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Barstow was astounded to find this wilderness traversed by well constructed telegraph wires

"In the outset," said Capt. Jim, "the authorities had great trouble in protecting the lines from destruction at the hands of the natives, but the happy thought came to the engineer in charge to attach the wires to several of the native chiefs and to let them feel the effects of a series of heavy electrical shocks. After this there was no further destruction of either poles or wires."

For days the trail lay through magnificent forests, the trees of which lifted their branches to the extraordinary height of 200 feet, and although coming as Barstow did from the land of gigantic sequoias, he could not refrain from admiring these grand specimens of vegetable growth. One thing that attracted his attention was the complete absence of underbrush in the vast forests, so that a wagon could be driven in any direction, and there arose no necessity for beaten or cleared ways. Helen asked for an explanation of what she termed the painted spots on the gum trees.

"What you call paint, Madam," replied Capt. Jim, "is the natural color. The bark of these trees change in color as the season advances or draws to an end. Some of them, you perceive, are white, others pink, others red, and look, the trunks of some are striped with blue bands or variegated with yellow spots!"

As the country grew more and more arid, Capt. Jim was observed to be making a close study of the actions of the horned cattle attached to the provision waggons. The wonderful instinct of these animals enables them to fix with great precision the direction necessary to take in order to reach water, and man has only to follow the dumb brute to come upon the spring. In other ways, too, the instinct of these animals prove serviceable to the travellers in the Australian bush, and Col. Barstow and Helen, who were riding together, were not a little surprised to see the leading team of oxen come to a sudden halt one morning. In spite of the cries and the lashings of the drivers, the animals refused to advance a step.

"This is not a matter of ill-temper or unwillingness to do their work," said Capt. Jim to Barstow, at the same time calling out to the drivers to urge the beasts no more. "Either," continued the scout, "there are Indians concealed in the bush near us, or else we have struck one of their trails and the oxen have caught the scent and refuse to move forward."

"What is the cause of their dislike or dread of the natives?" asked Helen. "It's something that is hard to explain," answered Capt. Jim, "but it is a fact nevertheless. My opinion is that the first oxen which were imported into Australia were cruelly treated by the Indians to such a degree that an aversion to the natives has been transmitted to the descendants of these cattle. This inherited recollection has become, in fact, an instinctive dread of a natural enemy."

Whether this conduct of the cattle was, as the scout explained it, a case of transmitted aversion or not, the drivers were absolutely unable, either by harsh means or gentle, to induce the startled beasts to budge from their tracks.

Under the direction of Capt. Jim the drivers proceeded to unharness the oxen, turn them with their backs to the trail, and then by means of vigorous goading to force them to go backwards until they had passed over the Indian trail, after which they were again hitched to the provision waggons and the little caravan was allowed to take its own direction. As Capt. Jim had predicted, it was a northerly one, and after a few days' longer march the loud bellowing of the cattle and joyful whinnying of the horses announced the fact that their keen nostrils had scented the presence of water, possibly now four or five miles distant. The scout was quite positive that it would prove to be the Macumber River, and such was the case. In less than two hours the little party had reached a clearing and Capt. Jim called Barstow's attention to a silver thread winding through a valley below them. It could only be seen when the rays of the morning sun fell upon it, but the scout had got his bearings.

"It's the Macumber, Colonel," said he musingly, as he sat with his glass to his eyes, and then raising his right hand and pointing to a sugar-loaf mountain away off to the northward, its cleared sides dimly visible in the morning haze, he added, "and that's Waldeck Hill."

Helen Faircamp felt a strange sensation about her heart as she caught these words and it seemed to her as if the air had suddenly lost its power to satisfy life fully, but it was not fear, far from it, for her cheeks reddened and she cried out almost joyfully:

"Waldeck Hill, Captain? Thank heaven we are soon to come face to face with those wretches."

