

you would have been overjoyed at this prospect.

"I do not wish to go away with strangers," I answered, pettishly.

"Oh, George, get almost angry because I so persistently refused the invitation, and for the first time in his life, spoke hastily to me."

"Willingly, my dear little sis. I know you were jealous, but it was only excess of love for the best brother that ever lived."

"Why, what a book-worm you are, little cousin. Always reading—reading. I see you are resolved to be one of the shining lights of the age."

"But that was impossible. I was naturally of an affectionate disposition, and could not keep up the role I had proposed."

"Yes, she gave us such an account of your talents, your good housekeeping, and your love for your brothers, that I can assure you we were almost alarmed at the thought of entertaining so talented and charming a lady."

"I looked up at Frank Shirley as he spoke; I felt sure he must be joking; but no, his face was serious as his tone. I felt humiliated."

"I started at this question, and Blanche answered: 'Why, didn't you know she is married?'"

"'Married? No, I have not heard of it before. Where is her husband, that I may shoot him? I always meant to marry her myself!'"

"'You great stupid, do hold your tongues,' exclaimed Blanche, laughing. 'She is married to Doctor George Vernon, this young lady'—indicating me—'is his sister. We have not our cousin Margaret with us this year, but we have our cousin Dorothy instead. I call that a fair exchange.'"

"'How I thanked Blanche for that kind, graceful speech! And how mean my own conduct to Margaret seemed now!'"

"'I did not want my bete noire to be white-washed by my favorite friend.'"

"'Have you told Dorothy the news, Margaret? Will you make my compliments to her and tell her it is like her kind thoughtfulness, being unable to cheer us with the light of her countenance, to provide us with so bright a substitute?'"

few days after my return, with an open letter from Frank to my brother in her hand. 'Naughty girl, why didn't you tell me all about it?'"

"I have just seen your dispatch from San Francisco, in Saturday's Evening Post, about 'Gold in Solution' in the Calistoga Springs, and about the proprietor's having 'extracted \$1000 in gold of the utmost fineness from ten barrels of the water' during the past fortnight."

"I consider that gold-yielding water in many respects remarkable; and yet not more remarkable than the gold-bearing air of Catgut Canyon, up there toward the head of the aridiferous range."

"I heard there were black fellows about, said Mr. S—, delaying to mount; 'but this is safe enough; I've got my rifle with me.'"

"The largest sewing machine in the world, a Singer, has recently been finished. The machine weighs over four tons, and is in some respects of new design, uniting much simplicity of construction with great strength of parts."

"'By the way,' exclaimed Norman suddenly, 'where is cousin Margaret? Isn't she spending her holidays with you this year?'"

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"'No, dear, I have not,' answered my sister-in-law, with what I thought a rather nervous glance at me."

"'Well, you have been kept out at Eden unnecessarily for the last two or three hours,' said my brother laughing. 'Now, Dorothy, listen: Your sister—' I frowned at this word—'has heard us say how fond you are of the sea, and, by some magic, has secured you an invitation to go down to Hastings with some relatives of hers next week.'"

Saved by the Doctor. The episode I am going to relate occurred not far from the township of Horsham, Victoria, Australia. Where the exact locality is I have no intention of divulging; but if any of my readers are acquainted with the part of the world I refer to, they will remember that there are one or two large streams within the wide radius I have named. Beside one of these rivers there was standing, about twenty years ago, a hut, which was known as the homestead of the Deep Water Station, and it was here that my lot placed as a hunter-keeper. I lived at the Deep Water Station for two years.

I remember I was sitting at the hut (the Deep Water Hut) one summer afternoon, looking for the coming of 'Long Mat.' The sun was passing away blood-red behind a range of high blue hills; long shadows were fast spreading; the deep water-hole had lost the light; the hills behind the river were just tipped with a crimson glory, and stars seemed dropping like silver specks on the palling sky.

'I can't stay long with you this time, Bill,' he said pleasantly, but with a little anxiety. 'I hope your gun is in order. Do you want any powder or lead?'"

'I heard there were black fellows about, said Mr. S—, delaying to mount; 'but this is safe enough; I've got my rifle with me.'"

'You're too close,' responded the shepherd, after filling a panikin of tea, and, contrary to his custom, standing his gun against the table.

'He had scarcely uttered the words when he lifted both hands and struck Mr. S—full on the chest with enough force to drive him to the extreme end of the hut. At the same instant a spear whizzed through the open doorway, and parted in the air, as if by magic, into a score of splinters.

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his gun and fired. The human figure seemed to sink down so quickly, so calmly, so helplessly, that I felt a strange thrill of pity.

'He's fixed as safe as houses; let's physic another or two, and maybe they'll make tracks,' again muttered the shepherd, in a tone of suppressed glee.

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American's rifle rested in the loopholes where he had first taken up his position. 'There's the worst of them,' Mat said, looking along his weapon; 'he's coming up with a log to stave the door. He'll never do it; and our last bullet brought down the ringleader.'

'There was consternation and a hurried consultation. After a lapse of about five minutes, the whole force of the besiegers rushed shrieking on our little garrison. A moment's surge outside, and the door fell back. Mr. S—'s legs swung down on the crowding savages with terrific force, felling two of the foremost like oxen. I remember a wild struggle with our guns and fists. Mat and the squatter roared above their opponents like giants, fighting with terrible energy. The black fellows had forced me to the ground; one was shortening his grasp of the spear to drive it through my body, when I felt a gush of blood spouting over my face and chest, just as the savage fell on me mortally wounded. Then I remember a hurrah outside and the cracking of rifles.

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