

A KENTUCKY MULE.
A Gray Hated Old Fellow Tread a Road and Finally Killed It.
Sam Parson's gray mule Zeke is old and gray, but he possesses great strength, both of understanding and of body.
Saturday old Sam concluded that he wouldn't work, and accordingly he shouldered his muzzle leading rifle and went hunting. But before departing he turned Zeke out to grass.
Finding the grass around the parson's cabin rather scanty, Zeke wandered down the edge of the creek next to the mountain side. There within the shadow of the woods he struck a nice, tender clump of grass and immediately began to eat it with great delight. While engaged in this congenial task a large black bear came down the mountain side and approached Zeke. Zeke had probably never seen a bear before, as the ursine tribe has long been scarce in these mountains. Nor is it likely that the bear had ever on any previous occasion looked upon a mule. But this bear was hungry and, while Zeke was big game that he had bargained for, he evidently thought it worth while to take a look at him, for he came a little nearer. Zeke was not a bit afraid. He had never stood in awe of manhood, and not even Old Sam, his master, and it was not likely that at this late period of his life he would be afraid of any four-footed creature that walked the earth. Zeke calmly went on with his pleasant task of eating grass. The bear eyed another yard. Zeke switched his tail and cleverly knocked a fly off his back, and being relieved of the burden of the insect still munched the grass.
The bear began to grow inquisitive. He evidently did not understand what kind of an animal Zeke was, his studies in zoology being limited. He stood upon his haunches and growled, not as a threat, but as a kind of friendly salute. Zeke did not raise his head, and still munched the grass. The bear stopped growling and walked in a respectful circle around Zeke, studying him from every corner. He might have been a hundred miles away for all the notice Zeke took. The bear was puzzled and uttered another growl of interrogation. Again finding himself unnoticed he began to grow angry.
The bear went around behind Zeke and came very close, evidently determined to try by touch to arouse the strange animal. Suddenly Zeke doubled himself up in a knot and leaped high in the air. Two legs flew out of the bunch like piston rods and caught the bear in the side, whirling him over in a complete somersault. When he struck the ground he righted himself and rushed away with a growl of pain. But Zeke was not after him, and the bear, seeing that he would be overtaken, scrambled up a hickory tree, barely missing a terrible drive of Zeke's hind heels.
Noon came and still Zeke was under the tree. The afternoon passed. It was almost sundown, but still Zeke was there. The bear could stand it no longer. Zeke was about twenty feet away from the tree, apparently taking no notice, and accordingly he crawled down the trunk as quietly as possible, intending to slip away in the forest. Barely had he touched the ground when Zeke turned with a snort and leaped upon him. So fast did his hind legs flash back and forth that they looked like the driving rods of an engine. In a minute the bear was dead, every bone in his body broken. Mrs. Parsons, who saw it all from the door of her cabin, says that the bear didn't even have time to growl. When asked why she hadn't taken a gun from the house and shot the bear in the tree—for she is a girl woodsman and bold as a man—she replied:
"I knowed Zeke didn't need no help, and besides I didn't want to spile the fun."—Pond Creek (Ky.) Cor. New York Sun.

Falling from a Great Height.
It will be remembered that Mr. Whympy, who had a severe succession of falls once in the Alps, without losing his consciousness, declares emphatically that as he bounded from one rock to another he felt absolutely no pain. The same thing happens on the battlefield; the entrance of the bullet into the body is not felt, and it is not till he feels the blood flowing or a limb paralyzed that the soldier knows he is wounded.
Persons who have had several limbs broken by a fall do not know which limb is broken till they try to rise. At the moment of a fall the whole intellectual activity is increased to an extraordinary degree. There is not a trace of anxiety. One considers quickly what will happen. This is by no means the consequence of "presence of mind." It is rather the product of absolute necessity. A solemn composure takes possession of the victim. Death by fall is a beautiful one. Great thoughts fill the victim's soul; they fall painlessly into a great blue sky.—Drake's Magazine.

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