

THE RED TRAIL

BY GUSTAVE AIMARD

CHAPTER V.

The sun rose; its beams played on the trembling yellow leaves of the trees, and tinged them with a thousand shades of gold and purple. The birds, cozily nestled in the bushes, struck up their matin carol; the awakening of nature was as splendid and imposing as it is in all mountainous countries.

The leader of the caravan left his tent and gave orders to strike the camp. The tent was at once folded up, the mules were loaded, and so soon as the horses were saddled, the party started without waiting for the morning meal, for they generally breakfasted at the 11 o'clock halt.

The caravan advanced along the road from Santa Fe to the United States, at a speed unusual under such circumstances.

When he left the camp, the chief of the caravan spurred his horse and joined the Indian, who was marching alone in front, examining the bushes and apparently performing all the duties of an experienced guide. Curumilla, though he heard the hurried paces of the Mexican horse, did not turn round, but continued trotting along on his sorry mule.

"Indian," said the caravan chief in Spanish, "I wish to speak with you on an important subject; be good enough to put off your usual silence for a while and answer like a honest man. You engaged with me at Santa Fe to lead me, for the sum of four ounces, safely to the frontiers of Upper Mexico. Since you have been in my service I must allow that I have only had reason to praise your prudence; but we are at this moment in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, that is to say, we have reached the most dangerous part of our journey. Two days ago you lifted the trail of Crow Indians, very formidable enemies of caravans, and I want to consult with you as to the means to employ to foil the snares in which these Indians will try to catch us."

The Indian felt in a bag of striped calico thrown over his shoulder, and produced a greasy paper, which he opened and offered the Mexican.

"What is this?" the latter asked. "Oh, yes, certainly; your engagement. Well, what has this to do with the question I asked you?"

Curumilla, still impassive, laid his fingers on the paper, at the last paragraph of the engagement.

"Well, what then?" the Mexican exclaimed humbly. "It is said there, it is true, that I must trust entirely to you, and leave you at liberty to act as you please for the common welfare. That proves to me that you are acting for our common welfare, and that you are not a traitor?"

At this word traitor, so distinctly uttered by the Mexican, Curumilla gave a tiger glance at the speaker, while his whole body was agitated by a convulsive tremor; he uttered two or three incomprehensible guttural exclamations, and the Mexican could suspect his intentions he was seized round the waist, lifted from the saddle, and hurled on the ground, where he lay stunned. Curumilla leaped from his mule, drew from his belt four gold ounces, hurled them at the Mexican, and then bounding over the precipice that bordered the road, disappeared.

The situation was becoming most critical for the chief of the caravan; he found himself abandoned without a guide, in unknown regions, doubtless watched by hidden foes, and exposed at any moment to an attack.

The march was continued; no suspicious sign was discovered; and the Mexicans were justified in believing that, with the exception of the time they would be compelled to lose, the flight of the Indian would entail no disagreeable consequences.

Singularly enough, Carnero seemed rather pleased than annoyed at the disappearance of the guide. Far from complaining or deploring the delay in the continuance of the journey he laughed at what had happened and made an infinite number of more or less witty remarks about it, which considerably annoyed his master, whose joy was merely on the surface, and who, in his heart, cursed the mishap which kept them in the mountains and exposed them to the insults of the plunderers.

"Pray, what do you find so agreeable in what has happened that you are so affected by no merry, no Carnero?" he at length asked.

"Forgive me, mi amo," the capataz answered; "but you know the proverb, 'What can't be cured must be endured.'"

"Hum!" said the master.

"And besides," the capataz added, as he stooped down, "however bad our position may be, it is not better to pretend to consider it good?"

A little before 11 a. m. the caravan reached the terrace, and it was with a feeling of joy, which they did not attempt to conceal, that the peons recognized the strength of the position.

"We shall stop here for the present," the Mexican said. "Unload the mules, and light the fires. Immediately after breakfast we will begin entrenching ourselves."

The peons obeyed with the speed of men who have made a long journey and are beginning to feel hungry; the fires were lighted in an instant, and a few moments later the peons vigorously attacked their maize tortillas, their tocinas and their ceceas—those indispensable elements of every Mexican meal. When the hunger of his men was appeased the chief rose.

"Now," he said, "to work."

of the torch that faintly illumined the hall, that among the men who surrounded him few wore the Mexican costume, it was true, and they had their faces hidden by a piece of black crape, forming a species of mask, and so well fastened round their necks, that it was entirely impossible to recognize them.

"What do these men want with me?" he muttered, as he let his head fall on his chest sadly.

"Patience!" said the man who had already spoken, "you will soon know."

