THE ONLY REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER AND THE BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN CARROLL COUNTY.

AMERICAN SENTINEL.

JOB WORK OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS BETTER AND CHEAPER THAN ELSEWHERE. —o— ESTIMATES FURNISHED.

$1 PER ANNUM. WESTMINSTER, MD., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 6, 1906. VOL. 75--NO. 14.

TO THE PUBLIC.

In view of the many inquiries that have been most naturally made during the past week, it becomes our duty to make a frank statement to the public.

Because of the fact that a number of persons are interested in the AMERICAN SENTINEL and job printing office; for the protection of all these interests the undersigned were by the Circuit Court for Carroll County, sitting as a Court of Equity, appointed Receivers, and will continue the publication of the AMERICAN SENTINEL and all the work of the office, under the same business and editorial management that existed before the death of Mrs. E. J. Rippard.

So far as the interests of the public are concerned there is no change whatever in the conduct of the office, and we solicit the continued patronage of subscribers and advertisers, assuring them that they will receive as in the past, faithful and efficient service.

E. O. GRIMES, Jr.,
W. L. SEABROOK,
Receivers.

George L. Stocksdale, Attorney.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION.

In the Orphans' Court of Carroll County, Md.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ABSENCE OR DEATH OF ELLIS T. JENKINS FORMERLY OF CARROLL COUNTY, MD.

The object of the petition filed in the Orphans' Court of Carroll County, Maryland, by Wiley W. Jenkins, petitioner, is to obtain a decree or order of said Court, declaring Ellis T. Jenkins, an Absentee, dead.

The petition states that a certain Ellis T. Jenkins resided in Freedom district, in Carroll county, Maryland, with his parents until about the 6th day of May, A. D. 1888, at which time he left his home, and has not been heard from since the ——— day of ——— A. D. 1889, and whose whereabouts are unknown to said petitioner, his brothers and sisters.

That the said Ellis T. Jenkins is now entitled to the sum of Three Hundred and Seventy two Dollars and Forty-three Cents, ($372.43), which said sum of money is now in the hands of Messrs. George L. Stocksdale and F. Neal Parke, trustees, in cause No. 4152 Equity, in the Circuit Court for Carroll county, Maryland.

That the said Ellis T. Jenkins has been unheard from for about sixteen (16) years, and for more than seven (7) years last past, and during all of said which time, the said Wiley W. Jenkins, petitioner, has not heard from his brother, the said Ellis T. Jenkins, nor has said petitioner, brothers, sisters, or neighbors heard from him, since the year A. D. 1889, yet inquiry has been made for said Absentee.

That Kansas City, Kansas, is the place, and that the ——— day of ——— A. D. 1889, is the time when the said Ellis T. Jenkins was last heard from, and has been absent ever since said time.

That the said petitioner has made diligent inquiry among his brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors in the neighborhood where the said Ellis T. Jenkins resided before he left Freedom district, Carroll county, Maryland, and that letters have been written to the place where said Absentee might have gone, or have been since his absence, or might have been since his said absence, and other enquiries made of him, and no information has been received from said Absentee by any of these means, since said absence as aforesaid.

That said petitioner believes his said brother the said Ellis T. Jenkins, said Absentee, to be dead.

That said Absentee if not now living. He has left surviving him the following brothers, sisters and niece, his next of kin, and only heirs at law, viz.; a brother, Wiley W. Jenkins; a brother, Ernest H. Jenkins; a sister, Emma Stambaugh; a brother, Albert V. Jenkins; a brother, Hiram A. Jenkins; a brother, Grant Jenkins; a sister, Mamie Condon; and Jetta Lucy Jenkins, only surviving daughter of Octavius Jenkins, deceased.

And in his prayer to said petition, prays the Court to pass an Order of Publication thereon, giving notice to the said Ellis T. Jenkins, said Absentee, to be and appear in said Court, on or before a certain day to be therein named, and show cause if any he has, why he should not be declared by an order of said Court, dead. And that Letters of Administration be granted upon his estate, to an Administrator, and collect his property according to law, and distribute the same according to law among his next of kin, and heirs at law, &c.

And for such other and further relief as his case in the premises may require, &c.

