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WILD BILL'S FIRST FIGHT.

He Was Wounded but Killed Six Mem-
bers of the McKandias Gang.
Wild Bill, whose real name was
James Hickok, first came west in
1857, and drove an ox team on the
plains for Majors & Russell in 1860.
He subsequently engaged himself to
the overland stage company as stock
tender and was put in charge of a
new stage station on Rock Creek, near
the old McKandias station, which was
generally known as Robbers' Roost.
This was the headquarters for the Mc-
Kandias gang, a crowd that had held
together since the Missouri-Kansas
border ruffian days and generally had
things their own way. A man named
Ficklin, and a number one stage hand,
was the superintendent. He tried to
buy out the McKandias station, but
failing in this, he built a new one near
by, putting young Hickok in charge.
Up to that time he had never experi-
enced trouble with any one, and was
not likely to have friction, especially
with the old station keeper, McKan-
dias, or his men.
In the winter of 1890-91 McKandias
and his nephew and four other men
passed by the new station on horse-
back, leading an old man who was
sfoot. They had a rope around the
old fellow's neck, and occasionally
they would take a few turns around
the horn of the saddle, make a run on
the rope and jerk the old man down
and drag him on the ground until he
was nearly dead. The only spite they
had against him was that he was a
North Methodist preacher. If Wild
Bill was anything he was an abolition-
ist and free-soiler and loyal to the
United States. The McKandias crowd
was planning to make a raid on sev-
eral stations to secure the stock and
go south. They told young Hickok
they would take the stock. He replied
that he would be there.
When they returned late in the even-
ing two stopped at the corral, two
went to the front and two to the back
door of the cabin or hut. Hickok told
them he would shoot the first man who
took down the bars of the corral. The
elder McKandias fired at Hickok, but
missed him. Hickok returned the fire
with a rifle, and shot McKandias in
the heart. The next shot from Hickok
killed the nephew, and the two fell at
the front door. Just then the two at
the back door opened fire. One shot
from a double-barreled gun lodged sev-
en full-grown buckshot into Hickok's
right side and breast, two of which
entered his lungs. The two men who
stopped at the corral came to the as-
sistance of the two men at the house.
Hickok was then in a hand-to-hand
fight with four men. He killed three
of them in the house, and wounded the
other so badly that he died on the
prairie.—Denver Field and Farm.

OLD FARMS NOT FOR SALE.
New Englanders Hold Them for Burial
Sites.
"All the farms in New England are
not in the market," said a man whose
business tends to speculation in farm
property. "Some are being held by
the old people as a matter of senti-
ment."
"In one of my recent trips down in
Maine I stopped at a farmhouse that
was erected more than sixty years ago.
The owner did not know it, but I had
gone all over his land and had taken a
fancy to it. He and his housekeeper
were the sole occupants of the house
at the time of my visit.
"We were on the veranda one even-
ing, when I broached the subject of
buying his farm. He said it was not
for sale at any price. I suggested as
diplomatically as I could that he would
not need the place much longer, and
that with the money I proposed to pay
him he could pass the remainder of his
days in peace and independence.
"I knew that he had a boy in New
York who was doing well, and who
would never return to the old farm. I
mentioned this as an inducement to
make the trade. He shook his head
the more determinedly.
"That's the reason," he said, "that I
don't want to sell. If it was not for
that boy I might be tempted to let the
old place go. But it's this way:
"He was born here. He went to
school not more than three miles from
here. He knows every path in the
woods. He has played all over this
ground as far as your eyes can see.
"Just across the field over there is
the family burying ground. His mother
and brother and sister are all there,
side by side. I guess you are right
when you say he will not want to come
back. He's got to be quite a city man,
and I never expect to see him come
back here to live. Perhaps 'tain't nat-
ural that he should.
"I ain't never asked him to come
back, and I don't think that I ever
shall. But some of these days when
he gets along where I am now, maybe
he'll get tired. Of course, he'll have
his own home in the city by that time,
where he can sit down and take it
easy. I hope so.
"But after that it may be some con-
solation to him to know that he will
be sent back here. That's why the
farm ain't for sale."
"And this refusal to sell is the re-
sult of many others in the old State.
They are holding on their places for
the sake of their children who have
gone away, but who, they are sure,
will be sent back if they do not come
of their own volition. That is why the
old farms in New England are not for
sale."—New York Sun.

Out of Work.
"I would gladly work, ma'am," re-
plied the tramp, when reproached for
begging, "but the fact is I can't find
any work at my trade."
"That's unfortunate. What is your
trade?"
"I'm an ambergis hunter. You know
ambergis is worth \$15 an ounce, but
notwithstanding that and that it can
be found in the ocean no one will ad-
vance me money to purchase a steam-
ship in order to go after it."—Detroit
Free Press.

**Somehow, when every woman
catches sight of herself and husband
in a mirror, she is reminded of a story
she once read years ago called "Beauty
and the Beast."
After an undertaker gets through
with a man there is never any likeli-
hood of him coming to life again.**

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Manufacturers of sausage and lard.
Fish and game in season.
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**Statement of the Condition of the
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At the Close of Business, Sept. 15, 1902
(No. 4988.)
CAPITAL STOCK, \$50,000.00.
Surplus and Profits, \$83,941.56.

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