

THE WAR-TRAIL!

CHAPTER LX. THE SOMBRERO.

The horses cowered under the cold rain, all of them jaded and hungry. The hot dusty march of the morning, and the long rough gallop of the night, had exhausted their strength, and they stood with drooped heads and hanging ears, dozing and motionless.

The men, too, were wearied—some of them quite worn out. A few kept their feet, and in hand, under shelter of the impending cliff; the others, having staggered down, with their backs against the rock, had almost instantly fallen asleep.

For me was neither sleep nor rest; I did not even seek protection against the storm, but standing clear of the cliff, received the drenching shower full upon my shoulders. It was the chill rain of the "norther;" but at that moment neither cold nor hot sirocco could have produced upon me an impression of pain.

To physical suffering I was insensible. I should even have welcomed it, for I well understood the truth, proverbially expressed in that language, rich above all others in proverbial lore—"un clavo saca otro clavo," and still more fully illustrated by the poet:

Tristes me hacen triste, Tristes salgo a buscar, A ver si con tristezas Tristes puedo olvidar.

Yes, under any other form, I should have welcomed physical pain as a neutralizer of my mental anguish; but that cold norther brought no consolation.

Sadly the reverse. It was the harrowing of keen apprehension; for not only had it interrupted our search, but should the heavy rain continue but for a few hours, we might be able neither to find or further to follow the trail. It would be blinded—obliterated—lost. Can you wonder that in my heart I exhaled those black clouds, and that driving deluge?—that with my lips I cursed the sky and the storm, the moon and the stars, the red lightning and the rolling thunder?

My anathema ended, I stood in sullen silence leaning against the body of my brave horse, whose sides shivered under the chilly rain, though I felt not its chill.

Absorbed in gloomy thought, I recked not was passing around me; and for an unnoted period I remained in this speechless abstraction.

My reverie was broken. Some expressions that reached my ear told me that at least two of my followers had not yielded to weariness or despair. Two of them were in conversation; and I easily recognized the voices of the trappers. Tireless, used to stern struggles—to constant warfare with the elements, with nature herself—these true men never thought of giving up, until the last effort of human ingenuity had failed. From their conversation, I gathered that they had not yet lost hope of finding the trail, but were looking on some plan for recovering and following it.

With renewed eagerness I faced towards them and listened, both talked in a low voice. Garey was speaking, as I turned to them.

"I guess you're right Rube. The hoss must a gone thar, an' if so, we're bound to fetch his tracks. Thar's mud, mud, if I remember right, all round the pool. We can carry the candle under Dutch's sombrero."

"Ye-es," drawled Rube in reply; "an' ef this nigger don't miskalk'late, we ain't a gwine to need eyther cannel or sombrero. Lookee yander!"—the speaker pointed to a break in the clouds—"I'll stake high, I kin mizzure this hur shower wif the tail o' a goat. Wagh! we'll hev the moon agin, clur as iver, in the insid' o' ten minnits—see ef we haist."

"So much the better, old boss; but hada't we best first try for the tracks? time's precious, Rube."

"In course it ur; git the cannel an' the sombrero, an' le's be of then. The rest of these tellars had better stay hyur; thul' only bamboozle us."

"Lige!" called on Garey, addressing himself to Quakeboss—"Lige! gi' us yur hat a bit."

A loud snore was the only reply. The ranger, seated with his back against the rock, and his head drooping over his breast, was sound asleep.

"Durned sleepy-head!" exclaimed Rube, in a tone of peevish impatience. "Prod' im wif the point o' yur bowie. Bill! Ribrost 'im wif yur wipin-stick! Lam 'im wif yur laryette!—gi' 'im a kick 'if the guts—roust 'im up, durn 'im!"

"Lige!—ho!—Dutchy!" cried Garey, approaching the sleeper, and shaking him by the shoulder; "I want your sombrero."

"Ho! wo! stand still! Jingo, he'll throw me. I can't get off; the spurs are locked. Ho! wo! wo!"

Rube and Garey broke into a loud exclamation that awakened the rest of the slumberers. Quakeboss alone remained asleep fighting in his dreams with the wild Indian horse.

"Durned mulehead!" cried Rube, after a pause; "let 'im go on at that's long's he likes it. Chuck the hat off o' his head, Bill! we don't want him—that we don't."

There was a little pique in the trapper's tone. The breach that the ranger had made, while acting as a faithful sentinel, was not yet healed.

