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### SURPRISE.

BY HERBERT HALL WINSLOW.

With murmurs low, upon the river's brink, The restless, aimless waters idly beat; The grazing cattle droop their heads to drink, The ripples flowing gently o'er their feet; The hazy stillness and the summer air Aske life a tender dream, devoid of care.

All changed and cheeriess in the wintry wind That sweeps from shore to shore in sullen mood The river rests, in ghostly shroud confined, And blustering breezes sing a requiem rude. The slow herds shivering in the fallen snow, Scatter its powdered paleness as they go. And thus in life, a winter cold and drear

Fast follows on the summer's joyous bloom; And while we wait, and idly wander here, Time's toesin sounds some dreaded day of doom; And starting up, with pleasure-laden mind, We see the smiling summer far behind! -Good Company.

# A WILD RIDE.

We had been living in Ireland for about two years, and every day I regretted she time more and more when my husband had decided to leave England and come over to manage his property, which was situated in one of the most lawless and disaffected counties.

Fenianism was rife, and heartily I wished we were away and over the water again, at least until these troubled days had given place to better and more peaceful times, and now that the long, dark winter afternoons and evenings had set in again, I used to sit and watch anxiously for my husband's return; when Libnel would come in looking moody and uneasy, and kept his revolver always loaded, though he never told me he suspected danger, and tried to make light of it for my sake.

Oh! it was a wretched, miserable time, and I can never forget it.

I remember so well how the crash came at last, and how the volcano burst forth that had been smouldering

We were sitting at breakfast one morning when the letters were brought in, and after handing them the bearer stood fidgeting about.

. Lionel looked up. "That will do, Delaney, and tell John to bring the dog-cert around in half-an-

"Lionel, I don't like that man," I said, after he had left the room. "I am sure he is a spy. I wish you would get rid of him,"

"Oh, the fellow is right enough. It is his brother, you know, that I am going over to the court about to-day."

"What is it?" I exclaimed, as Lionel got up suddenly, looked vexed and annoyed, and threw a letter into the fire. "Lionel, is it another of those dreadful

"Yes, warning me against giving evidence against Delaney to-day. What is the country coming to? But there: I ought not to have told you-it will frighten you into fits."

"Lionel, you must not go to-day-indeed, indeed, you must stay at home; they may mean what they say. Oh. promise me you won't go."

"Nonsense - absurdity; Winifred. don't be so foolish. Why, dear, these are all empty threats. But once show the white feather and they will be ten times worse. You foolish little wife." he added, tenderly, "and so you worry and fret yourself when I am away, expecting me home on a shutter, I suppose. Well, don't sit up for me to-night. for after the trial is over I am going to dine at Col, Arbuthnot's, and shan't be home till late. Now I must be off "

A few more loving words, and then I stood watching him driving down the avenue, turning now and then to wave a

I was only half satisfied, and was wishing he had not gone.

After lunch I went out to take some wine to the lodge-keeper's child, who was ill.

It was rather late when I started, and the sun was setting behind the mountwin, shedding a flood of crimson light over the golden glories of the fading

I stayed there till it was quite dark, when I started home.

Suddenly hearing footsteps, I paused; nearer and nearer they came, and then through the darkness I could' see two men slowly approaching, talking in low. earnest tones.

Sick with terror, I drew back behind a large tree, for one of the men was Delanev.

At first they spoke in low, cautious tones, but, by degrees, their voices were raised, and at last Delaney, raising his hand, exclaimed, with a vehemence that made me shudder:

"I tell yor, if it's done at all, it must be done to-night. What's the use of talking, man? It's acts, not words, we want. He passes the cross-roads tonight, coming home from the Colonel's, a mile beyond, by the common and the chalk-pit. It's a lonely spot-there's our place. Be there when the moon is

up, and mind, no mistake this time." And he laughed, actually laughed, as he planned and plotted the cruel and deliberate murder of my husband, who had been a kind and good master to

At last they parted, Delaney hurrying back in the direction of the house with a last injunction to his accomplice not

# The Mountain Banner.

ESTABLISHED 1848.

