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MARK TWAIN'S BIG FRIGHT.

#### A Story of Old Times on the Mississippi not in the "Atlantic Monthly."

While sttting in front of the Southern Hotel, talking to a future great citizen about the old steamboat days of St. Louis, when captains, clerks and pilots ran the town, and ran it under a full head of steam, an ancient mariner let up on whittling the arm of the next chair, turned toward us, and remarked, "You were speaking of the old river days?" "We were," I replied. "Perhaps, now, you have been reading some of Sam Clemens's varns?" I held up a copy of the Atlantic, opened at Mark Twain's article, which had really brought about the conversation. 'Yes, I thought so; well, he don't tell all he knows," said the social riverman, reaching over for a tobacco-pouch which a gentleman was little affair he aint worked into print paid no attention to Sam's frantic passing to a friend. "There's one vet, and it aint likely he will."

The social stranger quit off on his reminiscence at this point and talke I generally about the bad outlook of the crops and the universal AGENTS AT NEW YORK CITY-S. M. disadvantage of dryness. Seeing that nothing but gin and sugar would start him anew, he was persuaded in o a convenient bar-room, and hoisting in three fingers (held vertically), a handful of crackers and several chunks of cheese, he proceeded with his anecdote, interrupting himself a number of times to remark to the barkeeper, "The same,

"I was first engineer of the Alexander Scott when Sam Clemens (Mark Twain) was a cub in her pilothouse. He was a chipper young chap, with legs no bigger'n a casting line, and fuller of tricks than a mule colt. He worked off jokes on everybody aboard, from the skipper down to the roosters (darkey deck hands). but they were all taken in good part, but I lav by two or three to pay back. About the time Sam got the Special attention given to DEFORMI- run of the river enough to stand alone at the wheel, the Scott went into the lower river trade, carrying cotton from Meaphis to New Orleans. Perhaps now, you never see a boat in the cotton trade burn. Well, you may cover your cotton from stem to sterm with tarpaulins, and keep your donkey engine steamed n1:y1 up, but if a spark of fire touches cotton, enough to fill a tooth, your boat's a corpse. It's quicker'n than gunpowder to burn, and no pilot can reach the lower deck from the texas in time to save himself, let alone his Saratoga. So you see everybody in that trade is on the watch, and an alarm of fire in a boat loaded with cotton will turn a man's hair gray quicker'n an alligator can swallow a nigger.

"Sam, being a young pilot, and new to the cotton trade, was told over again how the profession would lose a promising cub if ever a fire broke out on the Scott, and the boy got nervous. My striker and me always managed to be in the lunchroom when Sam came off watch, and blandly, "permit me to insist upon as he came in we would talk about the number of cotton boats that burned in such a year, and how such a cub would have made a lightning pilot, if he hadn't got burnt up in the cotton trade; and we always noticed that Sam's appetite failed him after that, and instead of going to bed he would go prowling around the lower deck and peering about the hatchways, smelling at every opening like a pup that had lost its

master. "One day when we backed out of Memphis with a big cargo of cotton, I complained, in Sam's hearing, that the mate had loaded the boat too near the engines. The boy followed me into the engine room, and, without seeming to notice him, I told my striker I would do my level best to keep that cotton from catch-NOTARY PURLIC and CONVEYANCER ing fire, but that it was a slim chance with bales piled right up before the furnace doors. Sam got whiter'n a 13:3 | bulkhead, and went up to the texas, ate manners.

before the meeting. When he went on watch I posted the second clerk to keep an eye on him. He hid behind a smokestack and saw Sam alone in the pilot house, his hair on end, his face like a corpse's, and his eyes sticking out so far you could have knocked them off with a stick. He danced around the pilot house, turned up his nose like he was smelling for a pole-cat, pulled every bell,

where he packed his Saratoga, ready

for any business that might come

turned the boat's nose for the bank, and yelled 'Fire!' like a Cherokee Indian on the war path. We had a big cargo of passengers, and the womon screeched, the men rushed for cork pillows, and the crew yanked the doors off their hinges and rushed to the guards, ready to go overboard at the first moderation of the weather. The skipper had hard work to

make the crazy passengers believe that there wasn't any fire, but he brought them to reason finally. I yells, so the boat didn't run her nozzle against the bank he aimed for.

