

"RATS HEZ GENIUS."

An Old and Truthful Miner Tells Some Stories About Them.

"Wur you a-speakin' about rats in coal mines?" inquired an old miner who never tells a lie, up in Hazleton, Pa. "Wal, naow, I kin tell ye they's almighty pow'ful critters, 'n don't ye make no mistake. Big ez cats, they is, and powerful smart-smart as operators, b'gosh! Ye've got to git up almighty early in the mornin' to git ahead of them rats.

"W'at brings 'em thur? Why, cussness, I reckon; that an' the grain which comes down to the mules. They scrapes a livin' somehow. Ef they can't get anything better, w'y they eats a miner onct in a while. Many a miner has gone to 'git his dinner out of his box only to find that the rats had been thar before him, gnawed a hole in the box 'thout asking no questions an' toted off the grub. That's common, that is.

"Naow, don't ye believe that story about the mule-tenders findin' three feet of dead rats behind the mules in the mornin', where the mules hez kicked 'em to death. That's chestnuts.

But there's somethin' you kin believe, an' I see it with my own eyes a hundred times. Ye know us miners hez to take a can of ile with us to work with. Naow, them rats is powerful fond of ile, but as the ile can has a narrow neck it takes a genius to get at it—leastways for a rat. Wot, do ye think a rat gits discouraged? No, sir! He jes' sets straddlewise of that 'ere can's shoulder, dips his tail into the ile an' then preceeds to masterate that tail. Fact! Any miner of 'sperience 'tell ye so.

"Course ye know haow rats steal eggs. Rat No. 1 takes an egg in his paws an' lays on his back. Rat No. 2 he lays hold of No. 1's tail an' hauls him along, egg an' all, to his hidin' place. I tell you rats hez genius—that they hez."

Swords of India.

Among some military trophies I once saw a very rude, rusty teghar—locally worth a shilling—which had cleanly decapitated a raw recruit, severing coat collar, brass buckle, and caste necklace of hard enamel beads. The nimble village rebel had sprung on the Sepoy from ambush while trimming his flintlock after a misfire. This and all the low-priced teghars and tulwars are of very soft metal, capable of being bent and straightened across the b'ad'e, while the arch or cutting portion, with razor edge, offers immense resistance in the hands of an expert, who, behind his shield, can watch and measure his opportunity. Only the straight thrusts of British bayonets or dragoon blades can reach them.

The metal and finish of cutting arms improve when we enter North India. Hard steel of fine temper and high workmanship used to be common until two Sikh wars and the great mutiny abolished the demand for such deadly wares. The skillful Mohammedan craftsman had to emigrate for a livelihood, or too often dwindled into a blacksmith of harmless occupation. I remember in the good old times of the East India Company itinerant sword peddlers, Persians and Afghans of great stature and big turbans.

"Do you want any swords?"

"Yes; but where are they?"

"Here," and the vendor's hands were lifted to his head-cloth, where they groped awhile. Out sprang three or four shining steel snakes, elastic blades, unhandled a la mode, £20 to £50 each in value, sometimes more. Then the dealer put them through various severe tests to satisfy his customer, packing them away again in their hiding place, should there be no sale, and going on his road.

But there were many shapes and sizes and sorts of cimeters of great price, harder and less flexible, both plain and damascened. The black steel of Khorassan, very rare in the market, reputed to cut off the neck of an anvil—an Eastern anvil, of course; the Parisian and Central Asian specimens, elegantly watered in circular veins, some so light that a girl could use them, others so heavy that height and length of arm, with breadth of chest, were needful gifts of nature to utilize them—men like "Rob Roy" or "Mahmud Ghuzni," whose hands hung below their knees. The latter notable carried an awful steel mace in preference to a sword, and smashed idols and idolators with his own arms on all occasions.—*English Mechanic*.

A Bitter Compliment.

"Insults are hard to bear, but there are some compliments which are worse than any insult," said a veteran Italian patriot, who had shared the counsels of Mazzini, dined with Count Cavour, and talked with Garibaldi upon the most famous of his countless battlefields.

"I suppose you mean," suggested I, "the kind of compliment that French wit paid to an enemy who had come and scribbled 'Coquin' (blackguard) upon his door one night with a piece of chalk. Next morning the wit went to the fellow's house, and said, in the politest way possible, 'Monsieur, you left your name at my door last night, and I have come to return the visit.'"

"It was certainly a two-edged courtesy," replied Signor S—, smiling grimly; "but I think I can match it from my own experience. A good many years ago, in the evil days before King Bomba was overthrown and Italy freed, one of the King's Ministers—a rascal who had been stealing the public money with both hands ever since he first came into office—was rewarded for his 'services' (whatever they may have been) by being decorated with the cross of some Italian order. On the day he received it he found among his letters of congratulation (which of course

came pouring in from every side) a small plain envelope, addressed in a hand which he well knew."

"Meaning your own, I presume, Signor S—," said I.