A Family Newspaper; Devoted to Home Interests and General News-

TERMS-\$2.00 Per Annum.

THEY NEVER GET OVER IT.

denly said as she looked up from her

week will be the twentieth anniversary

dies! Why, I had no idea of it,"

a good husband to me, darling."

"Who do you mean?"

good as engaged to him."

with that Helen Perkins."

you. There !"

ing of-of-"

fellow.'

horse?"

model wife.'

"Is that so? By George! how time

"Yes, we have been married almost

"Of that sickly-faced baboon who

"Yes, George, but you know you were

keeping company at that same time

young ladies in the whole country?"

"And such big feet as she had! Why,

George, she was the laughing-stock of

young lady who would have made a

"Then why didn't you marry her and

"Don't talk that way to me! Her

"And I know you are sorry because

"I am, eh? I thought you said I had

"And didn't you call me your blessed

Then he plumped down and began to

read the mortgage sales and advertise-

ments in the paper, and she picked up

her sewing and gave the cat a gentle

kick. These old things will come up

KNOWLEDGE IN A NUTSHELL.

A span is ten and one-half inches.

Oats, thirty-five pounds per bushel.

Bran, thirty-five pounds per bushel,

Two persons die every second.

Sound moves 743 miles per hour.

A square mile contains 640 acres.

Barley, forty-eight pounds per bushel.

A day's journey is thirty-two and one-

A storm blows thirty-six miles per

Coarse salt, eighty-five pounds per

A tub of water weighs eighty-four

Buckwheat, fifty-two pounds per

The average of human life is 31 years.

A barrel of rice weighs 600 pounds.

A barrel of pork weighs 300 pounds.

An acre contains 4,840 square yards.

A barrel of flour weighs 300 pounds.

Slow rivers flow five miles per hour.

A firkin of butter weighs fifty-six

Timothy seed, forty-five pounds per

A hand (horse measure) is four inches.

A hurricane moves eighty miles per

A rifle ball moves 1,000 miles per hour.

Rapid rivers flow seven miles per hour.

The first lucifer match was made in

Electricity moves 228,000 miles per

A moderate wind blows seven miles

you didn't marry that beautiful and ac-

all her moles and warts and mushroom

because von didn't marry Brace !"

eyes were as nice as yours!"

complished Miss Perkins!"

ever gets entirely over them.

A cubit is two feet.

A space is three feet.

A fathom is six feet.

alf miles.

pounds.

per hour.

in 1807.

in length.

A palm is three inches.

A league is three miles.

A great cubit is eleven feet.

There are 2,759 languages.

been a good husband to you?"

"They wan't,"

shouldered, white-headed Brace?'

used to go home with you from praver

twenty long years," she continued, with

"Do you know, my dear," she sud-

### PUBLISHED AT RUTHERFORDTON, N. EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

to fail; and, after waiting a long time, to make sure that he was gone, I went slowly home, and reached my room un-

There I matured and laid my plans deliberately and carefully, for it was life if | till suddenly all grew dim and indistinct. I succeeded, and oh! far worse than death if I failed.

So I dressed for dinner as usual, and, though every scrap of color had left my face, and I knew that I could not subdue all expression of the horror that I felt, I preserved an outward calmness. and went on down to the dining-room as though the man that stood behind my chair had not, only two short hours ago, planned to take my husband's life. How I got through I know not, but

the meal was over at last. Still I could do nothing till Delaney left the house and started on his deadly errand.

My plan was this.

When he had gone I intended to go down to the stable, get the horse, and ride to Col. Arbuthnot's, trying to reach it before Lionel had started on his way

It was a daring step, but the only chance: lonely and isolated, we were miles from any town, and no help was

I should have to ride hard, and, to avoid being discovered and stopped, Imust make a long round, which would take me many miles out of my way. At last the time to act had arrived.

