

THE GOLDEN CAVES.

By CHARLES B. LEWIS (M. QUAD).

CHAPTER XXVI. The cave has its thrilling mysteries and awful tragedies, and the plains and prairie have their as well.

One of the outlaws walked off in the darkness to stand sentry for a few hours, and the other four men laid down to sleep again, each taking his place as before.

At the end of five minutes a wolf's long drawl, far away howl was heard, and a shiver passed over the listening camp.

It was the powerful potential should begin to set. Taylor was watching and listening. One of the outlaws moved and groaned.

"Say any of you awake?" called Taylor as he sat up. "I've got terrible pains, and I can't keep still any longer."

"So have I," replied one of the men as he sat up. "I've got a pain in my back, and I can't keep still any longer."

From the way he acted one would think Taylor thought Taylor was all of him. He groaned, gasped, writhed, twisted, and his face was as white as a sheet.

"By heavens, men! but I believe we have all been poisoned." "How?" "By?" shrieked one of his companions.

"By this infernal cur, if anybody, and I'll have his life!" Both pointed at Taylor, who was apparently in convulsions, and then stooped for one of the rifles.

Strong men who die by poison die hard. It is an awful end. The cramping, heaving, trembling, and gasping, then rise and stagger, and fall; they rave and weep; they pray and curse; in their awful agonies they attacked each other and struggled in death.

The big Cheyenne, winding his way through prairie and plain, has seen the sun rise many a time, but he has never seen a more wonderful sight than the one which he saw before him.

"They are low down," whispered the captain. "The animals had been stalked out on ground furnished with traps and snares."

"There are dead men there!" whispered Harkins, with pale face, "but the buzzards are afraid of the horses and will not touch them."

"There are only four, and neither of them is Taylor," said Joe as he rode across the grove and into the rows here, no empty shells, no sign of a fight with the Indians.

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his line to one of the men he extended both hands as if he could reach, showing that he had got a nibble from a fish at least six feet in length.

"A month after Joe and his companions rode into that death camp I met them there in Denver. They had come safely through all perils, their treasure had reached the mint to be valued and paid for in coin gold, and there had been no marriage—Joe and Bess."

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round like mad, but couldn't escape. Long 'bout sundown some soldiers came and took us out'n the trap."

"Only a few dashes was made before I saw the best one of the turtles, and the other was butted clean out of his shell, exposing to view two little naked baby boys."

"Next day the papers gave the whole thing away. They told that the shells of turtles had been clothed with artificial hair, and that the baby boys were the turtles' heads, dressed and fitted with glass eyes."

"But for the papers blowing the thing I would have taken my show up the river for as St. Louis, and likely clean out of town."

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their knees and implore God's mercy and promise to do no more, we will not take legal action against them."

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The Story Teller.

THREE NATIVES OF PIKE

By DAN DE QUILLÉ

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PROLOGUE.

A very creditable piece of pantomime. Last winter I made one of a party of 'millionaire Costockers' who were to Washoe lake on a picnical excursion.

The Pikes came up to where we were seated, when Buck broke the silence by saying: "Gents, I own that I'm astonished to see you here."

"It is an easy matter to catch catfish. You have only to procure tackle strong enough to draw them out of the water, using a hook and line."

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