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Electricity And Dynamite.

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They call him the "Black Death," and they had good cause to. If there was ever a fiend in human form it was Ramirez, the Spaniard. He had come ashore on the coast of Chile with the wreck of a Spanish vessel, and within a fortnight he had committed robbery and murder and had been obliged to flee to the mountains. There he got a little band together and killed and robbed as a trade. After the officers of the law had failed to kill or capture the man he was pursued by the soldiers and finally driven into Peru.

When the war broke out there were hundreds of adventurers who would have gladly joined Ramirez, but after increasing his band to a hundred he would take no more.

Up among the mountains, just over the Peruvian line, the American Mining and Smelting company had been developing the Humboldt silver mine. It was a rich mine and had paid a goodly sum for its concession. Ramirez had come within five miles of it on two or three occasions before the war, but had then hesitated and turned back. It was guarded by over a hundred government troops, and the peons who did the mining had been armed by the company. The war called the troops away. It was then that the peons were drilled and told that they must defend themselves. They entered into the spirit of the thing for the next two weeks, but then an event happened that caused all but about twenty of them to desert. Ramirez paid a visit to the mine in person. He appeared one afternoon unaccompanied. He was dressed in a white duck suit, carried a cane and wore a new sombrero, and the manager at first took him for some prosperous resident of the valley. The "Black Death" entered the office as any gentleman would, and, taking the proffered chair, he quietly said:

"I am Ramirez. You may possibly have heard of me."

"Not Ramirez, the—the bandit!" exclaimed the manager.

"The same, if you wish to apply the term. I have called on a little matter of business. I have not hitherto disturbed you because you are Americans and are taking no part in this war, but I am now in want of money. I have assessed you at \$20,000 in gold."

"But, my dear sir"—began the astonished manager.

"There are no buts with Ramirez, sir. I want \$20,000 in gold, packed on a mule, without unnecessary delay."

The manager's first feeling of awe and fear fled away as he looked at the man before him. Clean shaven and well dressed, the dread Spaniard did not look ferocious or formidable. His eyes and mouth betrayed inherent cruelty, but here he was all alone, and the manager had 300 men at his back. The fellow seemed to know what was passing in the other's mind, for presently he laughed in a sneering way and said:

"Go ahead and try it if you wish."

"I shall not pay you the money," was the firm reply.

"Ah, I see! You will depend upon your peons. Very well. Let us make one single experiment. You there! I want you in the office a moment."

It was summer time, and the windows were open. He had called to half a dozen men outside who were moving a piece of machinery. They came into the office and stood with their hats in their hands while he looked them over with a grim smile and queried:

"Did any of you ever see Ramirez?"

"Holy mother, but you are the man!" shouted one as he turned and fled, followed by his companions, spreading the news as they fled.

"You see," said the "Black Death" as he turned to the manager, "your ransom is now \$30,000."

"I'll never pay a cent of it, never! I ought to have you arrested as you stand."

"Just as you will. You refuse to pay. Take the results."

With that he turned on his heel and walked out of the office and lingered for a couple of minutes that the men might see him and be duly impressed. That evening there were only fifteen men out of 300 left at the mine. The rest had run away with the fear of death upon them. The fifteen labored all night with pick and spade. It was only at noon the next day that their labors were completed. Then the only approach to the mine had been trenched and mined and electric wires carried into the office building. Ramirez had threatened there would be results. The manager was ready to face them. That day went by without alarm. So did the two following. Ramirez had twenty-five miles to go and return. He had to call in his raiding parties and fit them out.

At 11 o'clock on the morning of the fourth day he appeared at the head of his hundred men. They lost no time in forming up. Ten minutes after the first man had been seen the whole band uttered a blood curdling yell and dashed forward at the building. Ramirez had been told that the peons had deserted, but he knew nothing of dynamite and electricity. The manager sat with his finger on the button, and when an engineer told him that the second had arrived he gave a push. The building rocked and the mountain trembled, and for the next quarter of an hour a great cloud of dust hung over the spot. Then the men went out. They found the earth torn and rent and fissured, and they found hundreds of fragments of human bodies, but they found no living bandit. Ramirez and his band had been wiped off the face of the earth by electricity and dynamite.

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KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Conventions held every Monday evening in Castie Hall, over Pey-r's store. A cordial welcome to visiting knights. R. E. Yonge, C. C. Chas. K. Sage, K. of R. and S.

I. O. O. F.

Tulula Lodge No. 22 O. O. F. meets every Tuesday evening in Yonge's Hall. Visiting brothers always welcome.

J. F. Thompson, N. G.
M. M. Little, Secretary.

F. & A. M.

Marion - Dunn Lodge No. 19 meets in the temple on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month. Visiting brothers cordially invited. W. D. Graham, W. M. Jake Brown, Secretary.

B. P. O. E.

Notice of Sessions of Ocala Lodge No. 851 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Regular sessions on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month. Visiting brothers cordially invited. S. A. Rawls, Exalted Ruler. Joseph Bell, Acting Secretary.

FORT KING CAMP No. 14.

Next regular monthly meeting will be held Friday evening, Feb 1, at 7:30 o'clock in Yonge's Hall. Visiting sovereigns are always welcome.

G. W. Martin, C.
Chas. K. Sage, Clerk.

CONCORDIA LODGE F. U. OF A.

Concordia Lodge No. 181, Fraternal Union of America, meets fourth Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p. m. at Yonge's Hall. R. E. Yonge, F. M. Chas. K. Sage, Secretary.

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