CHAPTER VII.

There was a short delay, during which the conquerors appeared to be consulting together in a low voice; while doing so, an Indian chief, who was no other than the Jester, entered the hall. The general and the capataz were then again picked up by the redskins, and at a sign from one of the masked men, transported on to the volcano.

One hundred and fifty to two hundred Indians, mostly armed with guns, and ranged in good order round the terrace, the center of which remained free, faced the cavern, having among them the disarmed Mexicans, the baggage, horses and mules.

The tent still stood in the middle of what was to have been the encampment; but the curtain was raised, and a horseman was standing in front of it, as if to defend the entrance.

At the moment when the party emerged from the cave and appeared on the terrace, the horsemen drawn up at the entrance of the defile opened up to the right and left, leaving a passage for a small troop of men dressed in hunter's garb, and whom it was easy to recognize as white men; two ladies, mounted on ambling mules, were in the midst of them.

This troop of strangers was composed of eight persons altogether, leading with them two baggage mules. As the men were disarmed, and walked on foot amid some fifty Indian horsemen, they had, in all probability, been surprised by a party of redskins.

The two ladies, one of whom was of a certain age, while the other appeared scarcely 18, and who might be supposed closely related, through the resemblance of their features, were treated with an exquisite politeness they were far from expecting by the Indians, and conducted to the tent. The curtain was then lowered, to conceal them from the glances of the Indians.

The newcomers, at a signal from their conductors, ranged themselves with the other prisoners; they were powerful men whom the Indians had probably not given a chance to defend; otherwise they looked as if they would sooner be killed than yield.

Two masked men took their seats on the granite blocks, and the Indians who carried the general laid him on the ground in front of this species of tribunal. The person who seemed to be the president of this sinister assembly gave a sign, the prisoner's bonds at once fell off, and he found himself once more able to move his limbs.

The general drew himself up, crossed his hands on his chest, threw his body back haughtily, raised his head and looked at his judges with a glance of withering contempt.

"What do you want with me, bandits?" he said; "enough of this; these insolent maneuvers will not alarm me."

"Silence!" the president said, coldly; "it is not your place to speak thus."

Then he remarked to the Jester, who was standing a few paces from him: "Bring up the other prisoners, old and new; everybody must hear what is going to be said."

The Jester gave a signal to the warriors; some of them dismounted, approached the prisoners and, after loosening the cord that bound the capataz, they led him, as well as the peons and prisoners of the second caravan, in front of the tribunal. Then, at a signal from the Jester, the horsemen closed up round the white men.

(To be continued.)

Dehorning a Rhinoceros.

A rhinoceros which lived in the London zoo was troubled by its horn, which grew down in front of its mouth, so that only with difficulty could it eat or drink. To save its life the keeper decided on amputation. The horn of a rhinoceros is not a horn at all, but an accumulation of hair and skin which has hardened and become cemented together by some gummy substance. The owner of this one and very touchy temper and was not easily approached. Its keeper, however, decided to try what he could do. For some days it required all his skill to persuade the beast to come to the front of the cage and put its horn through. Then for some days he stroked the horn, much to the animal's disgust at first, although later it seemed to like it. When it found he meant no harm it let him take the horn in his left hand and then with the right imitate the motion of a saw across it. When this had been done some time and the rhinoceros no longer minded it, a piece of wood was held in the right hand, and at last, when even this no longer worried the animal, a real saw was brought in and the horn cut off without the slightest remonstrance from the owner of it.

Hardest of All Metals.

Tantalum has been hammered into sheets, which are extremely hard. Sir William Crookes, F. R. S., states that "a hole had to be bored through a plate of this metal and a diamond drill was used, revolving at the rate of 5,000 revolutions per minute. This whirling force was continued ceaselessly for three days and nights, when it was found that only a small depression 25 mm. deep had been drilled, and it was a moot point which had suffered the more damage—the diamond or the tantalum."

As Usual.

Friend—You took your son into your establishment some months ago to teach him the business, I understand. How did it turn out? Business Man (wearily)—Great success. He's teaching me now.—Chicago Journal.

It is only a waste of time to look at the ashes after you have burned the money.

FARMS AND FARMERS

How Book Learning Pays.

