A TERRIBLE RIDE

Lovely Lota La Grange, cuddled up in moose and bear skins, and I, Dick Lonsdale, started from home one winter morning in my 'Madawaska carriole,' a sleigh which is the perfection of locomotion.

We were bound to a merry sleighing party at Windy Gap farm—ostensibly to a hunt upon a vast scale, which accounted for my two rifles and ammunition lying in the sleigh, and for the noble deer hound, our third companion, who had curled up his great body at our feet and aided to keep them warm.

"Hurrah!" Through the keen, sonorous air, sleigh and horses bound along! "Cling-clang go the chiming bells. "Crick crack," goes the long thonged whip, with a sharp, cheery significance.

"Are you warm—quite snug, dear Lota?" said I, half turning to look at the rosy, exquisitive face peeping forth with so much furtive coquetry from its encadrement of white cozy furs.

"Oh, so comfortable," she answered, with a nestling movement and a smile which made my heart leap joyfully upward.

I had never (familiarly as we had grown, and I was "honest as the skin between your brows" as she was in fact)—I had never said "Dear Lota" before, and the words were yet in my ears like a dear old song. I loved her with all my heart and soul, but I had never told it. I yearned to tell her so now; but I thought it scarcely fair, not up to the mark of my manhood to take what seemed an unfair advantage of the protection I was supposed to extend over her. I magnanimously resolved to wait.

"We are very long, I fancy," she said, after a while, "you have driven there quicker than this before." Oh, heaven," she cried, with the suddenness of revelation, "can we have lost the track?"

A cold chill seized me. I looked around the horizon, but beheld no friendly sign; it was only a circle gathering closer and darker the while. Suddenly my brave deer-hound lifted up his head and uttered a low growl. The horses gave a startled swerve just as suddenly. A strange lugubrious but appaling sound came all at once from windward, wailing like a death cry—a prolonged, awful groaning discordance—over the white gleaming snow: and then it died away.

The horses halted tremblingly. Only the shivering tinkle of the bells broke the death like silence that fell like an eclipse over all.

Again the indescribably hideous and lugubrious sound broke forth, clearer, nearer. It increased; it multiplied. The horrible crescendo howling, shrieking and ravening was not that of the wind this time.

"Oh, merciful God!" gasped Lota, "the wolves!"

I never understood till that moment what the concentrated essence of literal, deadly horror might mean. To have lost the way was terrible enough. But the wolves and Lota! For an instant I was numb and dumb.

As the infernal howl rose, lingeringly, again the horses darted away with a shrill neigh of fear, but I guided them—beginning to recover myself—in an opposite direction.

If my good horses had gone on so admirably at first, they sped off now like arrows from the bow, for the madness of fear added wings to their speed, as that of hunger did to our panting pursuers.

I had two rifles, a revolver, ammunition, a spear and a wooden hatchet in the sleigh. I conveyed my intention to Lota.

"Can you load these weapons with those cartridges?" I asked.

"Yes," was the answer, and she loaded them with true hunter's skill. I took one rifle, looked back, the pack was increasing. I fired and Lota loaded: and one after another fell, to be devoured by their ravenous comrades; and still the horses sped on.

The accursed things were, for all this, gaining ground. Doubts, fears, hopes, tremblings, were at my heart as I turned to the sweet girl whose life or death were all to me, and said

"Lota, if we die together, remember that I love you—none but you. I tell it to you now, if I never may again."

"Kill me first," she whispered. "I hear your words—I echo them. You have my heart, Richard—"

"Oh, Lota, best loved, what a moment to confess! and I know not if I feel pain or gladness most."

"There are no secrets between us," said Lota, smiling. "Take this rifle; give me—the pistol; one kiss—so! they come! Save me from them at any cost."

I thought my ears would have split at their dreadful yells, for they were now upon us, opening out to surround us, and though the horses held bravely on, I dreaded every instant that sheer terror would paralyze them.

With lolling tongues, eyes of flame, hoarse, deep growls, they had ceased to bay and howl they were closing in upon us. I remarked one huge monster in advance of the rest, his object evidently being to leap into the sleigh from behind. I fired, and missed him! The next moment his huge bulk came scrambling over the back; his paws were on me: his fiery breath on my cheek, and I expected as I murmured a short prayer, to feel the fangs of the abhorrent brute in my flesh.

