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Watchwords.
Through gathering clouds and stormy seas of fate
Two golden watchwords guide and comfort me:
Tolling along my path, early and late,
I cling to patience and fidelity.
In all the weary changes of my day
I strive to follow duty faithfully;
And when I falter, fainting by the way,
With subtle influence patience strengthens me.
So onward, through what suffering God may send,
I walk with faith, and feet that shall not tire,
Trusting with patience, strong unto the end,
To reach at last, oh, Lord, my soul's desire.
—Helen S. Conant, in *Harper's*.

A Midnight Struggle.

In the early autumn of the year 1849, about half a hour of sunset, I drew rein in front of a large double log house, on the very summit of the Blue Ridge mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

The place was evidently kept as a tavern, at least a sign proclaimed, and here I determined to demand accommodation for myself and servant Bosc, a dark-skinned boy-guard. Bosc and I had been playmates in child and boyhood, and I need hardly say that the faithful fellow was attached to me as I was to him, and on more than one occasion he had shown his devotion.

There had been a shooting match, at the Mountain House that day, and as I dismounted, I saw through the open window of the barroom a noisy, drunken, and evidently a quarrelsome set of backwoodsmen, each of whom was evening by all possible and impossible outcries that he was not only the best shot, but that he could out-kill, out-jump, out-wrestle, run faster, jump higher, dive deeper and swim longer than any other man "on the mountains."

"I say, Mars Ralph," said Bosc, in a low tone, as I handled him by his bridle rein, "I don't like to see den dar. 'Spose we goes on to the next house, taint fur."

"Nonsense, Bosc," I replied; "these fellows are only on a little spree over their shooting. I have nothing to do with them nor they with us. Take the horses round to the stables and see to them yourself. You know they had a hard day of it."

And through my saddle-bags over my shoulders, I walked up the narrow path to the house.

I found, as I have intimated, the barroom filled with a noisy, turbulent crowd, who, all around me, all around me, without speaking as I went up to the bar and inquired if I and my servant could have a commission for the night.

Receiving an affirmative reply from the landlord, a little, red-headed, cadaverous-looking man, I desired to be at once shown to my room, whither I went, but not until I had been compelled to decline a series of requests to "take a drink" much to the disgust of the stalwart bacchanals.

The room to which I was shown was at the far end of a long two-story structure, recently added on to the main building, which it intersected at right angles. A gallery extended along the front, by means of which the rooms were reached.

I found my apartment to be large and comfortable, furnished with a bed, a chest, besides the bed, a comfortable cot, half a dozen "splint bottomed" chairs, a heavy clothes press, and a bureau with glass doors.

There were two windows, one alongside the door, and the other in the opposite end of the room.

The first mentioned door was heavily barred with stout oak strips, a protection, I presume, against intruders from the porch, while across the latter door was drawn a heavy woollen curtain.

In the course of half an hour Bosc entered and announced that the horses had been properly attended to, and a few minutes later a bright-faced mulatto girl summoned us to supper.

Supper over, I returned to my room, first requesting to be roused for an early breakfast, as I desired to be on the road by sunrise.

Thoroughly wearied with my day's ride, I at once began preparations for retiring, and had drawn off one boot, when Bosc came in rather noisily, looking furiously over his shoulder, and then cautiously closing and locking the door.

"Mars Ralph, dar's gone," he said, "and I saw in a moment that something had occurred to upset the faithful fellow's equilibrium."

"Why, Bosc, what is it? What do you mean?" I asked, barely restraining a smile.

"I tole you, Mars Ralph, we'd better trable furder," was the rather mysterious reply. "You see dat gar dere tole me would be de case if we stayed in dis old house all night."

By close questioning I elicited the fact that the girl had really warned him that four men whom I had noticed together were a desperate set of villains, and probably had designs upon our property, if not our lives.

The girl had seen two of them at the stable while I was at supper, and by cautiously creeping into a stall, next the one in which they stood, had heard enough to convince her that they meant mischief. Subsequently to this she also saw the landlord in close confab with the entire party, and from his actions inferred that he was urging the men to their nefarious work against our property.