Delaney must have started long ere this, and the servants would be at su

The clock was just striking 9 as I left

the room. Going up-stairs quickly, I put on my habit and stepped out.

It was a clear, bright night, with the pale moon rising over the dark treetops, and shining coldly on the glossy green evergreens, casting ghostly, weird shadows across the path. I reached the yard, and saw, to my alarm, a light in the harness-room. Without taking time to hesitate or think, I advanced softly, and, peeping in, saw, to my great relief, that it was only the stable-boy busily engaged rubbing up the harness. Opening the door, I stood before the astonished lad, who gazed with wide-open eyes as though I had been an appari-

"Christie," I said, "saddle Rifleman as quickly as possible. I want him." "Sure, ma'am, you're never going out to-night?"

"Yes, I am. Quick-don't stand talking there, but do as I tell you." Burning with impatience, I watched him getting out Rifleman, and then, as I was about to mount, catching sight of the wonder and surprise on Christie's face, an idea seized me, and, sending him back into the stable on some pretexs. I locked the door and took the key. No one knew where I was; it would be long before he could make himself heard, no matter how loudly he called, for the yard was a long way from the house. In another minute I was out of the gate and cantering swiftly down the avenue and out on the open road, "Rifleman," I said, stroking his glossy neck, "if rests with you to save your master. You must do your best for the time is

Away we went, keeping well in the shadow of the trees which skirted the road; the soft grass muffled the sound of the horse's hoofs, and faster, vet faster, I urged Rifleman to his topmost speed, for what if I were already too late? The moon was nearly high in the heavens, and I knew the hour was rapidly approaching. It was a ride for life, and on we flew with fearful rapidity. What if Lionel were on his way already. Oh for strength to keep up a

liftle longer! The entrance gates at Col. Arbuthnot's stood wide open, and, with hope in my heart, I galloped up to the house. The door was opened by the Colonel himself, who hurried out in great alarm.

"My husband-ishe here?" I gasped. "No : he has just left-not more than ten minutes ago, I think; but what has

"Tuo late! too late!" I cried. They have killed him! Oh, Lionel,

Lionel!" They tried to stop me, but I broke away; there might be time yet, if I rode hard and fast. My horse might die in the attempt-what mattered it? It was life or death, now; and away again, thundering down the avenue I went. heedless of cries and entreaties to come

Stopping one moment to listen. I heard, far ahead, the rumbling sound of wheels: it seemed to endow me with new life and strength to keep up, to struggle a little longer : but poor Rifleman was almost done for. Breathing hard, he still labored on, answering whip and rein to the last.

Gathering up all my energies for a last effort, I urged Rifleman once more to a gallop, and, sweeping round a corner, saw, with a wild gleam of joy and hope, my husband's dog-cart slowly ascending a long steep hill, right in front, the foot of which on the other side was the spot where 'the murderers were in waiting. Every yard of ground was of

I tried to call out, but only a feeble cry escaped my lips; and, still running with a kind of strength and determination born of despair. I pushed on. I was conscious only of a great and terrible darkness rising and hiding my husband from my sight; struggling on blindly with outstretched hands I staggered a few steps, and then, with a last wild wail of "Lionel-Lionel!" fell senseless upon the earth-my last thought, my last desire being to save

bim. Was it all in vain? \* \* \* \* \* \* When I opened my eyes I found myself in a cottage, in the bright glare of a turf fire, with a crowd of eager and frightened sympathizers around, and Lionel bending, white and auxious, over me. It was enough to know that he was safe-to cling tightly to him and feel his strong, protecting arms around me-and, weak, tired and exhausted, I

It had been a very narrow escape after all. Lionel had just reached the top of the long hill when he heard my cry, and, driving hastily back, had found me, to his great astonishment, lying insensible, and Rifleman standing beside me. Presently, Col. Arbuthnot, who had followed in hot haste, had come up, and they had carried me into the cottage, wondering greatly what it meant. And I told my story.

Had I been a minute later, in all human probability I should never in this world have heard his voice again.

