

A Trip to Elk Valley.

On the morning of July 30 "Uncle" John Cabler and your correspondent started from the Holton ranch, three miles from Talbot, for a trip to the Elk Creek valley, the former in search of a homestead and myself to look about for a new field for prospective settlers. Elk creek is a northern tributary of the Rogue river. We reached it about forty-five miles from our starting point on the second day, having camped the first night at Captain Black's free ferry on the Rogue river, thirty-six miles on the road. We found the aged captain one of nature's truest noblemen, and though somewhat hard of hearing his faithful dog makes up in part for that deficiency. The next morning we crossed the river, and a drive of two miles brought us to Knighten's Trail creek ranch and Trail postoffice, and three miles further brought us to Elk creek bridge, but instead of crossing the bridge we passed up the left bank. The Johnson Brothers have lately taken out a ditch here that when completed will keep the Alfalfa growing from the head to the foot of their valuable ranch, a distance of about fifteen miles. The ditch is in bad shape along about a mile of the grade, a fact that settlers are complaining about.

For a distance of twelve miles we passed many fine ranches and gardens, all well irrigated. This brought us to the north and east forks and Sam Geary's ranch. This is rather celebrated as the "hunters home," but we found no one at home. In the evening an old war veteran, Graham, came along and informed us that a party of eight had left that morning for the berry patches several miles above and had left him to keep house. A noticeable lack of dogs and guns also reminded us that as the closed game season ended the next day, berries were not the only attraction. Wittingham and Geary are the hunters of the Elk creek woods, and married sisters, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Pence, who live five miles from the bridge.

The morning of the third day out I left my friend Cabler with our mutual friend, Graham, and went with the ponies to the Willitts ranch, up the east branch. Mr. Willitts is a college graduate, and a son of Amos Willitts, of Ashland, who, with his wife, a daughter of J. B. Wrisley, of Medford, and their children have resided here for ten years with the nearest neighbors six miles away. They own thirty acres of well watered glade and all outside range. Asked if they were lonesome, they said they were "not at all" as work and good health made up for all disadvantages. The Willitts have a garden containing as fine vegetables and berries as can be found anywhere in the Rogue river valley. Mr. Willitts is state game overseer for his locality.

But notwithstanding the fact that they said they were not lonesome, these people are very anxious to have settlers nearer, as they are the only settlers in township 32 south, range 2 east. And there is no reason why they should expect them, as there is all here that a young man might desire (next to a wife) to make him a home. The soil is rich, a dark loam, not very rocky, but well timbered and watered. Every acre can be irrigated. The outlet is Elk creek valley by easy grades, passing only one low divide, and then a good state and county road to the Southern Pacific Railroad company at Medford or Central Point, about thirty-five miles from the junction of Elk creek and the Rogue river. A county road has been graded part of the way along Elk creek for ten miles, and has been extended by county appropriations along the east branch six miles further up. The heads of the branches abound in open glades and springs; fishing and hunting is the best on the coast, while frost does not hurt fruit, grain or vegetables. A young man that cannot make a home here in a few years is no good.

William Willitts knows the corners and lines and holds himself in readiness to, for a small fee, show home-seekers over this vast area of half a county of vacant domain. His address is Prospect, Jackson county, Oregon.

S. SHERMAN.

The Delights of Dead Indian.

We feel not a little fatigued after a journey of about thirty-five miles beneath the rays of the summer's sun but after all what a pleasure to behold the beautiful scenery of a Superiorland. The extensive camping ground, interspersed by fir trees from fifty to one hundred feet in height around which twines Oregon's maple that extends a shade so dense as to exclude sunshine and showers, is a most desirable place for summer months. High in the mountains we repose, or if you like, in a deep canyon on the north of

which Butte creek makes her way from mountain tops until lost in a quiet ravine, dashing far beyond.

To the south we turn and observe a sparkling stream rushing through a solid bed of rock, dancing over pebbles, laughing at the spectators until overtaking her sister. She too winds her way never to return. Allured by virtue as of spring, tall ferns, moss cushioned rocks, and refreshing breezes, we walk over an oft trodden path for at least a quarter of a mile and there enraptured behold the goal of Dead Indian—strong, ice cold soda water springing from a rock that gladly embosoms so great a benefactor of man. None but they who have indulged the luxury fresh from the spring can fully appreciate this of Nature's wonders.