That said petition is accompanied with an affidavit thereon by said petitioner, stating that the matters, facts and things set forth in said petition are true as therein stated to the best of his knowledge and belief.

It is thereupon, this 20th day of March, in the year Nineteen Hundred and Six, ordered by the Orphans' Court of Carroll County, Maryland, that the petitioner, by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in some newspaper published in Carroll county, once in each of four successive times before the 23rd day of April, A. D. 1906, give notice to the said Ellis T. Jenkins, said Absentee, of the substance and object of this petition, warning him to be and appear in this Court, on or before the 21st day of May, A. D. 1906, to show cause, if any he has, why a decree or order should not pass as prayed.

A. KURTZ MYERS,
JOHN E. ECKENRODE,
GEORGE R. RUPP,
Judges.

True copy.—Test:
ma 23 5t J. J. Stewart, Register of Wills.

CONDENSED STATEMENT showing the condition of the Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company

OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN,
DECEMBER 31, 1905.

Total Income during the year	$ 2,049,077.73
Total Disbursements during the year	1,516,468.93
ASSETS.	
Real estate owned by company	$ 314,008.90
Mortgage loans on real estate	7,605,307.81
Loans secured by collateral	22,00.00
Loans to policyholders on the company's policies	901,169.59
Premium notes on policies in force, of which $281.98 is for first year's premium	77,537.10
Bonds and stocks owned by company	25,000.00
Cash in office and in bank and trust companies	155,472.70
Interest and rents due and accrued	136,293.21
Net uncollected and deferred premiums	174,252.51
Agents' balances	10,825.20
Market value of real estate over book value	21,690.18
Market value of bonds and stocks over book value	3,750.00
Gross assets	$ 9,447,807.20
ASSETS NOT ADMITTED.	
Agents' balances more than three months due, unsecured	537.62
Total admitted assets	9,447,269.58
LIABILITIES.	
Net reserve	$ 8,925,351.61
Present value of amounts not yet due on supplementary contracts	45,475.35
Total policy claims	5,137.11
Premiums paid in advance	8,904.63
Dividends due policyholders	613.14
Capital stock paid up	250,000.00
Deposit account	1,963.63
Unassigned funds (surplus)	209,792.11
Total liabilities	$ 9,447,269.58
Amount at risk in United States December 31, 1905	$49,837,230.00
Amount written in Maryland during 1905	204,314.01
Premiums in Maryland in 1905	27,032.22
Losses paid in Maryland in 1905	4,500.00
Losses incurred in Maryland in 1905	4,500.00

State of Maryland, Office of the State Insurance Department.
Baltimore, February 1st, 1906.

I hereby certify that the above is a true abstract, taken from the annual statement of the Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company for the year ending December 31, 1905, now on file in this Department.

BENJ. F. CROUSE,
Insurance Commissioner.

J. BURKLOE BROWN,
State Agent, 432 Equitable Building, Baltimore, Md.

W. RILEY MYERS, Agent, Westminster, Md. ma 23 3t

Why Not Cure Your Cough or Cold?

WESTMINSTER, April 10th, 1890.

MR. JOS. B. BOYLE:

Dear Sir:—For many years I have suffered intensely, on taking cold, from a very troublesome couch, for which I have used a number of various remedies, and obtained but TEMPORARY RELIEF. During the past Spring I was again troubled with the same cough, and through a friend was induced to try YOUR Pectoral Syrup, which not only gave almost INSTANT RELIEF, but a PERMANENT CURE. It gives me great pleasure to say that I believe it to be the best remedy I ever used for the purpose for which it is recommended. Hoping that any person afflicted as I was may be fortunate enough to give it a trial, I am, Truly yours,

EDWARD LYNCH.

For Sale by all Druggists and Merchants in the COUNTY. PRICE 25 CENTS. feb-24-ft

NO. 4276 EQUITY.
In the Circuit Court for Carroll County.

Elias O. Grimes, mortgagee, vs. Harvey E. Stultz and Ella M. Stultz, his wife, mortgagors.

Ordered, this 30th day of March, A. D. 1906, that the account of the Auditor filed in this cause be finally ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 16th day of April next; provided a copy of this order be inserted for two successive weeks before the last named day in some newspaper published in Carroll county.

DAVID P. SMELSER, Clerk.

