The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1893.

THE SAN FRANCISCO ALARMIST.

The American journalist dearly loves a sensation. As long as he can publish something that will astonish people and set them talking he does not care much whether it is reasonable or unreasonable, probable or improbable, true or false.

The San Francisco Bulletin is evidently bound to make as much capital as possible out of the report that the British and Canadian Governments have determined at last to fortify Esquimalt in a way something like adequate to its importance as a naval station. This is a matter that has been talked about, and written about for years. The necessity of fortifying the Pacific naval station is so apparent that the wonder is, not that the two Governments have determined to begin the work now, but that it has not been completed years ago.

The Bulletin sees in this tardy action of the British authorities danger to the American cities of the Sound. It wishes its readers to believe that Great Britain has designs on those cities, that she is determined to get command of the entrance of the Sound and of the termini of at least two American transcontinental railroads. It therefore urges the United States Government to fortify Port Angeles and New Dungeness, and to place on the Sound an effective naval force. The Bulletin does not believe that the fortification of Esquimalt is for purposes merely defensive. It has not been alarmed to see formidable British ships of war making that harbor their headquarters for quite a number of years, but as soon as there is talk of protecting the dry dock and arsenals of the station by great guns placed at different points inside and near the harbor, it gets into a panic and credits Great Britain with entertaining designs hostile to the safety of American cities and American commerce. British ships of war have been for years stationed at Esquimalt, and have had command of the Straits of Fuca, without showing that the Government which sends them there has the remotest intention of injuring American interests or threatening American territory, but no sooner is their talk of planting a few guns near the shore inside the harbor than the British naval squadron, hitherto so peaceful and friendly, becomes transformed into a formidable force which must be guarded against.

But this is not all. Our nervous contemporary, by a process of reasoning which is to persons of ordinary capacity perfectly incomprehensible, comes to the conclusion that taking measures to protect Government property in Esquimalt is an indication that the British Government intends to appropriate the Hawaiian Islands. Because the long deferred determination to do this is arrived at just when a steamship line has been established between Australia and the Dominion of Canada, the suspicion that Great Britain intends to gobble up the Hawaiian Islands becomes a certainty. So the United States Government must take measures to "prevent the drawing of the British naval and commercial cordon by the annexation of Hawaii without any more foolishness about it." The President will, no doubt, take due notice of the demands of the San Francisco journalist and govern himself accordingly. It is cheering to see that the race of sagacious men, who would have the world believe that they can see through a millstone, is not extinct.

THE SILVER SUPPLY.

In the course of the present controversy about silver in the United States, some important and interesting facts are being elicited. Very little has hitherto been known by the general public about the production of silver, and the increase of that production in the United States of late years. In the absence of definite information, it is supposed by many that the discovery of deposits of silver ore has caused a very great increase in the output of silver and that there is danger that silver will become so cheap that it will altogether lose the character of being one of the precious metals. But there does not seem much chance of this consummation, so greatly to be dreaded by some, being realized in our day at any rate. Many will be surprised to learn that the output of silver in the United States is not now much more than double of what it was twenty years ago, before most of the discoveries of which we have heard so much were made. In 1873 the total product of silver in the United States was somewhat less than 28,000,000 ounces. In 1892 the product was about 58,000,000 ounces. The increase during the last eleven years has been rapid and continuous. The total production of silver in the States has been, during the last twenty years, 768,000,000 ounces—not quite a pound a head for its sixty-five millions of inhabitants.

As might be expected, the price of silver has gone down with the greatly increased production, but not in proportion to the increase. How much political movements and legislation, intended to be favorable to silver, have affected the price of the white metal, it would take a very wise man to tell. There are many who believe that the interference of Government in the silver market has affected its price prejudicially. However that may be, it is certain that legislation intended to keep up the price of silver has not prevented its depreciation. Silver has kept falling in price almost continuously since 1873. It was then $1.32 an ounce. For a time it averaged $1.29, and it kept going down and down until it reached, in 1892, 87½ cents. But this, although very low for silver, was not in proportion to the increased production. The drop that has occurred lately is not due to ordinary causes. There has, owing to the abolition of free coinage of silver in India united with the uneasiness felt in business circles with respect to the course to be taken with regard to the continuance of the Sherman Act, been a panic in the silver market, not of the United States only, but of the whole world. It is reasonable to conclude that when these disturbing influences are removed and confidence is restored, there will be no such serious fall in the price of silver as many apprehend. It is not likely that its production will be very greatly increased, for a time at any rate, and it is certain that its cheapness will cause a very considerable increase in its consumption in the arts. Under any circumstances, those districts in which silver can be produced cheaply will have a very great advantage over those in which the production is expensive.