Delaney waited in vain that night. and whether he guessed or suspected that his plot had been discovered was never known, for ere morning dawned he had fled and succeeded in making his escape from the country. Lionel and Col. Arbuthnot did all they could to. have him brought to justice, but in vain he was never heard of.

We left Ireland before Christmas, for I could not bear to stay there after all I had gone through, and I never wish to see it again. As for Rifleman, I will never part with him: the good horse that carried me so well that memorable night shall have a happy home and end his days in peace; but for him I should never have won that terrible race.

THE London Times emphatically declares that & far more serious commercial danger than the ill-will between Jew and Christian threatens Russia from this side of the Atlantic. It says: "The American is underselling-the Russian as a corn grower and dealer. Both for the production and for the conveyance of cereals the Yankee finds that machinery can do the work of 'huudreds of thousands of men. \* \* After several seasons of scarcity bordering on famine, there has been in Southern Russia this year a fair harvest, though by no means as good as people in their engerness anticipated. There is plenty of grain ready for embarkation from the Russian harbors to the English markets. But will it be able to stand the competition of American produce? As well might a sailing vessel be expected to outstrip a steamer. Modern ingenuity and the spirit of association have given the New York and Chicago smart men a start which has made them victorious upon the earnest and patient, but plodding John Hodges o England. What will they not do to the detriment of Russia, a country not eminent as yet for ingenuity, thrift or laborious energy?" The writer adds that the Russiaus hope this competition is ephemeral, and cherish the belief that in this country the population will soon grow up to the territory, raising the price of land, increasing home consumption, and otherwise establishing more equal conditions. The Times asks, "What will become of the steed while the grass grows?" and evidently thinks

that such hopes are fallacious, NATIVE Russians will doubtless feel aggrieved, and with good reason, by the libelous imputation put upon the nation in the Washington Post's review of the either. Her costume was a harmonious Ministers who have represented Russia | blending of the circus-tent and balloon in the United States. Russian gentle- style, and was very gorgeous, barring a men decline to be held responsible for the representatives of their Government-The Government does not, they sav. truly represent the people. The official class is largely made up of foreigu adventurers of no character or position at home, who worm themselves into favor by means little creditable to them or the appointing power. Catecazy, for example, was an Italian; Bartholomei is a Greek, and Bodisco an Armenian. The Russian Consul in New York is a Pole; and so it goes. These persons represent their own nations as little as they do Russia. It is simply a mark of ignorance to say or suppose that there are no ladies and gentlemen and no "civilization" in Russia. There is civilization enough, and that is what bothers the Czar.

THE Mother has made a Lap. The boy is in the Lap. He is Looking at the Carpet. What has the Mother in her Hand? She has a Shingle in Her Hand. What will she do with the Shingle? She will put it Where it will Do the Most Good, - Puck.

A SOCIAL NUISANCE. A NICE QUESTION.

A question has arisen in regard to the right or propriety of a professor of an agricultural college, and consequently an employe of the public, lequiring a personal property in any discovery or invention he may happen to make in such employment. The facts are as fol-Two of the professors of the Illinois Industrial University were employed in making experiments in producing sugar from sorghum. These experir ents were

so successful that the professors have patented the processes used in their own names and as their own property. As the question of the propriety of this course has arisen, the Principal of the university, under his own signature, has publicly defended it. But in the defense he makes use of the following extraordinary words in regard to the discovery becoming public property: "'Becoming public propertie sounds well; is a fine sentiment; buf as a sentiment it would be just as nice to say the 'dear public' should own as a pub lic, all the property in the State.' Principal Scott uses an Mustration which completely takes the ground from under his own feet; for the dear public do really and in fact own all the property in the State, the apparent owners being simply occupiers, subject to the eminent domain and rights of the State. The State can, by due process of law. take possession of any person's farm or | charm and worth—how will you supply house and put it to public us,'s, and in | that in a morning? The son and daughevery grant of land to an individual this precedent right is reserved. Horeover. the State can take a person's property and his person and use them for its own service when it is thought necessary by the State Government. The question is a narrow one. Must the farmers of Tilinois and of other States be compelled to pay a tax to persons whith in the course of their employment in a public capacity and while under public pay, discover any methods for Spocesses which they are employed to eiscover? These gentlemen were certainly employed to experiment in making sugar. The cost of making the experiment was paid out of the university funcs, which are public moneys. To whom then, do the results of these experiment/belong? Is the public to be satisfied with a long table of figures showing the results,

