

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1912

Sylvester Scott, the Bear Hunter.

A Sonoma County (California) exchange says: Thomas Porter tells us that Sylvester Scott visited his Buckeye ranch one week ago last Friday, and that up to that time on a single hunt he had killed thirteen bears and one panther. Mr. Scott is the most successful bear hunter in California, and his fame has gone forth far beyond the State of his adoption. A hunt with Scott on the trail of a bear is an event of interest in the life of the most experienced sportsman. Mr. Scott is a farmer and stock raiser, and quite a character in his way. He is an old settler in Sonoma, having raised a family on a ranch in the mountains. Although about 40 years of age, he has done his share in reclaiming and populating the wilderness. He and two of his neighbors have built a school house for their district and furnished its census roll, which comprises 39 children. Scott's contribution is fourteen. He and his boys, by their own efforts have fenced his ranch, consisting in one tract 4,000 acres. During the winter months he always indulges his passion of bear hunting. He has a pack of twenty-five trained hounds, and when he starts on the trail he scouts the mountains for miles about his stock, until not a trace of the presence of a live bear can be found. A campaign frequently lasts for a month, seldom less than ten days or a fortnight and rarely results in the killing of less than a dozen bears. Scott is a most remarkable pedestrian. Pat O'Leary or Weston beside him on a trail of a bear in the hills and he will walk their legs off and break every bone in their body in a day. He always goes on foot, keeps up with the hounds, and is on hand to close with a bear as soon as the dogs bay him. How he gets over the ground so fast is a mystery, and how he glides down rocky and precipitous descents, as he does every day when on the trail, without ever being injured is a wonder to his companions. A couple of English tourists accompanied him on his last hunt. On their return they were loud in their admiration and wonder, one of them declaring that in following a sportsman's hunt around the world he had never met such another hunter nor experienced such exciting sport elsewhere.

Lucetta Mott.

Lucetta Mott has just passed her eighty-sixth birthday, loved and honored as few people ever are. Her long public career shows that a woman may not be rendered less so because she takes into her active interest and sympathy questions of the public welfare. Mrs. Mott was among the very earliest of the abolitionists. She traveled far and wide to speak for the cause. She has been a member of the Society of Friends sixty-six years, and is now president of the Pennsylvania Peace Society. She has taken an active part in the Woman Suffrage cause, having been present at the very first convention ever held in this country in the special interest of women. Her husband, dear good James Mott, went with her almost everywhere, and in long rides in the cars always took the outside seat, to keep the boxes, which would have worn out the life as well as the lungs of Mrs. Mott, if James Mott had not resolutely sat between her and them. At her late birthday, her children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren gathered with loving reverence for this world-renowned woman, who at eighty-six is a pattern of industry, activity, and freshness of spirit which cannot grow old. Outside of her home circle, a still larger number of persons whose privilege it has been to know this rare woman will wish her still "many happy returns of her birthday."—Woman's Journal.

A Famous Guide.

Pike, the famous guide of the Yosemite valley, has recently run down to San Francisco for the first time in twenty-six years. He was born in Tennessee, but crossed the plains soon after the discovery of gold, and became one of the few survivors of the ill-fated party that first attempted the perilous passage of the death valley route. He was an associate of Peg-leg Smith, who amputated his own leg with a hunting knife, taking up the arduous dress in the attempt without assistance. This operation was necessary, inasmuch as he had received a wound from a poisoned arrow in a skirmish with Indians, and illustrated an important operation now familiar to every college student—that of saving one's leg, leg off, short. Pike first visited the Yosemite in 1852, the year after its discovery by white men, and he has remained in these mountain solitudes ever since, this being his first excursion. During recent years he has renewed the occupation of guide with thrift and profit. In ascending Mount Whitney, however, he contracted a bronchial affection and lost his voice so that he cannot now speak above a whisper. He has been commissioned by hotel proprietors in Yosemite to visit Oregon for the purpose of procuring new varieties of plants and trees for the valley.

An Electric Light for Dwellings.

