

THE COASTGUARDS YARN.

It was a jolly party that gathered about the blazing hearth one blustering November night, in the small village of Roxton, on the north coast of Ireland. The night without was dreary enough, and indoors it required all the life and spirits of the company present to enliven the scene.

The group about the fire included "the Major," Captain McKinlay, of the Coastguard, old Terry, a retired sergeant of marines, Bob Daly, a handsome young fellow who had recently been appointed lieutenant on board H. M. S. Bixby and was on furlough for a few weeks, and three as bold and daring coastguards as you could wish to see.

"Well by Jove," remarked the Major, after a long silence, "this will never do; let's have another song or yarn."

After some little discussion it was unanimously decided to have a yarn. "Give us a yarn captain; tell us how you came to join the Coastguard," said Bob Daly. The others urged him, and after some show of reluctance Captain McKinlay, seeing that the little party were determined to have it, replenished his glass (which exemplified the rest were not slow to follow) drew his chair up closer to the fire, on which the old sergeant had heaped a couple of logs, and began:

It was just six years ago last October that Jack Harley and I set out on a shooting excursion from the town of here. It was a clear morning, and the shooting season had but just opened. Both of us were in splendid spirits, and prepared to enjoy ourselves to the fullest extent for a couple of weeks or so.

We carried a tent and camping conveniences, a rifle, two shot guns and an ample supply of ammunition. After two days of varied sport, we struck a dense brush. Previous to entering, we arranged a series of signals in case we should be separated or meet with any danger—which at that time was not unlikely, from the bands of smugglers who occasionally penetrated as far inland as we then were, either in fleeing from justice or seeking a market for the profits of their labors.

All went well for the remainder of the afternoon, and we camped for the night in a snug spot near a small rivulet, where we could repose in comparative safety after the fatigues of the day, the rough nature of the ground especially tiring us, as our road lay through bog and marshy ground for the most part.

We arose early next morning, refreshed and invigorated, and the sun never looked down on a more glorious day. We were very fortunate that day, making a splendid bag of snipe, woodcock and teal. Moving cautiously forward, endeavoring to get another shot at some snipe some distance away, our steps were arrested by a slight crackling noise some rods off, as of a twig of birch, but nevertheless quite distinct, as all was still, save for the noise of birds overhead. We were all ears for a few moments; however, the noise was not repeated. But both of us were suddenly electrified to see a full grown animal of the red deer species bound across a small clearing directly in front of us. To grasp our arms firmer and proceed to place him in windward of us was the work of an instant; yet he still kept on; but the wind holding in our favor, we were enabled to get within a very fair distance of him, and stood a splendid chance of ending his career, should he remain long enough in a favorable position.

My rifle was not of the best—something out of condition—but still I hoped to be able to add this prize to my numerous others, for at that time I was considered a very fair marksman. At last the long-desired opportunity presented itself; I raised my rifle and fired—well, no, I won't say fired—rather pulled the trigger, for my expectations were not realized. The rifle refused to speak, which annoyed me very considerably, as I knew that, once armed, the red deer of all other species, is the most difficult to approach.

The excitement was intense, and as we pursued neither of us noticed that the distance between us widened visibly; yet we kept on till late in the afternoon, in the almost vain hope of obtaining another shot. At length I realized that it was absolutely impossible to secure this noble animal, and then for the first time noticed that Jack was nowhere in sight. I immediately fired the signal agreed upon, but no answer came. I fired again—no answer. Surely Jack was not in danger, but why did he not fire in reply?

Then I wondered if he could have fallen into one of the pitfalls occasionally seen in this region; but no. The thought was banished almost as quickly as it had come; Jack was too experienced a hunter for that. He could not have exhausted his supply of ammunition, as I knew that he was well supplied. I fired a third time, but still no answer.

My next thought was how and where I was to spend the night. I had not gone more than half a dozen rods in advance when I perceived a light in the distance, rather faint, as though screened by some object. Toward this I cautiously walked, and soon discovered that it proceeded from the crevices in a sort of natural cave; one of the numerous indentations which extend rather far inland from the coast; but my hopes were not raised, as I feared that this was the abode of a party of illicit distillers, and was perfectly aware that no stranger, under any pretense whatever was permitted to remain under their roof any length of time, as they feared that he might be some excise officer spy, or coastguard sent to watch their actions, and therefore was thoroughly awake to the dangers attendant upon a visit to this rocky cave.

However, I caught a few words which made me pause, as they had reference to certain of my friends, and I felt it my duty to try and discover if they were plotting against them.

"I tell ye, we've got to go," said one deep-toned voice, "an the sooner the better."

"Shure there's little rayson in that at all—an all; haven't we lots to eat and nothing to fear," were the next words I heard in a loud voice.

