

THE WAR-TRAIL!

CHAPTER XXII—(CONTINUED.)

There was one fire larger than the rest. From its dimensions it might be termed a bonfire, such as is made by the flustering and flunkeyish peasantry of Old World lands when they welcome home the squire and the count. It was placed directly in front of the solitary tent, and not a dozen paces from its entrance. Its blazing pile gave forth a flood of red light that reached even to the spot where I stood, and flickered in my face. I even fancied I could feel its warmth upon my cheeks.

Around this fire were many forms of men, all of them standing up. I could see the faces of those who were upon its farther side, but only the figures of those on the nearer. The former I could see with almost as much distinctness as if I had been close beside them. I could trace the lineaments of their features—the painted devices on their breasts and faces—the style of their habiliments.

The sight of these last somewhat astonished me. I had expected to see red-skinned warriors in leggings, moccasins, and breech-cloth—with heads naked or plumed, and shoulders draped under brown robes of buffalo-skin. Some such there were, but not all of them were so costumed. On the contrary, I beheld savages shrouded in serapes and cloaks of broadcloth, with calzoneros on their legs, and upon their heads huge hats of black glaze—regular Mexican sombreros! In short, I beheld numbers of them in full Mexican costume!

Others again were dressed somewhat in a military fashion, with helmets or stiff shakos, ill-fitting uniform coats of red or blue cloth, oddly contrasting with the brown buckskin that covered their legs and feet.

With some astonishment I beheld these "fancy dresses," but my surprise passed away when I reflected as to who were the men before me, and whence they had lately come—where they had been, and on what errand. It was no travesty, but a scene of actual life. The savages were clad in the spoils they had captured from civilization.

I need not have been at such pains with my toilette. Under any guise I could scarce have looked odd in the midst of such a motley crew. Even my own uniform might have passed muster—all except the color of my skin.

Fortunately, a few of the band still preserved their native costume—a few appeared in full paint and plumes, else I should have been too Indian for such a company!

It cost not a minute to note these peculiarities, nor did I stay to observe them minutely. My eyes were in search of Isolina.

I cast inquiring glances on all sides. I scrutinized the groups around the different fires. I saw other women, whom I knew to be captives, but I saw not her.

I scanned their forms, and the faces of those who were turned towards me. A glance would have been enough. I could easily have recognized her face under the fire light—under any light. It was not before me.

"In the tent—in the tent. She must be there."

I hastened to move away from the spot where I had hitherto been standing. My eye, quickened by the necessity of action, had fallen upon the corpse that covered the entire background of the camp. At a glance I detected the advantage offered by its shadowy cover.

The tent was placed close to the edge of the timber; and in front of the tent, as already stated, was the great fire. Plainly, this was the gravitating point—the centre of motive and motion.

If aught of interest was to be enacted, there would lie the scene. In the lodge, or near it, would she be found. Certainly she must be there; and there I resolved to seek her.

CHAPTER XXIII.

A FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER.

Just then the shrill voice of a crier pealed through the camp, and I observed an unusual movement. I could not make out what the man said, but the peculiar intonation told that he was uttering some signal or summons. Something of the interest was about to transpire.

The Indians now commenced circling around the blazing pile, meeting and passing each other, as if threading the mazes of some silent, and solemn dance. Others were seen hastening from distant parts of the camp, as if to observe the actions of those around the fire; or join with them in the movement.

I did not wait to watch them. Their attention thus occupied gave me an opportunity of reaching the copse unobserved, and without further ado, I started towards it.

I walked slowly, and with an assumed air of careless indifference. I counterfeited the Comanche walk—not that bold free foot, the magnificent and imitable stride, so characteristic of Chippewa and Shawano, Huron, and Iroquois—but the shuffling, gingery step of an English jockey, for such in reality is the gait of the Comanche Indian, when a-foot.

I must have played my part well. A savage crossing from the horse-guards towards the great fire passed near me, and halted me by name.

"Wakono!" cried he. "Qua ana?" Well—what matter?" I replied in Spanish, imitating as well as I could the Indian voice and air.

cent. It was a venture, but I was taken at a short, and could not well remain silent.

The man appeared some little surprised at being addressed in the language of Mexico. Nevertheless, he understood it, and made rejoinder.

"You hear the summons, Wakono? Why do you not come forward? The council meets. Hissoroyo is already there."

TO BE CONTINUED.



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April 18, 1882.

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NEWTON LEE.

April 22, 1882—tf

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Jan. 7, '81—eod.

Prince Edward Island

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TIME TABLE NO 17.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

To take effect on the 1st Dec., 1881.

TRAINS OUTWARD.

STATIONS. MIXED. MIXED. MIXED.

Ch'town... Dp 8.15am... 1.30pm... Dp 2.30pm

Royalty Jo... 8.38... 3.23... 2.53

N. Wilsh's... 9.29... 4.15

Hunter R'r... 9.45... 4.30

Bradalba's... 10.23... 5.08

Co'ty Line... 10.33... 5.18

Freestown... 10.43... 5.28

Kensington... 11.19... 5.53

Summ' side... Ar 11.45... Ar 6.30

Wellingt'n... Dp 1.45pm... 2.27

Port Hill... 3.22

O'Leary... 4.44

Bloomfield... 5.08

Alberton... 5.48

Tignish... Ar 6.45

Royalty Jo... Dp 2.53pm

York... 3.09

Bedford... 3.29

Mt. Stew't... Ar 4.05

Cardigan... Dp 4.15

Georgetown... 5.23

Ar 6.09

Mt. Stew't... Dp 4.15pm

Morell... 4.55

St. Peter's... 5.25

Bear River... 6.15

Souris... Ar 7.00

TRAINS INWARD.

STATIONS. MIXED. MIXED. MIXED.

Ch'town... Ar 5.30pm... Ar 11.15am... Ar 11.45am

Royalty Jo... Dp 5.07... Dp 10.52... Dp 11.22

N. Wilsh's... 4.15... 10.00

Hunter R'r... 4.00... 9.45

Bradalba's... 3.24... 9.09

Co'ty Line... 3.14... 8.59

Freestown... 2.59... 8.44

Kensington... 2.25... 8.20

Summ' side... 2.00... 7.45

Wellingt'n... Dp 10.38

Port Hill... 9.53

O'Leary... 8.31

Bloomfield... 8.08

Alberton... 7.25

Tignish... 6.30

Royalty Jo... Dp 11.22am

York... 11.05

Bedford... 10.45

Mt. Stew't... 10.10

Cardigan... Ar 10.00

Georgetown... Dp 8.40

Ar 8.15

Mt. Stew't... Ar 10.00am

Morell... Dp 9.20

St. Peter's... 8.50

Bear River... 8.00

Souris... 7.15

L. B. ARCHIBALD,

Superintendent,

Railway Office, Charlottetown, Nov. 27, 1881

(16, 17, 18)

THE Weekly Examiner

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A. A. McLEAN, Administrator.

Ch'town, 1st March, 1882.—3m 1aw

NOTICE.

THE business heretofore carried on by Mr. Robert Bridges will, from date, be carried on by the undersigned, under the name and style of A. L. Bridges & Co

A. L. BRIDGES, [m]13

March 1, 1882—1f

NOTICE.

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