THE PROVOCATION.

It is seen by a late telegram that France has demanded a very large sum as indemnity for outrages perpetrated upon French citizens in Siam. No details of these outrages are given, but we find in a late number of the London Times the following account of one of them:

The pretext for this hostile demonstration against Siam is, of course, the untoward occurrence which lately took place in the neighborhood of Cam-mon, in the disputed territory. No date has been given in either of the telegrams addressd by the French Resident to his Government, but it appears that at some time not very distant a treacherous attack was made upon a French officer and his Annamite escort by a Siamese mandarin, and that the inspector and seventeen men were killed. According to the only version which has as yet been made public, the circumstances were such as to make the act of the mandarin particularly atrocious, since he was himself being escorted by this French inspector, M. Grosgurin, through a population that for some reason or other was unfriendly to him. The story tells how M. Grosgurin fell ill, and how, having secretly sent to the Governor of Houtene for troops, the mandarin himself shot the inspector with his revolver as he lay in bed, and led the attack upon the Annamite militia. Of course, such an occurrence is entirely indefensible, and those who committed and encouraged it must receive a very sharp lesson. But, according to our Paris correspondent's despatch of June 20, the Siamese Government has behaved with perfect correctness in the matter, and has expressed not only its "profound regret," but also its willingness to compensate the families of the victims, and to punish the guilty persons. When a Government thus makes amends, the situation seems hardly to call for gunboats with "guns mounted in the tops ready for action." Possibly the French Government, having to do with Orientals, thinks that the safest way to secure compensation is to exact it by a show of force.

According to Mr. Norman, such a show of force is by no means unnecessary for the Siamese, both high and low, in office and out of office, have very peculiar notions about the obligation to pay the debts they have contracted. Speaking in the article from which we quoted yesterday of the way in which public business is done in Siam, he says:

But, it will be asked, do not the contractors press for their money? Yes, a European firm once pressed for a large Government debt, of thirteen years' standing. The only result was that they were informed that in future no Government contracts would be given them, and this meant ruin. It is only the fear of breaking confidence which prevents me from telling a score of such stories. There are thousands of pounds of Siamese debts in London unpaid at this moment, as several Bond street tradesmen could testify, and Singapore merchants will only do cash transactions with Siam. It is a literal unexaggerated fact that most Siamese noblemen could conceive the principles of the differential calculus more easily than the idea that it is dishonorable to evade the payment of a justly incurred debt and to appropriate to yourself that which belongs to and was destined for another.

THE RUSSIAN PATROL.

The Russian men-of-war that are in Behring Sea are not there to prevent pelagic sealing, but to enforce an arrangement made with Great Britain. By this arrangement British vessels are not allowed to hunt seals within a certain distance of the Russian rookeries. Thirty miles is, if we remember right, that distance. British sealers, if they are wise, will respect the terms of the agreement entered into between Great Britain and Russia. If they are found hunting seals within the prescribed limit they will certainly be seized, and Great Britain will do nothing to prevent the vessels being confiscated. Those who trespass, therefore, do so at their own risk. But outside the limit the vessels are not liable to seizure. Russia has evidently given up its claim to jurisdiction over the waters of Behring Sea, for if it had not it would never have entered into an arrangement with Great Britain. Neither does it set up the claim of ownership of the seals, which the American counsel have been contending for before the arbitrators, for if it claimed a proprietory right in the seals swimming in the sea it would not recognize the right of British subjects to kill them anywhere. It is greatly to be hoped that the British Columbia sealers will not attempt to violate the agreement made between Great Britain and Russia. The Russian cruisers are on the watch, and if they have the semblance of an excuse they will be sure to pounce upon the suspected vessel, and once in their possession it will be exceedingly difficult to procure her liberation. The negotiations may be long and irritating, and may lead to serious difficulty between the two nations. There are times when even so small a matter as the seizure and detention of a small sealing vessel may be the cause of grave international complications. The talk o no mercy being shown to sealers i captured is sheer nonsense. The sealers found trespassing will be treated exactly as the agreement specifies. The Russians will no doubt insist upon it that the terms of the agreement will be carried out to the letter.

