# DASTARDLY PLOT OF SWINDLERS FOILED FOR

Scheme to Rob Girl and Brother of Valuable Texas Oil Land Is Baffled.

## YOUNG WOMAN WINS HUSBAND AS REWARD the rich heiress. The young woman gan to howl, and the hungry packs arrived at Humble at a time when drew nearer and nearer, until the

Kidnaped by Arch-Fiends and Taken to Deserted Cabin-Her Desperate Fight with Wolves-Rescued in Nick of Time by Brother and Comrade.

Only the caution and extreme cour- with poverty. He had been forced

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scheming minds could conjure to de- at once proceeded to make himself a fraud the girl of her land. They de- pleasing and interesting acquaintance termined to use force as a last resort, but their wear-laid plans were sadly molingue, had stumbled upon a valucape with their lives.

Seek Heirs for Property.

heirs of one Whit Bardeline. Thor- smoothest sharks that ever scented oughly posted as to the value of such oil. many ways to manage the affair in or- train and then slept. der to secure possession of the land. would be plain sailing.

It happened that there were other valuable information. people looking for these same heirs, at least was surely discovered. An old nearly 20 years of age-was easy to line, and when he saw armies of excited prospectors boring holes into the

age of an innocent and inexperienced to practice law, he said, "for bread," young girl foiled the most dastardly and having no sense of honor or the plot ever concocted by scheming land elementary rudiments of his professharks and saved herself and brother sion, he had barely escaped the penioil property in Texas worth a king's tentiary. As a recluse and a bear hunter he had proved eminently suc-The story of the merciless rascals, cessful, but he longed to be rich. the kidnaping of the girl, her desperate Now that fortune had knocked at his fight with wolves in a deserted house door, he determined to leave no stone and the timely rescue by her brother unturned until he could walk with and lover has only just recently been the oil millionaires and be one of them made public and reads stranger than altogether. While his head was swimming with these great ideas he was The trio of arch swindlers implicated approached by a well-dressed little in the plot tried by every method meir man, who asked a few questions, and

spoiled and they were thankful to es- able find. In less than two minutes he had learned that Maj. Sark knew a great deal about the land and the heirs The trio of swindlers in question of Whit Bardeline, and he invited him were for a short time engaged in mak- to visit the office of his firm. In ing an abstract of titles of Liberty this office the old bear hunter was county, Texas. While working in this treated with princely cordiality. Drinks business they made an interesting dis- flowed freely, and Maj. Sark was discovery. They found 80 acres of land, sected and every fact in his memin sight of flowing wells, that were ory was laid bare to the eager, conworth millions, which belonged to the scienceless capacities of a trio of the

property, the firm of Smart & Hermo- Maj. Sark left the office of his new lingue at once instituted a search for ly discovered friends with \$100 in his the owners of the valuable land. The pocket and instructions to find the trio saw wonderful possibilities in the heirs of Whit Bardeline. He slept and game they had in hand. There were then caught a train. Smart took a

After arriving at Caldwell, in Bur-If the heirs could not be found there lison county, Tex., it did not take the blundering old lawyer long to secure

Two of the Bardeline heirs were still and it was not long before one of them alive. Miss Choice—a young woman lawyer by the name of Buckingham find. She lived with one of her rela-Sark, who lived in one of the San Ja- tives in the suburbs of the town. Sam cinto thickets, had known Whit Barde- Bardeline, who was two years younger than his sister, had gone to New Mexico with a herd of cattle.

around for the children of his old he was searching for a popular, handneighbor. Whit Bardeline had died of some and intelligent young woman malarial fever and his body was lying Miss Bardeline was the belle of the where oil was flowing the richest. Mr. town. She had won the odd name of Bark was aware of this fact, and later "Choice" when she was an infant

startling sums that were being paid trail. "This is the place," said the for little slices of real estate within major. sight of the old cabin where she had spent the happy days of her child- ened girl. "Why, no one lives here."

