

Or a Search for Gold.

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CHAPTER I.

"Beats the X-Rays."

UR PARTY, consisting of Professor Smith, a linguist; Charles Frere, an exmining engineer: Alonzo Mills, a skilled mechanic; Everett Wheeler, and William Brown, sat one evening in the early autumn of 1899 discussing and planning an expedition to the Klondike in the early spring of 1900, when Professmoothing out his long, flowing white

beard with his hand, said: "Gentlemen, with your permission, I would like to read a short article to you from today's paper and see what you think of it."

"Fire away, old man." replied Charles, as he took his pipe from his mouth, and, tilting his head backward, blew a large ring of smoke and then a smaller one, which he dexterously forced through the larger. This difficult feat accomplished, he dusted the ashes from the bowl and took the attitude of attention

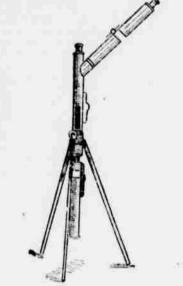
Professor Smith reached in his pocket and taking out a paper read as fol-

BEATS THE X-RAYS.

An Invention by Which One May Look Down Into the Earth Fully Eighteen Feet.

An instrument has been invented an patented which, if what is claimed for it true, will be of invaluable assistance miners and mining interests. It is now in the possession of Mrs. James Cos-

It is asserted by those interested in the invention that by its use one can see into the earth a distance of about 20 feet, and all kinds of metal within that dis-



THE NEW X-RAY MACHINE.

tance can plainly be discerned. It is thus of inestimable value to miners, for it will do away with the work of thousand of men required oftentimes at just one spot

where gold is thought to exist, The inventor of this wonderful instru ment is Jerome Prince, formerly of Mit ford, now of some soldiers' home in the Prince was a miner himself at one time

and after years of hard work, in which he had many disappointments after digging for gold, it occurred to him that if an instrument could be invented which would do away with the necessity of so much hard labor on a blind chance it would mean a fortune to him. He accordingly set to work.

But in order to develop this invention and perfect its workings, Prince had to have money, and Mrs. James Costelle came to his rescue.

The instrument, which it is said works

on the principle of the X-ray, was compieted and patented.

Mrs. Costello made the following statement with reference to the history of the

This machine was to have been ready for our party last fall-that is, the party that intended going to Alaska. But unfortunately it was not completed until a

short time ago.
"Two barreis packed full of ashes were arranged one on top of the other, with the X-ray piaced over them. A golden wire was placed at the bottom of the lower barrel, and could be plainly seen.
"Objects were seen through three floors two 16-inch brick walls."-Detroit

As the professor finished reading the article and laid the paper on the table, "What do you think of it, gentle-

"We must have one by all means before we start on our journey, if it can be obtained; that is, if it is anything like it is represented to be. It might save a great amount of labor; besides it would be a great saving in money in the end," replied Everett.

Yes," assented Charles, "and I move that Professor Smith be instructed to procure one at the earliest possible monept and that the amount of the purchase money, with his necessary expenses, be paid out of the funds of the

The motion having been carried Professor Smith set out the next morning in quest of the machine. At the end of ten days he returned and a mueling was called to exhibit it to the company A gold coin was dropped in an old well twenty feet in depth and then the well was filled with earth and stones to the surface. The instrument was then ad-

justed and placed over the well. All was suspense as the professor advanced and looked into the instrument until he exclaimed: "By thunder, gentlemen, I can see the eagle on that coin as plain as I could if I had it in my hand

All were very much excited at this propessor, eager to take a peep in the incement and crowded around the instrument and see with their own eyes the wonderful power manifested by the machine in revealing a coin so deeply imbedded in the earth.

When they had examined the instru-ment to their own satisfaction, they threw their hats in the air and dance around each other like so many school children, so pleased were they with the thought of the untold wealth it might be instrumental in revealing to them.