Far removed from the bustle of the busy world we fish and hunt with success that the Indian might well envy, and on the shaded hill tops gather berries to our hearts' content. When the candles of heaven are lighted about eighty of us in number gather around a cheerful bon-fire when a couple of hours are devoted to music and song. Under the superior supervision of the committee, Messrs. Robert Vining and Gean Blackford, Mrs. M. A. Taylor and Miss Sadie Maury, a most enjoyable entertainment was rendered to the audience which consists of distinguished persons from all over the valley.

Below is the program of Monday evening:

Opening address	Mr. Severns
Orchestra	Miss Brown and Mr. Blackford
Song	Mrs. Reynolds
Speech	Mr. P. W. Oswald
Recitation	Miss Lottie Taylor
Song	Miss Grinn
Duet	Misses Brown and Taylor
Song	Miss Emma Grimes
Orchestra	Miss Richardson
Orchestra	Miss Brown and Mr. Blackford
Recitation	Miss Mary Oswald
Song	Mrs. M. A. Taylor
Recitation	Miss Daisy Oswald
Song	Mr. Kazan
Recitation	Miss Clara Grimes

Thus peacefully glide our lives down the current of time, chronicling events among which a summer vacation at Dead Indian shall recall sweet memories of youthful days.

A GIRL WHO WAS THERE.

STORY OF A MISSING BABY.

Curious Experience of a Parisian Lady of Position.

The recent experience of a Parisian lady of position, writes Miranda in the Lady's Pictorial, may serve as a useful warning to some of my readers who reside abroad. The lady in question returned from a ball one night much earlier than she had given her servants reason to expect, and to her consternation found three members of her household missing, the nurse, the housemaid and—the baby! Greatly terrified, she rushed to the concierge to make inquiries, and after some preparation the man informed her that the two servants, fancying their mistress would not return for some hours, had gone to a notorious dancing place, taking the baby with them, and there the lady would be certain to find all three "quite safe and sound." As the master of the house was absent, the distracted mother went to seek a male relative, and together they visited the locality indicated, where they found the two women drinking with friends, but no baby. In reply to frantic inquiries after her child, the housemaid indignantly told her mistress—whose smartest new gown she had borrowed for the evening, by the way—"that madam need not excite herself, the infant was in good hands." At first she refused to say where; but by dint of threats it was dragged from her that the child had been taken to a low inn close at hand. Here the enraged parent found her precious offspring asleep in a filthy bed with eight other children, who were all being taken charge of at one franc fifty centimes a head while their nurses enjoyed themselves. Needless to say, the two wretches were dismissed on the spot.

NEW WOMEN IN ENGLAND.

Recent Judicial Opinions Which Will Interest Them.

Two or three of her majesty's judges have given expression to sentiments of particular interest to womankind, says the New York Sun. Thus Sir Forest Fulton, the Recorder Smyth of the London criminal courts, instructed a jury that "bigamy on the part of a woman was a very different thing from bigamy on the part of a man, and the jury must require strong evidence that the prisoner was aware that her husband was alive when she contracted her second marriage."

The judge of another court when taking his seat on the bench saw some one in the public gallery wearing a standing collar and four-in-hand with a cap on his head. "Take off that hat, sir!" came the order again, in the sternest tones from the bench.

Then came the reply in a weak voice from the gallery:

"Please, your honor, it's a lady."

The judge started for a moment, and then exclaimed:

"A woman, is it? Then why does she dress like that?"

There was no explanation, and the business of the court went on.

Another judge decided, to the consternation of English housewives, that a mistress has no right to compel servants to pay for broken crockery or to discharge them without notice for such faults unless it is the agreement when the servant is engaged.

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SOLDIERS TO BE SPARED.

They Would Have Been Beheaded Under the Usual Custom.

The stipulation in the treaty of peace between China and Japan that the Chinese who have been captured by the Japanese and others who sold supplies to the Japanese troops in their march through Manchuria and Shantung shall not be punished by the Chinese authorities, was inspired by humane considerations. It is the custom of China to behead such of her soldiers as fall into the hands of the enemy, and are afterward returned to their country. During several naval and land engagements upward of five thousand Chinese troops were captured by Japanese, and it is to preserve their lives that the foregoing provision was inserted in the treaty. The same considerations influenced the other provision relative to the purchase of supplies from Chinese subjects. The curious fact develops in this connection that China has not a single prisoner of war belonging to Japan.