THE FRENCH CLAIM.

The French have, we see, insisted on the recognition of the rights of Annam and Cambodia on the left or eastern bank of the Mekong River. This appears to be the revival of an old claim. Annom, it is asserted, extended to the eastern bank of the Mekong, but their territory was encroached upon by the Siamese, and the western boundary of Annam became a range of mountains that ran nearly parallel with the river, and at no great distance from it. Much of the land appears to be of little value, but towards the north the Mekong takes a bend to the west, and takes in a large area of valuable land. It is this district which is in the form of a triangle that the Siamese are unwilling to surrender. But it is, it appears, too late for them to complain now, for the French have already taken possession of it. This is what Mr. Norman, in his article: "The Future of Siam," says about the disputed territory:

The Mekong is a great river, interrupted frequently by practically impassable rapids, rising in the far north and running first south, then east, then south, then east and then south again. The French have long been dissatisfied with the narrow strip of Annam formed by the natural and historical boundary of mountains lying due north and south, parallel with the last reach of the river. They have, therefore, claimed the left bank of the Mekong as their boundary. Moreover, they have now practically secured the territory lying between the mountains and the river, and this, therefore, may be dismissed as a *fait accompli*. Siam is certainly not able to get it back again, and would willingly sacrifice it for the sake of peace; and no other country is likely to help her if she desired to resume her merely nominal control over it. It is of no particular value; the river is almost certainly not navigable; and we, at any rate, can be quite content to say to France—much good it may do her. The real difficulty begins when France claims the left bank of the Mekong *after it takes its first turn* (reckoning from the mouth) *to the west*. A large and valuable slice of integral Siam is here at stake. . . . And still worse, is it for both Siam and England, when France continues her claim, after the river again turns to the west from Luang Prabang. This not only cuts off a another huge slice and cuts the line of communication with China, but it brings the French to our own frontier at Chieng Sen or Chieng Kong. If this claim were enforced Siam would be completely encircled—except on the south—by England and France, an embrace which would inevitably draw closer and closer till the national life was constricted out of the unfortunate 'Land of the Free,' as the Siamese call themselves. And it is under these circumstances that British interests are involved in the territorial dispute.

WORK FOR TEACHERS.

The Right Hon. James Bryce, the able and accomplished author of the American Commonwealth, lately delivered an address on The Teaching of Civic Duty, to the London Association of Headmasters of Public Elementary Schools. In this address the earnest publicist insisted upon the necessity of teaching the children in the public schools the nature of their duties and responsibilities as members of a free self-governing community.

It is not a little singular that boys in school receive little or no instruction respecting the most important of these duties as citizens. They are allowed to grow up in almost complete ignorance of the constitution of their country and of the nature and powers of its governmental institutions. When they arrive at the age at which they are eligible to perform their civic duties, the great majority of them have very little knowledge of the nature of those duties, and what is worse, very little inclination to obtain that knowledge. They vote because they are persuaded to do so by some one whom they respect and like, or because they have attached themselves to the party to which their families belong. It would be instructive to know how many there are in the community who inherit their politics as they do their cast of features or their stature. Seeing that so many in Canada, Great Britain and the United States go to the polls without any intelligent notion of the duty they are performing and cast their votes blindly, as it were, it is wonderful that the selections made are as good as they are and that the public affairs of those countries are even decently well managed. The ignorance of their public duties and privileges in which so many are brought up is no doubt the cause of the political apathy which is becoming so general among intelligent and respectable men in the countries we have named. Politics is regarded by many of them as a dirty business in which it is a virtue to take no part. These men would laugh if they were told that it is the duty of every intelligent citizen to study the public affairs of his country, and also his duty to exercise his political rights and privileges. The consequences of this apathy are seen and deplored by thinking and public spirited men. They know that it is the cause of much of the misgovernment of which the men who will not exercise their civic rights complain, and they foresee that it will be the cause of still greater evils.

