

The Daily Morning Astorian.

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SLICK FRANK'S LUCK.
The Gold Excitement on the Big Bend of the Columbia.
 The broad-shouldered miners, who sat in the bar-room of the Miners' Arms, on Front Street, yesterday, and tipped their drinks with the air of men who could afford to pay for them, were talking of the ups and downs of miners in gold and silver excitement among the Rocky Mountains.
 "It beats all," said old Sam Whittaker, as he filled his pipe, "how some men allers strikes it rich, and others has to hustle around to get a grub stake. What's bad luck for some allers turns out good for them as is in for it."
 "Taint like," said the bar-tender, wiping his hands on his partly white apron. "It's the arly bird what catches the worm, and them that humps themselves gits tar sometime."
 Without noticing the interruption, the old miner scratched a match on the bowl of his pipe, and having thoroughly lighted the tobacco, continued:
 "There weren't none of you fellers up at the Big Bend in the Columbia, just after the war, 'cause if you had have been there I'd seen you. There was a chap there named Frank La-blonde, 'Slick Frank' they called him, 'cause he never turned a hair and had stacks of dust about all the time. He came into camp one night in a canoe that he'd speared from the Injuns, and found lodgings alongside of it on a sand-spit, where a little brook ran out of the gulch. Bein' that everybody got there ahead of him, there weren't no show for him to stake a claim. Most folks would have called that hard luck, but after three or four days a couple of chaps what had prospected over a bit of bottom half a mile away, give it up as worthless. Slick Frank 'lowed that it would hold a shanty, and he'd build one, and wait for something to turn up. Bein' as winter was coming on, Slick laid out to make a shanty what he wouldn't freeze in nohow, and so began to cut away the side of the mountain, where it run down to his claim, keepin' his eye peeled for the traces of dust, but seein' nothin'. After about four days' work he'd got a perpendicular wall about ten feet high to build his shanty against, and had begun to cut his timber for the hut, when a smart chunk of a sappling that he was chopping at, fell the wrong way and started a big bowlder down the mountain. That fetched a couple of bigger ones along, and they plumped right down on the ground where he'd laid out to build his shanty. That was the first streak of good luck. Most folks would have called it hard luck, but if the sapping hadn't started the rock, a snow-slide would, and the rocks would have wiped out Slick Frank."
 "So he went to work scooping out another place for a shanty, taking care this time that no loose rocks weren't hung up above him. He was right under a very solid sort of a precipice this time that he hadn't noticed before on account of the bush. There was a small stream of water poured over on one side, which he 'lowed would make things very comfortable when he wanted to mix his grog, and for cooking purposes. So he got a good log hut up after a week's work, and roofed it over with bark and turf, and banked it up and built a good stone hearth and a chimney at one end. It was a genuine home comfort, and Slick began to lay out for a good time, when early one morning he waked up to find a stream of water trickling over the precipice and square down his chimney.
 "Most men would have been exasperated, but Slick didn't have no such word in his sweet lexicon. He just dug a little trench to carry the water out of his parlor door, as he called it. The stream was about as big as your arm, and mighty regular in its flow after it once got its work in. Something had dammed the brook way up in the mountain and turned part of the current into a new channel. Slick watched it for a while, cogitating how he should spout the water away from the shanty, when he noticed that the sand that came down with the water was forming a little ring around the outer edge of the hearth. Without thinking much about it, he scooped up some of the sand and put it under a bit of a magnifier that he carried. He told me afterward that that was the first time in his life that he ever hustled. He'd found the dust in uncommon quantities in that sand, for the new channel was right over a vein of pay dirt, and he wanted to get a trough and cradle rigged without any delay."
 The miner here turned toward the bar-tender, who hastily set a bottle holding a yellow liquid on the table beside four clean glasses, and the miner continued impressively:
 "Some men humps themselves until their fingers wears out and never raises an ounce, and others builds houses, and while they sleep the dust gets spouted down the chimney or in through the keyhole, or it gets to 'em in some way, and all they has to do is to rig up a trough to catch it. That's what I call luck."—[New York Sun.

