

CHAPTER XIX.

Surrounded by Fire.

Truer words were never spoken han when Travers declares they had hot work before them.

As the others comprising the little party of defenders come tumbling out of the compartments which they have defended so bravely, they, too, discover the advance of the guerrillas, marked as it is by a dozen waving flambeaux hastily snatched from the

Jack is by instinct a leader of men. His quick mind grasps a problem and almost on the instant solves It. He seems to know by intuition, as it appears, just what sort of action suits an emergency.

Speedily he places his men where they can do the most execution, and in the darkness they crouch alongside the carriage, awaiting the coming of the enemy.

There is hardly a breathing spell before those who come running along the rallway track will be close enough to invite an opening of the engagement.

The guerrillas of course cannot see the carriage, since all lights have been extinguished; but knowing the nature of the ground, they are able to guess its present position with some degree of certainty.

Jack is there in the van ready to give a good account of himself. He has regulated matters so there may be no great waste of ammunition. Smithers and himself are to open the ball, and if it becomes necessary, the others will chime in.

The two comrades are close together, and have time for the excharge of a few sentences ere the nearest torchbearers come within the range where they have marked an imagin-

ary dead line. Then the ball opens,

Doubtless the advancing guerrillas understand the situation as soon as the double flash cleaves the darkness up the rise, for their savage shouts seem to increase in volume.

Those in the lead are naturally the ones to suffer when meeting with such an obstacle.

Two torches are seen to plunge downward, and those who carried them will hardly give further trou-

Still, behind presses a throng; the catastrophe has not dulled their enthusiasm, but rather whetted their appetite for revenge.

Again Jack and Smithers let loose. They are as cool and collected as though practicing at wooden targets. Each second is the signal for a double discharge, and the regularity of this death dealing report stamps itself upon the mind with awful distinct-

Unseen by Travers, two heads have speared at the carriage window. An overpowering curiosity to see the nature of the danger that hangs over them has influenced Jessie and the Spanish girl to thus endeavor to survey the scene.

They discover the advancing torches, and hear the shouts of the assailants; then come the reports of firearms and the terrible confusion that ensues down the track. Secretly one of these gentle hearts is praying for the safety of the man who has offered his body as a bulwark berween those desperate devils and herself: for Jessie Cameron has indeed made a startling discovery, though she does not as yet breathe its nature even to her stepsister.

Meanwhile, the fusillade has borne fruit. Even brave men might recoil before such systematic firing. The shots continue to ring out as if by machine work-each discharge



Then the ball opens. might be the pulsation of a mighty heart capable of sending leaden hall

whistling through space. From incarnate rage the shouts blend into cries of alarm-yes, even

new system of tactics brought Into play.

One man gives his torch a toss into the surrounding jungle. Another sect the point and follows suit. For a brief interval the air seems filled god.

with dambeaux, each describing a

and has no liking for the advance that must follow, since it means the they may return. I hope you will possible arrival of the guerrillas at not be alarmed however. We have sich one is eccentric.

Copyright, 1897, by F. Tennyson Neely. Copyright, 1890, by Street and Smith. the car, and a possible hand-to-hand conflict that will work against them

on account of inferior numbers. He sees many dark forms stumbling forward over the bodies of those who have fallen; the torches have not gone ont, but kindle incipient conflagrations among the dead leaves.

"Fire! Give it to them hot," is what Squire John exclaims.

With a crash the others open. Even Ah Sin can do his share, since Jack has no use for a retainer unable to handle a gun, and in the early days of their intimacy taught the Celestial how to aim and fire, though the Chinaman cannot be broken of gunshyness, and persists in shutting his eyes each time he pulls trigger. Such a wholesale discharge is

enough to quite finish the business. The advance has been feeble before, but now it ceases entirely. When the seeds of a panie are sown they germicate with lightning rapidity. From lip to lip the cries of alarm pass. Perhaps never before in all their experience have these barbarians met with such a desperate resistance as this.

