

MY BROTHER-IN-LAW.

"I knowed last summer, when de comic was in sight, dat it meant sefferin'; and de oder night, when I fetah in de col-dards for to cut up, I seen suffin' layin' ober 'ginst de moon 'bout de size of a chile, and I knowed it were gwine to happen now. And, sho' nough, dat night de star fell."

And "Aunt Lyddy," de cook, wagged her turban with great solemnity, and fished in her pocket for her pipe.

And "Mammy," de faithful old nurse, peeped furtively back at de dark corners of de kitchen, and remarked:

"Yes, I feels it is in my bones; and last night dey was a raven sot on de pint of de roof ober de young mas'ns room for an hour, mornin', and dat sign neber fails. Dey's been a mighty lot o' whip-wills, around, too, and dat is mighty bad sign dey sey," and Mammy reached for her hoeecake in de fire, and dusted the ashes from it, a proceeding dat I watched with much interest, having stolen down to de kitchen to share it with her. But while I held my hand for de crisp, brown corners dat she broke off, my appetite suddenly left as old Uncle Nebuchadnezzar raised his snowy head and spoke in his sepulchral voice:

"Oh, my children, be ye also ready, for ye know not de day nor de hour when de Lord shall come in his glory. De time am fast approachin', de wise kin read de signs. Babylon is fallen, and de awful trump shall 'soun' fore Uncle Neb is laid to rest."

"Do—do you think it will be very soon?" I asked, seending into Mammy's lap, and hiding my face.

"Yes, little missy, it won't be long now, for de oder night when I was carryin' de las' load of cotton to de gin house I heerd a sort of singin' fru de air, an' when I looked aroun' dar was de star fallin', comin' right towards me. An I stop de oxen and went down on my knees and told de Lord dat Uncle Neb was ready. Glory to his name! But it warn't for de old man arter all, for it went on an' busted over in de pine woods; dey foun' de pieces yesterday. But honey, it am a sign—de Lord's messenger dat he sent to warn de faithful to be ready for his comin'; an' if Missy says her pra'r every night, and waits for him, she will go to de right han' wid de faithful."

"But won't we be all burnt up?" I asked, peeping from my hiding place.

"Dat's only for de sinners, chile, de righteous won't feel de flame. Den we must try to save de unbelievers wid all our might."

Nettie, de pratty quadroon lady's maid, shook her curls and cried scornfully:

"You niggers are in an awful hurry for de Judgment Day. Don't you 'spose de signs mean de Yankee comin'?"

"Dey say de Yankee jes' ents down de darkies like cotton weeds; jes' eats 'em up clean," said Mammy, hugging me tightly.

"No, they don't," said Nettie. "They are better to de blacks than de white people; but, my gracious, what should we do if they'd come?"

At this juncture de door was thrown open and a picture formed dat can never be forgotten. There was de black, blackened old kitchen, built in a country where plaster and whitewash are too valuable for common use, with de beautiful "fat pine" fire leaping and glowing up de huge chimney, de little group of blacks outlined against it, and in de open door a tall, queenly girl, her brown hair falling carelessly down her back, her eyes and cheeks glowing with excitement. She glanced about until she saw me, still curled in mammy's lap, and called out:

"Come Lottie; come quick—I want you!"

I reluctantly obeyed, still expecting to hear de crack of doom if I stirred.

She led me into de parlor, and once inside, my terror was forgotten in de joy of de picture it presented. Loungin' upon de old-fashioned crimson velvet sofa, in de light of de fire dat crackled upon de marble hearth, was a tall young man in a gray uniform, worn and tired, and with a ban-lago about his forehead.

Springin' forward with a joyful cry, I was caught in his arms and kissed and caressed, while my sister Addie sat close beside him on de sofa.

He was telling Addie of de devastation dat de dread foe was making as it advanced, and advising her to take me and fly, before it was too late to Europe, he said, and then she would be safe.

"I can't bear to think of your stayin' in this lonely place, dear, when I know, as you do not, de horrors of your comin'." Whatever northern people are, their soldiers are perfect devils.

"There is no one to stay here but me, and I shall not leave," replied Addie.

"By de way I heard dat you had been flirtin' with some of de Yankee officers in town durin' your visit."

"I only made him love for de pleasure of tellin' him how I hated him."

I interrupted de conversation presently.

"There are so many whip-poor-wills to night, and Mammy says it is a bad sign. Is it, Percy?"

