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A WOMAN'S BRAVERY.

A FEARFUL NIGHT WITH STRANGE COMPANIONS.

How the Notorious "Croppy" of King's County Received His Name—Found Under a Bed and His Ears Cropped by Two Indians.

There still stands beside the old post road the upper part of the parish of Cardwell, Kings county, the plain one-and-a-half story house where occurred 50 years ago the remarkable incident I am about to relate. At that day, the settlements of the province were small and scattered, with wide forests between. The old farm house referred to was the only dwelling within a radius of a mile. It was in December and the ground was already covered with snow, while the sky gave premonition of another storm, when the master and mistress took their departure to pay a visit to some friends five miles away with the purpose of staying over night. Having no children they had taken to live with them some years before, as an adopted daughter, a respectable girl whose name was Susan. On the present occasion it chanced that she was left as the sole occupant of the house to take care of some farm stock and keep fires until the return of her master and mistress.

Susan was now a comely young woman of eighteen years, robust in health, cheerful in spirits and possessed not only of amiable temper, but rich in "saving common sense," and, I may add, courage. She was not of the kind who scream at the sight of a mouse, but would not have hesitated in an emergency to do battle for her poultry pets against the most savage loupcevier which roamed the woods and endangered the farmer's stock. She had no fears of being left alone, as she had often been before without harm or danger. For a time she busied herself with feeding the cows, pigs and poultry, and carrying water to the horses from the well beside the door, and then entering the house cheerfully busied herself preparing her evening meal.

There was danger nearer than she thought, for while she had employed herself thus unsuspectingly, a black figure observing her, but unobserved, had stealthily crept into the house, passed up-stairs and there concealed himself. He knew she was alone. The custom of the country was both to retire and rise early, and Susan was about to cover the fire on the old-fashioned hearth with ashes and betake her to bed, when she was somewhat startled by a knocking at the door. It was now snowing heavily and a strong wind was driving the falling snow fitfully against the windows as she peered out to assure herself as far as might be of the kind of visitors that had approached. She dimly saw the forms of two men, whose knocking was repeated. Her position was a peculiar one. She was not without concern, but the instinct of hospitality, which were very strong in the hearts of the earlier settlers, triumphed, and opening the door she bade them enter. Her uppermost thought was that two belated travellers distant from any other house sought a shelter from the storm and she had not the heart to refuse them. What was her surprise and alarm as they came in and she saw before her two tall, stalwart, young Milicete Indians! Their clothes and hats were covered with snow, and each carried in hand a pair of snowshoes. Under other circumstances and in the daytime the visit of Indians would not have been alarming or even embarrassing, for the Indians were friendly with the settlers. They respectfully saluted her and she knew well enough that the most prudent course was to show no fear, however much she might have felt it. They humbly craved permission to remain over night and sleep by the open kitchen fire. Should she refuse to grant the permission? Did she but know it, a momentous issue hung on her decision. She even hesitated to let them know, what they did not know, that she was alone in the house. Again her courage and hospitality, reinforced by that inward prompting we may not know, decided the case. She granted them permission to stay, and the result was, as we shall see, not uneventful. Leaving the strange visitors to the comfort of the glowing fire, she took the candle and went up-stairs to her chamber, fastening the stairway door securely behind her, with some slight feeling of trepidation not unnatural to even a brave girl under the circumstances.

As she opened her chamber door, the light shining into the room and under the edge of the bed at its farthest side, what was her surprise and horror to see extended upon the floor the huge black hand of a man! She did not scream; she gave no outward symptom of her startled feelings, but with quick decision closed the door and descended to the kitchen. In that swift moment she had intensely grasped the situation and decided upon her course. She saw as if by intuition,—or by revelation, which?—the Indians as her rescuers and deliverers. She knew the natural antagonism between the two races, and momentarily rejoiced that there were two friends to match against the one demonic enemy. The quick ears of the Indians detected her returning footsteps before she had regained the kitchen, and as she entered, candle in hand, they sprang to their feet with eager inquiring glances as they saw the startled look of her pale face.

"There's a man—a nigger—in my room," she whispered, hoarsely. Instantly all the native savagery of the Indian nature gleamed in eye and countenance, and quick as thought two knives flashed in the firelight as they sprang toward the door of the stairway. She saw murder in their faces and recoiled from the thought. Quicker even than their alert movement she sprang between them and the door. "You will not kill!" she cried. They hesitated, but answered not, standing respectfully with downcast eyes, but evidently all unwilling to be foiled of their quick and bloody resolve. She held her position, her one thought to prevent, if possible, a dreadful tragedy, the moment of which was impending, and not till the knives were returned to their sheaths, and she had exacted a promise that they would not kill, would she make way.

