

# A Famous Indian Fight.

By JOHN WILLIAMSON PALMER, M. D.

Among the most conspicuous and notable of the rangers and Indian-fighters who "blazed their way" along a 100 trails between the Rio Grande and the Colorado 70 years ago were Rezin and James Bowie—to whom, jointly, belongs the questionable honor of the invention of the bowie-knife. These energetic and intrepid lads were the sons of Rezin Bowie, who had migrated from Maryland to Georgia, where the boys were born in Burke county. There were three other brothers—David, John, and Stephen. In 1802 the family removed to Catahoula parish, Louisiana. On the 19th of September, 1827, James Bowie was engaged on a bar of the Mississippi in one of the bloodiest affrays recorded in the fighting annals of the southwest, in which two men were killed and Bowie wounded. Soon after this affair James with his brother Rezin, made his way into Texas, where a career as dramatic as it was characteristically American awaited them—at first among the hostile tribes, and later in desultory encounters with predatory bands of Mexicans.

In 1831, on the 2d of November, James and Rezin Bowie with seven comrades and two boys as servants set out from San Antonio in search of the old Silver-mines of the San Saba mission. They made their way without notable adventure until the morning of the 19th, when they were overhauled by friendly Comanches, who warned them that they were followed by a war party of 124 Twoowokanas and Wacos, as well as by 40 Caddos, making in all 164 well-armed braves, who had sworn to take the scalps of the white men then and there. The Comanche chief invited the Texans to join his party, and offered to make a stand with them, although he had but 16 men, badly armed and short of ammunition. But knowing that the "hostiles lay between," and being bent on reaching the old fort on the Saba before night, the Texans declined the generous offer and pushed boldly on. But they soon came upon rocky roads, their horses' feet were worn, and they were compelled to encamp for the night in a small grove of live-oaks of the girth of a man's body. To the north of these, and near by, was a thicket of young trees about 10 feet high; and on the west, 40 yards away, ran a stream of water. On every side was open prairie, interspersed with rocks and broken land, and here and there a clump of trees.

Here, having prepared for defense by cutting a road inside the thicket and clearing out the prickly pears, they hobbled their horses and posted sentries. That night they were not molested; in the morning, as they were preparing to start for the fort, they discovered Indians on their trail, with a footman 50 yards in advance of the party with his face to the ground, tracking. All hands flew to arms; those who were already in the saddle dismounted, and the saddle and pack horses were tethered to the trees. The hostiles gave the war-whoop, halted, and began stripping for action. Some mounted bucks reconnoitered the ground, and among these were a few Caddos, known "by the cut of their hair," who until that day had been counted among the friendly tribes.

In consideration of the disproportion of numbers—164 to 11—it was agreed that Rezin Bowie should go out to parley with them, to avoid, if possible, a fight so unequal and so desperate. He took David Buchanan with him, walked to within 40 yards of the enemy's line, and invited them to send out their chief to talk with him. He addressed them in their own tongue, but they replied with a "How do! How do!" followed by a dozen shots, one of which broke Buchanan's leg. Bowie responded with the contents of a double-barreled gun and a pistol, took Buchanan on his back, and started for the camp. The Indians opened fire again. Buchanan was hit twice, but not mortally, and Bowie's hunting-shirt was pierced by several shots. Seeing that they failed to bring him down, eight of the Indians on foot pursued him with tomahawks, and were close upon him when his own party charged them with rifles and killed four, putting the others to flight. "We then returned to our position," wrote Rezin Bowie, "and all was still for five minutes."

Then from a hill red with Indians, and so near that the voice of a mounted chief urging his men to the charge could be heard plainly, came yells and a vicious volley. "Who is loaded?" cried James Bowie. "I am," said Cephas Hamm. "Then shoot that chief!" And Hamm, firing, broke the Indian's leg and killed his pony. The chief went hopping round the horse, his body covered with his shield; four of the Texans who had reloaded fired and the man fell. Six or eight of his tribe advanced to bear away the body, and several of these were killed by the Texans. The whole body of Indians then retreated behind the hill with the exception of a few who dodged from tree to tree, out of gunshot.

Presently, however, they covered the hill again, bringing up their bowmen, for the first time in the fight. There was rapid shooting on both sides; another chief advanced on horseback, and James Bowie brought him down.