A halt of several hours was made on the banks of the Macumber in order that the exhausted cattle and horses might thoroughly refresh themselves. Then the watchful scout, having received the reports of his men, whom he kept constantly thrown out picket fashion, gave the order to move. In two days, at the very latest, the party would reach Waldeck Hill. The first day was absolutely uneventful. The road now lay across a vast stretch of plain level as the sea, whose arid surface now and then was split or rent into cracks or

fissures of greater or less width. The heat was excessive, and the air almost unbearable from the clouds of dust that seemed to sift down from the very sky. On the morning of the second day a dull, low rumbling sound reached the trained ear of the scout, into whose hands Barstow had placed his own and another's life still dearer to him.

At once Terrill ordered the provision waggons to be driven into one of the gulches already spoken of and the cattle to be unhitched. Again the distant rumbling, low and indistinct like first mutterings of a rising storm came floating along on the heavy and motionless atmosphere. This time it was heard by Barstow who, noting the preparations to shelter the cattle under the low bluff, imagined that a violent thunderstorm was about to break upon their heads, and yet why should the cattle be unhitched, and, still more incomprehensible, why should their drivers compel them to lay down close under the shelter of the bluff? Helen bent her gaze inquiringly upon the Colonel's face.

"Did you hear that low, distant roar?" she asked.

"Yes," replied Barstow, "and I should say that a wind or rain storm is about to burst upon us, for every instant it grows louder and louder."

"It sounds more like the roar of breakers on a rugged shore," remarked Helen, raising her glass and sweeping the northern sky, which, in spite of the Colonel's prediction, still remained to glow, clear and untroubled, with that metallic glare so common to it. As Capt. Jim was now urging his men to hasten and complete their preparations and all the while the distant rumble continued to swell in volume of sounds as if giant hands were pressing with greater and greater force upon the keys of some gigantic organ, Barstow's fears took definite form and his mind was seized with a dread that their lives were about to be jeopardized by some terrific cloudburst, which, driven by the rising wind, might deluge these plains and sweep every living creature before it like dry taggots on the turbulent bosom of a Spring freshet.

And yet so perfect was his confidence in the scout's skill to protect them against any such imminent danger that he quietly dismounted and having lifted Helen from her horse gently but quickly, at Terrill's bidding, constrained the two horses to drop upon their haunches and then he lay completely down, but not until the saddles had been unclipped and placed arcross over the animals' heads, now extended on the ground, so as to protect their eyes.

When the scout saw that every horse was thus protected, and that the heads of the cattle were thrust under the pack wagon, he ordered Barstow to draw Helen as closely as possible under the slightly projecting edge of the low bluff sheltering them, and then with a sudden spring he leaped upon the parapet and stood bolt upright, a single sentinel watching over that caravan crouching at his feet. Helen could not refrain from taking a second look at the handsome scout as he stood there so clearly outlined, with his grey eyes full of that calm and steady glow which bespeaks the inward strength and confidence, the glorious self reliance of the brave man always so fascinating to a woman.

The distant hills were still wrapped in their purple mantles of Summer haze, but on the plain there was now visible a dark cloud, vast as the horizon itself, rising in fantastic forms and growing darker and darker until now it rolled up in round and twisted shapes of inky blackness. One could see at a glance that these clouds were not the layers of vapor drawn from the earth by a tropical sun and blown hither and thither by the rising gale. They took on more the look of vast puffs of smoke belched from an encircling battery on a field of battle and whirled into fantastic forms with clearly defined outlines.

From underneath these vast clouds of dust—for such they proved to be—came forth the roar of countless thousands of feet, which, as they drew near, falling in regular and rhythmic beat upon these arid plains, sent forth a louder and louder and louder rumble. The ground trembled beneath them. It was a living avalanche sweeping over the plains with irresistible force, and although made up of nothing but herds of sheep, yet such was the strange violence of their movements, and remarkable strength of their headway the fury of their onslaught that morning that no power could have stemmed their advance.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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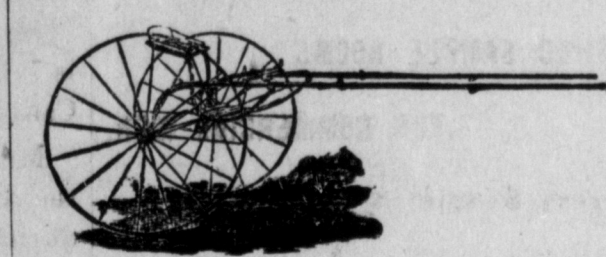
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Because of its strength, loss-paying power, and record for fair and honorable dealing.

