

THE WAR-TRAIL!

CHAPTER XXVII (CONTINUED).

The stream ran through a little bog tom-calley covered with a sward of grass, and upon this we staked our steeds; but a better place offered for our camp upon the higher ground; and we chose a spot under the shade of a large locust-tree, upon the edge of the great wilderness of weeds. To this place we carried our saddles, bridles and blankets, and having collected a quantity of dead branches, kindled our camp-fire. We had already quenched our thirst at the stream; but, although we were all three hungry enough, the dried flesh of the grizzly bear proved but a poor repast. The rivulet looked promising for fish. Gary carried both hooks and line in his "possible sack," and I proposed the angle.

The young trapper soon baited his hooks; and he and I, repairing to the stream, cast our lines, sat down, and waited for a nibble.

Fishing was not to Rube's taste. For a few minutes he stood watching us, but evidently with little interest, either in the sport or what it might produce. Rube was not a fish-catcher.

"Durn yur fish!" exclaimed he at length; "I'd rather hev a hunk o' deer-meat than all the fish in Texas. I'll jist see if I kin scare up somethin'; the place looks likely for deer—*it do*."

So saying, the old trapper shouldered his long rifle, and stalking away, up the bank, was soon out of sight.

Gary and I continued bobbing with but indifferent success. We had succeeded in drawing out a couple of cut-fish, not the most palatable of the finny tribe, when the crack of Rube's rifle sounded in our ears. It seemed to come from the weed-prairie, and we both ran up on the high bank to ascertain what success had attended the shot. Sure enough, Rube was out on the prairie nearly half a mile distant from the camp. His head and shoulders were just visible above the tall stalks of the helianthus; and we could see, by his stopping at intervals, that he was bending over some game he had killed, skinning or cutting it up. The game we could not see, on account of the interposed stalks of the weeds.

"A deer, I reck'n," remarked Gary. "Buller don't often o' late years stray so far to the subert, though I've killed some on the Grande, higher up."

Without other remark passing between us, we descended to the arroyo, and continued our fishing. We took it for granted that Rube did not require any aid, or he would have signalled to us. He would soon return with his game to the camp.

We had just discovered that silver-fish (a species of *hyodon*) were plentiful in the stream, and this attracted us back. We were desirous of taking some of them for our dinner, knowing them to be excellent eating, and far superior to the despised "cat."

Having changed our bait for some small pieces of gold-lace, which my uniform furnished, we succeeded in pulling several of these beautiful creatures out of the water; and were congratulating one another upon the delicious broil we should have, when our conversation was suddenly interrupted by a crackling noise, that caused both of us to turn our faces towards the prairie. The sight that met our eyes prompted us to spring simultaneously to our feet. Our horses already reared upon their lazes, neighing with affright, and the wild screams of Rube's mustang mare were loud and continuous. There was no mystery about the cause; that was obvious at a glance. The wind had blown some sparks among the dry flower-stalks. The prairie was on fire!

Though startled at the first of the conflagration, for ourselves we had nothing to fear. The bottom on which we stood was a sward of short buffalo-grass; it was not likely to catch fire, and even if it did, we could easily escape from it. There is not much danger in a burning prairie where the grass is light and short; one can dash through the line of flame with no further injury than the singeing of his hair, or a little suffocation from smoke; but upon a plain covered with rank and thick vegetation, the case is very different. We therefore felt no apprehension for ourselves, but we did for our companion; his situation filled us with alarm.

Was he still where we had last seen him? This was the first question we asked one another. If so, then his peril was great indeed; escape would be almost hopeless! We had observed him a full half mile out among the weeds. He was on foot too. To have attempted a retreat towards the opposite side of the prairie would have been folly; it was three miles off. Even on horseback, the flames would have overtaken him! Mounted, or on foot, he could not have got out of the way through those tall stalks—laced as they were by pea-vines and other trailing plants—whose tough tangle would have hindered the progress of the strongest horse!