Meanwhile a score of Caddos who had succeeded in getting under the bank of the creek in the rear of the

Texan party opened fire at 40 yards, and shot Matthew Doyle through the breast. Thomas McCaslin ran forward to avenge him, and was shot through the body. The firing became general from all quarters. The Texans, finding their position in the trees too much exposed, retreated to the thicket, where they dislodged the riflemen under cover of the creek, who were in point blank range, by shooting them through the head as often as they showed above the bank.

In the thicket, where they were well screened, they had clear views of the hostiles on the prairie. "We baffled their shots," wrote James Bowie, "by moving six or eight feet the moment we had fired, for their only mark was the smoke of our guns. They would put 20 balls within the space of a pocket-handkerchief in the spot where they saw that smoke."

In this fashion the fight was kept up for two hours, and James Correll was shot through the arm. Seeing that the Texans were not to be dislodged from the thicket, the savages resorted to fire—for the double purpose of routing the little party and of carrying away their own lead and wounded under cover of the smoke, for the rifles of the rangers had brought down half a dozen at every round. They set fire to the dry prairie grass to the windward of the thicket; the flames flared high and burned all the grass as far as the creek; but there they bore away to the right and to the left, leaving a clear space of five acres around the camp. Under cover of the smoke the hostiles carried away their dead; while the Texans scraped away the dry grass and leaves from their wounded comrades, and piled rocks and bushes to make a flimsy breast-work.

The Indians re-occupied the trees and rocks in the prairie and renewed their firing. Suddenly the wind shifted to the north and blew hard. The red men were quick to see the advantage and seize the chance. One of their braves crawled down the creek and set fire to the high grass. Robert Armstrong killed him—too late. Down came the flames, 10 feet high, straight for the camp! The shouts and yells of the Indians rent the air, and they fired 20 shots in a minute.

Behind the screen of smoke the Texans held a council of war. If the Indians should charge them under cover of the fire they could deliver but one effectual round. Even then the sparks were flying so thickly that no man could open his powder-horn but at the risk of being blown up. Bowie's men determined if the Indians charged "to deliver that one round, stand back to back, draw our knives, and fight as long as one was left alive." On the other hand, should the Indians not charge, and should the Texans still stand their ground, they might be burned alive. In that case each man would take care of himself as well as he could until the fire reached the ring of cleared ground around the wounded men and the baggage; then they would smother it with buffalo-ropes, bearskins, deer-skins, and blankets. And this they did, the hostiles not charging.

By this time the fire had left so little of the thicket that the small group of fighters took refuge in the ring they had made around the wounded and the baggage, and begun raising their breastwork higher with loose rocks and with earth that they dug with their knives. The Indians had succeeded in removing their killed and wounded under cover of the smoke. Night was approaching, and they had been fighting since sunrise. The Indians, seeing that the Texans were still alive and dangerous, drew off and encamped for the night with their dead and wounded. By 10 o'clock the Bowies had raised their clumsy rampart breast high; the men filled their vessels and skins with water, and waited for the attack which they supposed the morning would bring. All night they heard the red men walling over their dead; and at daylight they shot a mortally wounded chief, as the customs of the tribes prescribed. A little later they retired with their dead and wounded to a mountain about a mile away, where a cave served them for shelter and for tomb. At 8 o'clock two of the Texans ventured out from the little fort, and made their way to the encampment where the Indians had lain the night before, and there they counted 48 bloody spots on the grass where their braves had fallen before Texan rifles. "Finding ourselves much cut up," wrote the Bowies, "having one man killed and three wounded, five horses killed and three wounded, we resumed the strengthening of our little fort, and worked until 1 p. m., when 13 Indians appeared, but retired again as soon as they discovered that we were still there, well fortified and ready for action." The Texans held their ground eight days, and then retraced their march to San Antonio, where they arrived safely with their wounded and their horses in 12 days. Nine men and two boys and killed 82 Indians and routed a fighting force of 164.

It was proper to the ghastly "fitness of things" that the man who directed this wonderful fight, and was the heart and eye and arm behind every rifle and every knife, should go to meet his death with Crockett and Travis in the Alamo. When, on March

3, Travis drew a line with his sword across the adobe floor, and called on all those of that desperate little garrison who would stay with him to the death to come over that line to him, Crockett sprang across merrily, waving his cap, and every man of "those about to die" followed him, saluting: "Te morituri salutamus!" James Bowie, fast bound in raging fever, tossing and muttering on his cot "in the little north room of the Alamo," heard the call, and cried for two of his comrades to lift the cot and carry him over that line. It was done, and then they bore him back again to the little room to die.