of passengers, after bunting all over the best, couldn't find a sign of fire anywhere outside the furnaces, and then they went for Sam. He swore up and down that he smelt cotton burning; no use talking to him-he knew the small of burning cotton, and, by thunder, he had smelt it. The first pilot said, kind of soft and pitying to Sam, "My boy, if you'd told me you was so near the junams I'd stood double watch for you. Now, you go and soak your head in a bucket of water and take a good sleep and you'll be all right by to morrow.' Sam just biled over at this, and when a pretty young woman passenger said to the skipper, loud enough for Sam to hear, 'So young and nice looking, too-how sad it would make his poor mother feel to hear how he drinks,' he fairly frothed at the mouth. You never see a fellow so toned down as Sam was after that, and though the boys never quit running him, he never talked back, but looked kind of puzzled-as though he was trying to account for that smell of cotton

"And what was the cause of the smell?" I asked cmine Ancient. He chuckled a full minute and then said, "You see there's a speaking tube running from the engine room to the pilot house. I had in mind the tricks Sam had played on me. and having worked him to a nervous state about fire, I waited till he was alone in the pilot house, and then set fire to a little wad of cotton, stuffed it into the speaking tube, and the smell came out right under his nose. A little more sugar in it, pard." -St. Louis Corr. of the Milwankee

# Hearsay Evidence.

"I say, Mr. Smithers," said Mrs. Smithers to her husband; "didn't I hear you down in the kitchen kissing

"My dear," replied Smithers, right to be reasonably ignorant. I really cannot say what you may have heard."

"But wan't you down there kissing the cook?"

"My dear, I really cannot recollect. I only remember going into the kitchen and coming out again. I may have been there, and from what you say I infer I was. But I cannol recollect just what occured."

"But," persisted the ruthless crossexaminer, "what did Jane mean when she said: "Oh! Smithers, don't kiss so loud, or that old she-dragon up stairs will hear us!"

"Well," said Smithers, in his blandest tones, "I caunot remember the interpretation I did put on the words at the time. They are not my words, you must remember.

but under the warm and genial in- another moment had the "gouge" thuence of kind feeling and affection- on him.

A FIGHT FOR SUPREMACY.

[From the Vicksburg Herald.] A gentleman residing in this city had occasion, a few days since, to make a journey down the river and several miles back from it, using a a saddle-horse. Darkness evertook him in & sparsely settled district, and as the roads were in a bad condition and the evening looked threatening, he halted before a forlornlooking but, and asked if he could

find lodgings. "I reckon ye mought," replied the long-haired, sorrowful-eyed squat-

ter, after hesitating for a moment. The Vicksburger found little to sight. eat, and his horse found still less. The squatter and his wife were all alone, and they had but few words for the stranger, and scarcely speke to each other. When the evening grew old the traveller camped down on the floor on a blanket, and being very tired he fell asleep while host "The captain and pilot and a lot and hostess were smoking their black clay pipes at the other end of the room. He had slept about two by the shoulder and said:

"Stranger, I'm powerful sorry to disturb ye, but I want to as a la-

"Yes-yes-what is it?" inquired the Vicksburger, as he rubbed his eyes and sat up.

"Ye like to see fa'r play, don't ye,

"Yes, of course."

"Wall, me'n the old woman can't agree; somehow she's cross and tetchy, and I guess I'm a trifle ugly. Leastwise, we don't hug up worth ole boots. We've fit and fit; I'm old and and she's chuck full of grit, and it's about an even thing!"

"Well, I'm sorry," put in the Vicksburger, as the squatter hesitated.

