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[Written for the Miramichi Advance.] The Demon of "Old Baldy."

BY GEO J. FORBES, SAN GABRIEL.

My old friend Bill Smith is dead. gone up and down together for several I did. Great, honest eyes they were Though bearing a common name he was years. We had rode in on the tail of I could not help thinking. At all times far from being an ordinary man. His the first Washoe furore, met and housed they seemed to feel a mournful interest home had ever been on the frontiers of together by accident. His mining ex- in me, and when our glances met for a civilization and he was thus debarred perience was extensive from his long moment were filled with something many of the advantages inseparable residence on the coast, while I was a akin to reproachful tenderness. They from a residence among the educated comparative greenhorn. I soon con- seemed to notice no other game than and polished portion of humanity. cluded that his judgment was by no the one in which I was engaged and Nevertheless he was no boor. The means despicable and his honesty of when I won they brightened only to grace and heartiness with which he wel- purpose beyond suspicion ; my ventures fade again with a change of luck. The comed the wanderer to his rude cabin were therefore generally shaped by his eyes were set in a pale, youthful, handand homely fare put the latter im- advice. Every mine from the Philadel- some face, and looking down I saw a mediately at his ease. He was soon phia in Cedar hill to the lower end of wellformed body of medium size, the made to feel as if he was conferring a fa- Silver City that came within our means, proportions verging towards the slight vour on his host, especially if he told a was invested in successively. By way order-a wiry, lithe man he would be good story or, what was still better, was of variety we occasionally bought considered anywhere. But he is not an appreciative listener. It was thus Flowery Stocks and took shares at a healthy as I can plainly see. His coat that he had acquired his education.

back or shoulder with a force that sug- loose coin with fearful rapidity. exchanged a nod or a word.

able to the recipient never entered his to a competency. interest and fascination.

The relating of and listening to these toasted before our time ; get chopped relieved at being now ready to start stories and anecdotes was his principal up with our own axe like Dutch Harry ; for the mountains and looked far from source of mental improvement. This be shot like Jack Williams or forced being crestfallen. Still the eyes were caused his stock of information to be into a duel and killed like Horace bent on me. What interest had this more varied than useful. All his life he Smith. You're an unbeliever in that stranger in my well-being ! None that had been where books and papers were sort of thing I know, and so was poor I knew of, yet he appeared to think

For some time I had noticed a pair conclusively he favoured me with the of eyes watching me each evening. Let story of the Demon of old Baldy. We occupied the same shanty in me come early or late the eyes were Virginia City, and our fortunes had there ahead of me never leaving before marvellously cheap rate in a very rich hangs loose and baggy ; every bone and Bill dearly loved the man who gave mine at Humboldt on the strength of a sinew on the back of his hand is markto a two hours' yarn his unflagging at- | specimen which we afterwards learned | ed with painful distinctness while the tention, and who showed by a well-timed came from Ophir. Having paid out bones of the face are hardly restrained

remark his appreciation and interest. money of our own free will we were from pushing their way through the At such times his eyes would sparkle, now called on to "stand and deliver" blue glazed skin. I soon feel as deep his features express intense satisfaction whether we chose or not. A liberal an interest in him as he appears to feel and his heavy hand come down on your levying of assessments gathered in our in me, and yet we have not so much as

gested the possibility of his having "Feet" in one mine had to be sold to One evening I started out in a despesomehow become a sharer in the fore- save another and, seeing that we always rate mood. I was determined to break arm power of his inveterate enemy, the managed to sell out the wrong one, we the Bank or lose all. Every bet I won grizzly bear. That this was not agree- failed to realize anything approaching lay on the table waiting the next turn of the cards to determine its ownership.

mind for a moment. So absorbed was "It is no use, "said Smith," we'd bet- Finally I doubled up till all I possessed he in his tale that every other sense | ter get out of this while we can with | with the exception of four hundred dolwas suspended and it is more than pro- our lives. We don't know what we lars was staked. I barred the jack and blematical that he was not conscious of may be urged to do. May, be we'll lost. Looking up I met the eyes gazing Sarsaparilla even the slightest movement. The take Strychnine like Ed Leer at the at me sadly, but they brightened up commonest story told by him was full of foot of the Geiger Grade and be buried considerably when I did not appear CURES at Steamboat Springs where we'll be downcast or desperate. In fact I felt



Agent for the Sale of Western Canadian, P. E. Is-

1. A state whet and

Galens ! un



hewn down forty British soldiers with story." was triumphant.

tailed to those who were in favour du- had not much choice of diversion. went on.

tered around he would not have been think of him and his sad end. Some- with any one else, but somehow his eyes benefitted. He could not read. His how the old feeling comes over me to- mesmerized me and I began to feel ideas of Washington were gathered from night, so to ease my mind and put you drawn towards him. Beckoning, he the fact that he had, in ten minutes, on your guard. I'll tell you his, was soon by me and we le't the "hell' together.