True Copy—Test:
ma 30 2t DAVID P. SMELSER, Clerk.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters of administration on the estate of

CORA A. REESE,

late of Carroll county, deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated, to the subscriber, on or before the 26th day of October, 1906; they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 26th day of March, 1906.

FRANCIS C. REESE,
ma 30 4t Administrator.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, in Maryland, letters of administration on the estate of

UPTON RUNKLES,

late of Carroll county, deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated, to the subscriber, on or before the 27th day of October, 1906; they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 27th day of March, 1906.

ALBIN L. DUVALL,
ma 30 4t Administrator.

TRANSFERS AND ABATEMENTS.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested that the County Commissioners of Carroll county will sit for the purpose of hearing applications for transfers and abatements at their office, in the Court House, Westminster, Md., as follows:

Districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3, April 9th and 10th, 1906.

Districts Nos. 4, 5 and 6, April 16th and 17th, 1906.

Districts Nos. 7 and 8, April 23rd and 24th, 1906.

Districts Nos. 9, 10 and 11, April 30th and May 1st, 1906.

Districts Nos. 12 and 13, May 7th and 8th, 1906.

The Board will sit from 9 a. m., until 3 p. m., on each of said days, ☞ and notice is hereby given that after the sittings as aforesaid no transfers or abatements will be made to affect the levy of 1906.

F. L. HANN,
ma 23 6t Clerk and Treasurer.

PUBLIC SALE OF VALUABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.

The subscriber, intending to remove to Baltimore, will sell at Public Sale, at the Engine Room of the

FIREMEN'S BUILDING,
in Westminster, on

SATURDAY, APRIL 7th, 1906, at 12 o'clock, noon, the following Valuable Personal Property, to-wit: 1 Bay Horse, 1 combination Runabout and Buggy, 2 sets of Wheels; 1 two-seated rubber tire Creedmore Trap, 1 Spring Wagon, with top; 1 Sleigh, 1 Carriage Pole, 2 sets Harness, one of which is brass mounted; also Household Furniture, consisting of

BEDSTEADS, SPRINGS, MATTRESSES, in three pieces; Carpets, 1 nine-foot Pier Mirror, 1 seven-piece Damask Covered

PARLOR SUITE, 1 UPRIGHT PIANO, in good condition; Refrigerator, and many other articles too numerous to specify.

Terms Cash.

A. C. STRASBURGER.
Elias N. Davis, Auct. ma 30 2t

PUBLIC SALE OF A LARGE BLOCK OF Stock of The Union National Bank OF WESTMINSTER.

By virtue of power contained in the last will and testament of Sallie Longwell, late of Carroll county, deceased, and an order of the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, the subscriber, as Executor of said deceased, will sell at Public Sale, at

The Union National Bank of
WESTMINSTER, ON

SATURDAY, APRIL 14th, 1906, at 1 o'clock, P. M.,

252 SHARES OF THE CAPITAL STOCK of The Union National Bank of Westminster.

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO THIS SALE.

TERMS CASH.

JOSHUA W. HERING,
Executor of Sallie Longwell, deceased.
P. A. Gorsuch, Auctioneer. ma 30 3t

TRUSTEES' SALE OF A DESIRABLE FARM

on Morgan's Run, in Franklin District, Carroll County, Maryland.

By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court for Carroll county, sitting as a Court of Equity, passed in Cause No. 4238 Equity, wherein Charles Magin, et al., are plaintiffs and Henry Magin, et al., are defendants, the undersigned, trustees therein named, will sell at Public Sale, on the premises, to the highest bidder, on

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25th, 1906,

at 2 o'clock, P. M., all that desirable farm of which Peter Magin died seized and possessed, containing

102 ACRES AND 35 SQUARE PERCHES

of Land, more or less. The improvements thereon consist of a comfortable 2½ Story Brick Dwelling House, new Bank Barn, Stone Dairy, Corn Crib and other necessary out-buildings; pump and well of good water at the dwelling. About 15 Acres of this property is covered with

FINE HICKORY AND OAK TIMBER.

There is a due proportion of Meadow Land, and the balance of the property is good arable land. There is also a lot of fine Fruit Trees on the premises.

