

BETTER GO WITHOUT A GUN.

Fernative Power of a Six-Shooter Dangerous to the Owner.

CONSTANT USE SUGGESTS AN EARLY GRAVE

Instances Illustrating Its Influence as a Cemetery Promoter—The Case of Frank Rand.

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Butchers are not allowed to serve on a coroner's jury, I believe, in some states, presumably because the constant shedding of blood hardens the human heart. Along the same line of reasoning it is not too much to say that with the constant handling of firearms comes a desire to use them on something or somebody. With much use one becomes expert with the six-shooter, and when in trouble, or in search of it, such an one reaches instinctively for his fire-arms, without taking thought of the consequences. Instinctively a man defends himself with that which is most convenient. Another harbors a desire, a cowboy to his cartridge belt, a soldier to his sword, while the English athlete puts up his hands.

Another temptation to use the gun comes with the feeling of security taken, the boom of the expert. He is reasonably sure of success in a hand-to-hand fight with a novice.

Having "killed his man," the killer begins to swagger, and at the first opportunity hastens to repeat the performance. Like the prize fighter who has won his belt, he must have a fight with a man.

And finally he actually goes looking for trouble. Killing becomes a disease. Not for the ease of killing, but for the excitement, because it brings the excitement of fighting.

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gave up the chase. I dare say many of them were glad of the excuse.

As hard luck, or a diallike for honest toil, had made a tramp, so now did the seductive six-shooter make a murderer and an assassin. There was nothing for him now but to fight it out to the end. Our desperado made his way to St. Louis, where he met his old pal with whom he had come through Illinois. To his comrade he said nothing of the blood that was on his hands. One day when the two were in a pawnshop, a couple of officers in citizens' clothes entered the place. One of the men, a powerful young officer, who had spotted Rand, sprang upon the desperado and bore him down the floor. Rand was shot, but bravely built, and he gave the officer a hard run. At last he lay quiet for a moment, then turning he looked toward the other man, who was struggling with the man who had called excitedly to the man who was holding him. "Look out there," he shouted, "help your partner."

The officer, being off his guard, and having already removed Rand's murderous six-shooter, turned to see how his brother officer was getting on. Quick as a derring-do he pocketed and drilled a big hole through one of the bravest and most popular officers on the St. Louis force.

The shot, however, did not prove instantly fatal, and with the help that came to him the wounded man was able to disarm the desperado.

After suffering indescribable agony for a few days the officer died. I forget what they did with Rand, but if you ask any man who lived in St. Louis a quarter of a century ago, he can tell you the purpose of this story is to point a moral. Boy, whoever you be, wherever you roam, fight shy of the seductive six-shooter.

C. V. WORMAN.

THE OLD-TIMERS.

Col. John S. Ford, who has just died at San Antonio, Tex., was a noted Indian fighter, and was known throughout Texas as "Rip" Ford. He was 82 years of age and was a native of South Carolina.

Uriel B. Smith, who is now seriously ill in Chicago, is the oldest living pioneer of Illinois, and settled in this city by July 17, 1835. His daughter was the first white woman born there and is named Milwaukee to that account.

Mrs. Eunice Russ Davis of Dedham, Mass., who has just celebrated her 97th birthday, is the daughter of Prince Ames, who fought in the revolutionary war, and received special recognition from General Washington for bravery.

Moses Humphrey of Concord, N. H., who has just celebrated his 90th birthday, has been three times mayor of Concord, was a member of Governor's council, and has been a member of the state board of agriculture since its organization, twenty-seven years ago.

Mrs. Sarah Barry, aged 105, but bright and active, entertained her friends at a birthday party at her home in Philadelphia the other day and was as merry as the youngest of her guests. She never saw Washington, though she is old enough to have done so, but has many stories to tell of him related by her father, who was one of the officers in the revolutionary war.

Karl Sontak, formerly one of the best known German actors, and a brother of the famous singer, Henrietta Sontak, is living in quiet retirement in Dresden, where he recently celebrated his seventy-fourth birthday. He began his career in Hanover as a comedian and was a life-long friend of Laube. He has written a volume of memories and one on matters connected with the stage that have been highly praised.

Hiram G. Hotchkiss of Wayne county, New York, who has just died at the age of 87 years, became famous as the father of the peppermint industry in Wayne county. He began life as a storekeeper and used to receive small quantities of pepper-mint oil from farmers. He tried to sell it in New York City, but in vain. He then sent

it to Hamburg, Germany, where it was eagerly bought, and from that day the Wayne county peppermint has come to be known all over the world.

In the year 1781, when Lord Cornwallis began in joy and ended in tears his campaign in Virginia against the American colonists, there was born at Fernham, Ireland, a girl baby, who, living to the age of 116 years, is believed to be the oldest person in the world. That girl child, whose life began almost with that of the United States, is Mrs. Anne Armstrong, now of County Clare, Ireland. Mrs. Armstrong is still able to walk and to care for herself and her little cottage by the aid of which her kindly neighbors give her. She is thin and slightly deaf, but her sight is good and her memory clear. Her dress is simple, but a cap and apron of snowy whiteness are always parts of it. Her habits are also simple. At 4 or 5 o'clock each afternoon her day is finished, and she locks her cottage door and retires for the night.

DIVORCED BY DEATH. Penally Exacted by Nature Restored the Widow's Love.

"One of the first cases in my professional career," relates a physician in the San Francisco Call, "was that of a young woman whose short married life had proved a bitter one as well as short, experience. I had known the husband and wife in their younger days, but the first time I had met either of them after their marriage was one morning when the wife, with tearful eyes, called at my office and told me of her unhappy three years of wedded life. Neglect and constant abuse on the part of her husband had finally prompted her to seek a release of her marriage vows and she had come to me for advice."

