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He perceived the picture in all its grewsome details—the two muledrawn wagons moving slowly along the trail in the early morning; the band of hostile Indians suddenly swooping out from some obscure hiding place in the bluffs; the discovery of their presence; the desperate effort at escape; the swerving from the open trail in vain hope of reaching the river and finding protection underneath its banks; the frightened mules galloping wildly, lashed into a frenzy by the man on normeback; to pounding of the ponies' hoofs, punctuated by the exultant yells of the pursuers. Again he swore:

"Of all the blame fools!"

CHAPTER II

The Scene of Tragedy. Whatever might be the nature of

the tragedy it would be over with long before this, and those moving black spots away yonder to the west, that he had discerned from the bluff, were undoubtedly the departing raiders. There was nothing left for Keith to do except determine the fate of the unfortunates, and give their bodies decent burial. That any had escaped, or yet lived, was altogether unlikely, unless, perchance, women had been in the party, in which case they would have been borne away prisoners. Confident that no hostiles would be

left behind to observe his movements, Keith pressed steadily forward, leading his horse. He had thus traversed fully half a mile before coming upon any evidence of a fight-here the pursuers had apparently come up with the wagons, and circled out upon either side. From their ponies' tracks there must have been a dozen in the band. Perhaps a hundred yards further along lay two dead ponies. Keith examined them closely-both had been ridden with saddles, the marks of the cinches plainly visible. Evidently one of the wagon mules had also dropped in the traces here, and had been dragged along by his mates. Just beyond came a sudden depression in the prairie down which the wagons had plunged so heavily as to break one of the axles; the wheel lay a few yards away, and, somewhat to the right, there lay the wreck of the wagon itself, two dead mules still in the traces, the vehicle stripped of contents and charred by fire. A hundred feet further along was the other wagon, its tongue broken, the canvas top ripped open, while between the two were scattered odds and ends of wearing apparel and provisions, with a pile of boxes smoking grimly. The remaining mules were gone, and no semblance of life remained anywhere. Keith dropped his reins over his horse's head, and, with Winchester cocked and ready, advanced cautiously.

Death from violence had long since become almost a commonplace occurrence to Keith, yet now he shrank for an instant as his eyes perceived the figure of a man lying motionless across the broken wagon tongue. The grizzled hair and beard were streaked with blood, the face almost unrecogmizable, while the hands yet grasped a bent and shattered rifle. Evidently the man had died fighting, beaten down by overwhelming numbers after expending his last shot. Then those fiends had scalped and left him where he fell. Fifty feet beyond, shot in the back, lay a younger man, doubled up in a heap, also scalped and dead. That was all; Keith scouted over a wide circle, even scanning the stretch of gravel under the river bank, before he could fully satisfy himself there were no others in the party. It seemed impossible that these two traveling alone would have ventured upon such a trip in the face of known Indian hostility. Yet they must have done so, and once again his lips muttered: "Of all the blame fools!"

Suddenly he halted, staring about over the prairie, obsessed by a new thought, an aroused suspicion. There had appeared merely the hoof-prints of the one horse alongside of the fleeing wagons when they first turned out from the trail, and that horse had been newly shod. But there were two dead ponies lying back yonder; neither shod, yet both had borne saddles. More than this, they had been spurred, the blood marks still plainly visible, and one of them was branded; he remembered it now, a star and arrow. What could all this portend? Was it possible this attack was no Indian affair after all? Was the disfiguring of bodies, the scalping, merely done to make it appear the act of savages? Driven to investigation by this suspicion, he passed again over the trampled ground, marking this time every separate indentation, every faintest imprint of hoof or foot. There was no impression of a moccasin anywhere; every mark remaining was of booted feet. The inference was sufficiently plain-this had been the deed of white men, not of red; foul

murder, and not savage war. The knowledge seemed to sear Keith's brain with fire, and he sprang to his feet, hands clinched and eyes blazing. He could have believed this of Indians, it was according to their nature, their method of warfare: but