Heiress Besieged by Oil Sharks. to please the agent of Smart & Her- ter and be back in a few minutes." Sark again she concluded to take her trapped." cld Aunt Polly with her and visit the oil field. Aunt Polly was an old negro woman who had nursed Miss Choice he goes to foolin' wid my chile." in her infancy. This move did not please Maj. Sark. He had hoped to secure a power of attorney to act for Gushers were spouting fortunes into beasts. "They will eat us up," cried the air, and men could not be se- Choice. "No, you jes set still, chile, i ists were eager to buy land close to can keep 'em off." the gushers, and when it became

"Impossible!" exclaimed the fright-The major was busy at once unhitching his horses. "Go into the house," The interview did not end in a way he said, "I will take the horses to wamolingue, but he was promised an- The women exchanged glances. Tears other. Miss Bardeline talked with of fright came into the eyes of the her friends, and after listening to Mai. girl. "Aunt Polly," she said, "we are

> "No, dey won't, honey. I ain't 'fraid of dat ole man, I'll break his neck ef

Women Battle with Wolves, Night came and darkness came, but Sark did not return. The wolves bethe excitement was at fever heat. New trembling girl could see the glaring strikes were being made every day. eyes and white teeth of the snarling cured to tank the streams of wealth is got de neck yoke here and a big that were running to waste. Capital- stick. Wolves am awful cowards. We

Choice stood up on the seat, and



known that one of the Bardeline heirs, when a wolf sprang at her she struck was in the field the excitement rose him over the head with the big stick. to'a pitch of frenzy.

earth and oil spouting in streams A little inquiry revealed to the agent toward the skies he began to look of the operators in the oil lands that old Polly's hands, begging her to with desperation and valor. their brows, thrust \$20 gold pieces into front, the girl was wielding her club grant them an interview with her mis-

Desperate Plot Laid. All sorts of methods and stratagems were resorted to by the sharks to force on he learned that the fragile mother through the admiration of relatives, the young girl to make a deal, but

Time and again the vehicle was at-Choice was soon discovered. Eager tacked, and while the brave old negress land buyers, mopping the sweat from was battling with the mad animals in The bed of the vehicle was full of

oats and hay. The negress struck a match and dropped it into the dry straw. Seizing flaming bundles she threw them among the howling wolves. "Throw fire, Miss Choice," she shout-"We must jump out and run to the house." The quick-witted girl caught the meaning of old Polly's words and actions and she sprang from the flaming carriage, scattering brandic of fire as she ran. Polly followed close after her. They sprang through the door of the cabin, with the yelping pack at their heels. Polly quickly barred the doors and windows.

Villains Demand Girl's Signature. For hours while the wolves howled the faithful old negress sat with the white girl's head against her bosom. Gver and over they wondered why they had been brought to such a place. At dawn the question was answered. The cabin door was forced open and three men entered the room. One of them was Maj. Sark and another was Hermolingue.

After looking at them for a few moments, while tears streamed from her eyes, the frightened young girl "Are you going to murder

"Not at all," said Sark. "On the contrary, we intend to treat you with the utmost kindness, and only detain you a few days, provided you will sign a little document." 'Spare my life," said the terror-

stricken young girl. "I am ready to sign anything, if you will let us leave this dreadful place." "It will take us about three days to

make the deals we have in view. But during that time you shall have everything, and be treated with kindness." It was the intention of the villains to secure a power of attorney signed by Miss Choice for Maj. Sark to act in her stead. They could then return to the oil field and sell the land in slices while the excitement was at

Rescued by Brother and Lover. The robbers made no effort to con-Hermolingue with the information. attorney in his hands. "Just sign

ing murdered."

"And, bless God, Miss Choice, here is your sweetheart," said Polly. "Here

"Tell us quick, Choice," shouted Sam Bardeline, "what does all this mean?" The girl had her arms about her brother's neck, and while she was telling what had happened the rascals were escaping into the woods. When The route was difficult. Nearly a Bob Warren had heard enough to

DISAGREEABLY AGREEABLE.

Young Man Was There with the Oily Approval to a Mauseating Extent.

A story told of the late James F. Joy is at least characteristic. He was never weak in his likes or dislikes, and among the things that he dearly liked were honesty and naturalness. The attempt to appear what one were not was to antagonize him, says the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

cal Tribune.