The ignorance and the apathy from which most self-governing countries are suffering would, in a great measure, disappear, Professor Bryce believes, if the boys in school were intelligently taught the nature of civic duty, and made to see that every good citizen owes it to himself and to the State, carefully and conscientiously to exercise his political rights and privileges. This is not to be done by reading books and learning their text by heart but by timely instruction given by an earnest and intelligent and ingenious teacher. Such a teacher will never be at a loss for opportunities to give the boys a knowledge of the way in which the business of the country is conducted, and of the advantages which the citizens of a free state enjoy. "The outline of such a course of instruction as I am contemplating," Professor Bryce says, "would be something like the following. It is and must be an outline which includes only the elements of the subject. But you will not fail to remember that there is all the difference in the world between being elementary and being superficial." The teacher, he suggests, will take advantage of what he knows his pupils have seen and heard to make the subject interesting to them, and to show them the practical nature of his instruction. "An ounce of personal observation," the Professor remarks, "is worth a pound of facts gathered from books: but the observation profits little till the teacher has laid hold of it and made it the basis of his instruction."

The speaker anticipates the objection which will be raised to the adoption of his scheme of instructions on civic duty. "We may be told," he says, "that in England no room has been left for it in the codes and schemes of study which now regulate our elementary schools. If so, so much the worse for those schemes, for the subject is not less essential than most of those which the schemes now include, and in the hands of an intelligent teacher is not more difficult for boys of thirteen or fourteen."

Mr. Bryce's address is well worthy the attention of the educationists of Canada. The knowledge which he desires to see imparted to boys cannot but be of great practical value to them, and cannot fail in time to bring forth fruit which will be of the greatest advantage to the state. It should never be forgotten that the boys in the schools are soon to be the rulers of the country, and if those rulers are not instructed in their duties it can hardly be expected that they will rule well. We use the word rulers in this connection in the sense in which a very able British statesman used it when he said of the British electors, "These are our rulers, let us educate them."

THE CHOLERA CENTRE.

Mecca appears to be at present the great cholera centre. Pilgrims from all parts of the Moslem world meet in that city. Its sanitary condition is bad and there is nothing to prevent the spread of the disease. The mortality is therefore dreadful. When the pilgrims depart for their homes they take with them the seeds of the disease. The Egyptian Sanitary Council take effective measures to prevent the disease spreading into Egypt and the countries near the Suez Canal, but there is no organization to prevent its being brought to Europe by way of the Persian Gulf. Infected pilgrims are taken to Asia Minor, Persia, the Caspian ports, the Caucasus, and Russia. The spread of the dread disease from these places, if the conditions are favorable, is only a matter of time. It is astonishing to see how steadily and how continuously it travels northwards and westwards. It is said that the failure to interpose a barrier to the spread of the cholera in these directions is due to the ignorance and obstinacy of the Sultan, or rather to the culpable disinclination of European powers to demand and compel the establishment of the necessary safeguards. It is proposed to place the sanitary government of the "holy places" in the hands of competent European commissions, endowed with power to enforce sanitary laws. If this can be done, it ought to be done. The expense would be considerable, but it would be a trifle compared with what a cholera panic costs the people of Europe and America.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

CONSUMPTION'S VICTIMS.—A small district of Germany has been selected by Riffel for a study of the contagiousness of consumption, and statistics of the births and deaths of all the families have been collated with special reference to this point. These conclusions have been reached: There are very few families which in the course of time are not attacked by consumption, and when it once enters it is usually progressive, and by marriage propagates itself in other families, sometimes, however, sparing whole generations. The death rate among children in consumptive families is very great, especially where both parents have an hereditary taint; if one only is affected, it is immaterial whether it be the father or mother. The transmission of the disease from one person to another, even from husband to wife or *vice versa*, or through dwelling houses, could not be proved to have taken place. The children of phthisical parents often developed consumption even if they had gone far away from their parents' home while still perfectly well.

SWISS BRICKS.—Glass is now being used in Switzerland for a brown building block, 8 inches long, 6 inches wide and 2½ inches thick, with a short neck at each end and an air chamber through the centre. The edges of the bricks are covered, recessed, or ribbed and grooved to receive a suitable cement. The bricks are moulded in pleasing patterns, and should prove a very useful and ornamental building material.

The new German explosive, the invention of Dr. Weiss, is said to be composed chiefly of a fatty substance of a brownish color and the consistency of frozen olive oil. The explosion is not effected by a blow or spark but by the introduction of some other substance, and is attended by very little smoke and very little noise.