"No, no, child. You musn't believe what de blacks say. They are full of superstition."

"I have noticed them, too," said Addie, going to a window and pushing aside de heavy damask curtain.

"Yes," said my brother, throwing up de sash. "I can notice de difference in their tones; they come from different directions; there is one quite near de house dat seems hoarse. There, did you hear it?"

"Yes, and now de call is answered from all directions. But your moments are too rare here to be spent listenin' to night-birds; come and talk to me."

"Miss De Forest, I—I am lookin' for a confederate soldier, or rather a guerilla chief, who is named, strangely enough, Percy De Forest. I was directed here. Indeed he is known to be here. But, perhaps, there is some mistake, but I—I must search de house for form, you know."

"You shall not! Leave de room instantly!" said Addie, looking like a queen as her eyes flashed and her face grew pale as death, while she stood proudly up and defied de foe.

"I am under orders, Miss, I can't help it, and they've been pickin' off our men for weeks now, he and his hand. We must defend ourselves. If he is not here of course no harm will be done."

"But you needn't have come into de South, Captain Brocklehurst, and you would have needed no defense. You have come down to butcher us at our own firesides."

Then coming to him, she laid her hand on his:

"Howard, he is my brother—my only brother, and he was defendin' us—me—spare him."

The young man's face grew white too. "Duty is stern, Miss Addie; I dare not disobey my orders."

"But, Howard, listen. Last week I refused your love—I did not believe in it. If you do love me prove it. Take me now—my love—my life—and save my brother. For my sake, spare him!"

Her soft hands were upon his neck, her beautiful face against his. The young man trembled from head to foot. Then he whispered something dat I could not hear. Addie left him and sat down. He signaled de three men outside de door. They entered.

"It is plain there is no one in this room," he said to them. "Will you please unlock this door, Miss? There is no one in this closet, either! See, I have turned all de things out. There are blankets on this upper shelf. Now, will de young lady lead de way to de rest of de house? There is a sufficient guard outside—never mind de door."

The other day I heard Howard say to Percy, who came for a visit:

"There isn't a man in de city who paid so much for his wife as I did for mine. Nobody can imagine de struggle of those two minutes, but I think I made up to Uncle Sam for de enormous crime of not slaughtarin' my future brother-in-law, by four years of good service."

"But I must say dat I am amused when I think of my introduction to my wife's family. My first glimpse of her sister was her curly head peepin' from under de sofa, while I knew of her brother's proximity by those long rebel legs among de blankets."

The Red Man.

Learnin' dat Miss Hattie McCay, who had been laborin' in one of de Mission schools among de Indians in Indian Territory for several years, had returned to her home in de East End, a Commercial Gazette reporter yesterday called at her residence on Penn avenue.

The lady was found at home seated in front of a glowing coal fire, which struggled fitfully with de polar blasts of old Boreas. The object of de newspaper man was to get some ideas regardin' de habits and customs of de noble redskin from one who had been brought in contact with him in an educational capacity.

In response to inquiries Miss McCay stated dat for de past four years she had been located at de Indian Mission Boarding School at Tallahassee, in de northern central part of de Territory. This school is for de benefit of de Creek Nation, and it is seven miles from Muskogee. It is supported by de Creek Nation—the salaries of de teachers being paid by de Presbyterian Board of Missions. "A week ago last Sunday," said Miss McCay, "our school building was entirely destroyed by fire, and dat is de reason I am at home. We had ninety-seven Indian boys and girls as pupils, and taught them de common English branches and algebra, Latin and history. These pupils were also taught housekeeping and farming, and they were as adept in acquirin' knowledge as de average white child. The Creek Nation, which now numbers about 14,000 souls, have reached a marked degree of civilization. They are domestic in their habits, being devoted to farming and grazing, and are very anxious dat their children shall receive all de advantages of education enjoyed by those living in de States. The school has been in operation for thirty years, under de principalship of de Rev. W. S. Robinson, and it has accomplished a wonderful amount of good. The Indians made an appropriation of \$50 annually for every pupil, and many of de Indian youths after leavin' us have been sent to colleges and universities in de States to complete deir education. One of these Creek boys, Albert McKillop, took de first prize at Wooster (Ohio) University two years ago. At present they have seventeen boys attendin' colleges. I cannot say now whether de school will be rebuilt, but I have every reason to think they will decide to do so. There has been much said about de natural beauty of Indian Territory and its wonderful fertility dat is of an exaggerated nature. While de soil along de rivers is suitable for farming purposes, when you leave de streams it is sandy and subject to protracted droughts.

