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POOR HOTEL-KEEPING.

The Noble Work Done by a Reformer in a Coon-Skin Cap.

One night a year ago, writes a New York Sun correspondent, there were half a dozen of us to go up to the village hotel in the rickety old bus, and among the crowd was a solemn-looking old chap, dressed in very plain goods and wearing a coon-skin cap. It was the typical village hotel landlord in the bar-room, a very fresh young man behind the register, mighty little for supper, and that poorly cooked, and there was more or less growling. The man with the coon-skin cap was treated very brusquely by the clerk, and the frowsy-headed waiter girl didn't seem to care whether he had any thing to eat or not. He didn't say much, but it was evident that he was mad.

After supper the landlord and "Coon-skin" had a private confab. When it was ended the old man came down-stairs, opened the front door, and then turned to the clerk, and said:

"You git!"

"What do you mean?"

"I have rented this hotel. Skip!"

The clerk put on his coat and hat and walked out. Then "Coon-skin" sent word to the cook and waiter girl to be out in half an hour, for the hostler to be gone by midnight, and for the bar-keeper to vacate by noon the next day. He kindly allowed us to stop over night, but we had to get our breakfast at a bakery. By noon the doors of the hotel were nailed up, signs of "closed" posted, and as we footed it down to the depot the solemn old man thawed out sufficiently to observe:

"I'm after seven more of 'em along this line of railroad, and if I can shut 'em up the public will be in my debt. I have figured it out to my entire satisfaction, and I truly believe that three-fifths of the crime in this country is incited by poor hotel-keeping."

THE MONK-FISH.

A Curious Creature That Disappeared by Reason of a Plague.

One of the nightmares of John Ashton's "Curious Creatures of Zoology" is the monk-fish or sea monk, he being indebted to both Aldrovandus and Stov for his account. If the old writers are reliable, these monsters were quite common in the North sea, the British channel and along the Irish coast up to the year 1414, when they are said to have become extinct through the ravages of a plague similar to that which was affecting men at about the same time. The superstitions of those days believed that they were priests or monks who had been cursed for some crime and condemned by God to an endless life beneath the waves.

Stov's account of one caught in 1187 is as follows: "He had the shape of a man in all points and was kept in the castle at Oxford by the keeper thereof. All manner of raw meats he did gladly eat, but more greedily of rawe fishes, after that he had crushed out all moisture. Often he was brought to the church, but showed no signs of reverence, and at length, when not well looked to, he stole away to the sea and was never seen again after."

The French government has just sold to M. Chevreux the right to refine and export salt from Lake Assal, one of the most remarkable sheets of water in the world. The lake is in the district of Obok, east Africa, only a few miles from the head of the Bay of Tadjourah. All along the edge of this little lake which comprises only sixteen square miles, is a bed of nearly pure salt about a foot thick. The lake bottom is apparently a bed of solid salt. A long briny brook or creek drains water from the ocean into this body of water.

A "PETRIED WOMAN," with much care and solemnity, was expressed to the geological survey office in Washington. Maj. Powell soon discovered that the figure was made of Portland cement.

Malaria in any of its Forms, Chills and fever, congestive chills, can be prevented or cured by the use of Simmons Liver Regulator, a purely vegetable medicine, superior to calomel and quinine.

NIMBLE NEGROES.

Some of the Queer Dances of the Southern Darky.

Intricacies of the "Buck" and "Wing" Dances as Performed by the Natural Terpetichorans of the Plantations.

Before the war, a plantation negro who could not dance a few steps of that particularly characteristic Ethiopian dance known as the "buck dance" was very hard to find. It was the pastime of old and young darkeys alike, not only on the plantations and on the levees, but on the decks of the steamers that plied the various rivers of the south, and at that time formed almost the only mode of travel and transportation. The "buck dance," however, attained its greatest perfection and enjoyed its greatest popularity on the plantation, because there was more leisure time granted slaves on plantations than to those who were employed on the rivers and steamboats. It was, says the Chicago Herald, a matter of great surprise to the stranger traveling through the south to see with what precision and versatility very young darkeys executed the many difficult steps that characterize "buck" and "wing" dancing.

