

GAY OLD TIMES WERE THESE

When the Mississippi and Missouri Were Dotted with Floating Palaces.

FORTUNES MADE IN THE BUSINESS

How a Rich Trader Proved More Than a Match for a Party of Gambling Sharp—Story of a Trip on the Missouri.

An old steamboat captain relates in the St. Louis Republic some interesting facts relating to steamboats and steamboat men in the early '50s. At that time no railroads were completed to St. Louis, and the river front was lined with elegant steamers, bound for everywhere that the Mississippi and its tributaries could take them. The steamboat business was booming. The captain was then the clerk of a steamer of which he afterward became master.

From early morn to late at night the levee here was the most active and exciting place in the city. Imagine 150 or more passenger steamers bound for New Orleans, Louisville, Cincinnati and Pittsburg, to say nothing of Nashville, White River, Ouachita and the smaller streams south, where our merchants shipped millions of dollars' worth of goods and received the products of various states to handle upon commission in return. Then imagine the great western trade of the Mississippi river, with the fine line of steamers plying regularly, some of them going to the Yellowstone, taking heavy consignments and returning with the furs and other products of the west, and you have the picture.

The great bulk of trade controlled, entirely by St. Louis was from the Missouri, while competition had divided the upper and lower Mississippi and other rivers of the Ohio, Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Still St. Louis merchants were not idle, and from large shipments of desirable goods to the southern states the boats came back loaded with sugar and cotton, when much of the sugar was refined and a large amount of the cotton made into cloth by establishments doing business here. It would be impossible to approximate the output and the result of the income. The city then had several cotton factories and one large sugar refinery.

THE STEAMBOATS. At that time the Missouri was blessed with some of the finest steamers that ever plied the western waters, and with elegant and popular commanders and clerks. Among them were the Clara, Captain Cheever, the Elyria, Captain Dodger, the Paul Star, Captain Ed Dix; Morning Star, Captain Brerly; Hesperian, Captain Kerchmar; Emma, Captain Jim York; Omaha, Captain Winickoff; Arabia, Captain Terrell; Emigrant, Captain Terrell; War Eagle, Captain Hugh White; Rowena, Captain John T. Doster; Thomas E. Tutt, Captain Ben Dodger; and the Captain Pat York; Colonel Crossman, Captain J. Cheever, and Twilight, Captain John Rowe.

The old steamboat runners at that time were an energetic class. They made money easily and spent it the same way. Like birds of a feather, they rooked together and were a jolly, whole-souled set. Sometimes the captains were compelled to hire several, as competition was strong, and each one carried \$5—some of them acting for number of boats and making as much as \$50 per day.

The way those fellows yanked a man desiring passage, especially on the Missouri, was fearful to behold. They would grab him right and left, and if he got off with only a few quarters or talloons coat he was lucky. Eventually he was hustled on a steamer, glad to escape the maddest of the fare. The fare on the boat was first class, embracing all the luxuries of the best hotels and dished up in the most inviting and toothsome manner. No expense was spared upon the table or its service, and when supper was over the cabin would be cleared for dancing, a string band furnishing the music.

When the steamer left the wharf a new danger beset the passengers—gambling was at its zenith, and the slick-fingered gentry generally knew a good thing when they saw it. Many a young man seeking to start a habitation, with several hundred dollars for investment, who thought he could increase it by taking a hand in a game of eucher flat broke upon arrival at his destination. The gamblers were usually divided into parties of three, and were generally well heeled, and uniformly successful in fleecing their victims.

Speaking of gambling on the Missouri, an incident was related that transpired in the late '50s, where three notorious gamblers had secured a number of passengers on their westward trip.

A young husband, with wife and child and some \$5,000 in cash, was looking for investment in some prospective western city. The gamblers inveigled him into a game of eucher just to pass away the time, which were slugged upon them, and at the proper moment introduced poker. The boss shark of the party sat opposite the victim, while his pals occupied the table or its service. After a few games one of the pals said: "I wish we were playing poker, for I would like to bet on my hand."

