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A STCRY OF TEXAS.

All things have the comfortable assurance of coming to him who waits." No mention is made of a girl who waits. Had I waited for the reconstruction of the adage there would have been no episode to chronicle, and my physician would have been save the reconstruction of his patient.

When exercise in the open air, es pecially horseback riding, was voted the ascendency over tonics and pills my heart gave a bound. . I saw in this prescription the fulfillment of my dreams. I would at last have a pony of my own, a real frolicsome one, full

of fun and mischief. Promiscuous riding of anything I me to experience slight discomfort upon the back of a horse that persisted in maintaining the perpendicular, and a half-broken pony I was determined to have and break the other half to suit myself.

It is a mystery to my friends and relatives as to where I inherited my passionate love and absolute fearlessness of a horse. Not from father certainly, who tightly holds the lines over the back of any steady old farm horse he may chance to trust with his life, nor yet from mother, who is equally as timid, yet exist it does as tenaciously as if they had passed their lives in painted hideousness in the

"Thought" is generally believed to fly on invisible wings," bad news with equal rapidity, but neither can compare with the speed with which a desire to buy a horse reaches the ears of dealers.

As soon as it was noised about that I intended purchasing a four-year-old pony four-year-olds of every description were fastened to the hitching posts. , Four-year-old ponies with their eeth nearly gone, four-year-old ponies with the army brand on hem, four-year-old ponies slightly lame, four-year-old ponies nearly blind-in fact, there never was anything but a four-year-old pony that came in search of me. So much they depended on the native greenness of a girl.

They came in droves figuratively, in duck fashion literally speaking, and ranged from the mangy, disreputable looking beast, feet laden with boots and weights, to the trim little stepper whose blue blood was apperent in

every line. Lean ponies, fat ponies, frisky ponies, staid ponies, sick ponies, well ponies, pretty ponies, ugly ponies, but all were ponies, yet who am I to sit in judgment when my own blessed father calls anything that wears harness a "pony?"

Dealers, at all times nothing if not obliging, are perfectly at home when it comes to such a simple thing as making a movable feast of a horse's

One dealer remarked that his pony was "goin' on four," then doubtless in response to sundry pricks of conscience added, "but she don't look it;" and that was the only one of the creature's points upon which we could

Another enterprising vender of livetical pony clipped and mane and tail many times. banged and announced with evident glee that he had something to suit me ye'll have' to be kapin' her, miss." formation I had received gratis, infor-Like the "three young maids of Lee," and one just an inch too short for, them all," so I concluded to inspect the only mountain that had not come to Mahomet, viz., the stockyard, and stall bit by bit.

there I met my fate. It was only a wild little mustang that stood peering between the bars of the stockyard gate and shaking her shaggy head defiantly at the passersby, but she captured my heart at first sight and I was determined to possess her against the better judgment of all the rest of the party, who felt it their religious duty to act as a brake, should

the situation become desperate. She wasn't a beauty by any means. (The pony of course). Her coat was the roughest kind of rough, and burrs galore bedecked her mane and tail, but her head was up and her eyes were full of fire as she surveyed the strange scene and scented the polluted city air, while an emphatic stamp and an impatient snort proclaimed her displeasure at finding herself thus con-

fined, for this particular little pony had journeyed all the way from Texas, arriving the night before, and bad been unceremoniously dumped down into the stockyards. She was a perfect picture of con-

fixed, unconquered freedom, and the flery look in her two brown eyes boded ill ti the person who should attempt to restrain her with bit and bridle. The expostulations of my friends 1 drowned in a laugh. To think that this pony with her four sturdy little legs, abundant mane and tail, and, above all, such a capital place to hang a saddle, would not suit me. It was

ridiculous! I insisted that all she needed was exercise and good treatment, but finally consented to entrust Texas to the ender mercies of a member of the party who was an enthusiastic fox hunter and bore the proud record of being able to break "anything."

Closely following this move I heard a rumor to the effect that if it made no difference to the county he, like Mark Twain, would preter having the roads upholstered instead of paved.

I suppose : was the proudest girl

in the State when my pony was turners over to me. I think I was proud, but I really can't remember. The feeling, whatever it was, was so quickly

drowned by stranger ones. Her stable had at its entrance a short bridge, up which she was determined she would not walk. Upon its removal she promptly adopted the method of entrance to which she afterward adhered, that of standing several feet away and leaping in. At the first of these remarkable performances I was leading her; on the next occasion I would be afraid to say exactly how far in the rear I brought up.

