

fireman, through whose good offices he rode on a train from that point to Cheyenne. At a late hour on this night he boarded a west-going train, and after it had gone in that direction about seven miles a stop was made at a watering place. Here Charles was detected by a brakeman, who gave him the alternative of giving him a stated sum of money or being left behind on the desert. As he had only a few cents which had been given him by the German fireman, he had to remain, and it was with a sad heart he saw the train move off without him. He laid down in the sage brush, but the night was cool, and he was only half clad, being minus his coat. This situation, combined with the hardness of his bed and the seeming hardness of his fate, drove sleep from his eyes, and he resumed his tramp on the desert.

In the morning a small quantity of bread was purchased at a section house; the tramp was continued all day, and at the next section house the last five cents were spent for food. Still the march was kept up with the intention, if possible, of reaching another section house, and there passing the rest of the night.

After about two hours Charles' courage, of which he possesses a goodly stock, began to ooze, owing to the dreary wildness of his surroundings. He was in the wilderness, far from human habitation, and darkness covered the scene. Around him on every side arose the squalls of wildcats and the howls of coyotes. He was countless, and the night, notwithstanding the advanced condition of the season, was uncomfortably cool. He felt as if he was at the mercy of wild beasts and liable to be devoured by them. After what he had already passed through thus far on his journey he felt as if the limit of human endurance had been reached. Any fear that he experienced was soon superseded by a feeling of desperation, until he cared but little what might become of him.

The weary pilgrim wandered on, and the wails and howls of the wild animals finally died away in the distance. A point of exhaustion was reached, however, when he could go no farther without rest. To preserve himself from intrusion from any ferocious beasts that might be in the same predicament as himself—exceedingly hungry—he gathered together a quantity of ties. Of these he built a narrow hiding place, into which he crawled, fixing it so as to close the entrance aperture

after him. The situation was not luxurious, the atmosphere was uncomfortably cool, and notwithstanding his weariness he slept only a little by snatches. From one of these he was startled by a sound of scratching on the roof of his improvised and contracted habitation. It was evidently done by a wild animal, but as it uttered no vocal sound he could not tell its character. Having heard that wild beasts were sometimes frightened by the sudden breaking upon their ears of the sound of the human voice, although he was considerably scared, he commanded the would-be intruder, in loud tones and in the German language, to take a walk.

The result was highly satisfactory; the scratcher leaped from the tie structure and scampered away, to the great relief of our tramp. As to whether the result would have been the same had the command been delivered in English must be left to conjecture.

At daybreak Charles resumed his weary march. He applied for food at several section houses, but was unsuccessful in obtaining it. He became so hungry that he gathered and devoured three or four hard and dirty crusts of bread that lay around the hut of a Chinaman. This simply tantalized his desire for food, and he was only restrained by religious scruples from breaking into one of the section houses, the inmates of which were absent, and helping himself. The only other relief he obtained was in the shape of a few scraps of orange peel which he found on the ground as he went along.

The next two days were passed in the same way, as no one would render him any assistance. On the third day he became so faint and weak that he felt he could go no farther, and as if he must collapse and perish. In this condition he sat down by the side of the railroad track where it traverses the side of a mountain and gave way to his feelings. The tears flowed copiously down his cheeks for some time. After his pent up emotions had been relieved by this natural outburst, Charles bowed himself in prayer. With all the faith he could command, and with intense fervor of soul he cried to his Heavenly Father to deliver him from the horrible fate which appeared to be imminent.

That humble petition received an immediate answer. There rested down upon the poor youth an unspeakable peace and composure, and he was not only strengthened in

mind, but a new vigor seemed to permeate his system. He arose and walked on. He reached a section house and on knocking at the door his summons was answered by a Chinaman, who refused to assist him. He next went to an adjacent station house and sat on the porch. While there a woman came out and told him she would give him something to eat if he would fetch her some water. He did so, and received sufficient food to partially appease his hunger. His thankfulness for and appreciation of this meal may to some extent be imagined, when it is considered that he had subsisted for nearly a week on one small loaf, a few dirty crusts, and some orange peel scraps.

#### VI.

When Charles reached Rawlins he scraped an acquaintance with the German butcher of that place for an obvious reason; he was in a condition that had become with him a chronic complaint—he was hungry. To cause that condition to be dispelled, the knight of the cleaver gave him two long links of bologna sausage. At the end of one of these he immediately began operations, and in an astonishingly brief time he had traveled along its entire distance, causing the elongated article to vanish. The other he reserved with the intention of annihilating it later. He then betook himself to a coal shed, where he laid himself out for repose.

At midnight the coal shanty slumberer was aroused from his sleep by the sonorous whistle of a locomotive. This is, to the tramp, a signal to get up and jump. That is what our pilgrim did, for he was soon located in one corner of a box car, where he reclined the balance of the night. In the grey light of the early morning he perceived that he was not alone. There was a man in the opposite corner. He gazed at him with a timid eye, presuming the fellow to be a brakeman who would soon order him out. He was in return being regarded with the same dread suspicion by the stranger, but as the light increased and was thrown upon the subject, they simultaneously discovered that each belonged to the same genus—that of the tramp. They didn't fall on each other's neck, but they felt greatly relieved by the discovery of a common social status.

This relief was short-lived. A conductor came along and they were ordered out. Charles did not move as rapidly as the train man wished him to, and that autocrat repeated