a sword seven feet long. My attempts In '52 I'd made a big "raise" on "My name's Burt, Fred Burt, said to prove that France and Virginia were Murphy's Bar and went down to Frisco he, and I've been watching you for not joined did not succeed. If they to spend it. I'd no idea of laying up many nights. Did you notice me " I were not, then how did Lafayette and for a home in those days and may be had. "Well, I've felt for you, ; you've his soldiers march direct to the assis- you'll insinuate that the feeling has'nt been a great fool".

tance of the revolutionary heroes ? It grown very strong yet. Well, never I looked with some curiosity at the was useless to argue after this, so Bill mind. I was sure there were plenty of stranger who had the hardihood to tell diggings everywhere and I could get me this so coolly. It is'nt every one

He had some strange incongruities of more whenever I wanted to. That was dare do it you know. There was a tocharacter. His heart was as tender as far too general a sentiment in those tal absence of any intention to insult that of a woman. Not that he had any days, and being a roving character it or any, consciousness of having done so. scruples about the shedding of blood- suited me exactly. Then, again, I He went on.

human or otherwise--if he considered thought gold was getting so plenty it "Yes, you've been a fool sure enough it necessary. The man who called him | would soon be worth but little, and a | but you're not alone. I've travelled a liar had good reason to see that his man had better get clear of it while the same road myself, losing five thouscoffin was ready ; predatory Indians something was to be got for it. It was and last summer, but have now seen were to be shot down as so many Jack | actually so then, at "the Bay." Dol- | the error of my ways, though it may be rabbits, and as for the man who com- lars did not go as far as cents used in a triffe to late. I didn't value it. mitted a cold-blooded murder he would the east. A band box shanty with a 'Twas easily made again I thought. In at any time turn out of bed and travel strip of mud flat or sand hill, which the trying to do this I worked in wet and twenty miles to assist in lynching him. wind might take from a fellow any day cold. fell sick on the Yuba and have A "set to" with knives in which the and land in the Bay or Pacific Ocean, been in the Doctor's hands for the last parties cut and slashed each other hand- cost as much as a palace elsewhere ; a three months-I'll never be the same somely, was something to be talked suit of clothes made a big hole in a bag man again. And why is this? Because over and enjoyed for an entire month. of gold dust and a few round treats I'd been a fool, a fool like you. I bet-The manner in which he would gloat with a week's board whisked off the ted not only my money but also my life, over his well dried string of scalps struck rest of it. Then you'd got to fill her yes my life, and many years of it too. terror to the heart of many a timid im- again or haul out another one. They Heaven grant that you may not have migrant who had arrived from the were still "the days of '49." done the same. Health cannot be "States" by the last wagon train. Well I'm not a great lover of whisky staked even against any amount of Each of these scalps had a history-an as you know, and in those days the man money."

awful history which was minutely de- | who did not take kindly to this liquid | His earnestness was indescribable; he

ring fits of extra condescension which | There was a one-horse theatre or may " My lungs are affected, but there's al Age came on periodically. On this occasion be two; several filthy dance halls with good work in me yet. I've some dust he was eloquent, interspersing a liberal reeking atmosphere and the gambling left and want to go South. I have it share of truth with some garnishing, houses. As the means of diversion from a Mexican where the gold is found which it was just as well to accept in its were so limited, even a man who could in dust, in nuggets, in chunks. What entirety. To the young man from Lo- indulge in the whole of them had got do you think of that old fellow. I've well who mildly insinuated a trifle of to go it steep to avoid getting musty been waiting for a partner some time. doubt in regard to his having eaten the after the excitement in the mountains I like you- will you come." Don't say heart of a Pawnee demon, he was par- and absence from his old chums and no. please don't.

ticularly savage. An ominous frown associates. I was in a deplorable state He then showed me a plan marked soon exploded in a perfect tornado of and heartily wished I had not come with mountains, bearing angles and wrath, but it was of short duration. down. I tried to smoke fifty cent variations that I did not understand, During the first lull in the storm an cigars, but they turned me sick for I had for he was a surveyor and had it laid ample apology supplemented by expla- never learned to use tobacco. In a fit out beautifully and regularly with the nations, which the good boy who cut of desperation I asked a girl out to sea, San Diego, Santa Barbara, San down his father's cherry tree would dance-something I'd never done be- Gabriel and many other places I forget hardly feel warranted in giving, caused fore and knew as much about as the like a first class map. "Right there's the cloud to gradually disperse in his working of a galvanic battery. That the gold," putting his finger down hair. The knowledge that it might was a memorable night for the dance pretty far south. come forth at any moment a perfect folks. I tripped up a big fellow with a Well the upshot was I agreed to go. arsenal of navy revolvers and bowie red shirt, two revolvers and a pair of I could not say no to him. Then, I beknives of portentous dimensions was boots which must have been lasted on gan to see the value of gold and to ungood and sufficient reason why the a pork barrel ; slung a hurdy across the derstand that I had been a fool, inward sceptic should be on his good behaviour room by letting her go too quick in the ly resolving that the next money I made for the future. swing and tore all the skirts of another I would take care of it. In a week we On the other hand he was ever ready by tramping on them. She was an were ready to start, and took passage to assist the unfortunate and protect awful sight. I grew faint and dizzy in a villianous looking schooner for San the weak. The miner who had been and it did seem as if I'd all run to feet. Diego in preference to packing five hunblown up or mangled by a fall of rock They, 'peared to fill the whole room dred miles under an October sun. was handled tenderly, and nursed night and it seemed to me as if I could'nt put *A bald, white peak of the Sierra Madre after night with unremitting care. If, them down anywhere without having east of Los Angelos.