This property is situate in Franklin district, Carroll county, Maryland, on the Bloom Mill road, about 6 miles from Westminster and 1 mile from Bloom Postoffice, and adjoins the lands of Catharine Carr, Peter Wolf, Daniel W. Smith and others.

Terms of Sale.—One-third cash on the day of sale, or upon the ratification thereof by the Court; one-third in one year and the other one-third in two years from the day of sale; the credit payments to be secured by the notes of the purchaser or purchasers, with approved security and bearing interest from the day of sale; or the whole of the purchase money may be paid in cash, at the option of the purchaser.

CHARLES MAGIN,
FREDERICK MAGIN,
Trustees.
Bond & Parke and John Milton Reifsnider, Solicitors. ma 30 4t

To the Public!

I AM STILL IN THE

Harness Business

at the old stand in Unionville, where I will be glad to serve my customers and the public with first-class

Saddlery Goods

of all kinds, at prices that defy competition.

Repairing done promptly and in first-class manner.

Come and see me this spring if you need an outfit in my line.

C. IRVING LINDSAY,
feb 23 m Unionville, Md.

A FINE RESIDENCE FOR SALE.

Three story 10 room Brick Dwelling, corner Center and Willis streets, in Westminster, Md., most desirable residential section of city; bath and modern improvements; lot 120x198 feet; front and back porches; bay windows in every room; fine fruit; easy terms.

ma 2 tf MARY E. VANDERFORD.

Smith & Reifsnider screen all Anthracite Coal before loading and give 2240 lbs. for a ton.

BABYLON & LIPPY CO.

"The New Stores!"

Chinaware and Household Goods.

Largest Selections and Lowest Prices.

Largest selections and lowest prices of Chinaware and Household goods, just received and now on sale, ever displayed in Carroll county. The above goods are direct shipments from factory and in such quantities, we purchased them at remarkably low prices. We invite you to join the army of shoppers and share some of the Extraordinarily Big Bargains.

A FEW QUOTATIONS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

CHINAWARE.

Regular 38c Cups and Saucers 5c set.
Regular 19 and 25c Pitchers 0c choice.
Regular 35c Dinner Plates 5c set.
Regular 40c Dinner Plates 8c set.
Regular 15 and 20c Large Meat Plates 8c each.
Regular 15c Round Vegetable Dishes 5, 6 and 7c each.
Regular 12½c Bakers 5c each.
Regular 10c Soup Dishes 5c each.
Lot of extra Saucers c each.
Lot of Cups and Saucers 10c set.
Lot of Dinner Plates 1c each.

Another lot of big bargains in Decorated China, that we guarantee to be the cheapest, without a single exception, in Western Maryland.

These goods are strictly first quality and decorated superior to any we ever had.

We have in great variety Vegetable Dishes, Dinner Plates, Pitchers, Bread Trays, Butters, Bowls, Soups, Meats, Bakers and in fact anything that goes to furnish the China Closet. Don't miss the rare chance of getting such values at the low price of 10c each.

We also carry a full line of Jardiniers, Cuspidors, plain and decorated Lamps of every description, including Hall and Hanging Lamps, Vases, Opalware and a general assortment of Glassware.

Our 5c table of Glassware is a winner.

Household and Kitchen Needs.

To new beginners we are headquarters for everything you may need and advise you to look at our stock and get our prices before buying Household and Kitchen Wares such as Scrub Brushes, Rolling Pins, Enameled Pint Tins, Rotary Egg Beaters, Covered Tin Buckets, ½ gal. Cups, Tooth Picks, Towel Racks, Tack Hammers, Loose Bottom Cake Pans, Patent Pie Plates, Vegetable Slicers and hundreds of other articles all displayed on our 5c Tables.

They are all useful articles and every day needs, at our low price of 5c each.

A few items quoted here from our 10c Tables to inform you of the immense assortment we carry in such ware of every day needs: Enameled Pans, Buckets, Coffee Pots, Large Tin Dish Pans, 12 qt. Buckets, Double Towel Holders, Slaw Cutters, Hat and Coat Racks, Large Frying Pans, Soap Dishes and Sponge Holders for Bath Tubs, Dish Drainers and hundreds of other things that will surprise you, to be had for only 10c each.