"I tell you, Mars Ralph, dem people ain't arter no good—now you heard me, persisted Bosc.

"I had begun to think so myself; but what was to be done? The situation was full of embarrassment, and I felt that nothing could be done save to wait and watch, and by being on the alert, defeat their plans by a determined resistance."

I found that from the barred window, in which there was a broken pane of glass, a good view of the stables could be had.

Then for the other window.

I crossed the room, drew aside the heavy curtain, and, raising the sash, looked out.

A single glance was sufficient to cause me a thrill of surprise, and I gave a low exclamation that instantly brought Bosc to my side.

Far below I could see the faint glimmer of water, the low murmur of which came indistinctly up from the depths, while on a level with what should have been the ground, I dimly saw the waving

tree-tops, as they gently swayed before the fresh night breeze, and knew that the window overlooked a chasm, the soundings of which I could only guess at.

In other words, the house, or that portion of it, was built upon the very verge of the cliff, the solid rock forming a foundation, many feet from any that could be made by the hands of man.

I leaned far out, and saw that there was not an inch of space left between the heavy log on which the structure rested and the edge of the precipice; and then I turned away with the full conviction that if escape must be made, it certainly would not be made in that direction. There was nothing especially strange in this; there are many houses so constructed—I had seen one or two myself—and yet when I drew back into the room and saw the log in Bosc's face, felt that danger quick and deadly was hovering in the air.

Without speaking I went to my saddle-bags and got out my pistols—a superb pair of long double rifles, that I knew to be accurate anywhere under half a hundred yards.

"Dar! dem's what I like to see!" exclaimed Bosc, as he dived down into his bag and fished out an old horse pistol which he handed me just from enough to the barrier, and once in a while I could hear deep oaths, as though they had been rendered doubly savage by our resistance.

"Here, Bosc, your pistol! Quick!" I whispered, and the heavy charge went crashing through, followed by shrieks and curses of pain and rage.

"Now, then, you win! You'll hold the place," I said, rushing back to the window. "Come, Bosc, hurry, or all will be lost."

The fellow now wished to insist upon being first, but he saw that time was wasting and glided down the rope, gradually disappearing in the heavy shadows.

The fall of one of their number had caused only a momentary lull, and I heard the men renew the assault with tenfold fury.

I dared not fire again, for I felt that every bullet would be needed when affairs were more pressing.

It seemed an age before I felt the signal from below that the rope was ready for me; but it came, and I let myself down, pausing an instant, as my eyes gained a level with the sill, to take a last look into the room.

As I did so the door gave way, and the bloodthirsty demons poured over the threshold.

I knew that I had no time for deliberate movement. They would instantly discover the mode of escape, and either cut the rope or else fire down on me.

I had taken the precaution to draw on my heavy riding gloves, and my hands, thus protected, were able to grasp the rope as they had been expected.

With my eyes fixed upon the window, I slid rapidly down, and struck the earth with a jar that wrenched every bone in my body.

Quick as lightning I was seized by Bosc, dragged some paces on one side, and close against the face of the cliff.

Not a second too soon, for down came a volley, tearing and mowing down the rope of the rope, where, a moment before, I had stood.

"Thunder, they will escape! After them, down the rope," yelled a voice almost inarticulate with rage.

And I saw a dark form swing out and begin the descent.

"Now, Mars Ralph," whispered Bosc, significantly, and with a quick aim I fired at the saying figure.

Without a sound the man released his hold, and came down like a lump of lead, shot through the brain.

Another had started, but not haste, and was more than half way out of the window, when suddenly the scene above was brilliantly lit up by the glare of a torch.

Again the warning voice of the watchful black called my attention to the figure now struggling desperately to regain the room, and, as before, I threw up my pistol, and covering the exposed side, and with a convulsive effort the wretch, springing far out into the empty void, turned once over, and came down with a rushing sound upon the jagged rocks that lay at the foot of the precipice.

A single look to see that the window was clear—we knew that there could be no path leading down for a long distance either way, or they would never have attempted the rope, and we plunged into the thicket of dense forest that clothed the mountain side.

