



OUTWITTING A GRIZZLY.

A Veteran Traveler Tells How He Burned Up a Fierce Old Bear. He was a vulnerable and intelligent man and had been a great traveler, and he kindly undertook to while away an idle hour by telling a New York Evening Sun reporter of the true inwardness of California life in the foot-hills of the Sierra.

"I had several very curious adventures down there," he said, "and, by the way, you see, if you ever happen to go to that region you had better throw off your patent leathers and your boiled shirt to begin with, and put on corduroys and high cowhide boots. The brush down there has thorns three inches long, barbed like fish-hooks, and you would soon leave behind you that costume with more of what is inside of it than would suit you."

"As to your question about grizzlies, I'll tell you my first rather remarkable experience with one of those warty beasts was a kid, not yet twenty, and he went to the region of the sierras, having come from the East but a few months before. On a moonlight night early in April I was meandering home on muleback. I was unarmed with the exception of a pocket-knife, for I had foolishly lent my pistol to a friend early in the day. I had almost reached the ranch, having only a short stretch of chapparal to pass. I had heard that the grizzly was as ferocious in the spring, after his winter's fast. He's always an ugly customer, and after a man has had a wife or two from his talons there is seldom enough left of that man to tell the tale."

"On this evening I speak of I was dog tired, as I had been riding all day. I do almost fall asleep on my mule, when—jump! Standing ahead, as large as life, on the bank of a little brook, was a big grizzly. He grinned at me and growled in a way calculated to agitate the nerves of Ajax, the fellow who defied the lightning, much more those of a tenderfoot, as I was then."

"I had heard enough to know that if I turned tail, that is the mule's tail, I could leave Ephraim behind me, but on the other side of him was home, and I had my share of grit even then. I had heard of the notion entertained by some people that a man can master the most ferocious wild creature by looking him in the eyes and advancing straight upon him. Even a greenhorn would back out of such an experiment with Ephraim, the most ferocious of all wild creatures."

"Suddenly I remembered I had in my pocket a large box filled with friction matches, those made with plenty of brimstone for use in a strong wind. An idea occurred to me, and I patted and encouraged the mule, who trembled so I thought she would drop down under me, and urged her boldly right in the face of old Bruin. When within a few feet I suddenly struck a dozen matches and threw them right into his open jaws. Never were there more studious change from defiant and malignant ferocity to the most abject cowardice. The huge brute actually covered and shook with terror equal to that of the mule herself."

"This was something altogether outside of his experience. I suppose he thought he had struck a prairie fire on muleback. Even the mule saw the situation and gained courage. She advanced and I kept a continuous shower of burning matches. Luckily a rather strong wind blew from me and carried away the fumes. In fact this is what brought the varmint to me, he having winded me. To cut things short, old Eph turned tail and ignominiously fled."

"Now, stranger, I might proceed to relate further how I kept at the heels of that old grizzly and kept setting fire to his fur until he was entirely burned up; but in this skeptical age it may be well to suppress some of the facts of the case, for fear of being doubted."

ENTIRELY REFORMED. How an Elephant Was Instrumental in Redeeming a Drunkard. One of the strangest stories of a drunkard's reformation is told in the Philadelphia Times. William H., a prosperous tradesman of Eastern Pennsylvania, lost his property through unforeseen business troubles and, leaving his wife and family, went West to retrieve his fortunes; but discouraged by want of success, he took to drink, and finally became a degraded loafer. He drifted eastward again, and was seen in Troy, N. Y., hanging around liquor saloons. He had lost his manhood, and even his very name (having long been ashamed to be called by it), and men knew him as "The Worm of the Still."

Once, soon after the arrival of a circus and menagerie combination to exhibit in the city, the drunkard saw one of the keepers purchase a pair of whiskey for a sick elephant, and sneaked after him to the circus tent, following the impulse of his craving thirst.

The keeper put the bucket of whiskey down before "Betsey," the sick elephant, and she drank about half of it. The intelligent brute knew it was medicine, and did not propose to take more of it than she thought she needed. She took the bucket, still full of liquor, was left standing near her, and the keeper's attention was called away for a moment.

Hardly was his back turned when a bloated, red face was peered through under the canvas, and its pair of watery eyes were fastened greedily upon the bucket. Betsey fixed her keen little eyes on the intruder, stopped away to it, and fro, and walked to see what he would do.

He did not notice her. The fascination of the whiskey blinded her to every thing else. The bucket was beyond his reach. He drew himself under the tent until he could clutch it. The instant that he did so, Betsey flung her powerful trunk around his waist, and whirled him up in the air.

She did not mean him any harm, but he was tampering with her medicine, and she would not stand that. So he had barely time to give one wild shriek of terror, when she tossed him thirty feet away, where he struck against one of the ponderous wheels of a lion cage, fell to the earth with one leg broken, and three fractured ribs. She did not attempt to follow and hurt him, for she had no malice. He was carried away on a stretcher to the hospital.

The rest of the story is a pathetic romance. The wretched man's recovery was so slow that fitted him to be passed before he could walk on crutches; but in that long time the thorough hospital treatment had cleansed all the liquor out of him, and he had begun to look something like his former self.

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