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State Rights Democrat

VOL. XIV.

ALBANY, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1879.

NO. 28.

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"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER."

HOW IT FOUND ITS TUNE. Mrs. Nellie Kysters, a lady now residing in San Francisco, contributes for the readers of the Chronicle the following historical reminiscence appropriate to the anniversary of the attack on Baltimore by the British fleet, and the repulse of the expedition of Fort M'Henry, which occurred Sept. 13, 1812.

Having permanently located in the city of Albany, and entered upon the thirty-first year of his practice, respectfully tenders his professional services to the citizens of Albany and surrounding country.

Below are the words of a poem which Frank Key gave me, and which he composed during the awful night of the 13th when the prisoners on board of Cockburn's vessels. He had gone on board protected by a flag of truce, to effect the release of some friends who were held captives in it, and was not allowed to return. So he witnessed—

1. That fish may be scaled much easier by dipping them in hot water than a minute.

2. That fish may as well be scaled, if desired, before packing down in salt, though in this case do not scald them.

3. That salt fish are quickest and best freshened by soaking in sour milk.

4. That milk which is turned or changed may be sweetened and rendered fit for use again by stirring in a little soda.

5. That salt will curdle milk; hence, in preparing milk porridge, gravies, etc., the salt should not be added until the dish is prepared.

6. That fresh meat after beginning to sour, will sweeten, if placed out in the cool over night.

7. That clear boiling water will remove tea stains and many fruit stains. Pour the water through the stains, and thus prevent its spreading over the fabric.

8. That ripe tomatoes will remove ink and other stains from white cloth, also from the hands.

9. That a teaspoonful of turpentine boiled with your white clothes will aid the whitening process.

10. That beeswax and salt will smooth your fat irons as clean and smooth as glass. Tie a lump of wax in rag, and keep it for that purpose. When the irons are hot, rub them first with the wax rag then scour with a paper or cloth sprinkled with suet.

11. That blue ointment and kerosene, mixed in equal proportions and applied to bedsteads, is an unfailing bed remedy; and that a coat of whitewash is ditto for the walls of log houses.

12. That kerosene will soften boots or shoes that have been hardened by water, and render them as pliable as new.

13. That kerosene will keep tin kettles bright as new. Saturate a woolen rag and rub with it. It will also remove stains from clean varnished furniture.

14. That cool water and soda will remove machine grease from washable fabrics.

A GENTLEMANLY TRAMP. A tramp's reputation as a gentleman of leisure whose impulses are good, albeit his habits are bad, and who, like Joseph Poorgars, "feels his humble gratitude" for favors received, stands vindicated. Four years ago, a Dakota farmer, a brother-in-law, by the way, of Kellogg, who fell beside General Custer, on the Little Big Horn—had finished his supper, when a dirty, ragged, foot-sore tramp called at the house and begged for something to eat, saying he was on his way to California, but had had hard luck, having been taken sick after starting. Mr. Safford made him welcome, and his wife went to work and cooked supper for the stranger. They not only allowed him to stay over night, but entertained him for a week, until he had recovered his health. Two months ago the stranger, who during his four years' absence in California had "struck it rich," went back to Dakota, and in disguise, again spent the night under Mr. Safford's roof. The next morning the tramp departed without making himself known and the conversation and incident forgotten, when the good people received through the post office a sealed package, which contained the deed of one of the finest farms in the neighborhood, having a good house, barn, stock, wagons, agricultural implements and everything complete. It was accompanied by an explanatory letter, that the giver wished them to accept the deed of this farm, which he had purchased especially for those who had divided with him in need, and treated him kindly when foot-sore and poor. He assured them that he was the tramp they had entertained years before.

PRISONERS AT LIBERTY.