A flash!—a crash!—a gush of blood—and the creature tumbled backward, shot through the throat to the spine by brave Lota! Then I plied the hatchet, and split skull after skull, while the sleigh tore on; but I was giving up all hope, and turning around—oh heaven! to spare my darling a more hideous fate—when shots and shouts rang around, the troops of dogs and hunters came swiftly to our aid.

Providence had directed our sleigh to Windy Gap; our firing had reached the ears of our friends, and brought them out in hot haste to aid us. We were saved!

It was the prelude to a wedding, which occurred soon afterward; and you may be sure I never forgot my fight with the wolves or the somewhat original but very apropos made in which I told my love.

How Men Drink Farms

The *Observer*, in a characteristic way, tells how men "drink farms":

My homeless friend with the chromatic nose, while you are stirring up the sugar in that ten-cent glass of gin let me give you a fact to wash it down with. You say you have for years longed for the free, independent life of the farmer, but have never been able to get enough money together to buy a farm. But that is just where you are mistaken. For several years you have been drinking a good improved farm at the rate of one hundred square feet a gulp. If you doubt this statement, figure it out yourself. An acre of land contians forty-three thousand five hundred and sixty square feet. Estimating, for convenience sake, the land at $3.50 per acre, you will see that brings the land to just one mill per square foot, one cent for ten square feet. Now pour the fiery dose, and imagine you are swallowing a strawberry patch. Call in five of your friends and have them help you gulp down that five hundred foot garden. Get on a prolonged spree some day, and see how long a time it require to swallow a pasture large enough to feed a cow. Put down that glass of gin; there's dirt in it—one hundred square feet of good, rich dirt, worth $43.56 per per acre.

The Kind of Boy Who Never Drowns

If you have a boy named Bill, or Bud, or Sam, or Tom, you need not fear that he will be drowned during the swimming season. The boy who has a plug name, and whose hair stands up straight like a bazle brush, and who has stone bruises on his feet, is not in danger of drowning. But if your son has curly hair, and if he wears shoes in summer, and has a pretty name, you had better let him swim in a washbowl.

'Mr Jones,' said little Johnny to the gentleman who was making an afternoon call, 'can whiskey talk?'

'No, my child; how came you to ask such a question?'

'Oh! nothing, only ma said whiskey was beginning to tell on you'

A young man named Turn married a cousin of the same name, on the ground that one good Turn deserves another.

Wonderful Cures.

W. D. Hoyt & Co., Wholesale and Retail Druggists of Rome, Ga., says: We have been selling Dr. King's New Discovery, Electric Bitters and Bucklen's Arnica Salve for two years. Have never handled remedies that sell as well, or give such universal satisfaction. There have been some wonderful cures effected by these medicines in this city. Several cases of pronounced Consumption have been entirely cured by use of a few bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery, taken in connection with Electric Bitters. We guarantee them always.

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IT IS WONDERFUL

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Probably to no disease have physicians given more study, and none has more completely baffled their efforts to provide a specific; and until Athlophoros was discovered there was no medicine which would surely cure rheumatism, neuralgia and nervous or sick headache. Thousands of testimonials like the following prove beyond question that Athlophoros is the only reliable remedy, and that it will do all that is claimed for it.

Catskill, Green Co., N. Y.
August 19, 1886.

I can recommend the Athlophoros to anybody that is in want of it. It has cured my mother who has had neuralgia all her life and also rheumatism. She says she is all free from pain now, and will not be without a bottle for twice the price. I gave a bottle to my brother who had neuralgia in the bowels and it fixed him in a few days. FRANK EDWARDS.

Rouses Pt., Clifton Co., N. Y.
August 18th, 1886.

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R. HEATON.

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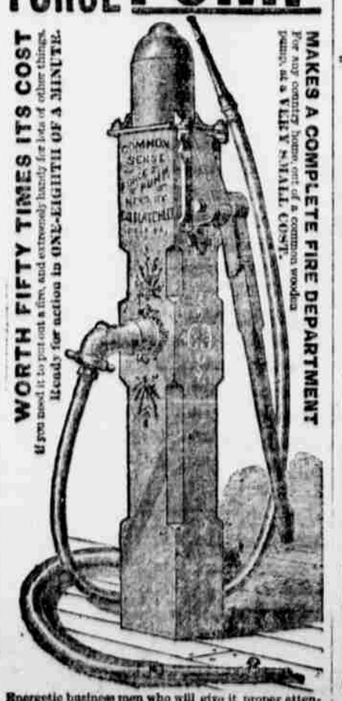

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