

A STRANGE STORY.

I have a strange, almost incredible story to tell of an experience of my own one fearful night in the woods. Imagination had nothing to do with it, for I am a backwoodsman's daughter accustomed to the wild sounds of the forest, the loneliness, and all that is terrifying to a novice.

My father was a good man, serving God after his own simple fashion, seeing Him and loving Him in all his works. I have heard him hold forth on the provident ways of the beaver: "Why, the little critter'd starve in the cold season if it hadn't used its little flat tail for buildin' its house, and then filled it with food in time!" I have heard him tell of the caribou. "Look at that, too," he would say, "and at the moose. Now the caribou has to travel often a matter of twenty miles for his dinner, for he's a dainty 'un and only eats the long gray moss that hangs from the trees; so God gave him snow shoes, good as an Indian could make 'um, to skim over the ice crust, while the big, heavy moose there sinks right in. His dinner is close to hand. He could live for months on an acre lot." He would speak of the loon, and its adaptation in every way to its watery home, always ending such talk with: "All God's works are 'pon honor; there's no half way with him."

I was the only one left out of ten children. My father when mourning over and missing the others, would never complain, but only say, "They're better off. Why if we can trust the children, that don't know what wrong doing is and don't know the meaning of sin, then there ain't any chance for us men!" And so he lived his quiet life—his heart beating close to nature's heart, and his soul unconsciously seeking and finding nature's God.

My mother must have been beautiful in her youth. She was a *lorette Canadienne* and her bright French spirits carried her gaily over many a hard trial in her life of frequent deprivations. One great overshadowing sorrow of her life was the unaccountable disappearance of her little year old daughter, her own image, whom from the first she loved with a peculiar tenderness.

The child had been left alone in her little birch bark crib for a short half hour while mother was busy at the spring, a mile from home, in the midst of the woods. I, a little-six-year-old, was off in the canoe with my father, as a treat for being especially good the day before. Father and I had a splendid time—we always did when we were away together—and, our canoe full of trout, we were coming gaily home, toward evening, when a cold chill fell on our happiness, and my child's heart felt a strange thrill as I read a sudden anxiety in my father's face, whose every change I knew. His quick ear had caught the sound of mother's voice, and after a while I, too, could hear a hopeless moan, a dreadful heart-broken sound. We found mother kneeling on the floor, her head leaning on the empty crib, and moaning as one who could not be comforted. The baby was gone. How or where we could not tell—we never knew. Weeks were spent in searching for her and, at length to save mother's reason, father forced her to leave the pretty log cabin, in the woods by the lake where this last sorrow had come upon her, and we went to Montreal.

There we lived quietly for years during the winter-time. The nuns of the great convent of the Gray Sister took charge of my education. Mother and I had neat little rooms in the French quarter, while father went off moose hunting for weary months; but the summer-times we always spent with him. He would choose lovely spots for our encampments, but never on the site of the long cabin deserted after the baby's loss, until the summer of my nineteenth year. Then a great desire took possession of my mother to go once more to the old home. She had been

very delicate that winter and my great rough father denied her nothing. I shuddered when I thought of that beautiful, direful place now—it seems as though our evil fate hovered about it. All the anguish I ever knew centers there!
(Concluded To-morrow.)

TRAVELLER'S GUIDE.

PA. AND N. Y. R. R.
Trains on the Pa. & N. Y. R. R. pass this place as follows:
Moving South.
No. 3, at 5:02 a. m., for New York and way sta.
No. 7, at 10:10 a. m., mail train for New York, Phila delphia and intermediate points.
No. 9, at 2:41 p. m.—Express for Philadelphia.
No. 15, at 10:55, p. m.—Fast express for Philadelphia and New York.
No. 31,—Local Passenger Train, between Elmira and Wyalusing, 7:05 p. m.
Moving North.
No. 8, at 3:58 a. m.—Fast express from New York and Philadelphia.
No. 30, at 10:55 a. m., WilkesBarre accommodation.
No. 2, at 4:41 p. m.—Mail train from Philadelphia and New York.
No. 6, at 11:02, p. m., from New York.
No. 32, at 6:53 a. m.—Wyalusing and Elmira local.
STATE LINE AND SULLIVAN R. R.
Leave.
3:00 o'clock p. m. for Bernice and intermediate sta.
Arrive.
9:30 a. m., from Bernice.
BARCLAY R. R.
Leave.
7:30 a. m., for Barclay and all stations, and 3:00 p. m.
Arrive.
10:15 a. m., from Barclay and intermediate stations, and 6:20 p. m.
CANTON STAGE.
Leaves at 9 o'clock, a. m. Arrives at 5 o'clock p. m.
TROY STAGE,
Leaves at 10:30 a. m. Arrives at 1 p. m.
SHESHEQUIN STAGE.
Arrives at 11 o'clock a. m. Departs at 12 m.
LERAYSVILLE STAGE.
Arrives at 12 m. Leaves at 2 p. m.
TERRYTOWN STAGE.
Arrives Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 12 m. Departs same days at 1 p. m.
NEW ERA STAGE.
Arrives Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 12 m. Departs same days at 1 p. m.

CHURCH DIRECTORY.

PRESBYTERIAN—Rev. J. S. Stewart, D.D., Pastor. Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m. every Sunday. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30. Sunday School—D'A. Overton, Superintendent—at 12 o'clock.
CHRIST CHURCH—(Episcopal)—Rev. John S. Beers, Rector. Service and preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. Service and lecture Thursday evening at 7:30. Sunday School—Jas. T. Hale, Assistant Supt.—at 12 m. Teachers' meeting Tuesday evening at 7:45.
M. E. CHURCH—Rev. C. H. Wright, Pastor. Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m. Prayer Meetings on Sunday evening at 6:30, Thursday evening at 7:30. Young men's prayer meeting Friday evening at 8. Sunday School—B. M. Peck, Superintendent—at 12 m.
SS. PETER AND PAUL.—(R. C.) Rev. Chas. F. Kelley, Priest. Mass at 8 and 10:30 a. m. Vespers at 7:30 p. m. Sunday School at 12:30 and 2:30.
CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH.—(Universalist) Rev. William Taylor, Pastor. Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m. Prayer and Conference Meeting Thursday evening at 7:30. Sunday School—L. F. Gardner, Superintendent—at 12 m.
BAPTIST CHURCH—Rev. C. T. Hallowell, Pastor. Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m. Prayer Meeting, Thursday Evening, 7 p. m. Sunday School at 12 m.

SOCIETY DIRECTORY.

MASONIC.
Union Lodge, No. 153, meets First and Third Wednesday of each month.
Union Chapter, No. 151, meets Second Wednesday evenings of each month.
Northern Commandery, Knights Templar, No. 16. Meets fourth Wednesday each month.
KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.
Towanda Lodge, No. 200. Meets every Tuesday evening.
Endowment Rank, Section 101. Meets Third Friday in each month.
ODD FELLOWS.
Bradford Lodge, No. 167. Meets every Monday night.
Bradford Encampment, No. 41. Meets Second and Fourth Wednesday night of each month.
Loch Lodge Degree of Rebekah. Meets First and Third Friday evenings of each month.
KNIGHTS OF HONOR.
Crystal Lodge. Meets every Monday evening.
Mystic Lodge, K. and L. of H. Meets Second and Fourth Friday evenings of each month.
G. A. R.
Watkins Post No. 68. Meets every Saturday evening.
KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN RULE.
Towanda Castle No. 58. Meets at K. of P. Hall every Wednesday evening.
ROYAL ARCANUM.
Towanda Council, No. 532, meets first and third Friday of each month in K. P. Hall.

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