They melt away, these fierce guerrillas

In the dim light their fleeing figures can be seen in various quarters in desperate flight. The shots continue so long as any are in sight, and while probably lacking in execution, certainly add to the temporary terror of

Some have sought safety in the forest, and Jack's attention being called to this fact, he awakens to a new danger that confronts them.

The dead leaves and brush catch fire easily at this time of the year, since the opening of the rainy season has been delayed.

Already in half a dozen places where the descending torches alighted, can be seen a rapidly-spreading blaze. The breeze seems to be increasing with the passage of each minute of time, and fanning the flames into vigorous life.

Jack knows better than any of the others the full measure of the new danger menacing them.

Still, what can be done? There is a fire for every man, some of them already burning so fiercely that it would tax the ingenuity of a single individual to encompass the de-

struction of the blaze. Should they attempt to extinguish the fires that already begin to snap and crackle as they greedily seize upon new material, they will naturally become a target for those of the bushwhackers who may still linger near.

Hence nothing can be done.

The others begin to notice the increasing light.

They comment on the fact that presently they will offer fair targets Juanita says, just behind them. to the alm of the enemy; but strangely enough none of them appear to grasp the most serious part of the impending disaster.

Even Smithers, usually so quick to see such things, makes no mention of

It is suggested that they seek the interior once more. None of them are loth to do so. The guard and Ah Sin find an asylum in the end compartment as before.

Smithers appears to dislike this division of their forces, and one of his first acts upon entering is to examine the partition between.

His scrutiny appears to satisfy him. for the at once opens an assault on the wall, which proves to be a mere shell, and in wretched condition at that; for under the vigorous measures brought into play by the energetic agent, there is an opening made through which the stbutest of the

party can pass with ease. Don Roblado and Spencer are keeping watch at one door, and Jack opens the other in order to take an

observation. He is really startled and not a little worried at the amazing progress made by the fires. They have eaten their way along on that side of the track until the lines of separation have ceased to exist, and all are united. The flames, fed by dead leaves and branches from trees lopped off during the passage of some West India hurricane, now leap hungrify into the air, as though snapping at the branches overhead.

Travers cannot remember ever sec-

ing a fire start with so much vim. And while he leans there at the door, his mind endeavoring to plan new methods of meeting the deadly dangers that keep cropping up so continually, he feels a touch, and experiences a burning sensation. Some monitor of the heart, some marvelous intuition of the spirit tells him it is the hand of his Highland lassie that telegraphs thus to his soul.

"Is the danger over?" she asks, softly.

Roblado and his friend lean out of the other door and compare notes over the situation. Smithers has The advance is not given up, but a passed into the next compartment to speak with the guard, and no one is near but Juanita. Jessie's faithful friend and stepsister, who loves her with the blind affection which the Aztec worshipers felt for their sun-

"That would be hard to say," he parabola and landing in the thicket. replies, softly. "These men are des-Jack understands what it means, perate characters, and although we have temporarily beaten them off.

been able to hold out this far, and give a good account of ourselves, and, with the favor of Heaven, will continue to do so.

"We are under heavy obligations to you!" she says; and Jack smiles grimly at the way Fate manages his case. "I hope you will not think so. No

man could stand by and not lift his hand to defend ladies," is what he manages to say.

"Pardon-you art not a Spanlard, senor?" Travers suddenly remembers that

he no longer holds the pebble in his cheek; he has been talking in his natural tones. "Only an American, lady," he re-

plies. "I thought so," he hears her say,

as though to herself, and immediately follows by asking aloud: "You appear to be more anxious than before, and I imagine we are threatened with some new danger. You see I am brave. I would know the worst. So please let us understand what is coming next.'

"It will come from the fire," he says, quickly,

"I understand what you mean," she says, as she leans out of the door,



"Is the danger over?"

burned alive. Well, sir, that is a meet it than fall into the hands of those wretches;" and Jack, rememguerrillas, fully half of whom were black devils, can heartily say "Amen" to her words deep down in his heart.

What Jessie characterizes as a shoot upward with a vehemence that promises a wonderful result.