"We've been a-talkin' since ye cum, stranger, and we've made up to ask ye to hold the candle and let us go in for an old rouser of a fight a reg'lar old sockdolager, which shall settle our fuss! If I lick, she'll go; if she licks, I'll travel!"

"I'm sorry if there's any trouble, and I hope you won't fight."

"We've got to do it, stranger, "replied the old woman. "I won't live fluous with a man who kin lick me, and he's just as high-born. Sam's as good as the run o' men, but he's lazy and sassy and wants to wear his hat

"She's right, stranger," said the squatter, "and this cabin can't hold both of us any longer! It's to be quar' fight- no kicking or clubbing, and we wont go back on yer decis-

The Vicksburger protested, but the woman placed a lighted candle on his hand, and posted bim in the door, and the man and wife stepped out on the ground.

"Suke, I'm going to wallop ye right smart in just four hoots and a holler!" said the squatter as he pushed up his sleeves.

"Sam, ye don't weigh 'puff into three tons!" she replied in a grim voice, and the battle commened.

The Vicksburger metally bet twenty to one on the man at the start. but in two minutes he had reduced the odds to ten, and in two minutes more he was betting even. The wife was like a wild-cat, springing, dodging, striking and clawing, and pretty soon her husband had to stand on the defensive.

"Look out for the Bengal tiger, Soke!" be warned as he clawed the

One of the woman's sharp nails struck the husband's eye and blinded him for an instant. As he threw wo his arms she seized both hands into The seeds of love can never grow his hair, yanked him down, and in

"Sam, do ve cave?" she asked, as

they lay quiet. "That's the dead-word, Suke, and

the Vicksburger and inquired:

I'm a licked man!" he mournfully She let him up, and he turned to

> "Stranger, was it a f'ar fought?" "I guess it was."

"Then I travel!" He entered the hut, put on his coat and hat, took up his rifle and as he came out he reached his hand to bis wife and said:

"Good bye, Suke! We agree fa'r and squar', and here I go!" Then turning to the traveller he added:

"Much obleeged, stranger; ye held the candle plump fa'r, and ye didn't holler for either one of us!" And he walked down to the fence,

"Good 'nuff on the shoot," mused the wife as she gazed after him, "but his fighting weight is clar run down to nuthin'!"

#### SSAY.

Sarah Smith stands sorrowfully solus; she sees splendid spruces surrounding shady spots she sees summer's sun shining; she smells sweet avors; sweet songsters singing very strains serenade Sarah. Still sl e sighs. Sunset's soft shades settle silently, still she stands sadly sighing. Suddenly she started. She saw some stranger strolling silently southward. "Stop!" she shouted "Stop, stranger! Sarah Smith says so!" Stately she stood, sternly she shouted "Stop!" Samuel Slocum successful statesman, smooth speak er, started, saw Sarah, seemed sur prised said soliloquizingly, "Strange seemingly scarce sixteen; so sweet; so simple; still so singularly suspi cious! She seems strangely and. Say something sweeter, Sarah." She stopping some silent struggle, said "Surely some stranger seeing sights Shall Sarah Smith shun such; scarce ly." So strolling silently stranger ward, she said: "Sarah Smith scorns suspicious scandals, she seeks sym pathy; seeks she successfully?"

Still shone silvery streams slant ing southward. Samuel Slocum sa sweetly smilling. Sarah Smith sa suspiciously somewhere. Sunset's serene splendor suggested supper Still she sat. She sought sympathy successfully; supper seemed super

Some six Sunday's succeeding she signed some sketches Sarah Smitl Slocum.

