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A TALE OF WESTERN LIFE.

When Kentucky was an infant State and before the foot of civilization had trodden her giant forests, there lived upon a branch of the Green River, an old hunter by the name of Slater. His hut was upon the Southern bank of the stream, and save a small patch of some dozen acres that have been cleared by his own axe, he was shut up by dense forests. Slater had children at home with him—two sons, Philip and Daniel—the former fourteen and the latter twelve years of age. His elder children had gone South. His wife was with him, but she had been for several years an almost helpless cripple from the effects of severe rheumatism.

It was early in the spring, and the old hunter had just returned from Columbia, where he had been to carry the produce of his winter's labor, which consisted mostly of furs. He had received quite a sum of money and had brought it home with him. The old man had for several years been accumulating money, for civilization was rapidly approaching him, and he meant that his children should start on their journey with the world.

One evening just as the family were sitting down to the usual supper, they were attracted by a sudden howling of the dogs, and as Slater went to the door, he saw what was the matter. He saw three men approaching.

He quickly opened the door, and the strangers approached the door. They asked for something to eat and also for lodgings for the night. Slater was not a man to refuse a request of that kind, and he asked the strangers in. They set their rifles against the door, unloading their packs, and room was made for them at the supper table. They represented themselves as travelers bound further West, intending to cross the Mississippi in search of a settlement.

The few comers were far from being agreeable or prepossessing in their looks, but Slater took no notice of the circumstance, for he was not one to doubt any man. The boys, however, did not like their appearance at all, and quick glances which they gave each other told their feelings. The hunter's wife was not at the table, but she sat in her great easy chair by the fire.

Slater entered into conversation with the guests, but they were not very free, and after a little while the talk turned to occasional questions. Philip, the elder of the two, noticed that the men cast uneasy glances about the room and he watched them narrowly. His fear had become excited, and he could not rest. He knew that his father had a large sum of money in the house, and his first thought was these men were there for the purpose of robbery.

After supper was over the boys quickly cleared off the table, and then went out of doors. It had become dark, or rather the night had fairly set in, for there was a moon two-thirds full, shining down upon the forest.

Daniel, said Philip, in a low whisper, at the same time casting a look over his shoulder, what do you think of these men?

"I think they are bad ones, returned the younger boy.

"I believe they mean to steal father's money. Didn't you notice how they looked around?"

"Yes.

"So did I. If we should tell father what we think, he would only laugh at us, and tell us we were perfect scarecrows.

"But we can watch 'em."

"Yes, we will watch 'em but do not let them know it."

The boys then held some further consultation, and then going to the dog house, they set the small dog back, so that the hounds might spring forth if they were wanted. If they had desired to speak to their father about their suspicions, they had no chance, for the strangers sat close by him all the evening.

At length, however, the old man signified his intention of retiring, and arose to go out of doors to see the state of affairs without. The three followed him, but they did not take their weapons. The old lady was asleep in her chair.

Now, whispered Philip, let's take two of father's rifles up to our bed—we may want them. We are as good as men with the rifle.

Daniel sprang to obey, and quickly as possible the boys slipped two rifles from the pockets behind the great stove chimney and then hastened back and emptied the priming from the stranger's rifles; and when their father and the strangers returned, they had regained their senses.

The hunter's cabin was divided into two apartments on the ground floor, one of them in the end of the building, being the old man's sleeping room, and the other in which the present company sat. Overhead there was a sort of scaffolding reaching only halfway over the roof below it, and in the

opposite end of the building from the little sleeping apartment of the hunter. A rough ladder led to the scaffold, and on it close up to the boys' beds. There was no partition at the edge of the scaffolding, but it was all open to the room below.

Spare bedding was spread upon the floor of the kitchen for the three travelers, and every thing had been arranged for their comfort: the boys went up to their bed, and the old man retired to his little room.

The boys thought not of sleep, or if they did it was only to avoid it. Half an hour had passed away, and then they could hear their father snore.

Then they heard a movement from those below. Philip crawled silently to where he could peep down through and saw one of the men open his pack, from which he took several pieces of raw meat, by the rays of the moon, and moving towards the window, he shoved the sack back and threw the pieces of flesh to the dogs. Then he went back to his bed and laid down.

At first the boy thought this might be thrown to the dogs to distract their attention; but when the man laid down, the idea flashed through Philip's mind of poisoning him. He whispered his thoughts to his brother. The first impulse of little Daniel, as he heard that his poor dogs were to be poisoned, was to cry out, but a sudden pressure from the hand of his brother kept him silent.