Large Enameled Tea Kettle 50c.
Large Tea and Coffee Pots 19c up.
Large Sauce Pans 15c up.
Large Dish Pans 25c.
Half gal. Milk Buckets 25c.
10 qt. Enameled Milk Pails 39c.
21 qt. Extra heavy Retinned Bread Raisers 75c.
Pat. Lace Curtain Stretchers 98c.

Window Shades 10c up.
Window Shade Strips, the handiest article known to put up shades quick and durable, easy to take down. Only 5c each.

Oil Cloths and Linoleums in endless variety at prices that defy competition.

New arrivals of Spring Clothing, Hats, Shirts, Shoes and Oxfords of every kind coming in daily.

BABYLON & LIPPY CO.,

CASH DEPARTMENT STORES,

WESTMINSTER, - MARYLAND.

NEW BUSINESS AT DOYLE & MAGEE'S,

NO. 30 WEST MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER.

It is a well established fact that we are Headquarters for

Vehicles, Engines, Threshers, Saw Mills, Farm Machinery of all kinds, Team and Buggy

HARNESS, FIELD AND GARDEN SEEDS. We are now prepared to offer to the public a complete line of

Fine Household Furniture

and we will not only give you the latest styles and finish, but at prices never before heard of. We invite all to call and examine our stock before purchasing, as we have bought direct from the largest manufacturers and we can and will give our customers the benefit of the low prices we bought at. Remember we are always glad to show our goods and keep our STORES OPEN AT NIGHT.

dec 22 1y DOYLE & MAGEE, 30 W. Main St., Westminster.

Every Woman Wants a Beautiful Foot.

EVERY WOMAN CAN HAVE THIS DESIRE GRATIFIED IF SHE WILL WEAR

DOROTHY DODD,

THE FAMOUS SHOE FOR WOMEN. THEY FIT WHEN OTHERS FAIL.

Oxfords $2.50 and $3. Shoes $3 and $3.50.

We carry all other grades of Shoes and Oxfords in Women's, Misses' and Children's, from the cheapest to the best grades. We have special values to offer you in Men's Heavy

Working Shoes

and can save you 25c a pair. Remember us when you want anything in

Hats, Shirts, Collars, Neckwear, Gloves, Hosiery,

Suspenders, Trunks and Suit Cases. Give us a call and save money.

WM. C. DEVILBISS, 22 W. Main St., Westminster

dec-23-04-1y

SULLIVAN'S NEW STORE, No. 90 West Main Street, Westminster.

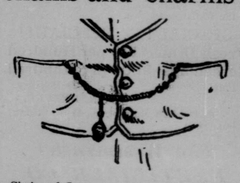
GROCERIES AND FEEDS.

A FEW OF MY PRICES:

Shorts	$1.20 per 100 pounds.
Bran	1.15 per 100 pounds.
Corn Chop	1.50 per 100 pounds.
Baled Hay	90c per 100 pounds.
Baled Straw	75c per 100 pounds.
Chick Feed	$2.50 per 100 pounds.
Oyster Shells	70c per 100 pounds.
Flours	45c to 70c per sack.
Coffees	15c to 35c per pound.

Yours for business, MILTON A. SULLIVAN.
jan 6 96 1 C. & P. and Maryland Phones.

Chains and Charms!



Chains of Love, and Prison Chains, Charms of "Ye Olden Days" all have had their place in time and history. The

Chains and Charms

most thought of in the present day are those of personal adornments and

Watch Protection.

Will you take a look at them? Our door swings in—Push.

I am, respectfully yours,

JAMES H. CASSELL,
Jeweler and Optician., East Main Street,
Md. Telephone. Westminster.
jy 5

Bark Wanted AT Tannery Station.

WE WILL PAY

Seven Dollars AND 50 Cents

($7.50) per Ton of 2,000 POUNDS for 2,000

TONS OF PRIME CHESTNUT OAK BARK,

AND FIVE DOLLARS

($5.00) Per Ton for BLACK OAK BARK,

of this year's peeling, delivered in good order and condition at the Carroll Tannery, before the 1st day of August, 1906.

We will not buy any Span Oak Bark this year, and will only buy Black Oak Bark from parties who will sell us their Rock Oak Bark.

