

A HUNTER HUNTED.

I WAS lost. This appalling conviction was forced upon me as soon as I discovered that I was travelling in a circle. I was in a pitiable plight. The sun was hidden; the trees were still dripping from a tropic downpour that had barely ceased. I was drenched, hungry, bewildered, and in despair—almost, I never quite give up. At last coming to a cliff which overhung a stream and gave some shelter, I saw down to think it over.

Beneath the cliff there was a cave, dry and quite deep, which offered a retreat for the night, if it should chance that I could not reach home. Placing my gun far in out of the way, I sat in the cave's mouth and abandoned myself to gloomy reflections. I was rudely aroused, however, by a sound quite near me, and looking up, I saw the animal which of all four-footed creatures, I dreaded most to meet at such a time and in such a place. It was a beast, short and sturdy in shape and dark in colour—a miniature hog, in fact. A peccary—I recognized him at a glance. I knew, too, that there were likely to be others not far away. Meanwhile he stood staring at me, as if to inquire by what right I had taken possession of his den. He did not even move when I rose and reached in for my gun, but spread his legs apart and shook his vicious-looking head in a manner that indicated a determination to attack rather than retreat a single step. It was then very clear to me that I was occupying the entrance to his habitation, and that he was very anxious for me to get out of the way. He made several feints and lunges as if to pass me, and dodged about so rapidly that for a while I could get no good aim at a vulnerable spot in his tough, hairy hide. But at last as he halted a moment beneath the cliff, seemingly about to charge upon me, I gave him a load of coarse bird shot back of the fore shoulder. This, however, was worse than useless. It did not kill him, but merely infuriated him. He fell, to be sure, but with his snout toward the enemy, and gave utterance to such unearthly sounds that I was much alarmed. And with good reason; for either his horrid squeals or the report of my gun caused a whole herd of peccaries to start up—they seemed to come right out of the ground. They became perfectly frenzied at sight of their wounded companion, and, after rubbing noses with him a moment or two, and inquiring, brute fashion, the cause of his trouble, they all made a dash at me. I was then both barrels of my gun loaded with large shot and let the ugly brutes have them, right and left, howling over two of the largest. I then scrambled up the cliff as far as I could go.

It was not very far—not far enough, in fact, for they came after me pell-mell, tumbling over each other in their eagerness to avenge their friend. There was one old 'tusker,' whose white teeth gleamed wickedly through his parted lips, and he led the charge, getting so near to me that one of my leggings was ripped up, and a small gash cut in one leg. A well-put kick in his jaws sent him tumbling down amongst the others, though he was instantly up again and at me, the fire fairly flashing from his eyes and his lips dripping foam. In the brief interval I had drawn myself as far up as the narrow ledge I was on would permit; but this was only a few inches beyond the reach of the old boar in his desperate lunges, and I even there I could only hold on with great difficulty.

The cliff above me was very steep, and my foothold so precarious that I was in constant danger of falling; but, projecting from a rent in the rock not more than twenty feet away, I saw a large tree overhanging the bed of the stream. If only I could secure refuge in that tree! There I should be safe, at least for the time; but the trouble was to get there without slipping and falling into the midst of that herd of savage pigs beneath me. Slinging my gun over my shoulder I began the perilous experiment. My motions, of course, attracted the attention of the herd, and they all dashed wildly at the rock, but the foremost fell short by nearly a foot despite his most frantic efforts. My feelings at that moment were indescribable; but I shut my eyes to the possibility of a fall and concentrated all my powers in my finger tip, clinging to the wall of rock like a limpet and worming my way along inch by inch. My porcupine guards below continued to inform me of their presence, grunting their disapproval of my rights and gnashing their teeth in expectation of a chance to whet them on my bones. I was keenly aware of their every motion, yet dared not look in their direction, but kept my eyes fixed upon a friendly llama which reached out toward me; and this I finally grasped after what seemed to me an age of anxious expectation.

Safe in the tree at last, I seated myself among a spongy mass of wildpines and dripping, broad leaved plants. It was not the pleasantest seat in the world, and I felt as Crusoe once said, that I had found a

'dreadful deliriance,' though I had escaped immediate death. From its almost horizontal position, hanging over the ravine, the tree gave me but little shelter, and I was exposed to the full force of the rain, which fell at intervals throughout the day. But I had chosen what seemed to me the lesser of the two evils, and must abide the consequences. The 'evils' from which I had escaped now came up to some twenty in number. They no longer seemed animated by any special fury, but they did seem to consider it their duty to await my descent, and there was something parti-

cularly discouraging in their attitude of sullen, dogged determination to stay right there till I came down, whether it were next day or next week. No amount of shooting or shouting seemed to affect that determination, and so, after laying out several of them with charges of the largest shot I had, I desisted from my attempts to drive them away, for I had not cartridges enough to exterminate the whole gang. So there they sat all day long, grimly watching. I pictured to myself the horrors of the situation, if they should persist in the siege until fatigue or starvation should cause me to succumb, for I knew that they were capable of prolonged wait-

ing, their nature being so vindictive that they could stay for days in order to gratify their rage. Even after it became so dark that I could not distinguish their forms, I could still hear them lunging at one another, keeping up their vengeful appetite by frequent quarrels among themselves.

