

Billy Le Roy the Bandit.

A STORY OF WILD LIFE IN COLORADO. A few weeks ago the people of many communities in Colorado were made angry by the escape of the notorious highwayman, Billy Le Roy, from Deputy Marshal Cantrell, on the Kansas Pacific express. The story of the escape, as printed at the time, was that Le Roy's sweetheart had planned her lover's escape and that she had successfully bewitched the Deputy Marshal. The true story, as related by the bandit to Dr. Flournoy, of Del Norte, is as follows: Le Roy carried about his person a tiny key, made from a watch spring. When he was stripped and searched on the morning of his departure for Detroit he creased the skin of his neck and placed the key in the crease. His mouth was opened, his hair brushed and his ears examined, but the key escaped the notice of the searcher. When the train was running at terrific speed Cantrell left his prisoner, shackled hand and foot, and stepped to the toilet room. "He's escaped," said the bandit to Dr. Flournoy, "I had my hands free and in another two seconds my feet also. All the passengers in the car, except one lady, were either nodding or half asleep. I knew how to settle the lady. I just gave her one of a look, ran to the platform and jumped off. I was stunned, but came to in a little while and got away."

WHY JIMMY REMEMBERED. Several days passed after Le Roy's escape and the people hoped that he had gone to some other corner of the world. On the night of the 13th instant the down stage for Del Norte passed the lower corner of Frankie's ranch, when from one side of the dark highway there arose a demand to halt. The quick movement of the robbers frightened the coach horses. Old Jimmy, who he is called, was driving and he had a terrible noise that he carried about his person. He did his best. The robbers, mistaking the runaway for a deliberate attempt on the part of the driver to evade their clutches, fired a volley into the fast fleeing coach. One of these shots passed through a man's hat who sat on the box with Jimmy and took off one of his locks of hair.

"Let's go back and surrender," said Jimmy; "if we don't they'll kill me next." "For God's sake don't go back," pleaded a passenger; "for I have \$700 right on me now and I will lose the whole of it." So Jimmy put the lead to his horses and the coach got away as quickly as possible. Then Jimmy resigned. He did not propose to be killed in any way, but he would not let the bandits have more than Billy Le Roy and his party.

"THE LITTLE FELLOW." Le Roy was next heard from last Wednesday night, when the stage was ascending the hill about three miles from Antelope Springs and about a mile and a half from the lake. The hill is very steep, and it was while the ascent was being made that the agents jumped from their concealment and fired a whole handful of bullets into the passing vehicle. One of the bullets took effect in the leg of Engineer Bartlett, of the Denver and Rio Grande Road, striking him in the fleshy part. The ball struck a silver dollar in Bartlett's pocket and sent the dollar into the ditch. Then the agent went through the leg and out. The silver piece protected the femoral artery and saved Bartlett's life. Bartlett says there were three men in this party and that one of them—a little fellow—went to the big man of the crowd—"you get on the other side, there, and tend to business." The little fellow pulled his self-acting British bull-dog and climbed up on the wheel. He pointed the muzzle at Bartlett's head and remarked:

"I'm going through you; hold up your hands." The operation, required but a short time. Money and watch soon passed into the deft fingers of the road agent. It became necessary to get into the pocket nearest the wound. "You are hurting my leg very much," mildly protested the victim.

"Well, you, you can stand it," was the reply. The front boot was then cleared off the driver and the rear one being empty the driver was told to get out and that "quick." The inside door opened and was not disturbed. The robbers were evidently nervous, for it was early in the evening—8.20. The "little fellow" was Le Roy himself.

CATWIP. A file and drum corps paraded Del Norte, when the stage reached that place and there was considerable excitement in Denver and all along the route. The citizens of Del Norte attended themselves for a grand hunt for the highwayman. Deputy Marshal Armstrong headed the party. The guide was J. P. Galloway, an old and experienced mountaineer-horse thief. The man-hunters rode up the Savoyra into the mountain fastnesses. As dusk on the 22d, while Armstrong was sitting on a boulder, with McFrost and Galloway near, he saw a man emerging from the timber. "Halt!" said Armstrong. The man was silent for a moment and was about to flee, when he saw that he was covered from three points. He surrendered and admitted that he was "Louis Porter," of Le Roy's gang. The three hunters went towards Alamosa. On the road they saw a little fellow with a pack on his back. At the command, "halt," the little man drew a revolver, fired, and ran. Armstrong followed, and with a quick bound he entered the brush near at hand and rolled down the river bank out of sight. It was a job getting the little fellow out of the coat. He would not say a word and all the coaxing in the world seemed to have no effect. Finally they got to talking about shooting into the case after him and this brought the young man to time. He said he was shot and couldn't walk. But they got him out at last and found that the whole of his hand had been seared off by the bullet. It was an ugly wound.

"Who are you, anyhow?" he was asked. "I am Billy Le Roy," he replied. "Billy, the Bandit?" "The same."

HANGED. Del Norte was crazed over the capture. "The people were wild," said General R. A. Cameron, who happened to be in the place, "the streets were like a main highway, and many on foot. The Sheriff locked the two prisoners in the cells of the strong jail and a committee

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