

Go your ways with your broken ankle ; but if, when I come again to the cabin in the valley, I find that your own injury has not contented you, look to it that I do not make you build a bridge across the bay itself ! Gentlemen, Mr. Haward is bent upon intrusting his cure to other and softer hands than Dr. Robinson's, and the expedition must go forward without him. We sorrow to lose him from our number, but we know better than to reason with — ahem ! — a twisted ankle. *En avant*, gentlemen ! Mr. Haward, pray have a care of yourself. I would advise that the ankle be well bandaged, and that you stir not from the chimney corner ” —

“ I thank your Excellency for your advice,” said Mr. Haward imperturbably, “ and will consider of taking it. I wish your Excellency and these merry gentlemen a most complete victory over the mountains, from which conquest I will no longer detain you.”

He bowed as he spoke, and began to move, slowly and haltingly, across the width of the rocky way to where his negro stood with the two horses.

“ Mr. Haward ! ” called the Governor.

The recreant turned his head. “ Your Excellency ? ”

“ It was the right foot, was it not ? ” queried his sometime leader. “ Ah, I thought so ! Then it were best not to limp with the left.”

Homeric laughter shook the air ; but while Mr. Haward laughed not, neither did he frown or blush. “ I will remember, sir,” he said simply, and at once began to limp with the proper foot. When he reached the bank he turned, and, standing with his arm around his horse's neck, watched the company which he had so summarily deserted, as it put itself into motion and