ROMANCE OF SIX-MILE CREEK.

A Story of the Selkirk Mountains.

If there had been anyone but themselves there to see and hear, it would have been easily discovered that there was a serious difference either of opinion or sentiment, and possibly, indeed, the control of the seath of the seat

the army of civilization in its invasion of the wilderaess.

They knew little of the comforts and still less of the poetry of life, and to them the world was just a place to live and work in, perhaps also to love and marry in, but just now that didn't seem so very likely as it had done a day or two back. Tom was working on the line, and Alice was helping her mother, who was generally believed to be a widow, in suite, of the lack of direct testimony on her own part, to manage the little geteral store which supplied the wants of the little colony of workpeople that the building of this section of the line had concentrated for the rime being at Six Milo tree.

The words inst reached Tom's ear as he strode away down the path. He stopped for an instant and clenchied his firsts hard, but he didn't turin back. If he had done it might have back. If he had done it might have back. If he had done it might have would never have had its solitary romance to talk about, for the bitter word had searcely escaped her lips when the tears sprang to her eyes, and the hot anger was drived from her heart by a swift, cold chill which made her catch her breath sharply and wonder's why the darkness had alien so sudden't over the snow stopes in front of her. But Fom about six months, and formally engaged for three, but just now it looked as though the engagement was going to have a termination very, different from that which both of them had in their hearts, and despite outward seeming, honestly and fervently desired.

The crase of the difference was a commonplace, but none the less effectual one. A party of three surveyors had been located for a little over a fortnight at Six Mile Creek, and one of these, a good-looking young Englishman, whose town ways grated sorely on the simplicity of Tom's more primitive nature, had comnitted the offence of making himself conspicuously rould be an added to that, though sever critics would hardly call her pretty, still there was really nothing in it, and it was perfectly natural, for Alice was almos

the was perfectly natural, for Alice was almost the only girl in the settlement of a tarkable age and disposition, and was a mission on the control of the c

guperiativeness of the charms which could inapire such adeouring jealcony, and the deavering jealcony, and the could inapire such adeouring jealcony, and the could many the such as a could in promising one of off or a tree days in moze hunt with size companions the max morning, and had kept has were a could see that the test part of the could still have been at night, and the day and half the might that she would still have the could still have been as the could still have been as the could work as even the could be could

dge. he could see nothing save every She could see nothing save every-now and then a pale, white flash of foam on the swiring water before her. She had no notion how far she had come over the bridge, no idea how wide the gap was, but she did know that No. 2 would be due at the sta-tion in about half an hour, and that the telephone and telegraph wires would have been broken with the fall of the bridge. The signalman upant the station would know nothing of the accident. It would be no use for her to go back to Six-Mile Creek, fer or the bridge. The signalman upon the accident. It would be no use for her to go back to Six-Mile Creek, fer not only whild that take up too much time, but nearly all the men had gone down the line to clear away the mud-slide, and there would be no way of communicating with the upper line, even if they had all been there. There was only one course that offered the faintest hope of saving the train and Tom. She must find some way of getting across the black guil that yawned in unknown width before her, so that she could get up to the signal station and have the train stopped on the down grade. If she couldn't get over-well, then she would have done what she could, and, at any rate, she wouldn't be there to see the great engine, with its big, flaring headlight and the long shining fine of cars behind it, come swinging down the grade at forty miles an hour to plunge in awful ruin and destruction into the guil that the river had dug to receive it.

At last one of her feet went into the water She didn't draw it back; she only gave a little gasp as the chill of the ley water ran quickly past and then she put the other in after it. This was the point where her task really began. She had expected it, and she didn't flinch at it. She crawied on down, and went deeper and deeper until the water was up to her waist, and pressing her hard against the timbers with the force of the current. Still the rail that she gripped tightly, with both hands held fast, and had not yet curved down to the water.

At last the rail-touched the water, and for a moment her feet were car-

the current. Still the rail that she gripped tightly, with both hands held fast, and had not yet curved down to the water.

At last the rail-touched the water, and for a moment her feet were carried clear of the bottom. For an instant she swung under, and then, with a supreme effort, she dragged herself up by her arms. An eddy caught her and swung her toward the opposite shore. Her feet touched a soid, firm mass of timber; she hooked them under it, and dragged herself along the rail again for three or four feet. Then the rail began to curve upward, the water get shallower, and the current weaker about her body. New hope supplemented her failing spirits, and she pulled herself hand over hand up the rail, until she felt the timbers clear of the water, and dragged herself and the rail, until she felt the timbers clear of the water, and dragged herself up them on her hands and knees, until at last she was able to stagger to her feet, panting, shivering and trembling, but safe.

She groped about till she found the two rails again, and then wringing the water as well as she could out of her saturated skirts, she started of, at first walking quickly, and then, as the blood began to move in her veins, and the stiffness of the chill to work out of her limbs, to run up the grade towards the light in the signal cabin, which now shone like a veritable star of hepe above her.

At every step she took she dreaded to see the head-light of the engine flashing down the line, and to hear the rumble of the train rolling on its swift way to destruction, but the signalmans lamp remained the contylight in the darkness, and at last breath.



trance.

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