A WILD RIDE.

"It's now scarcely 13 months ago," said Jack Coleman as a party of us drew around our campfire, "that I was piloting a small party of Uncle Sam's men up to one of the new forts on the upper Brazos—I believe they called it Fort Belknap or some such name. The squad was a [illegible] lot of greenhorns—raw recruits, I should think.

"Well, these fellows were under the command of a white shouldered, girlish looking young chap, fresh from West Point. But young and green as he was the lieutenant was a gentleman and at heart as good a fellow as ever lived.

[illegible]

"I'd been down to San Antonio about three weeks, and when the quartermaster engaged me to pilot the squad Strawberry had had the quiet range of the prairie all that time, and when we took the trail he was in prime order.

"The more I got acquainted with the lieutenant the better I liked him. But the fellows he had along with him were of no account, and I knew if the Comanches or Kiowas should cross our trail they couldn't be depended on.

"We journeyed with the Brazos on our left and in a northwest direction till, after about a week or so, we reached the headwaters of the Leon river, and as we'd discovered no signs of Indians I was glad to think we'd have no occasion to try the spunk of our greenhorns in a fight.

"We had reached the foot of the Black Hills, where the country is badly cut up with deep barrancas, crossing each other in every direction, and having had a hard day's travel I proposed an early camp. While looking for a suitable spot I discovered fresh horse tracks and knew that a large party of Indians were in the vicinity. I informed the lieutenant of my discovery and advised him to secrete his men as soon as possible, for as yet I was convinced our approach had not been detected.

"But as soon as the men heard the word 'Indians' they set up such a hurrah that you'd 'a' thought them the bravest chaps in the world, and it was not long before I knew that the Indians had discovered us, for we could hear them calling to each other in the bottom of one of the deep gullies, and presently a score or two showed their heads above the edge of the bank, and letting fly a volley dodged out of sight again.

"I was for getting out of the prairie as soon as possible and reaching a spot among the rocks at the commencement of the rising ground, where we could receive them at a better advantage, but the lieutenant was so greedy for a fight that he wouldn't listen to such counsel and gave orders for his men to dismount and form in regular line and await the attack.

"But scarcely had some of them obeyed the order than we heard a yell, and the next moment the prairie was covered with a host of mounted Kiowas that came pouring out of a barranca and charged right down upon us. The [illegible] who had not obeyed the order, trusting more to their horses' heels than to their rifles, put spurs to their broken down nags and attempted to escape. But they might as well have essayed to fly from the swift [illegible] as to get beyond the reach of those wild riders. A part of the whooping savages made a dash for the cowardly fools and soon had their scalps, while the rest, [illegible] past us with a [illegible] and lying over upon the farther side of the fiery little mustangs, sent a volley into our ranks. And now, taking my advice, the lieutenant ordered his fellows to remount and in close order make an effort to gain the rocks. But two of the men were past mounting, and we had to leave them.

"We had about half a mile to go to get among the nearest rocks, but to do so we had to run the gantlet of the Indians, who kept up a hot discharge which made desperate work in our little ranks. We spurred through the savages, who attempted to cut in ahead of us, and with our sabers and revolvers kept the track clear till we had reached the rocks.

"Having gained the spot, however, we found to our chagrin that our situation was but little improved, for the reckless and undisciplined men in their eagerness to escape had thrown away their muskets and were now, with the exception of their sabers, entirely unarmed. But the lieutenant and myself, besides our revolvers, had each a heavy deer gun.

"In the meantime our pack mules had fallen into the hands of the savages.

"I reckoned we were within about 20 miles or so of the fort and proposed to the lieutenant that while he set his poor devils to work gathering up the loose rocks and making a barricade I would endeavor to dash through the Indians and after reaching the post return as rapidly as possible with a sufficient force to relieve him.

"As this seemed to be the only feasible plan, the lieutenant approved of it, and waiting only for the cover of the [illegible] I was prepared to make the desperate attempt. I tightened Strawberry's saddle girth and during the short twilight led him carefully under cover of the scattered rocks and mesquite bushes to smooth ground, and after I had turned the projecting point of high rocks mounted, and with an encouraging hint from my heel gave him the [illegible]

[illegible]

"Without swerving an inch or [illegible] the [illegible] animal dashed on. I felt the yielding air rush with lightning speed past me, my breath was taken from me, and then, quicker than the flight of thought, I felt his fore feet strike upon the solid earth, then an instant's struggle with his hind feet, as if the ground was crumbling beneath them, and then—[illegible]—I saw that we were on the firm, level ground of the prairie, with the frightful ravine between us and our baffled pursuers.

"We were safe, for not even the bravest of the Indians dared to make the desperate leap, and as the barranca stretched [illegible] for miles into the prairie further pursuit was out of the question.

"In less than two hours I reached Fort Belknap, and before the light of the next morning broke over the green expanse a party of troopers had followed me to the spot where I had left the brave young officer and the remnant of his men.

"But we had arrived too late. The spot was silent, and the ground so recently occupied by the Kiowas was vacant, while among stones of the demolished barricade were found only the scalpless and mangled remains of my late companions.

"That little strawberry," concluded the guide as he threw aside his extinguished pipe and proceeded to move the animal to a fresh grazing spot, "is worth his weight in gold, and I reckon if any beast ever deserved kind treatment at his master's hands it's him."—New York News.

A Chinese Superstition.

Chinese junks and boats have eyes carved or painted on the bows, which are usually supposed to be a mere fanciful form of ornamentation. But they have a real meaning, as a recent traveler found. In going up one of the rivers from Ningpo he was startled one day by seeing a boatman seize his broad hat and clap it over one of the "eyes" of the boat, while other boats on the stream were similarly blinded. Looking about for an explanation, he saw a dead body floating past, and he was told by the boatman that if the boat had been allowed to "see" it some disaster would surely have happened either to passengers or crew before the voyage was ended.—Family Magazine.

[illegible]

That Tired Feeling

[illegible]

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla

[illegible]

Makes the Weak Strong

[illegible]

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