Summer Weakness

And that tired feeling, loss of appetite and nervous prostration are driven away by Hood's Sarsaparilla, like mist before the morning sun. To realize the benefit of this great medicine, give it a trial and you will join the army of enthusiastic admirers of Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Sure, efficient, easy—Hood's Pills. They should be in every traveller's grip and every family medicine chest. 25c. a box.

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MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers or their children when teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhœa. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind.

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M. QUAD'S HUMOR

The "Arizona Kicker" Man and the Strange Things He Saw at the World's Fair.

No Snubs Will be Accepted by One Editor—Lesson of the Fox and the Hare.

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THE ARIZONA KICKER.

ABOUT SNUBS.—When we established THE KICKER, we were a lonesome looking man. We were dead broke for cash, hard up for clothes and we made no pretense as to grammar, poetry or oratory, but in establishing the paper we also determined to establish ourself in society. In fact, we determined to lead it. The people rebelled at the innovation, but we persisted. It gradually dawned upon the populace inhabiting this plateau that we knew the difference between standing up to a dish of fried bacon and sitting down to a six course dinner, and they crowded back to give us room. As editor, mayor and senator, there is no doubt of our being the Ward McAllister of a very large extent of territory, but now and then an individual rises up and attempts to hurt our society feelings. Such was the case last Friday evening when Mrs. Colonel de Verde of Arizona place gave a birthday party and left us out in the cold. She told some of her friends that she did it to rebuke our egotism, and we were no doubt rebuked. In leaving us out in the cold Mrs. de Verde brought disaster upon herself. Viewed from the McAllister standpoint, her party was a flat failure. Half the people present used the finger bowls to drink from, the coffee was sweetened with New Orleans molasses, and she was 11 napkins short when refreshments were served. To further rebuke us she invited the wretched old critter whom we are obliged to refer to as our "esteemed contemporary," and he sat at the head of the table and hollered for tripe and lemonade and corned beef! No wonder the party broke up at 10 o'clock and rushed the gate off its hinges in the mad desire to get away! Yesterday morning Colonel de Verde was taken to Wyoming under arrest. We have known for a year that he was "wanted" there. When the colonel conspired with his wife to pour ice water down our social spinal column, we felt it our duty to send off a brief telegram giving his location. We are not a revengeful man, but we have a policy to carry out. We have provided ourself

WE WERE A LONESOME LOOKING MAN.

with a swallow tailed coat, white vest, biled shirt and other adjuncts. We have read up our etiquette. We know when the celery should be removed and the fried eggs brought in. We know when the salad should be gently retired and the ice cream quietly substituted. An attempt to snub us may justly be considered a blow at society and will be certain to result in disaster to the snubber.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.—Colonel Keogh, our valued and enterprising correspondent at the World's fair, thus gives our readers his first impressions of Chicago: "Durn my hide, but it beats a cyclone trying to overtake a stampede of the whole herd! Chicago is simply immense. Wasn't founded by anybody in particular, but they woke up one morning and found more'n a million people here. A few old critters who didn't like whisky kicked for water, and the city went at it and dug a hole which reaches clean across to Muskegon and way up to Mackinaw. They call it Lake Michigan, and it's full of water most all the year round. Not much pasture land and no adobe houses, but everybody moving around as if there had been a cloudburst up country and a 10 foot rise of water was expected every minute. Went out with the boys the first thing. Been out with the boys several times. Going out with the boys every day I stay here. More'n a million boys to go out with, and every blamed one of 'em has got the right sort of brand on. Saloon here most everywhere you go, and nobody drinks alone. Saloons are on wheels and keep moving right along with you so as to save time. Got one river here and will have as many more as the people want. Object is to make everybody feel at home and split up the scenery into hunks so that each resident can have some. Women walking around wherever you go, and nobody thinks of lassoing them. More'n a million women, and every one worth 8 cents a pound on the hoof. Was introduced to royalty right away. Don't remember what royalty he was, but he held a royal flush to my two pairs and raked in $15 of good Arizona money. People here show a great desire to oblige. I could have got a room at $8 per day good enough for a millionaire. Owner offered to consider me a millionaire if I would take it. Policeman not only pointed out a station house to me, but took me in and had my name put on the visitors' book. They don't wear buckskin suits here as a rule, but don't object to a stranger dressing as he pleases. Shall go out to the fair in a day or two. Everybody is pleased thus far, including the critter who got my watch while I was riding on a street car. There is an immense roundup here from all over the world, but Chicago is not overcrowded. You can't overcrowd her. When the pressure reaches a certain point, she bulges out and takes in another slice of the state. This is generally done in the night, so the dust won't annoy people, and you wake up in the morning and find yourself 6 or 7 miles farther away from the city hall than when you went to bed. There is one little piece of state left, I believe, but it was overlooked by accident and will be taken in some night next week."

