[Copyright, 1900, by Joseph A. Altsheler.] CHAPTER VII.

THE TEMPER OF OLD PUT. My fears found ample justification, for the men seen turned their attention to the horse, and two rese and approached him. I looked upon him as one im- ; raiders and toblers. They are not going pounded, and he alme was to blante. for he should have known better. One of the men made a wide circuit and think we will become frightened and came up carefully behind, while the surrender temerrow other approached with equal caution from the front, whistling in a seft and ; of a good herse, and no doubt they had the stolen enough from patrick farmers to have experience. Old Put never taised his head to look at them. Lat contained

"I thought you said he was the most ' crambs off in her hand, for lack of any-

self so conclusively from the charge of nels, though their lagy attitudes showed course of the years.

The girl came back to the crevice, and After the hasty discharge of the pistels they retained to the fire, making no movement either to pursue Old Put or to remove the body of their dead comrade. They would have liked well enough to obtain a good horse, but they were not going to bother about such a triffe as a dead man.

"Do you think they well attack us.

asked the girl 'Well, not not yet, at least," I replied. "The advantages of the detense are too great, and these men are mere chances are on their side. Perhaps they

"You surely will not do that?" "I had no such intention, worthless coaxing way and helding out his hand. Telel as I are, but if you say surrender Evidently the men appreciated the value - I will go out and notify them this nam-

"You know I meant nothing of the

She spoke rather sharply, and leavhis hunt for blades of grass. He certains mug the winds we went back to the table, ly he, od their approaches a feet sequenced which she degran to ylear away. She I was convinced now that his dotage gathered up the scraps and put them tack matly. Then she trushed the

meantion and detage, which I would well enough that it was a job they die never again bring against him, even not like. For all I could tell at the disshould they come to be true in the tance, these men, tox might be asleet

I watched them for a half hour or we watched the British for some min- more and grew very tired of the busi ness. The brightness of the moonlight had culminated, and the earth lost its silver tint, shading into a dark, dull gray. The figures of our besiegers grew shadowy and shapeless. It was a time for sleep, and I felt it in all my bones A treoper doesn't ask much. If I could have taken my blanker and put myself down on a teasonably smooth piece of turf under the shade of a tree, with the certainty that no enemy would waken me, it would have been sufficient for me. I would have slept the sleep of the just or the find unjust, which is often as good

I drew the old pine bex up to the window and sat on it, resolved to listen, now that I was tired of looking. I wondered what had become of Old Put, the man slayer, and tried to discover why I had been such a fool as to distrust him

even for a moment. Thus musing, I discovered that the fire had gone out; that I could see nothing-in fact, that the room was pitchy dark. I opened my eyes, remembering that all things must be dark to a man with his eyes shut, and saw again the flickering fire and the figure of the girl half reclining in the chimney corner.

This would never do. I was the whole army-herse, feet, artillery and baggage wagons commander in chief, colonel, captains and privates-and we could never go to sleep all at once 1 undertook to walk briskly around the room in order to stir my sluggish blood into watchfulness, but that would wake the and I did not want to do such a ernel thing. I stopped in front of her and lasked at her face attentively. Asia p she did not look at all the spitthre she was awake. Mingled with her beauty new was a certain wanness, a something that was pathetic, a look

window. He pried at it with his knife and moved it a little. Then he put his ear to the crack and could hear nothing within. Replacing his ear with his eye, he could see the feeble glimmer of the fire and nothing more. He was sure that those whom he wished to take were asleep, and he exulted, for a fierce anger mingled with his other desires to recapture both. He pried again at the window, and with greater leverage it yielded further, and wood scraped against wood. He stopped and listened again, but the inmates of the cabin never stirred. Putting his ear to the wide crack that now intervened between the shut ter and the wall, he listened again and

heard the steady, regular breathing of some one inside and below. He knew is was the breathing of a sleeping man, too loud and strong for a woman, too even for one awake, and he reached up and pulled the shutter wide open on its rude leather hinges. Then he grasped the edge of the window with both hands and pulled himself up.