At the end of the boys' bed was a dark window, a small square door, and as it was directly over the dog's house, Philip resolved to go down and save the dogs. The undertaking was a dangerous one; for the least noise would arouse the villains, and the consequences might be fatal. But Philip Slater found himself strong in heart, and he determined upon the trial. His father's life might be in his hands! This thought was a tower of strength in itself.

Philip opened the window without moving from his bed, and it swung on its hinges without noise. Then he threw off the sheet and tied the corner of it to the staple by which the window was hooked. The sheet was then lowered on the outside, and carefully the brave boy let himself out upon it. He enjoined his brother not to move, and then slid noiselessly down. The hounds had just found the meat, but they drew back at their young master's back, and Philip gathered the flesh all up. He easily quieted the faithful brutes, and then quickly tied the mat in the sheet. There was a light ladder standing near the dog house, and setting this way against the building, Philip made his way back to his little loft, and when once safely there, he pulled the sheet in after him.

The strangers had not been aroused, and with a beating heart the boy thanked God. He had performed an act, simple as it may appear, at which many a stout heart would have quailed. The dogs growled as they went into their kennel, and if the strangers heard them, they thought the poor animals were growling over the feast they had found.

At length the hounds ceased their noise, and all was quiet. An hour passed away, and so did another. It must have been nearly midnight when the men moved again, and the lad Philip saw the rays of a candle flash up through the cracks of the floor on which stood his bed. He would have moved to the crack where he could peep down, but at that moment he heard a man upon the ladder.

He uttered a quick whisper to his brother, and they lay perfectly still. The fellow seemed perfectly satisfied that they were asleep, for he soon returned to the ground floor, and then Philip crept to the crack. He saw the men take knives, and he heard them whispering:

"We will kill the old man and woman, said one of them, and then we'll hunt the money. If those little brats up there (pointing to the scaffold) wake up we can take care of them."

But we must kill them all, said another of the villains.

Yes, returned the speaker, but the old ones first."

Philip's heart beat with horror.

Down the ladder outside! quick! said he in a whisper to his brother. Down and start up the dogs! Run for the front door, and throw it open—it isn't fastened. Oh, do let the dogs in the house as quick as you can! I'll look out for father while you go!

Daniel quickly crawled out through the little window, and Philip seized a rifle and crept to the head of the scaffold. Two of the villains were just approaching the door of his father's room. They had set the candle down on the floor, so that its light would fall into the bedroom as the door was opened. Philip drew the hammer of his rifle back, and rested the muzzle upon the edge of the board. One of the men had his hand upon the latch. The boy uttered a single word of heartfelt prayer, and then he pulled the trigger. The villain whose hand

was on the latch, uttered one sharp, quick cry, and then fell upon the floor. The bullet had passed through his brain.

For an instant the two remaining villains were confounded, but they quickly comprehended the nature and position of their enemy, and they sprang for the ladder. They did not reach it, however, for at that instant the outer door was flung open, and the hounds—four in number—sprang into the house.

With a deep, wild yell, the animals leaped upon the villains, and they had drawn them upon the floor just as the old hunter came from his room. Help us! help us! cried Philip, as he hurried down the ladder. I've shot one of them! They are murderers! soldiers! Hold 'em hold 'em! the boy continued, clapping his hands to the dogs.

Old Slater comprehended the nature of the scene in a moment, and sprang to the spot where the hounds had the two men on the floor. The villains had lost both their knives, and the dogs so had wounded them, that they were incapable of resistance.

With much difficulty the animals were called off, and then the two men were lifted to a seat. There was no need of binding them for they needed some more restorative agent as the dogs had made quick work in disabling them.

After they had been looked to, the old man cast his eyes about the room. They rested a moment upon the body of him who had been shot, and then turned upon the boys. Philip told him all that had transpired. It seemed some time before the old hunter could crowd the whole meaning truth through his mind; but as he gradually comprehended it all a soft, grateful proud light broke over his features, and he held his arms out to his sons.

Noble, noble boys! he uttered, as he clasped them to his bosom. God bless you for this!—On, I dreamed not that you had such hearts!

For a long time the old man gazed on his boys in silence, while tears of love and gratitude rolled down his cheeks, and his whole face was lighted up with the most joyous, holy pride.

Long before daylight, Philip mounted the horse and started for the nearest settlement, and early in the forenoon the officers of justice had the two wounded men in charge while the body of the third was removed.

They were recognized by the officers as criminals of notoriety; but this was their last adventure, for the justices they had shot at in the street, fell upon them and stopped them in their career.