After their excitement had somewhat abated and they had returned to the house, Charles said "Boys, I am in favor of completing our arrangements as goon as possible and going out to Arisons. New Mexico, or Mexico to spend the fall and winter, or a portion of it, at least, in prospecting. Either

Ŕĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸ territory is rich in minerals and if we should not be successful in locating claims sufficiently rich to satisfy our ambition, we will be the better fitted

> professor?" "I am with you, my boy. I think it a most excellent plan. It will give us an opportunity of more fully testing our machine and demonstrating to our own satisfaction its capabilities. Of the places named I would prefer Arizona, if I had my choice; still, it does not matter much.'

"Let it be Arizona," replied Alonzo; "I have read that it was very rich in minerals."

"Do you know," said Everett, "that Arizona contains one of the most treacherous tribes of Indians that there is in the whole range of the Rocky Mountains? They are liable to lift some one's hair; but, then, if the res; says Arizona, why Arizona it will be don't suppose there will be very much difference between killing an Apache, if one has to, and shooting Spaniards

in Cuba."
"Well," replied Billy, "we are all make it pretty good shots and we will make it Arizona, Indians or no Indians."

CHAPTER II.

The Journey to the Mountains. THE QUESTION of our destination being settled, we hastened to complete our preparations for the journey. Heavy woolen blankets, guns, latest improved pattern, revolvers of large calibre and other articles that we thought would be useful to us

were purchased and added to the outfit. At length all of our arrangements were completed that could be made until we arrived in Arlzona and we bade farewell to our friends at Winola, who fervently wished that a kind Providence would watch over and bring us safely home and crown our efforts with success.

Boarding a Lehigh Valley train, with faces turned westward, the journey was commenced. We had selected a point on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad in Arizona to complete our preparations. It was several days before we arrived at the point designated as we laid over a few days in Chicago to make several purchases. At length the journey by rail being completed, we purchased several ponies to ride and burros to carry our camp equipage and supplies, as they are more sure footed than ponies in ascending and descending the trails in the Rocky mountains. We realized that if the burro that carried the dynamite was ever to miss his footing and roll down the mountain side there probably would be a small earthquake in our vicinity. So it was decided that that particular burro should be the last to ascend and the first to go down a an artist," said he, "were she but liv-

Having completed all our arrangenents, we took up the line of march westward, having previously Mexican, or "greaser," to do the cookng while in camp and to look after he burros while on the line of march.

The country over which we traveled resented a diversified appearance. The sandy plain covered with bunch grass, brush and cactus, was followed by hills and then snow-capped mountains. Frequently we had to make wide detours from our course to get around the head of some canyon. It was no unfrequent sight to see a mass of earth a hundred feet or more in height, and perhaps fifty or seventyfive feet across, standing in a canyon some monument erected by the gods to commemorate some long forcotten event. The professor informed is that the soil was impregnated with alkali and that at some remote time, he monument had been a part of the divide when no canyon existed there. only a valley. He said that the canyon had been formed by the water centures ago when Arizona had had a different climate and an abundance of rain, to fill the streams where none existed ow, only the beds remained filled with sand where the water used to flow. That the earth had been removed from around the monument by the action of

water leaving it as we now saw it. Great must have been our suffering had it not been for the foresight of the professor in procuring canvass bags ined with rubber to carry water from place to another. Frequently we traveled two or three days without inding a drop. When a supply was eached we generally laid over one day to give our animals a chance to re-cuperate. When we struck the mounains there was an abundance of water, as the snow melting on the tops of the high peaks caused little streams to low down their sides.

Here Billy shot his first deer. The ir was so pure and rarified that meat would keep for weeks if suspended in the air, and during all our sojourn in he mountains we never had a piece become the least bit tainted.

