room, while the sweat stood out on him. He wor dered if he could do this deed, if he sould really fire on these people. He wondered if his muscles would not wither and paralyze before they obeyed his command.

Helen crowded past him and, lean loudly, her voice ringing clear and

"Walt! Wait a moment! I have something to say. Mr. Glenister did not warn them. They thought you were going to attack the mines, and so they rode out there before mid I am felling you the truth, really. They left hours ago." It was the first sign she had made, and they There were uncertain mutterings be-

low till a new man raised his voice Both Roy and Helen recognized Dex-"Roys, we've overplayed. We don't

want these people-McNamara's our ment. Old baid face up yonder has to do what he's told, and I'm ag'in this twenty to one midnight work. goln' home." There were some whis serings, then the original spokesman called for Judge Stillman. The old man tottered to the window, a paisled. terror stricken object. The girl was gind he could not be seen from below "We won't hurt you this time, judge, but you've gone far enough. We'll give you another chance; then, if yo don't make good, we'll stretch you to a lamp post. Take this as a warning." "I s-shall do my d-d-duty," said the

The men disappeared into the darkness, and when they had gone Glenister closed the window, pulled down the shades and lighted a lamp. He knew had been averted. If he had fired on these men, his shot would have kindled snap away!" said the other; "but I of ruffians. We will stay here and a feud which would have consumed every vestige of the court crowd and draself among them. He would have fallen under a false banner, and his life would not have reached to the next sunset. Perhaps it was forfeit now. He could not tell. The vigilantes would probably look upon his part as had cut himself off from their support, him. Henceforth he was a renegade, a pariah, hated alike by both factions. and turned his back when the judge gas, nausea and all stomach trouble extended his band with expressions of for us.

"For us;" cried Roy, with a break in his voice. "Do you think I sacrificed my honor, betrayed my friends, killed fit for a christian to eat?" my last hope, ostracized myself, for 'us?' This is the last time I'll trouble you, perhaps the last time I'll see you. No matter what else you've done, however, you've taught me a lesson, and I Lingering Cold thank you for it. I have found myself withstood other treatment but quickly at last. I'm not an Eskimo any longer, I'm a man!"

"Yon've aiways been that," she said. "I don't understand as much about this affair as I want to, and it seems to me stupid, I guess. But won't you come

I'll stand at that front window, and when my eyes get used to the darkness of my people. McNamara and his are I'll be able to see them before they no friends of mine, and I'm no friend of theirs." He was half down the steps before she said softly;

- State Library "Good night, and God bless you friend."

She returned to the judge, who was she labored to soothe him as though he were a child. She undertook to question him about the things which lay uppermost in her mind and which this night had half revealed, but he became fretful and irritated at the mention of mines and mining. She sat beside his bed till he dozed off, puznilng to discover what lay behind the hints she had heard till her brain and boly matched in absolute weariness The reflex of the day's excitement say jed her strength till she could barely creep to her own couch, where she rolled and sighed, too tired to sleep at once. She awake finally, with one inst nervous nicker, before complete oblivion took her. A sentence was on she had spoken it aloud: The handsomest woman in the

orth-but Glenister ran away." [TO BE CONTINUED.]

have used Chamberlain's Cough Remteeth sampled like custanets. Now and then he grouned. Now and it has always proved to be a reliable remedy. We have found that it would when their strained eyes detected dark do more than the manufacturers claim blots materializing out of the shadows. for it. It is especially good for crou There they come, whispered Gleu-lster, foreign her back from the aper-Lewis, pastor Milaca, Minn., M. E. Chamberlain's Cough Re edy is sold by English Drug Co.

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"No, but the department store answer or take action, he continued do and my wife has the bargain

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does turn into a very bad case of dyspervia. Don't allow this to go on a single day without doing something to overcome it. Take some good reliable

Five years ago The Bank of Union opened for business. At that ime there was only one bank in Union county, with assets of about \$200,000,00 or less, while now there are five banks in the county ing half out of the opening, called and affords relief promptly. Sold by with assets aggregating about \$1,000,000.00. What a wonderful loudly, her voice ringing clear and S. I. Welsh and C. N. Simpson, Jr. change for so short a time! What is the reason? The principal change for so short a time! What is the reason? The principal cause lies in the enhanced values of farm products, but along with this there has been a great awakening in the way of doing business People who were dead in financial matters have come to life, and they see the dawn of a better day. People are more thrifty than five years ago. They are more ambitious to succeed, and they do succeed. The banks have contributed no little to this revolution in

The Bank of Union Has Labored Steadily to Promote Prosperity in Union and Adjoining Counties.

It has spent much money to safeguard the interests of its customers. No bank could do more under the circumstances. Absolute safety and good service are guaranteed. The people should recognize these facts and appreciate them. They could not do this in a more welcome way than by using this bank as a depository. A tive and body builder; sure cure private room for the accommodation of customers has been provid-There they will find a desk, paper, etc., for their convenience.



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