My sleep grow troubled at last and then turned into a nightmare. Some lange wild beast, after the fashion of beasts in nightmares, was sitting on my chest and blowing his breath in my face, while I had no power to move a muscle. I was cold to the marrow and waited for him to devour me, but in stead he dwindled away and became misty. With one great effort I threw him off my chest and sprang to my feet. My head struck against somebody else's head as I sprang up, and that somebody else swore an oath that had the sayor neither of a nightmare nor a dream, but

Cold air and moonlight rushed in at the window, but most of the passage was filled up by the shoulders and head of a large man whose face I could not see owing to the imperfect light. He held in his hand a vistel which he fired at me, but now the imperfect light was to my advantage and not his, for his bullet, avoiding me, buried itself with a chuck in the log walls, and the report confined in the small room roared like a cannon shot.

Moved more by impulse and instinct than by thought, I snatched out my own pistol and fired at the head in the window. The man uttered a deep sigh the body dropped forward and swayed there: I heard the light drip, drip of something on the floor, and then the body fell inside the room.

The girl, suddenly awakened by the terrible sounds and half in a maze, cried out in fright and then began to ask in a high, tremlling voice what and hap-

"The Pritish have attacked us." "One of them was in the shadow, and I threw him tack. Standout of the range of the window." I did not want her to see the thing lying on the floor under the window, and I shoved the ta ble in front of it She obeyed, for I spoke the last sen

tence very sharply. The wind w was wide open, and expecting to see. face there I held my so nd ready, but none appears it and I has

Taking the risk, I reached out an arm, seized the shutter and slammed it shut, securing it as test 1 could with the leather strap and nail used as a fastening. Then, with my ear near the crevice, I listened, but could not hear our enemies. I feared at first to look out lest I should receive a bullet, but still hearing nothing I applied my eye and saw that the men had gone back to their fire. They were all there-four 1 counted them and knew that none was missing. They were deliberating evidently over the fall of their leader and

ate resolution. "Light the candle," I said to the girl. "Hold it to the fire. There's enough heat left to start the wick to burning."

She did so and saw that something lay behind the table. 'What is that?" she cried.

"The dancer and singer of last night," I replied, seeing that I would have to "The leader of those desperadoes outside came into our fort, but he came into his grave."

6he retreated, shuddering, to the farthest corner of the room.

"Now, you do exactly as I say," I continued. "Remember that you are the rank and file of this army, and I am its commander." "I will obey you," she said.

I quickly reloaded my pistol. Then I shoved the table away agair

"Come. I said. 'we are going to leave this plan while they are planning by the are and their backs are turned to -Chumbia, h. Woonly & 4& Mensikil Co. no doubt that they feared Crowder waof CrioNS p A. Citto . L. Genn . G & what next to do, and I took an immedi-92 555 Jampa Jampa Sewberry Prosperity 108 L. Mountain 321 Chapin... 11 49 11 49 145 Hitton 11 43 11 45 3 9 White Rock 11 40 10 58 3 4 Ballentine 11 25 10 10 3 4 James 11 40 5 10 4 5 ArColowoblaLv 11 C8 9 2 5 LyColumbia (A.C.L.)Ar II (6 25 Furnter 9 19 30 Ar Chirleaton Ly 7 0) For Rates, Time Tables, or further informa-For Ender, Time Tables, or further information call on any Agent, or write to W. G. CHILD:

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intelligent of us three," said the girl | thing else, and threw them in the fire, ironically, "and here he is, gone to sleep, and having done that pushed the table and letting himself be taken, to be used to one strengainst the wall. I made no perhaps as a common cart horse," other to help ber, as she did everything Her words were an insult to us both. With six a shill and dispatch, and I was Old Put and me, but I knew no timely centent to watch her. Nor did she say anything to use, but, her work done, reply, and I endured them in silence. The man in front, emboldened by Old took her stool again and sat down at the Put's gentleness, approached more rape to the hearthstone, leaning her

SHE WAS ASLEEP.

ful than any I have ever heard before or

since, rose from the man's threat as the

horse reared high in the air and smoto-

him to the earth with his fore feet. The

the man was crushed to pulp beneath

the fierce beat of the steel shed hoofs,

time for but one cry being given to

him, but I kept mine at the crevice,

though I will confess that the blood

was rather a chilly torrent in my veins.

