

LOWELL JOURNAL
LOWELL, MICH.
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"DUM VIVIMUS, VIVAMUS."
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IF WE KNEW.
If we knew the way and heathen
Waiting for us down the road,
If our lips could taste the warm food,
If our hands could feel the love that
Would we wait the time in wishing
For a time that never can be?
Would we wait with such impatience
For our ships to come from sea?
If we knew the baby's hands,
Pressed against the window-pane,
Would the cold and dark air
Never trouble us again—
Would the bright eyes of our darling
Catch the frown upon our brow?
Would the prints of our fingers
Vanish as they do now?
Ah! these little ice-cold fingers!
How they point our memory back
To the happy words and actions
Strewn along our backward track!
How these little hands remember,
As in snowy grace they lie,
Not to scatter thorns, but roses,
For our resting by-and-by.
Strange we never prize the name
Till the sweet-voiced bird has flown;
Strange that we should slight the violets
Till the lovely flowers are gone.
Strange that Summer skies and sunshine
Never seem one-half so fair
As when Winter's cold winds
Shake their white down in the air.
Lips that smile like the seal of silence
None but God can read
Never blossomed in the heart,
As adorn the mouth to-day,
And sweet words that freight our memory,
With their beautiful reminiscence,
Come to us in sweeter accents
Through the portals of the tomb.
Let us gather up the sunbeams
Lying all around our path,
Let us keep the words and roses,
Keeping out the thorns and chaff,
Let us send our sweetest thoughts
In the blessings of to-day,
With the patient hand removing
All the thorns from our way.

A RIDE FOR LIFE.
"Did I ever tell you about that California adventure of mine? A ride for life I may call it. I was riding Ransom, as he settled himself back in the depths of a large easy-chair, situated at the head of the mess-table. The long breezy hall was well filled by the lightest of the morning, mostly young men, who had been but little active service, and the reminiscences of the older gentlemen of the corps were always eagerly listened to with respectful consideration. "Well, it may seem to you to be a little out of the way, but if you are all disposed, I will relate the circumstances. The details are indelibly stamped upon my memory, I can assure you. The time-honored regiment can circulate around the globe, cigars were lighted, and the Major clearing his throat, commenced: "When California was first admitted into the Union it was filled with more than its quota of desperate characters gathered from all parts of the globe. Perhaps the worst element, the most treacherous, tricky and cowardly was the Mexican element of half-breed Mexicans, or, as they are more commonly known in the vernacular of the country, Greasers—and it is with that particular class of yellow-skinned rascals that this burden of my yarn will principally deal. "I had been ordered by the department to proceed to Southern California to pay off the troops stationed at Los Angeles—a most delightful spot, by the way, favored as it is by the sun and nature. I had discharged the duty to the entire satisfaction of all concerned, and with accounts balancing to a cent I took leave of the jolly old commandant, who, in the presence of a sorry-looking specimen of an army horse, I turned my back on the army, having stowed in my saddle-bags about \$600.00, mostly in crisp, rustling bank-notes, mixed up with some gold—more than I wished there was before I got through with it. "Through the kindness of the commanding officer, I had been furnished with an escort in the shape of two troopers, who, fully armed and equipped, rode behind me to guard Uncle Sam's treasure from the ravenous paws of wandering desperadoes and vagrants, who received of the alarming reinforcements to the ranks, owing to the gold fever which had broken out, and was carrying everything before it in a boundless wave of excitement. "My destination was a camp situated in the mountains some fifty miles distant from Los Angeles, and as my two troopers were thoroughly conversant with the way, I gave myself no concern about the route of my first day's ride (we did not hurry at all) we camped in a delightful orange grove, close to a rancho where a band of horses were quietly grazing. I looked at them with longing eyes; they frisked about on the open plain, more especially as my old hack, in addition to being most comfortably hand under the saddle, was already lame, and, in fact, about ready to knock under. "The soldiers told me that for \$50 I could make a selection from the entire rancho. A Spaniard, a courtly gentleman, met me, and immediately upon my errand being made known he led the animals corralled. "The object of my choice was a superb coal-black steed, three-quarter blood, who, by some means, had become