The United Press dispatch, which contained the exclusive announcement that the indemnity of two hundred million taels will be paid in seven yearly installments differs from official reports previously received, which limited the payment to five instead of seven installments. It is believed, however, that the statement contained in the United Press dispatch is correct. While no definite information has been received regarding the matter, it is understood that the indemnity will take the form of a bond issue on the part of China, the bonds to be retired during a period of seven years, and to bear interest at five per cent. per annum. The presumption is still very strong that the indemnity will be paid in silver.

Until the beginning of the war between China and Japan each country had a consular jurisdiction over its subjects in the other country. It would now appear that Japan will no longer grant this privilege to China, although stipulating for a continuance of this right for herself. The explanation given for this exception is that Japan is now a civilized country, with a code of laws based on the highest principles of justice and equity, and that she can be safely treated, therefore, to deal fairly with the Chinese subjects living within her borders. China, on the other hand, it is asserted, is still a barbarous country, and foreigners there must receive the protection of their own country since little, if any, will be afforded to them by the local authorities.

NICHOLAS II. IN PEACE.

Russia's Interests Are at This Time All Opposed to War.

There is no safety in predicting any turn in a game in which a youthful monarch of Russia holds a strong hand, but, though many rumors have been running around about the new czar, Nicholas II., there seems no probability of his undertaking any inflammable role, says Col. T. O. Dodge in the Forum. Russia has so much more to gain in peace than war. Barely a third of her army has the new small-bore rifle, and it will be two years before the other regiments are so equipped. Her revenues are none too great. Russia needs her money for the great trans-Siberian railway, and she ought not to blow it out of the mouths of big guns. No doubt there is a tension in many of the international relations, but that is always present, and diplomats are growing more reasonable. It is probable that what has been said of the character of Nicholas is in the main true; and this should lead him to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious father and make Russia still the dictator of peace.

No man will be rash enough to say that war may not come. Every one of the continents has spots where an accidental outbreak, the blunder of an overzealous servant, may work such a hardship, actual or ideal, to some great power as shall call for an excited demand for reparation. It is then that coal heads, if not thick skins, are in demand; and it is then that the effervescence of journalists in search of circulation or notoriety does most harm. The human animal, according to his kind, is the silliest of all animals, if we measure him rightly. I know of no other that is capable of such irrational freaks, and it is on these that peace or war hangs by a hair. But, to resume, I do not believe, despite all the talk, that there is in the present status of the world a set of conditions which will lead to early war.

The Lake of Blood.

Every polar expedition and whaling vessel which visits the Baffin bay region puts in at Vaureke Bank, so as to allow explorers and seamen to visit the celebrated Lake of Blood. Of it the author of "My Summer in the North" says: "It is a lake of considerable extent, lying only a few feet above the level of the sea, and appears of a deep dark blood red. Careful examination proved, however, that the water itself was as pure and clear as possible; the red effect being due to the fact that the bottom and sides of the lake, as well as the few stones which were scattered about in it, were coated most perfectly with the red snow plant. In some places, where the water had evaporated, the withered red plants on the soil and rocks looked exactly like dried spots of blood."

Nature's Lightning Rod.

M. Ovaroff, the Russian electrician of Moscow, and Prof. Hirsch, government forest inspector of the same city, have made some investigation concerning the liability to lightning stroke of certain species of trees. In the summers of 1893 and 1894, the two scientists mentioned spent 109 days in the great forests between Moscow and Remezoff, and during that time found 597 trees that had recently been struck by lightning. Of the total number of marked trees 302 were found to be white poplar (populus alba), this notwithstanding the fact that that species is not any ways near as common as a half dozen or dozen other varieties. On Ovaroff's suggestion the government recommends that the peasants use it as a lightning conductor.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

Violent Acts of Lawbreakers and Losses by Fire and Accidents.

A party of men and women is reported lost on Mount Tacoma.

Alexander Rach, an expert accountant, committed suicide at Stockton.

J. H. Mullen of Albany, Or., committed suicide by drowning at Victoria. Ex-Supervisor H. Tillotson has been held to answer to the charge of arson at San Jose.

The plant of the Central Stamping company at Newark, N. J., burned recently. Loss, \$500,000.