We got clear, it is true; but with the loss of our animals and baggage; for the next day, when we returned, with a leap of smouldering ashes, and a scud to tell whether the robbers had fled.

It is Better.

It is better to look up and take pleasure in contemplating the good and great, than to find happiness in low devices and mean acts. It is better to tell the truth than to tell a lie; to do good than to do mean; to save a reputation, than to lose one; to have charity than to be critically severe; to love your fellows than to hate them; better to lift up the fallen than to pull down those already up; to speak kind words than to hiss out the gall of bitterness; to keep pure than to seek with filth; to be on the losing side of right than to be on the triumphant side of wrong; to be honest than to cheat; to have honest piety than to be a flatterer; to be industrious than to be an idle vagrant; to be a pure and square human being than to be an uncertain quantity. With your virtue worship the true and you may attain unto greatness, but you can never do it in the eyes of justice by trampling upon, or by despising what is under you. The poor have as bright eyes and as tender hearts as the rich. They are not below your consideration. Nature's willow will bend over them with the same grace and beauty they will over the proudest son and daughter of earth. Concerning being true in life, Grace Greenwood says: "Never unsex yourself for greatness. The worship of an untrue heart is better than the wonder of the world. Don't trample on the flowers while longing for the stars. Live up to the full measure of life, give way to your impulses, loves and enthusiasms; sing, smile, labor and be happy. Adore poetry for its own sake; yearn for, strive after excellence; rejoice when others attain it; feel for your contemporaries a loving envy; steal into your country's heart; glow in its greatness, exult in its power; honor its gallant men, immortalize its matchless women." How much better to do these things than to go sulking and skulking through life like some dishonest cur! It is better and easier to do right than to do wrong. You go straightforward to the right, but you approach the wrong by devious and doubtful ways. —Quincy Modern Argv.

Mr. John B. Gough is in his sixty-second year, has traveled about 120,000 miles and delivered nearly 8,000 lectures within the last thirty-seven years, and yet he has not been in bed a whole day from illness since 1846.

TIMELY TOPICS.

Prof. Bencke, of Marburg, Germany, after measuring 970 human hearts, says that the growth of the organ is greatest in the first and second years of life. At the end of the second year it is double in size, and during the next five years is again doubled. Then its growth is much slower, though from the fifteen to the twentieth year its size increases by two-thirds. A very slight growth is then observed up to fifty, when it gradually diminishes. Except in childhood, men's hearts are decidedly larger than those of women.

A French minister of finance has a good word for toads, moles and birds. For toads because they live entirely on insect food, and are entirely harmless; for moles because they are an enemy to the farmer, palmer worms and insectivorous to agriculture, it having been pretty well demonstrated that the true mole does not eat vegetable food. Of birds he has finally selected the woodpecker, which he annually thins out by two-thirds, and the only enemies able to contend against them vigorously. They are the great caterpillar killers and agricultural assistants.

"The Americans endeavor to combine strength with lightness," says the London correspondent, "and they are only too strong; notice the locomotive and cars, American implements and tools, which have beautiful finish and lightness, and are more convenient than ours. Take an American and English saw, for instance. I find that the American weighs a little over two pounds, and having a good curve and polish under the surface, is a handier and cut easier and closer than the English, which weighs nearly five pounds, and are broad, straight and rough, just as the hammer leaves them."

A Paris correspondent tells a strange story of the Zulu war. In 1863 Captain Lambert, of the Fourth Voltigeurs of the French Imperial Guard, was caught cheating cards and was expelled from his regiment. He decided to drown himself, but his godfather convinced him that it would be better to try his fortune in foreign lands. So he went to the Cape of Good Hope, earned the native dialect and became a purveyor of ammunition to the Zulus, and after obtaining a commission in the Zulu army, of which he was made commander-in-chief. He died in the Zulu war, but it is said that he had the Zulus owe their knowledge of military tactics.

In St. Petersburg more than six hundred persons of the noble or privileged classes, under arrest, were deported to Siberia without trial. In one of the porary governor-generalships (in the south of the empire) sixty most inarticulate with rage.