We climbed one extremely high range of mountains with great diffiulty and considerable suffering from he cold which prevailed. From its ummit was one of the grandest panoramas spread out before us that we had ever seen, which gave us a better onception of the vastness of the rocky mountains, the backbone of the American continent. Descending on the opposite side, we pursued our course, turning this way, then that to avoid passing over another high range of

We frequently made a halt while the professor set up the machine to determine whether there was precious metal near the surface. Once we found gold in paying quantities in a bed of sand some ten rods across where at some previous time a river had flown. We followed along on its banks for a number of miles in search of water until we were nearly famished for the want of it. At last we dug a hole down through the sand in the bed of the stream and found only a small quantity. It however, was so strongly impregnated with alkali that no one could drink it and we were forced to abandon the valley with all of its alluring prospects for fear that our animals is well as ourselves would perish from thirst. Their suffering must have been ntense, for it was with the greatest difficulty that we forced them forward over the trail at a snail's pace. Our own throats became parched and

tongues swollen so that we could hardla talk. The next day we struck a small

stream and went into camp. Here we found placer diggings that netted us about four dollars a day, per man. Af-ter laboring for a number of days we decided to advance farther in the mountains and see if we could not find a richer field.

CHAPTER III. A Wonderful Discovery.

E PASSED through a pass of the last range of mountains and on the third day afterwards came large rock of a peculiar formation that extended for some distance. It at-tracted the attention of the Professor who called a halt and proceeded to set up the machine to see if it contained

Having placed the instrument in a satisfactory position the Professor looked in for a moment and then by camping out to endure the extreme throwing up his hands and staggering back a pace or two, his face nearly white as his hair and long flowing cold of the Klondike region in the spring. What do you think about it, peard, he uttered the exclamation in an awed voice, "My God, gentlemen, there is a man in there!" "What are you giving us?" asked Charles.

"Look for yourself," replied the Professor, as he pointed towards the instrument with a trembling hand.

Charles slid off his pony and ap proaching the instrument, looked in and then facing around said,-"Great Scott, boys, the Professor is right! There is a man in there, sure."

Each one advanced to the instrument to take a glance at the grewsome sight hidden away in the rock. Who was he? How did he come there? And many other questions were asked, that for the time being remained unans-

As it was nearly noon, we descended into the vale below and went into camp. While the Mexican, or greaser, was ooking after the animals and making preparations for dinner, we boys acmpanied by the Professor returned to the base of the rock. We found that the rock had settled down at some previous time, which had effectually closed the entrance under it, assuming that there had been one. Everett was dispatched to the camp and soon returned with a battery and some dynamite. Charles forced four sticks of dynamite in a small crevice and attaching the wires, we retired to a safe distance when there was a terrific explosion. Masses of rock and stones were hurled in the air, while the report of the explosion echoed and re-echoed from hill to hill and from mountain to mountain

Returning to the base of the rock, apping hole under it exposed a cavern within. Again a man was sent to camp for lamps and on his return we lighted them and entered. An awful sight met our gaze. There on the strong floor lay the remains of four human beings-a man and woman about fifty years of age, and a son and daughter about twenty or twenty-two years of age. They were of a different race than the red man who now roamed over the mountains. complexion was but a shade darker than ours. All were in a remarkable state of preservation and had we not known that they were dead, we would have said at the first glance that they

were but sleeping. The Professor called our attention to the beautiful and symmetrical form of loins while a band of beaten gold en-

circled her right wrist. "What a model she would make for

After gazing on the faces of the for some time and vainly trying to unravel the mystery that surrounded the cavern and at last came to a fountain that flowed through one chamber of the grotto. Billy unloosened a small cup from his side and dipping it in the vater raised it to his lips as he made the remark, "boys, I am going to have a drink."

Scarcely had he lowered the cup to his side when he staggered and would have fallen had not Everett caught him in his arms. At first we thought he was fooling, but as his head rolled to one side with closed eyes and his egs doubled up under him, we knew that something serious had happened to him.

Taking him tenderly up, we bore him out of the cavern into the sunlight and hen to the camp and laid him down on ome blankets.

"What is the matter with him?" asked Everett, "and what can we do to

save him?" "He does not seem to be in any pain," said Alonzo and as he placed his hand over Billy's heart he added, "I can just feel a slight flutter. If any hing is done for the poor boy, it must be done very quickly. Charles, get some whiskey."

