

THE WAR-TRAIL!

CHAPTER LXXII. "INJUN SIGN."

After a pause, the guides resumed their conversation, and I continued to listen. I had a reason for not mingling in it. If I joined them in their councils, they might not express their convictions so freely, and I was desirous of knowing what they truly thought.

"By Gosh! then," said Garey, "if Injuns fired the parairy, they must a' done it to wind'ard, an' we're travellin' right in the teeth o' the wind; we're goin' in a ugly direction. Rube; what do you think o' it, old hoss?"

"Just what you sez, boyee—a cussed ugly direckshun—duratun'd ugly."

"It aint many hours since the fire begun, and the redskins won't be far from t' other side, I reckon. If the hoss-trail leads us right on them, we'll be in a fix, old boy."

"Aye," replied Rube, in a low but significant drawl; "ef it do, an' ef this nigger don't miskalkulate, it will lead right on em, plum straight custrut into their camp."

I started on hearing this. I could no longer remain silent; but brushing rapidly forward to the side of the trapper, in hasty phrase demanded his meaning.

"Just what 'ee've heern me say, young fellur," was his reply.

"You think that there are Indians ahead—that the horse has gone to their camp?"

"No, not gone thur; nor kin I say for sart'ut thur ur Injuns yet; though it looks mighty like. Ther's nuthin' else to giv' reezun for the fire—nothin' as Bill or me can think o'; an' ef thur be Injuns, then I don't think the hoss bez gone to thur camp, but I do kalkulate it's mighty like he's been tuk thur; that's what I thinks, young fellur."

"You mean that the Indians have captured him?"

"That's preezactly what this child means."

"But how? What reason have you for thinking so?"

"Wal—jest because I think so."

"Pray explain, Rube!" I said, in an appealing tone. I feared that his secretive instincts would get the better of him, and he would delay giving his reasons, from a pure love of mystification that was inherent in the old fellow's nature. I was too anxious to be patient; but my appeal proved successful.

"Wal, 'ee see, young fellur, the hoss must a' crosst hyur jest afore this prairie wur sot afire; and it's mighty reezunible to s'pose that whosomediver did the bizness, Injun or no Injun, must a' been to win'ard o' hyur. It ur also likely enuf, I reckon, that the party must a' seed the hoss; and it ur likely agin that nobody wa'n't agwine to see the hoss, w' the gurl stropped down 'long his hump ribs, 'thout being keurwious enuf to take arter 'im. Injuns 'ud be safe to go arter 'im, yellin' like blazes; and arter 'im they've gone, and roped 'm, I reckon—that they've done."

"You think they could have caught him?"

"Sartin. The hoss by then must a' been dead beat—the ur, unless he's got the divel in 'em; an by Geehorom! I gin to jest—Gehu—Gehosophat! just as I said; lookee thur—thur!"

"What is it?" I inquired, seeing the speaker suddenly halt and point to the ground, upon which his eyes also were fixed. "What is it, Rube? I can perceive nothing strange."

"They ur," said Rube, "every one o' 'em—an' Injun hoss tracks, sure."

"They may be the wild hosses, Rube!" said one of the rangers, riding up, and surveying the sign.

"Wild jackasses!" angrily retorted the old trapper. "Whur did you ever see a wild hoss? Do 'ee s'pose I've turned stone blind, do 'ee? Stan thur, my mar!" he cried, flinging his lean carcass out of the saddle, at the same time talking to his mare: "'ee, knows better than that fellur, I kin tell by the way yur snuffin'. Keep yur ground a minute, old gurl, till ole Rube shew these hyur greenhorns how a mountain man kin read sign—wild hosses! wagh!"

After thus delivering himself, the trapper dropped upon his knees, placed his lips close to the ground, and commenced blowing at the black ashes. All had by this time ridden up, and sat in their saddles watching him.

We saw that he was clearing the ashes out of one of the hollows which he had pronounced to be horse-tracks, and which now proved to be so.

"Thur now, mister!" said he, turning triumphantly and rather savagely upon the ranger who had questioned the truth of his conjecture; "thur's a shod track—shod w' parfesh, too. Did 'ee ever see a wild hoss, or a wild mule, or a wild jack-ass eyther, shod w' parfesh? Ef 'ee did, it's more 'n Rube Rawlins ever seed, and that ur trapper's been on the hoss-plains well nigh forty yearn."

interrogatory. There was the track, and, dismounting, we all examined it in turn.

Sure enough it was the track of a shod horse—shod with parfesh—that is, thick leather, made from the hide of the buffalo bull.

We all knew this to be a mode of shoeing practiced by the horse-Indians of the plains, and only by them.

The evidence was conclusive: Indians had been upon the ground.

TO BE CONTINUED.

JACOBS OIL advertisement with image of a man carrying a large fish on his back.

