

In Death's Head Valley

By ANDREW BROSON

When Jessie's father, Simon Ogilvie, acquired his coffee estate on the summit of Santa Nita, Colombia, South America, in the central Andes, he knew little of the climate he was about to face, and Jessie knew less.

She was loved "passionately madly" by two men, "madly passionately" by seventeen others and quietly and undemonstratively by a twentieth. The two "passionate mad" adorners were Spanish-Colombians, Pedro and Fernando by name.

"He is so tame," she would say to her father. "He's a good deal of a man for all that," her father would reply, with a quiet smile.

Pedro and Fernando had been bosom friends till Jessie came. Then they immediately became bosom enemies. Twice under the cover of darkness had Pedro sought Fernando's life with his glittering forest knife. Thrice had Fernando hissed an awful vow straight into Pedro's face that the day he (Pedro) won the love of Jessie would be his last!

It was a May morning. After a night of equatorial thunderstorm, the sun was shining gloriously upon a world of green hill and forest, and far away in Venezuela gleamed the white heights of the Sierra Nevada wrapped in their mantle of eternal snow.

"Where are you going?" shouted the two ruffians as gently as possible.

"Where neither of you cowards will follow me," laughed the girl. "I would follow you to —"

"So would I!" yelled Fernando. "Where are you going?"

"To gather orchids in Death's Head valley," replied the girl, still smiling.

"The two men started and their brown faces turned a little pale. 'I saw a patch on one of the trees looking down from my window last evening, and I'm going to have it.' 'But it's certain death!' shouted the two men.

"Not it!" said Jessie. "I'll come back safely, you'll find." "You shan't go!" hissed Pedro, advancing, but Jessie fixed her brown eyes steadily upon him, and her right arm was raised slowly. She seemed about to brush him from her path, and he retreated with a muttered apology.

At that moment Jessie strolled on the lawn, ceremoniously raised his big linen cap and said in that elaborately courteous voice of his, "Good morning, Miss Jessie. Can I be of any use?"

"I am going for some orchids down in Death's Head valley," she said. "You can come with me if you are not afraid."

"I slept there last night," said Jessie calmly. Jessie gave a look at the other two, who were glaring with hate at her, then turned to the young American and started off with him down the hill.

Pedro hissed an oath at Fernando, who shouted back a curse. Then the two closed and fought each other with knives till Mr. Ogilvie came out and drove them away with a whip.

Only those who have been in Death's Head valley know what sort of a place it is. At the bottom of it the Rio Cauca runs rapidly along between its banks and bowlders, hissing and foaming and roaring, and in the quiet backwater of the river lie hungry alligators, waiting for something fleshy to take a snap at. Snakes of all lengths between

six inches and fifteen feet lie sleeping in the long, moist grass; mosquitoes in myriads buzz and sting; long lizards skurry up and down the smooth trunks of the trees, and the monotonous sss-k-rrr of the "scissor grinder" sounds all day in the thick roof of foliage overhead. It is not a nice place for a Sunday school picnic, and long before Jessie had reached the bottom she had begun to wish she hadn't come, but the calm young man beside her made her feel ashamed of owning up.

They walked beside the river, and little, lobsterlike black insects crawled up their limbs and gave both of them agony. They entered an open glade, and a ferocious snake suddenly reared up before them and was only dodged with difficulty, Algje giving him a crack on the head with his stick as he passed that left him powerless for all further malice in this world. Wherever they went they encountered fresh dangers, and all the while, unseen and unknown by either of them, a big leopard was stealthily dogging their steps, keeping artfully in the shadow, but with eyes that ever burned and glared—two circles of green malignant fire.

At last they reached the tree on whose topmost branches were blooming the orchids Jessie had seen.

"How high they are!" said the girl, looking up. "I thought the tree was quite a short one."

"Not too high for me," answered Algje, preparing to climb. "No, no; don't attempt it," cried the girl. "Half the branches seem rotten. You might fall and be killed."

