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The Pioneer's Last Shot.

We question whether, in all the history of the "hair-breadth escapes," parallel to the following can easily be found. The story was told us, says a contemporary, by an old and valued friend now residing in the country and whose early days were spent near the scene of the tragic adventure here recorded. We give the story as related to us, in the words of our hero.

It was about the year 1805, that I settled in Virginia near the falls of the Kanawha. The country at that time was unbroken wilderness. But a few settlements had been made by the whites, and they were so far apart, as to render vain all hope of assistance in case of an attack from the hostile Indians, numbers of whom still infested the region.

I lived here alone with my wife for several years unmolested; and by dint of untiring perseverance being then young and hardy, had succeeded in making quite a large clearing in the forest, which I had planted with corn, and which promised an abundant yield.

One morning after we had dispatched our humble meal, and I had just prepared to venture forth on my regular routine of labor, my attention was arrested by the tinkling of a cow bell in the corn field.

"There," said my wife, "the cow is in the corn field."

But the ear of the "back-woodsman" becomes by education very acute, especially so from the fact that his safety often depends on the nice cultivation of that sense. I was not easily deceived. I listened, the sound was repeated.

"That," said I, in reply to the remark of my wife, "was not the tinkle of a bell upon the neck of a cow. It is a decoy from some Indian who desires to draw me into a trap."

Believing this to be the case, I took down my musket, (I had no rifle) and seeing that it was properly loaded, I stole cautiously across the field to the point from which the sound seemed to proceed. As I had suspected there was a cluster of bushes, crouched an Indian waiting for me to approach in answer to his decoy bell that he might send a fatal bullet to my heart. I approached without discovering myself until within shooting distance, then raised my piece and fired. The bullet sped true to its mark, and the Indian fell dead.

Not knowing but that he might be accompanied by others, I returned with all haste to my cabin, and having firmly barricaded my door, I watched all day from the port hole in anticipation of an attack from the companions of the Indian I had shot. To add to the danger and seeming hopelessness of my situation, I discovered that I had but one shot, and then if attacked by numbers, I should be entirely in their power. Determined to do the best with what I had, I poured in my last charge of powder and put into my musket fifteen slugs, and then waited for the approach of night, feeling confident of an attack.

Night came on at length. A beautiful moonlight, it was too, and this favored me greatly, as I would be able to observe the movement of the enemy as they approached my cabin. It was two hours after midnight, and as yet I had neither seen nor heard a sign of the Indians, when suddenly I was startled by the barking of the dog at the stable. The stable stood a little to the west of the cabin, and between the two was a patch of clear ground, upon which the light of the moon fell undisturbed. Judging from the noise at the stable that they would advance from that direction, I posted myself at the port hole on that side of the cabin.

I had previously placed my rifle on the cross pole in the chimney, so that in case our enemies effected an entrance to the cabin, they might climb out through the low chimney. For myself, I determined not to be taken alive and resolved to sell my life as dearly as possible.

With breathless anxiety I watched at the port hole. At length I saw them emerge from the shadow of the stable and advance across the vacant ground toward the cabin. One, two, three. Great heavens! six stalwart Indians armed to the teeth, and urged on by the hope of revenge. Alone to oppose them with but one charge of powder. My case was desperate indeed.

With quick but steady step, in close single file they advanced, and were within a few yards of the house when a slight change of divergence in the movement of the entire Indian changed the position of the entire six, so that a portion of the left side of each was uncovered. They were all in range. One aim, would cover all. Quick as thought I aimed and fired. As the smoke closed away, I could hardly credit what my senses showed me was the result of my shot. The musket had done well—five of the six Indians lay dead upon the ground, the sixth had disappeared.

Although no enemy was now in sight

did not venture forth till morning. There lay the bodies of the five Indians undisturbed, together with the rifle of the other. Securing the arms and ammunition of the fallen Indians I followed up the trail of the missing one, until it reached the river, beyond which point I could discover no traces whatever. From the amount of blood which marked the trail, together with the unmistakable evidence that he had picked his way with difficulty, I was led to believe that he was mortally wounded; and to prevent his body from falling into the hands of his foe, I groped his way to the river and threw himself into the current which had borne him away.

The Indians had killed my cow, and that you may be sure was no small loss; yet in my gratitude for my escape from the merciless savages I would have been entirely willing to make much greater sacrifices. I was provided (by means of ammunition taken from the slain Indians,) in case of a second attack, but this fortunately proved to be my last adventure with the savages. Not one of the band escaped to tell the tale, and I incite his brothers to revenge the death of his comrades.