At the moment the negro was listening at the head of the stairs, and had caught

the fact that his plot was foiled, rescue at hand, and his own life in peril. The door was flung open, and with swift but stealthy steps the Indians were already on the stairs, when a rush was made from above, and, in a moment, Indians and negro were struggling in a confused heap on the floor at the foot of the stairs. Susan had sprung to the other side of the fireplace, seized the large poker, and, with every nerve strained to its utmost tension, watched the dreadful struggle. There were oaths and curses in negro-English mingled with less intelligible Indian cries as for what seemed life or death, with panting breath and tense muscles the terrible strife progressed. The one thought of the negro was to escape—by what means he cared not—from the grasp of the Indian avengers. They, still mindful of their promise, wished to eject and afterwards punish him. And so after a minute that seemed an hour of the terrible conflict, the outside door was thrown open and the struggle renewed amid the falling snow.

It was of brief duration. Two terrible demonic shrieks from the negro, and some exulting shouts from the Indians were the chief sounds heard by Susan, and then—silence. The Indians re-entered the kitchen, savagely triumphant, and each threw upon the hearth a bloody ear! They looked to Susan as though expectant of approval, and one of them said, through his still quick breathing, half apologetically, "We did not kill—we marked him." She saw at once, in a terribly realistic way, what had been done, and in her heart, with mingled feelings of gratitude and dismay, could not express her disapproval.

Little was said. It is not in the stolid Indian nature to be garrulous at such a time, and Susan, the excitement of the struggle over, was too much overcome for speech. She hastily thanked her deliverers and retired to her room, but not to sleep. When, in the early morning, she descended, the Indians had gone, bearing with them their savage trophies, and only the blood-stains on the snow and their moccasins tracks to tell of the horrors of the night that had passed.

The negro lived, and for some years, known as "Croppy," was a terror of the region roundabout. At length, for a capital crime, such as he had contemplated on this memorable night, he was convicted and hanged in front of the jail, at the old shiretown of King's county.

Of Susan, it may be related briefly, that a few years later she was married to the man of her choice, in an adjoining county, where she became the mother of a large family of sons and daughters, widely and favorably known throughout their native province. She has now passed to her honored rest, beloved, esteemed and respected by all who knew her. The one notable incident in her life, as above truly detailed, is still repeated among the few remaining who were contemporaries of the occurrence, though it has never before appeared in print.

LUCY PINES.

An Interesting Anniversary.

The Congregational Union of England and Wales, representing 4,300 churches, will meet in London on Monday evening, 14th inst., commencing its sessions in Memorial hall, a splendid stone building which cost about half a million of dollars. Among the leading men of the denomination, who are expected to take part in the annual meeting, the following are named: Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, who is an eminent pulpit orator, clear and incisive in utterance; Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, of Brighton, who has taken so active a part in preparation for the celebration of the bi-centenary of 1688; Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker, of the City Temple church, London; Rev. Dr. MacFayden, of Manchester, a mellifluous and charming preacher; Rev. J. B. Guinness Rogers, of London (a descendant of John Rogers, the martyr), who resembles the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone in figure and in speech; and the Rev. Charles Berry, of Wolverhampton, the rising preacher who declined the call to become successor to the late Rev. H. W. Beecher. There will be delegates from Scotland, Ireland, the colonies, and the United States. Rev. J. B. Sacer, of St. John will be one of the Canadian representatives. The general English public will have more than ordinary interest in this annual meeting, owing to the fact that in addition to the discussion of the religious work of the denomination, the union will make arrangements for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the revolution of 1688, on the ground that the Congregationalists of the seventeenth century did so much towards the origination of the system of responsible government and the accomplishment of this revolution; and also on the ground that the revolution of 1688 put an end to the struggle for enforced religious uniformity, gave religious liberty, and paved the way for the possibility of religious equality.

Viewed in a Rational Light.

The exodus of our young men has been a subject of much anxious investigation by our political economists, and has also led to unlimited newspaper controversy. We consider this "exodus" as far from an "unmixed evil," and that in many cases it has resulted in good. Change of scene, contact with our enterprising neighbors, new trials, and new conquests, must have expanded the young men's minds, and transformed them from "happy-go-lucky" individuals into pushing business men. They soon discover that other countries, without a title of the natural advantages of their own, are rendered by enterprise living hives of industry, and many of them eventually return home filled with work and ambition, and this is soon made manifest by improvements in their old neighborhoods. In Germany and other of the much-enlightened countries of Europe travel was considered such an important part of the education, not only of the rich, but of the poor, that all apprentices to trades had to devote some years in roaming before settling down to their vocations. The late Sir Wm. Young was such a hearty traveler, and he is told he jokingly advocated sending the members of our provincial legislature for a trip through the states at the public expense, wisely intimating that the knowledge acquired would result in a vast amount of good to the province.—Halifax Critic.

LODGE-ROOM ECHOES.

Knights of Pythias.

"Number 6," of Fredericton, instituted May 4, is thus excellently officered: J. D. Fowler, C. C.; Chas. H. Thomas, V. C.; Albert E. Wilson, prelate; A. D. McPherson, K. of R. & S.; John Harvey, jr., M. of F.; W. S. Hooper, M. of E.; Geo. A. Hughes, M. at A.; Samuel Mackay, I. G.; W. N. Berry, O. G.; Harry Beckwith, P. C.

