

JOSH BILLINGS ON FREE LOVE.

I belief in free fight, especialy among cats and dogs. I belief in free rides on a gate. I belief in freedom of every slave on arth. But free love is one of them kinds ov freedom that it don't do to limber with. If this world was a garden of Edin and full of Adam and Eve, as they was when they was fust launched, then I can imagine it might do for some other Adam to hold my Eve on his lap, and talk about his affinities and spiritooal essence, and play lamb. In them daze there want no human natur, it was all God natur. Human natur has been soaked so much sinse, it is too weak to be trusted in a lot whar the seed is poor, next to a meado, without much fence between, nor any poke on. Free love wants more poke than any other animal. I don't believe in total depravity—unless a man haz a good chance. Free love is a good deal like drinking a six shilling gin for a beveridge. Beveridge is a Chinese word, and means cussedness. All the free love I have ever witnessed thus far has existed between a villainous letcher on one side and a lunatic virtue on the other side, that has been deodorized out of its truth, and has lost all of its modesty and shame in huntin' after a condishun where sin ceased to be a crime. The first free lover that we have enny account ov was the devil.

No statue that the rich man places ostentatiously in his windows is to be compared to the little expectant face pressing against the window-pane, watching for his father, when his day's occupation is done.

Let the winds and waves of adversity blow and dash around you, if they will; but keep on the path of rectitude, and you will be as firm as a rock. Plant yourself upon principle, and bid defiance to misfortune.