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FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Fashion Notes.
Vegetables are now seen on bonnets. Lawns of a pale green are fashionable. Mexican filigree jewelry is the coming rage. The last novelty in fringe is made of pack-thread. Carefully-made fies are worn as earrings and pins. Linen serge slippers are cool for home wear in hot weather. Dressmakers say that alpaca will be worn this fall. Feather-trimmed hats, wherever they can be used with propriety. The yoke waists have been superseded in Paris by the fan waist. Silk necks are more popular than ever, especially for young ladies. The costumes of grenadine over silk are usually made with a polonaise. Cover a Japanese fan with a bit of pretty silk, and it is quite "chick." High colored stockings are the rage still, and especially for young misses. A new sort of goods, Grace Marguerite, of silk and wool, is much worn. Linen costumes much embroidered are worn for morning dress in the country. A profusion of knife-plaited ruffles weighs down the new cheese cloth gowns. Dresses are worn much shorter in the streets abroad than they are in this country. The flower that a lady wears at her throat should give the keynote of color in her dress. Dresses of the same material as those worn by their mothers are made up for young girls. Ribbons with spotted stripes are the latest importation, and take the fancy of nearly all the ladies. Imitation pearl beads are coming into fashion this fall, and large importations from Italy will be made. Filles made of pink and blue silesia and bordered with green are considered quite the thing just now. Pointed waists, both back and front, are being revived, but are far from being a becoming style for the figure. Bare dresses for young girls are trimmed with cascades of Breton lace, with loops of ribbon in each fold. Imitation Lisle thread gloves, costing but ten cents per pair, are just as handsome as the real, which cost ten times as much. Some walking suits have long waists extending nearly to the knee in front. These can be worn without any outside wrap. Sewing beads on black lace would be a profitable amusement for idle hours. Beaded lace is to be fashionable in the winter. A Paris idea is to wear flesh-colored stockings under open-work ones. Preposterous as this is, it is fashionable on the boulevards. Velvet is more used for trimming now than at the beginning of the summer. It is used on coats, dresses, and hats, rather than on woollens. A new hat called the Princess Louise has made its appearance in London and New York. It is of delicate straw and turned up one side and back.

To Mend Stockings.
A lady, who finds in the practice of the home art that she brings comfort to her family, gives these suggestions as to stocking-mending:
Given a dozen pairs of woolen ribbed socks. Select from them the two or three pairs most worn; cut away the heels and toes, and lay by the better patches for use in mending—well, yes, for patches.
From the best hose retained to be repaired, cut out the worn heel, and from the patches cut a new heel precisely like the old one.
Fit the new bottom of the heel, then sew it into the place made vacant. Use soft cotton, or else the fine, soft mending yarn, which comes of all colors, on spools.
Sew the raw edges "over and over," as close as a nice overcast; so that when the new heel is worn out, you have only to pull the thread and insert another.
The thread must not be so tight but that the seam will flatten and become imperceptible to the foot. To sew in such a heel will require about one minute.
If the toe is worn, so that the new darns seem to take from the old, and the instep is made worse, cut it off so far from the instep as it is thin.
From the top of the sock put aside, cut a strip of the old. Sew across the end, and then around the foot, so serving to make the seam, as before, flat and soft.
When again worn out, repeat the process of the entire darning, like the faded ducks, have eaten one another up.

Hypochondria.
There are mild forms of hypochondria which never receive that specific name from the doctors who attend them, but nevertheless give their victims much trouble. There are two varieties of it called the bulb. These grow in the form of a ball and nearly the size of a pint cup. One variety is armed with horns half an inch in length, the other with a filament like the horn of a ram. The pole cactus grows much like the corn-stalk. Each year's growth is indicated by a joint, and a rich, tenuous gum exudes from the surface, causing it to turn black when it is entirely green. There are two varieties of it called the bulb. These grow in the form of a ball and nearly the size of a pint cup. One variety is armed with horns half an inch in length, the other with a filament like the horn of a ram. The pole cactus grows much like the corn-stalk. Each year's growth is indicated by a joint, and a rich, tenuous gum exudes from the surface, causing it to turn black when it is entirely green. 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