"The unfortunate little woman had no funds, and fully convinced me of the truth of her assertions, I told her to call next day, assuring her that I would aid her in securing the separation."

"In the afternoon of the following day she called, and with her hand the papers in the divorce case prepared and ready to file them. It was with undisguised reluctance that my client signed them, for even though I had signed a separation there still lingered within her a spark of the love for the man who only the night before had returned home drunk and after striking and abusing her."

"When I announced to her my readiness to file her suit and serve the summons she appeared to me and expressed her desire to go with me, where she desired to secure some of her personal property, but feared to venture there alone. Her husband might be there, she said, by my presence and the fact that he and I were acquainted would insure her protection from further assault."

"I accordingly agreed to accompany her. Arriving at her home we were somewhat startled to find a number of persons crowding the hallway and their strange manners suggested to me that something serious had happened. My conjecture was true, for a moment later my client was ushered into the presence of her husband—lying dead upon the floor of their little sitting room. A protracted delirium had ended in death some time during the previous day or night

after he had so mercilessly driven his wife from her home.

"It was a turn in her unhappy life that the wife had little expected, and the grief that followed her discovery was so great that I would not again care to witness."

"When the truth had fully dawned upon her mind the young woman suddenly turned to me and with tears streaming down her face asked me for the divorce papers which I still carried in my hand."

"She tore the envelope in two and crumpling the fragments in her upraised hand cried out in her distress, 'It's all a mistake! It's all a mistake! Forgive me—' and then threw herself on the body of her husband."

"Death had completely erased from that woman's mind the ill-treatment she had suffered at the hands of a man to whose body she now clung. (She loved him still, and not having the courage to part with him) retired from the room, after satisfying myself that the man was plainly and well cared for by sympathetic neighbors, who, it seems, had first discovered the dead man. Two weeks later I met the widowed woman, and her face told me that her grief, five months later she was dead."

HER FIGHT FOR A POSTOFFICE.

Battle of a Missouri Farmer's Daughter with a Wealthy Merchant.

A quer contest that has been waged in the western town of Acorn Ridge, Stoddard county, Mo., has just resulted in a victory for a 19-year-old girl who fought for her rights against a wealthy merchant and set the tape-bound machinery at Washington working in her behalf. Hattie Ross, the daughter of a Missouri farmer, was three months ago appointed postmistress at Acorn Ridge, a position held by L. D. Robinson, who had been postmaster during Cleveland's term. Robinson did not in the least relish giving up the office to Miss Ross. He could get almost the profit accruing from the mail business, but as the postoffice was located in his store, making the building a center of activity, Robinson decided to prevent his rival from taking it from him at all hazards.

A short time ago Miss Ross came to the conclusion that something was wrong with the mail of Acorn Ridge, and in order to get to be getting along without communicating with the outside world, and no one outside seemed to have the smallest interest in the interests of Acorn Ridge, she writes letters into Miss Ross' postoffice, either for the purpose of mailing or distribution. The newly-appointed postmistress set to work to ascertain the reason for this peculiar discovery and an amazing state of things.

Robinson had defied the United States authorities and had continued conducting the postoffice in his store, for the appointment of Miss Ross. All the residents were going to the Robinson store for their mail, Robinson having secured it regularly by driving to the railroad station, getting the mail bags from the train hands, and afterward distributed at his establishment. Miss Ross complained to Washington, and the arrest of Robinson followed. He was charged with having established a postoffice at a place not designated or authorized by the postmaster general. Miss Ross, the 19-year-old postmistress, appeared as complaining witness. Robinson gave bonds as surety.

Miss Ross, who has the sympathy of the citizens of Acorn Ridge in her unlucky fight, tells her story as follows:

"Five days after I took charge of the office Robinson began his work. When people would come into his store he would ask them to sign orders for the mail, Robinson having secured it regularly by driving to the railroad station, getting the mail bags from the train hands, and afterward distributed at his establishment. Miss Ross complained to Washington, and the arrest of Robinson followed. He was charged with having established a postoffice at a place not designated or authorized by the postmaster general. Miss Ross, the 19-year-old postmistress, appeared as complaining witness. Robinson gave bonds as surety."

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Petified Giant Tree of Supposed Antediluvian Antiquity. Camden county, New Jersey, boasts a genuine relic of the dead, a petrified giant tree, dug up on Farmer Charles Norcross' land, in Lindenwood. The theory of a scientific man who has examined the relic is that the tree was tossed up on the waters of the great deluge and finally struck dry land, when the flood receded, at the point where it has since been buried, aged and aged ago.

The petrified remains certainly prove it to have been a stranger to this part of the United States, says the New York Journal. Its size warrants the assumption that it belongs to the family of big trees that are so remarkable a feature of forest growth on the Pacific coast. It resembles a pine tree in fiber and a California redwood in size.

The tree, which was the subject of a tree eight feet in diameter, consequently about twenty-four feet in circumference, and scientists say its age in life was about 600 years ago. The tree was found by Mr. Terry, who has tiled the soil of his farm and has plowed hundreds of times over the spot where the tree was found.

The farm has always had on one spot a number of curious stone slabs and loose chips. The scientific man whose attention was called to them determined to make an excavation there. His spade soon struck a buried tree. He dug a trench across its base and at the end of an hour laid bare a section two feet wide and five feet across.

Convinced that he had struck a really wonderful relic, he called upon the state geologist at Trenton, who sent down a staff of assistants. They began to dig toward the top of the trunk.

At a distance of seven feet above the butt the diameter had fallen off to about seven feet. At twelve feet it was reduced to five feet across its girth. At twenty-four feet the diameter of the tree had shrunk to two feet. Two feet further along the diameter of the trunk had again fallen to two feet. The relic had evidently disappeared from sight and knowledge.

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