If the wind grows stronger it will sweep over the ridge and run a course of miles until checked by some stream or savannah.

"Can nothing be done? The heat is already becoming so dreadful. Perhaps the carriage may take fire, and we will lose our refuge." is what

Jack has been considering the mat ter, and trying to decide which of two evils is the lesser.

must be accomplished quickly, else the intense heat may cause the an emergency clause. old tinder-box of a railway carriage to take fire.

Before Travers can make any further remark upon the subject, he hears Smithers calling aloud for the "doctor" in the next compartment, fairs of lodges, was killed in the comand it suddenly flashes across his mind that it was agreed he should pass under the name of Dr. Jim.

Evidently his presence is needed. Smithers shows some trace of excitement in the tone of his hail, and ate files Nos. 10 and 12 were indeit may be set down for certain that finitely postponed. House roll No. 102, when he allows his well-trained nerves a little holiday, there is good reason | Bend hatchcries was recommended for for alarm.

(To be Continued.)

## PANAMA CLIMATE NOT DEADLY.

Temperature and Rainfall Not Worse Than in the United States.

There is a widespread belief that the climate of Panama is so fatal that the construction of the canal can only be accomplished at an enormous sacrifice of human life. Both malaria and yellow fever may be said to be to-day practically under control, and these are the two diseases, says the Scientific American, which are most to be dreaded when the great construction camps are assembled and work is in full swing throughout the whole length of the canal. According to Gen. Abbott, the records of the hospital of the old Panama canal company show that the total death rate among the laborers was far less than is commonly supposed, being in fact from 44 to 67 per 1,000.

It seems, moreover, that the rainfall has been the subject of as gross exaggeration as the diseases. It varies from about 130 inches on the Atlantic to sixty-five inches on the Pacific, a record that can be duplicated in the United States, where the average rainfall on the Atlantic coast is about fifty inches and the fall on portions of the Pacific coast compares in total precipitation with that of the Atlantic terminus of the canal. Furthermore, it will be news to many residents of our more northerly latitude to learn that the temperature ranges at Panama from 70 degrees to 85 degrees fahrenheit, and that it is very rarely that the thermometer reaches the high temperature which is experienced when a bot wave passes over the United States.

A poor man may be a crank, but a

## LEGISLATURE of NEBRASKA

A Synopsis of Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth General Session.

porations, but today there was no objections to it. A large number of bills roads in the state of Nebraska. were reported for general file and many recommended for passage.

To give to cities and villaof plank, brick, stone and concrete and grouse, Schember 1 to November September I to April 15; Jacksnipe and yellow legs, September 1 to May bad all been considered. 1; wild pigeons, doves and plover, sustained by his arm-"the forest is June 15 to August 1; trout, April 1 afire. We are in danger of being to October 1; other fish, April 1 to November 15; prohibiting killing of terrible fate to face, but I had rather quait during 1905-6-7 and fixing open appropriating \$35,000 for general reseason on them after 1907 from November 1 to November 30; limiting including the rebuilding of the old bering the savage appearance of the number of geese or brant to be killed per day by a single hunter to ten; game birds twenty-five and prairie chickens ten during the mouth of September. The bill imposes a fine of der his resolution yesterday reported. forest fire has really reached the dig- \$5 a bird or sentences of ten days for H. R. 62, by Ernest of Johnson, pronity of such a conflagration, for the each for all birds killed in excess of voked much discussion, being an apflames have seized the branches, and the legal number. Providing that the propriation bill. It provided \$10,000 proceeds of inheritance tax shall be for an agricultural pavilion at the used for the construction of perma- State fair. It was recommended for nent roads and go into the road fund. passage, H. R. 110, Junkin's anti-trust Vesting in the State Banking Board bill, was amended so as to have suits discretionary power as to the integ brought under this act for its enforce rity and responsibility of persons ap- ment in the state and not county plying for banking charters. Appro- courts. The bill has been recommendpriating the \$15,000 balance from the ed for passage, H. R. 195, by Rouse of World's Fair state fund to enable Ne- Hall, requiring saloonkeepers to give braska to paricipate in the Lewis and guaranty bonds of \$5,000, was recom-Clark exposition in Portland, Ore., mended for passage, but Horton moved and providing for the appointment by to except it from the the governor of a board of commis- port and have the bill recommended sioners to carry out the provisions of for indefinite postponement, Burns He realizes that whatever is done this act. A call of the house was moved to except H. R. 169, his bill to necessary to secure the twothirds for allow university regents to condemn