"N othin' to fear," repeated the first speaker, sneeringly; "I tell ye again there's danger; old man Lambert has been seen aroun' here an' two of his men, an' that young spalpeen Hartly, or some such name, only a few days ago, an' that doesn't look well for us."

Lambert was the name of a revenue officer who had been sent by the Government to look after the fellows, but evidently had missed them; but about Hartly's presence there I did not understand, as I knew he was not anywhere in that vicinity at the time mentioned.

"Well, that alters things; but, by the way, I wonder what that shooting was that we heard nigh on half an hour ago. It might have been Jed. You know he went out about an hour ago, and should be nigh to here now; but what's keepin' him I can't think," rejoined the third voice.

"There's suthin' in that, certainly," said the gruff voice; "but still I don't like the looks o' it nohow."

Here Tom paused as if calling to remembrance the stirring events of that long-to-be-remembered day, but continued:

I began to grow uneasy; what if this Jed should steal on me unawares and—but the thought was never completed.

"Move and ye're a dead man," was suddenly pronounced in my ear in stentorian tones, and I was confronted by the Irishman whose voice I had heard in the cave. I started on hearing the words so close to me, and was on the point of grappling with the speaker, when I realized that in this case discretion was the better part of valor.

On appearing before the motley gang in the cave I was roughly seized and scrutinized by all in turn, while various remarks were passed concerning me. "Ye're caught this time, ye d—d spy, and the sooner ye say yer prayers the better," continued my captor, crowsing deeply.

"Silence, Mike," spoke up a man of stern appearance, who, it appeared, was the captain of a vessel then lying at anchor nearby; "now then young fellow, answer my questions, and that divally; have you any companions?"

"No," said I.

"Very good; what is your object up here? Did you overhear any of our conversation? I say, repeat what you

heard."

"I lost my way after spending a few days shooting around here, and accidentally overheard a few sentences you let drop as I came up," and I repeated to him what I heard of the conversation.

"It's all very well, that excuse; but how am I to know that it's all the solid facts?"

"On the word of an honest man."

"Well spoken; I like that, but still cannot let you off; you will have to abide by the decision of your men concerning the manner of your punishment. Your dress does not show that you were not here for some spying business; most revenue officers adopt disguises."

After a few minutes consultation it was decided to delay my punishment till the following day; but I was left in the dark as to the nature of it. I took a few hours rest, guarded by one of the smugglers, and soon saw that I stood no chance of escape by stratagem, as the vigilant guard never closed his eyes for an instant.

My thoughts then reverted to Jack. What had become of him? If he but knew where I was, he could speedily bring help; but now, alas! would scarcely be possible, as it wanted little more than an hour before I was to undergo my sentence. The night passed and morning dawned; most of the smugglers were about and preparing to take part in the final scene in which I was to be the victim—knotting ropes, shaping clubs and the like. I was told that I was to be made to run the gauntlet.

The time at length arrived, and after a hasty meal I prepared for that very undesirable "run." Buttoning my coat tightly around me, and casting aside all articles of clothing calculated to lessen my speed, I took one final breath and dashed furiously forward.

Blow upon blow fell in rapid succession upon my head and shoulders, but still I kept on my desperate course; gradually I felt my head growing dizzy my senses were departing; I reeled and fell.

How long I lay I know not, but was brought round again by the sensation of having cold water dashed on my face and brandy poured down my throat. I opened my eyes and attempted to sit up, but fell back; the effort was too much.

I next became aware of the discharge of fire arms a short distance away; immediately I recollected all, and asked of my attendant, "Who are you, and who are my rescuers?" and was answered that he was one of the body of coastguards who had just arrived on the scene in time to see me fall.

The coastguards, who numbered nineteen men, were at that time engaged in a desperate affray with these desperadoes. I felt very weak, and my rescuer requested me to remain perfectly quiet while he bandaged up my wounds and set me upon my feet again.

The regular discharge of musketry mingled with the irregular but rapid crack, crack of pistol and revolvers as the smugglers, driven from tree to tree, fought in Indian style. Their numbers grew less and less as man after man fell before the accurate aim of the coastguards. The affair was short and decisive, and soon after the report of pistols gave way to that of rifles intermingled with groans, yells, cheers, imprecations, and prayers.

Now above the din rises a loud ringing cheer—the victory was won. In the fray we had lost three men while seven were badly wounded; but all of the latter, I am happy to state, recovered in a few weeks. The villains were attacked unexpectedly, and the victory would not have been won decisively, as we were outnumbered by nineteen to twenty four. Five of them were taken, and six went to their long homes on that hard fought field. You all know how in the end the gang was dispersed, their leader—that famous outlaw "Cannard"—captured, and with the other five transported to the colonies for life. From that day I swore I would become one of a body of men whose object it was to put down such scoundrels, and enforce the law in a country where it is so little known or regarded.