"And what if I were? Who would miss me? Not a soul!" And he gave a short laugh that was a little bitter.

"Do you say that because I brought you down here?" asked Jessie slowly.

"I never dared to think of you as taking the smallest interest in me one way or the other."

"Why?" asked Jessie, making the soft eyes at him. And the leopard behind, seeing them thus absorbed in one another, crept a little nearer.

"Don't look at me like that!" cried Algje, as her face suddenly paled and her eyes opened wide with horror.

"Turn quickly," whispered Jessie. But she was too late. The beast was upon him, its claws in his shoulders, and its teeth in his neck. He turned and writhed, but the brute stuck to him; he gave the stick to Jessie, and, with scream upon scream, she struck it on the head again and again, while the blood poured down the lad's shoulders, and his strength was visibly ebbing away. At last she brought the cudgel down upon the animal's head with a force that broke its skull, and it relinquished its hold and fell to the earth dead, and Algje fell back upon it in a swoon.

Jessie knelt beside him, wiped the blood from his face and neck and bathed him with water from the river. Hour after hour passed, and though he opened his eyes and spoke to her he was utterly unable to rise. At last the sun set, the forest darkened, the lantern flies began to dart hither and thither and all the strange sounds of the night commenced. Then Jessie began to tremble, and a tear fell upon the lad's face.

"I feel as though I were dying," he murmured faintly.

"No," cried Jessie, and leaped to her feet. "Help! Help!" she screamed at the top of her voice. "Help! Help! Help!" And the echoes died away in the blackness of the night.

"Goodby," whispered Algje. "Will you kiss me once?"

She stooped and pressed her lips against his, and his head fell back. But he was not dead. Oh, dear, no! That kiss, with the magic force that a kiss may have, had revived him, put life into him, set the blood running fast once more, and presently he raised his head again and said:

"Jessie!" "Yes, darling."

"I believe I shall live."

"Thank God!" And she kissed him again.

Then came a great noise of men calling and a great flashing of big lamps and a wild cry in a woman's voice, and half an hour later Algje was being borne back to Santa Nita, his hand held by Jessie.

And sometimes now he tells his bouncing boys of the night he and their mother once spent in the Colombian forest. But Jessie listens to it with fear and trembling.—Chicago Tribune.

To Clean Oil Paintings.

An art journal suggests raw potatoes to clean oil paintings. Have a few potatoes at hand, each cut in halves; the fresh surface is dampened slightly with cold water and used to rub the canvas; as the potatoes show soil the surface is sliced off and the rubbing continued. This process will create a little lather, which should be wiped off as fast as it accumulates with a clean, damp sponge. When the whole canvas is cleaned, it should be washed over lightly with clean water, from which the chill is taken off, and finally the water lightly and carefully wiped off with an old clean silk handkerchief.

The scenic beauties of Niagara falls are to be increased this summer by a sign 280 feet long and 37 feet high which is to be placed on the Canadian side of the falls on the site of the burned Clifton House.—Philadelphia Ledger.

CONN BROTHERS'

Big Underselling Department Store.

The Heaviest Fall and Winter Stock Ever Handled by one Place of Business.

Owing to the misfortune that befell us at Dry Run, and having bought the entire Fall and Winter line for the Dry Run Store, which we were compelled to take from the Manufacturers, on which they allowed us a big discount, and having no way to dispose of them, we were obliged to

bring the entire stock to our Mercersburg store, which has so over-crowded our counters and shelves that we are forced to offer them at sacrifice prices to make goods move quicker than lightning. Our styles the latest, our fits the best, our selections the most tasteful; to please you is our

CLOTHING

a neat oxford mixture, no better value ever crowded into a suit, costing twice as much as this, but let competitors tell you we offer you this fine value as a bait; this is his only scheme for asking you so much more for this goods, our price \$7.50. Black clay worsted suits, in clay worsteds, we understand all so completely as to render them absolutely beyond the pale of anything conceivable; no wonder competition stands paralyzed. Just imagine, an all wool clay worsted suit \$5.98, others at \$6.50, \$7.50, \$9 and \$10 and a great many other suits to sell at the lowest possible prices. Space forbids description.

