

MILLHEIM on the L. C. S. C. R. E. is a population of 8,700...

A Brave Girl.

In the winter of 1842, a gentleman and his daughter, a young lady, while traveling through Canada...

The daughter—Carrie—expressed her willingness, as the tavern presented a comfortable appearance...

The landlord came out, and calling a boy to take the horse and sleigh to the barn...

Spencer was shortly announced, and after refreshing themselves, Mr. Spencer and Carrie returned to the cozy sitting-room...

They were shown to their room, which was on the second story, in a wing somewhat distant from the main portion.

The room was very long, with a high ceiling. On one side was a window and on the other a door.

Just above the door was a bust of King George III.

The room was very plainly furnished, containing two beds, a washstand and a few chairs.

Carrie took in the whole room, at a glance, and it must be confessed, had there not been a cheerful fire burning, she would have felt nervous about sleeping there.

While she and her father sat by the fire, her eyes wandered to the bust above the door, when she noticed that the eye-balls had evidently been knocked out, leaving two empty spaces.

"Well, Carrie, said Mr. Spencer, presently, 'I think you had better shut the door, I am going to count my money.'"

After Carrie had done so, he drew out a money-belt, heavy with bills, and proceeded to count them.

While doing so, Carrie's eyes involuntarily wandered to the bust, when, to her horror and astonishment, in place of the empty spaces were two glittering eyes, greedily watching every movement of her father.

The young girl could scarcely repress a scream; but, controlling herself, she looked towards the fire, while her father went on counting a large roll of bills.

"I must have been mistaken," thought the fair girl. "What could make me have such a strange fancy, though?" she continued, glancing again at the bust.

The eyes were still there—two burning, savage eyes, that brightened as Mr. Spencer went on counting.

"Good heavens!" thought Carrie, "what shall we do? We are evidently in a den of thieves, and will get murdered for my poor father's money."

How communicate their danger to her father without those terrible eyes noticing it, Carrie could not think. Suddenly a bright idea came to her.

"Father," she said, aloud, "let me take a card and pencil, I wish to make a memorandum of some items I wish to purchase in the village."

Her father handed them to her, after stowing away his belt. Carrie wrote, tremblingly, in a fine hand—

"Father, do not be frightened; we are in a trap. Go in the opposite corner of the room, where your face will be in the dark, and look at the bust above the door. In it you will see two glittering eyes that have watched you count your money."

"Read it," she said, aloud, handing the card to her father. "I want you to see if I am too extravagant."

Once there he glanced toward the bust, and that glance confirmed his daughter's extraordinary statement.

When he came back to his seat, Carrie saw that the eyes were gone.

Then, leaning toward her father, she said in a low tone—

"You see it as I said. I have thought of a plan, however, by which we can be both safe. You would be perfectly helpless in an affray of any kind on account of your lame leg, so I must try to save us both."

Then followed a whispered consultation, during which Carrie kept her eyes fixed on the bust; but the glittering orbs had not come back.

As she concluded, Carrie went to the window, threw it up, and looked out. Beckoning to her father, who came, she said, or rather whispered—

"You see this shed, father? Well, they will probably come up on it and get in through the window. I do not think they will make the attack before twelve, so I will get out of this window jump from the shed, go to the barn and take our horse, and go to S— for help."

Flinging a wrap over her slight figure, she embraced her father tenderly, and bidding him not to worry over her, she jumped lightly out on the shed and disappeared.

Mr. Spencer watched her for a while, then closing the window, took out a watch, saw that it was nine o'clock, and proceeded to work.

He first covered up the fire, blew out the light, and rolled up a blanket, with which he made a dummy. This he placed in the bed which his daughter was to occupy.

Then he sat down and waited—oh! how anxiously.

Ten, fifteen, twenty minutes, went by, and no sound came from the vicinity of the barn.

Taking off his boots, he crept noiselessly to the window and peered out, but he could see nothing.

Then, creeping to the washstand, he laid his money-belt in the drawer and closed it.

He then threw himself on the bed, and once more waited.

After an hour had apparently gone by, Mr. Spencer threw off his coat and vest, tumbled up the bed, hobbled to the door, unlocked it, and stepped out into the hall. This was all in accordance with Carrie's plan.

"Landlord! landlord!" he shouted.

He then went back into the room and noiselessly threw up the window, all the time shouting for the landlord.

That worthless came flying up the stairs, and late as it was, he was still dressed.

"Oh landlord!" gasped Mr. Spencer, rushing toward him, "I have been robbed! my money is gone!"