in his agony, the sufferer cursed those two girls, a man with a red shirt and a who were trying to alleviate his pains, corner of the bar under them. It's an Bill exhibited all the patience of a mo- awful feeling I can tell you. The whole ther towards her fretful child. To the thing ended in a big row. The red weak in the camp he was a shield against shirt swore and drew a revolver, but was a right to a choice whether we shall inthe ever present bully. He never in- promptly knocked down and nearly flict upon them an exterior uncared for sulted a man; he contradicted no one. killed by two drunken sailors; the girl If he could not agree with an assertion who had her lower gear pulled down or proposition he simply held his peace. swore and drew-it up again. A tumb-The dumb animal received every kind- ler thrown by the bar-keeper after the ness and consideration from him. He free and easy manner of those gentleloathed the man who iil-used an animal men, was found next morning uninjured and characterized it as the greatest sin inside of the head musician's violin in the calendar. From the gangrenous which he had stood on the platform in back of a Mexican jack mule, I have the corner preparatory to aiding in seen him turn away pale, with quickenquelling the fray. The cornet of two ed breath and teeth hard set and tears stops was changed to one-a long stop stealing from his eyes. The needy im- and the player given a furlough till kept for sale at all our drug stores, and if migrant who crossed the plains was ever assisted with an open hand, even with be ordered from New York. After the money which had been saved (an this night I settled down calmly and unusual thing) for some cherished pureven peacefully to a quiet game of Faro pose. It is hard to measure such geneto the manifest satisfaction of the dealer

rosity as his. of that fascinating game. I did'nt care In the affairs of every day life he was to win for I wanted to get back to the shrewd-could give a good, sound admines and did not see how this was to vice although an inherent recklessness be accomplished while I had any Pancreatic Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil seldom allowed him to follow it in his money. I considered it just about as own case. The wild schemes of Tom, safe in the Faro Bank as any of the Dick and Harry were too apt to be other Banks established and looking LACTO-PHOSPHATE OF LIME. taken up on the spur of the moment back over the institutions which were and, once entered on, were pressed to then established in San Francisco, I the bitter end. Coming to California give myself great credit for shrewdness in '49 he had made many fortunes, but when my experience in these things is General Debility, Wasting Diseases of Children and money always managed to slip through taken into consideration.

his hands. This at last was accepted For a long time luck was with me. as a kind of fatality. A strong belief At one time I was at least one thouin the supernatural enabled him to see sand ounces ahead and felt correspondthat his ill-luck was caused by the ma- ingly miserable. How long am I going levolent spite of some spirit and every to be tied down to this kind of thing unaccountable accident of serious im- thought I, will I never get back to my port was ascribed to the same cause. friends and the good, old life at

In some instances this wicked spirit Murphy's? Somehow the grub did'nt took on bodily shape, but mostly in a taste as it ought and the water after guise which the experienced could de- the clear, cool mountain streams was diseases.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

-----------Our personal appearance is a matter in which our friends and acquaintances have and unattractive, a countenance marred by a neglected grizzled beard, or a crown guiltless of covering, half covered, or shall in deference to our fellows, pay due regard to our own persons, and make them presentable and acceptable in society. There are many helps for those who desire to do this, and there are none among them more acceptable than Hall's Hair Renewer and Buchingham's Dye for the whiskers. Both these preparations are such time as a new instrument could any of our friends are looking a little the worse for wear, we advise them to make a note of it.

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tect by careful analogy and observation. simply disgusting. I began drinking FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGISTS. For the benefit of the sceptic piles of whisky to drown care, but it made me \$1 per Bottle. Six Bottles for \$5. Trial size 25 cts. proof were forthcoming. It was dur- sick and caused me to feel as if a dozen ing one of our discussions on this sub- centipedes were running races down FOR SALE IN CHATHAM BY ject that, by way of settling the subject | my spine. It's not wholesome my boy. J. PALLEN & SON.

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