Reporter—"What is de character of de soil?"

"The land is mainly high, rolling land, and is more suitable for grazing purposes. The stories of de agricultural wealth of de Territory are for de most part de invention of unscrupulous railroad agents, who are seeking to pass through de Territory. The Indians are mainly governed by their own laws, which are made by de Council of de Nations and a House of Kings, which meet every October. No whiskey is allowed on de Creek reservation, but de soldiers smuggle it in. The majority of de Indians have abandoned deir old heathen faiths, and have been converted to Christianity—being mainly Methodists and Baptists. As a rule they live in log huts, and are very frugal and industrious. While de Indians are generally of fine physique, yet when attacked by disease they lose all hope, and die suddenly. The most devastating disease among them is pneumonia. At present all de Indians in de Territory are very much exercised over de invasion of their reservation by railroads and de Oklahoma colonists. The chief men among them are earnest in their protestations, and will use every effort to persuade de Government to protect them in deir rights. They want to hold de land and in de enjoy all de benefits of civilization, and from my experience among them I am convinced dat if they are protected in deir rights they will become good citizens of de United States."

Reporter—"Has there been any trouble among these Indians lately?"

"Oh, no; they are very peaceable, and a blanketed Indian or a warrior in full toggery is as much a curiosity to de younger Creeks on de reservation as it would be to a white child. Last summer a year ago there was some trouble among de colored people livin' on de reservation on account of one of deir

number being accused of stealin' horses from de Cherokees, but this was settled amicably. There are a great many colored people livin' in de Territory, and they are mainly de descendants of de slaves owned by de Indians prior to de war. Many of de Indian farmers and grazers at dat time owned as high as one hundred slaves. When de colored people were emancipated, those in de Indian Territory were admitted in equal privileges with de Indians in many respects. They are very numerous out there. One peculiarity about de trials and punishments of murderers in de Territory is dat if a white man kills an Indian, he is tried by an Indian Court, and if found guilty, is shot through de head; but if an Indian kills a white man, he is taken to one of de Government trading posts and tried accordin' to United States law."

Reporter—"How about de climate?"

"Well, de climate is much milder here than it is in this section. The winters are mild and open, with a late fall and an early spring. They can raise strawberries in April and May. The Indians, as I said before, are industrious workers, and they are very much troubled over de proposed invasion of deir Territory. They say dat de Government reserved de Territory for deir special use, in consideration of their havin' given up possession of their lands in de Southern States; and now, dat they have improved deir land, and made homes for deir children, they believe dat it is only an act of justice dat their rights to de land should be protected by de strong arm of de Government."

Reporter—"Are there many white people in de Territory?"

"There is a large number, and, exceptin' those who have a right there as Government agents, storekeepers, soldiers and other proper people, de whites are of a very mean order, rankin' far below de Indians. This class is composed of reprobates from Texas. One thing is certain, and dat is, if these Oklahoma emigrants persist in invadin' de Territory, they will cause trouble."

Galilee and its surroundings.

Let us examine this world-historic stage, upon which an idyl so dear to humanity was now being performed, somewhat more closely. The western shore of de Lake of Genesareth is about fourteen and a half miles long, and is divided into a narrow southern and a broader northern half. The whole southern half, about ten miles long from de outflow of de Jordan, consists of a narrow strip of land between de lake and de declivities of de limestone plateau, which descends precipitously to de lake. Only in de middle of this strip of shore did room remain between de mountains and de surface of de water for a fair-sized town, de new Tiberias, which was built a mile and a half to de north of de warm springs of Emmaus. The wall-like mountains then run for a good three miles toward de north, close along de lake; then they abruptly recede far back at Magdala (el Mejdell), and allow room for a fresh green plain, three miles long and a mile and a half broad. This meadow land, running three miles along de lake, is de celebrated plain of Genesareth. At de present Khan Minitieh (which is identified by some with Dalmanutha, by others with Capernaum) de limestone mountains again project to de lake, and follow de northwestern bend of de shore to de plains of Julias, through de marshy ground of which de Jordan flows into de lake.

