

## THE TROUBLE BILL BRACE MADE

The old settler saw the sheriff looking at one of the circus pictures and laughing as if he would burst. The picture was that of an elephant and a camel walking side by side, and a man on horseback following them.

Said the sheriff: "That picture put me in mind of the time that Jim Stark went down to take care of young Bill Brace when Bill had a spell of the jim-jams. That was the funniest thing that ever happened in Pike county, but I hadn't thought of it in ten years, and I had to howl."

"Maybe it's twenty years ago, and maybe it's more, but anyhow, young Bill Brace, after turning a good farm and three or four of the best horses there was in the county into Jersey rum and absorbing the most of it himself, somehow or other got the jim-jams. They took him home to his old man's. The old gentleman kept a tavern along the river road, and never let anything bother his head much, and no more did the old lady. They took young Bill's little indisposition as a matter of course, and got along with him well enough for a day or two; but when he got to insisting that the old man was a snake which it was his bounden duty to club to death and that the old lady was a superfluous kitten that must be drowned, and forthwith proceeded to perform his duty with a singleness and tenacity of purpose that nearly triumphed, they concluded that he had better be handed over to more vigorous and persuasive methods of treatment, and they called in the hired man and the neighbors.

"Jim Stark, who lived all over the country, happened to be in that locality about that time, and he volunteered to go and sit up with young Bill at least one night. Jim was a little given, once in a while, to taking a drop too much himself. Believing that he wouldn't have a very pleasant or quiet evening with his patient, he thought he would take a small vial of nerve-fortifier along, and he did.

"They had young Bill in the front bedroom of the tavern, on the ground floor. The house was built close to the edge of the road. It was a warm summer's night, and the front window was raised to its full height. All the folks in the house went to bed and left Jim alone with young Bill. The patient was comparatively quiet, and Jim began to think he was to have a pleasant watch.

"Ten o'clock had passed, and, with the exception of an occasional howl, and the emphatic expression of the belief that the room was full of fighting cats, young Bill had given Jim no uneasiness. About 12 o'clock young Bill gave a yell that would have scared a panther into fits. Jim was laying back in a chair, in the act of strengthening his nerves once more. He turned round and saw Bill sitting up in bed, staring wild at the window. Jim looked in that direction himself. If Bill's yell would have thrown a panther into fits, the one that Jim gave would have killed it stone dead. There, with its head sheaved through the open window, and with its trunk waving slowly to and fro, and its ears flopping, was an elephant, and at its side stood a camel.

In less than a second Jim was in under the bed, yelling murder at the top of his voice. The hired man slept over head, and hearing the noise, rushed down. The first thing that met his gaze was the elephant and the camel. Then he thought he had the jams, and with a terrible howl he went out of a back window and made for the barn. The uproar awoke the old man and woman, and they came tearing into the room. The elephant and camel were the first things they saw. They tumbled over one another in their haste to get out, and added their howls to Bill's, Jim's and the hired man's. The old lady got out of the house and ran a mile

up the road to Granny Casword's. She aroused the people there and yelled:

"Don't come out or you'll get 'em. I've got 'em, the ole man's got 'em, Jim Stark's got 'em and the hired man's got 'em! We all got 'em o' Bill! Who under the blessed canopy'd a think they was ketchin'? Don't come out, an' I'll kinder hide in the woodshed!"

"Well, in the midst of the excitement at the tavern, a man on horseback rode up. He soon straightened things. You see there had been a circus down to Stroudsburg, and it had pulled up at night to come on to Milford. The elephant and camel had been chained together, and the keeper rode along on horseback. He got tired and sleepy, and just before he reached Brace's had fallen asleep in his saddle. His horse had turned into Brace's barnyard and stopped, and the elephant and the camel went on. Seeing the light in the window, the elephant went to investigating matters and gave the whole house the jim-jams.—Ed. Mott.