While the dance is one difficult of execution, it has been acquired by the jig and step dancers of the American stage as far as the simple steps themselves are concerned, but it is impossible for anyone but a negro to put that distinctive personality into the dance which makes it so fascinating to the beholder. It is impossible to tell how old the "buck dance" is, or where or when it originated. It is erroneously stated that it was called the "buck dance" because only men or "buck negroes" indulged in it, but this is not the case. It derives the name of "buck dancing" from the fact that on the plantations it was customary for one dancer to "buck" or pit himself against another. The contest was not only one of endurance, but also in the variety of steps and contortions that the dancer indulged in.

The war and consequent freedom of the negro in no wise interfered with the "buck dancing." In fact, it is more common to-day in those districts in the south in which the negro population dominates than ever before, a fact that possibly may be accounted for by reason of the very freedom of the negro and his disposition to do as he pleases. It has ever been the pleasure of the darky to dance, and as a race he indulges in it now more than ever. On the occasion of festive gatherings where the darkeys from various plantations had gathered for dancing, singing and feasting, it was not an unusual sight to see several "buck dancing" contests going on at one time.

Usually two robust, young darky boys would begin the contest. Upon signs of fatigue on the part of either of these a half-dozen or more young darkeys of both sexes, standing nearest to the dancers, and urging them on to greater efforts by shouts, laughter, calls for change of steps and different steps. As soon as one of the dancers gave evidence of distress one of the restless group that surrounded him would jump into his place, force him away, and commence dancing with might and main, keeping up or varying the steps until the second of the original couple tired out, when his place would be immediately taken by either boy or girl, and so on the contest would continue for hours.

"Wing" dancing was mostly indulged in by barefooted darkeys, the steps being of a bounding nature and not wearing on the sole of the foot. Another very popular dance in the south among the darkeys was "Jumping Jim Crow," a dance that could be indulged in by the barefooted darky without much danger to the soles of his feet. "Buck dancing" is totally different.

The shoes used are ordinary flat-bottomed shoes without heels, and the entire foot must be kept on the floor. In all the bewildering movements and steps the pat-pat-pat of the dancer's feet must keep perfect time with the music of the banjo. The names of the various steps are curious. He begins with the "rabbit hop," which brings into play every muscle of his body as he bends and hops without lifting his feet from the ground. Then comes the "Johnny Bull," which is a series of slides and a heavy step to each bar of music. That changes to a rushing step, with a slip from the heel and a perfect balance of the body. Then the "Pass Malard," where he waves his hands from the forearm and the left foot drags, while the right seems to be doing a lot of hard work.

He swings from that into "Broken-Foot Charley," a crazy sort of dance, where he gets his legs all tangled up and one foot twists around the other without landing him on his back, as it certainly would a beginner. "Break de chicken's neck" is the next change. This is a twist of ankle and of knee, as a man twists a chicken's neck. In "Go 'way sugar, yo' done los' yo' taste," the "jig-sand" represents sugar and Grant pushes it and bursts away and by feet, arms and face indicates dislike. "Scratch ground" means walking and reversing in time to the rapid music. In this he is loose-jointed from the head down. "Wake up, black man," is a wild dance. He swings around and turns and twists like a contortionist, but never once loses his time; his movements are swift and remarkable for strength and grace. Only a young and powerful physique could stand the strain.

While coon hunting, John Rider, of Dutchtown, Mo., lost an eye in a very peculiar way. He was going up a tree, in search of a coon, when an owl flew down and tore out his eyeball with its claw.

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The Dalles is the largest original wool shipping point in America, about 5,000,000 pounds being shipped last year.

ITS PRODUCTS.

The salmon fisheries are the finest on the Columbia, yielding this year a revenue of thousands of dollars, which will be more than doubled in the near future.

The products of the beautiful Klickitat valley find market here, and the country south and east has this year filled the warehouses, and all available storage places to overflowing with their products.