Upon this northern narrower strip of shore lay Capernaum, close to de lake, accordin' to de gospels, and on de great Caravan road. Important places which lay further on were Julias, Arabella and Tiberias. Julias lay to de north on de Jordan, before it flows into de lake. Pliny reckons this town among de most pleasant of this district. It was a new creation of de tetrarch Phillip who durin' his own life built his sepulchre here, in which he was just laid in de year 34. To de south, upon de steep, limestone rocks were numerous hawks built deir eyries, did Arabella, de robber's nest of evil fame, menace, with de caves of Herod in de heights of de valley opening out at Magdala, which forms de sallyport of de robbers toward de lake. Of de ostentatious Tiberias we have already spoken. Probably, more frequent than here, de fishermen of Capernaum visited Tarichea in order to sell their fish, which, pickled in barrels, were thence sent far and wide.

The appearance of de lake as a whole is not without charms. The blue surface of de water lies deeply depressed between de yellow walls of limestone. To de north, de mountains of upper Galilee rise, and in de background Hermon majestically rests. The western bank, with its fruitful terraces, sloping stepwise, and de green meadow carpet of de plain of Genesareth, is de scene of Jesus' ministry to which de dense population thronged. On de eastern bank de waves washed a narrow strip of level sand, behind which rise barren precipices of rock and steep mountain walls, outworks of de inhospitable Golanitis. There is Jesus' asylum from de throng of people, where he sought and found solitude when de obtrusive curiosity of de Galileans drove him away from Capernaum. At de time of Jesus de plain of Genesareth especially was a smiling garden. "On account of de luxuriant fertility," says Josephus, "all kinds of plants grow here, and everything is cultivated in de best manner possible. The mild air suits de plants. Walnut trees, which need cold, grew in immeasurable abundance near de palms, which require heat, and fig and olive trees, which require a more moderate temperature suits. It is as though there were a contest in nature to unite de contradictory at one point, or a happy contention of de seasons, each of which claims de land as its own. The ground produces de most various fruits, not once a year alone, but at de most various times. The royal fruits, grapes and figs are supplied continuously by it for ten months in de year, whilst other sorts ripen de whole year through."—[A History of de New Testament Times, by Dr. A. Hausrath.

Gambetta, as he rises to speak in de tribune, is described as a clumsy, dull-visaged man, dressed in ill-fitting and shabby clothes. But after a few moments he seems another being, his face lights up, his gestures are telling and his voice has de resonant tones of a man of power.

Arts of the Ballet-Dancer.

In spite of her seeming scantiness of clothing, a ballet-dancer does not suffer from cold. Under her silk or cotton hosiery every ballet dancer, without exception, wears padding. The padded tights are heelless. A strap of de stockinet of which they were woven extends under de hollow of de foot. The webbing is finely ribbed around de ankles, and not padded below de swell of de calf, or where de calf ought to swell. The padding is of de finest lamb's wool fleece, knitted, with de fleece thrown up like plush on de under side into de web, which is of cotton, strong and not too elastic. There is no padding around de knee, and none around de hips. The thighs are well padded. Few men or women have small, well-proportioned joints, and even when they have sufficient flesh, it is not so distributed as to produce perfect symmetry of form. These padded goods are therefore generally made to order. This is necessary, for no two persons have de same proportionate length of thigh and leg. Again, many have good calves, and de rest of de leg very poor or thin. Others have thighs and not calves; others have both thighs and calves with sufficient flesh thereon, but it is not in de right places. How is all this remedied? Why, in de directest and shortest manner possible. De lady or gentleman who orders a pair of padded tights is waited on by a salesman or saleswoman who understands his or her business. To de customer a pair of unpadded tights of perfect shape is first given to put on. Then he is measured, first around de waist, then around de hips, then around de calf, and then around de ankle. Next along de inside of de leg. De measurer then carefully notes and jots down for de manufacturer's guidance de deficiencies in de person's figure. In about a week de garment ordered is finished. If de tights are too much padded at any point it can be seen at a glance and clipped off. Padded shirts or bodies for both men and women are also measured for when ordered in a similar manner. When de entire tights extended to de waist are not needed, calf-padded tights extendin' only a little over de knee can be ordered. These are worn with trunks.