THE CARROLL OAK TANNING CO.,
of Carroll County, Md.
Tannery Station, on Western Md. R. R.
ma 2 3m

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Office of the Chas. Schaeffer Fertilizer Factory,
Westminster, Md., Feb. 7th, 1906.

The undersigned has been appointed by the executors of the late Chas. Schaeffer, deceased, agent to settle up the Fertilizer Business of the said deceased. All persons indebted to said estate on account of Fertilizers or Meal, whether by Book Account or Note, are requested, where the same is due, to make immediate settlement with said agent, at the old office of the deceased, on Green street, opposite the mill of Roberts, Roop & Co.

feb 9 3m. A. H. HUBER.

Regular Dinner 25 cts.

STEAKS AND CHOPS TO ORDER.

OYSTERS.

THE CARROLL DINING AND QUICK LUNCH ROOM,
WALTER R. DEVILBISS,
formerly of Carroll County,
118 PARK AVENUE, near Lexington St.,
Baltimore, Md.

DAIRY LUNCH oct 28 6 mo

Paroid Roofing has no superior. Sold by Smith & Reifsnider for six years, as exclusive agents.

Wanted---A Desperado.

BY FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS.

I am fond of studying my clients, and both of the members of the firm of Black and Roberts interested me. They own ranches and mines, are directors in banks and railroads, and wield financial and political influence in several western states. Roberts is a member of a state legislature, and Black has been in the national house of representatives and is slated for the senate.

The latter is a man whose language, tastes and poise proclaim birth and culture. You soon come to know that the mental predominates with Black. Roberts is another type. I have never seen two men more nearly opposite physically and mentally. Black is short and stocky; Roberts is tall, lean and wiry. Black is talkative almost to the point of garulity; Roberts is solemn and taciturn. Black is aggressive in his declarations and conservative in his actions; Roberts is deliberate in planning, but a whirlwind in execution.

The more I studied these men the more I marveled that they were partners. The natural affinity of opposites is a well-known law, but here were combinations which seemingly required only the slightest friction to generate an explosion; yet they have worked in harmony for years, and I soon came to know that no event or combination of events could array one against the other.

The three of us were on an expedition so important in its nature that absolute secrecy was imperative. We therefore dispensed with guides, but Black and Roberts knew the trails. We camped one night, well up the slope of a rambling foothill which opposed the last barrier to the range which was our goal. We smoked in silence, after our evening meal was ended. I gazed at the elongated Roberts and then at the trim and well-poised Black, and for the hundreth time wondred at the loyalty which bound them. I am schooled to mind my own business and I can not imagine what impelled me to violate this sensible practice.

'How did it happen,' I asked, looking at Black, 'that you and Roberts became partners?'

Black took the pipe from his mouth, and looked at me. He was quick of speech, but his lips closed so suddenly that I knew I was on dangerous ground.

'I beg your pardon, gentlemen, and withdraw that question,' I quickly said; 'it is none of my business.'

Black was on the point of saying something when Roberts broke the silence.

'Bill and I hitched up in double harness for what you lawyers call good and sufficient reasons,' he said, 'and suppose we let it go at that.'

Black laughed good-naturedly.

'We never have told that story,' he said, turning from me to Roberts, 'but there is no reason why we shouldn't confide it to our lawyer. Lawyers are paid to keep secrets.'

'You can tell him,' Roberts growled, after a pause.

'We'll both tell him,' declared Black. 'It's not much of a story to listen to, but it was rather exciting to live through, wasn't it Jack?'

'It surely was. Tell it, if you're going to Bill.'

'I was the boy wonder of the New England town in which I was born,' began Black. 'I dashed through school, and was admitted to the practice of law when I was twenty years old. A year later I was elected to office. Then I applied all my energy to drinking. I celebrated all victories and deadned all defeats in rum. I drank up my voice, my health, my reputation, my friends, and my mother.

'I had a sweetheart, and she stuck by me until it was a disgrace to have her name linked with mine. During an interval of sanity I realized the depth of my disgrace. She had faith in me. She loved me, and would wait for me while I started life over again. I went West and began the practice of law in Denver. Success came,—and I drank to it. I wrote and told her of my fall, and the letter begging me to try again was stained with her tears.