I did not dare attempt to sleep, and to prevent myself from falling in case sleep overcame me, I passed my waist belt around a perpendicular limb. Finally the moon came out of the clouds and looked down through the branches, but only succeeded in faintly lighting up the ground below, where the moving forms were converted

Irritating and Disfiguring ERUPTIONS On the Face, Cured by Ayer's Sarsaparilla

Remarkable Experience of Miss Dorothy Maher, Fitzroy, Victoria, whose portrait we are privileged to give below:



"I take pleasure in testifying to the great benefit I derived from Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I suffered from eruptions on my face of a very irritating and vexatious nature. For a considerable time I experimented with various so-called blood medicines, but without any alleviation of my trouble. At last, your famous Sarsaparilla being strongly recommended to me, I began to use it, and after taking two bottles it was most gratifying to see and feel the effect in allaying the irritation and reducing the eruptions. When I had used three bottles the eruptions disappeared altogether, without leaving a mark on my face, and I have never been troubled with anything of the kind since."

AYER'S SARSAPARILLA Gold Medals at the World's Chief Expositions.

Nerve, Blood, & Skin Diseases

CURED BY TAKING HERR RASMUSSEN'S (The Celebrated Danish Herbalist)

ALFALINE HERBAL REMEDIES (Registered).

A Permanent Cure for Nerve, Skin, and Blood Diseases.

HERR RASMUSSEN, the Celebrated Danish Herbalist and Gold Medalist, of 92 Lambton Quay, Wellington, N.Z., and 547 George Street, Sydney, is world-renowned for the thousands of Cures which have been effected by his Herbal Remedies, and the Thousands of Testimonials.

Speak for themselves as to the immense virtues of these Herbal Remedies.

ALFALINE VITALITY PILLS Are a Certain Cure for Weak Nerves, Depressed Spirits, Debility, and Weakness of the Spine, Brain, and Nerves. Special Powerful Course, 4/6. 6d.; Ordinary Course, 2/6. 6d.; Smaller Boxes, 1/6. and 6c. posted. Send for Free Pamphlet.

ALFALINE BLOOD PILLS Are unsurpassed as a Blood Purifier and Blood Tonic, and will eradicate the most obstinate Blood and Skin Affections. Price, same as Vitality Pills.

HERR RASMUSSEN, 92 LAMBTON QUAY, WELLINGTON, N.Z.

PRINCE ALBERT COLLEGE, UPPER QUEEN STREET, AUCKLAND.

HEAD MASTER (RESIDENT): THOMAS JACKSON, M.A. (LONDON UNIVERSITY). BOYS' DIVISION: Second Master (Resident) B. H. LOW, B.A. Junior Master (Resident) H. O. CRADDOCK, M.A. Master Lower School (Resident): JOHN G. BOLLARD. GIRLS' DIVISION: First Assistant (Resident): Miss R. W. MCKERRROW, M.A. Second Assistant (Resident): Miss E. M. RAINFORTH, M.A. Assisted by an Efficient Staff of Visiting Masters.

BOARDERS receive every possible CARE and ATTENTION, the object being to infuse as much as possible of the comforts of home into school life. Copies of the Prospectus with any further information may be obtained on application to the Headmaster at the College.

J. BALLANTYNE & CO.

THE LEADING

DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENT IN THE COLONY

WEDDING OUTFITS A SPECIALTY.

A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF STYLISH HARRIS TWEEDS SUITABLE FOR

'CYCLING COSTUMES.

A LOVELY COLLECTION OF

NOVELTY DRESS FABRICS, MANTLES & MILLINERY.

LADIES PLEASE SEND FOR PATTERNS—POST FREE.

J. BALLANTYNE & CO.,

DUNSTABLE HOUSE,

CHRISTCHURCH.

A DISH for PRINCES! Custard with the luscious Fruits of New Zealand, and all Imported Fruits.

BIRD'S CUSTARD

Produces the Richest Custard without Eggs. POWDER NO EGGS! NO TROUBLE! NO RISK!

Delicious and extremely wholesome with Stewed or Fresh Fruit, and Canned or Bottled Fruit.

Storekeepers can obtain supplies of Bird's Custard and Bird's Concentrated Egg Powders, Bird's Baking and Bird's Biscuit Powders, from all the leading Wholesale Houses.