

A Funeral, and its "Baked Meats." I remember one morning when I was awakened before dawn by wild, earthy shrieks, ringing through the forest and coming back again in plaintive echoes from the hills all about. Beyond description wild, these wails of violent grief followed each other with regular cadence, dying away in long, despairing sobs. With a marvellous regularity they returned, never varying the simple refrain. My curiosity was aroused so far as to get me out of my blankets, and after a hurried look in a mystic stream, I joined my mantainer acquaintance, Jerry, who was on route to the rancheria, "to see" as he expressed it, "them tarheads who."

It seems my friend "Buck," the Indian chief, had the night before lost his wife, "Sally the Old," and the shouts came from professional mourners, hired by her family to prepare the body and do the necessary amount of grief. Old widows or superannuated wives who had outlived other forms of usefulness, gladly enter the singular profession. They cut their hair short, and with each new death, plaster on a fresh cap of pitch and ashes, dab the face with spots of tar, and in general array themselves as funeral experts.

The rancheria was astir when we arrived. It was a group of half a dozen smoky huts, built of pine logs, propped up on cones or poles, arranged in a semicircle within the edge of the forest, fronting upon a brook and meadow. Jerry and I leaned our backs against a large tree and watched the group. Buck's shanty was deserted, the body of his wife lying outside upon a blanket, being prepared by two of these funeral bags. Buck himself was quietly stuffing his stomach with a breakfast of venison and acorns, which were handed him at intervals by several sympathizing squaws.

Turning to Jerry with a countenance of stolid seriousness, he ironically remarked "My woman she die! Very bad. To-night, sundown (pointing to the sun) she burn up." Meanwhile the tarheads rolled Sally the Old over and over, all the while alternately howling the same dismal phrase. Indian relatives and friends, leaving a general air of excitement, arrived occasionally, and sat down at a fire a little removed from the other Diggers, never once saluting them.

As we walked back to our camp I remarked on the stolid, cruel expression of Buck's face; but Jerry, to my surprise, bade me not judge too hastily. He went on to explain that Indians had just as deep and tender attachments, just as much good sense, and, to top it up, "as much human love as we educated white folk."

His own squaw had instilled this into Jerry's naturally sentimental and credulous heart, so I refrained from expressing my convictions concerning Indians, which I own were formerly tinged with the most sanguinary Caucasian prejudice.

For me by appointment just before sunset, and in the presence of the meadow, under lengthening pine shadows, to the rancheria. No one was stirring. Buck, with the two vicarious mourners, sat in his lodge door, muttering low, half-audible groans. In the opening before the line of huts, a low pile of dry logs had been carefully laid, upon which, catwalked and wrapped in a red blanket, lay the dead form of Sally the Old. Her face covered in careful folds. Upon her head a grass-woolen water-bowl and her last papoose basket.

opinion that the Quakers will have to work a great reformation in the Indian before he is really fit to be exterminated.—Atlantic Monthly.—By Clarence King.

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SAD AND ROMANTIC LIFE.—The history of Aon Ferret, who has been in the courts since he was a child, is a sad and romantic life.

When she was 15 years old she was married to a man who was a servant in her father's house, and she was abandoned by him.

Part of her property was sold on account of her husband's debts, and she was left with a small amount of money.

She went every day to the courts, and she sat knitting and watching while the cases were tried.

She was unable to attend at the courts, and she was left with a small amount of money.

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