"So do I," said another, "and I'll bet you \$10." The money was put up, when the boss discovered he had a pretty fair hand and came in. Then some one outside the game, with a party with the gamblers, saw that the victim held four kings and urged him to bet big. The victim covered the \$10 and raised \$1,000, and the boss saw the \$1,000 and raised it \$2,000, all the young man had. But a sure thing like that wasn't to be found every day, and the victim saw the gambler's \$2,000 and called him. Of course, the gambler held four aces, and with face as pale as death the victim left the table and sought his wife in the "alley" cabin, but she would attract attention anywhere. But this is not the only respect in which he is alike. Twice he has resigned the position of chief justice of his territory, as well as its chief justice.

About two years ago, relates a correspondent of the Washington Post, Judge Blockley married a wealthy Miss Herring of New York, and shortly afterward resigned this time to devote himself to the practice of his profession. Recently he sent from the mountains of Habersham, where he has a country home, a letter to the effect that his intention to retire from the practice of law. Two ideas prompt him to do this: One is that he has become satisfied that with the patronage he is willing to allow him as an office lawyer, there is not a living in it for him and his family. This he sets forth in his poem. The other is that he feels his position is untenable as well as its support of the much-discussed financial question. He says he is absolutely unbalanced and wants Hoke Smith and Judge C. J. to present to him a brief of their arguments in support of the two sides of this controversy.

A DESPERADO OF THE DEEP

Terrible Ending of the Career of a Philadelphia Merchant's Son.

HE BECAME A CHINESE PIRATE

Escapes the Vengeance of the Law Only to Fall a Tiger Victim in an Indian Jungle—His Skeleton Recalled.

OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 14, 1895. Mr. Geo. W. Ames, City—Dear Sir: I have just returned from a delightful trip to Orchard Homes. If there is any spot in the world that should be christened the "Garden Spot of the World" Orchard Homes is the place. Beautifully situated, high and dry, with soil unsurpassed in richness, it is adapted to the growth of all kinds of fruit and vegetables, both large and small, and its climate is equal to that of "Sunny Italy." I predict a future for Orchard Homes that will astonish the people of Omaha and set every eye looking that way.

I never saw better looking vegetables than I saw while in the south. The first was only a few days' growth, but it weighed one pound each. I have specimens of this fruit at my house and will be pleased to show them to any one who will call.

I went over every acre of Orchard Homes, seeking for all the disadvantages, but I found that the advantages would more, far more, than offset them. Surely it is a golden opportunity for a man of moderate means to get a good home and live an independent life. I wish to correct one error with regard to the people of the south: If any one thinks they are lazy, idlers, sitting round whittling pine sticks they are very much mistaken, for the people there are strong, healthy, hard-working, good-natured, true to their word and give a hearty welcome to the people of the north and west who come among them to settle. So well pleased was I with the south that I purchased 40 acres in Orchard Homes. The land I bought is a portion of the historical plantation owned and occupied formerly by the family of ex-Governor Brown. I intend to make my future home there. I also examined the markets and found that everything a man raised could be readily turned into cash at a good profit. I found Orchard Homes all claimed for it and the titles perfect. Respectfully yours,

R. A. MINER, 2118 Spruce St., CHICAGO.

UNION PACIFIC SPECIAL TRAINS

Direct to the Fair Grounds. Commencing Friday, Sept. 13th, to and including Sept. 20th, trains will leave Omaha Union Depot, stopping at Shelby's and South Omaha, for the round trip from Omaha to 20 cents; Shelby's, 40 cents; South Omaha, 15 cents.

For full information see Union Pacific city ticket agent, 1322 Farnam street, and agent at Omaha Union Depot and South Omaha Depot.

HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSIONS SOUTH

Via the Wabash Railroad. On September 10 and 20 the Wabash will sell round trip tickets at one fare, plus \$2, to points south. For tickets and further information of the homesekers' guide call at Wabash office, 1415 Farnam street, or write G. N. Clayton, N. W. P. agent.

CALIFORNIA OR TEXAS.

Via Santa Fe Route. For lowest rates on tickets and best accommodations call on or address E. L. Palmer, P. O. Santa Fe route, 1st First National Bank, Omaha.

RAIL TRAINS.

Via Missouri Pacific Railway. Call at depot, 15th and Webster, or city office, 1322 Farnam street, and get time card of the fair grounds train.