It is Madame Candelaria, the Mexican woman who nursed him there, and who alone of all that Spartan band survived, who tells the story. "It is not true," she says, "that Colonel Bowie was 'brained with an ax.' He died in wild delirium in the height of the awful carnage, several hours before the Mexican horde burst into the Alamo. . . . They broke in the door where I watched with Colonel Bowie. I cried out, in Spanish, that I was a Mexican woman, and that I had nursed a man who had just died. One knocked me down, and another stabbed me in the cheek with a bayonet. Here is the scar! . . . Colonel Bowie's cold body was dragged from the cot—dragged down the stairs by the howling mob of soldiers, and thrown upon a heap of bleeding dead."—The New Voice.

## QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

For the first time for 1000 years an ordination service in St. David's Cathedral, Cardiff, Wales, has just been conducted in Welsh.

The most curious cemetery is situated at Luxor, on the Nile. Here repose the mummified bodies of millions of sacred cats. Their remains are side by side with the bodies of kings and emperors in mausoleums.

Some years ago there was produced in the English court of probate a plank on which were scratched the testamentary dispositions of a shipwrecked naval officer. The board, with its rough carving, was held to be a will duly executed.

In 1015, at Novgorod, at that time the capital of Russia, it was the law that any one plucking a hair from any individual's beard should be four times more severely punished than though he cut off his finger. In this connection all men were compelled to grow beards. The supposition was that the beard was the main source of manly strength.

An Indian dentist, who at his graduation is said to have captured all the prizes offered by a Boston college of dental surgery, extracts all teeth with a gentle pull of thumb and finger, a method which has been practiced by the Chinese for 30 centuries. He believes that once the simple movements of thumb and finger, by which the most firmly-rooted tooth may be drawn, shall be learned, forceps will be considered a barbarism.

The Quakers have the distinction of having built the first meeting-house in Boston. It was in Brattle street and dates back to 1692. This was dissolved in 1708, and the society moved to Congress street. The Quakers suffered every species of cruelty establishing their faith in Boston; scourging and imprisonment were the mild forms of prevention at first employed. Banishment and the loss of an ear was subsequently substituted.

All have heard of white elephants, but few know that there are also in existence white rhinoceroses, constituting a distinct species. These are almost extinct, and probably not more than a dozen or so are left. The Revue Scientifique says, of a small herd of these animals in Natal, that fortunately they are protected by law and, fortunately also, the party that met the animals included the governor of the colony, otherwise the species might have been now more nearly extinct than ever before, for hunters are not scrupulous in such matters.

**Curious Law About Parcel Carrying.**  
They have curious laws in Vienna, and enforce them too. Recently Marie Freidl and Felix Kopstein, aged 15 and 13 years respectively, were walking along a street in the Austrian capital, when they came across an old woman staggering along under the weight of a heavy package. Moved by pity they offered to carry it for the old woman, a proposition to which she readily acceded. The kind-hearted children had not gone far before they were arrested by a policeman for carrying parcels without a license. The children were taken to a police station, where the officer in charge lectured them upon the enormity of their offense. They were kept under arrest for six hours and then released with a warning.

It seems that there is a corps of "Messengers" in Vienna, to which a municipal statute grants the exclusive right of "carrying" inside the city. The boy and girl had violated the law by carrying the old woman's burden, and under such an interpretation of the statute a man who carries a package for a woman with whom he is walking may be "run in" by the first policeman who sees him.—New York Press.

It is proposed to illuminate the Yosemite falls, 2000 in height, by use of 20 arc lights in connection with means for producing color effects. Some of the roads are also to be lighted with electricity.

# NEW IDEAS IN TOILETTES

New York City.—Bathing suits for young girls require to be ample and to allow perfect freedom before all else. Mohair is the material that is most liked and most fashionable and



GIRL'S BATHING SUIT.

blue and dark red with white trimmings are the colors preferred; but serge and flannel are correct and white suits are worn. The May Manton model given is up-to-date in every particular, is stylish at the same time that it is absolutely comfortable. As shown, it is made of dull blue mohair with collar and bands of white in the same material and narrow black braid, but duck trimming can be used with equally good results.

