

**THE GREAT K. & A.
TRAIN-ROBBERY**

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The Great K. & A. Train-Robbery by Paul Leicester Ford

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PAUL LEICESTER FORD

**THE GREAT K. & A.
TRAIN-ROBBERY**

The Great
K. & A. Train-Robbery

By

Paul Leicester Ford

Author of "Janice Meredith" etc.



New York

International Association of Newspapers and Authors

1901

K. B. P.

TO
MY TRAVELLING COMPANIONS

ON SPECIALS 218 AND 97

THIS ENDEAVOR TO WEAVE INTO A STORY SOME OF OUR
OVERLAND HAPPENINGS AND ADVENTURES

IS GRATEFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.



TO MISS GEORGE BARKER GIBBS.

My dear George:

At your request I originally inscribed this skit to our whole party. In its republication, however, I can but feel that the dedication should be more particular. Written because you asked it, first read aloud to beguile our ride across the great American desert, and finally printed because you wished a copy as a souvenir of our journeyings, no one can so naturally be called upon to stand sponsor to the little tale. Should the story but give its readers a fraction of the pleasure I owe to your kindness, its success is assured.

Faithfully yours,

PAUL LECESTER FORD.

MOR 19 FEB '36

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THE
Great K. & A. Train-Robbery

CHAPTER I

THE PARTY ON SPECIAL NO. 218

ANY one who hopes to find in what is here written a work of literature had better lay it aside unread. At Yale I should have got the sack in rhetoric and English composition, let alone other studies, had it not been for the fact that I played half-back on the team, and so the professors marked me away up above where I ought to have ranked. That was twelve years ago, but my life since I received my parchment has hardly been of a kind to improve me in either style or grammar. It is true that one woman tells me I write well, and my directors never find fault with my compositions; but I know that she likes my letters because, whatever

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H V P L

THE GREAT

else they may say to her, they always say in some form, "I love you," while my board approve my annual reports because thus far I have been able to end each with "I recommend the declaration of a dividend of— per cent from the earnings of the current year." I should therefore prefer to reserve my writings for such friendly critics, if it did not seem necessary to make public a plain statement concerning an affair over which there appears to be much confusion. I have heard in the last five years not less than twenty renderings of what is commonly called "the great K. & A. train-robbery," — some so twisted and distorted that but for the intermediate versions I should never have recognized them as attempts to narrate the series of events in which I played a somewhat prominent part. I have read or been told that, unassisted, the pseudo-hero captured a dozen desperadoes; that he was one of the road agents himself; that he was saved from lynching only by the timely arrival of cavalry; that the action of the