Jack, I learned later, in the gathering gloom mistook the original deer for another which crossed his path shortly after we set out on our long chase. He fell into a ravine at the

bottom of which was a creek, and so wet his gunlock as to be unable to discharge the latter. At length he reached the Coastguard and gave word of my whereabouts, when the attack on the rascals was made which broke up as daring a gang as ever infested the woods and hills about Roxton and made me a coastguard.

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SHERIFF'S SALES.

By virtue of sundry writs of Fieri Facias Levari Facias and Venditioni Exposita, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Centre County, Pa., and to me directed, will be exposed at Public Sale, at the Court House, in the Borough of Bellefonte, on SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1886, at 1-1/2 o'clock P. M., the following property, to wit:

No. 1. All that certain message or tract of land situated in Burnside township Centre county Pa., bounded and described as follows to wit: Beginning at a white pine thence north along the John Hall and James Hall tracts 230 perches to post thence east along the James Hall, Eliza J. Hall and Samuel Chew Hall 820 perches to pine thence south along G. W. Hall tract 230 perches to a Hemlock thence west along the Mary Ann Stewart tr. 1 230 perches to the place of beginning, containing 134 acres and allowance. Seized taken in execution and to be sold as the property of John Heise.

No. 2. All that certain message tenement and piece of lot of land situated in Bellefonte township in the county of Centre bounded and described as follows to wit: Beginning at a post thence by land of Samuel Reber south 45 1/2 degrees west 71 perches to stones thence north 4 1/2 degrees west 46 perches to stones, thence by land of A. W. Gardner north 45 1/2 degrees east 56 perches to post thence by land of Michael Confer at a public road south 46 degrees east 14 perches south 60 degrees east 16 perches south 57 degrees east 20 perches to the place of beginning containing 17 acres and six perches net. Thereon erected a 1 1/2 story log dwelling, hounny, stable and other out buildings. Seized taken in execution and to be sold as the property of David Tanyer.

No. 3. All those two certain lots or pieces of ground situated in the borough of Unionville county of Centre and state of Pennsylvania known as lots Nos. 17 and 18 in the general plan or plot of said borough bounded and described as follows to wit: Beginning at the corner of Main and Union streets thence along Main street north twenty eight degrees west one hundred and four feet to old township road thence along same south sixty six degrees west fifty-four feet to a twenty feet wide alley; thence along same south 28 degrees east one hundred and ten feet to Union street, thence along same north 62 degrees east 54 feet to the place of beginning containing five thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight feet. It being the same premises which Thomas J. Geary et ux by deed dated April 11, A. D. 1878 and recorded in the office for recording of deeds etc. in and for Centre county in Deed Book N No. 2, page 334 etc granted and conveyed into C. C. Taylor his heirs and assigns and the said C. C. Taylor et ux conveyed the same to the said A. T. Leathers by deed dated Feb. 13 1880 recorded in Deed Book P No. 2, page 169 reference thereto being had, will more fully and at large appear. Thereon erected a store room, warehouse and ice house etc. Seized taken in execution and to be sold as the property of A. T. Leathers.

No. 4. All that certain message tenement and tract of land situated in Snow Sho township (city), Centre county, Pa., bounded and described as follows to wit: Being part of lot No. 40 in the north-east

bottom of which was a creek, and so wet his gunlock as to be unable to discharge the latter. At length he reached the Coastguard and gave word of my whereabouts, when the attack on the rascals was made which broke up as daring a gang as ever infested the woods and hills about Roxton and made me a coastguard.

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No. 3. All those two certain lots or pieces of ground situated in the borough of Unionville county of Centre and state of Pennsylvania known as lots Nos. 17 and 18 in the general plan or plot of said borough bounded and described as follows to wit: Beginning at the corner of Main and Union streets thence along Main street north twenty eight degrees west one hundred and four feet to old township road thence along same south sixty six degrees west fifty-four feet to a twenty feet wide alley; thence along same south 28 degrees east one hundred and ten feet to Union street, thence along same north 62 degrees east 54 feet to the place of beginning containing five thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight feet. It being the same premises which Thomas J. Geary et ux by deed dated April 11, A. D. 1878 and recorded in the office for recording of deeds etc. in and for Centre county in Deed Book N No. 2, page 334 etc granted and conveyed into C. C. Taylor his heirs and assigns and the said C. C. Taylor et ux conveyed the same to the said A. T. Leathers by deed dated Feb. 13 1880 recorded in Deed Book P No. 2, page 169 reference thereto being had, will more fully and at large appear. Thereon erected a store room, warehouse and ice house etc. Seized taken in execution and to be sold as the property of A. T. Leathers.