mixed with inferior stock. The horse was gentle, but lacked training, having never been subjected to the saddle. However, as I was an accomplished horseman, I cared little for that. The price was paid, and that night I slept in the Spaniard's hospitable mansion, while one of his vaqueros saddled the horse whom I dubbed Prince, and with a Mexican boy behind me bravely on a I knew not which, for I had long since given him the rein, preferring to the trust to his instinct in preference to my own limited knowledge. "Early the next morning I was in the saddle, with my escort trotting in the rear, and waving my last adieu to the courteous Spaniard, we struck for the foothills, and at noon, when we halted to make a cup of coffee, we found ourselves in altogether a different country from the level plains behind us. "Hills and valleys, with gentle undulating plateaus intervening, greeted the eye in an endless succession; white trees, shrubs and an unusual variety of running plants abounded on all sides. "The day had been extremely warm, the sun pouring down with relentless fury, and the parching dry earth reflecting back the heat in a manner truly expiating to man and beast. Hot, dusty and exhausted, I sought a shady spot, placed my head on the saddle-bags, and dropped off into a sound slumber. "It was late in the afternoon when I opened my eyes, stretched, yawned and struggled to my feet, with the intention of continuing the journey. My horse, saddled and hitched to a tree, was the first object which met my eyes, but not a sign of the cavalrymen could I discover in any direction. "A bit of paper attached to the saddle attracted my attention, and a slight feeling of apprehension crept through my heart as I detached it. "I had been hastily scribbled the purport, summed up in a nutshell, was that my escort had deserted me for the mines. The temptation had been too great for them to resist, and, begging my pardon for the act, they had signed their names to the document. "I was, with a large amount of money in my possession, in a country entirely unknown to me, entirely at a loss how to turn. I was in all we imagine the frame of mind I was in as I swung myself into the saddle. "For one thing I felt grateful. They could have easily murdered me as I lay asleep; and with the money in their possession, might have easily done so. And who in those turbulent and excited times would have troubled their heads over the disappearance of an insignificant paymaster? "I could have returned to the rancho of the Spaniard, but I disliked the idea of confessing the fact that I had been deserted by my soldiers. I decided to push on, following the trail or mountain path, I might happen to strike, and trust to a stroke of good fortune in meeting some mountaineer who would either guide or direct me to my destination. "Clapping spurs to my noble black steed, I started on a gallop, riding straight ahead, never drawing rein for an hour. The aspect of the country every moment grew wilder and more desolate, with not a trace of civilization on hillside or valley. "An occasional herd of wild cattle scampered from my pathway, and once I was nearly thrown headlong from the saddle by the sudden swerving of Prince. A sharp snort, tramping of bushes, and a huge grizzly trotted out from the underbrush where the brute had been lurking. With ears pointed, and nostrils extended, I stood petrified, not daring to stir, in the presence of the voracious brute. Deeper and deeper I plunged into the unknown country, while the sun, rapidly sliding down the western slope, added but a limited space of daylight remaining. "The prospect of camping out, with grizzlies lurking in the neighborhood for companions, was anything but a cheering one. I was already half worn out by worry and excitement; and to add, if possible, to my discomfort, unmistakable evidence of a coming storm was apparent. Clouds, dark and lowering, were seen mounting toward the zenith, with an occasional vivid flash of lightning, followed by the deep mutter of thunder. " cursing my unlucky fate, I drew rein, wiping the dust and perspiration from my forehead. As I did so my eyes were gladdened by a sight of a slight rift of smoke curling and twisting in the air, so that I was already half starting forward, the welcome, savory odor of venison greeted my nostrils. The next instant I stood in the presence of a mountaineer, a trapper of true type, and, as he stood, he was carefully studying the rascal's face. I received a cordial welcome, and, after picking Prince, I joined my companion with an appetite in no wise affected by the predicament I was in. "I offered the old trapper a round sum to pilot me to camp; but the old fellow was bound to the 'diggins,' and I too much time would be lost, he said by having the trail, but a limited space of daylight remaining. 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