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ARGONAUT SAM'S STORY

J D Gillian

Said Argonant Sam one evening, when As sitting stop of a box, to some men He was spinning an Old Caltfornia

With arms set akimbo he straight

And said: " 'Twas one night in the 50's I know

Ther' kem up the trail from the guich jest below A youngish like feller a-steppin'

I heartily pitied him, even before I saw his pale face and heard the short

Of his troubles enough lack
Of more'n enough power to bring

my door That tremblin' young bedy.

"He had a small pac A blanket and buckskin, -but that wa'nt no lack

In them days when notions and fash d tone was slack; When all a man needed besides pick

Wuz a wallet of leather to tie up his

Ora place to get grub-staked (that means to git trust Till he found a good prospeck)-

"And then he'd put in His very best licks; fur in them days

'n' 'o' limb T' hang erround loafin' all day-'twu:

too thin!

"Well this puny feller hed grin'-stun like grit, But wuz clean tuckered out when my

cabin he hit, N' fell down a faintin' just inside m

door-His eye set 'n' glassy, he seemed done

so I straightened him out-couldn't do any more Than to put back his hair, 'n' to damp en his brow

'N' to feel of his pulse-joy-I found it 'N' flickery the, stoppin' 'n' startin'

'n' now Gone ag'in; then it revived; but so

faint, don't you know That fur full twenty minutes I couldn't hev said Whether the felier wuz livin' or dead.

'All night I watched by him, 'n' 'long a-to'rd light

seed that a change hed cum; so, honor bright!

made up my mind that I'd save that young life If it took me all summer. I'd fight With grim death to a finish fer him.

Whar I'd got on an average ('pon my good name) An ounce or two daily of No. 1 gold.

But then we thought nothin' in them days, you see, O' layin' by stuff for a rainy day. We

Hed plenty, the diggin's were rich 'n' were thick Scattered over the kentry, 'most every

orick Held plenty o' gold both in nugget 'n'

'Nd the man thet wuz stingy hed ort to be cassed. So, I shouldered my task.

"It was wonderful how The new life appeared to come back to my boy, (Fer thet's what I called him, 'My

boy') nd the joy Of pervidin' for suthin' beside my lone

Made me happy. Y' see th' 'xperience Fer, I'd lived all alone ever since '42

When back in Missoury I'd buried my 'Nd haby! since then I hed looked up-

on life As a weary, onfriendly, detectable load;" So thet's why I lived by myself—don't

you see? didn't love nothin' an' nothin' loved

But now of young Josh-his name waz Josh Clark-He'd come from old York state-

sing like a larkwaz finely brung up, 'n' mother o' his,

A sister be told me, 'n' a girl be called 'D 'a' give the hull earth if they only

could know If he wuz alive: but so hard hearted,

Would never be grateful to them nor to me.

(The' I hed no claim on him;) yet it would seem After all I hed done for him surely

some gleam Of thoughtfulness somewhere might sometime be seen. Fer' sides spendin' my all I hed brok-

en down too, Wuz a shattered old man, the but

Havin' given my health an' my strength to pull through My boy-fer I loved him if ever me: do. But, no, it appeared that he hedn't no

beart; Not once did he

I mused him to life

His wants wuz demands, 'nd his wishes commands; 'Nd once in the dusk as we set

with his hands

Grabbed me by the hair, pulled out a long knife my life

He waz jokin': but no! when I seed that fierce look Of robbin' an' murder, I knowed what

I'd done I'd thawed out a viper upon my hearth atune 'Nd now wuz becomin' its prev.

But, I'd none-I'd spent all the dust I'd laid by, savin'

I'd missed all the summer 'nd fall to nuss him Who now like a tiger demanded my

Hold on, my dear Josh! but wait my dear boy!'
No further I got for his hands clutched

my throat; I wrenched myself loose, but, grapplin

my coat He throwed me agin, now

I've give to you now everything I'mt life; take it if you like."

And he struck

How long I laid thar on the ground, I don't know But when I come to I wuz layin' in

'Nd the people wuz walkin' 'n' talkin' so low 'Nd I knowed by the bandages too,

on my head. That I had been nigh to the gates of the dead. "N' where wuz Josh Clark,' did you

say? I don't know: He never wuz seen in the diggin's below Nor heard of agin in them parts; fer I

know He'd a swung from the limb that fust come in the way

Cause the boys in them days hed little to say But was mighty in doin'; but he'd got away.

So it seems that some people is jest so depraved

There wint a thing in 'em thet ort to be saved: Twas that way with Josh-who I loved

He lived fer hisself and fer hisself alone. Thet's why I remarked at the fust of

this yaro The thing that it cost me so dearly to larn-

I panned him out over 'nd over agin 'N' found nary sign of a color." -La Grande, May 3rd. '05

The price of a pretty face is \$1.00—three packages of Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. Brings red lips, bright eyes and lovely color. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Newlin Drug Co.

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boarding flouse Mrs. Joseph Pollman, Cor. 6th and Washington. Board and rooms, or board without rooms by the day, week or month.

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MRS, DAY, Assistant

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