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east 172 perches to a white ash, thence north 50 degrees, east 326 perches to a white pine, thence north 38 degrees, west 206 perches to a hemlock, thence north 50 degrees, east 326 perches to the place of beginning, containing 325 acres be the same more or less, being a portion of a tract of land in the warrantee lands of William Wilson, bounded by lands in the warrantee name of Sebastian Graf, John Graf and Paul Zanizinger, having thereon erected a log shanty about 16x40 feet and a log stable about 20x20 feet. The said land being unenclosed with coal.

No. 16. Also one other tract of land situated in the township of Rush, County of Centre and state of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows to wit: Beginning at a maple tree by land of A. B. Long, south 36 degrees west 64 perches to a Hemlock, on the line of the Kittanning Coal Company thence by land of the Phoenix Lumber Co. south 40 degrees east 160 perches to stones thence north 36 degrees east 54 perches to stones, thence by land of Hayes, Hamilton and Patton, north 40 degrees west 160 perches to the place of beginning containing fifty (50) acres more or less with the usual allowance etc. The same being unimproved. Seized taken in execution and to be sold as the property of Frank Bolger.

No. 17. All the right, title, and interest of the defd. Geo. M. Reeser in and to a farm situated in Patton township Centre county Pa., Beginning at stones corner of land of W. F. Reynolds, containing 30 south 44 degrees east, 269.5-10 perches to the corner late of J. T. Hale thence by the same south 54 ° west 134 8-10 perches thence north 24 degrees west 272 6-10 perches thence north 72 1/2 degrees east 38 4-10 perches to stones thence north 52 1/2 degrees east 62 perches to the place of beginning, containing one hundred and eighty six (86) acres and (16) perches. Thereon erected a two story dwelling house bank barn, and other out buildings.

No. 18. Also another thereof situated in the Borough of Milesburg, county of Centre and state of Pennsylvania, Beginning at corner of lot of Mrs. William H. Grassmyre, thence by the pike south 28 1/2 feet to an alley, thence along said alley east 202 feet to lot of Charles Adams, thence by said lot north 95 feet to corner of Charles Adams; thence west 26 feet to lot of Mrs. William H. Grassmyre; thence by the same south 46 feet; thence west by the same 175 feet to the place of beginning, thereon erected a two story frame dwelling house, stable, and other out buildings.

Seized, taken in execution and to be sold as the property of George M. Reeser.

No. 19. All that certain message tenement and tract of land situated in the Borough of Unionville, Centre county, Pa., fronting on Allegheny street, and is bounded on the south by said street, on the east by the estate of L. C. Peters, on the north by lot of Samuel Oman, containing 1 of an acre more or less, thereon erected a two-story frame dwelling house and other out buildings.

Seized, taken in execution and to be sold as the property of William F. Peters.

No. 20. All the defendants right, title and interest and to a certain tract of land situated in Penn township, Centre county, Pa., bounded and described as follows to wit: On the north by Benjamin Weiser, on the south by Geo. Wert, on the east by the turnpike leading from Millheim to Coburn, and on the west by Geo. Wert, containing 1 of an acre more or less. Thereon erected a two story dwelling house, stable and other out buildings. Seized taken in execution and to be sold as the property of James Wilmyer.

No. 21. Also that certain message tenement and tract of land situated in Spring township, Centre county, Pa., bounded and described as follows: On the west by the Bellefonte and Philipsburg turnpike road, on the north by lot of Frisella E. Corman, on the east by lands of Seth H. Youm, and on the south by lot of S. M. Buck, containing fifty feet in front of said turnpike road and 200 feet in depth, and having thereon erected a two story frame dwelling house and the usual out buildings, seized taken in execution and to be sold as the property of Henry Gordon.

No. 22. All that certain message tenement and tract of land situated in College township Centre county Pa., bounded and described as follows to wit: On the north by lands of C. Dale, deceased on the east by the Bellefonte and Boalsburg turnpike road and lands of Felix Dale on the south by lands of Evan Thomas and on the west by lands of A. W. Dale containing about 3 1/2 acres more or less. Thereon erected a two story frame dwelling house, stable, Blacksmith shop and other out buildings. Seized taken in execution and to be sold as the property of Jonathan Kreamer.

No. 23. All those two several lots and pieces of ground one thereof situated in the borough of Milesburg, county of Centre, Penna. bounded and described as follows to wit: On the north by lot of Robert Shirk on the East by the Bellefonte and Philipsburg turnpike on the South by lot now in the possession of John Hibel, and on the West by an alley fronting on the turnpike and extending back to the alley. Thereon erected a two story plastered dwelling house, stable, and other out buildings.