The blouse and bloomers are made in one and close at the centre front, the skirt being entirely separate and buttoned in the back. The bloomers

for a long time the old-fashioned cameo brooch is enjoying a revival in popularity. They are more curious than pretty, to tell the truth, unless now and then you come upon a model of true classical beauty. These are now brought out from the limbo of old fashioned ornaments, and are used to hold down the belt and hold up the skirt in the middle of one's waist in the back. The cameo pins are not used directly under the chin because they are singularly unbecoming to most people.

## Oriental Trimming.

A strip of Oriental trimming is much used to cover the pleat in the middle of the front of a shirt waist, but it must be worn with a stock of the same material. The strips may be used merely as a movable decoration, but if stitched to the waist, it is more harmonious to wear also for the narrow handlike cuff.

## Chic and Novel.

Foulard gowns trimmed with dotted white muslin are decidedly chic and novel. One of these gowns of pastel blue satin foulard, scattered over with sprays of flowers, had a deep shaped flounce on the skirt of white muslin with black spots. The sleeves also had elbow puffs of the muslin, and the bolero opened over a vest of this material.

## Woman's Fancy Blouse.

The blouse with the sailor collar is a marked and deserved favorite of the season. In such a fancy form as this May Manton design it is suited both to the entire costume and the odd bodice and is eminently smart as well as generally becoming. The original is made of white louisine silk with trimming of narrow Persian bands, shield and stock of cream Cluny lace; but all silks, wools and cotton materials are appropriate.

The foundation, or fitted lining, closes at the centre front. On it are



SAILOR SUIT FOR A GIRL.

are loose and drawn up below the knee by means of elastics inserted in the hems. The sleeves are short puffs and the big sailor collar is joined to the neck of the blouse. The shield is stitched to the right side of the blouse, beneath the collar, and buttoned into place on the left side.

To cut this suit for a girl eight years of age, four and three-eighths yards of material twenty-seven inches wide or three and one-eighth yards forty-four inches wide will be required.

## Girl's Sailor Suit.

No model suits the growing girl more perfectly than the simple, natty sailor suit. For summer wear it is made of linen, pique and chambray, and for the cooler months of cheviot serge and flannel. Blue and white are favorite colors, but dull or ox blood red is much worn. The smart May Manton example given in the large drawing is of marine blue linen with collar, cuffs and shield of white and stitched bands of the blue, and tie of soft blue silk. The skirt has a front gore joined to wide, straight back pleats on each side and is attached to a fitted body lining. The blouse is smooth across the shoulders and can be made with or without the applied yoke. An elastic inserted in the hem at the lower edge regulates the fullness and allows of drawing the blouse over the head without an opening in front. The sailor collar is seamed to the neck and the shield is faced on to the body lining, the standing collar finishing it at the throat. The sleeves are in bishop style with straight cuffs.

To cut this suit for a girl eight years of age, five and a half yards of material twenty-seven inches wide, four and a half yards thirty-two inches wide, or three and a quarter yards forty-four inches wide, will be required.

## Cameo Pins.

After having suffered from oblivion

arranged the various parts of the blouse proper which closes at the left side beneath the box pleat. The centre front is tucked in groups for a short distance, then allowed to fall free and form soft folds. The fronts proper are laid in one box pleat at each front edge, but otherwise are plain. The sailor collar is attached to the blouse, and the shield is arranged over the lining. The sleeves are in bishop style. When the lining is omitted the shield is attached to the waist beneath the collar, permanently to the right and buttoned to the left; and the waist is either gathered at the waist line or adjusted by means of tapes run through a casing. Otherwise there is no difference in the making.

To cut this blouse for a woman of medium size, four and a half yards of material twenty-one inches wide, three and three-quarter yards twenty-



WOMAN'S FANCY BLOUSE.

seven inches wide, three yards thirty-two inches wide, or two and a half yards forty-four inches wide, will be required, with three-eighth yard of all-over lace.

# THE GREAT DESTROYER

SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTEMPERANCE.

Abstainers and Life Insurance—The Time Will Come When a Non-Alcoholic Clause Will Be an Important Feature of Every Reputable Policy.