"Book learning" for farmers has been a thing to laugh at in the past. It used to be thought that an almanac and one or two patent office reports were all a man needed to make him competent to "run a farm." We are getting past that day, and doing it at a pretty fast pace, in our times. Think of the report just published by the commissioners appointed a couple of years ago in the State of Louisiana to investigate crop pests, with particular reference to the boll weevil and the terrible injury it has wrought to the cotton crop. For two years these commissioners have been studying and experimenting on the State farms in the Red river region, and now they send word out to the world that they have succeeded in growing cotton that cannot be hurt by the boll weevil. Just how they have done this we must wait to learn. The great fact is that they have done it. Think what this will mean in money to the farmers of the cotton growing States! Nor will the benefit of their work stop there. Other people than the cotton growers are interested in cotton. We all have use for the plant and its products. From the poor man down in the most obscure quarter of the city to the millionaire in his beautiful home, we all need cotton in some form or other. And "book farming" cuts the cloud which has hung over the men who grow the plant and lets the sunshine out all over the world.

Summer Pest.

The illustration shows one of the most destructive of the summer insect pests, which attacks both fruit and ornamental trees. It is known as the yellow-neck caterpillar, and is usually found in numbers along the branches of trees, feeding on the foliage until the limb is entirely denuded, when they migrate to another limb. The female deposits the eggs on the leaf of the tree, where they are usually hatched during July, and the young insects begin feeding on the leaves.

The full-grown moth is shown in the upper part of the illustration. The caterpillar is about two inches long, with a dull yellow band just back of the black head. This pest is familiar to most farmers, for it may be found in nearly every section of the country.



The Yellow Caterpillar.

A good way to rid the trees of them is by spraying with paris green, but if this is not desirable because of fruit on the trees, a torch made of cloth or small rags and saturated with kerosene may be applied to the infested limbs and the insects destroyed in this manner.

Dog Sausage No Joke.

The old joke about eating "hot dog" is no joke in Germany any more, for no less than 7,000 canines of various breeds were slaughtered and eaten by the subjects of Kaiser William last year, according to a report from Consul George N. Ifft at Annberg. The eating of horse meat seems to be quite general in Germany, for no less than 182,000 horses were slaughtered for human food in 1906.

Horseflesh is very generally advertised in the German papers," says Consul Ifft, "especially in those in large industrial centers, and most German cities have it a specialty, claiming that it is a higher percentage of nourishment than that of beef, veal, mutton or pork. Neither is it unusual to find advertisements of dog meat or for the purchase of dogs for slaughter. In the city of Cassel recently the police, in searching for a lost dog, discovered a private slaughter house and arrested the proprietors, who were apparently making a regular business of stealing and killing dogs."

Hedge Trimmer.

The trimming of a hedge is properly the work of an expert, many years of practical experience being required before work can be accomplished. As a rule expert hedge trimmers employ a cutter having but a single pair of blades. A Virginia man thought that a trimmer could be devised which would simplify the trimming and assure greater accuracy. Accordingly he designed the implement shown in the illustration. It comprises a pair of knives, containing numerous cutting teeth. The knives are attached to pivoted handles, one knife moving over the other. When the latter are grasped, one in each hand, considerable power can be applied to the cutter, whereby over a foot of the hedge can be trimmed in a single cut. It would be impossible, with this tool, to trim too much in spots, forming an uneven surface to the hedge. The extreme length of the blades insures an even cut throughout.

Cacti as Stock Food.

The New Mexico Experiment Station has issued a very creditable bulletin dealing with the composition and feeding value of the prickly pear and other cacti. The spines of the cacti are removed by singeing with a torch. The protein content in the air-dry material ranges from 2 to 10 per cent, the fruit being the richest part. The cacti compare favorably with many forage plants. Heretofore the great difficulty in the way of utilizing cacti as forage has been the spines, but since they can be removed by the torch a large amount of cheap forage is made available to the stockmen of the arid plains.

AFTER BIGGER GAME

Bonaparte Will Get Officials of Harriman Lines.

WOULD SEND OFFENDERS TO JAIL

Proposes to Proceed Against Principals in Violations of Anti-Trust Laws.

New York, Aug. 8.—A special dispatch to the New York Times from Lenox, Mass., sent under today's date says:

That criminal prosecutions will be taken in the near future as a result of the Interstate Commerce investigation of the Harriman railroad system was the information obtained here upon authority this afternoon on the virtual eve of the return of Attorney General Bonaparte to Washington.

Mr. Bonaparte was asked if action, personally, against individuals would be included in the prosecutions. He replied somewhat emphatically: "I have noticed a good many complaints that criminal prosecutions against trust magnates and sentences of imprisonment for them have been very infrequent and, in fact, for practical purposes unknown. It is perfectly true that, in my opinion at least, a better moral effect would be produced by sending a few prominent men to jail than by a great deal of litigation, however successful, against the corporations they controlled."