Yonth's and Boy's Suits.—Yes, our Fall and Winter line of youth's and boys' clothing is better, finer, cheaper and lower in prices than ever. Fine melton suit, same design as the men's, at \$1.75, an all wool cassimere same, as the men's \$2.50, fine all wool cassimere, same design as

men's, at \$3.50, fine all wool worsted, same design as men's, \$5, blue clay worsted same design as men's, from \$3 to \$10. Many other suits too numerous to mention at a very small price.

Children's Suits. We feel proud when we look at our new lot of Children's suits. Each garment has been prepared with the same amount of care for thought and consideration, that we bestow upon our men's suits. No parent can afford to over look our vest suits this season, embodying as they do all the newest styles among high price novelties. Fine worsted man's coat shaped collar, double breasted vest with shield to match the King Pin of our children's department running in price from \$1.25 to \$5. All wool cassimere light and dark ground or solid colors. Men's coat shape collar and piped single breasted vest button to the neck, from 90c to \$3.50.

OVERCOATS

We know it is easy to assert that we sell cheaper than any other clothier, but it's doing, not the saying, that counts in buying. Some time we may seem a trifle boastful, but what says extra values? Such values as we indeed offer this fall in overcoats, look behind our prices on the overcoats and you'll see quality and style in overwhelming proportion. Men's fine wool cassimeres, dark ground with oxford mixture velvet collars, cut extra long with a full back made with cuffs on sleeves, made and trimmed in the best manner, have you examined any of them yet? We hope you

have, for then you will appreciate how cheap in price ours are, these range at \$2.98, \$4.50, \$7.50, \$9 and \$11. Men's fine wool beaver, dark blue grounds velvet collars, piped fancy, cut extra long, etc. We are landing our competitors some pretty hard blows this season and here is one of them. We will offer them to you at \$3.98, \$5.50, \$7.50, \$10, \$12, and \$14. Men's Storm Overcoats with a large storm collar, lined throughout with heavy black sateen or plaid, there is comfort in every inch of these coats and a pretty good margin for you in the prices of them, going from \$4.98 to \$8.50.

If you are looking for a stylish overcoat at a low price visit us for the buying means more than your money's worth, for we have quite a number of overcoats that space forbids description that we will sell you at the lowest possible prices. Youth's Overcoats in wool cassimeres, wool beavers, same styles as men's, can be had from \$1.98 to \$8. Boys' and Children's Overcoats. In this line of coats, note the prices, you'll think you are in Klondike, you may have the same style as the boy's, or we will give you a Reefer Overcoat, a very stylish garment this fall, at the very lowest prices ranging from 98c to \$5.

HATS and CAPS

The right hat and cap for the right man, the wear of a hat or cap is important; so is the fit, but the style is the most important of all. There is a right hat or

cap for every one. A hat or cap that suits your figure, your complexion, as well as your head. Where would you expect to find that hat or cap the quickest? At

the store with the largest variety of Derbys and Soft Hats in any shape from 23c to \$3, caps, working or dress, from 12 cents to 50 cents.

Shoes and Boots.

