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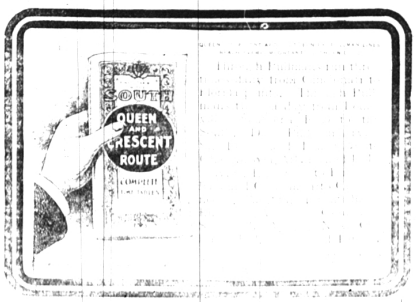

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WHEN HE LAUGHED.

When Larkins laughed all Digger City laughed with him. Never was a laugh more merry, more contagious. The men of Digger City were a sober lot, and to them the bright side of life was generally reflected in and measured by the gold they dug, but be luck good or bad, not one of the rough men that made up the mining camp ever had the temerity to dispute Larkins' right to laugh and make others laugh with him.

And yet there was a suspicion that Larkins laughed because he was sad.

Larkins arrived in Digger City one stormy winter night, no one knew from where. With him was a child, a chubby, golden-haired boy of 4 years. Some one asked how long the journey had been, and Digger City then heard the laugh it was to know so well.

"The kid and I," said Larkins, with a wave of his hand toward the east, "come from there. We didn't leave much behind, and mebbe we haven't got much in sight ahead. But we'll stick together, won't we, old boy? Dad and his kid will stick together, eh?"

Then Larkins smoothed the baby's hair and laughed until the crowd had caught the infection.

Months passed and still Digger City knew little of Larkins or his boy. In hunting camp a man is judged for what he is. The man with a past can't stay in Digger City learned to know and be leave Larkins, for none of, and but his kind. He manfully bore the ostracism of all who, after miners, were all that search Eagle for finding their dust for double. Larkins, might be found at his cabin humming some lullaby to the child.

[illegible]

Then Larkins and the boy would [illegible] the time. And while it lasted the rough miners declare that the frowzy-headed baby was quite as good as the big-bearded miner who would toss him in the air and gallop about the room as a horse for the little driver. To the baby this play was all [illegible] matter, as it only tired the [illegible] and he would [illegible] [illegible] he labored all day, and the room would rend with merriment.

[illegible] Larkins was [illegible] wondered from the [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Larkins spoke earnestly, and the men felt [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] they could do could [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Larkins [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]