"Gone!" echoed the landlord in dismay.

"Who could have stolen it?" groaned Mr. Spencer. "I had five thousand dollars in a belt, and it is gone—stolen!"

The landlord lit the candle and looked around, chagrin depicted on every feature.

"Why don't you wake your daughter, sir?" he questioned.

Mr. Spencer hurried to her bed, "Carrie, Carrie!" he called, but no answer came; and the landlord drawing near with the light, saw the dummy, and cried—

"Why, man, the girl isn't there!"

"What!" gasped Mr. Spencer, "Oh, I see it all! The wicked girl has robbed me while I slept, and ran off to meet her lover, from whom I was taking her."

He ran to the window, followed by the landlord.

"Yes, yes, here are footprints in the snow on the shed!" cried the landlord, while Mr. Spencer groaned aloud.

"How long do you think she has been gone, sir?" asked the landlord.

"For an hour or more, the deceitful jade!" replied Mr. Spencer.

"Then there's no use looking for her, sir," replied the landlord.

and five minutes afterward heard the landlord stumble to the door. Then followed a confused jumble of curses and struggles, then a rush of many feet up the long hall and stairway.

The next minute the door was thrown open and his daughter rushed in, followed by the officers, who dragged in the landlord and his confederates.

"Oh, father!" she cried, "you are safe, safe!" and throwing her arms around his neck the brave girl burst into happy tears.

The sheriff and his posse of men held the landlord and his confederates in a vicelike grasp, while Carrie related the adventures of her perilous ride.

"After I left the barn I led Tommy to a fence, all unssaddled, sprang on him, wound my arms tightly round his neck, and whispered, 'Go Tommy!' and away we went like the wind. Up and down, over the frozen road we went. My arms felt like ice. I thought I should certainly freeze, and after what seemed like an age of cold and pain and misery, we dashed into the main street of S—.

As we came up in front of the tavern the stage drove up, and the inmates sprang out and rushed to my assistance. I must have been almost insensible, for I had to be carried in by the landlord. I was given warm drinks until I fully recovered, and was able to relate my story. I told them my suspicions and my fears, and this gentleman—here Carrie pointed, and turning to a fine looking man near her, said, 'Mr. James, by his ready belief in what I told, and his energy and spirit in arousing the sheriff and his men, has been the main cause in bringing assistance.'"

Mr. Spencer grasped the young man's hand, and thanked him.

Your plan succeeded admirably, Carrie," he said, and advancing to the washstand, he took out the money-belt, saying, "My money is all right, as you see."

The landlord quivered with rage as he saw how completely he had been defeated.

As the men began to search the rooms, the landlord protested his innocence, declaring that he had no right to hold him or his men prisoners, or to search his house.

Breaking open the door, above which was the bust, the men rushed in.

The room was empty, save for a long ladder, which reached a shelf above the door. A hole above the shelf disclosed the bust to be broken in half, so that a man could easily climb up the ladder, get on the shelf, thrust his head in the bust, which was large enough for an ordinary-sized man's head, and see all that was going on in the adjoining room.

This certainly looked suspicious, but absolute proof was yet wanting.

On returning to the room occupied by Mr. Spencer, they searched every nook and corner.

Suddenly, Carrie and Mr. James, who had been standing by the fireplace, gave a loud cry, for on close examination they had found spots of blood on the bricks which formed the hearth.

They began to pull up the bricks, which proved loose, when Carrie, feeling faint, gave way to the sheriff and his men, who soon had them all pulled up, when a cavity was disclosed, containing the murdered body of a gentleman whom Mr. James and the Sheriff remembered to have stopped at S— three days before.

The evidence was conclusive.

The landlord and his confederates were well guarded through the night, and the next day they were lodged in jail, where in due time they were sentenced and suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

A Texas story.

You'd hardly believe now what I am going to tell. In Texas we used raw hide straps, or thongs, for traces, and in wet weather they do stretch awfully. Why, often in damp weather, at home, I've hitched up two horses and drove the hill from my house into the creek bottom for a sled load of wood. I have loaded the wood and many times driven back home and unlatched the horses and the sled would not be in sight.

"But how did you get the sled home, then?" asked an inquisitive bystander.

"Oh, I just tied the ends of the traces together and threw them over a post, went knocking about my work and waited till the sun shone out. Sometimes it would be more than two hours before that sled load of wood would get home, but you'd see her crawling up the hill at last, gradually approaching as the rawhide traces shrank up into their proper lengths. Yes, Texas is a great country, you bet."

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