The fact dat de demand in New York for theatrical goods of this kind is sufficient to warrant de erection of a factory in Brooklyn, and de importation of de machinery and de weavers, knitters and embroiderers from Europe to carry it on is proof of de extensive use of these articles. In fact, they are not worn by theatrical people alone. Numbers of men and women who daily promenade de streets, who drive in de park and are seen at balls, theaters, receptions and de opera, wear padded hosiery, with fine silk hosiery over it. From a distance, too—from de Far West, from de East and South—padded hosiery is ordered in immense quantities. De circus-ring owes no small part of its attractions to de wearing of these padded goods. Whoever has seen a boat-race or athletic games, and observed de almost Bernhardt-like sparseness of many of de best athletes, and de want of proportionate development in others as compared with de forms and limbs of de gymnasts and de athletes, de equestrians and de trapeze performers of de ring, must be convinced of de truth of our assertion. In fact, de training necessary to make a Bonfanti or a Rosa of de Risorelli brothers must reduce de human form divine in de same way dat trainin' a race-rose does. De racer is beautiful only because our eyes are wonted to a conventional taste which associates his sparseness with his fleetness. When it comes to grace, dat is quite a different thing.

Another illusion is dat of de ballet-dancer's standing on de tips of her toes. She can always easily perform dat feat with a little practice in a pair of padded Italian ballet-dancer's slippers. It is shorter than de foot by de length of de toes. De toe is supplemented, however, by a stiff leather or cork padding, hollowed out, into which de great toe fits, and is thus supported underneath as above, so dat there is little or no strain except on de tendons of de instep and ankle at de moment when de dancer comes diagonally down de stage to de footlights, with her arms extended, her lips parted in a smile, and walkin' on de tips of her big toes. These ballet-slippers all come from Italy. They have no heels, and de uppers are of rose-colored satin of de best quality, which does not crack or crumple when drawn over de rounded, hard-padded box-toes.—[N. Y. Sun.

A Marrying Magistrate.

In de town of West Alexander, Pa., twelve miles from de Ohio, and two miles from de West Virginia line, lives a magistrate who is reputed to have married 1890 couples within two years, and to have built a fine house with de wedding fees. His popularity arises from de fact dat de laws of Pennsylvania do not require a marriage license, while those of de two neighboring States do. He will marry a couple without their leavin' their carriage, or he will allow them to remain all night and take breakfast with him, charging judiciously for board and lodgin'. His regular charge for marryin' a couple is \$3. He sometimes has from three to five couples at a time waitin' to be made one, and all in a hurry from fear lest those who pursue will catch up in time to forbid de nuptials. Sometimes an outraged father or berrable big brother of de bride arrives after de ceremony is over, and proceeds to vent his rage on de winds and make dire threatenings, and even offer violence. In an emergency such as this de magistrate's son, who is his father's constable, lays de serious charge of disorderly conduct against them. At one time a relative in pursuit of a bride was so violent dat it became impossible for de constable to arrest him, and when de whole town rose en masse and put de offender in jail. De place is popularly known as "Hardscrabble," and when John Norris, a detective of Springfield, Ohio, from whom de Cincinnati Gazette gets de facts, inquired de reason, he was told by an inhabitant it was "because it was such a hard scrabble for runaway couples to get here before de parents caught up."

Boston Post: Leap year is over. There! Now we hope to get a minute's peace!

A Code of Card Etiquette.

The card should be printed or written very plainly.

White cards, without any embellishment, are regarded as in de best taste; avoiding extraneous sizes.

The gentleman's card should contain nothing except de name and address of de cellar; in general, omit de address.

The titles of "Hon.," "Mr.," "Esq.," etc., are not allowed on calling cards.

"Mrs." or "Miss" are admissible on ladies' cards. Professional titles, such as "Dr.," "Rev.," and "M. D.," etc., are admissible on gentlemen's cards.

A military title, such as "Lieut.," "Capt.," "Gen.," "U. S. A.," "U. S. N.," etc., is also admissible.

The handsomest style is dat which is engraved; next is dat which is beautifully written; next comes de printed card, in text letter.

At a hotel, when callin' on any one, send your card and await a reply in de reception room.

If two or more ladies are in de household, de turning down of a corner signifies dat de card is for all de ladies.

Cards may be left immediately where a death is known, but a call of sympathy and condolence is not to be made until a week after de bereavement.

De lady in mourning who may not desire to make calls will send mourning cards to her friends instead durin' de season of retirement from society.

A gentleman callin' on a lady and she being absent, or not at home, but her daughter being in de house, de gentleman will send in his card, instead of callin', as it is not customary for young ladies to receive calls from gentlemen unless quite intimately acquainted.

It is well to have cards in readiness at every call.