Statement January 1st, 1890—  
Cash Capital, \$2,000,000 00  
Reserve for Unadjusted Losses, 254,223 43  
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NET SURPLUS, 1,301,223 39

Total Assets, \$5,305,004 23  
**J. D. PHINNEY,**  
Agent, Richibucto.

The following are the most important items of the  
THIRTIETH  
ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF THE

**EQUITABLE  
LIFE  
ASSURANCE SOCIETY.**

Outstanding Assurance Dec. 31, 1889,	\$631,016,666
New Assurance Written in 1889,	175,264,109
Premium Income in 1889,	25,257,223
Interest and Other Income,	5,085,765
Total Income,	30,263,288
Payments to Policy holders,	11,842,838
Assets,	107,150,309
Liabilities (4 per cent.)	84,229,235
Surplus,	\$22,821,074
Ratio of Assets to Liabilities,	127 per cent.

Of the Life Assurance Companies of the world THE EQUITABLE has for ten years transacted the largest annual new business (in 1889, \$175,264,109; for ten years held the largest 4 per cent. surplus (December, 1889, \$22,821,074); for four years held the largest outstanding business (December, 1889, \$631,016,666); while its superior financial strength is shown by its high ratio of Assets to Liabilities, 127 per cent.

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Spectacles.

## Daily Mail

And Passenger Stage leaves Weldford Station, I. C. R., for Richibucto, via Bass River and Kingston, on arrival of the St. John, Halifax and Quebec Express Trains. Sundays excepted.

Returning—leaves Richibucto at 4:00 p. m., local, and arrives at Weldford Station in time to connect with night express trains going North and South.

Fare, \$1.50.

Good Livestock in connection.

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**Sheriff's Sale!**

There will be sold at Public Auction at the Registry Office, Richibucto, on Tuesday, the twenty-sixth day of January next, at 12 o'clock, noon:—

All the right, title, interest, property, claim, and demand, whatsoever either at law or in equity, which George McMinn had on the fourteenth day of March, A. D. 1887, or which he now has, of in, to, out of, or upon the following described land and premises:—namely:—

"All that piece of land in the parish of Richibucto, described as follows:—Commencing at a stake at the north side of Cunard street or its extension, being the upper front corner of land formerly owned and occupied by John Harnett, thence running along said street westwardly 430 feet, thence northwardly until it strikes the O'Leary line, thence easterly along O'Leary's line 430 feet to the Harnett line, thence along the Harnett line southerly to the place of beginning."

Also:—All that piece of land in the Parish of Richibucto, in the County of Kent, in the rear of the town of Richibucto, described as follows:— "Commencing at a stake on the north side of Cunard street, or its extension a distance of 230 feet from the upper front corner of land formerly owned and occupied by John Harnett, thence running along said street westwardly a distance of 198 feet, thence southwardly until it strikes O'Leary's line, thence easterly along O'Leary's line 198 feet, thence southerly to the place of beginning," being the lot of land conveyed to David McKinn by George L. Miller by deed recorded in Book V., page 109, of the Kent County records.

The same having been seized and taken under and by virtue of an execution issued out of the County Court of Kent upon a judgment, a memorial of which was duly recorded in the said Kent County records on the said fourteenth day of March, 1887.

WM. WHITEN, Sheriff.

Sheriff's Office, Richibucto, October 20th, 1891.

**D. MACDOUGALL,**  
Photographer,

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PARK HOTEL BUILDING, KING SQUARE

ST. JOHN, N. B.

**In the County Court of  
Kent.**

Notice is hereby given that upon the application of John W. Harnett I have directed all the estate, as well real as personal of Pierre Richard, in the County of Kent, an absconding, concealed, or absent debtor, to be seized, and unless he return and discharge his debt within three months after the publication hereof, said estate will be sold in the payment thereof.

PIERRE A. LANDRY,

Judge of the County Court of Kent.

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CUT STONE of all descriptions furnished to order.

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