The Four Mile Placer Fields. Considerable attention has been directed lately to the Four Mile placer fields, situated in Routt county, Colorado, and Carbon county Wyoming, about seventy-five miles south of Denver. The area covered is about forty miles in length and thirty miles in width, and is estimated to contain about 100 million tons of gold.

Gold was first discovered there in 1891 and the following year several claims were located; not until the last year, however, has any considerable amount of capital or labor been expended in order to prove the wealth of these fields.

At the present time the Rock Spring Placer company, the West Side Placer and several smaller companies are operating with splendid success. Without doubt these fields are the richest of their kind in the west, and are worthy of attention.

Information regarding same will be cheerfully furnished on application to Mr. H. C. Davis, Haines, Wyo., or J. T. McNeister, agent Union Pacific Railway, Rawlins, Wyo.

AN ODD CHARACTER.

Former Chief Justice Retires from Practice. Judge Logan E. Blockley is one of the most unique characters of the south. For a long time chief justice of Georgia's supreme court, he was regarded by the American bar as a prodigy in legal lore. In person he is exceedingly tall and gaunt, and his long white beard and long hair of the same color, reaching to his shoulders, would attract attention anywhere. But this is not the only respect in which he is alike. Twice he has resigned the position of chief justice of his territory, as well as its chief justice.

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An eminent Philadelphia physician who died recently had among his large collection of curios two wooden rings, connected by a cord, and there was much conjecture among his friends as to their use and origin. The wood was very hard and heavy and gave out that faint, subtle perfume that is noticed on a ship built of teak. The ligature connecting the rings was of twisted hide, strong as steel and hard enough to turn the edge of a cutlass. The doctor was rather reticent about their use and history, but one day a relative who had been a sailor, was looking at the collection and remarked: "You have a pair of Chinese darbies, I see."

"Yes, they are darbies, but did not come from China."

"This is their history, as the doctor told it to the Philadelphia Times: HISTORY OF THE HANDCUFFS. "In the palmy days of progress and commerce in this city, when the United States bank was in its glory, a gentleman lived here who was agent for the great foreign banking houses. He was from Rhode Island and came from one of the oldest New England families. He was an upright gentleman and he eventually came to the head of one of our financial corporations, becoming manager and prospered exceedingly.

He had a wife and four children, two boys and two girls. The eldest boy and girl took after the father in disposition and looks, while the two youngest were totally different—very dark in eyes and complexion. They had none of the physical attributes of their family, while in mind and disposition they were more divergent.

From childhood they were vicious and sought evil as pleasure. The boy was dismissed from school after several years and sauntered about the city, doing mischief and influence at the Navy department and an appointment to West Point was secured for him.

In two months he was kicked out and the letter from the commandant that told of his wickedness turned the heart of the father to stone. He gave his wretched son a sum of money and told him to get out of the city. He attempted to enter the house again the law would be put in force against him, and so, with a groan and curse, the boy disappeared, never to be seen again by his father.

"The girl was equally vicious and depraved. At 16 she ran away from home, but was reclaimed by her mother, and her influence was used to correct her evil ways, but in vain. She again left home, and at the early age of 24 ended her sordid career by being killed in a brawl in a resort in Portland lane, then the Albania of the Quaker city.

The wretched girl was laid to rest, her identity known only to those whose lives she had made a shame and sorrow.

DESERTED FROM THE NAVY. "Meanwhile the elder children had grown to be a honor and a blessing to their parents, setting none of the father's blood in the younger children. The outlaw brother Tom enlisted on the Razez Independence of the United States navy. Among her passed mid-winter was a comrade, and his body was found in the water, but no one could identify the man. The outlaw brother Tom enlisted on the Razez Independence of the United States navy. Among her passed mid-winter was a comrade, and his body was found in the water, but no one could identify the man.

"After becoming a lieutenant the cousin left the navy and connected himself with a large shipping firm, but he was not long in deserting to another ship, and was found in the water, but no one could identify the man.

"The prison was on the territory of a native rajah, a few miles inland and in a thicket of dark pine, surrounded by a dense thicket, a gloomy place strongly guarded. They were admitted, and following the jailer from one dark passage to another, they came to a large room lighted by one small grating window, and here, chained to the floor, was a white man.