It is quite well to send in your card by a servant as de mispronunciation of de name is thus avoided.

If a lady is not at home, it will also serve to show dat you have called.

The hostess should, if not desirin' to see any one, send word dat she is engaged when de servant first goes to de door, and not after de card has been sent up.

It is admissible, when a lady does not desire to see a caller, to instruct de servant to reply dat de "mistress is not at home," de understandin' bein' dat, whether in de house or not, she is "not at home" for de reception of callers.

A business card is inadmissible as a calling card, unless de call be purely one for business.

In makin' New Year's calls it is customary to present a card to each of de ladies who receive with her, as well as to de hostess.

In takin' a letter of introduction to a lady in de city, if you send it to her by de servant who answers de bell, also send your card with de same.

The card bein' left in your absence is de equivalent of a call. A call is now due from you to de person leavin' de card.

In leavin' de city for a permanent residence abroad it is customary to send out cards to intimate friends, addin' de name "P. P. C."—Presents Parting Compliments.

After receivin' an invitation for, or attendin', a large party or ball, it is customary to call soon afterward on de hostess, makin' a brief stay, or leavin' a card.

The Actress as a Rifle Marksman.

The charming actress, Mrs. Scott-Siddons, is devoted to a rather unusual pastime for ladies, bein' a most enthusiastic sharpshooter. With de duelin' pistol she excels, and with cartridge rifle her performances are a matter of wonder. The lady has a very fine assortment of weapons, and she never neglects an opportunity to practice. It was de fortune of a Post-Dispatch reporter yesterday afternoon to attend a little rifle soiree in de shooting gallery under de Laclede Hotel. De fair actress, her agreeable husband, Harry Sargent, her energetic managers, and a couple of reporters, composed de audience, de doors being closed to de regular run of customers. De party bein' introduced, and havin' disposed of de weather and mud and de success of de performances at Pope's, Mrs. Siddons stated dat she was ready to make a record and would shame Ira Pain. De lady was attired in a rich walking suit, and wore de jauntiest of little fur caps, which did not interfere with her sight in de least. A number of rifles were offered for her inspection. With de air of an expert, she closely examined each of them until suited, and then said:

"Diana is ready for de chase. Quite an improvement this rifle must be on de bow and arrow of her time."

Everybody smiled, and then Mrs. Siddons braced herself, aimed along de glitterin' barrel, and was greeted with applause as de sonorous ring of de bell indicated a bull's-eye. There was nothing unusual in de scene, except it looked very odd to see a handsome and richly dressed lady blazin' away at de targets seventy-five feet away, and makin' one bull's-eye after another with a precision dat awakened de interest of de keeper of de gallery, and evoked de most profuse commendation from Manager Sargent, who is himself a crack shot. Mrs. Siddons, after some very good shooting, makin' seventeen bull's-eyes in a possible twenty, and de misses bein' very close, was introduced for de time to de globe-sight rifle. She soon got de hang of it and after fifteen minutes' practice fired ten shots at de No. 5 target, makin' eight bull's-eyes and two elevens. Mrs. Siddons explained dat she had always been fond of pistol shooting, but only recently took to rifles, with which she is delighted.

MISS JANE DARK, who had some reputation in her time as de Maid of Orleans, was not of noble family, and did not come from de Town of Arc, for de sufficient reason dat there was no such town. De printin' of her name as Joan of Arc, or Jeanne d'Arc, is totally erroneous. She was in French simply Jeanne Dare, and in English her proper name is Jane Dark. Let us stick to plain words, even though they may be de ruin of de old poets, Southey among de number.

Waking the Wrong Man.

The fact dat every business has its particular lingo, which is a dead language to people of other professions, was never more clearly shown dat in de followin' article by Bill Nye in de Chicago Tribune:

One night about half after 12, I judge, I heerd somebody step along to de window of my boudoir. Hearin' it dat time of night, I reckoned dat something was goin' on, so I slid out of bed and got my Great Blood Searcher and Liver Purifier, with de new style of center fire and cartridge ejector, and slid up to de window, calculatin' to shove a tonic into whoever it might be dat was pickin' around my claim.