John S. Judd, freight agent at Sacramento of the Union Pacific railroad, hanged himself recently.

Miss Elizabeth Bird, prominent in society at Buffalo, N. Y., killed herself with a revolver some days ago.

Four trainmen were killed by an accident near Bainbridge, O. A bridge gave way under a loaded freight train.

Wong Sing, a Chinese of Fresno, has been arrested and will be deported to China. He failed to get a certificate entitling him to stay.

Ford Folgraph, a San Jose boy, was loading a revolver lately when a cartridge exploded and the shell struck him in the eye, destroying his sight.

Five sawmills near Tacoma have been destroyed. The fires in the northern part of the state have been more disastrous than those near Olympia.

Samuel T. Boyd was arrested at Napa, Cal., on a complaint sworn to by his 13-year-old daughter charging him with assaulting her. Boyd is the father of 10 children, three of whom are married.

Willie Melia, aged 7 years, and Jesse Melia, aged 3 years, of Rockport, Ind., were found guilty of horse stealing and sent to the reform school at Plainfield.

H. Davidson, alias Kimball, who murdered a man in Hamburg, Iowa, last year, is in jail at Riverside, Cal. He will be taken to Iowa on the arrival of an officer.

A man crossing the iron bridge near Verdi, Nev., was struck by a train and killed. He was knocked into the river and his body has not been recovered. The man was well dressed.

Lawrence Melsenzahn, 18 years old, shot and killed a negro named James Van Zant at Centralia, Wash., while he was robbing the youth's home on a recent night.

Three tramps tried to hold up three stonecutters in a box car on the Erie railroad and a battle resulted. One tramp was shot and one stonecutter also got a bullet in him.

Mary Silva, a young girl, was killed by a train near Biggs, Cal., the other night. The girl was asleep on the track and the engineer did not discover her until it was too late to stop the train.

George Lohmer, an embezzling bookkeeper of Cleveland, O., was arrested and a few hours later he suicided in his cell. His shortage was \$10,000, but his friends covered a considerable amount of it.

W. C. Donaldson, the absconding assistant postmaster of Caldwell, Kan., has been arrested at Girard, Kan. He disappeared in December, 1893, with about \$4,000 of postoffice funds and other money.

A shocking outrage occurred in Iberville, opposite Montreal, the other day. Four men brutally assaulted a 14-year-old girl, who was found tied naked to a tree with a frog in her throat to prevent her crying out.

The British ship Prince Oscar collided with an unknown vessel in the middle of the Atlantic. Both ships sank in less than 10 minutes. All on board the unknown vessel were lost and six of the crew of the Prince Oscar perished.

Empire Sheridan was mobbed at Terre Haute, Ind., the other day at the conclusion of a baseball game. The crowd on the "bleachers" did not like his decisions and they broke over the fence and mauled Sheridan. The players came to Sheridan's assistance and several men were hurt.

Miss Marzee Pride, an estimable young lady of Paris, Tex., suicided by jumping head foremost into a well 45 feet deep, with six feet of water. She

was mentally deranged, the affliction dating back to the horrible murder of her brother, a prosperous ranchman, two years ago.

The Liverpool police arrested on the steamer Etruria an American woman booked for New York under the alias of Stanley. She was charged with stealing jewelry to the value of \$10,000 from Mrs. Gibbons of London, whose guest she was during July under the name of Millie Millet. The jewelry has been recovered.

Fremont Smith, convicted of murdering two fishermen at Colusa, was recently hanged at San Quentin. The execution was a horrible sight. Smith was very heavy and the drop nearly severed his head from his body. The blood spurted in every direction. Smith protested his innocence to the last and denounced Governor Budd for not interfering to save him.

The body of George Budizick, an Austrian ironmolder, lies in the dead room of the Cook county insane asylum at Dunning, Ill., and two burly attendants, George Goff and John Anderson, are in jail. They are charged with murder, for these two men so brutally ill-treated the insane patient that he died a day after he was intrusted to their care.

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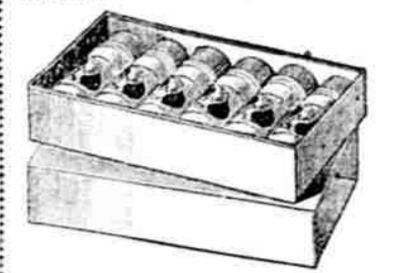
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