THE GREAT GERMAN REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM advertisement with text describing the medicine's benefits for various ailments.

BEER & GOFF advertisement for choice family flour, highlighting its quality and origin.

Opposite the Railway advertisement for a property for sale, located near the railway station.

FOR SALE advertisement for a premises now occupied by a dwelling, stable, and large warehouse.

ALL PERSONS INDEBTED advertisement requesting immediate payment to MACEACHERN & CO.

SEED WHEAT advertisement for high-quality seed wheat, recently received from Malpeque.

Removed advertisement for Mrs. W. W. Irving's studio, which has moved to a new location.

BEER & GOFF EXCELLENT TEA advertisement for wholesale and retail tea.

JOSEPH GILLOTT'S STEEL PENS advertisement, highlighting the quality and variety of their pens.

To Lobster Packers advertisement for a property for sale, located near the water.

MACK'S MAGNETIC MEDICINE advertisement for a remedy for various ailments, including rheumatism and neuralgia.

DAVID'S INSTANTANEOUS MUSIC advertisement for a piano or organ, which can be played by anyone.

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NOTICE.

HAVING rented the premises lately occupied by C. F. HARRIS, the subscriber begs to intimate to the public that he is carrying on the TINSMITH BUSINESS in all its branches.

L. W. HARRIS, Upper Queen St. Feb. 8, 1882.

SPRING GOODS advertisement for boys', youths' and men's suits, coats, pants, vests, and drawers.

HATS, CAPS, &c. advertisement for paper hangings, paper blinds, and agricultural garden and flower seeds.

F. LEPAGE & CO. advertisement for a variety of goods, including suits and hats.

Administration Notice advertisement regarding the estate of Mary Walsh, late of Charlottetown.

THE undersigned Administrator of the Estate of Mary Walsh, late of Charlottetown, in Queen's County, widow, deceased, hereby notifies all persons indebted to the said Estate to make immediate payment.

Advertisement for a property for sale, located near the railway station.

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MORE LIGHT!

THE Charlottetown Gas Light Company have imported some of "BRAY'S BURNERS," which they will supply and fit on Gas Brackets, etc., at a moderate cost to consumers.

These Burners are reported to be the best Flat Flame Burner yet produced, and will give a far greater amount of light than any other burner with the same consumption of Gas.

Dr. Wallace, F. R. S. E., F. C. S., Gas Examiner to the City of Glasgow, in a lecture delivered by him, calculated that £130,000 (\$650,000) a year are thrown away in Glasgow by the use of imperfect fittings. On the subject of Gas Burners he says: "Another and as I think a better burner is that called Bray's regulator, and as I consider these the best union burners attainable at moderate cost, I have selected them for a series of experiments."

The Report of the Committee of the British Association of Science to enquire as to the best means for the development of light from Coal Gas of different qualities—comprising Dr. William Wallace, Professor Dittmar, and Mr. Thomas Waller, F. C. S., F. I. C. E., showed that Bray's Burners yielded the greatest amount of light of all the two or three series of Burners reported upon, which included all the Burners of repute in the market.

In a pamphlet upon Light and Heat, published by R. B. Taler, A. M., he says: "The cost of Gas as compared with other illuminants is much more economical when rightly used, than many suppose. From experiments made for this purpose, the following results have been obtained. They were made by burning samples of Devoe's Brilliant Oil and ordinary Oils, and testing their illuminating power. It was found that Coal Gas costing one cent at \$3 per thousand feet, gave a light equal to 18 candles, while Devoe's Brilliant Oil consuming 27.4 grammes costing half a cent, gave a light equal to 9 candles."

"A good Argand or Johnson's burner, the burner used in the last experiment, will therefore give the light of 2 ordinary Oil Burners in direct comparison, at no greater expense in the case of the finer and safer grades of Oil. Lights, however, on the authority of Scientists, are not to be compared in the squares of their powers, and such a comparison with the case of the use of Gas, its cleanliness, freedom from odor and dangers, renders its use desirable wherever it can be introduced."

As the above experiments were made with Gas at \$3 per 1000 feet, and not consumed through Bray's Burners, it will readily be seen how much more economical it is to consume Gas instead of Oil, when its price is only \$2.63 per 1000 feet as now charged here when consumed, more especially through Bray's Burners.

Messrs. Goodwin & Co., of Philadelphia, the well-known manufacturers of Scientific instruments for testing the illuminating power of Coal Gas, etc., say in their Circular to Gas Companies: "In presenting the Bray's Standard Patent Silt Union Burners and Lanterns, for which we are the sole Agents in the United States, to the attention of the public, we are convinced that we are filling a want long felt." They further add: "The yield of light from these Burners is 12 to 20 per cent greater per cubic foot of Gas consumed than that from any flat flame burner hitherto introduced."

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