"We won't mention any names," answered the old gentleman, with a sly twinkle in his large black eyes. "The envelope, when opened, contained nothing but an Italian quatrain, which, if translated into English, might run somewhat as follows:

"Thieves upon crosses fixed to be In rude old times did law condemn; In this enlightened age we see The crosses fixed on them."

—*David Ker, in Harper's Magazine.*

Wanted to Have a Hand.

It was on a Wyoming railway.

"Conductor," said a man, who, from his appearance, was, without doubt, a clergyman, "I have a complaint to make. There are a couple of men in the rear coach playing a godless game called poker. One, I am sure, is fleecing the other, who seems to have plenty of money. Won't you take some action in the matter?"

"How long have they been playin'?"

"About an hour."

"An hour? Why the devil didn't you tell me sooner? Here, Jim," to the brakeman, "you take tickets while I drop back into that game. If there's any money to be made out of suckers on this run just count me in."—*Omaha Railway Reporter.*

Heart Almost Broken.

"Madame, your husband was killed, I believe," said a man, addressing a woman who lives on the border of the Indian Territory.

"Yes," she replied with a sigh, "and I could have borne the misfortune much better had not the circumstances of his death been so distressing."

"What were the circumstances?"

"Well, you see, he was killed by a man who had had no experience whatever in that line. It is sad, of course, to be killed by a professional, but to be shot down by a mere amateur is awful beyond description. My husband was a man of much experience, and to think that he was taken off by a scrub from St. Louis almost breaks my heart."—*Arkansas Traveler.*

The John P. Lovell Arms Co.

It is of the utmost importance that parties who are in want of a good Gun, Rifle or Revolver, or, in fact, anything in the sporting goods line, should patronize a reliable dealer in these goods, whose reputation for honesty dealing with their patrons is established.

Such is the reputation that has been enjoyed by the John P. Lovell Arms Co., of Boston, Mass., for the last forty-seven years. The business of this well-known house was established in 1840, by Mr. John P. Lovell, who is now the honored President of the company. Their reputation for honest dealing with their patrons is not limited to this country alone, but is world-wide, as they have customers in every portion of the habitable globe. It is a pleasure to purchase goods from this well-known firm, for the purchaser is assured that when he receives his goods that they will be found to be exactly as represented in their extensive catalogues, which they issue for the convenience of customers who reside at a distance, and who cannot pay them a visit to make a personal selection. The John P. Lovell Arms Co. are extensive manufacturers of Guns, Revolvers, Roller Skates, Police Goods, Air Rifles, etc., etc., which explains why their prices are so much lower than those of their competitors, who have to depend on other manufacturers for their goods. It is an interesting sight to visit the extensive ware-rooms of this firm, where are stored thousands of the most celebrated makes of Shot Guns, Rifles, etc., etc. The building itself is an imposing structure, situated in the most historic part of old Boston, and facing Faneuil Hall and the statue of Samuel Adams.

Special attention is called to an advertisement now in our columns of a Colt Repeating Rifle, which the Lowell Arms Company are offering for \$11.00. This, as they state, is the greatest bargain we have ever seen in this line. Being manufactured by the celebrated Colt Repeating concern of Hartford, Conn., is a sufficient guarantee that the rifle is exactly what is claimed for it.

No one who is interested in sporting goods of any description should fail to secure a copy of the catalogue issued by this firm. It consists of 100 pages, and is mailed free of charge to any address on receipt of 6 cents in stamp. It is full of important information of interest to the sportsman.

He Was Evidently Drunk.

Lawyer—Do you think the defendant was drunk?

Witness—I do.

Lawyer—State your reasons. Did he stagger?

Witness—No, he didn't exactly stagger, but he sat with his back to the dashboard and held his suspenders as if he was driving.

Lawyer—Did he have any other symptoms?

Witness—Yes, he had a beer-box full of symptoms in the vehicle, and the wheels of the buggy wobbled.—*Newman Independent.*

Misery After Eating

Is avoided by dyspeptics who, guided by the recorded experience of thousands, begin and systematically pursue a course of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. Persistence in the use of this pure and highly accredited stomachic, is the sole and agreeable condition of the entire removal of the obstinate forms of dyspepsia, no less than a temporary fit of indigestion. In connection with the use of this specific, it is desirable to avoid articles of food which individual experience has shown to be difficult of digestion, the same being sought to be benefited. Each dyspeptic's past experience of his digestive capacity should enable him to his own guide and mentor in this particular, not trusting to any set of dietary rules too general to be suited to particular cases. Biliousness and constipation, heartburn, wind upon the stomach, sour eructations, headache and mental despondency, are among the concomitants of dyspepsia, and we put it to flight by the Bitters.

Stylish Editors.

The editor of the London Post wears lilac kid gloves through every dinner to which he is invited. He is rather tony; but for three-ply, eighteen-carat style the English people are referred to the Dakota editor who wears a six-shooter, a bowie-knife, and no necktie through every dinner he is invited to—as well as to some to which he is not invited.—*Norristown Herald.*

25c buys a pair of Lyon's Patent Heel Stiffeners, which makes a boot or shoe last twice as long.