'I became a cowboy, securing a position where for months I could not possibly obtain whisky. Life on the range worked a physical and mental change in me. My brain became clear, my head steady, and it was a joy to live,—to live in hope of her. Six months passed and I wrote her a letter telling the good news and asking her to write to me at Laramie, stating that I would be in that town in a month. I did not tell her a secret which filled me with joy. I had discovered outcroppings of gold ore which promised a fortune beyond the dreams of a struggling lawyer. I had entirely recovered my egotism with my health. I honestly thought she would not care whether I had a million or a splinter, so I dismissed the subject by saying that I had saved up two hundred dollars and had finally knocked out old King Alcohol. I told her a lot of other things which I need not repeat, and I felt happy all over, thinking how pleased she would be.

'The days crawled by until, at length, I was ready for my trip to Laramie. For a month my thoughts were centered in a vain but fond attempt to guess what she would write to me. I shall never forget the moment when, from the crest of a hill, I caught a first glimpse of Laramie, that bright forenoon. There lay the field on which I would taste the sweets of a double victory. I would receive and read her dear letter, and I would demonstrate to myself and the world that I had conquered my craving for liquor.

'My hard earned money was in my pocket, the secret of the mine was safe in my breast, the blood of health flowed in my veins, the skies smiled down on me, and all nature applauded what I had done.

'My horse spurned the miles which lay between us and Laramie, I sang and yelled from pure excess of joy. I did not realize it, but I was already intoxicated, although the stimulation was a harmless one. On the edge of the town I saw an old beggar—a worthless scoundrel, no doubt—but I tossed him a silver dollar. I was not willing that any one should be unhappy on that, my day of triumph.

'I galloped recklessly through the streets, and dismounted in front of the post office. I strode in and demanded a letter for William L. Black. I fixed my eyes on that clerk as he pulled out the letters in the 'B' box, and watched him narrowly as he swiftly sorted them over. As he got near the bottom of the pile I felt something come up in my throat but I choked it back. He looked at the last letter, pushed them together, and slid them into the pigeonhole.

''Nothing for you today, Mr. Black,' he said. I think I was crazy from that moment.

''You're a liar!' I shouted, with an oath. 'Look again!'

''I told you there was no letter for you,' he said and he was good and mad. I shoved a pistol through the opening.

''Give me those letters!' I said, holding the gun full on him; 'I'm taking no chances of mistakes!'

''There's no letter for you,' he said, as cool as could be; 'but, since you insist, you can look for yourself.'

'He handed me the bunch of letters, and I was so excited that I dropped the gun and grabbed them. He could have picked it up and shot me, if he had cared to, but I suppose he figured that I was drunk and irresponsible. Gentlemen, there was no letter for me!'

Black paused in his recital. It was deathly still as his voice ceased. The air was so motionles that the thin pillar of smoke from our campfire traced a slight blue line upward until it blended into the black of the star studded sky. I did not dare interject a word, and a minute passed before he continued.

'I have often wondered if I would have gone out and got drunk if there had been a letter there from her, 'he finally said, more to himself than to us. 'I'm pretty sure I wouldn't; but, of course there is no way to prove it. As it was, I did not hesitate a second, I figured that she was through with me, and very likely married to some one worthy of her. I could not blame her, but life had no more attraction for me. I thought of the gold mine and cursed it.

'It took me four days to drink up that two hundred dollars, and three days more to sleep off the effects in the town calaboose. When I searched my pockets I found that I had two or three dollars left. I thought the matter over as calmly as I could, and decided to commit suicide.

'I considered that suicide question as coolly as you would any simple detail of law or business. I had tried life and found it a failure. My father was dead, I had killed my mother by years of mis conduct, I had brought disgrace on my relatives and friends, and deservedly had lost the love of the only woman on earth who had stuck by me until hope had died within her. There was not a single valid reason why I should remain alive.

'But I did not like to kill myself. I have always argued that it is a cowardly thing to do. I longed to die, but not by my own hand. I thought of huunting up a case of smallpox, and wondered if it were possible to contract pneumonia, but both of these expedients looked like beating the devil about the bush. It occurred to me that, perhaps, another drink might give me a better idea, and I proceeded to take one. My prodigality had formed a temporary coterie of acquaintances, and I mingled with them. I was sparing of my money, as I had sense enough left to know that I was likely to have use for it if I wished to die decently.