DISCOURAGING A NEWSPAPER.

One afternoon at Strawberry Hill the horn was blown vigorously, and every miner dropped his tools and made a rush for the plazza, as was the programme agreed upon in case of an Indian attack or if a drove of Chinese attempted to turn in on us. We found the cause of commotion to be a three mule outfit in charge of a stranger. He was an editor, and he had come 200 miles to establish the Strawberry Hill Gazette among us. The mules were loaded with the necessary material, but big Jim Williams, who was town marshal that day, had said to the man:

"Stranger, don't you do no unloadin till you hear what the boys hev to say. I'll toot the horn and run 'em in, and we'll argy the matter."

"DON'T YOU DO NO UNLOADIN."

The case was soon understood by all. There was even more excitement than if a score of Indian warriors had made their appearance on the other side of the creek. A mass meeting was instantly organized, with Judge Watkins in the chair, and I remember how pale faced and anxious the judge looked as he rose up to lead off with:

"Fellow citizens, a critter has come among us to yuzurp our liberties. Shall he be permitted to yuzurp? Are we goin to stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of them are rights guaranteed by the sacred constitushun of Bunker Hill, or are we goin to be trod into the airth by the foot of the tyrant?"

Two hundred men yelled for liberty or death—mostly liberty. Then old man Green got up and followed the judge with:

"It was a noosepaper which driv me outer Indiana by lyin about me. It said I had four wives, when I hadn't but three. My happy peaceful life was wrecked by just such a critter as stands before us and is waitin to wreck other lives. If he are allowed to start a noosepaper here, harmony will end and a reign of terror be inaugurated—brother will turn ag'in brother, and fathers will go around cuttin the throats of beloved sons. Better a thousand heathen Chinese, each one with the smallpox, than one noosepaper!"

More yells for liberty or death, and then Squar Joslyn was lifted upon the barrel and began:

"Whar the noosepaper is thar you will find crime! A noosepaper broke up my fam'ly. A noosepaper sent me to jail. A noosepaper driv me to steal a yoke of oxen. Noosepapers have taken away our liberties and made slaves of us. It hain't been over half an hour since this fellow arrived here, and yit I find myself longin to wade in Bill Jackson's gore. The ink will skassly be dry on the fust issue of this noosepaper before we'll be lyin and stealin and shootin and actin like a pack of savages. Be ye men or be ye slaves!"

When the cheerin had subsided, Uncle Billy Taylor was called on and said:

"A noosepaper will be follered by a skulehouse, and a skulehouse by a livery stable, and afore we know it the wave of civilizashun will hev rolled over us, and whar will we be? We owe it to ourselves and fucher generashuns to nip this impendin calamity in the bud. I move that she be nipped. I hain't no orator, but I've got feelin's, and them feelin's warns me to cry out at the top of my voice agin this proposed iniquity!"

The editor wanted to get up and say something in reply, but the case was closed. Every man could shut his eyes and call up a picture of bloodshed and desolation, and it was the unanimous verdict that the outfit must move on. We allowed him to turn his mules out to grass for two hours, and he was given a bite of something to eat, and when time was up 30 men escorted him down the creek for a mile and a half. On parting with him Judge Watkins solemnly observed:

"Critter, let this incident sink deep into your mind and turn you from the evil of your ways. If you want to push them mewls over the rocks and come back and stake out a claim, we'll all help you to be an honest, decent man, but if you are determined to persevere in your awful career then may the Lord have mercy on your soul, and we'll lynch you if you are ever seen on this trail ag'in."

A MAJOR IN A HOLE.

The major and I had been talking of war for a couple of hours as we sat on the veranda in the moonlight, when a man came limping down the street. Just as we caught sight of him the major was relating how he charged against Hooker's forces at the battle of Antietam, but he cut it so short off that I turned to him and said:

"Well, you had driven back the lines and were rushing after them when—when"——

"Say, major!" called the new arrival as he halted at the steps, "I reckon I'll hev to see the doctor ag'in."

