

## CHAPTER XXXV.

### DODGE CITY.

The volume of business in the cattle trade at Dodge City was greater than that of any other town in Kansas. Here the stockmen could drive without danger of coming in contact with the Kansas quarantine laws, and hence for many years this city had practically a monopoly of the cattle trade. Here, as in other cattle towns, many men became noted for certain peculiar personal characteristics. Mysterious Dave, Bat Masterson, and a host of others were potent factors in the early history of this place, and probably no other town in Kansas ever had the amount of public notice and notoriety or ever attracted the world-wide attention as did Dodge City.

When the buffalo-hunters were killing so many of these animals, a man named Jones had a grocery store at Dodge City, and he purchased a wagon and team and was making good money by hauling into town the robes and sometimes the meat of animals slain by these hunters. One night some thieves stole his team and wagon, and left, going east. He followed the trail down to Great Bend, and there procured a warrant for their arrest, had himself appointed as deputy

### CIRCLE-DOT.

sheriff, and went on to Wichita, where he eventually found three men and placed them under arrest, charging them with the theft of the team and wagon. Jones had one man with him, and, loading the three prisoners in the wagon which they had recovered, they started back, ostensibly for Great Bend, but the three men accused of the theft never reached there; and for several years nothing further was known of them. One day, ten years afterward, a man came before the authorities at Great Bend and procured a warrant for Jones, charging him with murder. The man who swore to the complaint said that he was one of the three men whom Jones had arrested, charged with the crime of stealing the wagon and team at Dodge City. He said that when the three of them were turned over to Jones and his companion, by the authorities at Wichita, they were bound with cords and tied down to the bottom of the wagon, in which condition they rode all day until after sunset, when they stopped and went into camp. That they were on the banks of the Arkansas river, about forty miles from Wichita. When they were taken out of the wagon they were placed up against a little bank and told to sit there perfectly quiet. This man said that they were left sitting there until after Jones and his partner had eaten their supper, when the two men walked out toward them and began firing their revolvers. He saw his two comrades fall dead and himself received a shot in the head

### DODGE CITY.

and one in the breast, when he became unconscious, and remained in that condition for several hours. When he regained his senses the sun was shining on his face from directly south, so that it was about noon of the following day. He was unable to move, and laid in that condition until that evening, when he was discovered by a party of Osage Indians who had stopped to camp at the river. They buried his two companions, and he was taken by the Indians to some place in the Indian Territory and the "Big Medicine Man" healed his wounds. He protested that he was innocent of the crime charged against him, and declared that he and his two companions had never been farther west than Wichita. For some reason this case was never prosecuted.