## Press and Pulpit

Gay Waters, the recently-elected pastor of the Fourth Christian Church, has also joined the reporter staff of an evening paper. No doubt the piety of the paper and the push of the pastor will be improved by the combination of journalism and preaching.—Globe-Democrat.

The Rev. Mr. Waters will find as many opportunities of telling the truth and serving God on the staff of a daily newspaper as on the pulpit on Sunday. Comic papers are responsible for the idea that a reporter is of Bohemianism, careless in his habits of life and reckless in his statements. The truth is that the very nature of a reporter's work requires regularity, punctuality and accuracy, and anyone who would undertake to join the staff of a daily newspaper in the expectation that he would have nothing to do but to loaf around public places, or that he could draw any pay that he had not earned by hard work, would be most woefully disappointed. As for accuracy and truthfulness there is no calling in the world which is subjected to so severe a test as that of a reporter. The doctor's mistakes are hidden under ground, the lawyer's are known only to the judge, the minister's congregation cannot answer him back, the merchant's mistakes are rectified privately, but thousands of critical readers stand ready to test the reporter's work, and if he makes a mistake the paper is called to account for it publicly.

One of the funniest things we have lately seen in print is an article in a Boston paper on "gentlemen." The dude that wrote it says that "Abraham Lincoln was not a gentleman, in the strict hereditary sense of the term." Other men, such as John Adams, fall under the ban of his social ostracism. The argument, if argument it may be called, amounts to this: that no man is a "gentleman" whose father, or grandfather worked at any manual labor, or was engaged "in trade." The funniest part of it is that there should be people who read and believe such dudeistic statements; for, of course, no newspaper publishes what is not asked for.

Subscriptions amounting to \$100,000 have been guaranteed in aid of the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition at New Orleans next year. The total amount wanted is \$500,000.

The general agent for the sale of the Star Chewing Tobacco for the Pacific Coast, Mr. W. H. McAllister, 206 Front Street, San Francisco, Cal., thus speaks of the Great German Remedy. "I was tortured with pain from acute rheumatism, and cared not whether I lived or died. I tried the remedy that is setting every one wild now-a-days—St. Jacobs Oil—just two applications of which entirely cured me."

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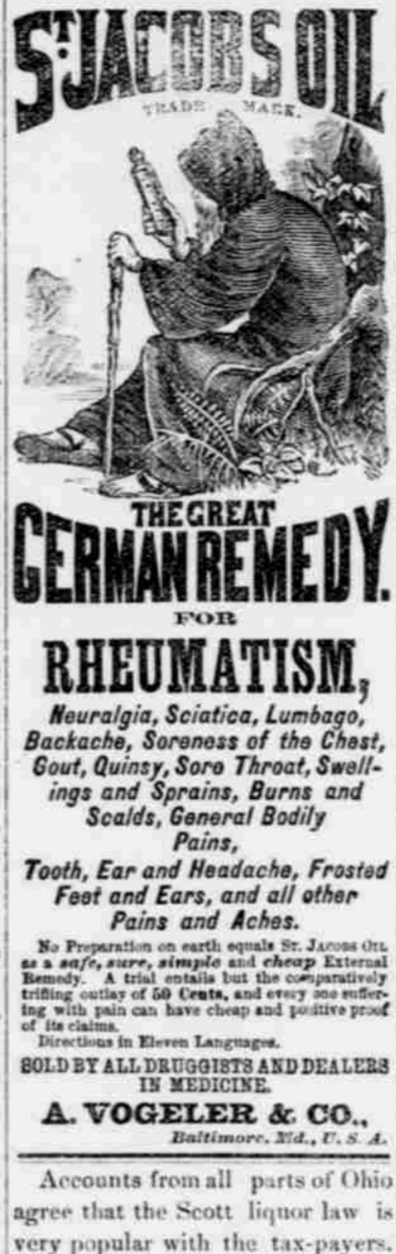
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