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Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., Feb. 16, 1906.

FIGHTING A GRIZZLY

FEARFUL CLOSE RANGE BATTLE BETWEEN HUNTER AND HUNTED.

A Rain of Bullets That Only Made Bruin More Feroocious—The Bear Killed His Victim Before a Desperate Shot Ended His Career.

They had met by chance in a corner of the lobby of the Waldorf-Astoria and had been telling stories which had made the eyes of some of the bell boys bulge. All of the narrators were dressed in evening clothes and to all appearances had never so much as soiled a finger with powder smoke.

zly's growl that captured the attention of the hunters at once, although none of them answered the newcomer. "Hope I ain't butting in," said the lean faced man, "but that quail story made me think of how an old Ephraim tackled a pal of mine once. As the bear put up a little more fight than a quail would, my pard ain't able to tell what happened, like our friend the bird hunter."

It was plain to see that the group of sportsmen did not welcome the newcomer, yet his last remark aroused their interest despite themselves. Before one of them realized what he was doing he asked:

"Did the bear kill him?" The question did not evoke a direct reply. It only made the intruder rub his eyes, as if a mist had fallen over them, and then clear his throat before he said:

"I reckon my pard had the most terrible hand-to-hand battle with a silver tip as was ever fought. Before it ended the beast had fifty-four bullets in him. I'll tell you how it happened. Up in the foothills of the Rockies, in the state of Washington, where we had a ranch, some of our cattle got loose, and we started out to find them. There were six of us, and after we had found the trail of the steers and was fording a mountain stream called Tenpot creek one of our bronchos began to snort and rear up, as if he was in agony. But he wasn't, or, at any rate, the agony was only mental. The horse had hardly begun to dance when we heard the peculiar growl of the grizzly, which, as you may know, has something of the grunt of a hog."

"And I tell you he was a big fellow. As soon as I saw him I had a touch of that ague which petrifies a man so he can't raise a gun and just lets the beast walk right up and swallow him. Ephraim was standing on his hind legs and eating off the service berries from the bushes. As is the way with these animals, he did not attack us, but just growled, as if to scare us. A grizzly usually does not pick a quarrel, although he is the most ferocious American born beast alive when put on the defensive. I thought all of us were going to leave the brute alone, when one of the party by the name of Alf Kennedy, a cowboy and almost as dangerous as a grizzly when aroused, shouted out:

"No, sir. I'm not going to leave that silver tip insult me that way. If he wants a fight he can have it."

"Kennedy jumped off his horse, because he regarded a man who would shoot from the saddle as a craven. He led his mount to a point about a hundred yards from the bear, turned the horse's head away from the game and then looked at the magazine of his gun to see if it was full. The next moment he fired, and I could see the head of that bear go back as if it had been struck with a bowlder. I thought he was a goner, but he wasn't. That brute just doubled up in order to stretch him-

self out the bigger. He jumped up on a rock, and, getting a good squirt at his enemy, he started for him on a lumbering trot.

"Kennedy kept pumping the bullets into the bear as fast as he could pull the trigger, but his fusillade seemed to have no more effect on the critter than if he was shooting with a popgun. All at once we saw him throw down his rifle. He had emptied his magazine. I thought he was going to leap on his horse and dash away, but Kennedy was not that sort of a fellow. He simply stood there, although he must have seen that his horse at the sound of the rifle falling on the rocks had stepped several feet away, making his position still more dangerous. One of us shouted to him to get back near his horse, but Kennedy made no move. He simply pulled out his revolver, one in each hand, and blazed away. But it was useless. Those bullets only increased the anger of the bear and made him bound forward as fast as a great mastiff. When only eight feet away, a distance so small that he could easily have cleared it with a single bound, the grizzly stood up on his hind legs and foiled his fore legs together, as if he had his victim already in his embrace. The cowboy fired the last charge of his revolver into the heart of the animal and at last turned to spring on his horse."

"Just imagine what a sick, suffocating, smothering feeling came over me when I saw that horse bound away and leave Kennedy standing there alone face to face with that gaping, roaring monster. In utter desperation he threw away his pistols, grabbed up his gun and dealt the bear a blow over the head that would have killed a half dozen men. The force of the impact broke the weapon as if it had been chalk, and the stock snapped with a crack which echoed back from the mountains. Then he drew his knife."

"Until then I had not made a move to help my comrade, because I knew Kennedy would turn and kill me for putting in. He was that kind of a fellow. He wanted all the glory himself. But to hang back now was a crime. I didn't shoot for fear of wounding the cowboy. Instead I snatched a hatchet from my saddle and rushed forward. I heard the other four hunters of the party yell to me to turn back, heard them say the bear would kill me, too, but nothing could have stopped me then. I saw the brute grab Kennedy and could even hear his bones crack in the bear's teeth. The next moment I was there too. But just as I was about to dash the blade of my hatchet into the bear's neck my head reeled. A bullet whizzed past my ear and left a great gaping hole behind the silver tip's ear. With a sputtering sort of groan Ephraim tumbled over on his back. One of the other lads had taken that terrible chance of hitting either Kennedy or myself and, with wonderful aim, had sent the lead to a vital part of the bear. Not till that shot had

the beast showed any sign of giving up. He had been hit fifty-four times and had bled by the bucketful, yet he had fought with increased ferocity to the very last. Kennedy was fearfully torn. He must have died an excruciating death."

The man who had shot the quails wasn't smiling any more. The deer slayer and the duck hunter looked at one another and forgot to wink.—New York Tribune.

Sensible Advice.

A writer who had made a good bit of money at a single shake of the bag went to Charles Reade for advice as to investments. "Well," said Reade, "I should say put it in the best gilt edged securities. Divide it among the first class bonds of the first class nations. It's better to sleep on 3 per cent than to lie awake on 6."

Be Cheerful.

Let your aim be to keep cheerful always. You may fall short of the "always," but you will achieve more by taking this highest standard than by trying to be cheerful merely "most of the time." Learn to make an atmosphere of joy for yourself not only for your own sake, but for the good of the people you meet.

Pity is best taught by fellowship in woe.—Coleridge.

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