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Carlisle is situated about in the center of Nicholas County, of which it is the county seat. It contains 1,500 inhabitants, has a fine brick Court-house and other public buildings, and a beautiful public square, six churches the Kentucky Normal School, two flouring mills, a dozen mechanic shops, five dry goods stores, two good hotels, several manufactories and many other kinds of business, and a county paper with a good circulation. Carlisle is on the Maysville branch of the Kentucky Central Railroad, thirty-three miles from Maysville and sixteen miles from Paris. It is surrounded by several tributary towns and villages. The famous Blue Lick Springs is but ten miles distant by a good turnpike. Nicholas County lies entirely within the Blue Grass region, and most of her surface is rolling and exceedingly fertile. The fine Blue Grass pastures and heavy corn crops make Nicholas one of the best counties in the State for stock, to the raising of which much attention is devoted. Emigrants seeking first-class homes and society will find them here.

A CLOSE SHAVE.

"Another step, and you are a dead man."

"By what authority do you bar my passage?"

"Authority? Ha, ha! If this ain't enough," holding out a revolver in each hand, with a hideous leer in his evil face, "I reckon I'll have to explain further. By the authority of the Road Agency of this great overland route."

It was in the days when Ben Holliday and the pony express served in lieu of locomotives and telegraph lines. When might was right throughout a region extending over nineteen hundred miles, from St. Joseph to Sacramento; when the stage ran the gauntlet of road agents and Indians, and bones, many of them human remains, grinned up at the traveler unexpectedly as he crossed the plains; when to be quick on trigger" was worth more to a man than all the wealth, all the culture, and all the courage in the world.

Dick Hartford looked into the man's face calmly, looked into the muzzles of pistols, smiled and uttered a single word: "Well?"

"Don't you aggravate me, or I will fire, and serve you right."

"I never flinched in my life. I won't flinch now. What do you want?"

"Throw down your revolver. Now turn round, and if you budge a hair's breadth I'll blow your brains out."

Hartford obeyed. He permitted his hands to be tied behind his back. He saw his pockets turned inside out, his money appropriated, his watch pocketed, and only remonstrated when his captor felt for a money belt. "Don't cut me there's no belt on me."

... again. It was hard. He had played a bold game and he had lost. The Vigilantes were in league with the road agents. He had been outwitted. The stage company would be short another man, and the road would be under tribute as before. His plans so carefully concealed in his own breast, were known to the murderous gang. Perhaps in less than an hour he would be dangling at the end of a rope. He half turned as he thought of the rope.

"None o' that, unless you want your early pill, in which case I'm bound to accommodate ye. Porter didn't say we were to run risks. He does like a friendly chat, and he pumps some people as dry as a limekiln."

"I'll make you an offer."

"Crack your whip."

"I'll fight you fair, like a man. Tie one arm down, give me a pistol, and let us take shot about, you first."

"Sho', now."

"Or I'll allow you two to one."

"Yes, I see you can allow almost anythin', but unless you move right on, and keep movin', I'll make short work of ye."

A cayote rose slowly from a sage brush, looked at them sneakingly over his shoulders; then trotted slowly away. A noisome bird of prey rose slowly from the carcass of a mule, flapping its wings lazily, sailed slowly through the air, then settled down upon a rib that protruded from the sand.

The sun's rays poured down upon the plain until the dust and sand seemed to melt in the fervid heat. And to crown all, the captive suddenly experienced the agony of excessive thirst.

A faint sound in the distance arrested his attention. Was not that the sound of horses' feet? What if it should be his friends, the Vigilants? Impossible. His morning stroll was unknown to them. The sound came nearer to him. Then he observed for the first time a rocky defile further to the left, as though a chasm lay there, or a stream chiseled out its course across the plains. Now there could be no mistaking the sound. The steady trot of horses' feet and the clanking of spurs could be heard. Suddenly half a dozen horsemen swept around a low rock, at sight of whom the captive grunted.

"Here's Captain Jim. Mind your manner now, for he's the perlitest man I ever met."

The captive shivered. When a boy he was detected in an act that brought upon him the wrath of the teacher of the school in the New England village he would never see more. The eagle eye of the teacher singled him out from a score of mischief makers, and he shivered as he felt that the punishment awarded incorrigibles was unavoidable. But he braced himself, walked out promptly to the middle of the floor the moment his name was called, and, to his lasting surprise, was let go with a mild rebuke. In much the same manner Dick Hartford braced himself for the interview with the leader of the most desperate gang of miscreants that ever levied a tax upon the travelers who crossed the plains. This was the man he had dreamed of circumventing. The case was reversed.

The road agents rode forward without order, and surrounded the horseman and captive.

"What have you got, Barnham?"

"Make your bow. It's Captain Jim," said Barnham. Then to Captain Jim's querry: "That's for you to find out. I obeyed orders."

What a magnificent front the captive presented. His gaze was as clear and steady and level as though he were looking right through Captain Jim, away beyond the ranche, and off to the mountains in the distance.

"What have you got to say for yourself, anyhow?" Captain Jim's sinister face ...

[illegible]

A LIFE OF ADVENTURE.

[illegible]

OBLIGATIONS OF PARENTS TO ENCOURAGE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

[illegible]

The Will of the Prince Imperial.

[illegible]

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