No. 130.

A TERRIBLE HOUR. Death Stared Him in the Pace.

"I shall never forget my experience in a mountain district of Arkansaw," said Capt.Mellvine when the conversation had turned upon adventure. "There are many pleasant occurrences that we forget, but an affair of honor remains with us. The memory of a pleasant dream soon passes away, but the recollection of a nightmare becomes a mental landmark. Some time ago I was instructed by my employers to repair at once to the White Oak mountains, and buy all the cattle that a reasonable sum of money would induce to leave the rugged trails. I boarded a railroad train and was soon rushing towards my destination. Sociability is a prominent feature of my nature, which I suppose is an heirloom left by long experience as a newspaper reporter; and I had not been long on the train until I had formed the acquaintance of several gentlemen, among them a United States deputy marshal who gave me his card, with an evident air of pride in being connected with so prominent an institution as our government. At a small station, a long-haired man, a genuine native of Arkansaw, I surmised, boarded the train and took a seat opposite me. I was desirous of hearing him talk in his quaint dialect, and I moved over, pressed voices. We must have addressed him, and handed him traveled several miles over my card. He looked at the card country rough with ravines and alsignificantly, and carefully placed it in an old black pocket-book. He eyed me nervously for a moment and asked:

"Whar mout yer be goin'?" "White Oak mountains," I replied.

"I get off at Patsey station." "He looked at me again with an earnestness, and uneasiness of gaze that I could not understand, and said:

"I reckin you'll find it rite pleasant up thar. Best lot o' placed the gag in my mouth, but feelers that yer ever seed, an' they ain't afeerd, lemme tell you."

"I could not divine why their physical courage should in the least add to the pleasure of my visit, but supposing the remark grew out of his own admiration for men who are not 'afeerd,' and that such information would lighten, in charming anticipation, the fatigues of the journey, I did not ask him to explain. He did not seem to 'cotten' to me, as the planters sometimes say in expressing predilection, and he left his seat and stood near the door. I approached him again, feeling more than ever an interest in him, and asked if he had ever been among the White Oak mountains.

"Have I got fingers and toes?" he replied. "I can answer assuredly con-

cerning your fingers, and can speculate with chances in my favor in regard to your toes," I said in facetious attempt.

"Wall, then, I've been thear." "Many cattle in that country?"

"Yes, an' yer'll find some of them putty hard to han'le, lemme tell yer."

"My friend, I must confess that you puzzle me. I have asked you several very civil questions, expecting civil answers, but you are so evasive that I can get no satisfaction."

"You've gone to school, hain't yer?"

"Yes."

"Talk Latin, I reckin."

"My knowledge of Latin is limited."

"It's what they call a dead talk, ain't it?"

"Yes, it's a dead language." "Then you mout need it ar'ter

"I don't understand you. Your

meaning is as dead to me as the language in question is to the unlettered world."

"You may be a brave man," "So much the worst for yer, I reckin, yer air sorter proud o' yer be discharging your duty, but its out this expression: "I never larnin' an' it may be all right to our duty to see that you don't. spoke a word against that sub- Hay, Oats, Straw, Wood, Etc. fling out yer book business at We could have killed you easy but good of it." every man yer see, but it don't enough without puttin' ourselves speak o' very soun' sense, lemme to the trouble of fetchin' you here, tell yer. In my country, when a but we wanted to furnish an exspeak o' very soun' sense, lemme to the trouble of fetchin' you here,

man gets to spouting like yer've ample to a fellow that turned traibeen doin', we put him down as a tor. We want to hang you grinnel an' don't have nothin' right afore his eyes an' then hang more to do with him."

"By this time the train was brakeman shouted "Patsey," and man bound hand and foot, stretchin a moment more I was standing ed upon the floor," on the platform. The next busiand started across the rugged turned traitor on us. If it hadn't country, I saw my long-haired as- been for him you wouldn't now be quaintance on a mule, riding so close to whar the real work of rapidly in the direction I was to eternal punishment begins. Hold take. I called to him but he made the young feller up an' let the sinno reply.

"My first instructions were to first call on a gentleman named young fellow before, I declare. Harvey. I learned that he lived There must be a mistake here. about fifteen miles from the station, What do you think my business is and when night came on I had anyhow? For God's sake do not considerable trouble in pursuing act until you know what you are the right course. Hurrying clouds doing! Heaven knows I did not obscured the moon, and I could come here to harm anyone." only get an occasional glimpse of the narrow and deflecting road. great deal afore a judge an' jury, Suddenly my horse stopped and but alore us it only amounts to snorted. I urged him but he would not proceed. I dismounted to ascertain the cause of his fright,

a bench and my hands were un-

armed. They were fierce in ac-

I had pleaded with them, 'ere the

now they had restored to me the

cornmill and pile of corn.

stepping in front of me.