A few drops were poured down his throat, but it did not seem to revive him in the least. He seemed to quietly slip away and in fifteen minutes was pronounced dead. Had the water in the cavern been poisonous? Or had he died from apoplexy or heart failure? "Poor Billy. How we will miss his genial smile and pleasant ways. It breaks me all up, boys," said Charles, to think that we must leave him alone in this great wilderness we travel onward. It would break the heart of his mother were she to know the fate that has befallen him. But then," he added philosophically, don't see as any blame can be attached to any of us If he had heart

trouble he was liable to die at any time had he remained at home." With sorrowful hearts we partook of dinner and remained in camp. The middle of the afternoon the professor took his gun and strolled down the valley and returned towards night. During the evening we decided that we would place the remains of Billy in the cavern in the morning and wall up the entrance so that nothing could enter. It would make a splendid sepulcher and should his friends in the east see fit to remove his remains at some future time they could easily find his resting place. The present ocsupants could not seriously object to having an addition to their party. The professor said that the accident had made such a deep and painful impression on him that he would ask us to perform the ceremony, as he had a natural aversion in taking part that he could not easily overcome; that he would take a stroll down the valley to a delightful spring of water that he had discovered and would return in time to assist in getting ready for the

journey. In the morning we wrapt a blanket around the form of Billy and bearing it on a litter sorrowfully deposited it on the floor of the cavern. We then repaired to the entrance and securely walled it up so that it was impossible for a wild animal to break in

Returning to camp we proceeded to load our baggage on the burros and had the task nearly completed when the professor came riding in. "Hello professor," said Charles, "what in the world have you been dying your

"Not anything," he replied, as he raised his long flowing board with his hand so that he could get a better look at it. As he caught sight of it, he seemed filled with amazement and exclaimed: "On my honor, gentlemen, I was not aware that any change had taken place in it and I am utterly unable to account for the agreeable transformation that has taken place."
"Well," said Alonzo, "you must have
put something on it to have made the

change. "Not anything, I assure you,"
"Then," said Everett, "tell us exactly what you have dene since you left us this morning."

"I have not done anything. I only rode down to the spring as I told you would last night and after taking good drink of the sparkling water. bathed my head and hands with it and then sat down to read while my horse fed on the grass near by. Just before I started back I took another good drink from the spring. Somehow on my way here, notwithstanding the loss of one of our companions, my spirits have been buoyed up and it has seemed to me as if I were thirty years younger. That, gentlemen, is all, and it is the solemn truth."

"That accounts for it all," exclaimed Everett, "I believe that you have found the spring Ponce de Leon, the Spanlard, sought about four hundred years ago-the fountain of perpetual youth. You know that he journeyed up the Mississippi river and penetrated in the Pueblo country in New Mexico in search of it. There is little doubt that the fame of this spring had reached the coast in those days and was di-vulged to the Spaniards shortly after their arrival on this continent. When the Indians became better acquainted with the Spaniard and saw his cruel. grasping and domineering spirit manifested so plainly towards them, hatred took the place of friendship and for fear that their enemies would drink of the water and tyrannize over them forever, they endeavored to conceal its location from them. Whole tribes were slain by the Spaniards. Many suffered death rather than reveal their knowledge and in time those that survived knew not where it was located. Had de Leon pursued a different policy and treated the natives of the country in a friendly spirit, he might have accomplished his object and made known to the world his great discovery.

"It must be the fount that de Leon sought, for the water possesses a wonderful power to have wrought such a marvelous change as is manifested in

"Lead us to it, professor," said Charles, "that we may also drink its health giving qualities."

The professor led the way down the valley and at the end of an hour turned sharply to the right, and there, in a park comprising several hundred acres, surrounded on three sides by towering mountains, it lay in a grove of timber bubbling up out of the earth and forming a little brooklet that led from the fountain. Here we went into camp, making ouselves as comfortable as possible. All drank of the and seemed greatly exhilarated by it.