while the methods of producing these

results are kept secret and are reserved

as the private property of the experi-

menters, for which those persons for

whom the experiments were made-the

A LIVELY CRITICISM?

triple act of singing, rolling the eyes

the same time. Her smiles at the audi-

her smiles at the "feller" hid behind

the scenes were divine. He singing,

when she condescended to ply any at-

ble and obese freak of nature. Brignoli,

ance very nearly resembles a stove in a

corner grocery, or a water tank on a

A POOR mechanic from Canada was

paid a \$50 bill by mistake for a \$1 bill

by a storekeeper at Granby. Mass. He

hastened home, resolved to leep the

money; but within a week he isturned,

gave up all except what he had opent for

sympathy of the audience."

been unpleasant,

contemporaneous human interest:

farmers-must pay if they desire to use them ?-Country Gentleman. The poetical surroundings of "the

The following musical criticiem from an Aurora (Ill.) paper is full of strong "The Kellogg concert, as night have been anticipated, was largely attended. The dollar freeze-out was rather rough on the hoodlums, but the audier ce managed to exist without the costomary war-whoops. The divine Louis was as resonant as usual, which, by the ways she ought to be, being well-a asoned. The editor of this paper makes no great pretensions in the way of musical criticism, but when a genuine \$690 grand spiral subsand twist, back-act on, selfadjusting, chronometer-balanced, fulljeweled, fourth-proof, rip-snowing conglomeration comes to town he proposes to hump himself. Kellogg's daphragm has evidently not, like wine, improved with old age. Her upper register is up-stairs near the skylight, while the lower register is closed for repairs. The aforesaid Kellogg performed, her grand

companies. and talking to some one in the wings at ence were calm, but determined, but tention to the audience, to our critical ear (the other ear being carefully folded up), seemed to be a blending of the fortissimo crescendo dam-fi-no or care tendency to spill some of the contents out at the top. The Italian part of the business was as fidgety and furious as usual, and demonstrated what early associations with the hand-organ and monkey will accomplish. The venerawas as graceful as usual. His appearnarrow-gauge railroad. He was no fully appreciated until he turned to go off the stage. He then appeared to his -Plumas (Cal.) National. best advantage, and to take an interest in getting out of sight as soon as possible, an effort in which he had the hearty

erie as you and dad."

car fares, and promised to pay up the remainder as soon as he could. His exhas purchased fifteen of the principal perience with his conscience, he said, had elevators there, having an aggregate capacity of 537,000 bushels,

The "fast set" in American society whose breast quivers and tingles with piece-work-"do you know that next delight at the idea of friendly notice upon its travels from the Prince of Wales, and which at home grovels in its of our wedding ?" own way before any titled Tom Noddy, is a social pest. Its influence is degrading and demoralizing. But it has a ridiculous aspect which is wanting in its prototype. Lady Clara Vere de Vere may be selfish and cruel and a wholly useless and encumbering person in the world. But she is the daughter of a hundred Earls, and she shows it as eertainly as a high-bred racer shows his Arabian descent. A certain nameless refinement and elegance and grace may distinguish her-for it is not, of course, always so - as Lovelace, although a scoundrel, may have the urbane and rupted. gentle courtesy of the chevalier with-

out fear and without reproach. Oh, your soft eyes, your low replies! A great enchantress you may be. . With all her stony-heartedness and selfish vanity and inhuman pride, the Lady Clara Vere de Veré is still a swan among inferior birds. But no mushroom wealth, no buying of the crown jewels of France as shirt-studs, no improvised magnificence and astounding luxury and extravagance, can rival this effect. The tone that time alone, lapsing through long centuries, gives the picture, the tone which is its secret splendor and ter or the grandson and granddaughter of the haberdasher and the coal-heaver and the fat-boiler may outbid Emperors for a vase and Queens for necklaces. but they can no more buy the poetic perspective and the association and historic setting which belong to the Emperor and Queen than they can buy the