"No, sir," I replied. 'I never

this country to buy mountain cat-

"An' I reckin you've found

more of 'em than you can buy."

"I don't understand you.

here. I never harmed any of you,

and why you should inflict pun-

what we mean now, because he

"Gentlemen," repeated a chorus

of voices. 'Did you hear that.

a right to make whisky when and

"Now your talkin'; put it to

him!" exclaimed the chorus.

whar we please."

ain't got his crowd with him.'

understand."

he'd show us.'

"Gentlemen, you-"

He's gettin' powerful' meek'.

when I was seized, and despite resistance, bound and gagged. There seemed to be quite a number in the party of captors, for while bound to a horse and hurried you have done oughter know that along, I heard numerous sup-

most precipitions with hill sides. When we stopped I was rudely lifted from the borse and taken above tightened it. inside a log house, built so close

to the mountain side that an immense rock formed a side wall of gasped, "tell me what I have the structure. I was placed upon

States marshal on thar hunt of tied. I saw around me ten or distillers." replied grizzly-beard. twelve rough looking men, heavily "I am not. I am a cattle buyer. No one can prove that I am a deption and determined in expression.

"I reckin I kin," replied a voice and before me stood the longhaired man I had met on the use of articulation, I was mute and

"I did not tell you that I was a saw great copper vessels, and off deputy marshal!" to the right, where my eyes inad-

vertently wandered, I saw a rude "So you've come out here to take us to the penitentiary, eh?" Marshal. said a large grizzly-bearded man,

"Then I realized how the mistake had occured. The deputy heard of you before. I came to marshal had given me his card; when I introduced myself to the long-haired man, I had without noticing it, given it to him. I made an elaborate explanation, and in proof told them to search my don't know why I was brought pockets, where they would find several cards bearing different names, but would find at least fifishment on me is something I don't ty bearing one name, which was my own. They did so, and took "Oh, he's powerful innocent," the rope from my neck, and also exclaimed a fellow who looked at liberated the young man who me with an expression of blood- they thought had turned infor-

thirsty revenge. He don't know mer. "I was soon liberated and allowed to mount my horse. The "That's the way he's trying to grizzly man gave me instructions work it," exclaimed the man who in regard to the road to Harvey's leaned against one of the copper and bade me good night in a spirit vessels, 'but turn him aloose an' of friendship. When I had gone about fifty yards some one called to me to stop. I did not know whether to fly or obey, but knowing that the distillers could, by their knowledge of the country,

He's gettin' powerful' meek'.

"Young feller," said the grizzlybearded patriarch, 'we're goin' to
put a mighty tellin' lesson before
your eyes.

We're citizens of this here
Amerikin gover'ment, and don't

Amerikin gover'ment, and don't

We're citizens of this here

Amerikin gover'ment, and don't

"Heir knowledge of the country,
soon head me off, I stopped.

"Here," he said, handing me a
bottle. "Take this moonshine
along with you. It's the best, an'
along towards the turn of the
plies, Resumation, Constipction, Nervous Disorders, Pingles, Uters, Secolia, Skin
plies, Rheumation, Colarris, Secolia, Skin
plies, Plies, Rheumation, Colarris, Sec

The report recently gained Journalistic circulation that Rev. Dr. Talmage of Brooklyn, N. Y., had spoken in a derogatory manner of St. Jacobs Oil. A personal interview with the Doctor, by a St. Jacontinued the patriarch, "an' may cobs Oil representative brought stance, nor ever heard anything

him."

"A groan arrested my attention, slacking up at a station. The and looking around, I saw a young

"That young chap," continued ness to be transacted was to hire a the grizzly leader, "went down to horse which I did after consider. Little Rock some time ago an' able trouble. Just as I mounted we've foun' out by your raid, ners look at each other."

"Gentlemen, I never saw the

"That talk mout amount to a what it's worth."

"What am I charged with? Give me a chance to defend my

"It wasn't expected that you wanted a chance. A man that is bold as to come right out as he's tuck thar ain't no chance fur him. Fetch the rope Josiah!"

"The young man addressed immediately appeared with the rope. begged and prayed, but they slipped a noose over my neck and throwing the rope over something

"Before you murder me," I

"You are a deputy United

almost stupified. At every turn I train.

"No, but yer give me yer ticket," and he produced a card bearing the name and address of J. M. Petter, United States Deputy

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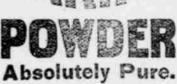
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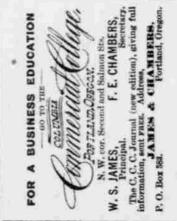
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