The next day Charles, who had seemed wrapped in deep thought for some time, said: "Boys, I have been the young woman who lay a little to thinking for some time that Billy, afone side of the others with a cloth ter all, might not be dead, but only in made of some kind of hair about her a trance. I have tried to turn my mind to other subjects, but my thoughts will revert to him and I am going back to the cavern once more to have a look at him. If he is lying in a trange there ought to be some way of resuscitating have the desired effect. It certainly them, we wandered to other parts of can do no harm if it does no good It will, however, ease my mind and make me more reconciled to his loss.

Will any one go with me?" After some further conversation we all decided to accompany him, and leaving the camp in charge of the Mexican, we repaired to the cavern and effected an entrance. Billy lay just as we had left him and we applied the water to his face and head, while a quantity was allowed to run down his throat. In about ten minutes, when we had nearly given up hopes, a faint tremor passed over his frame and a noment later his eyes opened and h looked around from one to another with a wondering look. He then sat up and was given another drink of water. He wanted to know what was the matter and upon being told that he had been sick, replied, " I feel all right

now, boys," and proceeded to get up.
"Say, Charles," said Everett, "that water seems to have such a marvelous effect, why not try it on the old man here. Perhaps, however, it would be better to try it on the girl since the professor has taken such a wonderful shine to her. She, you know, is younger and has more vitality, and if she too, lays in a trance, as Billy did, the water ought to have the same effect, though it may take somewhat longer

"By thunder," replied Charles, "I will try it and see what effect it will have

on her." Raising her head slightly and place ing the blanket that had been around Billy under her head and shoulders. Charles knelt down by her side and gently let the water trickle through her partially opened lips. When a half pint had been poured in, he waited for a few moments and then repeated

the dose. After a time we were about to re move the blanket from under her head and retire from the cavern, when the professor, who had been watching her intently for some moments, exclaimed, amid great excitement: "Heavens gentlemen, she moves. She is not dead."

We stood for a moment in awe, for we did not think that she could be resuscitated; then kneeling down by her side we rubbed her arms and hands vigorously to assist nature in renewing the flow of blood to all parts of the body. In a few moments her eyes opened and wandered around from one to another of our party; then they closed and remained so for some time Charles allowed a little more water to run down her throat, when he had the satisfaction of seeing them open again. In a short time she made an effort to sit up, but could not without being assisted. A cup of water was then handed to her which she drank. In about twenty minutes she laid aside her blanket wrapping and tried to stand up. Again we assisted her and she slowly walked back and forwards until her eyes rested on the form of the older woman, when she hastened to her side and, sinking down on her knees, wrung her hands and moaned piteously. We were all deeply affected by the scene.

We gently raised her from her position and removed her to the outside of the cavern. A man was then mounted and hastened to camp after some provisions and more water. A guard was placed over the girl to keep her from entering the cavern, or running away. The rest of us returned to the chamber and adopted the same treatment to resuscitate the other three. In a little over two hours we had the satisfaction

of seeing them restored to consciousness. We then removed them out of the cavern to the side of the girl. ... other and daughter, for such they proved to be, tenderly embraced each other, then the other two. A small amount of food was given to

each, which they eagerly devoured. The horses were then brought around and they were motioned to mount. They seemed to be filled with terror at the sight of the horses and could not be induced to approach them. It was afterwards learned that they had never seen one before. At last, out of all patience, we seized hold of them and by main strength placed them on the rses, while we retained hold of the bridles and led the horses into camp

shortly after dark. Supper being ready, we gathered around, greatly rejoiced that our expedition to the cavern had been successful in restoring Billy to us. What to do with the other inmates that we had resuscitated and brought back with us was a question that puzzled us. We gave them a portion of our supper and blankets for beds. A guard was posted as usual to keep watch through the night while the rest of us

As the sun appeared over the mountain top the next morning, we were greatly surprised to see our friends, whom we had rescued, kneel and, placing their hands over their faces, bow their heads down to the earth and remain in that position for some time, muttering to themselves, "See," said

Charles, "they are sun worshippers." Professor Smith, as we have previously stated, was a linguist and could speak twenty-four different languages and dialects. After breakfast he set about the task of trying to converse with them, and to learn something about their history. He met with much difficulty, but persevered until the end of the third day, when he was able to understand them quite well.