Garey made no further attempts to arouse the sleeper, but in obedience to the order of his comrade, lifted off the hat; and, having procured one of the

great candles, he and Rube started off without saying another word, or giving any clue to their design.

Through joy from what I heard, I refrained from interrogating them. Some of my followers who put questions received only ambiguous answers. From the manner of the trappers I saw that they wished to be left to themselves; and I could well trust them to the development of whatever design they had conceived.

On leaving us, they walked straight out from the cliff; but how far they continued in this direction it was impossible to tell. They had not lighted the candle; and after going half-a-dozen steps, their forms disappeared from our view amidst the darkness and thickly falling rain.

TO BE CONTINUED.

The Jeannette Expedition.

LETTERS FROM LIEUT. MELVILLE OF THE SEARCHING PARTY.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The navy department has received two communications from Lieut. George Melville, of the Jeannette searching party, dated Yauktz, Siberia, January 6th 1882, in which he submits a detailed report of the events subsequent to the disposition of the three boats of the Jeannette. On the night of September 12th, during a heavy gale, and when within 50 miles of Boukin, their destination, he enclosed copies of official records found in caches since that date. These are signed by Lieut. DeLong and men. One, under date of October 1, 1881, was given to Melville at Belun by a native, who found it in a hut. It is as follows:—

Fourteen officers and men of the U. S. steamer Jeannette reached this hut on Wednesday, September 28th, and, having been forced to wait for the river to freeze over, are proceeding to cross to the west side, this a. m., on their journey, to reach some settlement on the Lena River. We have two days' provisions, but having been fortunate enough thus far to get game in our pressing needs, have no fear for the future. Our party are all well, except one man, whose toes have been amputated in consequence of frost bite.

Lieut. Melville says: "I am convinced that Lieut. DeLong and party are somewhere to the westward of Lena, and between Sitezaneck and Balcour, which are separated by an extent of about 150 versts of a barren and desolate region, devoid of substance. To search that region, a large force will be required with proper authority from the Russian official governor. This province has sent a general order throughout the entire region from the Lena to Kolyma to search for and render assistance to both parties that are missing. I am now completing arrangements and will start north in a few days."

A SURE CURE FOR SMALL-POX—A correspondent of the Stockton Herald (America) gives the following as a cure for small-pox:—"I herewith append a recipe which has been used to my knowledge in hundreds of cases. It will prevent or cure small-pox, even though the pittings are filling. When Jenner discovered the cow-pox in England, the world of science hurled an avalanche of fame on his head; but when the most scientific school of medicine in the world—that of Paris—published this recipe as a panacea for small-pox, it passed unnoticed. It is as unailing as fate, and conquers in every instance. It is perfectly harmless when taken by a well person. It will also cure scarlet fever. Here it is as I have used it to cure small-pox, when learned physicians said the patient must die: Sulphate of zinc, 1 grain; foxglove (digitalis), 1 grain; one half teaspoonful of sugar; mix with two tablespoonful of water. When the above has been thoroughly mixed, add 4oz. of water; take a teaspoonful every four. The disease will disappear in 12 hours. For a child, smaller doses, according to age. If counties would compel physicians to use this there would be no need of pesthouses. If you value advice and experience, use this for that terrible scourge."

How TO TREAT DIPHTHERIA.—For young children give two grain quinine pills, adults four grains every night; this will keep down fever. Take chlorate of potash one part, sulphur one part, and sugar (white) two parts, mix thoroughly; take this mixture, a pinch at a time, letting it dissolve slowly in the mouth. Apply a warm poultice of flax seed to the throat, wrapping a piece of dry flannel on the outside. Mild aperients should be given.

ONE of the editors of the Liverpool Mercury is willing to risk his reputation as a public man, whatever that may be worth, that the worst case of small-pox can be cured in three days simply by the use of cream of tartar dissolved in one pint of hot water, drunk at intervals when cold. He says it has cured many of his friends and acquaintances, never leaves a mark, never causes blindness, and avoids tedious lingering.

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Prince Edward Island RAILWAY.

TIME TABLE NO. 17. WINTER ARRANGEMENT. To take effect on the 1st Dec., 1881.

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Table with columns: STATIONS, MIXED, MIXED, MIXED. Rows include Ch'town, Royalty, N. Wiltshire, Hunter, Bradaiba, Co'ty Line, Freetown, Kensington, Summ'side, Wellington, Port Hill, O'Leary, Bloomfield, Alberton, Tignish, Royalty, Mt. Stew't, Cardigan, George'n, St. Peter's, Bear River, Souris.

TRAINS INWARD.

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