

Milheim on the L. C. & S. C. R. R. has a population of 600-700...

My Midnight Peril.

The night of the 17th of October—shall I ever forget its piteous darkness, the roar of the autumnal wind...

It was a light—thank Providence—it was a light, and no ignis fatuus led me on to destruction and death.

My voice ran through the woods like a clarion. I plunged on through tangled vines, dense briars and rocky banks...

"What's wanting?" he snarled, with a peculiar motion of the lips that seemed to leave his yellow teeth all bare.

"I am lost in the woods; can you direct me to B—Station?" "Yes, B—Station is twelve miles from here."

"Can you tell me any shelter I could obtain for the night?" "No."

"Where are you going?" "To B—Station, down by the maple swamp."

"Is it a tavern?" "No."

"Would they take me for the night? I could pay them well."

"The eyes glared, the yellow slugs of blood revealed once more."

board partition, and a pine table with two or three chairs, formed the sole apparatus at furniture.

"No'ing, thank you." "I hope you will sleep well, Sir. When shall I call you?"

"I'll be sure to call you, sir." She withdrew, leaving me alone in the gloomy little apartment.

"I will sit down and write to Alice," I thought: "that will soothe my nerves and quiet me, perhaps."

I descended the ladder, the fire still glowed redly in the hearth beneath; my companion and the woman sat beside it talking in low tones...

Was it the gleam of a human eye observing me through the board partition or was it my own fancy? There was a crack there, but only blank darkness beyond...

I took out my watch—it was 1 o'clock. It was scarcely worth while for me to undress for three hours' sleep.

A gentleman acquainted with Col. Realf, and an ardent admirer of his poetry, relates a story told by him when the two spent nights in conversation, criticisms and recollections...

"Nonsense," said I, "you will live to write volumes of such stuff." "A feeling has suddenly come over me," continued the general, solemnly...

"Before dawn came the call to arms. When I next saw poor Lytle he was cold in death among heaps of slain. I thought of the poem, and, searching the pocket where I had seen him put it, drew it forth...

With the speed that only mortal terror and deadly peril can give, I rushed through the woods, now illuminated by a faint glimmer of starlight. I know not what impulse guided my footsteps...

But here I interrupted the whispered colloquy. "I am not particular—I don't care where you put me, only make haste."

"I must tell you something strange," wrote my sister, "that happened on the night of the 17th of October. Alice had not been well for some time; in fact, she had been confined to her bed for nearly a week, and I was sitting beside her reading. It was late—the clock had just struck one—when all at once she seemed to faint away, growing white and rigid as a corpse. I hastened to call assistance; but all our efforts to restore animation were in vain. I was just about sending for the doctor when her senses returned as suddenly as they had left her, and she sat up in bed, pushing back her hair and looking wildly around her.

"Alice," I exclaimed, "how you have terrified us all! Are you ill?" "Not ill," she answered, "but I feel so strange. Gracie, I have been with my husband!"

"And all our reasoning failed to convince her of the impossibility of her assertion. She persists in this moment that she saw you and was with you on the morning of the 18th of October. Where and how she can not tell, but we think it must have been a dream. She is better now, and I wish you could see how fast she is improving."

This is my plain unvarnished tale. I do not pretend to explain or account for its mystery. I simply relate facts. Let psychologists unravel the labyrinthical skein. I am not superstitious, neither do I believe in ghosts, wraiths or apparitions; but this thing I do know—that, although my wife was in England in body on the morning of the 18th of October, her spirit surely stood before me in New York in the moment of the deadly peril that menaced me. It may be that to the subtle instinct and strength of a wife's holy love all things are possible, but Alice surely saved my life.

A ROMANCE OF THE WAR.

A gentleman acquainted with Col. Realf, and an ardent admirer of his poetry, relates a story told by him when the two spent nights in conversation, criticisms and recollections, so dear to men of his kind, over a cozy fire and warm decoctions. He spoke of the night before the battle at which the brave General William S. Lytle fell. The two (Realf and Lytle) lay together in the General's tent. They were both given to writing poetry at such times, and each had an unfinished poem on hand, and they read and criticised each other's efforts humorously for some time when said Lytle—

"Realf, I shall never live to finish that poem."

"Nonsense," said I, "you will live to write volumes of such stuff." "A feeling has suddenly come over me," continued the general, solemnly, "which is more strange than a prophecy, that I shall be killed in to-morrow's fight. As I spoke to you I saw the green hills of Ohio as if I stood among them. They began to recede from me in a wondrous way, and as they disappeared the conviction flashed through my mind like the lightning's shock that I would never see them again."

"I rallied him for his superstition, but the belief had become strangely impressed upon his mind, and he succeeded in so far thrilling me with his own unnatural fear that I begged him to finish his poem before he slept, that such fine work might not be lost to the world.

"In the small hours the general awakened me from a slumber into which I had fallen in order to read to me that beautiful poem, which must live as long as our literature survives, beginning—

"I am dying, Egypt, dying; Ebb's the crimson life-tide fast." "My eyes filled with tears as he read. He said not a word as he concluded, but placed the manuscript in his pocket and lay down to sleep.

"Before dawn came the call to arms. When I next saw poor Lytle he was cold in death among heaps of slain. I thought of the poem, and, searching the pocket where I had seen him put it, drew it forth and it was forwarded among other things to his friends."—Pittsburgh Ledger.

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