Should any of our readers chance to pass down the Ohio river, I beg they would take notice of a large white mansion that stands upon the southern bank with a wide forest park in front of it, and situated some eight miles west of Owensboro. Ask your captain who lives there, and he will tell you, "Philip Slater & Brother—retired flour merchants. They were the boy heroes of whom I have been writing."

Communication.

For the Standard.

Agricultural Society Premiums.

Mr. Editor:—Upon looking over the Premium List of the C. C. Agricultural Society, I confess I was surprised at some omissions, which in my opinion should be supplied before the day of the Fair, ask the favor of your informing myself and others, why the Directors (for it is them I suppose who order the premiums) have omitted articles of dairy produce, such as Butter &c. Upon referring to the lists of the other Agricultural Societies in this County, they all enumerate butter as well other articles of which no notice is taken by our Society. Another omission, and it is one which farmers who raise cereals to any extent, will agree with me is an important one, viz. Smooth Buckwheat. I am much mistaken if you and others are not fond of well made butter which will keep the year round sweet and sound, and that nice white pancakes free from grit, made from smooth buckwheat is not preferable to the coarse gritty yellow cakes made from the rough grain. In making these remarks, I disclaim any self-interested motives or desire to censure the officers of the Society; I simply wish to call their attention to these matters, with a view to prevent dissatisfaction, which may arise.

Another suggestion which I offer, is that the meetings of the Society might be made more interesting, and instructive too, by an address upon anything relative farming, or to farm houses, such as Prof. Fairchild's, an extract of which appeared in your paper of the 5th instant. Our Society numbers among its members those who could give an address, if invited to do so. Hoping these observations will be as well received as they are intended I beg to subscribe myself,

Oct. 7. AN OLD MEMBER.

[We really cannot answer our correspondent's questions, but presume the Directors can give satisfactory reasons for any alterations which they have made in the premiums for this year.]—Ed. Standard.

FOUR DAYS LATER.

ARRIVAL OF THE HUNGARIAN AT FATHER POINT.

FATHER POINT, Oct. 1.—The steamship Hungarian of the Canadian line, passed this Point on her way to Quebec at an early hour this morning.

The Hungarian sailed from Liverpool on the 21st ult.

Breadstuffs quiet but firm. Provisions steady.

The steamship Fulton was to leave Southampton on for New York the same afternoon.

The Steamship America, from Boston, arrived at Liverpool 4.29 A. M. 18th, and the steamer Elina, from New York, arrived at Washington at midnight of the 20th.

The prize fight between Tom Sayers, the Champion of England, and Bob Brettell, had resulted in the victory of the champion. The time was 23 minutes.

The Liverpool Cotton market was dull and slightly lower, the decline in inferior qualities being 1/2. Sales 3 days 18,000 bales.

The Liverpool Corn market was quiet but firm, and prices slightly higher.

The Provision market was steady.

London Money Market.—Consols closed at noon on Wednesday at 93 1/2 for money, and 92 1/2 for account.

SECOND DESPATCH.

The coroner's investigation into the explosion on board the Great Eastern had terminated. The evidence was very conflicting as to who had the responsible charge of the engines. Scott Russell denied that he had control, and the Lead engineer of the ship made a similar denial. The verdict of the jury was: "We find that the deceased came to their deaths from injuries received from steam, hot air and water, in consequence of the jacket attached to the foremost funnel of the Great Eastern, and that said bursting was caused by the closing of a tap connected with a syphon attached to said jacket, in conjunction with the shutting off to the feed from the water casing to the boilers; but there is no evidence before the jury to show by what person or persons the tap was shut off, and the jury further express their opinion that taps are highly dangerous, when placed in such positions, and that sufficient caution was not used by the engineers. The verdict is simply—Accidental Death."

It is considered likely that the accident may give rise to actions at law.

Sir James Stephen, Professor of Modern History at Cambridge, and formerly Under Secretary of the Colonies, is dead.

The Manchester Guardian, in article on Gen. Harney's occupation of the island San Juan says: "The American General's exploit seems to have been nothing more than one of those acts of piracy by which lawless representatives of the United States are accustomed to settle disputes with weaker and more barbarous neighbors, but which it is time they should be taught they cannot safely indulge in against powerful and civilized nations." The article concludes as follows: "We trust the government of the United States will speedily disavow the acts of its officer—otherwise the English government will be forced to take immediate steps for vindicating the honor of the country, and showing the licensed ruffians of the federal territory that they must not appropriate British territory as so easily as if they were merely cutting off another slice of Mexico."

