

tario. My heart would then grow strong within me, and my will would again become set upon the accomplishment of my mission.

"One hot afternoon, as Clark and I were returning after a long tramp, coming along the dusty trail close to the rushing waters of a mountain torrent, we saw an Indian some distance ahead of us carrying on his back, a sack. There was nothing unusual in this, so our attention did not become fixed; but looking up in a few minutes, I noticed that the Indian had disappeared. Just then shrieks came up the valley and we both started on the run to see what mishap had befallen the Indian. As we reached the spot where last we had seen him, we saw where he had stumbled and fallen down the embankment into the wild and foaming torrent. I rushed to the water's edge, and in a few seconds I saw the Indian's head appear above the surface. Not once doubting my swimming abilities, I threw off my hat and coat and plunged in to rescue the drowning man. After a hard and tedious struggle, I succeeded in bringing him close to the shore, when Clark jumped in and relieved me of my burden. We lifted the Indian, in an unconscious state, up on dry land; and, after considerable work, succeeded in reviving him. The Indian took two or three copious drafts from a flask which I carried in my pocket, and soon recovered.

"We all three partook of some hard biscuits which we had, and soon the Indian told us that he had discovered a rich claim back some miles in the unexplored regions of the mountains. He said that he had gathered together

a quantity of the gold bearing rock, and that he was proceeding toward Cripple Creek when the accident befell him. He appeared to be very grateful to us for having saved his life; and, after some further conversation, we decided to return and investigate the Indian's claim, which afterwards became so famous as the Independence Mine.

"We found the Indian's word to be correct. The rock was rich in gold, and there appeared to be an unlimited quantity. After some bargaining the Indian agreed to accept \$500 for his claim. We then proceeded to the Registrar of Mining Claims' Office; and, after securing our claim, paid the Indian the sum agreed upon. He departed thanking us most earnestly for what we had done for him.

"We were now filled with hope, and soon we had got together a rough miner's outfit of implements and proceeded to our claim. We pitched our tent; and, as it was the 4th of July, we christened our claim the "Independence." Soon we were busily engaged in blasting out the rock, and our fondest expectations were outdone. We gathered together a few sacks of the richest ore, and took them to the mining camp, which soon became excited over our rich discovery.

"It was not long before the fame of the Independence Mine had reached Denver, and many a tempting offer did we receive to sell out. One of these came by post and was from Max Strauss, the wealthy mining broker of Denver, who represented the Rothschilds in Colorado. Both Clark and I were nearly dazzled by the sudden