

had entered near the shoulder-blade, but there were evident signs of a bullet having glanced from the shoulder-blade. I looked up, but did not speak. It was evident that Clement saw in my face what he knew already.

"And now you will see that my bullet pierced his heart," said Clement.

Looking down again, I saw, close to the region of the heart, a wound where a bullet had entered, that must have caused death so suddenly and instantaneously that it had scarcely drawn any blood. There was no longer any doubt on my mind, and I felt thoroughly convinced.

"And now," continued Clement, addressing me, "now that you have not been able to prove your words, you shall either retract them, or you shall account to me for them."

"I acknowledge that I am wrong, Clement," said I, bitterly, for his arbitrary manner irritated me; but you must learn that I am not to be intimidated into retracting my words."

"Then you shall not leave this place alive!" As he spoke these words, he raised his rifle slowly to his shoulder, and pointed it at me. I saw by his determined look that he meant what he said, yet I was not afraid. Leaning my rifle against the stem of a tree, I folded my arms and confronted him.

"If you wish to commit murder," I said, "you may do so. I shall not protect myself."

Clement lowered his rifle, and then said, in an icy tone that froze my blood, "No; I do not wish to murder you, but you shall give me satisfaction in fair fight for the insult you have put upon me."

"As you please," I said.

"You will be good enough," he continued, "to take up your position with your rifle behind the palm-tree near which you stand, while I place myself behind the one near me; but stay," he continued, "should our