To have returned to the near side would be his only chance; but that would be in the very face of the fire, and, unless he had started long before the flames broke out, it was evident that his retreat in that direction would be cut off. As already stated, the weeds were as dry as tinder; and the flames, impelled by gusts of wind, at intervals shot out their red tongues, licking up the withered stalks, coiling like serpents

around them, and consuming them almost instantaneously. Filled with forebodings, my companion and I rushed in the direction of the prairie.

When first noticed by us, the fire had extended but a few yards on each side of the locust-tree we had chosen for our camp. We were not opposite this point at the moment, having gone a little way down the arroyo; we ran, therefore, not towards the camp, but for the nearest point of high ground, in order to discover the situation of our friend. On reaching the high ground, about two hundred yards from the locust, we saw, to our astonishment, that the fire had already spread, and was now burning forward to the spot where we had climbed up! We had only a moment to glance outward, when the conflagration, hissing and crackling as it passed, rolled in front of us, and with its wall of flame shut off our view of the prairie.

But that glance had shown us all, and filled our hearts with sorrow and dismay; it revealed the situation of the trapper—no longer a situation of peril, but, as we supposed, of certain death! He was still in the place where we had last seen him; he had evidently made no attempt to escape from it. Perhaps the knowledge that such an attempt must have failed, had hindered him from making it. The reflection that he might as well die where he stood, as be licked up by the flames in the act of fleeing from them, had bound him to the spot!

Oh! it was a dread sight to see that old man, hardened sinner that he was, about to be snatched into eternity! I remember his wild look, as the red flame, rolling between us, shut him from our sight! We had seen him but for a single instant; his head and shoulders were alone visible above the tall weeds. He made no sign either with voice or arm; but I fancied that even at that distance I could read his glance of despair.

Was there no hope? Could no exertion be made to rescue him? Could he do nothing for himself? Was there no chance of his being able to clear a circle around him, and burn off a space before the line of fire could come up? Such a ruse has often availed, but no—never in such ground as that! The weeds were too thick and tall—it could not be done—Gary said it could not be done.

There was no hope, then. *The trapper was lost!*

TO BE CONTINUED.

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Ch'town, Dec. 7, 1881—1m eod

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

TRAINS OUTWARD.

STATIONS.	MIXED.	MIXED.	MIXED.
Ch'town	Dp 8.15 am	Dp 3.00 pm	Dp 2.30 pm
Royalty Jc	" 8.38 "	" 3.23 "	" 2.53 "
N Wilts'e	" 9.29 "	" 4.15 "	" "
Hunter R'r	" 9.45 "	" 4.30 "	" "
Bradaba's	" 10.23 "	" 5.08 "	" "
Co'ty Line.	" 10.38 "	" 5.33 "	" "
Freestown	" 10.48 "	" 5.53 "	" "
Keusingt'n	" 11.10 "	" 5.55 "	" "
Summ'side	Ar 11.45 "	Ar 6.30 "	" "
Wellingt'n	Dp 1.45 pm	" "	" "
Port Hill.	" 2.37 "	" "	" "
O'Leary...	" 4.44 "	" "	" "
Bloomfield	" 5.08 "	" "	" "
Alberton.	" 5.48 "	" "	" "
Tignish...	" 6.45 "	" "	" "
Royalty Jc	Dp 2.53 pm	" "	" "
York	" 3.09 "	" "	" "
Bedford...	" 3.29 "	" "	" "
Mt. Stew't	Ar 4.05 "	" "	" "
Cardigan..	Dp 4.15 "	" "	" "
Georget'n.	" 5.33 "	" "	" "
Mt. Stew't	Ar 6.00 "	" "	" "
Mt. Stew't	Dp 4.15 pm	" "	" "
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 5.30 pm	Ar 11.15 am	Ar 11.45 am
Royalty Jc	Dp 5.07 "	Dp 10.52 "	Dp 11.22 "
N Wilts'e	" 4.15 "	" 10.00 "	" "
Hunter R'r	" 4.00 "	" 9.45 "	" "
Bradaba's	" 3.24 "	" 9.09 "	" "
Co'ty Line.	" 3.14 "	" 8.59 "	" "
Freestown	" 2.59 "	" 8.44 "	" "
Keusingt'n	" 2.35 "	" 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 Jc	Dp 11.22 am	" "	" "
York	" 11.05 "	" "	" "
Bedford...	" 10.45 "	" "	" "
Mt. Stew't	Ar 10.10 "	" "	" "
Cardigan..	Ar 10.00 "	" "	" "
Georget'n.	Dp 8.40 "	" "	" "
Mt. Stew't	Ar 10.00 am	" "	" "
Morell...	Dp 9.20 "	" "	" "
St. Peter's	" 8.50 "	" "	" "
Bear River	" 8.00 "	" "	" "
Souris...	Ar 7.15 "	" "	" "

