

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY. THE REGISTER BUILDING. CORNER FERRY AND FIRST STREETS. VOL. VAN CLEVE & CO., PROPRIETORS. J. H. MAINE, JR., CILL VAN CLEVE.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 1880.

A Wonderful Lake.

While sleek, we met with a description of life in central Florida, of which the following is the substance. It reads, indeed, like some of the stories in The Arabian Nights, but having the confirmation of scientific authority in the person of J. P. Seeley, we do not hesitate to publish the account.

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Seeing nothing unusual about the place I was on the point of expressing my disappointment to the guide, when he, having read my thoughts, all at once by asking that I make a careful survey of the water, remarking, at the same time, that while there was really nothing extraordinary about the lake itself, it was strangely and wonderfully uninhabited.

I turned my attention to the water, and was soon convinced that I had, undoubtedly, met with a phenomenon, for it was so clear, so very transparent, that I could see through it in every direction with as much apparent ease as if it had been the atmosphere itself.

Suddenly, while I was gazing in wonder upon these strange creatures, a new actor appeared in the person of a large animal, about the size, shape, and color of a huge musk-rat.

The officer, consenting, accompanied her into the cabin, the baker having driven away, telling the policeman he would be in court next day to prefer the charge before the police judge.

About this time I noticed a second monster equally as frightful in appearance as the one just referred to, though evidently of a different species.

affairs showed a prospect of taking; I desired that his banqueting should be disturbed. And it was. The near-comer found him, and went in for a share of the prey.

"Half a day of more was spent by me in watching the inhabitants of this Florida wonder. In the course of that time I saw very many strange sights, more than I could hint at in a short article like this.

The Three Leaves.

The day was bitterly cold in Virginia City as winter days most generally are in that Alpine town, and though the sun was bright, it was as cheerless and chill almost as moonbeams.

Even such cold weather as this did not deter Mr. Dawson from attending to the wants of his customers with the assiduity and attention characteristic of his class.

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"Oh, my poor little brother!" she cried, bitterly. "What will become of you now? This man is going to take your Lena away with him."

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The officer, suspecting the actual state of affairs, began to cough convulsively; but instead of applying his hand to his chest or throat, as people usually do on such occasions, he applied his handkerchief to his eyes.

"Is there no coal, or nothing at all to eat in the house?" said he in a gurgling sort of voice.

"No coal, no bread, nothing to eat," replied the girl, wringing her hands; and poor Willie and the rest of a household had nothing to eat since yesterday morning.

Here the officer had another hard fit of coughing, and went away, saying that he would be back again in a short time.

"Is the man gone for bread?" asked the oldest of the children.

"I don't know what he is gone for. He's not a bad man, anyhow, for he hasn't arrested me, as I thought he would."

In a very few minutes the officer returned with his arms full of bread and groceries, not forgetting some cake and confections for the smallest children.

At sight of the bread, the children screamed with delight, while the officer now laughed, now coughed, and frequently applied his handkerchief to his face, to wipe off the perspiration, as it were.

Happy childhood, whose prerogatives are innocence, mirth and joy! The children after their dinner, didn't look like the same children at all.

"And now," said the officer, delighted at seeing the children so happy, "sit down, Lena, and answer me a few questions. Have you no father or mother?"

"We have no mother," was Lena's reply. "She died about a year ago, and father went away to Eureka to work about eight months ago, and we haven't seen him ever since."

"What is your father's name?" "Dawson—Jim Dawson."

"And he sent you no money—nothing?"

"Nothing. Never heard of him since he went away. But when he was going he left us a bag of flour, and lots of groceries and things—such as we would last us for six months, and he'd be sure and be back before the provisions were all out."

"Not one," replied Lena, with a deep sigh.

Poor Dawson had written to his children, however, but postal communication being at that time very irregular and uncertain in the Silver State, the children did not receive his letters.

"Well, I must go now," said the officer, after a pause, "but I will call for you to-morrow, and you'll have to accompany me up to the police station, for I must do my duty, you know Good-bye."

And Lena Dawson was left alone with her little brothers and sisters. She felt sad and lonesome after the departure of her kind benefactor, but the buoyancy of childhood soon gained the ascendancy, and before bed-time the orphans were as happy as any group of little children in Virginia City.