Their story, briefly told, was some-thing like this: They belonged to the cliff dwellers and lived about half a day's travel to the west. The people of whom they were a part were quite numerous, but in recent years had been decimated in wars with the red man, who sought to exterminate them in order to possess the country in which they lived. Many bloody battles had been fought and it was a question who would succeed in the end. Their people were not a warlike people and only fought to protect their homes and wives and children. The spring at which we were camped had been known to their people for mapy centuries. Its wonderful power of renewng life and making an old person look, feel and act like a young person had been guarded with the greatest jealousy for fear that some other nation might overpower them and take possession of it. The penalty for revealng the secret to another tribe had been invariably the most horrible torture that could be inflicted. The old. sick and the infirm of a branch of their people, who lived many moons travel to the southeast, near the great waters, made frequent journeys to their people

to be healed. The Sun, the great father of their people, had given them this spring when their nation was as numerous as the leaves in the forest, and had possessed all of the land. A great plague had spread over the land and killed oft their people by the thousand. It was then that they prostrated themselves before the Sun for many days. He at last heard their cries and caused this spring to burst forth from the earth, where none had existed before, giving it all of the healing powers that it now ossessed. Then came the red man and fear that they might discover and possess this water, they caused it to be so artfully concealed that one might have walked over it without knowing that t was here.

"When we last saw it, it was so concealed. Who has uncovered it so that you people have discovered it?" they asked. "Surely we have not slept in the cavern more than a day? When we entered the cavern we were in search of nuts; and are they not in season now? A violent storm came up, and seeking shelter by the rock, we noticed a crevice and crawled through into the chamber. The thunders hitting the rock, made it settle down, so hat we could not see out. Becoming thirsty, we found the water in the chamber and drinking, lay down and slept until you people waked us up." They were one family. The father's ame was Zoheka, the son's name was

Wahkens, and the daughter's, Karina. When the professor had finished givng a sketch of their history, Charles "It must be very plain to all that the water in the cavern has the narvelous power of suspending animation and makes any one who drinks it appear like one that is dead. There is no telling how long these people have lain in the cavern. I am inclined to believe that a great many years have passed since they entered it. We have one very important duty to perform before we leave this locality and that is to wall up the entrance, so that no traveler in the future may partake of ts baneful influence."

'Yes, we will do that," replied the professor, "for we, no doubt, have discovered two of the most valuable springs on the continent, if not in the whole world. The water in the cavern will become very popular with physicians who have difficult surgical operations to perform, as it would leave no bad effect. Animation being suspended in the patient, it is probable that very little blood would be lost during the operation, even should it last several ours. The water from the last spring when we have opened it up to the publie will be worth nearly its weight in gold, and will be more valuable to us than all the mineral in this whole range of mountains."

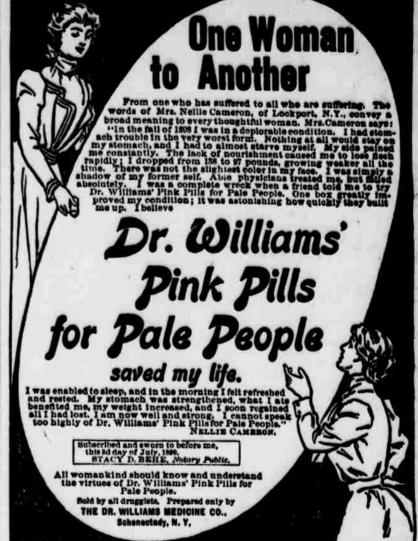
CHAPTER IV. Visiting the Cliff Dwellers' Home

THE professor found Wahkena and Karina very apt pupils and very anxious to learn our language. They would pick up or point to one article after another in our camp and ask its name in English and then reeat it to themselves.