I left her enjoying her repast and, after I had finished mine, returned in habit to take the initiatory trip. I saddled and led, or rather jumped her out. All was serene. We had gone could beg, borrow or hire had taught but a short distance and I was congratulating myself upon having as fine a little hackney as any in the country when her ponyship decided to return, and taking the bit in her teeth she proceeded to make short work of the distance between herself and her feed box. Expostulations were of no avail in the face of that deep-seated tyranny, and I was finally forced to use the whip. With outward submission but inward rebellion we wended our onward way.

Three weeks followed, weeks of unalloyed bliss and several other things. A friend desiring to take a ride, I dismounted one day for her pleasure. Texas contemptuously "sized her up," scornfully shook her head at the unfamiliar touch upon the reins and refused to move and again I pleaded. Then a wicked gleam came into the brown eyes and she started off at fullspeed, then stopped, looked back to be sure of an audience, and, selecting the muddlest place in the road, deliberately lay down ,pony, girl and saddle in one delicious jumble.

She always knew when she had gone far enough, and unfortunately for me she regarded traveling as something of which a little goes a great ways.

No earthly power could persuade her to proceed when she had made up her mind to stop. She would wheel around in a circle till one might imagine they were crossing the English channel. She would plunge, rear and buck, but that was the extent of the performance so long as you tried to urge her forward.

She would begin with a "take-yourown-time-my-dear" air, "don't let me hurry you in the least," for well she knew human nature could not long hold out in the face of such evidences of equine depravity. When you, had exhausted your choice vocabulary and were tired out mentally and physically she would wheel and start for home, prancing and changing her gait every few steps, as though the only earthly object she desired to attain was the striking of a pace that was agreeable o her rider.

How that pony must have enjoyed our brief sojourns, and how she must have laughed at me in her sleeve. As days passed she would not leave

her stable, where good food and treatment abounded, and furthermore whenever she was saddled she would persist in lying down to roll.

If there is one thing of which I am proud it is my saddle, and it is a ly quiet, stand without hitching," etc., beauty, of English make with buckand when I explained that I did not skin seat and leaping pommel, but I care about a particularly quiet mount never saw a saddle that looked quite returned in a few days with the iden- , so well after it had been rolled in

The infallibility of flesh and blood mentioned elsewhere in the narrative now. "She's gentle and good natured, of this precocious animal caused me to miss, but it's in the corner of yer eye determine to send the pony back to the youth of hunting proclivities, he Notwithstanding all the edifying in- having in a rash moment asserted that she would make a capital hunter; mation as varied as the donors, I was with instructions to take her "anyungrateful enough to feel unsatisfied. where, everywhere, out of the world, and I further vowed that I would not one was too poor and one too tall, take her out of the stable in the interval. Texas' fates were against me, and the week of waiting she asiduously devoted to demolishing her box

I knew she needed exercising and that the only hope of saving the barn lay in getting her out of it, so one afternoon I resolved to martyr myself to the cause (Texas was the only cause about our ranch in those days), and donning my oldest habit I repaired to the stables. Afterward more repairing was done, and I was the subject.

After maneuvering worthy of a diplemat we succeeded in getting out of the stables intact, when, with one foot in the stirrup and grasping the pommel, I prepared to spring. Texas re-lieved me of the necessity. The saddle turned and that spring brought us to glorious confusion and formed on the ground a first-class cross, with Texas' body for the long arm and mine lying across under her for the

Naturally a hanging saddle with its contents lying about promiscuously made a combination beyond the pony's powers of appreciation, and I was the recipient of several well-directed kicks aimed at different portions of my an-

atomy. With one foot still in the stirrup and the other tangled in the remains of my habit I was unfortunately not in a position to return the compil-ment. I think she understood that my remissness was not from any lack of good breeding or of willingness. It was a sadder and wiser girl that emerged from the debris with a broken saddle, a torn habit and a useless ankle, the result of a severed ligament And now from the depths of an easy chair, with my injured foot on a pil low, I sorrowfully pen these words

would have been money in my pocket if I had never been born." I know of a saddle pony for said

and reflect with Artemus Ward, "It

Another bad thing about bad habits is that they are all borrowed.