The band, recovering from the mo-

acquaintance of their comrade with

death, snatched out their pistols and

the moonlight, until he disappeared be-

yond the swell of the earth. The thing

that had been living lay in the dead

grass, and I was glad that it was hid-

don't think those men will try to take

gayety, for the influence of the sudden

tragedy was still upon me. Yet I was

glad that Old Put had redeemed him-

I laughed a little, with a rather forced

brought death.

of the earth.

my horse again."

idly and was soon within 15 feet of the head against the wall of the chimney horse. Old Put raised his head, and land gazing into the dying fire. looking at the man a moment lowered The last log was smoldering on the it and went on nipping the grass. hearth and threw but a feeble light. I The man holding out his hand stepped blew out the candle, thinking we might need it in case our enemies made any forward and seized Old Put by the pack The horse, with a neigh that was human hostile movement, and the darkness gathered at once in half the room, only in its anger, turned and bit deep into his shoulder. A scream, wilder, more feara dim light showing as a fringe to the

"I think you'd better go to sleep," I aid to the girl. "It is always well to save one's strength, and now is a chance girl turned her eyes away in horror as for rest.

'And you?' "I don't need any sleep. I'll stay at

he window rad watch. "But you need rest as well as I." "Why do you bother yourself about villainous rebel who is going to be branged anyway by his justly angry The other man, the one behind, faced

about and fled when he saw the death "I wish you would stop talking that of his comrade, and the one look that I

had of him showed fright to the marrow. The horse, raising his head, trotlier tone was rather plaintive. Untubtedly she was tired and worn by ted away over the hill. The moonlight fell upon him there in distorted rays anxieties, and I obeyed her request. I and enlarged him into a gigantic figure. made her wrap her cloak around her, In the gray light he looked like some phantom horse, a wild creature that she would not go to sleep, merely wishing to lean her head against the wall and rest, her eyelids drooped and fell, mentary paralysis caused by the sudden

and in two minutes she was asleep. The fire sank lower, cating its way along the log until only a few inches of fired at the horse as they would have wood were left. The girl slept soundly. fired at a man in his place, but their The curve of the chimney into the wall aim was wild, for the horse gave no formed a kind of nook, and her head sign of a bullet, trotting steadily on, and shoulders rested easily there like a his figure growing larger and more picture framed against the rough logs, which were unplastered and not even threatening in the exaggerating rays of smoothly hewn. I trusted that she would sleep the night through, and as the fire sank lower and lower and the darkness crept up to the hearthstone, den almost by some rocks and the roll almost hiding her figure, the stillness of midnight came, and I could hear her "He is gone, Julia," I said, "and I

regular breathing in the dead silence. of the British faced it, and I could see in a darkness which made such a movethat three of the men had lain down ment safe. They reached the cabin and gone to sleep. The other two were without alarm or a sign from the sitting up, weapons at hand, and I infer- watcher who was not watching, and at

that appealed to a man for protection and strength. After all, she was but a girl, and why should I care for the bit ter things she said when probably half

the time she said them she was sorry? I went back to the window and looker out once more. The besieging army was taking its comfort. The part which had stretched itself on the ground remained stretched, and the part which watched sagged more than ever toward the horizontal. It was a lazy army, that was evident, and I resolved that I would set

it an example of superiority. Having made these brave resolutions, sat down on the stool and leaned my head once more against the wall, not because I was tired and sleepy, but merely that I might reserve my strength for a crisis, the most necessary thing in the world for a soldier, every man of experience knowing that an army fights better if it goes into battle well fed, well clothed and well rested. It was a good argument, that bore extension, and I closed my eyes that they, too, might have rest, for they felt weary and clog

ged. Then, do what I would or could, weariness and sleep took charge of me. Tired museles rose in open and deflant rebellion against mind and will. The combat was short and flerce, but matter triumphed over mind, and in five minutes I was in the midst of a sleep that was heavenly with rest, unpeopled by bad dreams, with my head back against the wall and my breathing long and and, though she declared stoutly that | regular. Meanwhile the bed of coals on the hearth grew smaller and paler. The rim of firenarrowed. Coals turned from red to black and then to gray and crumbled into ashes. The darkness crept up to the very edge of the hearthstone and then invaded it. The girl was completely in the shadows, and the pale glimmer

of the fire was but a faint light left in

the room

The sleeping man c the sleeping girl were tired, very . d, and they slept soundly. If they had dreams, they were pleasant ones, and no thought of danger entered into them. The men around the campfire had moved away to the other side of the world, and the little cabin was peaceful for them, inside and outside. Sleeping thus, they did not see the men rise from the camp-I went back to the window. The fire fire and approach the hut, now veiled red that they had been detailed as senti- | last the leader tried the shutter of the

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