I looked out so as to get a good idea of where I wanted to sink on him, and then I thought before I mangled him I'd ask him if he had any choice about which part of his vitals he wanted to preserve, so I sings out to him:

"Look out below dere, pard, for I'm goin' to call de meeting to order in a minute. Just throw up your hands, if you please, and make de grand hallin' sign of distress, or I'll half mangle you! Just show me about where you'd like to have de fatal wound, and be sry like it, too, because I've got my brief costume on, and de evening air is chill!" He didn't understand me, apparently, for a gurgling laugh welled up from below, and de party sings back:

"HELLO, FATTY, IS THAT YOU? Just lookin' to see if you'd fired up yet. You know I was to come around and flag you if second seven was out. Well, I've been down to de old man's to see what's on de board. Three is two hours late and four is reported on time. There's two sevens out and two sections of nine. Skinnin' will take out first seven and Shorty'll pull her with 102. It's you and me for second seven, with Limber Jim on front end and Frenchy to hold down de caboose. First five is wrong side up in a washout this side of Ogallala, and old Whatsname dat runs 258 got his crown shaft caved in and telescoped his headlight into de New Jerusalem. You know de little Swedge dat used to run extra for old Hotbox on de emigrant for a while? Well, he's s'ring on 268, and he's under three flats and a coal oil tank, with a break beam across his coupler and his system more or less relaxed. He's gone to de sweet subsequently too. Rest of de boys are more or less demoralized and sidetracked for repairs. Now, you don't want to monkey around much, for if you don't loom up like six bits and go out on de track, de old man'll give you a time check and de Oriental grand bounce. You hear de mellow thrill of my bazoo?"

Then I slowly uncorked de Great Blood Purifier, and, mixin' to de footlights where de silvery moonbeams could touch up my dazzlin' outlines, I said:

"Partner, I am pleased and gratified to have met you. I don't know de first ding busted thing you have said to me, but dat's my misfortune. I am a plain miner, and my home is de digestive apparatus of de earth, but for de professional melody of de chin you certainly take de cake. You also take de basket and what cold pie dere is on de dump. My name is Woodtick Williams. I discovered de Feverish Hornet up on de Slippery Ellum. I am proud to know you. Keep right on gettin' more and more familiar with your profession, and bye and bye, when nobody can understand you, you will be promoted and respected, and you will at last be a sleepin' car conductor and revel in de biggest mental calm and wide, shoreless sea of intellectual stagnation dat de world ever saw. You will—"

But he was gone.

Then I took de pillow-sham and wiped some of de pulverized crackers off de soles of my feet, and went to bed in a large gob of gloom.

A Bonanza Dinner service.

Tiffany has just completed an elegant new silver dinner service, wholly American, for Mrs. Bonanza Mackey. The center piece is of oblong form and is in two divisions. The lower one has a tray for flowers, resting on sloping sides of looking-glass, which are set on an elaborate silver framework of floral design. At one side on de looking-glass is Mrs. Mackey's monogram in silver letters. The upper division rests on elephants' heads, six on either side, de tips of de trunks touchin' de flowers of de framework below. The upper division is set in a broad band of massive silver, elaborately wrought in rich floral devices in Oriental style. It consists of a second tray for flowers, surrounded with sockets for candles. The whole is surmounted by a four branch candelabrum of small size. The richness of de workmanship and de delicate elaboration are beyond all praise. The style of de whole is thoroughly Eastern in character, recallin' some of de fine pieces of silver among de Indian magnificences of de presents offered to de Prince of Wales durin' his travels in India, and exhibited at de Universal Exposition of 1876. The elephants' heads in particular are most beautifully wrought. The characteristic corrugation of de skin of de forehead and trunk is admirably reproduced, as are also de various details of de rich tasseled and embroidered head stalls wherewith de heads are adorned. The whole structure, which rests upon twelve elephants' feet in silver, is of immense weight, and will take de strength of two men to lift it.

Isaac C. Parker, Judge of de United States District Court at Fort Smith, Arkansas, enjoys de reputation of havin' sentenced more men to de gallows than any dignitary dat ever wielded de judicial power of de Federal Government. When he was appointed Judge of de District Court over five years ago, de Indian Territory and de borders were infused by desperadoes. He set to work to enforce de law, and in de five years of his administration has passed sentence upon some forty murderers.

Now de de small boy take his chubby little sister by de hand and wander forth in search of de frozen ice patch in de meadow, and pass de afternoon's sunshine in drawin' her over de slippery surface on his new hand-sled. N. B. The above is a lie. You can neither hire or drive a small boy into drawin' his sister on a sled. He'd sooner fall through de ice, take cold, and be sick all winter.—[New Haven Register.