How They Tunnelled for Liberty. During the winter of 1863-4 there were above 1,000 Federal officers confined in Libby prison, at Richmond, Va. In December, 1863, Col. Rose, of the One Hundredth Pennsylvania, conceived the idea of escaping by means of a tunnel. He communicated his plans to some of his comrades, who promised their co-operation in the matter. The great difficulty they found was in getting access to the basement of the building, where they designed commencing operations. They could get access to the first floor of the eastern division, for this was occupied by hospital cooks, who were enlisted soldiers who had been captured; but there was no opening into the basement. There was however a large chimney leading up from a fire-place in the basement. They finally discovered that they could go down the aperture of the chimney and reach the basement. At the east end of the building there was a narrow alley, upon the opposite side of which was a lot of considerable size, near the center of which there was an unused stable, this stable being some distance beyond the guards, who were stationed near the building. It was the design of the projectors of the tunnel to open the terminus of it in this stable. The greatest difficulty encountered was at the beginning. They had to effect an opening in the foundation wall, which was of stone. To do this they had no better tools than a few small hatchets, which were used about the prison for splitting kindlings. After great labor an opening was effected. But the tunnel must be walled and arched. The only material that could be found for this was the wooden boxes which had contained articles of food and clothing, sent to the prisoners from their homes. The secret of the tunnel had been compromised by the escape of one of the men, who had been seen by the sentry; but they were driving at; but to avoid this, after using their own boxes, they procured the services of the hospital cooks, who would go among the prisoners and beg their empty boxes for fire-wood. Only one man could work in the tunnel at the same time, and consequently the work proceeded slowly. Then the tools they had to work with, knives and open-sticks, were very inefficient. They were obliged to remain all fours or lay flat while at work. They had estimated the distance to be seventy-five feet in order to reach the center of the stable. They measured their work carefully as they advanced, and when they reached the length of seventy-five feet they tunneled upward, and upon reaching the outside earth found they were correct in their estimate of distance. After the opening was effected in the stable it was carefully covered with a broad board until such a time as was thought proper for a number of the prisoners to make their egress. The night of the 5th of February had been fixed upon for fifty of the officers to make their escape through the tunnel. The design was for fifty to go out that night and fifty each succeeding night until the means of egress was discovered by the Confederates. It was thought by those who projected and completed the tunnel that the matter was not known to above one hundred officers, to whom they had communicated it; but by some means the thing leaked out and was generally known to the officers in prison, and when 9 o'clock had arrived—the hour that the officers should commence their egress—the entrance to the tunnel was crowded. It was designed for fifty to leave that night and the others were to remain on duty until the next morning. This would have been easily done if the exact number who left had been known, for the manner of calling the roll was to crowd all the prisoners into the east room and pass them through a door and as they passed through count them; and as there was another door in the same room it was very easy for an officer to pass back through it and fall in and be counted again. The officers who were to lead the fifty who were to go the first night and conduct the deception at roll-call next morning, finding he could not stop the officers when fifty had gone out, and that so many would leave that it would be impossible to conceal their flight at roll-call, made his own escape. The next morning when the roll was called by the usual method of counting, 109 numbers of the citizens of Richmond were in charge of the prison. All the officers were then called by name, with the same result. The prison was carefully examined and the point of egress was not found. The disappearance of these Federal officers was so mysterious that the Confederates were dumfounded. As soon as their astonishment subsided scouts were sent in every direction in search of the fugitives. In the meanwhile a large number of the citizens of Richmond recognized the prison the greater portion of the day; but some time in the afternoon somebody happened to enter the old stable and discovered the tunnel. This was a great relief to them. It relieved the guards from a charge of treason, and relieved the minds of the superstitious, who could not shake the belief from their minds that some supernatural agency had been employed in the escape of the Yankees prisoners. The Confederates scouts soon began to return with some of the escaped Federal officers, and in the course of a few days they succeeded in recapturing 52 of the 109 who escaped, 57 having made their way into the Federal lines. Col. 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The disappearance of these Federal officers was so mysterious that the Confederates were dumfounded. As soon as their astonishment subsided scouts were sent in every direction in search of the fugitives. In the meanwhile a large number of the citizens of Richmond recognized the prison the greater portion of the day; but some time in the afternoon somebody happened to enter the old stable and discovered the tunnel. This was a great relief to them. It relieved the guards from a charge of treason, and relieved the minds of the superstitious, who could not shake the belief from their minds that some supernatural agency had been employed in the escape of the Yankees prisoners. The Confederates scouts soon began to return with some of the escaped Federal officers, and in the course of a few days they succeeded in recapturing 52 of the 109 who escaped, 57 having made their way into the Federal lines. Col. Rose, the projector and engineer of the tunnel, was re-captured and punished for his ingenuity by solitary confinement in a cell for several weeks.

During the winter of 1863-4 there were above 1,000 Federal officers confined in Libby prison, at Richmond, Va. In December, 1863, Col. Rose, of the One Hundredth Pennsylvania, conceived the idea of escaping by means of a tunnel. He communicated his plans to some of his comrades, who promised their co-operation in the matter. The great difficulty they found was in getting access to the basement of the building, where they designed commencing operations. They could get access to the first floor of the eastern division, for this was occupied by hospital cooks, who were enlisted soldiers who had been captured; but there was no opening into the basement. There was however a large chimney leading up from a fire-place in the basement. They finally discovered that they could go down the aperture of the chimney and reach the basement. At the east end of the building there was a narrow alley, upon the opposite side of which was a lot of considerable size, near the center of which there was an unused stable, this stable being some distance beyond the guards, who were stationed near the building. It was the design of the projectors of the tunnel to open the terminus of it in this stable. The greatest difficulty encountered was at the beginning. They had to effect an opening in the foundation wall, which was of stone. To do this they had no better tools than a few small hatchets, which were used about the prison for splitting kindlings. After great labor an opening was effected. But the tunnel must be walled and arched. The only material that could be found for this was the wooden boxes which had contained articles of food and clothing, sent to the prisoners from their homes. The secret of the tunnel had been compromised by the escape of one of the men, who had been seen by the sentry; but they were driving at; but to avoid this, after using their own boxes, they procured the services of the hospital cooks, who would go among the prisoners and beg their empty boxes for fire-wood. Only one man could work in the tunnel at the same time, and consequently the work proceeded slowly. Then the tools they had to work with, knives and open-sticks, were very inefficient. They were obliged to remain all fours or lay flat while at work. They had estimated the distance to be seventy-five feet in order to reach the center of the stable. They measured their work carefully as they advanced, and when they reached the length of seventy-five feet they tunneled upward, and upon reaching the outside earth found they were correct in their estimate of distance. 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