"Ah!" exclaimed the old man, while the tears gushed from his eyes at the memory of that eventful night, "that was a glorious shot, the best I ever made."

The hero of this adventure lived to see the rude wilderness where he had pitched his lonely cabin transformed into smiling fields, and peopled by hardy and enterprising pale faces, among whom he lived in "peace and plenty," undisturbed by his old times.

Arrival of the Arabia at Halifax.

HALIFAX, JAN. 20 1863

Arabia, from Liverpool 10th, and Queenstown 11th, arrived at 6.30 this morning. Expected due weather.

Bulletin de Paris says, Dayton had private audience with Emperor on the 7th. Napoleon is said to have recommended armistice in America. On previous day Dayton had conference on same subject with Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Paris correspondent of the Times says since defeat at Fredericksburg Emperor again turned his thoughts to American affairs. Correspondent is informed on good authority that steps have been taken to resume overtures already made unsuccessfully to Lincoln's Government, and this time it is hoped with prospects of better result.

Dayton had an audience with emperor on New Year's day.

English still perseveres in refusing to interfere in any way.

Army and Navy Gazette says Confederate Generals have been overpraised; to stand and fight has been their great strategy not one of them seems to have made a campaign with a purpose; not one has had the capacity to understand the value of victory. They have done anything but follow events and make good use of the energy and zeal of their soldiers. Let some leader arise on either side who can lead a few squadrons to press one of these broken armies, and war will not long languish in the bloody trail of gigantic skirmishes.

On New Year's eve an address was voted to President Lincoln at a large meeting held in London under auspices of Emancipation Society. The American Minister in acknowledging it says he has no doubt the President will receive it as encouraging testimony of independent witnesses to manner in which he is endeavoring to do his duty, to his country, and to mankind.

Address of sympathy to Lincoln in course of signature in Birmingham; expresses strong belief in Federal cause as that of humanity, religion and freedom, and ardently hopes for its success.

Paris Moniteur publishes account of battle of Fredericksburg, written by military eye-witnesses. It says Federals marched with consciousness of impending disaster; rapidity of Confederate movement is described as marvellous. Federals on contrary, are described as having moved with slowness, and incapacity of their Generals is not doubtfully spoken of.

Council of Liverpool Chamber of Commerce adopted resolution of giving suitable reception to officers of ships coming from America with provisions for distressed operatives, and for conveying to liberal donors the Chamber's appreciation of generous and friendly spirit which prompted the munificent contributions.

Chamber returned action of New York Chamber touching "Alabama" to Special Committee.

Main English journals attack the Times with great bitterness, and indignantly repudiate its recent advocacy of slavery on scriptural grounds.

Liverpool Post believes reaction will set in from this point, and that confidence will be lost in the journal which so unblushingly justifies slavery.

Proclamation issued for Parliament to as-

semble on 5th February. Rumors of considerable reduction in Navy estimates.

Meeting to urge restoration of Galway subsidy was about to be held in Dublin.

Ship reached Liverpool with 1,700 bales of cotton from Cape of Good Hope grown from Sea Island seed.

Another vessel brought 350 bales from Portugal.

Large importations of cotton seed were taking place in Liverpool and being exported thence to new fields.

FRANCE.

Monthly returns of Bank of France show a decrease of cash on hand of fifty-one million francs and an increase of bills discounted eighty-four millions.

Bank of Guyon & Co., Lyons, suspended owing to transactions with a large cotton factory.

New brigade for Mexico embarks middle of January.

Minister of public works ordered to inquire into distress among cotton operatives. Bourse flat—79.80.

ITALY.

Important correspondence of Bourbon conspirators at Rome been seized.

FROM THE STATES.

BANGOR, JAN. 20.

President Lincoln specially calls attention of Congress to finances, disapproving of further issue of Treasury Notes without checking issue of suspended banks, recommending taking bank circulation, and uniform currency through general Act as suggested in Annual Message, secured by Federal bonds.

English sloops Avenger, and Julia, from Nassau, captured off Florida coast; also sloop Good Luck.

One of Saunders' interrupted letters urges vital importance of construction of 6 steamers to open New Orleans. Says Sinclair or Bellock's steamers only preying on Federal commerce. We want more than that; must have succor or die. The war is represented as terrible.

Halleck issued retaliatory order forbidding release of captured Confederate officers until further notice.

Flour 5 cents firmer.

World's correspondence mentions Army of Potomac under marching orders, with three days rations. Will cross Rappahannock in five pontoon bridges.

Lee's army composed of eight large divisions.