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A Bloody Affray

Is often the result of "bad blood" in a family or community, but low-down is bad blood more destructive of happiness and health than in the human system. When the life current is foul and sluggish with impurities, and is slowly distributing its poisons to every part of the body, the peril to health, and life even, is imminent. Early symptoms are dull and drowsy feelings, severe headaches, coated tongue, poor appetite, indigestion and general lassitude. Delay in treatment may entail the most serious consequences. Don't let disease get a strong hold on your constitution, but treat yourself by using Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and be restored to the blessings of health. All druggists.

"SHE is a woman, therefore may Sheba wood," as Solomon remarked when he first saw that noted queen.—*Texas Siftings.*

"I found it a specific for Hay Fever. For ten years I have been a great sufferer from August frost. Ely's Cream Balm is the only preventive I have ever found. Hay Fever sufferers should know of its efficacy."—Frank B. Atkinson, Publisher, Indianapolis, Ind.

Apply Balm into each nostril.

Jenks' Dream.

Jenks had a queer dream the other night. He thought he saw a prize-fighters' ring, and in the middle of it stood a doughty little champion who met and deliberately knocked over, one by one, a score or more of big, burly looking fellows, as they advanced to the attack. Giants as they were in size, the valiant pigmy proved more than a match for them. It was all so funny that Jenks woke up laughing. He accounts for the dream by the fact that he had just come to the conclusion, after trying nearly every big, drastic pill on the market, that Pierce's fine Purgative Pellets easily "knock out" and beat all the rest hollow!

IS DEATH'S door opened with a skeleton key?

HARVEST EXCURSIONS.

The Corn Palace at Sioux City.

ARE YOU GOING WEST?

This question applies to everybody. Some will say yes, while others will answer, "Not if we know ourselves; no West in ours." Well, perhaps not. But time works wonders, and no one knows what a day may bring forth; those for whom have no idea of going West just at present should keep posted, for there is no telling how soon the "Western fever" may strike them, and if it does their departure will be as sudden as that of a bank-cashier who has got on the wrong side of the wheat market. So we say keep posted just a little, and particularly as to the best and safest road over which to make a Western trip.

From Chicago there are numerous well-equipped railways that branch out to nearly every section of the great West, none of which are more prominent than the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul. For years this road has been noted for its enterprise in improving its train service and its efforts to provide comfort, convenience, and safety for the traveling public. This is a fact which is appreciated by those who are obliged to spend much of their time in a passenger coach or a sleeping-car. It is a pleasure to travel on any division of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul for a more courteous and obliging corps of conductors and subordinates cannot be found than is in charge of the numerous trains of this popular railway system.

Trains are leaving Chicago over this line for different points in the West almost hourly. One of the new and popular trains recently added to its service is that which leaves Chicago every day at 7:30 p. m. and arrives at St. Paul the next morning at 9:30 o'clock, and at Minneapolis only thirty-five minutes later. This train is known as the "business man's favorite," because he can leave Chicago after business hours and arrive in St. Paul the next morning before business begins.

Another very popular train upon this road is the Sioux City short line. Leaving Chicago at noon daily, passengers arrive in Sioux City shortly after 9 o'clock the next morning, making close connections with trains for Northern and Southern Dakota. Elegant dining cars are run upon this train, upon which dinner, supper, and breakfast are served in a style that traveling men say is ahead of any other road.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway offers superior advantages to all who contemplate a Western trip. Its various lines traverse Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Dakota to a greater extent than any other road. Its equipment is first-class in every respect, and travelers who patronize it speak in the highest terms of it.

Parties who propose to attend the great "Corn Palace" festivities, which are to be held at Sioux City, Iowa, from October 3 to October 8, inclusive, should not fail to buy their tickets over the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul.

The next Harvest Excursion over this favorite road will leave Chicago October 11. Tickets for this excursion will be sold at half rates to points in Minnesota, Dakota, and Northern Iowa. For further particulars address A. V. H. Carpenter, General Passenger Agent, Milwaukee, Wis., or F. A. Miller, Assistant General Passenger Agent, 63 Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.

Harvest Excursion.

The Great Rock Island Route (C. R. & P. Ry.) will sell, Oct. 11th, Harvest Excursion tickets at one fare for the round trip, to principal points in Kansas, Nebraska, Northwestern Iowa, Minnesota, and Dakota. Limit thirty days from date of sale. For tickets or further information, address E. A. Holbrook, General Ticket and Passenger Agent, Chicago, Ill.

By return mail, Full Description Moody's New Tailor System of Dress Cutting. MOODY & CO., Cincinnati, O. MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS.

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They cure Constipation, Malaria, and Dyspepsia, and are a safeguard against all forms of fevers, chills and fever, gall stones, and Bright's disease.

Send 4 cents postage for a sample package and test the TRUTH of what we say. Price, 25 cents per bottle, mailed to any address, postpaid. DOSE ONE BEAN. Sold by druggists.

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