NO THANKS, NO TIPS

An Attempt to Inculcate Gratitude In Metropolitan Waiters. Waiters in the most exclusive of the

restaurants have come to look upon the tip as so certainly their right that they have come to assume an air that is offensive in the extreme, says the New York Times. There is no acknowledgment from them for this courtesy on the part of the diner now unless he gives them a bill, when of course the walter is obsequious in the extreme and generally offensively so when the bill is of an exceptionally large denomination. There is now no "thank you" for a tip in silver. The waiter merely grabs it as a thing that

belongs to him. Naturally there has come a revolt or the part of the diners, and several waiters in fashionable resorts have been receiving a much needed lesson within the past week or two. Men have begun to call waiters back to them when there has been no "thank you" in acknowledgment of a tip and on one pretext or another have asked that the tip be returned as if to examine the change or increase the tip. Then these men, who only demand that a waiter shall at least profess to be thankful for the gift, have quietly pocketed the coin after telling the waiter that as he had neglected to return thanks for the pour boire he was therefore not entitled to it.

This plan has worked well, though it has made the waiters who have thus lost their tips through a lack of courte sy surly and inclined to break crockery as a means of relieving their mind which latter is of course only biting off one's nose to spite his face. Clubmen who are used to respectful treatment at their clubs are determined to wrest the "thank you" from the waiter or withhold the tip, and the plan to force the acknowledgment is spreading rapidly as a means of curbing the discourtesy of waiters. The plan meets with the approval of the managers of the restaurants, who hope to see it universally adopted until surly waiters have learned that the tip is not theirs of right, but is a matter as between a man well served and his servi-

Where Is Wireless Telegraphy? Wireless telegraphy is an art which for several years has been fruitful of promising and even startling results. It has attracted the most earnest efforts of as able a group of trained investigators as is anywhere to be found. But we have yet to learn that wireless telegraphy has been of any tangible use to the world in any of the crises that have blackened the last year of the dying century. The British forces in South Africa have been living in a hornets' nest for the last six months, very largely on account of utterly inefficient means of communication, hard to establish and easy to interrupt. To take the lesson to ourselves our forces in one uncomfortable annex have been bothered not a little in spite of all that a most capable but badly handicapped signal corps could do. And finally who can tell the precious service that would have been rendered if the gallant little band of marines beleaguered or immolated in Peking had taken with them, as might easily have been done, apparatus which would have kept them in instant touch with Tien-tsin and the ill fated relief column?-Electrical World and Engineer.

Specialties of Street Venders. "Have you ever noticed." said Albert Ford of Chicago "how in certain communities certain specialties are sold by the venders? For instance, here in New York hot corn at 5 cents an ear seems to be your specialty. In Atlantic City, where I was recently, a cercain peculiar candy called seaside taffy holds the palm. In Chicago we go in strongly for buttered corn balls. In southern cities black 'mammies' sit around and deal you out fried chicken and 'cohn pone.' I wonder what it is that in each community causes the street vender to sell different commodities? There ought to be pretty good material for a psychical article by an expert to explain the why and wherefore of certain communities requiring certain kinds of food of the street venders."-New York Tribune.

Rifles In Coffins.

Thousands of Mauser rifles have been brought into China in coffins supposed to contain the bones of deceased Chinese being returned for interment in their native land. George Wyndham, undersecretary of state for war, recently announced that since 1895 English firms had sold to the Chinese government 71 guns of position, 123 field guns and 297 machine guns, with ammuultion for each class. He also said that a German firm in 1899 sold China 460. 1800 Mausers. Russian advices are to the effect that 900,000 Mausers hav been imported within the last three

A Convict's Pet.

A convict in Sing Sing prison who was in the bird business in New York and has made the taming of birds study has while temporarily engaged at work outside the north prison wall caught and tamed a young robin, which comes to him when he whistles to it and fearlessty perches itself upon his finger. Sometimes it goes to his cell at night and perches on his bookshelf. It goes out with him in the morning and stays near while he is at work.

Argyll Needs Money.

from the rents of the estate.

The English death duties are proving a great hardship on the new Duke of Argyll. He has just issued in Gaelic a manifesto to his tenants who are in arrears for rent begging them to pay up and calling their attention to the fact that he himself had a large sum of money to pay the government on the occasion of succeeding to his father's title and adding that for many years to come he will have no benefit

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