SENATE-The Shreek fraternal bill, providing for an elected membership of 95 per cent to control the afmittee of the whole in the senate on the 15th. House roll No 30 was recommended for passage, giving the fraternal societies the right to incorporate. All the orders were included and senby Ward, to give \$3,000 to the South passage. House roll No. 146 was recommended for general file. The bill regulates the speed of motor cars. Senate file No. 169, the Shreek drainage bill, was recommended for general file. House roll No. 128, by Rouse, creasing the salary of the game warregulating the payment of hotel bills den and fish commissioner, was passand providing a penalty for neglect ed. Standing committees reported as thereof was read for the first time in follows, for the general file: S. F. 181, the senate. Senate file No. 7, by Shej. allowing a township, road district or don, was passed without the emer- precinct to vote a tax of 25 mills for gency clause. The bill provides a 1 the improvement of public roads. S. mill levy to pay the state debt. Senate | F. 51, making state warrants draw 4 file No. 21, by Vore, to regulate the per cent interest; school district warpassage of traction engines over rants, 5 per cent; warrants of townbridges was recommitted to the com- ships or sub-divisions less than a mittee, Senator Giffin's reapportion county to draw 7 per cent interest. S. ment bill was recommended.

HOUSE-When the house met on the 15th Jones of Polk called up his resolution calling for an investigation of the action of the state board of public lands and buildings for having used, to build cottages at the Norfolk asylum, \$100,000 that was appropriated two years ago to rebuild the west wing of the asylum, which had been destroyed by fire. A motion to table the resolution was defeated. House roll No. 133, by Jouvenat, to provide a guaranty deposit fund on interestbearing deposits, in state banks, by an annual tax of one-fifth of 1 per cent on deposits, to be paid by the banks, was defended by its introducer and opposed by Howe of Nemaha, Ferrar of Hall, Wilson of Pawnee and other members. The bill was recommended for indefinite postponement. These bills were introduced: To permit state officers, in case of emergency, to purchase stationery costing less when vacated. To fix the salaries less than \$25 without intervention of the state printing board. To redistrict The present law provides that the de-43 of the Compiled Statutes of the ceive \$1,500 a year. Each is now getstate of Nebraska of 1903, by adding a ting \$1,700.

SENATE-These bills were read a new section. To prohibit the stealing third time and pased in the senate on of, or attempting to steal, rides on the 14th: S. F. 64, allowing any one, trains, engines or cars, or any part or whether an officer or not, to seize a portion thereof, or climbing thereupon seine or net being used illegally. S. while stationary or in motion, and to F. 79, to provide that inebriates and provide a penalty and punishment not those addicted to the "dope" habit be exceeding sixty days in jail and \$25 confined in the asylum for treatment. fine. Authorizing county boards to ac-40, providing a penalty for overwork quire title to land to be used for pubing a horse or mule and for unneces- lie road purposes. To amend sections sarily tormenting any other animal. 5 and 45, chapter 28, of the Compiled S. F. 41, providing that corporations Statutes of Nebraska for the year shall act as guardians, trustees, etc. 1903, relating to the fees of sheriffs, This bill was objected to yesterday and other county officials. Fixing the because it was argued that it would salaries of sheriffs and the manner of place all of the probate business of appointing and paying their deputies. the state in the hands of foreign cor To fix the minimum number of trains and regulate the running time on rail-