We are gratified beyond expression at the manner in which our sales in this department have increased during the past six months, will admit it took some time to show the real value of our shoes to all comers, but thanks to our customers, for they helped us along in this matter, now they are so well pleased and the shoes proved so satisfactory that they passed the news to their neighbors, and so on until the reputation of our shoes became widely circulated; our struggle was a hard one but we won in the end and nothing now can sever us

from our purpose of selling our shoes cheaper than any other shoe merchant. To you, who have as yet never purchased a pair of our shoes, we feel you have made a big mistake, but you know the old adage, "It's never too late to learn," so profit by those who have bought of us, buy your next shoes of CONN BROS., whether it may be a man's, woman's or child's, and you will learn for yourself that we give you the same value much cheaper than you have ever gotten them elsewhere. Our men's line of shoes, ranging in price from 88c up to

\$3.98. Our boy's line of shoes ranging in price from 78c to \$3. Our children's shoes, ranging from 12c to \$1. Our ladies' line of shoes, ranging from 79c to \$3. These run in coarse or fine leather, lined, calf skin, etc., from the children's to the men's. Try a pair and you will have confidence in our prices and qualities.

BOOTS. In felt or rubber, children's, boy's or men's, we lead, never follow. No such values offered by any merchant, strictly first quality in every respect, ranging from \$1.68 up to

BLANKETS AND COMFORTS.

The vast amount of improve ment we have made in our fine white scarlet, wool and fancy bed blankets is owing to the fact that we recognize the advantage of handling hygienic woven process—treated, selected yarn bed blankets. We are in a position

to make the stand that our Comfortables from the cheapest to the most expensive can be relied on for warmth; we have made every preparation to guarantee their merits. Our prices are the lowest ever quoted on such high priced makes. Bed blankets

ranging from 48c up. Comfortables from 68c up, a full line of quilts and spreads. Horse blankets and Robes. In this line we present to our customers the best line of Horse blankets and Robes that it is possible for us to secure, ranging from 48c to \$5.

UNDERWEAR.

wish in underwear can be bought of us. Namely, children's, boy's and men's merino vests, and drawers 5c up. Boy's heavy fleeced lined shirts and drawers for 23c, childrens, boys and misses Jersey ribbed vests and drawers 23c, childrens, boys and misses fleeced lined union

suits, white or gray, 23c, Ladies' Jersey ribbed vests and drawers 15c, ladies' merino vests and drawers 39c, ladies, union suits 19c. Men's fleeced lined underwear 42c each. Men's, ladies', misses and childrens wool underwear, cassimere, natural or scarlet, from 23c up to \$2.48.

RUBBER GOODS.

lowest weight to the heaviest cloth, faunels of all descriptions. Underwear you can have your choice from 12c to \$1.23. TO YOU, HOUSEKEEPER: Carpets, rugs, oil cloth and linoleum, you will find the largest selection, the lowest prices at CONN BROTHERS, the grandest china and glass ware at the overcrowded store you admired, no matter what you desire in that line you will find in the big underselling store.

The NEWS does not allow any more space, but for your sake will introduce our new branch that we took off Dry Run's hands, that is a big line of harness, double and single, collars, pads, halters and whips; all these goods

We respectfully invite all visitors to institute to give us a call. We have a splendid LINE of Ladies' Coats and Dress Goods and Trimmings that we would like to show you, and our Shoe Stock will be very interesting to you. For the Gentlemen we have the Largest Line of Overcoats in the county, and you can not make a mistake in them. Our suits have been SELLING very FREELY, and we know we can please you. Shoes and Hats—newest STYLES and LOWEST prices. PLEASE CALL.

G. W. Reisner & Co.

THE FULTON COUNTY NEWS Covers the Field. In every part of the County faithful reporters are located that gather the daily happenings.

Then there is the State and National, News, War News, a Department for the Farmer and Mechanic, Latest Fashions for the Ladies. The latest New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia Markets. The Sunday School Lesson, Helps for Christian Endeavorers, and a Good Sermon for everybody.

THE JOB DEPARTMENT IS COMPLETE. SALE BILLS, POSTERS, DODGERS, BILL HEADS, LETTER HEADS, ENVELOPES, CARDS, &c.

In fact anything and everything in the best style along that line. Sample copies of the NEWS sent to any of your friends on request. ADVERTISE IN The Fulton County News.