

FURTHER DOINGS OF THE MAJOR.

By F. BLAKE CROFTON.

(Author of "The Major's Big Talk Stories," "The Bumbled Quercus," &c.)

AN OVERCHARGE OF POWDER.

"That lion-skin of yours is the largest I ever saw," observed Bill.

"I dare say," said Major Mendace.

"And the thinnest," added Bill.

"Very likely."

"And the washiest," pursued the lad.

"And the washiest likewise," said the Major. "And in fact, as I heard you whispering to Bob, you hardly think it is a lion's skin at all. I am glad to find you so observant, my boy, and sorry to say you are mistaken in this instance. The skin has its 'fishy' features, but they will be accounted for when I have explained the way I bagged the lion that used to wear it."

"This ill-fated beast pursued me when I was riding a camel in the desert. He was evidently hard up for prey, for he chased me in the day time and almost all day, though once in the forenoon we had left him a mile behind and quite out of sight. I discharged all my bullets at him without effect, owing to the unsteadiness of my camel, which was young, and to the visible trembling of the air as it rose from the overheated sand. Night was approaching, and my beast was showing signs of giving in, and the tension on my nerves was growing too great to bear much longer. Something had to be done, and at once. I throw my stock of dried meat behind me, but the lion smelt at it and left it lying, without pausing a second to decide. From this I argued that he was more thirsty than hungry—that he wanted blood, or water. And this thought gave me my cue. Though I had hardly a gallon left, I instantly resolved to offer it to the lion. Gratitude for the kindness would possibly have made him give up the chase, but I thought it a little safer to stop him by chemistry than by moral suasion."

"I cut my last gourd into halves, scooped out and ate the contents, for I could not afford to waste what was both food and drink. Then I took a dozen Seidlitz Powders from my medicine box, which I have told you that I always carried with me. Still galloping ahead, I put the blue-covered powders into one half gourd and the white-covered powders into the other. Then I dismounted, being about a quarter of a mile in advance of the lion. I hastily made two small holes in the sand and placed in them the hollowed half-gourds containing the powders, and filled both of these vegetable vessels with water."

"As I turned to remount, the camel suddenly dragged his halter through my hand, and fled panic-stricken. And little wonder, either. The welcome sight of the water had quickened the lion's speed, and he was now approaching with terrific bounds. I followed the camel's example, I admit, but then I did not run away half so fast as that craven-hearted brute."

"I looked round to see if the lion would drink, for my salvation depended upon that. To my delight he swallowed with two laps the water in the first vessel, which contained the blue-papered powders. In the vehemence of his thirst he did not stop to make a face, but bounded to the other half-gourd, and drank its contents in one gulp."

"Then came a minute's terror. The king of beasts uttered a roar that ended in a portentous hybrid sound, blended of a steam whistle and the hissing of a fireman's hose. His eyes protruded; his tail was stiffly perpendicular; his form dilated till it became colossal; jets of steam issued from his eyes, his ears, and his nostrils. Then with the sound of a thousand champagne corks popping at once, the unhappy animal burst!"

"A fizzing cataract that shot from his distended jaws propelled a loose tooth of his a distance of several hundred yards; which tooth, I am glad to say, happened to hit my runaway camel, and immediately recalled him to a sense of duty, for he naturally fancied I had sent a bullet after him."

"And now I hope you understand how that skin comes to be so spoiled and stretched. I brought it home as a curiosity, not as an ornament; and hence the things you noticed as defects are really its chief merits."

(To be Continued.)

"Mrs. Dexter, did you put up these preserves?"

"Yes, sir, I flatter myself I did."

"Quite a task, I should say, madam."

"From present observation I should infer that it was much more of a task for me to put them up than it is for you to put them down."

Bill collector—"How about meeting this note?"

Imprecunious reporter—"I don't know about meeting this note, but I'll tell what I will do."

"What do you propose to do?"

"Instead of meeting this note I'll just make a note of this meeting. That will do just as well, won't it?"

A MUCH NEEDED INVENTION.—Powerful steel knives, which will cut cold iron, have been invented. They will be useful in railway restaurants.

UNGRATEFUL MOSE.—Mose Schaumburg has been quite ill. Upon his recovery Dr. Blister presented his bill for forty-three visits at \$3 an interview, or \$129.

"O mine Gott!" groaned Mose. "Death 'vas do pest doctor after all."

"Why do you say that?" asked the astonished physician.

"Pecause he only makes one visit," replied Mose, glaring like a demon at the doctor.



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1,741 tons gross register, 250 horse power—Capt. S. K. Hill
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These vessels have seven water-tight compartments, have been specially surveyed by the English Admiralty, and certified for the public service. The splendid powerful and newly Clyde built fast steamers,

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Tuesday, 6th June.....at 12 noon
Tuesday, 16th June.....at 12 noon
Tuesday, 26th June.....at 12 noon

BOSTON TO HALIFAX.

Friday, 1st June.....at 8 a.m.
Friday, 11th June.....at 8 a.m.
Friday, 21st June.....at 8 a.m.

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Single 1st Cabin, with State Room, \$8, return \$12
Single - Intermediate, with State Room, \$6, return \$10.

Steerage—Single, \$4
It is expected the passage from Halifax to Boston will be made in 30 hours.

HAVRE SERVICE.

HALIFAX TO HAVRE.

Tuesday, 2nd June.....at 4 p.m.
Tuesday, 30th June.....at 4 p.m.

HAVRE TO HALIFAX.

Wednesday, 17th June.....at 4 p.m.
Wednesday, 15th July.....at 4 p.m.

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1st Cabin to Havre, \$10. Return, \$20.
1st Cabin to Paris or London, \$50. Return \$70.
For Freight, etc., apply to

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The subscriber begs to inform the public that he has purchased the above Hotel, on Outram Street, opposite the Railway Station, and is now prepared to accommodate

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The Rooms are large and airy, and furnished in good style. Guests can rely on having a comfortable night's rest, as the house will be run on strictly temperance principles, with sample room for agents. Charges reasonable.

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Proprietor.

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The Steamer MARION will leave Sydney for Port Mulgrave, going through the Bras d'Or Lake, and touching at intermediate ports, on evenings of Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Steamer NEPTUNE will follow on same trip on evenings of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, both arriving at Port Mulgrave in the morning in time to connect with Express Train going West. Returning, will leave for Sydney every day on arrival of Express Train due at Mulgrave, at 3.10 p.m., Halifax time.

Passengers from Halifax for Sydney will leave North Street Station at 7.30 a.m., Halifax Time, arriving in Sydney on same night.

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Agents,
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With Locomotive-Pattern Boiler, 13 Horse Power. It is arranged to burn either wood or coal. The whole is set on skids, and is ready to start immediately on being placed in position.

PRICE LOW FOR CASH.

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Unions, Hems and Druggets, very Cheap.

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From 1 to 8 yards wide, from the lowest to the best quality made; Choice Patterns of Linoleins; Stair Carpets and Rods; Carpet and Druggett Squares. Sheepskin Mats and Rugs.

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