L. B. ARCHIBALD,
Superintendent
Railway Office, Charlottetown, Nov. 29, 1881
[Sd, wily]

Subscribe for the DAILY EXAMINER, the Cheapest and best Newsy Paper Published in the Province.

Mortgage Sale.

TO be sold by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Court House in Charlottetown, in Queen's County, on MONDAY, the twenty-seventh day of February next, 1882, at the hour of twelve o'clock, noon—

ALL that tract, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being on Lot or Township Number Forty-nine, in Queen's County, bounded as follows, that is to say: By a line commencing at a stake set in the east side of the Road from Beach Hill to Pisquid and in the south west angle of farm lot number eleven, in possession of John Hughes, and running thence by the magnetic meridian of the year 1764 east seventy-seven chains and fifty links, or to the Division line of Township Number Forty-nine and sixty-six; thence south on said line thirteen chains; thence west by the road aforesaid, and thence along the same north to the place of commencement, containing one hundred acres of land, a little more or less.

The above sale is made pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in an Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the 6th day of January, A. D. 1877, made between William Koughan and Mary Koughan, his wife, of the one part, and William James Farrer, Edward Jarvis Hodgson, and Henry Jones Cunnill, of the other part, and which Mortgage has been duly assigned to the undersigned James Hayden.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Hodgson & Melcod, Solicitors, Charlottetown.

Dated this 14th day of January, A. D. 1882
JAMES HAYDEN,
Assignee of Mortgage.

MORTGAGE SALE.

TO be sold by PUBLIC AUCTION, in front of the Law Courts Building, in Charlottetown, in Queen's County, on FRIDAY, the tenth day of March next, A. D. 1882, at the hour of twelve o'clock, noon, under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in an Indenture of Mortgage dated the twenty-second day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and made between John Murphy, of Charlottetown, in Prince Edward Island, Notary-Keeper, of the one part, and William Welsh, of Charlottetown aforesaid, merchant, of the other part—

ALL the leasehold interest of the said John Murphy, and unexpired term of twenty-five years, granted by an Indenture of Lease dated the first day of June, A. D. 1869, and made between William Welsh and Lemuel Cambridge Owen, of the one part, and the said John Murphy, of the other part, and to all that tract, piece and parcel of land situate, lying and being in Charlottetown, aforesaid, being part of Town Lot Number Eleven in the first hundred of Town Lots in Charlottetown aforesaid, and is bounded as follows, that is to say: Commencing at the south-west angle of Town Lot number eleven in the first hundred of Town Lots in Charlottetown, being on the north-west edge of Water Street and the eastward edge of Queen Street; thence following the course of the said Queen Street northwesterly, for the distance of thirty-one feet; thence by a right angle line therewith eastwardly for the distance of forty feet; thence by a line parallel with said Queen Street southeastwardly thirty-one feet to said Water Street; thence following the course of the same westwardly forty feet to the place of commencement, together with all buildings thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining.

For further particulars apply at the office of E. H. Haviland, Charlottetown.
Dated this second day of December, A. D. 1881.
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Mortgagee

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