red remains of boxes as some slight protection against prowling wolves. He searched the clothing of the men, but found little to reward the effort, a few letters which were slipped into his pockets to be read later, some ordinary trinkets hardly worth preserving except that they might assist in identifying the victims, and, about the neck of the elder man, a rather peculiar locket, containing a portrait painted on ivory. Keith was a long time opening this, the spring being finally succeeding, he looked upon the features of a woman of middle age, a strong mature face of marked refinement, exceedingly attractive still, with smiling dark eyes, and a perfect wealth of reddish brown hair. He

the cowardiness of it, the atrocity of the act, as perpetrated by men of his own race, instantly aroused within held the locket open in his hand for him a desire for vengeance. He several minutes, wondering who she wanted to run the fellows down, to could be, and what possible connecdiscover their identity. Without tion she could have held with the thinking of personal danger he ran dead. Something about that face forward on their trail, which led dismiling up into his own held peculiar rectly westward, along the line of fascination for him, gripping him with cottonwoods. These served to cona strange feeling of familiarity, touchceal his own movements, yet for the ing some dim memory which failed moment, burning with passion, he to respond. Surely he had never seen was utterly without caution, without the original, for she was not one to slightest sense of peril. He must be easily forgotten, and yet eyes, know who was guilty of such a crime; hair, expression, combined to remind he felt capable of killing them even as him of some one whom he had seen he would venemous snakes. It was a but could not bring definitely to mind. perfectly plain trail to follow, for the There were no names on the locket, no marks of identification of any kind, fugitives, apparently convinced of safety, and confident their cowardly yet realizing the sacredness of it, deed would be charged to Indian raid-Keith slipped the fragile gold chain ers, had made no particular effort at about his neck, and securely hid the concealment, but had ridden away at trinket beneath his shirt. 'a gallop, their horses' hoofs digging deeply into the soft turf. On this retreat they had followed closely along

shore. Even as he stood there, real-

into the ground at his feet, while an-

sufficiently near to be alarming, serv-

ed to send Keith to cover. Cool-head-

by little he comprehended the situa-

tion, and decided upon his own ac

tion. The fugitives were aware of his

presence, and would prevent hi

crossing the stream, yet they were

not at all liable to return to this side

and thus reveal their identity. To

attempt any further advance would be

madness, but he felt perfectly secure

from molestation so long as he re-

mained quietly on the north shore.

Those shots were merely a warning

to keep back; the very fact that the

men firing kept concealed was proof

positive that they simply wished to be

left alone. They were not afraid of

what he knew now, only desirous of

not being seen. Confident as to this,

the retreated openly, without making

the slightest effort to conceal his

movements, until he had regained the

scene of murder. In evidence of the

truth of his theory no further shots

were fired, and although he watched

that opposite sand bank carefully, not

the slightest movement revealed the

presence of others. That every mo-

keen eyes he had no doubt, but this

knowledge did not disconcert him,

now that he felt convinced fear of re-

vealment would keep his watchers at

a safe distance. Whoever they might

be they were evidently more anxious

to escape discovery than he was fear-

ful of attack, and possessed no desire

to take his life, unless it became

necessary to prevent recognition.

They still had every reason to believe

their attack on the wagons would be

credited to hostile Indians, and would

consider it far safer to remain con-

cealed, and thus harbor this supposi-

tion. They could not suspect that

Keith had already stumbled upon the

truth, and was determined to verify

Secure in this conception of the sit-

uation, yet still keeping a wary eye

about to guard against any treachery,

the plainsman, discovering a spade in

the nearest wagon, hastily dug a hole

ent to a bilions state of the system, such as

Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are

equally valuable in Constipation, curing and pre-

venting this annoying complaint, while they also

liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only

Ache they would be almost priceless to those who

who once try them will find these little pills valu-

able in so many ways that they will not be willing to do without them. But after all sick head

Is the bane of so many lives that here is where

we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while

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- MANAGEMENT

others do not.

CARTERS

other sang shrilly overhead.