During the last few days the daily papers have made the discovery of a fact which readers of the New Voice knew months ago that one of the largest of the "old line" insurance companies has established a total abstinence department for the purpose of giving that class of their patrons the advantages that ought to accrue to them. The comments which appear upon this step, which the very learned and wise editorial writers seem to suppose is an utterly new thing, are various, but most of them are commendatory in their tone.

It is interesting to notice that most of these daily papers that are now commenting upon this subject have, during the last year or two given currency to the old fake figures that sought to show that total abstainers live less years than hard drinkers.

The Chicago Record-Herald says: "The time may come when a 'non-alcoholic clause' will be as important in a life insurance policy as the 'gasoline clause' in a fire insurance policy. A man who stores a certain amount of fire water in his abdominal basement every day will be regarded as no better risk than the house with several barrels of gasoline in the cellar."

This will be the inevitable outcome of the plan recently inaugurated by a life insurance company of New York should it be generally adopted by all the big life underwriters in this country. The plan of this company is to write policies for "total abstainers" upon a different basis from that offered to users of alcoholic stimulants. After an extended study of mortality statistics for several years, supplemented by the testimony of medical science, the company has finally concluded that the claim that total abstinence conduces to longevity no longer admits of doubt, and it proposes to give total abstainers the benefit of lower rates for life insurance.

The cost of life insurance, as is well known, is determined upon the basis of "the chances of life" at all ages as disclosed by carefully compiled mortality statistics. If it is a fact that the "chances of life" are affected by indulgence in alcoholic stimulants, the man who indulges is a less desirable "risk" than the total abstainer. It ought to follow, therefore, as a simple proposition in common equity that the man who habitually drinks alcoholic liquor should pay more for life insurance than the man who abstains. In other words, the total abstainers should not be required to pay a portion of the extra cost incident to carrying the "boozers" on the insured rolls.

## Are Britons Degerenerating?

Dr. Dwight J. Roberts, of Chicago, who is pursuing the study of his profession at the Brompton Chest Hospital in London, expresses the opinion that the English people are sinking into physical degeneracy. He said to a correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald: "The huddling of the masses in ancient and unsanitary tenements is in itself sufficient cause for a low moral condition, but added to this is the appalling prevalence of the alcohol habit, which is clearly as general among women and girls as among men and boys. Recently a great American evangelist invited me to accompany him to some of his east end meetings, and incidentally he visited a number of public houses in Whitechapel and Mile-End. There we were able to verify a statement previously made to us that more than half the patrons of those places were women and children. A prominent public-house keeper, who controls a dozen or more saloons in the locality, stated that sixty per cent. of his receipts came from women and children. He said that children of all ages came frequently to the saloons and purchased intoxicants in any quantity desired for their own use and for that of their elders, who were too drunk or inert to come."

## Campaign of Education.

One of the great church organizations of the United States is preparing for a national campaign of education for the temperance question. To awaken interest in the matter among church members, money prizes are to be offered for literature bearing on the question that will appeal to the voters of the country and to the children. The Sunday-schools, too, will have their competition for books as prizes. Among other things will be urged a judicious use of temperance literature in Sunday-schools and young people's bands, the organization of temperance societies, and the appointment of special secretaries to this branch, the holding of temperance meetings at least twice a year, and systematic contribution to the cause.

## A Sensible French Rule.

The French governor-director of railroads has written to the different societies opposing the use of alcohol, that all the Government roads have agreed to the following: First, to discharge all employees who persist in using spirits and wine while on duty; second, that all persons who continue to drink shall be dropped from the pension rolls of the company; and will not participate in the endowment funds in case of an accident. All restaurants on the roads are forbidden to sell spirits to the workmen.

## Four Drinks Kill Him.

Albert Rouleau, Philadelphia, aged nine years, entered a saloon and was inducted to take his first drink of intoxicating liquor. It was gin, and he begged for more. After swallowing four more in succession he suddenly collapsed on the floor, and soon breathed his last. His father is a well-to-do contractor and builder.—Canadian Royal Tmpar.

## The Crusade in Brief.

Alcohol is only a product of decay. While the pulpit pre's, the saloor votes.

The title deed of every lot in Sebring Ohio, contains a clause prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors. Drunkenness is not subsiding, certainly it is not at a standstill, but it is on an upward march, and it is double our rate for more. After swallowing four more in succession he suddenly collapsed on the floor, and soon breathed his last. His father is a well-to-do contractor and builder.—Canadian Royal Tmpar.