# Fashionable Life.

If there is any environment which can degrade a human being or harden a young heart, it is the atmosnatural accompaniment. You may ful and lovely girl, the one that is young lady, whose wedding has been kindest at home, and loves her father indefinitely postponed in conceand mother most, and put her in the quence of an attack of brain fever highest circle of fashionable life, the result of the fright she received with plenty of money and full scope | St. Joseph, Mo., Heraid, July 1st. to do as she pleases; let her dress berself as she will-cover herself with diamonds and pearls; let the love of admiration become the ruling passion; and soon all the tenderness of that young nature passes away ber thoughts concentrate upon herselt- what figure she is cutting, who her admirers are, what conquests she can make .-- By and bythe youthful, beautiful modesty is gone, and the way is open for vice, that, in the beginning, would not have been dreamed of, or, if thought of, put away as utterly impossible.

Owing to the recent spell of warm weather in Douglas county, the grain "I can whip the boots off'n ve," has matured very fast, and on ac-'Sam, she replied, and the battle count of a scarcity of machinery to harvest the crop immediately there will be quite a loss to the farmers.

> We understand that Benton county failed in raising \$100,000, to insure the completion of the proposed Yaquina railroad. Linn county is going to try and raise this amount.

Hay in Roseburg is \$12 a ton.

### ROMANCE IN KANSAS.

A Cheyenne Indian Attempts to Abduct a Farmer's Daughter.

One of the main tributaries of the

Little Arkaneas river is called Bunning Turkey creek, at the month of which is Jim Genry's ranche, an old and comewhat notorious stoppingplace in the days when Government previsions were hauled from Fort Harker to the Indian Territory by means of bull and mule teams. Among the early settlers was a family from Ohio named Falconer, which consisted of Robert Falconer, his wife Sarah, and an only daughter Bessie, at this time about seventeeu years old. The young girl was enleaped over, and was soon lost to engaged to a young farmer, and had nothing happened would have been married on last Friday evening. The time for the marriage arrived, sodid the bridegroom and invited guests, but, strange, no bride appeared. Her parents supposing she was in her rohm, went to the door to warm her that the time for the performance of the ceremony bad arrived, when they found the room empty. It was early evening, and not yet dusk; so they walked to the window to endeavor to discover the truant. Their horror may be imagined when they saw, rapidly disappearing through the timber on the creek bank, a man, carrying in his arms the form of young girl, which, from the dress, they immediately recognized as that of their daughter. In an instant the alarm was given, and the whole party, well armed, started in pursuit. Witnin a few minutes they were within gunshot of the fugitive, but were unable to use their weapons in consequence of his shielding his body with the loved form of the bride elect. The young lover was almost frantic, and in his frenzy appeared to have guined the fleetness of the antelope, overtaking the almost breathless abductor, he seized him, and after a brief struggle wrested the girl from him, at the same time discovering that the abductor was a Cheyenne Indian who had been around the neighborhood for a year or two. At the same time that the farmer regained his sweetheart, the savage with cel-like wriggle, escaped from his hold and started on a keen run down the creek. The pursuers, however, were too much for him, and one of their number brought him to the ground by means of a well-aimed bullet from a needle-gun. It was soon ascertained that the red man was only wounded in the thigh. He was then taken prisoner and lodged in a neighboring dug-out, from which by some means he escaped during the night phere of fashiouable life without that carrying the needle-gun ball in his home culture which should be its thigh, and has not since been beard of, although dilligent search has take the tenderest and most beauti- been made by the friends of the

Condition of the Wheat Crops in th East.

Washington, July 25 .- Returns of the department of agriculture for July 1st, show the condition of spring and winter wheat together at about 81 per cept. of an average Winter wheat, including California, average 74, and spring wheat 96. Spring wheat, in States in the northeast and northwest, is geneally in high condition. Of winter wheat the area in the South Atlantic and Gulf States is generally above the average, but in the middle States the condition is very low, ranging down to 46. West of the Alleghanies from New York, the prospect is better, the State averages being between 71 in Ohio and 95 in Iowa. California reporte minwheat at 76 and spring wheat at 75.

Rev. Addison Jones, pastor of the Baptist church, Salem, is lying dangerou-ly ill, with little hopes enter-

tained of his recovery. Susseme for your local paper.