

darkness became so great that nearly every object was swallowed up.

After debating in his mind the advisability of halting for the night, the hunter decided to push on, hoping to find the camp and relieve the anxiety of his companion. Warned by the abundance of "signs," the two hunters had exercised, ever since going into camp, great caution and vigilance for their protection and safety against the large carnivorous animals which infest those wild regions. It was of the sly, treacherous and powerful cougar that the belated and bewildered man now stood in great dread, and the sequel showed that his fears were far from groundless. With rifle in hand, he advanced, holding himself in instant readiness for defensive action. It was now so dark that he could only grope his way through the tangled thicket. While descending a steep ridge, which ran up from a dark, narrow canyon, without the slightest warning, he

until nearly daylight. He lay in great pain and thoroughly chilled until after sunrise. Remembering the great strength and ferocity of his antagonist, and fearing that it still lurked in the immediate vicinity, the wounded hunter remained motionless for several hours. When he did arise, no trace of the cougar could be discovered. Fearfully bitten, scratched and bruised, he made his way back to camp by painfully slow marches, not reaching it until nearly noon. His companion had passed a sleepless night, a prey to painful apprehensions. Very early that morning two other hunters who had been stalking elk farther back in the mountains had stopped at the camp on their way down to the valley, and learning of the missing man, had concluded to halt for the day and assist in the search. Before the wounded man arrived in camp, two of the men had already been out some time scouring the woods, but, failing to find him, had returned.

Fortunately, one of the elk hunters proved to be a young surgeon, who was out for a summer vacation. He immediately fell to work and in a short time had the wounded man quite comfortable. Considering the nature and extent of the injuries, it was deemed best to remain in camp a few days.

After giving an account of his thrilling experiences during the night, the invalid described the locality as minutely as possible, and the two elk hunters posted off in search of the wounded buck and disabled cougar. Success crowned their efforts. The deer was found in a dying condition near where the hunter had abandoned the trail the night before, and quickly dispatched. On searching for the cougar, it was also discovered some distance down the ravine badly dis-

abled. The creature had received several thrusts from the knife that had penetrated its vitals, but possessed great vitality, and when routed up, with a loud, fierce growl, rushed toward his new enemies; but a ball sent crashing through its skull stretched it lifeless.

Spokane Falls reports a cave that will make the ice caves, lava caves and ether subterranean marvels turn green with envy. The writer of the article describing it will no doubt be able to discover and disclose to an impatient public new and unique wonders as long as the present low price of beer is maintained.



"HE DREW HIS HUNTING KNIFE AND MADE DESPERATE EFFORTS TO DEFEND HIMSELF."

was suddenly attacked by an enormous cougar. In this hand to hand conflict the rifle was useless. Dropping that cumbersome weapon, he drew his hunting knife and made desperate efforts to defend himself. The knife was long, two-edged and keen as a razor. For some time he fought with the advantage greatly on the side of the fierce animal. While the struggle for life was at its height, approaching too near the brink of a steep declivity, man and beast both went rolling down to the bottom of the ravine.

Weakened by the loss of blood, and stunned by violent contact with rocks and boulders, consciousness for a time forsook him. In that condition he remained