ITS WEALTH.

It is the richest city of its size on the coast, and its money is scattered over and is being used to develop more farming country than is tributary to any other city in Eastern Oregon.

Its situation is unsurpassed. Its climate delightful. Its possibilities inexhaustible. Its resources unlimited. And on these upper slopes she sits.

J. F. FORD, Evangelist,

Of Des Moines, Iowa, writes under date of March 22, 1896:

S. B. MED. MFG. CO.,
Duffer, Oregon.

Gentlemen:

On arriving home last week, I found all well and anxiously awaiting. Our little girl, eight and one-half years old, who had wasted away to 38 pounds, is now well, strong and vigorous, and well fleshed up. S. B. Cough Cure has done its work well. Both of the children like it. Your S. B. Cough Cure has cured and kept away all hoarseness from me. So give it to every one, with greetings for all. Wishing you prosperity, we are Yours, M. & Mrs. J. F. Ford.

If you wish to feel fresh and cheerful, and ready for the Spring's work, cleanse your system with the Headache and Liver Cure, by taking two of three doses each week.

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GENERAL DEBILITY CURED.
Portland, Ore., August 11, 1892.
Dr. A. T. Sanden, Dear Sir:—Before I used your belt I was troubled with loss of power, I would get up with a very tired feeling, bones aching, etc., since using your belt I have had a new lease of life. I now enjoy life better than I have for ten years past. I have the strongest confidence in your treatment. You can publish this statement, also have others write or call on me. Truly yours, H. A. BOWEN, 55 and 57 Turk St.

RHEUMATISM AND LAMENESS CURED.
Portland, Oregon, April 15, 1892.
Dr. A. T. Sanden, Dear Sir:—I got one of your belts two weeks ago for rheumatism, from which I suffered for several years. For the past six months I had not been able to walk. Your belt has placed me in almost perfect health in the two weeks I have used it. I can walk comfortably, and feel like a new man generally. M. E. HUGHES, Proprietor International Hotel.

NERVOUS DEBILITY—LOSS OF VIGOR.
Tacoma, Wash., October 24, 1892.
Dr. A. T. Sanden, Dear Sir:—I have been using your Electric Belt for general nervous debility, and today feel better than I have for five years. I have gained in vigor daily, and am strong in every part. Yours gratefully, CHAS. LUTERKA.

LAME BACK AND RHEUMATISM.
Portland, Oregon, September 25, 1892.
Dr. A. T. Sanden, Dear Sir:—Years of exposure from the air of an engine, gave me a severe case of lame back, from which I suffered for seven years. I was so bad that I could not bend my back. Was all doubled up with it. I bought one of your belts. It helped me inside of two days, and I continued to wear it for four months, being perfectly cured. That was two years ago, and I am just as strong as ever was in my life. I know your belt well, and I know lots of people who have been cured by it. Many others need it, and if they would try it they would find it the same as I did—the best remedy in the world. I am looked here permanently, and will be glad to testify with any one who wants to inquire about it. ROBERT BUEHL, Engineer Hotel Portland.

LOST VITALITY AND STRENGTH.
Everett, Wash., June 18, 1892.
Dr. A. T. Sanden, Dear Sir:—I have been using your belt I find myself twice as vigorous as before. My memory is now nearly perfect, and each day shows for the better. I'm much stronger than before using the belt. Yours truly, HENRY SCHULZE.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

LAND OFFICE, The Dalles, Or., May 11, 1894.

Complaint having been entered at this office by John G. Fife against the heirs at law of William M. Murphree, deceased, for abandoning his Homestead Entry No. 471, dated October 12, 1892, upon the NW 1/4 Sec. 18, T. 1 N., R. 10 E., in Wasco county, Oregon, with a view to the cancellation of said entry, the said parties are hereby summoned to appear at The Dalles, Oregon, on the 14th day of July, 1894, at 9 o'clock A. M., to respond and furnish testimony concerning same, alleged abandonment.

JOHN W. LEWIS, Register.

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