SENATE-The senate got busy on engrossed bills on the morning of the HOUSE-The house, on the 14th, 16th and passed these measures; S. took up bills on third reading and F. 107, transferring \$2,646.15 from the penitentiary special labor rund to the ges the right to foreglose tax sale general fund. S. F. 104, allowing councertificates immediately after their ty courts to dispense with administrapurchase and to provide rates of in- tion of estates and to enter decrees in terest in such tax sale certificates, certain cases, S. F. 128, providing Providing for a state accountant at a when a husband or wife is competent salary of \$2,000 a year. Giving to res- to testify for or against each other, taurant and boarding house keepers S. F. 113, to prevent the illegal exthe same legal protection against penditure of public funds, S. F. 123, fraud as is accorded hotel and inn to repeal the statute providing for the keepers. Providing for the payment appointment of county attorneys, S. F. of the entire county road tax in cash. 106, to transfer \$6,939.45 from the in-To make the penalty for breaking heritance tax fund to the general fund and entering apply to buildings of all of the state, S. F. 129, to provide for characters. Providing for construction suspended sentences in cases of wife desertion, S. F. 86, district clerk fee sidewalks in cities under 50,000 popu bill, S. F. 116, providing for the paylation. Making the open season for ment of road taxes in cash or labor. deer and antelope August 15 to No. A motion by Sheldon of Cass was vember 15; on prairie chickens, sage adopted to not consider H. R. 49, providing for the establishment of a 30; ducks and other wild water fowl, binding twine factory at the state penitentiary until the appropriation bills

> HOUSE-In the house on the 16th H. R. 20, by Richardson of Madison, pairs at the Norfolk Insane asylum. wing, was favorably acted on, despite the protest of Jones of Polk, who wanted the bill to lay over until the investigation committee appointed unland for university purposes, which had been reported for indefinite postponement, and recommended it for passage, S. F. 198, by Epperson of Clay and Meserve of Knox-To establish a State Engineers' Examining board. S. F. 199, by Gilligan of Holt-To amend an act to regulate the purchase of supplies and to create a Board of Control therefor. The Board is composed of the members of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings and is authorized to purchase supplies in wholesale quantities. S. F. 200, by

F. 50, 51, 52 and 53, bills to amend the present decedent law. H. R. 52, legalizing the use of voting muchines. H. R. 29, to pay to former Attorney General Prout \$240 which he paid for a bond. H. R. 98, to provide jury trials in justice courts, H. R. 97, to provide for a change of venue where cases are to be tried in justice courts. H. R. 100, to provide for payment of cost in changes of venue from one justice. court to another. H. R. 99, to fix fees for jurors in cases tried in justice. courts. Among new bills were the following: Establishing a standard for state printing. To label penitentiary made goods and to regulate the sale thereof. A judicial apportionment blll. recently printed herewith. To make justice of the peace outside of towns overseers for the poor and to compel county boards to employ physicians for country districts, to be paid not more than \$200 yearly. To authorize the leasing of the home for the friendof deputies to state officers at \$1,800. Nebraska into senatorial and repre puty secretary of state and deputy sentative districts. To amend chapter state superintendent shall each re-

a school of osteopathy.

SENATE-On the 17th S. F. 60, in-

distribution of the temporary school foud on the basis of the number of school districts instead of population, was indefinitely postponed. Jackson of Antelope made a strong plea for the bill, urging that it was needed in the western part of the state, where the sparsely settled communities did not get their just share of this fund. One item of business was to hear and act on committee reports on forty bills. The general file, containing fortythree bills, was entirely cleaned up. All the bills which sifted through the strainer of the committees go directly to the general file. Casebeer of Gage won his fight to compel members to sign applications for supplies before receiving any at the first of each session. The bill provides that at the end of each session the State Board of Public Lands and Buildings shall invoice legislative property left over and hold it for the next session, and that no member shall be supplied until he shall have made written application on regular blanks furnished for that purpose. McClay's bill, appropriating \$10,000 to re-imburse T. P. Kennard, was recommended for passage. The bill says M. Kennard, as secretary of state under Governor Furnas, expended out of his own pocket \$10,000 in the prosecution of claims on the sale of Indian lands. He was to receive 50 per cent of the money thus collected. The house revenue committee reported for indefinite postponement the fusion caucus revenue bill and the report was confirmed by the house. The bill was rather voluminous and made sweeping changes in the present revenue law.

