

SHOOTING A BEAR.

Being that a boy myself it affords me the greatest pleasure to write this series of articles for the boys. I have always noticed that when a man says a good thing the boys have intelligence enough to appreciate it, and when he makes a failure they usually have sympathy enough to say 'give the feller another chance.'

dudes had now become a serious matter to the rustlers but it was too late to withdraw. It was thirty minutes past nine by Pacific time. Maine was thirty rods in advance; he was carrying the rifle in his hands not having strength enough to get it up on his shoulder.

There was a big tree fallen across the trail. It was far too long to go around, and too high to climb over, but the latter course was decided upon. And as he undertook to scramble up over the log, there was a scramble and a grunt on the other side; and as Maine peeped over, to his surprise and horror, a large Chinaman bear appeared.

'Matter,' ejaculated Maine, scrambling to his feet, 'a smart man you are to hunt bears, to stay in the rear until the danger is all over, and I be obliged to expose myself alone in this manner.'

A word of explanation and then both climbed up to the log and timidly looked over. Yes, there he was, weighing nearly four hundred pounds, the muzzle of the gun, was so near him when discharged that his fur had been singed by the fire; the ball had entered just back of his fore leg and had passed through the body.

The remains were rolled up against the log and the rustlers climbed on; at six o'clock the big timber, larch by name, was reached, growing upon the mountain side. Great trees some of which by actual measurement were fourteen feet in diameter; two hundred feet high before a single knot or limb could be seen.

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