

OVER AND OVER.

Just the same thing over and over!
But that is the way of the world; my dear!
Over and over, over and over,
Old things repeated from year to year!

Hear what the sun saith: "Patient still,
The vaulted heavens I climb and climb
Over and over with a restless will,
Day after day till the end of time!

"Never a pause and never a rest;
Yet every morning the earth is new,
And ever the clouds in the golden West
Have a fresh glory shining through."

Hear what the grass saith: "Up the hills
And through the orchard I creep and creep,
Over the meadows, and where the hills
Laugh in the shadows cool and deep.

"Every spring it is just the same!
And because it is, I am sure to see
The orchard's flash of vivid flame
In the pink-white bloom of the apple tree."

Hear what dear Love saith: "Ah, I hear
The same old story over and over;
Mother and maiden, year by year
Whisper it still to child and lover!

"But sweeter it grows from age to age
The song begotten so long ago,
When first man came to his heritage,
And walked with God in the even glow."
—Julia C. R. Dorr, in Harper's Young Folks.

FIGHTING THE SIOUX.

In the summer of '77, after having spent a couple of months in the mining camps of the Black Hills, in one of which I had bartered away most of my worldly possessions for a well "salted" claim, I chanced, one day, unfortunately, as circumstances afterward proved, to learn that a party of miners were to start to the Big Horn mountains, where it was reported an unusually rich discovery had been made.

At that time the flotsam contingent to the population of Deadwood amounted to several thousand, and the air was charged with rumors of gold discoveries and encounters with Indians.

The story that gave rise to the Big Horn "stampede" was a very seductive one. Charles Lyons, a frontiersman of some notoriety, had just made his appearance in Deadwood with the report that he with three other prospectors had discovered exceedingly rich diggings on a small stream tributary to Powder River in the Big Horn mountains. But on the very day they located the mine they were attacked by Indians, and he thought his three companions were killed on the spot, while he escaped by the merest chance.

He proposed to guide a company to the mine, provided they would furnish him with a saddle horse, a pack pony, and a month's provision. He commenced to recite his story to one man on the street; he was soon surrounded by a crowd; and before he had told it twice there were dozens of men ready to subscribe money enough to purchase all he required and join his expedition at once.

It was thought best to restrict the company to fifty men, as a small body could travel faster than a large one, and there would be a better chance for each to get a good claim.

The Sioux at that time marauding about the Black Hills were small bands that would steal away from the agencies, and after doing some depredation, slip back again. Old Sitting Bull and the main force of his warriors were across the border, enjoying the protection and hospitality of the Canadians.

The men who had furnished the money to buy Lyons an outfit were anxious to be off at once. I knew nothing of the expedition till they were all gone, but as soon as I learned the direction they had taken I started on their trail.

There is nothing which so fixes the confidence of gold hunters with regard to rumors of new mines as to learn that men who have been there have come in quietly for supplies and are trying to slip away again.

I had a yoke of Cherokee cattle and a light wagon. There were three men with me, two of whom had ponies; the other one travelled on foot. They eagerly agreed to give me ten cents a pound for hauling their blankets, provisions and utensils, and were to pay in dust when they took it out of the ground.

We camped at Spear Fish for the night. During the evening three teams passed us with two men to each team and several horsemen. They were the sheriff and his deputies in search of a horse thief.

The next morning we were on the move as soon as it was light enough to follow their wagon tracks. Our way lay across a rolling tableland covered with sage brush. We had pursued our course but a short distance when we saw a horse approaching at a full run, with bridle and saddle but no rider; he ran straight to us, and was apparently greatly frightened. He was assigned to the footman, and we resumed our journey.

A mile or so further on we came to a trunk which lay burst open by the side of the trail. In it, and scattered about on the ground, were a number of letters. One young fellow, Harry Brown by name, became so much interested in these that he continued to read them while the rest of us rode on, thus falling a mile in the rear.

In the meantime, we had reached and passed the body of a man who had been recently killed, and lay scalped by the trail. We knew at once that Indians were near, and felt no surprise when we discovered a small band of them on some rising ground about a half mile ahead. They had noted this man in our rear, and headed their ponies down a ravine with a view to cutting him off.

Anticipating their designs, we stopped and signalled our companion to speed on; but our signals were unnecessary, for although Harry could not see the savages he had reached the dead man, and was already putting his pony to its best speed.

The Indians bore down on him until they were almost within range of our Sharp's "old reliable," which were levelled at them from the opposite side of our wagons, when they drove off and allowed him to join us.