Mr. Joy had many positions at his disposal, and an applicant for one of them came with gilt-edged credentials. The young man presenting them was of good appearance, finely educated, and the son of one whom the financier had respected for years. Wise as to his tongue the youth would have a walkover.

The older man purposely engaged the younger in conversation. The latter re

The older man purposely engaged the younger in conversation. The latter replied in smooth sentences, delivered in dulcet tones. Mr. Joy would make a statement carrying an opinion, and there would be unctuous approval from his caller. This got on to the nerves of the sturdy old gentleman. He advanced an opinion diametrically opposed to the one delivered but a few sentences before. The youth was right there with his oily approval. The railroad magnate wondered how far it would go, and put the test:

"Don't you think that this is a much warmer summer than last?"

"Unquestionably."
"But on second thought I think it con-iderably cooler." "You are certainly right, sir."
"Young man, you are so persistently agreeable as to be disagreeable."

Mother Wanted News.

The habit of moving the lips when reading is a good deal more common than people suppose. But speaking of that habit, says a writer in the Kansas that habit, says a writer in the Kansas City Times, a queer thing happened recently on a train on which I was riding. I was sitting by a man who moved his hps when he read. While he apparently made no sound he really shaped his lips to each word. He was reading a news paper and so was I. I was scated next to the aisle. After we had been reading a little while I felt some one touch my arm. Looking around, I saw a little girl scated by a woman across the aisle, was smiling at me.

smiling at me.
"Please, sir," she said, "would you hold your paper lower?" hold your paper lower?"
Of course I was surprised at the request, and asked her why.
"Because," she replied, "my mamma here, who is deaf, wants to be able to watch your friend's lips so she can get the news. She can tell what he is reading that way. It hurts her eyes to read print on a moving train."

Sacramento, Ky., Nov. 13th (Special)—A typical illustration of the way Dodd's Kidney Pills Cure Rheumatism is well told by Catherine Devine, who is very well known here. She says:—

"For over four years I was greatly troubled with Rheumatism. It used to take me worst in my legs and fect. At times I would be so bad I could not put my feet to the ground. As I am over seventy-three years of age I began to think I was too old to get cured and should have to bear my Rhuematism the best way I could. But I heard about Dodd's Kidney Pills and thought I would give them a trial. So I got a box and began taking them. Well, I must say Dodd's Kidney Pills did me a wonderful lot of good. They eased the pain from the first, and to-day I am in better health than I have been for many years."

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Some people hoard their ignorance like miser.—Life.

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"De man dat thinks he knows it all," said Uncle Eben, "ginerally turns out to be a victim of misplaced confidence."— Washington Star.

## NOT A TRACE LEFT

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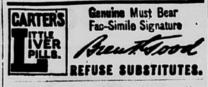
sleeping and I would get up and walk the floor at night. When I began taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills the improvement was gradual, but by the time I had taken four boxes I was entirely cured and I have not had the slightest touch of rheumatism since that time."

Mr. Wagar's wife is also enthusiastic in her endorsement of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. She says: "I have tried the pills myself for stomach trouble and have experienced great relief from their use. My daughter, Mrs. Atwood, of Gill street, Watertown, has used them for female weakness and was much benefited by them. I regard Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People as an ex-

tremely valuable family medicine. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have cured the worst cases of bloodlessness, indigestion, influenza, headaches, backaches, lumbago, sciatica, neuralgia, nervousness. spinal weakness, and the special ailments of girls and women whose blood supply becomes weak, scanty or irregular. The genuine Dr. Williams' Pink Pills



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ceal their plot from their helpless victim. "Don't be downhearted," said Hermolingue. "We will leave you a little fortune when we have harvested a few millions." He was approaching of his spark and he ran to Smart & the trembling girl with the power of The door fell with a crash and Her-

a spark amongst the factors that were Maj. Sark turned his footsteps in disturbing the mental equilibrium of