Meantime, the report about the stealing of the bread and the destitute condition of the children got abroad. Jim Dawson, a miner himself, was well known and popular among the miners, and the case created such sympathy and elicited so many reminiscences and commentaries, that quite a crowd was attracted next day to the police court.

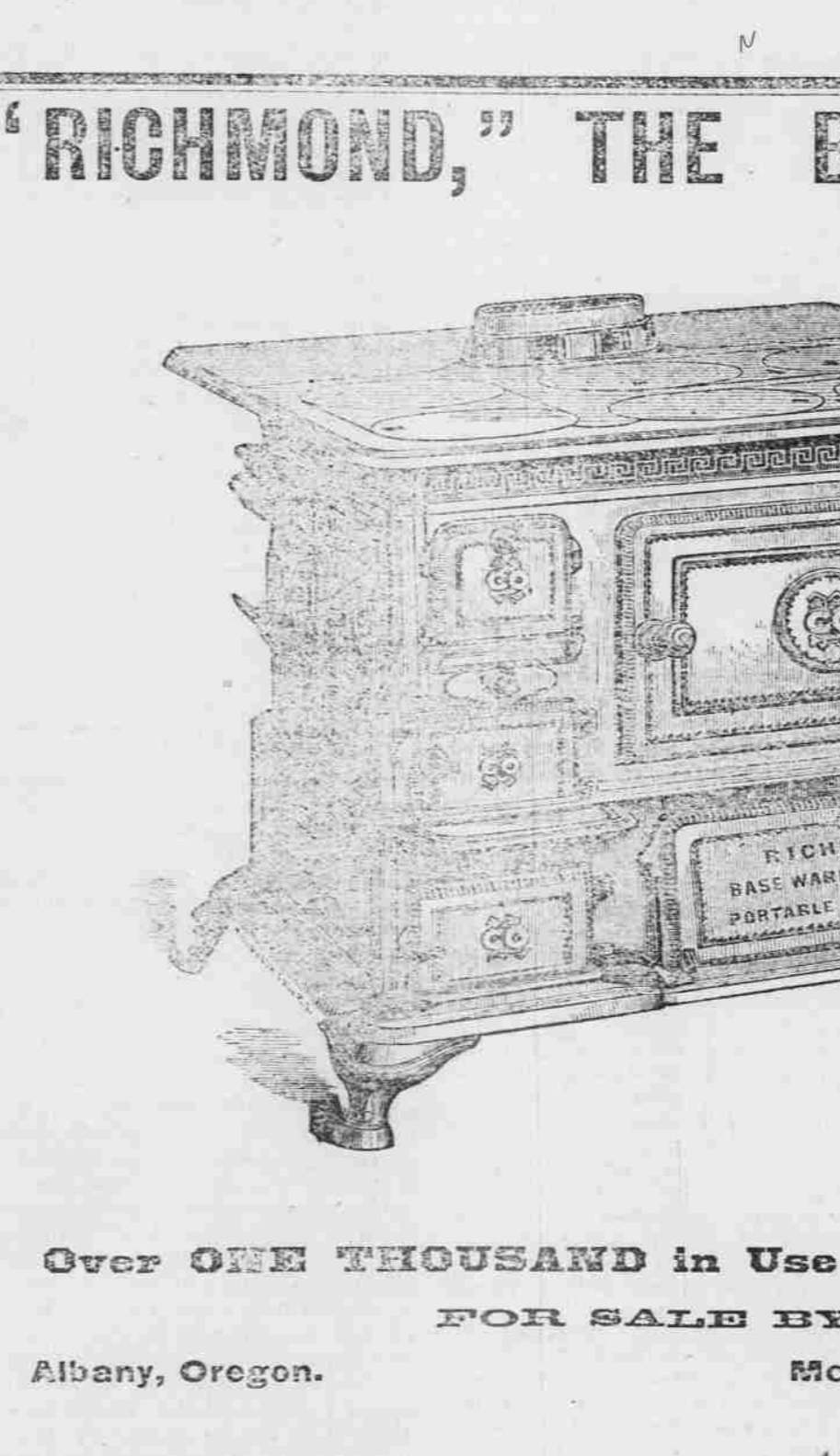
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