[New York Tribune, February 22.] A number of gentlemen, among whom were several capitalists of this city, gathered at the laboratory of the Electro-Dynamic Light Company at No. 94 Walker street last evening to see a private exhibition of the Sawyer-Man electric light for household illumination. Five electric lamps were aglow in the room. Each lamp had the power of 2700 sperm candles, and the effect was like that produced by sunlight coming through a glass roof. Each lamp could be turned down to a faint glow without destroying the light in the others, although they were all in the same circuit. The brilliancy was not unpleasant to the eye. The light of a rosette arc was shown for purposes of comparison, and the glare of this on the eye was found to be very painful. Mr. Sawyer's lamp has been improved in shape recently. The globe is taller and more slender than that of the first lamp, and the coils to regulate the temperature of the globe are lighter and prettier. No change has been made in the principle of the lamp, the light being produced as at first by the heating of a slender pencil of carbon. The lamp will be introduced into dwelling-houses in a short time. High water in Scott river is rather rough on some of the island farmers in Scott Valley, which may prevent getting in crops at some points.

Trouble Brewing in Europe.

A London dispatch of March 17th says the air is thick with disturbing rumors. The telegraph flashes ugly news that Russia is angry with Germany and Austria and officially declares that the plague has ceased, and requests her neighbors to remove the restrictions on her commerce. France makes a strange concentration of her troops on the Belgian frontier. Russian agents help to revive reports that Germany desires to annex Holland creating quite a panic among the better class of the Dutch. It is even reported that war is expected and that France will strike at Germany's power by taking Belgium and the latter Holland. Where there is so much smoke there must be fire. Lately Germany has been imperious toward Holland. The belief that England is having her hands full in Asia and Africa promotes expectation that another attempt will be made to reconstruct the map of Europe. The Standard's Berlin correspondent says for the truth of rumors so far as relates to Germany and Holland. The Dutch papers are full of exciting editorials. There is uneasy feeling in France. Spain and England are wrangling over commercial treaties. Italy is discontented with the action of France and England in Egypt, and altogether Europe cannot be said to be settling down to peace with honor, but is in an agitated, uneasy condition which may lead to anything in the shape of revolution and war. Turning to Asia and Africa, the British are evidently taking permanent possession of important points of conquered territory and mean to go to Cabul and also to Herat if convinced that Russia has the same intention, though as at present advised it will not be surprising if Russia gets there first. The Irish paper, The Nation, publishes a chant for the Zulus, calling on God to help them against the British, glorifying the butchery at Isandula and praying that they may drive the red coats into the sea.

A Mule's Reserved Power.

[Louisville Courier-Journal.] This mule looked like he was 128 years old, and was dead standing upon his feet. He was hitched to a pine-bodied spring wagon with a high dashboard. The team was standing on the levee in mute silence, while the old darkey who "drove" it went aboard the boat. A pump could make a barrel of money selling pictures of that mule labeled "patience." His long, flabby ears hung down each side of his head like widow awnings with the rods out of them. His face wore a sober look, while out of his mouth hung a tongue eight inches long. His tail swung down from the rear end of his hurricane roof like a wet rope, while his whole body seemed as motionless as death itself. Presently a red-haired archer, with an old boot in his hand, walked up in front of him, and looking in his face, saw that the mule was asleep. He walked around climbed into the wagon, leaned over the dashboard, lifted the mule's tail, and let it come down in time to catch a death grip on the bootleg. That mule woke up so quick that he kicked the boy and dashedboard twenty feet into the air. He changed the position of his ears, hauled in his head between his knees, and from the fore shoulders to the tip of his trunk was in lively motion, and he didn't look like he was more than two years old, the way he was kicking that old wagon-body into kindling wood with his heels. He had it all to himself, and was doing fine, when the old darkey rushed up the hill, got in front of him, and grabbing him by each ear, shouted, "Whoa! I tell you, Wads do matter wid you? Who-uh! and, looking around at the crowd, yelled: "Will some o' yer gemmen git dat or boot-leg out while I hole him? Kase de waggin's mine an' I jus borrowed de mule." But no one ventured, and when we left his heels had almost reached the tail-gate, and the old darkey was still yelling "Whoa!"

Bret Harte's Success in Europe.

—The New York Times correspondent says: "Mr. Bret Harte has evidently made a greater sensation in London than any purely literary American since our best humorist, Artemus Ward, delighted English audiences with his unique adventures. The Athenaeum speaks of him as 'a true artist, possessing rare mastery over language, skilled to express ideas, pathetic or grotesque,' and hopes that his consular duties at Creteil will not prevent him 'from enabling English audiences to become personally acquainted with a speaker and writer who is one of the best representatives of American humor.'"

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[Vol. III No. 112.]

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