The Door Fell with a Crash and the Rescuers Entered. had passed away after leaving the who called the pretty little girl the they failed. One day Maj. Sark dropped

country and that all the children but "choice of the flock." two had finally yielded to the germs of the fatal malaria that they had carried the direction of the residence of Mrs. the inexperienced girl which rapidly from the lowlands. These two were Sallie Bales, the old aunt with whom grew into a mountain of regrets. He living with relatives in Burleson coun- Miss Bardeline lived. Sure of ac- said: "Oil flows do not go on forever. ty, according to the best information complishing his purpose, he already The wells often suddenly cease to that could be collected by Maj. Sark. accounted himself a capitalist and an spout. Schemers' Eyes Opened. The old lawyer visited the oil field. was rubbing his hands together and There he saw things that caused him whispering to himself: "Them fellows

that he had once seen exchanged for

assume youthful airs. He heard men piece of strategy." talking of millions as his neighbors Girl Refuses to Be Duped. talked of dollars. Here was a well Choice came to the front door, and "worth \$100,000," and there was one the major introduced himself. that had just been sold for "half a mil-"I am Choice Bardeline," said the

lion." Before his eyes was 40 acres of land young woman. Maj. Sark discovered that another an old blind horse and a fiddle that was man occupied a chair in a corner of the now being sold by the foot. It took room he entered, and while he was a capitalist to own as much as one rubbing his eyes and trying to find could cover with a saddle blanket. The why the stranger had a familiar apsuccessful operators were working pearance, the young woman said: "Mr. right up to the line of the tract that Sark, permit me to introduce you to belonged to the heirs of Whit Barde- Mr. Smart, from the Humble oil fields."

The major stood staring with his mouth wide open. Repeated efforts to Maj. Sark remembered that this land had once been sold for two dollars an express his surprise resulted in failacre, and he recalled that when Barde- ure-the words stuck in his throat. line was forced to leave the country When Choice retired from the room on account of sickness in his family Smart whispered: "I can't do a and poverty, it was in vain that he thing with her. I will leave as soon as she comes back. Do your level you, but he is not well," said the This region of country, almost in best. Get a quitclaim deed or a major. sight of Houston, had been unsettled power of attorney. There are millions

for years. Settlers avoided the level in this deal." prairies and the thickets of the Sau Sark was left alone with an inex-Jacinto as if the land were haunted or perienced young girl, whose signature a pestilence hung over the place. At to a piece of paper was worth heaps one period Bardeline had offered to of gold. Miss Bardeline was a casual trade his possessions for a yoke of reader of newspapers. She had heard in a light vehicle drawn by two horses, The rightful heirs found no difficulty cld steers, a cart and a mule as means something of the discoveries at Humand effects that offered some hope of ble, and she knew that land in that escaping the poverty striaken region. section of the country had increased The old major was well acquainted in value, but she had no inkling of the upon a cabin by the side of a dim ren won a heart of gold.

They burn out or blow out. cil king. Reaching the front gate, he The field is exhausted. Then the land is not worth five cents an acre." Choice shivered as if she had an

to open his eyes wide and made him will have to pay me well for this fine

"I will go at once," said the dis-

ague. Running to old Polly she cried in anguish: "O! why didn't I take all that gold?"

They did not have the gold, but they here, please." were rich in villainy. The major remembered that the young woman had a distant relative named Carroll who lived in the San Jacinto bottoms. ten miles away, and that she had once expressed a desire to visit the old man and his family. He at once went to Choice. "You have saved me from being murdered." invented by Smart. He told the perplexed young woman that he had just heard from her relative, Mr. Carroll, is Mr. Bob Warren, come to kill dese and that the old man had sent an invitation for Miss Choice to visit his "He would have come for

turbed girl.

whole day was spent winding about prove that the scoundrels had intended through thickets and swamps of the to rob his sweetheart he ran out and San Jacinto bottoms. They traveled shot off one of Maj. Sark's ears. the major occupying the front seat, in gaining possession of the valuable while Choice and old Polly rode be- land and then gold began to come hind. A little before dark they came their way in showers, and Bob War-

The shrewd old major saw the effect

molingue felt himself seized by the collar and hurled against the wall, Maj. Sark was thrown into the fireplace, and the notary was knocked senseless. "O, my brother!" shrieked

ANY OTHER MARIY AD THER.

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