

The Daily Astorian

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ZIG-ZAG AGONY.

Major Rufus Von Bugle was a member of a recent session of the Arkansas legislature. One morning while walking around the orchard, adjoining the premises where he boarded, the gentleman found a hornet's nest under a tree where it had fallen.

"Nothing finer for a pen wiper than the hornet's nest," mused Mr. Von Bugle. "I have often heard my father speak of how they were used in North Carolina."

He took the nest with him to the state house and placed it on his desk. Soon after the roll was called, the house went into executive session, and the sergeant-at-arms was instructed to clear the house of all outsiders and lock the doors. The officer, as his time for taking a drink had arrived, looked the door from the outside.

After a while the air began to grow warm in consequence of red hot stoves and heated debates, and matters of such interest were being discussed that Major Von Bugle did not hear the buzz of interminable disturbance going on in the insectiferous region. Arising to answer a sweeping assertion made by the opposition, the major knocked the hornet's nest from the desk, waved his arm in oratorical tragedy, shook his clenched hand at all antagonistic ideas and trampled on the hornet's nest.

"Mr. Speaker, I am—whoop! Look out, who-e-e-e!"

Other members thought that he had gone crazy and rushed forward to apprehend the representative. Kinsman's nose and made that gentleman dance, while a leader of the swarm, evidently held in high esteem by the entire nest, took sight at the speaker and "zipped" him on his bald head. The sergeant-at-arms "equipped" and dodged behind the desk just as another hornet burnt blood on the back of his neck. By this time the air was full of the fiery bugs, and a general rush for the doors was made. Locked! The sergeant-at-arms was yelled for, but that important factor was sipping a cocktail in a neighboring saloon. Some of the braver members seized their hats and began to fight the hornets, which resistance only stimulated the enemy to greater effort. The chaplain, a highly respected gentleman, implored the members to be calm, and had begun a discourse on the resentful nature of the insect, when a hornet that had been wounded and was unable to fly, crawled up the good man's trouser leg, and stood on his hind legs. The minister, in sudden and unexplained steeled jerks of zig-zag agony, began to remove his trousers, calling on Providential interference as he did so. The speaker, with a face like a pumpkin, raised up and exclaimed:

"Keep on your breeches, brother, for if you don't it'll fare ill with you."

Too late, for the chaplain was already unincumbered with pantaloons. Hornets are wise as well as severe, and when they saw the partially disrobed man, they left the majority and went over to his side. It is cruel to dwell on the misery of this man. It is almost sacrilegious to tell how an ordained preacher reacted around a legislative hall, jumping over desks and asking Abraham and Paul if they ever saw the like; and it would be almost inhuman to note the dexterity with which he rolled over and over. We have pursued men into secret miseries and made their agony public, but we shall no further attempt to remind an honorable man of something the memory of which must be painful to him.

When the sergeant-at-arms returned and opened the door, there was an outpouring of the spirit. Several days afterwards, a northern man, looking at the body of law-makers, remarked:

"Worst body of bums I ever saw. Every one has a head on him. No wonder the people call for prohibition."

Only fifteen members of the house could be found who would vote for a resolution offered by Townsend of Illinois, declaring that hereafter no territory can be admitted as a state unless it has 150,000 people. It was shown that it was perfectly useless to pass such a resolution, as one congress cannot bind future congresses, or even itself, provided it at a subsequent time changes its opinion and declares otherwise. It was aimed at Dakota and Washington, but it failed in its purpose. Still there are no chances of either of these territories being admitted as states by the present house, for the reason that in each case it would give two additional Republican senators, and increase the Republican majority in that way. This is not a substantial objection, but it is sufficient to keep the Democrats from acting favorably. Could they be assured that there would be Democratic senators elected, the objection would fade away in an hour.

In the broker's office: "I understand that I can subscribe here for stock in the Mesager railroad," said a stranger, whom the hayseed in his hair and the mud upon his brogans indicated as belonging in the country. "Yes, sir," replied the broker. "Let's see; this is a safe investment?" "Perfectly safe." "And you have had twice the entire amount offered by leading capitalists?" "Yes, sir." "But the projectors chose to give the people an opportunity to make a good thing?" "That's it, exactly." "Well, remarked the country inquirer, "I guess I'll be generous, too. I ain't goin' to lose a chance. So long." And out he went, accompanied by a chuckle in his throat and a twinkling in his eye.

The camels that were employed in hauling freight across the dry waste of Arizona for the Southern Pacific railroad, now by natural increase 400 in number, have been bought by John Shiry, an Australian sheep farmer, and are to be used in hauling freight across the deserts in Australia. He estimates for \$10,000—much less than the number of camels would cost if he were to transport them from Africa.

Blaine Takes a Little Trip.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—Blaine, accompanied by his daughter and Gail Hamilton, his cousin, left here Monday morning for a short visit to the Natural Bridge in Virginia. The trip was announced to be for a few days' repose, but this was generally disbelieved, and a flutter among politicians resulted. It has transpired that A. C. Parsons, vice president of the Richmond and Allegheny railroad, a warm friend of Blaine, and leader of the Dizardorf straight-out delegates to Chicago, resides at Natural Bridge, and Blaine was Parsons' guest. The latter is now supposed to know the Maine statesman's political desires, and will, it is said, communicate his wishes to Blaine's managers at Chicago. The "Plumed Knight" returned here quietly Friday afternoon. He refuses to talk about his trip, but his friends say that it is now harder work than ever for him to conceal his interest in coming events. Many of his most ardent opponents are admitting that his nomination is reasonably certain. News has reached here from Texas that of twenty-six delegates from that state all but three are for Blaine. This information, which comes from the best authority, is startling. It appears that Arthur placed the Texas patronage in the hands of Tom Ochiltree, the only republican member from that state, and relied on him to fix the delegation. Democratic congressmen from Texas say this was an easy thing to do. Ochiltree, however, not only remained away from Texas during the republican convention, but neglected to send any one to represent the administration. The result was a few sore-headed ex-officers controlled matters, and sent Blaine delegates, knowing they would be the most objectionable to Arthur. Things are very cold for Ochiltree at the White house at present.

Seth Green barely escaped the other day a bit of grim irony at the hands of the three derelict sisters who snip with their scissors the fine thread of human life. The famous expert in the propagation of fish was sitting on the steps of a house in Rochester, N. Y., when he saw a tall flagstaff swaying in the gale. He sprang aside and hardly had he left the steps when a wooden fish, weighing sixty pounds, that had surmounted the flagstaff, crashed down on the very spot where he had been sitting.

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