

Morning The Daily Astorian.

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THE KING OF LIARS. GETTING OUT OF A SQUEEZE.

Smoot's Buffalo—A Sample Texas Yarn—Sons of Ananias on Their Mettle.

I may remark, incidentally, that there is something about the atmosphere of a livery that has a stimulating effect on the imagination. There is more unostentatious lying done by old men who sit around in hide bottom chairs, in the shade in front of Texas livery stables, chewing tobacco and whittling sticks, than in all the Court Houses in the country. On this occasion there were several old frosty-faced veterans of pre-Adamic Texas, swapping yarns about killing Mexicans and Indians, and hunting buffaloes and mustangs. They seemed to lie without the slightest effort. Mendacity seemed to roll out of their mouths by the mile. I also noticed that when any of them told a particularly tough lie, the others seemed pained, and immediately one of them would get off a much tougher yarn.

One of them was a white-bearded old son of Ananias by the name of Dempsey. He was a stage-driver by profession. There was another old fellow with brindle hair and a long red nose named Smoot. These two seemed to be rivals in the business of manufacturing frontier improbabilities.

"Ever been out on the headwaters of the Nueces?" asked Smoot.

"A thousand times I reckon. I killed and skelped a Karankaway injun right at the waterhole in 1837. He was a trifle over eight feet high. His skelp was as big as a door mat," said Dempsey carelessly.

"If he was a Karankaway, he must have been only a boy. All the Karankaway bucks I ever shot averaged about nine feet. Well, as I was going to say, I had a narrer escape from a buffalo out thar in 1831. I reckon thar was a million of 'em out thar."

"There was more than that when I was out thar," said Dempsey, picking up a stick to whittle.

"As I was saying, just for the fun of it, I thought I would shoot off a buffalo's tail just two inches from his body. He was a cavortin' around, and switchin' his tail about, so I didn't make much of a shot. I shot it off about two inches and a half from his body."

Dempsey yawned like a cavern, and replied:

"You must have been mighty awkward with a shootin' iron to miss an easy shot like that. When I was a ranger with Jack Hayes, I used to follow up a buffalo and shoot the cow ticks off of him without techin' him."

"I had fever and ager when I shot that buffalo bull's tail off," exclaimed Smoot, "and I had just taken about half a pound of quinine, and my hands war a leetle shaky. As soon as I had shot off that bull's tail, he turned and came at me in a hurry so I made for the nearest tree."

"I have had the same thing happen to me a billion times, I reckon. The buffalo caught you on his horns, and chucked you up in the tree didn't he?" interrupted Dempsey, who was anxious to head off the impending lie, which threatened to be a whooper.

"I've had 'em do that to me, too," resumed Smoot, "but this one druv his horns six inches into the tree on both sides of me, and he couldn't get them out again. Thar I was pinned to the tree, and so was the buffalo. I wasn't hurt a bit, and the buffalo couldn't get away."

Old Dempsey was silent a few minutes, during which pause he expectorated copiously, and it was evident that his brain was at work with the energy of a clothes wringer.

There was a vigor and freshness about Smoot's lie that almost maddened him with jealousy.

"Them sort of things happened most every day when me and Jack Hayes was in the range business." "I was on right slim and thin in them days," resumed Smoot, "and I gradually worked my way down from between them horns of the dilemma, so to speak. I patted the buffalo on the head, and talked soft to him, and I got him so gentle, that if he had been a cow I could have milked him. At last I got out, but it was a blank tight squeeze. I walked off and left him thar, fast to the tree by his horns."

"That buffalo must have had mighty long horns," sneered Dempsey; "I never seed a buffalo with horns a foot long. Smoot, you are an old man, and purty soon you will have to meet your Maker. You should not tell lies."

"I never told a lie in my life, Dempsey. That was the only long-horned buffalo I ever saw, and I reckoned I've killed a billion or so of buffaloes. Thar was at least eight or ten inches of his horn druv in ter that tree, and there was about a foot or so of horn outside of the tree, when I walked off and left him anchored fast."

"Is that stump-tailed buffalo standing thar yet?" asked Dempsey, with evident chagrin at the stupendousness of this lie.

"I reckon the coyotes eat him up, all excepting the horns for they are thar yet. I saw them last year when I was up thar, but the tree had growed some, and them horns were fast in a limb of the tree more'n 60 feet from the ground—maybe it was

only 59 feet. I can't afford to lie, for, as you say, I'm an old man.—(Texas Sitings.)

A Dog Fanning the Baby.

Dog stories are always in order, provided they are true. A gentleman in one of the suburban wards of Pittsburg owns a fine specimen of the spaniel breed which is very fond of children, and when the little ones visit his master's house constitutes himself their companion, playmate, and guardian. A few days ago a lady with an infant visited the gentleman, and in the course of the day the child was laid on a pillow on the floor to amuse itself for a time. The dog took his place near the little one, as usual. The day was hot and the flies bad, and they made the baby the target of frequent attacks. This rendered her restless. Doggie watched her for a few minutes, and then, walking close up, with his nose or paw drove away every fly as soon as it lit on the baby's face, and did it so gently, too, as not to disturb her in the least. The dog's actions attracted the attention of the mother and others, who were filled with astonishment at his thoughtful kindness. The story has the merit of truth.

A gentleman, whose family consists of a wife and twin girl babies, came in very late one night and went to bed.

His sleep was broken, and he tossed and tumbled and muttered something about "two of a kind" and a "small pair."

"Poor John," murmured his wife, "he is tired, and is dreaming of the children."—(New York Sun.)

Delicate persons, and all whose systems have become debilitated, should bear in mind that Simmons' Liver Regulator is not a drastic, purging medicine, does not weaken or deplete the system as other purgative medicines do, but acts gently. It will invigorate like a glass of wine, but it is no intoxicating beverage to lead to intemperance; will promote digestion, dissipate headache, and generally tone up the system. The dose is small, unpleasant, and its virtue undoubted.

"You may say what you like, mother, George no longer loves me." "But, child, how did you get that silly notion into your head?" "Oh, very simply, and only too quickly. When he takes me home, nowadays, he always chooses the shortest road!"—(Chicago Inter Ocean.)

Cheer Up! Help is at hand. "I'm afraid I shall have to be taken to a hospital or to the poorhouse. I've been sick so long that my husband, good and patient as he is, can't stand the worry and expense much longer." No, you won't dear wife and mother. See what Parker's Tonic will do for you. Plenty of women as badly off as you are, have been rescued almost from the grave by it. It will build you up, curing all ailments of the stomach, liver and kidneys, and is simple, pleasant and safe.

The cranberry-growing counties of Wisconsin are estimated to produce this season 100,000 barrels, which, at an average of \$5 per apple, will aggregate \$500,000.

Education of Girls. In no institution of learning in the country is more complete education given than in the celebrated Notre Dame, near Baltimore, Maryland. The Sisters in charge say they find that Red Star Cough Cures successfully removes all colds and throat troubles among their pupils. It is absolutely free from poison, and costs but twenty-five cents.

Cotton-growing is making considerable progress in Russia, especially in the Caucasus. It is not quite equal, however, to the American staple.

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