

ammunition and knives and you know that there were quantities of all kinds of game, so we did not suffer for want of anything to eat. After we had left Natchez a week, the bloodhounds came up with us and we had a terrible fight with them. Our owners were several miles in the rear, as is often the case, so we killed every one of the hounds with our long knives and heavy clubs. We did not use our guns, fearing that our owners would locate us. We had no more trouble after that and I have no idea what our owners thought when they discovered all the dogs dead. After the hounds were destroyed we made the best time we could away from there and crossed the river again the same night. We had no idea where we were." "Well, Green," said the soldier, "you need not be afraid now. Legal slavery has passed away for ever and that is the reason you see so many of us in arms to sustain the cause of the Government of the United States." Green and his mates were too much surprised to credit it at first. The soldiers camped in that vicinity and by numerous visits to the camp the slaves were firmly convinced that they were free indeed. So the eight black men who had dwelt among the mountains twenty years learnt that they were no longer goods and chattels, but free men. Oh, how thankful those eight men were to receive the glorious news! Something that they had never heard of before. They danced, they sung and made the old woods ring with the echoes of their merry voices.