"By George! that was a narrow escape!" he exclaimed, when safe in our midst.

"I hope it'll teach you to be more careful in future," said one of the others, a

grizzled old graybeard. "It beats all how foolish young chaps are."

Brown was silent; he realized that he had been near death, and shuddered when, a little later, we passed two more dead bodies.

We had all been some time on the frontier, yet we drew a breath of relief when we came to the border of the plateau and looked down on the encampment of men of our own kind, who had taken strong ground on a small valley in a bend of the Red Water.

The dead men we had seen were a part of the sheriff's party, who had been to the encampment and secured the stolen team and one of the thieves, and after waiting for daylight, had started back, only to encounter the savages. The trunk and letters had been the property of the prisoner. It is probable that during the flight the officer cut the cords with which he was bound; but his doom was sealed; the poor fellow met a harder fate than he merited.

Meanwhile, the sheriff's horse made his way into Spear Fish, and the blood with which the saddle was stained told at once of foul dealing. A courier posted into Deadwood, where a company of about forty well armed men was soon raised, and just before sundown they reached our party.

We broke camp at once and returned to Deadwood, taking up the dead men on our way, and carrying them as far as Spear Fish, where they were decently buried. Night came on while we were crossing the tableland, and as we could see the Indians' signal fires in several places they were evidently arranging for a united attack.

After a few days' delay we started again, this time with a company of two hundred men. The horseman were required to do the scouting, and the men with teams to do picket duty.

During the first week we had three skirmishes; in the first two of our men were killed; in the second, one man was wounded; in the third our stock was stampeded, and they stole several of our horses.

As we approached the Crow Indians' country the Sioux ceased to harass us; and finally, after more than a month's travel, we reached the gulch where we all hoped to speedily gain a fortune. But here we were doomed to disappointment; Lyons' story was largely a production of his imagination, and when we had satisfied ourselves of the utter worthlessness of the country for mining purposes, we were glad to go in a body to Fort Custer, which was then in process of construction. All who wished it found employment at the fort. Some continued down the Big Horn to the Yellowstone, where they took passage on a steamboat for the States. But the greater number journeyed on to the settlements of upper Montana; fortunately our way in that direction lay across the reservation of the Crows, a tribe which has always been friendly to the whites.

Forty-Dollar Bills.

A game with which Assistant Postmaster James Gayler is familiar from his long and varied experience is that of the man who says in his letter, "I enclose five dollars," and then forwards the misgiving without putting the money into it. The fellow's letter arrives without the enclosure, and then a vigorous complaint is made to the postal authorities. Sometimes it is impossible to prove whether the money was placed in the letter or not, but occasionally the ingenuity of a post office inspector lays the scheme bare.

Mr. Gayler has discomfited not a few men who were loud in their denunciation of the mail service, among the cases being that of a dissipated soldier. He had lost his pay by gambling, instead of sending it to his wife. He boldly, however, wrote to her, saying that he enclosed eighty dollars in the letter. The page was smeared with muckilage, but the envelope contained no money.

The wife made a complaint to the post office authorities, and Mr. Gayler was instructed to look up the case. He did so, and happened to call on the woman when her husband was at home on a furlough. The man was positive that he had put the money in the envelope.

"In what denomination were the bills?" Mr. Gayler asked him.

"There were two forty-dollar bills," answered the soldier.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, certain," said the man.

And Mr. Gayler spent no more time on the case, except to offer the soldier fifty dollars for every forty-dollar bill he could find.

The Iron Duke's Presence of Mind.

One day, as the Duke of Wellington sat writing at his library table, quite alone, his door was suddenly opened without a knock or announcement of any sort, and in stalked a gaunt man, who confronted the commander-in-chief with his hat on and a savage expression of countenance. The duke was of course a little vexed at such an unceremonious interruption, and, glancing up, he asked, "Who are you?"

"I am Dionysius," was the singular answer.

"Well, what do you want?"

"Your life,"

"My life?"

"Yes; I want to kill you."

"Very odd," said the duke, sitting back and calmly gazing at the intruder.

"Not at all, for I am Dionysius," said the stranger; "and I must put you to death."

"Are you obliged to perform this duty to-day?" asked the commander-in-chief; "I am very busy just now, and have a large number of letters to write. It would be very inconvenient to-day."

The visitor looked hard during a moment's pause.

"Call again," continued the duke, "or write and make an appointment."

"You'll be ready?"

"Without fail," was the reply.

The man, awed doubtless by the calm bearing of the stern old soldier, backed out of the room without further words, and half an hour later was safe in bedlam.

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