Longstreet has not gone to Tennessee, but reported that several batteries and brigades have gone.

Six deserters from Fort Sumter report that first garrison mutinied, being nearly famished and families in want.

Mutiny suppressed by other troops. Dissatisfaction is represented as widespread among Confederate troops in Charleston Department.

At a Democratic assembly, serenading Senator Hall in Philadelphia, groans were given for Lincoln and Butler and cheers for McClellan.

Small pox prevalent in Washington. Carl Schurz received command of Ziegler's corps. Latter placed in command of reserve grand division.

COM. M. F. MAURY'S LETTER TO THE LONDON TIMES.

SIR,—We read of people in the olden time whose judgement God had taken away, but the annals of modern history, may, I believe be searched in vain for such an instance of judicial blindness as that under which the Northern people have been laboring. Upon no other theory can the conduct of the Lincoln Government in the rupture between the Northern and Southern States of America be accounted for.

From the very beginning of those troubles Mr. Lincoln and his counselors have been floundering in their own devices, satisfying themselves by their acts of today in their conduct of yesterday. No longer ago than the last month Mr. Lincoln's Secretary of State wrote to his Minister in London that "intervention would only afford an additional motive for America to sustain her resolution to remain united."

To reunite is, if we are to believe professions, the first wish of Mr. Lincoln's heart, and his friends have intimated time and again with a peculiar significance that in a war with England the South would be sure to unite with the North. Then why dread intervention? If such are to be its effects it should be courted by Mr. Lincoln, one would suppose.

Recently this threat through his Minister—"for it bears a menacing air, was intended to intimidate the British people to suppress their avowal of sympathy with the South, and to influence her majesty's Government; for a few days after this menace was received in London, he practically revokes his em-

ancipation proclamation, which had been uttered with so much personality a few weeks before; and instead of abolishing slavery next week, he offers to give us the rest of the century to do it, and to pay us for it, too, if we will only do it ourselves—and come to him.

This is certainly a bid for the South to come back, and it looks very like a practical admission on his part that the cause of subjugation and re-union is becoming desperate. He can't levy his taxes to support the war.

To one whose case becomes desperate, delay is always of moment. Everything must be done to gain time. The idea of foreign intervention must be staved off, and a new plea put in for another respite of 60 or 70 days. This plea is sought to be enforced on a rumor which I am informed is now current in Yankee circles, to the effect that Southern traders are making overtures for a return to political union with the Yankees.

This rumor is, it said, derived from private letters received in this city from the North. It is only a "Yankee trick." If it could but gain credence here, even for a while, it would relieve for a time the Federal administration from the fear of its great bug-bear—foreign intervention, and might do the Republican party "a heap of good."

Not only has no such overture been made but there is no probability that such a one will ever come. Our cause has been consecrated by the best blood in the land, for it great sacrifices have been made, its champions feel that they are clad in the triple armor of right. For these reasons it has become dear to the hearts of our whole people.

Our men, women and children glory in it; and, after the proofs that the world has had of Southern manhood, it is likely that such men should be so base as to think of returning to Yankee domination? Simply, a petition from the South to be received again as British plantations would be more possible.

I am fresh from the South, having quite recently run the blockade at Charleston. I know the sentiments and feeling of my fellow-countrymen; and so far from losing faith in our cause or entertaining any doubts as to success, we were never more decided or in better heart.

Besides our own self-reliance, the faith we have in our cause and leaders, we derive encouragement from the enemy. He begins to show signs of giving in. Mr. Lincoln for the first time recognizes the possibility of permanent disunion, for he can find "no line, straight or crooked," which will suit him for a boundary, as yet, notwithstanding lines of this sort, for each state has its own. Moreover, financial ruin is staring his people in the face. The signs of its speedy coming among them are unmistakable. He dares not enforce a draft upon his militia nor the Tax Bill upon his people. They will neither give him his full contingent in men or in money. The dawn of returning reason is visible in his recent elections. His administration is vacillating; it is trying to shape a new policy as to satisfy each of two opposing factions. His people are beginning to get tired of him and his war, and to confess that nothing but grief can come of it to them. On the other hand we have but to stand firm, think our of dead, and be true to ourselves, and all will be well with us.

As soon as the Northern press is unmuzzled, and the tongues of the friends of free government there are loosed, then we shall begin to see the beginning of the end. In the meantime we are fighting, not against a Constitutional Government, for that has been overturned, but against a mob with Mr. Lincoln at the head of it.