"In his youth Tom had been a handsome, dark-eyed boy, but his cousin looked in vain for any resemblance in the face of this ruffian. He asked nothing about his family, but spoke of his luck with curses and asked what were his chances of escape, and when told broke out in a volley of abuse, and fairly drove his visitors away. After the door closed they heard him yelling imprecations on himself and them.

"The passage to the jailer with the English superintendent and heard early next morning that the prisoner had got rid of his foot-irons and escaped in the night. The native trackers were after him, and followed one of the trails leading to a drinking pool in the forest.

Suddenly one of them shouted. Something

"MOTHERS' FRIEND" CURES RISING BREAD. I have been a midwife for years, in each case where "MOTHERS' FRIEND" was used it cured the women, shortened labor and lessened the pains. It is the best remedy for rising of the placenta, known, and worth the price for its value.

HOW TO WALK EASILY.

An Explanation from an Expert

A gentleman of New York City who is famous as a scholar and remarkable as a pedestrian of enormous staying powers explained to a Herald man recently that the reason why so many persons seem to be unable to make long walks is that they do not understand the proper management of their bodies in such efforts.

"An ordinary statement concerning the act of walking," he said, "is that it consists of a series of interrupted falls. In other words walking depends chiefly on the action of gravity as it affects the human body while in movement. I illustrated long ago that walking, as it is ordinarily performed is by no means a series of interrupted falls.

"Of course, it is a fact that walking includes a series of falls, but there is nothing either explanatory or profound in the statement of that reality. The same might be said of standing with the same facility, for when one is standing he is subject to the law of gravity. He would fall were his fall not interrupted by his legs.

"As a matter of fact, walking is a muscular projection of the body in any direction by means of the legs' muscular movements, the two legs never leaving the walking surface at the same time. As we usually walk we stand erect. When that is done gravity does not move the body forward. On the contrary, its force is exerted downward in a perpendicular line. The movement of the body forward is secured by a rise and push, as, for example, when standing on the left leg the right foot is raised from the ground and the ball of the foot and its toes yet touching, a push is given, whereby the body is projected forward. The right foot is then carried forward, and serves as the body's support, while the left foot's heel in its turn is raised and the body is moved forward by a second push. Gravity is present, naturally, but the walking depends on the pushes as its source and constant cause.

"But while falling is an inconsiderable part in ordinary walking, as we walk in the streets erect and dignified, it may be applied to long distance walking with wonderful success. But he who cultivates such walking must be prepared to give up an elegant appearance for the sake of speed. As we usually walk we stand erect. When that is done gravity does not move the body forward. On the contrary, its force is exerted downward in a perpendicular line. The movement of the body forward is secured by a rise and push, as, for example, when standing on the left leg the right foot is raised from the ground and the ball of the foot and its toes yet touching, a push is given, whereby the body is projected forward. The right foot is then carried forward, and serves as the body's support, while the left foot's heel in its turn is raised and the body is moved forward by a second push. Gravity is present, naturally, but the walking depends on the pushes as its source and constant cause.

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Special Train Service During State Fair Week. Special trains leave fair grounds at 7 p. m., and Omaha union depot at 7:05 p. m. as follows: For Hastings and intermediate stations, Sept. 17, 18 and 19. For Broken Bow and intermediate stations, Sept. 18 and 19. For Schuyler and intermediate stations, Sept. 18 and 19. For Grand Island and intermediate stations, Sept. 18 and 19. For Columbus and intermediate stations, Sept. 17, 18 and 19. For Falls City and intermediate stations, via Lincoln, Sept. 18. For Wymora and intermediate stations, via Lincoln, Sept. 19. For Chester and intermediate stations, via Wymora, Sept. 19. Leave fair grounds at 6:40 p. m. and Omaha union depot at 7:05 p. m. as follows: For Cedar Creek and intermediate stations, via Omaha, Sept. 18. Special train, connecting with regular west-bound train No. 3, will leave fair grounds at 4 p. m., Sept. 19 to 20. Special train, connecting with regular east-bound train No. 12, will leave fair grounds at 4:40 p. m., Sept. 19 to 20. Special trains as well as for Plattsmouth and intermediate stations will leave Omaha union depot at 11 a. m., Thursday, Sept. 19, after the Ak-Sar-Ben parade. J. Francis, Gen. Pass' & Tkt. Agent, Omaha, Neb.

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