

Act 1

SCENE.

Red Pine Gap—a natural hollow in a forest of Norway Pines. To back is a steep rocky declivity, covered with matted pine-needles, the rocks breaking through. Above this can be seen the trunks of great trees,—stretching far up before the branches begin—and through them, far away, the red glow of a fiery sunset. To right and left—in the hollow are also huge, straight trunks—one especially large one at left-front. In the shadow of the rocks at back is a great campfire—at present a glowing mass of coals. Hanging over it, by means of a bar resting on two rudely-formed supports, are several steaming kettles. Other dishes of battered tin are being cooked on stones, around the edges of the fire. Supper is being made ready. At left—half off and half on the stage—are two gypsy wagons, canvas-topped and showing the traces of brightly painted decorations. The horses have been unharnessed. At extreme right is an old, soiled tent; also the entrances to two others. Before the tents and beneath the big tree are stretched red blankets, buffalo robes, etc. Various garments are hanging over boxes, a heavily laden clothes-line is drawn between two pine trees, etc. Other indications of the roving, out-door life. During the act, the ruddy twilight glow deepens and fades away into night. Stars and a sickle moon appear through the tree-trunks at back. The gypsies light pine torches and nail them to the trunks of the trees; occasionally they throw wood on the fire and it bursts into flames.

AT RISE.

The stage is occupied by quite a number of GYPSIES,—men, women and children. TWO MEN are bending over a tinker's wheel—left front—sharpening knives, a third sits near them on the ground mending a tin saucepan with a small plumber's blow-pipe. To right-front before the tents, are several very ragged and unkempt children playing a sort of hop-seotch game, calling and wrangling among themselves. To right centre is a group of three men, sitting on the ground and playing poker, as they smoke their black pipes. About the fire are the women and young girls, stirring the stews, cutting bread, cooking—generally