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make er siggestshun, et seems ter me thet Juan ez tu pizen a cuss tu own er fiddle ez good ez thet one; so I say let's buy her uv him—reg'lar auction fashun, an' I offers ten ounces fer it!"

"The't's right, Bill!" "Bully fer Bill Ainsworth!" "The't's ther medisun fer ther greaser!" "Will yu take ten ounces, Juan? Talk quick. Sabe?"

"Car-r-r-amba! Maledictos! No. I no sell him. Gringo diablos. I spit upon ze hombre and ze ten onzas!"

"Oh-h-h! Yu du, eh? Waal, et's a purty good fiddle. Mebbe she's reely worth more, tho' I'll sw'ar yu stole it. I'll give yer fifteen ounces."

"No take fit'n onzas! No sell!"

"Twenty ounces, yu greaser! Yu shan't say we stole her frum ye, or cheated ye eyther! But we'll hev thet fiddle ef we has tu hang yer first. Sabe?"

"No sell. No take twenty onzas."

"Oh-h-h! Yu won't, eh? Waal, thar's thirty; an' thar, Mister Ames (snatching the instrument from the Mexican's hands and passing it to Bob), is yer fiddle, pursented yer by ther cityzuns uv Murphy's Gulch 'after a fa'r an'

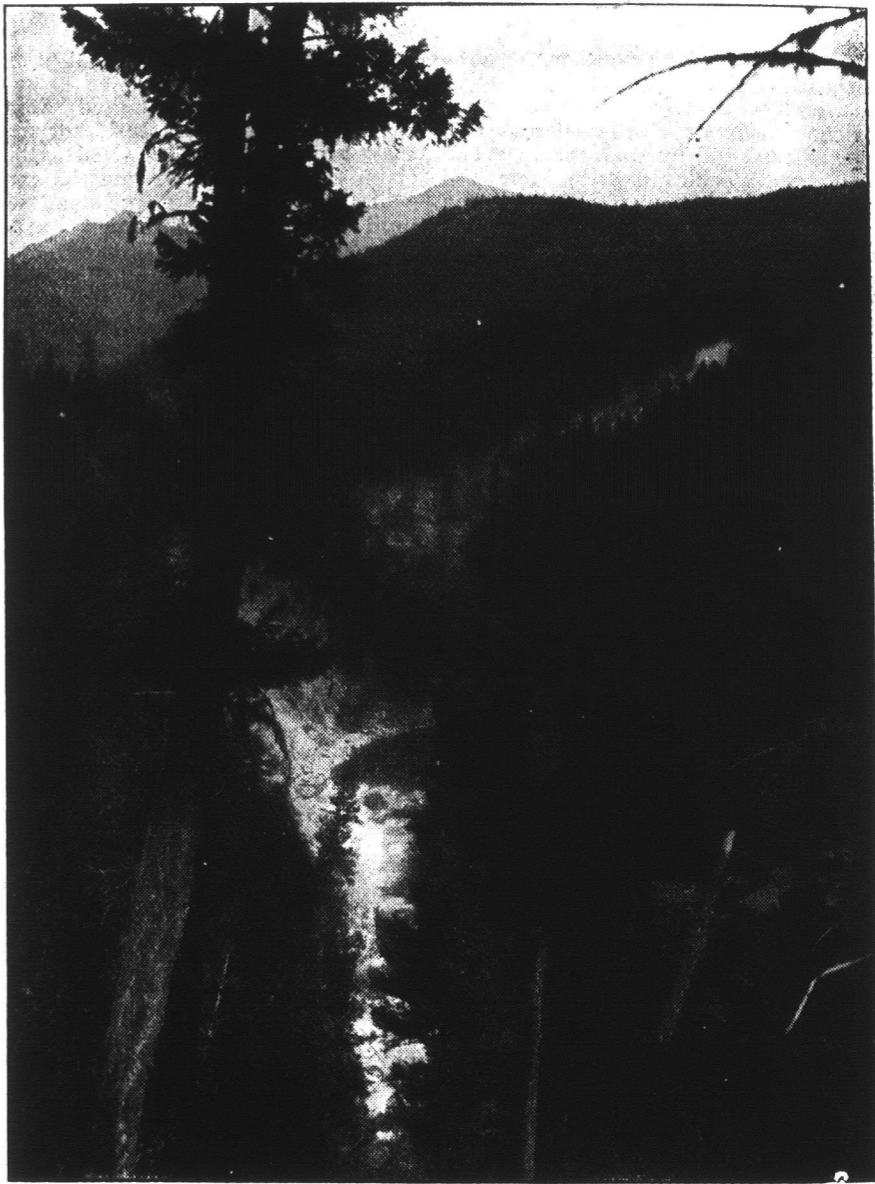
ed him, while others unbuckled his knife and revolver belt. Then he was taken out through the darkness to a deserted cabin to await further developments. Sandy McIntyre knelt by the motionless form on the floor and gently unbuttoned the gray waistcoat to see w.ere the bullet had gone in. The circle around him were anxiously awaiting his verdict, when someone said, "Hyar's the 'Angel,' boys;" and a beautiful woman appeared in the doorway. As Sandy looked up and caught her eye, she said gently, "Who is it? How did it happen?"

"A stranger, Kate; his name is Ames. Frum New York, I reckon. He wuz makin' music fer us an' thet damned little greaser got ugly because he seed he wa'n't no 'count enny more ez ar fiddler, an' let daylight inter him."

"Poor boy! Is he badly hurt, dear?"

"Waal, et's a leetle hard to say. Ef he war'n't a tenderfoot he'd be out in er week or so alright; but, yer see Kate, he's soft yet, an' ther lead prob'ly went in sorter deep."

"Well, he can't stay here, and it



Elk Canyon.

squar' raffle. An', stranger, ef travelin' hain't made yer tu tired, won't yer jes' rastle the rest uv thet thar las' chune?"

The proceedings seemed rather high-handed to Ames, but border sentiment appeared to be on Bill's side and he saw no better way out of the unpleasantness. So, leaning against the bar, he was just raising the bow to play again, when there was a loud report, followed by a sense of numbness in his side and, while he was wondering what had happened, he pitched headlong to the floor. Just as consciousness was leaving him, he heard (miles away, it seemed) some one say: "Cursed Gringo diablo! He nevere play fiddle enny more!" and an answering growl—so very faint and distant—"Mebbe he won't, greaser, but yer won't be hyar tu find out!" Then the world went out in darkness.

As he fell, Bill Ainsworth caught the violin from his hand and passed it to the barkeeper, who with ready comprehension hid it away in a safe. A pair of heavy hands crept round the Mexican's throat and chok-

won't hurt him to be moved now. Bring him right home. I'll run on ahead and fix up a bunk in the kitchen. If there's a fresh pony in the Gulch one of you boys had better ride over to Camp White Reservation for the doctor. Major Harvey will give you a fresh mount and you can get back by Saturday morning."

"I'll go, 'Angel'." "Me tu." "An' me." "Ho! on thar, Tommy; 'Angel' don't want no army uv us. Me'n' Bill'll start righter way."

The citizens of Murphy's Gulch felt that the shooting of Bob Ames was not only a stain upon their fair name as a law-abiding camp, but that all hope of rudimentary civilization was lost to them if strict justice were not visited upon the offender.

Juan was kept under a close guard for several days until the army surgeon, who remained as a guest in the camp, could pronounce definitely upon Ames' chance of recovery. The doctor was a specialist in gunshot wounds and his diagnosis was usually correct, so when he announced that Bob could scarcely live through the

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