Gould and Sage.
 Washington E. Connor attends to the execution of Jay Gould's stock orders, and is, in fact, the lieutenant of Gould in all stock operations. Russell Sage is the one whom Gould seeks when in need of money. It is nothing for Sage to let Gould have \$1,000,000 "over night." I dare say Gould has had as much as \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 of Sage's money at one time. Sage and Connor are not friendly. To be exact, Sage does not like Connor. I was told the story of their falling out the other evening at the Windsor Hotel. Things do not always go as Gould plans to have them go, and a long time ago Gould calculated that the old issue of Manhattan Railway stock would suffer a decline. He accordingly went short of it in the market. A court decision, I think it was, put a different aspect on the matter, and a rise in the stock was inevitable. Gould was obliged to "cover" his short interest. Connor was equal to the emergency. He knew that Russell Sage held a great deal of the stock. He rushed into Sage's office, and as if doing Sage a favor, told the latter to hurry up and sell his stock because it was going all to pieces. Connor bought all that Sage sold to "cover" Gould's shorts. When the delivery was made of course Sage found it out, and he was hopping mad, but he could not help himself. Sage probably made \$15,500,000 by his connection with Gould, the latter letting him into schemes that brought him large profits. Sage helped Gould at a time when the latter sorely needed money, and afterward Gould showed his gratitude by putting the former in the way of adding immensely to his fortune. Gould, however, helped himself to a large slice of Sage's fortune last year during the great decline in values. His brokers had bought enormous numbers of puts of Sage, and the drop in values made the aggregate profit to Gould, I think, according to the "street's" understanding, about \$4,000,000.
 Sage lost altogether last year, it is estimated, \$8,000,000. He is still a very wealthy man, but his losses have made him very cautious. He is, in fact, so cautious that he is doing no business nowadays to speak of. He writes very few privileges, and now that he does not feel sure, will not entail loss. He takes no chances. He ceased to be a power in the "street," and nobody who knows him believes that he will ever again acquire anything like his old telerity. He is thoroughly frightened. The prospect of a loss, even a small one, is terrorizing. Sage will probably degenerate into what in the "street" is known as a "coupon clipper." He will buy bonds bearing a sure rate of interest, collecting the interest when it falls due. He will not dare risk his money on the rise and fall of values. He has, so far as he has been able, disposed of his "trash," by which is meant securities of uncertain worth, keeping only those whose value cannot be affected by the mutations of the market. He has bought no bonds or stocks. The money that he has obtained from his sales is locked up in the Importers' and Traders' Bank, of which he is Vice-President, and it will be apt to stay there until he sees a sure investment for it. I was in his office day before yesterday. When Sage was doing an active business his office was filled with messenger boys and put and call brokers, and was a lively place. Now he has only an office boy and a clerk, and their principal employment is finding some means to pass the day.—[Brooklyn Union.

Dining in Persia.
 Persian dinners are always preceded by pipes (hubble-bubbles), while tea and sweets are handed around. Then servants bring in a long leathern sheet and place it on the ground; the guests take their seats around it, squatting on the ground. A flat loaf of bread is placed before each man. Music plays, and the dinner is brought in on trays, and placed on the ground on the leathern sheet; the covers are removed; the host says, "Bismillah" ("in the name of God"), and in silence all fall to with their fingers.
Attention, Railroad Men!
 "I suffered more than a year with indigestion; was very bilious; had dumb chills, followed by fevers, which progressed to me. I took Siamon's Liver Regulator, and am satisfied that it is all that it is recommended for indigestion and bilious complaints, for mine was certainly a stubborn case. Many of my friends speak of it, and they all agree that it possesses all the virtues claimed for it."—A. H. HIGHTOWER, Conductor C. R. R., Ga.
 Lightning struck a hen house in Illinois recently, and killed twenty-five setting hens. How much money was lost? asks an arithmetical exchange. That depends upon what spring chickens are worth in Illinois.—[New York Graphic.

The War in the Soudan.
 The Australian soldiers who went to the Soudan had each a bottle of St. Jacobs Oil, which eased all pain caused by their march across the desert. Now comes Red Star Cough Cure, which contains no opiates or poison, and yet cures the most obstinate cough or the worst case of lung trouble.

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