"Some time since two corporations and their respective presidents were indicted jointly for violation of the anti-trust law. If the corporations were guilty of such, it would be hard for the lay mind, at least, to see how their presidents could be innocent. Nevertheless the jury convicted the corporations and acquitted their presidents."

"It is the avowed purpose of the department of justice to prosecute criminally any one who is really responsible for violations of the anti-trust law, whoever it can do so with any reasonable probability of success. It does not care to prosecute mere underlings who are known to everyone to have acted under the direct authority of their superiors."

"If it can get a case against any of the superiors such as Justice has a reasonable hope on the part of experienced lawyers that he can be punished personally the department will undoubtedly take advantage of the opportunity as soon as it is presented."

PROTECT ALL EUROPEANS.

But Morocco Must Also Grant Other Demands of France.

Tangier, Aug. 8.—Upon the demand of the French Charge, Mohammed el Torres, the representative of the Sultan here, has reiterated the instructions he had previously issued to assure the safety of the Europeans at Tangier and other ports and towns.

The French steamer Anatole, which brought the news of the bombardment of Casa Blanca, has been requisitioned by the French Charge, who will use her as a dispatch-boat. A guard to protect the French Consulate will immediately be landed at Rabat.

The French Charge d'Affaires has made the following formal demands upon the Moroccan government: "First—That the Moroccan authorities at Casa Blanca place themselves under the orders of the commander of the French forces."

"Second—That the security of the French citizens at Fez and other places in the interior be guaranteed."

"Third—That the Moroccan authorities hasten the preparation for the murder of Dr. Mauchamp."

"Fourth—That the Moroccan authorities expedite the preparation for the application of the reforms agreed upon by the Algeiras convention."

Has Cure for Meningitis.

Chicago, Aug. 8.—A special dispatch to the Tribune from Cleveland says: According to private advices received last night from New York and Castalia, Ohio, the wealth of John D. Rockefeller has made possible a cure for meningitis. Dr. Simon Flexner has discovered a serum which will cure the heretofore fatal disease. Experiments made at Castalia have demonstrated the efficacy of the serum. Dr. Flexner is head of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in New York.

Japan Cooling Down.

Victoria, B. C., Aug. 8.—Tatsuya, editor of the Japanese Trade Journal of Tokyo, arrived here today to study the condition of Japanese on the Coast. He said little farther difficulty was expected with regard to the complaints from San Francisco, Yankaka and Hattori, from Seattle, who went to Japan to represent real conditions to the Japanese had been very successful, and Japanese who had not known the real state of affairs were less prone to complain.

Disarming Moorish Troops.

Paris, Aug. 8.—A special dispatch from Tangier this afternoon says that the Moorish troops composing the garrison of Casa Blanca have been disarmed and that their arms and ammunition have been deposited at the French consulate. The Moorish officials have confided the protection of the city to the Franco-Spanish forces.



Fruit Gatherer.

Professional growers of small fruits have been on the lookout for some such satisfactory device in which the picked fruit can be temporarily held by the picker. These devices have taken many forms, the majority consisting of baskets and similar receptacles, which are secured to the body of the picker. A

FRUIT GATHERER.

Improvement in this line is the fruit gatherer shown here, the invention of a New Jersey man. It consists of a leather receptacle which is attached to the arm, one end overlapping the palm of the hand, the opposite end being sealed. The open end is shaped like a scoop. As the operator picks the fruit, such as berries, cherries, etc., he drops it into the receptacle. The device does not in any way interfere with the free movement of the arm or hands, nor is there any likelihood of the fruit falling out of the receptacle.

Cabbage Rot.

The disease known to the cabbage growers as black rot, or stem rot, has come into prominence within the last few years, and is said to be a serious hindrance to cabbage growing in several States. From a recent farmers' bulletin prepared by the chief of the division of vegetable pathology, it appears that no way is known of curing the disease or of entirely ridding a locality of it when once it is well established. The whole subject of treatment may be summed up in one word—preventing. The disease is not confined to the cabbage, but attacks a number of species belonging to the mustard family. The planting of other crops for a long series of years is said to be the only satisfactory way to get rid of this disease of the cabbage when it has once become serious.

Summer Feeding of Sheep.

The summer feeding of sheep is not difficult. There is no other animal that can be shifted from field to field in summer to consume the weeds as can sheep. When handled in this way, they will keep the fence corners clean. To what better use could you put four weeds than to turn them into mutton? Inquires a grower in New England Homestead. But do not overlook the fact that they also enjoy and thrive upon good grass. In order to keep a large number on a small farm you should have small fields and change them often, for this gives them short, tender grass, which they like best, and also keeps them healthy by not allowing them to remain upon one pasture too long.