

A BIG INDIAN FIGHT.

CAPTAIN GORDON IS ATTACKED BY 482 PICKED WARRIORS.

Particulars of a Thrilling Encounter with a Band of Bloodthirsty Comanches and How They Were Defeated with Great Slaughter by the Whites.

Up to the year 1850 the Comanche Indians boasted that they had never been defeated in a battle with white men. They were arrogant and bloodthirsty and were at war with all the world. They would not make peace with other tribes, but waged constant and vindictive warfare on white and red alike.

In May of the year named a Texan known as Captain Gordon, who was an old Indian fighter, learned that there was gold in the Big Wichita mountains of west Texas. This chain of mountains forms the eastern boundary of the Great Staked plains, but the Comanches ranged as far west as the Rio Pecos river.

One was frightened over the message, and in due time the expedition set out. Captain Gordon was confident that he would be attacked before crossing the Canadian river, and he was not surprised at finding the Indians all about him as the command emerged into the open prairie.

Gordon was familiar with the Chico and knew where the attack would be made. The Indians would wait until he was ready to enter the pass leading through the Chico mountains to the river and beyond. It was a position they could hold against 10,000 men, and he realized that he must draw them away from it.

There was only one place where the sink could be approached by horsemen, and that was on the south side. There was a clear road 200 feet wide, and the cannon were posted to cross fire over this. They had been kept covered on the march, and the Indians had no suspicion of their presence.

Eagle Feather was in no hurry. It was 9 o'clock before he marshaled his warriors on the prairie, a mile to the south of the plateau. He then sent in word that he hoped the white men would fight. He did not demand a surrender, and he wanted it plainly understood that he would grant no quarter.

MORE VENGEFUL THAN WAR.

Men Brave in Battle Shrink Before the Onset of a Deadly Plague.

As we move by the left flank to cross the country highway and take up a position in the triangular piece of woods, the man on my left takes out his watch and I note the time. It is exactly 4:30 p. m. The sun is shining brightly overhead, and yesterday the ranks as meeting in the meadow to the west of the woods.

We can see no enemy on our front as we form battle line under the trees and pile up bushes, limbs and logs for a breast-work. They will come down the road if they come, and then we shall endeavor to hold them in check, no matter if they outnumber us five to one.

What has happened? Has the sun all ready gone to rest, and is this twilight creeping over the field of battle? Men look up and about them. The bright sunlight has suddenly disappeared. There are clear of the smoke here, though it hangs like a pall over the brigade on our right.

Down here is the vengeance of man, up there the wrath of God. It is a greenish-black cloud—its center as black as mid night, and its outer edges fringed with a green which reminds you of the eyes of an infuriated and desperate animal about to battle for its life and more.

From out of the very center of that forlorn and drearily looking sheet of flame-bright that every eye was dazzled and a thousand men started in alarm. The lines were scarcely restored when there came a crash as if a thousand shells had exploded at once and hundreds of men cried out in terror.

Had five thousand of the enemy come marching down the road and charged us en masse there would have been no such confusion as this. Veterans of a dozen battles are pressing back, and the officers are pale faced as they flourish their swords and shout and curse to restore order.

It was in one of the biggest business houses of the country. The telephone bell in the private offices of the head of the firm began to ring, and a young clerk who was passing through the rooms and noticed that there was no one there to answer the call went to the telephone.

"Hello!" he said, "what do you want?" "Is this Brown, Smith, Jones & Williams?" "Yes, what do you want?" "Is this Brown, Smith, Jones & Williams?" "Yes, what do you want?"

The following is a criticism of "Hamlet" by a dramatic reporter in New South Wales. The author is behind the times and appears to forget that what we want nowadays is hair raising situations and not devices. In the hands of a skillful playwright a detective would have been put upon the track of Hamlet's uncle, and the old man would have been hunted down in a manner that would have excited the audience out of their number.

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

INTERESTING READING FOR BRIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE.

Brownie—Enemies in the Air—Hereditary Knowledge—Exact The Bells of Japan—Three Important Things.

Once upon a time, oh, ever so many years ago, there was a little boy who was so dark that everyone called him Brownie.

Brownie went out shopping one day with his mamma, and was very much pleased with the cash-boys he saw in the stores, and he thought how lovely it would be if he could go and be a cash-boy himself and get all the money they got.

So he asked his papa when he got home that night if he couldn't be a cash-boy in a big store, and run around and do errands and earn lots and lots of dollars the way they did, and of course his papa said he could if he wanted to.

"When do you want to begin?" asked papa. "Right off," said Brownie. "All right," said papa. "You may begin to-morrow morning. You must tell Mary to wake you up at six o'clock and have your breakfast ready at half-past six, so that you may start down to the store in time to be there by eight o'clock."

"I'll be home before that, papa," said Brownie. "I'll hurry up and get through by three o'clock." "They wouldn't let you do that," papa said. "You'll have to stay until six o'clock until the holiday-times, and then they'll keep you down there until nine or ten o'clock. Of course it will make you very sleepy to do that, but after awhile you won't mind it so much."

"That is a good idea," said papa, with a smile, and so Brownie didn't become a cash-boy—Harpers' Young People.

Letting Kindness Rule. It is not every one who can put aside at the same time both the selfish hope of personal advancement and the inherent respect of humanity for the influential, and let only kindly benevolence rule in their place.

The Bells of Japan. The bells of Japan are among its loveliest possessions. One of the sweetest of them rang out many times every day into the waiting air in this far-away little city. Its tone was intensely thrilling and pathetic.

Hereditary Knowledge. A three-year-old, whose father, two grandfathers and a great-grandfather are physicians, was entertaining herself one day by playing doctor to her dolls.

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