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## CLIPPINGS.

When we got to the post office at the mining town of Strawberry Hill the mail bag had to be carried to and from Bluff City over the hills by a man on foot. The distance was nine miles, and was traversed twice a week. One Wednesday the carrier came in without the bag, and the four hundred men assembled around the shanty used as a post office at once demanded an explanation.

"I'll tell you how it was," began the man, who was bleeding from a dozen hurts. "Up thar, at the bend, I was tackled by a b'ar."

"And you killed him, of course," replied one of the crowd.

"No, I left my gun behind."

"Then you dodged him?"

"No. Tried to dodge him, but he was right thar."

"Then you ran away?"

"No chance to run. The critter was after me or that mail bag, and I heaved him the bag and got away. He clawed me a few times, but it's nothin' to hurt."

"Stephen Jackson," said Judge Watkins in solemn tones, as a murmur of indignation passed through the crowd, "do you mean to tell us that you give up that mail bag to that b'ar?"

"I had to."

"Didn't that b'ar seem to prefer you to the bag?"

"Reckon he did."

"And you felt that he did?"

"Yes, felt pretty strong that way."

"And yit, after sw'aring to uphold the sacred Constitution of the United States and defend that mail bag with your life, you calmly fed it to a b'ar?"

"Had to do it to git away."

"But who said anythin' about your gettin' away? It was your solemn dooty to perish right thar! It was your dooty, sir, as a patriot and a mail carrier and a Government offshul to hang that mail bag to a limb and let that b'ar go ahead on your carcass! You hev escaped the b'ar, but you hev to deal with the outraged feelin's of this yere camp. Stephen Jackson, how do you prefer to die?"

"By hangin'."

"Wall, we'll send two men up to the bend. If they git the bag you are saved; if the b'ar has devoured it, we'll hang you by the neck till you ar' dead!"

The men found the bag and the carrier's life was saved, although he lost his job. Singularly enough, the bag contained but one letter, and that was a missive for Judge Watkins from his wife in Ohio, saying he needn't come home, as she had applied for a divorce and expected to marry a better man.—*Detroit Free Press.*

At Marlborough it used to be the custom to assign to every boy on entrance a number, with which his books, clothes and other possessions were marked. A good mother, on whom this practice had made a deep impression, got it into her head that boys were known to the authorities only by their numbers, and, when calling on her son's housemaster, introduced herself as the mother of 26. "Thank heaven, ma'am," exclaimed M. Sellaby, the most innocent and outspoken of men, "I'm not the father of as many."—*Argonaut.*

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