Having walled up the cavern, after we had remained a number of days in camp, we decided to advance on our journey visiting the home of our guests is they were very anxious to return. Taking up the line of march with Zoheka and Wahkena as guides. eached their old home about the middle of the afternoon, finding everything olate and in ruins.

The family gave vent to their feelings by wringing their hands and diently weeping while they prostrated themselves on the ground and mani fested the deepest grief. Their anguish or the loss of their friends and kindred and the complete devastation of their homes aroused our deepest sympathy and we endeavored to comfort and console them in their great loss kind words spoken, which they did not fully understand, had little

effect in arresting their grief. The day being well spent, we



brought back to life. Had we left them in the cavern, as we found them, all their trouble would have been at an end. They had nothing to subsist on during the long winter that was just opening, and no means of procuring the necessaries of life. It was plain to us what their fate must soon be were we to abandon them in their pitiable plight and we finally decided to take them with us until some way was opened for them to gain a livelihood. Later on, Wahkena informed us through the professor, that the large

trees in the forest at the base of the cliff were not the same kind of trees that were growing there when they left home, though the original forest had been composed of trees nearly as large. There had been a large stream at the base of the cliff where now only a bed of sand remained, over which little water flowed. The whole surface of the country over which they had journeyet here seemed so strange and changed that they were sometimes in doubt whether they were pursuing the right course to reach their old home or not. It did not seem to him more than a few days at most since they had been here, but now everything was so changed he scarcely knew the place. Still, it must be the old home, for there stood the towering cliff, but what had vrought such a change over the face of the surrounding country? What had become of his people, who were so numerous, but now had disappeared, leaving no trace of their destination or

Wahkena having finished, the pro-Wahkena seems strange to me; stranger than fiction, yet the indisputable evidence at hand corroborates it, and proves beyond a doubt that Zoheka and his family have had a most wonderful experience. My curiosity and interest in this family has been aroused by certain actions and expressions of theirs for a number of days, and I have surmised for some time that they would find nobody here to greet them on their arrival. You remember the abject fear that they manifested on seeing our horses for the first time. That proves to my mind that they had never seen one before. Probably, a human being that had arrived to manhood has not lived within the limits of the United States in one hundred and fifty years but that was more or less familiar with a horse. Their fear of the animal showed that their animation must have been suspended previous to the time when horses were introduced into this section of the country.

"The covering that concealed the fountain at which we had camped might have been destroyed by the action of the elements in a every few years. But when Wahkena declares that the forest which once stood here has been replaced during their absence by another of a different variety, some of the trees of which must have taken more than one hundred and fifty years to grow, one can readily see that a longer time must have intervened to cleets to catch and retain the gold as it have brought about the change that has taken place.

"From this mode of reasoning I would say that Zoheka's age must border on three hundred years, and he may be much older, while the ages of Wahkena and Karina, whom we have previously thought were about twenty and twenty-two, must be two hundred and seventy-five years at least." "How wonderful it all seems," said

Charles, and after a moment's thought added, "but then it must be true." "I would not mind living to be two hundred and seventy-five years old, to note the changes in the world, if I could retain my youth like Wahkens and Karina have," thoughtfully remarked Billy.

"Perhaps you may if you drink the water from the fountain of perpetual youth," added Everett. "I certainly will do that, seeing the great change that it has made in the

Professor."

