

## HOSS AVERY'S TRIBUTE

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down ag'in' a tree and went to sleep. The boys come back on the road a'ter the noon spell, and found me settin' ag'in' the tree, and *it* layin' on the snow, and Gray Billy a-shiverin' whenever anybody come a-nigh him. The hoss got along purty good, but was always a bit tetchy a'ter thet knifin' business. He never feared me none, though. Jules war n't dead, which were no fault of mine, but Gray Billy's.

"I recollect' layin' in the cabin thet night, listenin' to the kettle bilin' and the baby chirrupin' and Nanette movin' round. She come in whar I was and see I was some easier than when they fetched me home. 'Bud,' she says, 'you al'mos' keel Jule.' 'Reckon I have,' says I. 'Ain't he dead yit?' She did n't say nothin' to thet. 'You seen Billy's shoulder?' says I. 'Oui, Bud,' she says. Thet was all. A woman kin understand some things without talkin' 'most as good as a hoss kin. But Billy were onlucky. Jules he pulled through — them kind allus does — and went up into Canady ag'in — Northwest Territ'ry this time. Spring come and I got so 'st I could see outen my good eye. One evenin' Nanette she fetched in a bunch of them flowers, the white uns, and fixed 'em up on the table. I reckoned thet was sign thet Jule hed got well. It came along to rain about sundown, and I started