It was noon by this time, the sun high overhead, and his horse, with dangling rein, still nibbling daintily at the short grass. There was no reathe river bank, aiming for the ford. son for his lingering longer. He swept and almost before he realized it Keith his gaze the length and breadth of the was himself at the water's edge where desolate valley, and across the river the trail abruptly ended, staring over the sand hills. All alike appear vaguery across toward the opposite ed deserted, not a moving thing being visible between the bluffs and the izing the futility of further pursuit stream. Still he had the unpleasant amid the maze of sand dunes opposite, feeling of being watched, and it made the sharp reports of two rifles reachhim restless and eager to be away. ed him, spurts of smoke rose from the The earlier gust of anger, the spirit farther bank, and a bullet chugged of revenge, had left him, but it had merely changed into a dogged resolution to discover the perpetrators of These shots, although neither came this outrage and bring them to justice for the crime. The face in the locket seemed to ask it of him, and his naed and alert now, his first mad rage ture urged response. But he could dissipated, he scanned the opposite hope to accomplish nothing more bank cautiously, but could nowhere here, and the plainsman swung himdiscover any evidence of life. Little self into the saddle. He turned his horse's head eastward, and rode

CHAPTER III

away. From the deeply rutted trai

he looked back to where the fire still

smoked in the midst of that desolate

silence.

An Arrest The Santa Fe trail was far too exposed to be safely traveled alone and in broad daylight, but Keith considered it better to put sufficient space between himself and those whom he felt confident were still watching his movements from across the river. How much they might already suspi cion his discoveries he possessed no means of knowing, yet, conscious of their own guilt, they might easily feel safer if he were also put out of the way. He had no anticipation of open attack, but must guard against treach ery. As he rode, his eyes never left those far-away sand dunes, although he perceived no movement, no black tion he made was being observed by dot even which he could conceive to be a possible enemy. Now that he possessed ample time for thought, the situation became more puzzling. This tragedy which he had accidentally stumbled upon must have had a cause other than blind chance. It was the culmination of a plot, with some rea son behind more important than ordi nary robbery. Apparently the wagons contained nothing of value, merely the clothing, provisions, and ordinary utensils of an emigrant party. Nor had the victims' pockets been carefully searched. Only the mules had been taken by the raiders, and they would be small booty for such a

> The trail, continually skirting the high bluff and bearing farther away from the river, turned sharply into a narrow ravine. There was a considerable break in the rocky barrier here, leading back for perhaps a hundred yards, and the plainsman turned his horse that way, dismounting when out of sight among the boulders. He could rest here until night with little danger of discovery. He lay down or the rocks, pillowing his head on the saddle, but his brain was too active



Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and A Bullet Chugged Into the Ground at very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action please all who use them. His Feet.

to permit sleeping. Finally he drew the letters from out his pocket, and began examining them. They yield-

ed very little information, those taken from the older man having no envelopes to show to whom they had been addressed. The single document found in the pocket of the other was a memorandum of account at the Pioneer Store at Topeka, charged to John Sibley, and marked paid. This then must have been the younger man's name, as the letters to the other began occasionally "Dear Will." They were missives such as a wife might write to a husband long absent, yet upon a mission of deep interest to both. Keith could not fully determine what this mission might be, as the persons evidently understood each other so thoroughly that mere allusion took the place of detail. Twice the name Phyllis was mentioned, and once a "Fred" was also referred to, but in neither instance clearly enough to reveal the relationship, although the latter appeared to be pleaded for. Certain references caused the belief that these letters had been mailed from some small Missouri town, but no name was mentioned. They were invariably signed "Mary." The only other paper Keith discovered was a brief itinerary of the Santa Fe trail extending as far west as the Raton Mountains, giving the usual camping spots and places where water was accessible. He slipped the papers back into his pocket with a distinct feeling of disappointment, and lay back staring up at the little strip of blue sky. The silence was profound, even his horse standing motionless, and finally he fell asleep.

(To continued.)