We set up the machine to test for gold and found traces of the precious metal in a number of places. The sand in the bed of the stream showed the largest quantities, but thinking that we might discover it in better paying quantities by further search, we decided to advance into the wilderness. We interrogated Wahkena as to

where the gold came from that composed the bracelet on Karina's wrist, and was informed that it was found about two days' travel to the northwest in quite large quantities, being frequently picked up in small lumps, and a soft rock on the side of a mountain showed the glittering particles Under his guidance we eagerly set out for the promised Et Dorado and advanced quite rapidly. About the middle of the afternoon of the second day's travel we came to a small stream flowing to the southeast, the water of which flowed quite rapidly, owing to the descending ground. Advancing the stream for some distance, Wahkena came to a halt and, pointing to a rock in an abrupt ledge, exclaimed

We examined the strata of rock for some distance and went wild with exinto camp to consider what was best citement at nature's display of the to be done with the family that we had precious metal. The rock was of a very citement at nature's display of the

old formation. Its outer edge seemed to have passed into a state of decay, owing to the action of the elements, and was quite soft, though farther in it was very hard. Small minute particles were discernible to the naked eye, and frequently small pieces as large as a shot were found and pried out with our knives. At last the Mexican brought us back to our senses by saying that night was fast coming on and would we have him unload the burros or advance farther on and pick out a more desirable place. We desisted from our scramble for gold, advanced a little

farther on and went into camp. The next morning we set up our in strument in a number of places in the valley and were agreeably surprised at the large amount of gold that the earth contained. After consulting together, we decided to spend the winter in this locality, and the first thing to do was to select a site for a camp, where we could make ourselves the most comfortable during the inclemency of the winter, which was fast coming on, as well as protect ourselves and animals in case we should be attacked by some stray band of Indians. With this object in view.we advanced up the stream for some distance, but finally returned and proceeded down stream about eighty rods, where we had on the previous day noticed a valley comprising about a thousand acres, that was bounded on all sides by towering rocks, while the entrance to it was not fnore than two hundred yards across.

Having selected the site of our camp, we moved our outfit down and, unload the park, which afforded an abundar of feed in the nutritious grasses that covered its surface. All hands then set to work with axes and cut down tree a foot in diameter and of the desired length, to build a log cabin. The valley afforded an abundance of trees straight as an arrow, and at the end of three days we had it up the desired height and covered with bark to keep the storms out. We then divided one end into two parts; one for Zoheka and his wife and the other for Karina as sleeping apartments. On one side of our rude house we built a fireplace and chimney. The door was made of riven logs, also our bunks, one placed over the other, so as to take up little room Our house being completed, we moved in and then set to work and built a each side of the park, so that our stock could not stray away at night. Everything being arranged to our own satisfaction for the time being. we turned our attention to mining. We first examined the soil on each side of the stream for some distance and at last selected a spot about sixty rods up the stream from the house as a desirable place to commence operations, as the stream from that point descended very rapidly. Cutting down some mountain pine, we rived them into boards, out of which we constructed a sluiceway, on the bottom of which was nailed little was separated from the earth by the running water. It being completed, we

some gold, some days more and some days less, but the average was not far from \$2,000 per day. Wahkena and Karina had made grea strides in learning our language, and before we knew it we found ourselves conversing with them on the topics that most concerned us. Little by little had they succeeded in ingratiating themselves in our hearts by their thoughtfulness in doing little things for our comfort, while in addition Wahkena assisted us more or less in our mining operations. We would have fought to protect them from harm, had it been necessary, as we would to defend ourselves. Karina seemed to take more interest in the professor than any of the rest of our party. Whether it was from the fact that he had been the first to discover them in the cavern, which led to their being restored to life

turned the water in the sluice-way and

shoveled the dirt into the water. At

night we shut the water off and took out a quantity of gold, which we esti-

mated to be worth not far from \$1,800.

We were very much pleased with the

result of our day's labor and skill in

mining and sat up late at night dis-

cussing the matter. Each day brought

and liberty, we could not tell. Her graceful and lithe form, attired in the best garments that we could provide, flitted from the house to ou mining industry or rambled in the

groves near by. The contrast between father and mother and the son and daughter was remarkable. Zoheka and his wife were indolent, and they had not mastere half a dozen words of English during all of the time that they had been with us. Whether it was from a lack of interest or pining for the old life that they had led, and their friends that had been so ruthlessly removed from their life, no one could tell. Zoheka and his wife were left at the house to guard our property and to give us the alarm in case a stranger should approach. They could just catch a glimpaof us through the trees where we were

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