The New England knights who go to the Supreme lodge session will leave Boston Saturday, June 9, about 8 o'clock p. m.—by special train if 150 tickets are sold; arrive at Cincinnati Monday morning, at 7 o'clock; stop in that city until Friday morning, reaching Boston Saturday afternoon. The tickets for the round trip, including railroad fares, hotel and board, baggage and other incidental expenses, are \$27, with promise of rebate if fares are further reduced, or if 200 tickets or more are sold. Sleeping cars and meals en route are not included. This will give four days in Cincinnati.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The increasing interest in the Massachusetts Odd Fellows' home promises an early consummation of that humane enterprise. Subordinate branches of the order are contributing liberally in its behalf. There are 36,000 Odd Fellows in Massachusetts, 8,800 of whom belong to the encampment.

"Canton La Tour" held a special cantonment, Wednesday evening. A goodly number was present and much enthusiasm was evinced in the various drill movements. On Wednesday next they will again meet for the installation of officers for the ensuing year and the transaction of other important business.

The various lodge meetings, in this city and vicinity, are being well attended and initiations are taking place in one or other each week. Quite an excitement is being worked up among the order in anticipation of the expected visit of brethren from across the border.

Lieut.-Gen. John C. Underwood, of the Patriarchs Militant, has issued Special Bulletin No. 1, promulgating the acts of citizens and officials of Cincinnati, Ohio, and upon which, as a basis, general orders will hereafter issue, convening the Military council, and ordering inter-department competitive drill, etc. From this it appears that the citizens of Cincinnati have raised \$7,000 for the purpose of securing the holding of the council in that city during July, 1888; and that prizes to the value of more than \$3,000 are promised. The programme for the competitive drills will be published and promulgated from 45 to 60 days in advance of the drill.

Sons of Temperance.

The Grand division of Prince Edward Island has 45 divisions with a membership of 1,900 and a treasury balance of \$530.

Queen's division, No. 21, Gagetown, has recently received a large number of members, as many as five being initiated in one night a short time since. The meetings are well attended and spirited debates form an important feature in the way of entertainments.

The Grand Division of New Brunswick held its semi-annual session with Granite Rock of Carleton, Tuesday and Wednesday, 200 delegates being in attendance. Grand Scribe Thomson reported that since the last annual meeting, and up to March 31, two divisions were organized—Princess Louise, in Albert county, and Bulmer, in Moncton, Westmorland county. So far, returns received showed the number of persons initiated to be 1,237; joined by card, 36; reinstated, 84; withdrawn, 305; suspended, 364; expelled for violation of pledge, 81; expelled for other causes, 41; deaths, 22; violated pledge, 124. In Upper Caracquet he organized the first branch of the order in that locality. The new division was named Caracquet. Besides, there were three new sections of cadets of temperance organized. Grand Treasurer Whittaker's report showed a balance of \$368.15.

Independent Order of Good Templars. Peerless District lodge will meet in triennial session on the 24th inst., in Finch door lodge room, German street, commencing at 2 p. m.

The 18th annual session of the Grand lodge of New Brunswick will be held at Moncton, July 17.

Sirion lodge has elected officers with Harry Bartlett, C. T.; Thos. E. Irvine, secretary; C. Powers, S. J. T.

Golden Grove lodge, which will soon enter its new hall, at the last meeting elected officers with Robert Irwin, C. T., and Miss Bessie Adams, secretary.

Loyal Orange Association.

The regular monthly meeting of York County lodge, L. O. A., will be held at Magundy, Tuesday. Grand Master Armstrong, of St. John, with other grand officers and members of the fraternity from Fredericton will proceed to the place of meeting by boat on that day.

Royal Templars of Temperance.

The Fredericton Royal Templars held an open council at their hall, last Monday evening. A musical and literary programme was provided and addresses were made by Dr. Barker, Hon. Wm. Lindsay, H. C. Creed and others.

Marriage of Two Midgets.

A notable wedding occurred at Livermore, Ky., at 8 o'clock last evening. Mr. G. A. Algood, of Owensboro, Ky., who is only four feet in height, was married to Miss Minnie Dewitt, of Livia, Ky., who is several inches shorter in stature. Mr. Algood is one of the substantial men of the county, and has been Assessor of Davies County for twelve years past. Miss Dewitt is 23 years of age and is a beauty in miniature. Her many accomplishments have rendered her a rare favorite in society, which she has filled a conspicuous place. A grand reception has been prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Algood to-morrow.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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IN THE FOLLOWING REPERTOIRE:

Table listing plays and dates: MONDAY and TUESDAY - VICTOR MONALDINI; WEDNESDAY - FRANCESCA DI RMINI; THURSDAY - OTHELLO; FRIDAY - THE MOUNTAIN COURIER; SATURDAY - THE FOOL'S REVENGE

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