HOUSE On the 17th H. R. 111, by

opsey of Custer, providing for the

Senatorial Districts.

The apportionment bill introduced by Giffin of Dawson was amended by the steering committee as follows and placed on general file, on the 13th. Following are the senatorial districts as arranged by the measure:

District No. 1 shall consist of the counties of Richardson and Pawnee and be entitled to one senator. District No. 2 shall consist of the countles of Johnson, Otoc, Cass and Nemaha and be entitled to one sena-

District No. 5 shall consist of the counties of Saunders and Sarpy and be entitled to one senator. District No. 4 shall consist of the county of Douglas and be entitled to

our senstors.
District No. 5 shall consist of the counties of Cuming and Burt and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 6 shall consist of the counties of Thurston, Dakota, Dixon and Wayne and be entitled to one

District No. 7 shall consist of the counties of Pierce, Madison and Stanton and be entitled to one senator. District No. 8 shall consist of the ounties of Cedar, Knox and Hoyd and shall be entitled to one senator.

District No. 9 shall consist of the countles of Holt, Wheeler, Gardeld and

Antelope and be entitled to one sena-District No. 10 shall consist of the counties of Boone, Merrick and Nance and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 11 shall consist of the counties of Dodge and Washington and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 12 shall consist of the countles of Platte and Colfax and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 13 shall consist of the

counties of Hall, Howard and Greeley and be entitled to one senator. Digiret No. 14 shall consist counties of Polk and York and be en titled to one senator.

District No. 15 shall consist of the counties of Butler and Seward and be District No. 16 shall consist of the county of Lancaster and be entitled to two senators.

District No. 17 shall consist of the county of Gage and be entitled to one Edstrict No. 18 shall consist of the counties of Saline and Fillmore and to entitled to one senator. District No. 18 shall consist of the

counties of Jefferson and Thayer and e entitled to one senator. District No. 20 shall consist of the countles of Hamilton and Clay and be

entitled to one senator.

District No. 21 shall consist of the counties of Adams and Kearney and be entitled to one senator. District No. 22 shall consist of the counties of Franklio, Webster and Cady, by request-To allow the state board to grant certificates to osteo-Nuckolls and be entitled to one senapaths when latter have diploma from

District No. 23 shall consist of the counties of Phelps, Harlan, Gosper and Furnas and be entitled to one renator. District No. 24 hall consist of the counties of Frontier, Red Willow, Hitchcock, Hayes, Chase and Dundy and be entitled to one senator. District No. 25 shall consist of the ounties of Buffalo and Dawson and be entitled to one senator.

District No. 26 shall consist of the countles of Sherman, Valley, Curier,

Loup and Blaine and be entitled to ne senator District No. 27 shall consist of the countles of Rock, Brown, Keya Paha, Cherry, Sheridan, Box Butte, Dawes

and Sloux and be entitled to one sena

District No. 28 shall consist of the countles of Lincoln, Perkins, Keith, Deuel, Cheyenne, Kimball, Ban e., Scott's Bluffs, McPherson, Logan, Grant, Hooker and Thomas and be enitled to one se. ator.

Force of Dynamite.

Dynamite explodes so rapidly that its force is exerted in the direction from which the greatest pressure comes. That is, if the dynamico by placed on the ground, the explosive force is down; if it be hung arm not a wall its force attacks the wall; if it be hung under an object its force is

Cost of Capital Punishment.

France was on the verge of abelishing capital punishment because of the expense. Yet the salaries of the executioner and his assistants amount to only \$3,800 a year, with fees of \$4 for each execution outside of Paris, and it cost \$300 a year to "stable" the guillotine.

London Births.

The average of births in London is 11,000 a month. It is computed that a single month's births of male babies would nearly suffice to replace the men lost by England on the Boer battiefields.