Moreover, it is a compensation of justice that those in whom the refinement of long training is most conspicuous disdain the shoddy splendor of sudden wealth. The amazing extravagance of luxury in some instances in America is as little representative of distinctive American character and quality as an English rake of a noble family who comes to hunt up a rich American wife is a type of that trained intelligence and public spirit and service which mark an Englishman like Lord Granville in Parliament or the late Dean Stanley in the church, - " Editor's Easy-Chair," in Harper's Magazine.

AMERICAN HORSE-SHOES IN EN-

village blacksmith" and his harmonious anvil, says Chambers' Journal, are threatened with a powerful rival, by the introduction from the United States of a new industry; namely, the manufacture cf machine-made horse-shoes. A company whose premises face the Thames opposite Greenwich has opened its works to supply the United Kingdom with these machine-made articles. The iron is rolled from scrap, coming from the rollers as a grooved bar, which is afterward cut into lengths, punched with the necessary holes, and finally is bent by the machine into the norse-shoe shape. It is calculated that there are in the United Kingdom about 3,000,000 horses; in Europe generally more than 30,000,000; requiring annually 1,500,-000 tons of shoes. So that, if the new company turns out good work, there are plenty of customers for its goods. It is said that the new shoe has met with the approval of some eminent authorities, and is already used by several tramway

HOW THE "DIGGER" KEEPS WARM. Over in the Big meadows, any day, a fine illustration of chilly comfort may be seen in the plan adopted by the Indians to catch fish and keep warm at the same time. Follow the river, and occasionally you come across a noble red man, muffled up in all the old coats and blankets he possesses, sitting in his canoe, which is loaded with firewood, Three or four feet of the center of the canoe is covered with sand to the depth of two or three inches, and on this he keeps a bright fire blazing, and, with his back to the flame, pursues his duties of taking in the speckled beauties. The smoke might prove troublesome to a white man, but the Digger is in no danger of having his complexion injured. and, as he paddles along from one good riffle to another, he looks as independent as a lord, and throws a glance of pity at the poor devil of a white man, who takes his chances from the snowy bank, and has to knock under in the fishing race at the rate of about five to one. "MOTHER," remarked a Duluth girl,

"I think Harry must be going to propose to me." "Why, so, my daughter?" queried the old lady, laying down her spectacles, while her face beamed the infant to the station house, but like a moon in its fourteenth night "Well, he asked me this evening if I keting. wasn't tired living with such a menag-

\$250,000 last season! Barnum's Combi-A SYNDICATE of Minneapolis capitalists nation \$400,000. People may not have money at times to buy bread and coal, turns up somehow.

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Obituaries and Tributes of respect

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All communications for the paper, and business letters, should be addressed to THE BANNER. Rutherfordton, N. @

### PLEASANTRIES.

THERE is something high-toned in church bells.

WHEN a bank "goes up," it generally fails to "come down."

Tellers of exaggerated stories are known as yarn merchants.

What five letters form a sentence of

forgiveness? Ixqq u.

something of a sigh, "You have been "WHEN sorrow has left its traces," what has become of the rest of the "And you have been a blessed little wife to me, Susan. Come here till I kiss

An editor without a backbone don't amount to much. It's his principal "I was thinking to-day-I was thinkcolumn you know.

