

## SAVING THE TREASURE.

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the pass now came up and there was a move by the whole body of men to seize the wagon and draw it out. Not one of them had even looked into the tent where the corpse of the paymaster was supposed to be lying.

"We must kill as many of them as we can," whispered the widow, as the men approached. "The revolvers are between us and the spare cartridges to your right. Here they come!"

There were twenty-one men in the gang. They believed the paymaster dead and the woman helpless. Crack! crack! crack! went the Winchesters from under the ambulance, and so great was the surprise of the gang that five men lay dead and three others were wounded before those who could get away rushed up the pass out of range. For half an hour nothing was heard from them. Then they came with a rush and a yell. They had to expose themselves, but they also knew where to point their weapons. Scarcely a word had passed between the major and the widow. She had laid aside her rifle for a pair of revolvers, and he had followed suit. The rush was furious, the fighting brief. The gang left three dead men behind, and two renegades hobbled away with groans and curses. A bullet had drawn blood from the widow's cheek, and one had raked the paymaster's scalp.

"We must strengthen the breast-work," she said, as she laid down her weapons. "You pile up the rocks and I will secure the weapons of the dead. When they come again they will roll boulders in front of them for shields."

In half an hour the major had a strong and close defense covering the front and right flank. As a finishing touch he dragged the dead men against it. When he heard the noise of moving boulders he crept behind the works, and five minutes later the outlaws opened fire. Before daylight came he was wounded in the left shoulder and in the right hip, and the widow lost a thumb and was hit in the side. Day-break ended the attack. Nine outlaws lay dead, three were helpless with wounds, and the remainder skulked away into the mountains like wolves. That was all. There was no love—no romance—no marriage. The sergeant's widow had saved the major, and both together had saved the soldiers' treasury. Soldiers from Fort Wingate buried the dead and hunted down and shot some of those who skulked away, but in a week or two the affair had almost been forgotten. It was simply an incident of the frontier, where all are heroes and heroines.—New York Recorder.

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