"Yes, go and see him," replied the major. "I'm rather busy just now, Ben."

"I think another bone splinter is workin out on me," continued the man as he felt of his leg.

"Yes, perhaps so. Better see the doctor in the morning. I'm engaged just now, Ben."

"Cur'us that it don't heal up, ain't it?" queried the man as he felt of his leg some more.

"I'll see yo' in the morning, Ben," replied the major, who seemed to be unnecessarily anxious to get rid of the man.

"Y-e-s. Say, major, that was a hot fight and no mistake. We lost 16 men out of our company."

"Yes—yes! I'll see yo' in about an hour!"

"An awful hot fight. Yo' orter bin thar when we drive Hooker back through the cornfield!"

"I'm engaged just now, Ben!"

"But yo' wasn't thar. I was thar fur yo', however—as a substitute—and whenever the battle of Antietam is mentioned yo' kin feel that I did my hull dooty! Good night, major!"

The major and I sat there for a long, long time after that, but not a word was spoken. We did not even look at each other. We did not know that each other lived. By and by, when I was wishing that I was at rest in the cold, damp grave, the major whisperingly observed that he had an appointment to see a man about a mule and rose up and glided away—glided out into the quiet night, and I never saw him again.

A WOMAN WHO WAS "SOT."

After supper the old mountaineer lighted the cigar I gave him and sat down on the doorstep and said:

"Yes, stranger, I lost my woman over two years ago, and that gal has been keepin house ever since. Mighty nigh broke me up when the old woman went."

"Was she sick long?" I asked.

"Not a blamed minit! She was 50 years old and had never bin sick a day in her life. Trubble with her was she was sot in her ways. If she got an idea into her head, it wasn't no use to argy. She'd stick to it if it killed her."

"What was the cause of her death?"

"Bein so blamed sot. One day she got the idea that she must hev some coon meat. We had bacon and b'ar meat in the house, and I offered to git fresh pork, but she'd said coon and coon she was bound to hev or bust. I talked and talked, but she finally turned on me with:

"Reuben, my mouth water's fur coon, and if thar's ary one on these yere Cumberland mountaings I'm goin to hev him befo' I sleep.'

"She took the ax and started off. I 'lowed she'd be home by night, but she didn't come. I waited till noon next day and then sot out. I knowed about whar she had headed fur, but it was clus upon sundown when I found her. She had started a coon and driv him up a tree and then chopped the tree down."

"And got caught as it fell?"

"Exactly. A big limb had struck her, and she was shore enough dead. Lay right thar pinned to the ground, and she had a bewtiful smile on her face. The coon had started to come down and was cotched and killed at the same time, and the carcass wasn't 10 feet away. That's what Mary was smilin at—she'd got the coon and was thinkin how blamed mean I'd feel when she toted it home."

"It was sad," I said after a pause.

"So 'twas," he sighed, "but I've got one consolashun. She's right up thar in heaven, and, drat her onery hide, she got to live on the same diet that the rest of the angels do and quit sloshin around arter coon or possum!"

AN AMERICAN FABLE.

One day as the fox was passing through the forest he espied a hare, which at once and with great speed disappeared into her burrow. Assuming a smiling expression to hide the chagrin he felt, Reynard approached and said:

"My dear madam, perhaps you have not heard the latest news? I have made a public declaration of my intention to reform and lead a different life."

"And that's exactly why I was in such a hurry to get out of your way," replied the hare.

"Please explain. This lack of confidence on your part hurts my feelings."

"Why, sir, in your character of a fox I could always outrun you and find safety, but as a reformer you have got a dozen new tricks which I am not onto and won't feel safe till I learn."

"But, my dear madam," persisted the fox, "if you will but come out here and talk the matter over I am sure we shall arrive at a satisfactory understanding. I used to be very fond of hare, but my reformation is complete."

By the use of cajolery and argument the hare was induced to leave her borrow, and she was scarcely out when the fox seized her.

"How now!" she shrieked. "You solemnly assured me that you had lost your taste for hare!"

"Just so, my innocent-minded and long-legged friend," replied the fox as he made ready for dinner. "While it is true that I have lost my taste for hare I continue to be ravenously fond of rabbit!"

MORAL.

The reformed burglar simply enters the house by some other door.

M. QUAD.

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