

# The Klondike Gold System.

By JOHN R. MUSICK.  
Author of "Mystrator Mr. Howard," "The Dark Stranger," "The Alaskans," "Doom," etc.

## CHAPTER II.

### The Storm Burst.

There was a cloud hanging over the dimmest mountain peak, and occasionally the low muttering of far-off thunder could be heard, but it did not disturb the young pleasure seekers, who had come out from Fresno, California, to have a good time. One of the first gals whose golden hair and deep blue eyes would attract any beholder, was standing in the shadow of a tree, whether she had wandered alone. She looked very little interested in the sports of her youthful companions, no more youthful, however, than herself. As she strolled over the shadows of the lines her pale blue garb half concealed a face that was exquisite in its loveliness.

"Oh, Laura, why are you alone standing a pretty good girl leaning on the arm of her lover as she passed. There are plenty of young fellows who would be glad to take your place," said I to her.

"Thank you, Nellie, I do not want," while a faint smile fitted over her face.

"This moment another couple passed where the three stood, their faces half hidden behind a pink umbrella. Nellie, smiling, said to me: "There are plenty of young fellows who would be glad to take your place," said I to her.

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her hand. She seemed benumbed by the feeling. She stood as one transfixed, a slow shudder creeping over her body. Her eyes were fixed on the girl whose senses regained their mastery. She swung away "his hand" and hurried on, in a rage charged with indignation she said:

"So this is what you mean! I understand you at last! I feel back a pace. "Laura, hear me—hear me again."

"But she had found her voice at last. "Sir, you have outraged my feelings, as much as I have yours. At this moment Paul Miller's wife!"

Theodore Lackland felt his self-control rapidly slipping away, and in the twinkling of an eye he was shouting: "You shall never marry Paul Miller, Laura Kean! I swear it! I hold your fate and mine in my hand. You shall never see me again if you do not give up your love for me. You shall never see me again if you do not give up your love for me."

"Face to face, eye to eye, with glaring breath and scornful looks, then Laura, without a word, swung about and walked away to where her friends were preparing to return to town."

"It is a long way to the Klondike," he finally muttered while the smile of a devil fitted over his face. "But great as the distance is, he will feel my power, and so shall all who are in the line of my power."

"Laura and her little friend went on. The gaze of Laura Kean was now riveted on Clarence Berry and Ethel Bush. The rumor that Laura Kean had broken her heart over the Klondike, and that she had returned to her home in the north, was a great deal of news in the town."

"I hope I don't intrude," said a sweet, silver-like voice, and looking up, they beheld their friend Laura Kean standing near, a smile on her pretty face. "My excuse for coming is to discuss your intended journey to the Klondike. I have heard you are going in the early spring."

"We have so decided," Clarence Berry answered.

"And if agreeable I have decided to accompany you."

"Ethel Bush was delighted, and declared if they could find a preacher in Alaska, the wedding would be celebrated in the frozen north. The three sat on the green and planned and talked with increasing enthusiasm, and Laura, with her pretty face and her happy, arose, left the lovers to themselves, while she strolled down the grove, that her mind might compare up her lover's plans with those of meeting her in those faraway regions."

"Unconsciously she strolled deep into the grove, and was lost to the sight of her friends, when a footstep near caused her to start in surprise if not alarm. Before her stood a young man with a dark, handsome face, a keen countenance and keen blue eye. He was a figure that might have been called handsome, but to Laura Kean he was repulsive. She gave him a glance and gasped:

"Theodore Lackland had followed Laura to this picnic and into this grove with a set purpose in his heart. He was wealthy, a young man of good family and reputed ability, but a man of firm and fixed purpose. To accomplish an end he would go to almost any limit. He had known Paul Miller long before he set out for the Klondike, and hated him because he had married Laura Kean. Why should this beautiful girl, the only woman whom he had ever loved, prefer this red, penniless country boy to himself?"

"Mr. Lackland failed to realize what so many have in this life—that it is the soul that attracts and not the face and figure. There is no freemasonry so subtle as the freemasonry of the soul."

"I am pleased to see you happy, Miss Kean," he said. "There had been something wrong with me, and while others are happy I am sad."

"Surely it is a morbid fancy," said Laura. The light was on her eyes. She made one quick downward look at the path, as if wishing to pass him. He observed her glance and said:

"No, no, Laura, wait a moment; I have something of great importance to say to you, which I must say now. "I have just been to Alaska in the spring. He looked earnestly into the girl's glowing face, and added, with deliberation:

"Laura, there are reasons why you should not undertake such a journey. "What reasons?"

"A million natural obstacles are in the way."

"If Ethel Bush can go, why not I?" He did not answer immediately, but stood at the side of the path, carefully blocking the leaves with the toe of his boot. At last he answered:

"Laura, if your love had been as great love, you must have read my secret, just as I have read yours. In a low tone he continued: "Long ago I knew that you loved, or that you loved Paul Miller. I saw it before, did—before you realized it."

fort, but from that on it became poorer and every mile marked with dangers. They engaged some Indians as guides and an Esquimaux with the euphonious name of "Long Dick," which Long Dick translated for convenience into "Hemstitch."

"Smithwick was engaged as a sort of general attendant of the dogs and sleds, of which they had several to convey themselves and packs across the bleak, wild deserts, the dog being the only animal capable of making those journeys in all weather."

The accommodations for the young bride were poor, but Clarence did the very best for her, and every night the latter was pitched in some spot where the other day he had been eating breakfast, and through the window of another house the domestic making beds. On the lawn of a third house was playing a game of chess with the neighbors' children."

"An Englishman is like a bear if any one steps on his lawn. You know that the other day I saw the family eating breakfast, and through the window of another house the domestic making beds. On the lawn of a third house was playing a game of chess with the neighbors' children."

"The different part of good temper comes in. I believe that I have had a low rate of 25 cents per pound."

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## THE OPEN AWARD.

### One Feature of Our Life That Impresses Englishmen.

"One thing that impresses the stranger is the houses without fences around them," remarked an Englishman at the Waldorf-Astoria to a New York Herald reporter. "In England, when we build our houses, we put walls around them, and build the walls so high that no one can look over them, but because every man's house is his castle, you know, I suppose the Americans build their houses in this kind of manner. It is the only way I will build my house so that all the world may see my every action."

"As I walked down a residence street the other day I saw the family eating breakfast, and through the window of another house the domestic making beds. On the lawn of a third house was playing a game of chess with the neighbors' children."

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## Harriet Hand Eulor.

July 26th to August 28th the Great Northern Railway has been running its special train to and from Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth and West Superior, and through the route to the points on Great Northern Railway in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, and Alaska. The train is run by the Great Northern Railway, and is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world.

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## To Young Ladies.

"For this gathering in San Francisco in August next, the Klondike will be sold via the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Ry. for \$20 for Chicago to San Francisco or Los Angeles for \$30 for the round trip with final return ticket September 20."

"The Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway is the Short Line with the best service, and all regular travelers know and appreciate the merits of the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway's Short Line between the East and the West."

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## Boys Who Make Money.

"In a daily little booklet, 35 out of some 600 boys who are making money by selling their books, are made a success of selling."

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"Low creatures," she hissed, almost breathlessly. His cheeks quivered; his lips trembled; his voice swelled, while his nervous fingers were riveted to his palms. He approached her and took

Hamlin's Wizard Oil SORES, ULCERS, BRUISES, BURNS, etc.

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