I have heard since leaving the South a great deal said about our want of arms, about the half starved and worse clad soldiers of the South. There is no lack of food among us. As for arms, we have taken enough from the enemy to equip all the forces that we require, and then as to clothing, it is enough for me to say that the Custom-house receipts at Charleston for the month of July, 1862 were greater than they have been for the corresponding month of any of the last ten; and this revenue was chiefly derived from duties on clothing and munitions of war; notwithstanding the famous blockade. What the receipts have been for the months of August, September, October, and November I cannot say, for I have not seen the returns.

A considerable amount of importation has also entered Wilmington, Mobile, and the ports of Texas. Besides this, large quantities of clothing have been brought across the Potomac and the Chesapeake into the numerous rivers and creeks of Virginia, also from Ohio and other producing States of the West.

Events now transpiring in America show that we are quite as able to keep the field

as is the enemy, and far more united. Respectfully, &c., M. F. MAURY.

1, Albertmarle street, Piccadilly, Dec. 22.

MANUSCRIPTS AMONG "THE PANCY."—One morning last week the American champion Heenan, conducted himself very improperly on proceeding from Torrington to "Bideford with Howe's circus." Mr. Hammond, the toll collector at the Torrington turnpike gate, when Heenan was passing the gate, demanded nine pence as toll for the vehicle, and horse, he was a driver. The latter refused to pay the toll, alleging that the agent in advance had discharged the tolls. The collector in a most civil manner, assured him such was not the case, when Heenan poured forth a volley of the most disgraceful language, swearing that he would smash the collector's head. To this Hammond coolly replied that it would do him (Heenan) no credit to strike a poor old man like him, and assured him that a little Englishman, named Tom Sayers, had thrashed him once, to his heart's content, and could do so again. Upon this Heenan assailed him with a language too gross to be repeated, having at the same time a respectable looking female sitting by his side, and throwing the collector a shilling on the ground, peremptorily demanded the change. The old soldier, not to be outdone in politeness, picked up the shilling from the mud and quietly deposited his three pence change in his place. The "Benicia Boy," bursting with rage, had to descend from his carriage to pick the change "out of the dirt."—[Tiverton Gazette Dec 17.]

COTTON GARDENS IN FRANCE.—A successful attempt to cultivate cotton has been made at the Botanical Gardens of Valence, in the Department of the Drome. The directors sowed some cotton seed in the middle of March last, in small pots, kept under glass until the latter end of April. The pots were then placed in the open air, and the young plants flourished, notwithstanding the shade of the trees in the garden. They rose above three feet high, and each plant produced from 15 to 20 magnificent blossoms, and as many pods, which, for the greater part, arrived at maturity. Some of the plants which were placed in a hothouse produced an excellent crop. It is calculated that if 500 landed proprietors in each of the ten southern departments of France would raise a kilogramme of cotton, it would produce 5000 kilogrammes for next year, and by degrees the cultivation would be gradually developed. It appears that the manner of cultivating the cotton plants is very simple, and it requires but one hoeing. The cotton plant, moreover, produces a magnificent flower, which attracted the admiration of all the visitors to the Botanical Gardens at Valence.

SAD ACCIDENT.—We learn, says the Manchester, N. H., Democrat, that while two little girls, one of them 8 and the other 13 years of age, were sliding upon Taylor's pond, in Salem, they broke through the ice, and were soon struggling in the water. The accident was seen by a man by the name of Newton, who was at work in a woolen mill near by, and he hastened to the rescue. In approaching them he also fell in, and was caught hold of by the little girls. He was unable to save them or escape from their death grapple, and all were drowned. Several other persons attempted to save the girls and broke through the ice, but no others were drowned.

A SHORT SERMON ON MANLINESS.—Learn from the earliest day to insure your principle against the peril of ridicule. You can no more exercise your reason if you live in the constant dread of laughter, than you can enjoy your life if you are in constant terror of death. If you think it right to differ from the times, and to make a point of morals, do it, however antiquated, however rustic, however pedantic, it may appear; do it, not for indolence, but seriously and grandly—as a man who wore a suit of his own in his bosom, and did not wait till it was breathed into him by the breath of fashion.—[Sydney Smith.]

The New York Herald estimates that the frauds upon the Government, similar to those detected in that city, will aggregate to the amount of a hundred millions of dollars.

The House of Rufus Brown, Monticton, was considerably injured by fire on the afternoon of Tuesday last.

"You've destroyed my peace of mind, Betsey," said a desponding lover, to a stout lass.

"I want do you much harm, Gabe, for 'twas an amazing small piece you had," any way, 'twas the quick reply.

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