The London Post characterizes Harney's conduct as totally opposed to the first principles of public law, and hopes the American government will disavow it.

The British government it is said, have made a contract for a cable of 1200 miles to be laid from Falmouth to Gibraltar in June next. This to be succeeded by a cable to Malta and Alexandria, thus giving England an independent line, and free from continental difficulties. The speedy completion of the Indian line, and its extension to China is loudly called for, in view of the new Chinese difficulties.

The Daily News announces that Lord Clyde will retire from the command of the Indian army at the end of the year, and will be succeeded by Gen. Sir Hugh Rose, who played a prominent part in suppressing the rebellion.

Gen. Mansfield is to be Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army.

The Independence Belge says that Lord Cowley and Count Walewski had been commissioned to arrange the basis of co-operation between England and France in prosecuting the Chinese war.

Three 91 gun ships were under orders for foreign service at Portsmouth, and four gun-

boats were being prepared with all haste for China.

The utmost activity prevailed at Woolwich and elsewhere in getting off ammunition, &c.

The English funds had exhibited but slight fluctuation, and closed very firm at quotations. Money continued abundant and the demand was moderate. Gold continued to flow into the Bank in large quantities, the arrivals from America and Australia having been heavy.

London, Wednesday.—The Daily News City article under date of Tuesday evening, says—The funds to-day opened with a continued tendency to improvement, but it was checked by the Government broker restricting his daily purchases on account of the Savings Banks. In the afternoon, however, more buoyancy was shown, and a fresh advance of 1/2 was established. In several other markets, especially that for English Railway shares, the tendency was upward. The demand for money was more brisk.

The large sum of £105,000 was sent into the Bank to-day.

The Times City Article says: The funds operated on a reaction of 1/2, but prices resumed their steadiness before the close. At the Bank there was an increased demand for money. The rate in the open market continues about 2 1/2.

FRANCE.

There was quite a gathering of politicians at Biarritz. In addition to the King of the Belgians Lord Cowley, Count Reiset and Count Walewski had gone there and Count Cavour and Duke Malakoff were expected.

Prince Metternich had returned to Paris from Vienna, and held a conference with Walewski before the latter went to Biarritz. The Prince visited Zurich on his way to Paris.

The Camp at Chalons had been suddenly broken up.

It was rumored in Paris that the Emperor had requested the King of Sardinia to refuse to the deputations from the Legations their request for an annexation to Piedmont.

The Times Paris correspondent says if the reports of the day may be credited, there is a possibility of a settlement of the Italian question, which should satisfy all parties, and the general impression was that the political horizon was likely soon to be cleared than for some time past.

A ship of the line, steel plated, to be called the Magenta, and the largest vessel in the French navy, has been commenced at Rochefort.

It was reported at Paris that France will co-operate with Spain in the expedition against the Moors.

Ministerial changes in Naples are reported. Filangieri had resigned the Presidency of the Council and his successor was not yet known.

The following REGULATIONS for the Harbors of Lepreaux and New River, in the Parish of Lepreaux, have been made and established by the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the County of Charlotte:—

I.—That all vessels lying in the harbors of Lepreaux and New River, shall be under the directions of the Harbour Master, there, and the Owner, Master, or other persons having charge of any such vessel, who shall disobey the orders of the said Harbour Master, touching the lying, fastening, berth, or removal of any such vessel, shall for each and every offence, forfeit and pay the sum of Twenty shillings.

II.—The Harbour Master to direct where the ballast is to be laid, and no ballast shall be landed in the Harbour without his permission and direction.

III.—The ballast is to be hove out on the East side of the Harbour, between Ragged Point and Saltkiss Island.

IV.—Any Master or commander of any ship or vessel who shall refuse or neglect to obey the orders of the Harbour Master, shall for each and every offence, forfeit and pay the sum of Five pounds, for each and every offence.

V.—The Harbour Master shall be entitled to demand and receive from the Master, Commander, or Consignee of every ship or vessel (excepted excepted) that shall anchor in Lepreaux and New River, for moorings, for all vessels above fifty tons, and not exceeding one hundred tons, and ten shillings for all vessels above one hundred tons, as Harbour Master's fees.

VI.—All vessels lying in the Harbors of New River and Lepreaux, the Ballast Ground to be between New River Island and Barnaby's Head.

VII.—For removing any ship or vessel from the Ballast Ground to the place of loading, 20s.

PETER CASSIDY,

Harbour Master.