### **OBITUARY**

JAMES WHITE

The death occurred in Orillia on Saturday last of James White, who during his life was prominently identified with lumbering along the Trent waterway. He came to Longford Mills in 1871, there taking employment with the then firm of Thomson & Millar. Up to 1879 he was in charge of the depot at Uphill, County of Victoria. In that year he entered the service of the Georgian Bay Lumber Co., at Waubaushene, where he remained about two years. From Waubaushene he went, for the same firm, to Byng Inlet. This concern having sold the Byng Inlet mills, Mr. White came to Orillia in 1893, taking employment with McCormick & McLeod, as bookkeeper and confidential clerk, maining with them till the firm was dissolved. From that time up to the time of his death, Mr. White was valued and trusted employee of Mr. H. J. Bartlett.

# WILLIAM THORNBURY

The annual meeting of L.O.L. 935 was held in Glenarm on Dec. 3, with a large number present. After the regular business Bro. Wm. Thornbury, of Lindsay was called upon to take the chair during the election and installation of officers. The following

D. P. McKenzie-W. M.

Robt. Hargrave-D. M.

D. A. Spence-Rec. Sec. Dougald Spence-Fin. Sec.

D. Campbell-Sr. Com.

**INSTALLING OFFICER** 

officers were elected to office:

R. McFadyen-Chap.

H. Boyde-Treas.

R. Nicholson-Lect.

D. Ferguson-D. C.

After the installation of officers in- | Society.

charge. Both sender and receiver are fully protected by using Dominion Express Every railway station has Money 'Orders' may be obtained. and in almost every town Over \$ 5 to \$10 . . 6 " there are branch Offices 10 " 30 . 10 " 30 " 50 . 15 " 50 at same rates. and Foreign Cheques

teresting addresses were given members present, and Dec. 20 set apart for a degree meeting of the lodge, and a well spent evening was brought to a close.

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WOMEN are fast learn-ing the advantages of

Express Money Orders

in sending money through

the mails. An Express

Order is easy to obtain,

simple to understand,

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There is no need

to register letters

containing Express

Money Orders.

They are loss-

proof. All pro-

gressive stores and

merchants prefer to

receive remittances in

this way - if an

order goes astray in the

mails the money is

promptly refunded or a

new order issued free of

### MATERNITY HOUSE LOSES ITS LICENSE

ing: Irregularity in the management of a maternity house conducted at 19 Wellesley avenue by Mrs. Wm. H. Parker, has resulted in the holder being deprived of her license by the the birth of a child about seven women. One wished the birth of a child concealed. The second, from a dertake any duties assigned him, small village near Lindsay came to and has been very regular in his the city to adopt an infant. To arrange matters to be mutually satisfactory, it is stated the Wellesley avenue house management reported to the Provincial Department that the country woman was the mother.

This class of house recently came under the regulation of the Provincial Secretary's Department, when it was made necessary for them to procure licenses in the same way as private hospitals. This is the first license to be cancelled under the new

It is understood the child in question is a ward of the Children's Aid

### TRUSTEE ANDERSON HAS RESIGNED

Resignations seemed to be catching last night at the meeting of the Board of Education. Jas. W. Anderson surprised the board by announcing that as his occupation would call him out of town most of the The Toronto Star has the followcoming year, he felt it his duty to resign in favor of somebody else who would be in close touch with the 1681

Mr. Anderson was persuaded by his colleagues to continue as a member Provincial Secretary's Department. | until the close of the current year. The cause, as explained by the au- His resignation, to take place at thorities, was a false return sub- that time, was accepted on motion mitted to the department regarding of Trustees McLennan and Dr. White. During his term of office as a memmonths ago. From the story told by ber of the Board of Education Mr. the Staff Inspector there were two Anderson has been a valued member and has always been willing to un-

BORN

attendance at the meetings.

EARL-In Omemee, on Friday, Dec. 6th, 1912, to Dr. and Mrs. Earl, & daughter.

Women would never be successful as plain clothes detectives.

Dr. de Van's Female Pills A reliable French regulator; never fails. These pills are exceedingly powerful in regulating the generative portion of the female system. Refuse all cheap imitations. Dr. de Van's are sold at \$5 a box, or three for \$10. Mailed to any address. The Scobell Drug Co., St. Catharines. Ont. For sale at Higginbotham's store.