Mr. Budd asked her. "Rose, wilt thou be mine?" Rose answered, "I am sorry-but a rose cannot be turned into

meeting before I knew you?" he intera bud." Boiling hair in a solution of tea will

"Why, that Brace fellow, of course." darken it, says an exchange; but some "Why, George, he wasn't such a bad folks don't like to have their tea darkened in that way. "Wasn't, eh? Well, I'd like to know

A YOUTHFUL Pennsylvania Granger, of a worse one. He didn't know enough about to be chastised by his father, to chew putty, and there you were as called upon his grandfather to protect

him from the middle man. "Now, THEN, what's your papa's name, Freddy?" "Dunno," "Don't know your papa's name! Why, what

"That Helen Perkins? Wasn't Miss does you mamma call him?" "Brute!" Perkins one of the loveliest and prettiest A BARBER offered a reward for instantly removing superfluous hair. Among the "No. she wasn't! She had teeth like answers was: "Undertake to kiss a woman against her will." "She did, eh? How about that stoop-

A 6-YEAR-OLD was enveloped in a shirt much too big for him. After strutting about for some time he burst out: "Oh. ma! I feel awful lonely in this big "Not much she wasn't! She was a shirt." "What is the greatest charge on

> record?" asked the professor of history. And the absent-minded student answered: "Seventeen dollars for hack hire for self and girl for two hours." "You never saw my hands as dirty as

that!" said a petulant mother to her little girl. "No, but perhaps your ma "They was! I believe you are sorry did!" was the sharp, if not respectful, PHYSICIANS say it is not healthy to-

sleep in the daytime. That is why the baby which is taken to church never goes to sleep. It knows what is good for its health. An old citizen in a country viliage,

being asked for a subscription toward repairing the fence of the graveyard, declined, saying, "I subscribed toward improvin' that buryin' ground nigh onto forty years ago, and my family hain't had no benefit from it yet."

now and then, and somehow neither side "Give the young man a chance," says a writer. Yes, give him a chance at a church festival in a raffle for a blue-eyed doll in poke-bonnet, and a "just too lovely for anything." Give him a chanceto go out and kick himself full of holes because he went to the festival. -Christian at Work.

A Young man living in Leadville shipped to his little brother in St. Louis a choice donkey of the diminutive species known as the Mexican burro. The agent, in making out his manifest, concluded that "burro" meant "bureau." and reported accordingly to his superior, "one bureau missing and one jackass

"How is this for cheek?" inquired J. R. Davis, one of Barnum's representatives, Girard House, Philadelphia, to a reporter, as he grabbed a handful of the skin on the left side of John Hoffmier's face and pulled it out five or six inches. like so much India-rubber. The reporter was struck dumb by Mr. Davis' cheeky behavior, but he was still more astonished to see Hoffmier smile as though he enjoyed the maltreatment, Then Mr. Davis explained that Hoffmier is the wonderful "India-rubber man" who has puzzled German and French savants for several years. Although the rara avis with the elastic cuticle does not speak or understand English, he smiled approvingly when Mr. Davis ceased speaking, and then, as if to sustain his reputation, pulled a handful of skin on the back part of his head around to his mouth and bit it. covered his entire face with the folds of skin which he drew up from his throat and neck, and pulled the skin on his arms and legs thirteen inches away from the flesh. The most remarkable thing Gold was discovered in California in is that as soon as the skin is released it instantly contracts to its original place. and as far as appearance is concerned does not differ from the epidermis of The first horse railroad was built in any healthy white person. The skin is very fair and its texture is remarkably fine-so fine, indeed, that it feels more like an infant's than an adult's.

The first steamboat plied the Hudson A CURLY-HAIRED boy, being complained of by a New York merchant, for peddling A mile is 5,280 feet, or 1,760 yards in buttous in front of his store, pleaded his own case before the Justice as fol-A CINCINNATI woman who found a lows: "I live with my father and mother. I am a poor boy, and if my parbaby in a basket on her door-step, took ents were rich I would not have to pedsaved the basket to carry home her mardle. My father was a merchant not many years ago, but now he has to peddle, too." The Justice remarked that the FOREPAUGH claims to have made complaining merchant took up mere of the sidewalk with his business than the boy did, and that as he was trying to but for whisky and a circus it always earn an honest living he would not interfere with him,