'From one of those boys—and they were not a bad lot of fellows—I learned that a noted desperado and mankiller had struck town.'

Roberts shifted uneasily and took his pipe from his mouth.

'I wouldn't put it that way, Bill,' he interrupted, his face gaunt and ashen in the waning light of the campfire.

'I'm only saying what I heard, Jack,' said Black, placing his hand on the other man's shoulder.

'I never shot a man who didn't start the trouble himself, and mighty few of them,' insisted Roberts. 'I don't wan't our friend here to get the idea that I was a bad man, and if I had any such a reputation, it wasn't comin' to me.'

'Lord bless you, Jack, keep quiet, or you'll ruin my story!' laughed Black. 'As I was saying the boys told me that Jack Roberts was in town, that he was a dead shot, and that any man who went up against him had better shoot first or forever hold his peace. As you can guess from the way Jack has interpolated with uncalled-for remarks of a defensive nature, he was the one indicated, and I was mightily pleased with his traits as they were described to me. Here was a chance to commit suicide like a gentleman.'

'See here, Bill,' declared Roberts, leaning forward, 'I don't pretend to be much of a story teller, and I never told this to anybody, but it's only fair that I should tell just what happened, because on the square, about all you know about it is what I have told you.'

'That's right Jack, and you can go ahead and tell it just as it happened,' assented Black. 'I'm glad to get out of telling it, and every time I think of it, I am ashamed.'

'All right, and I'll make it short and to the point, as they say,' began Roberts, running his fingers through his mustache. 'I never was much of a hand to drink, and never was what you might call under the influence in my life, but on this day I happened to be standing up to the bar of the 'Cheyenne Queen,' talking with some friends of mine, when in comes a man named Brady, that I had met, and with him was a young fellow that he introduced as Bill Black. Brady said that his friend Black had heard of me and wished the honor of meeting me. I was young and a trifle vain in those days, and this sort of made me feel important, so I shook hands with this Black, who had a good honest face and seemed as sober as a judge.

'I wasn't paying attention to anything at all, when this Black tapped me on the shoulder.

''I understand,' says he, his eyes looking mighty funny, 'that you are the only real bad man from up the gulch, and that the trail is humped up with the mounds where you have buried your dead.'

'If it hadn't been for his eyes I should have thought he was joking, but I began to suspect that he had been drinking more than he showed, so I answered him soft-like, and told him it was evident some one had been slandering me. He had a glass of beer in one hand, and the other hand was over the bar, so I didn't anticipate any harm.

''Do you know what I think?' he suddenly asked, and I told him surely I couldn't guess.

''I think you are a cross between a prairie dog and a milk snake!' he yelled, and with that he threw the contents of his glass in my face.'

Roberts paused, and the edges of his long mustache lifted in a sheepish grin.

'My going through that window, and landing on the sidewalk, sash and all, was nothing but an accident,' he said, softly. 'I know it looked as if I was headed for the door or window, but as a matter of fact my eyes were so full of liquor that I did not know where I was going, and it just happened that I struck that window. Bill knows that. But, leaving this aside, the fact remains that my one ambition, at that moment, was to get out of range, and I was amazed that the shooting did not begin. My pony was outside, and without waiting to solve any mysteries I just naturally jumped on his back, stuck spurs into him, and headed for the setting sun; and, if that don't prove I wasn't a bad man, I'd like to know what it does prove. Now, you go on, Bill.'

The three of us joined in a hearty laugh.

'It all seems very funny, now, but there was no joke about it then,' continued Black. 'I realized at once that I had overplayed my hand, and that a man can't be expected to shoot straight, with his eyes full of liquor. It dawned on me that I had done a mean trick to a stranger, and I tell you I felt pretty bad about it. Expecting and hoping to be killed, I was dazed for an instant when my intended executioner dove through a window. I started after him with the idea of making the proper sort of an explanation, but before I could get to the door, he was on his pony and hoofing it toward the hills. My pony was across the street, and in my excitement I stumbled and fell. As I did so, one of Jack's friends took a shot at me and clipped a corner off my right ear. Such was the change in my views about the desire for death that I esteemed myself mighty lucky that the bullet went an inch or two wide.

'Jack was out of sight before I got well under way. I kept on until it

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