

THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

WEDNESDAY JAN. 27, 1875.

COAL.

Well, boys, what are you looking at so eagerly? Only a piece of coal, do you say, Charlie? I shouldn't suppose you could find anything worth looking at in a smutty piece of coal. Ah, well, I am glad my boys have found that only a piece of coal, as Charlie calls it, is worth looking at.

I think I can tell you something about it that will make you open your eyes wider still. You know how astonished and puzzled you were the other night at the tricks of the "magic man," who turned beans into sugar-plums, and did all sorts of wonderful things before your very eyes. Now this piece of coal is the most wonderful piece of magic in the world. Suppose I tell you that this hard black lump once had life. Yes, boys, I am in earnest. That black lump is really one of the most wonderful things in the world.

Since it has been proved that coal does come from plants, and that our vegetation nowadays makes little or no coal, we know that when the great beds of coal were formed everything must have been specially arranged for it. The world wasn't then as it is now. It was just sky and water, with here and there patches of land. There were great marshes everywhere. Some times these would dry up and become dry land. Then again the sea would come rushing in over the land and form new marshes. There were no birds in the air, no people upon the land. Only reptiles and marsh-loving animals roamed around in the soft clay.

I told you that a time was specially planned for coal-making. As the plants and leaves decayed they fell in to the water. The gases could still escape, but the carbon, being covered from the action of the air, was left. This is the simple explanation. Silent, and with no human eye to see, the work went on year after year, century after century.

A few of the plants in those days of gigantic forests were like what we have—beautiful ferns as large as many trees. Such now grow only in the tropics. "Horse-tails," as you call them, which are now seldom over two feet, grew then as high as twenty feet. Conifers like our fir and pine and cedar, were very abundant. But the two most important trees in coal-making have entirely disappeared from our forests. One of these had no branches but was covered with leaves and crowned with a cluster at the top. Sometimes they were sixty feet high.

But you don't see how we know that trees did make coal? There are several reasons. If you should put a piece of coal under a microscope, and examine it carefully, you would see a vegetable structure in it. It is the same as a piece of wood. Then, be- cause of the same vegetable structure, leaves of green ferns standing in the water, wood contains silica or sand, and this is found also in coal. You don't understand it as well as I have just explained to you, but some day you will understand it.

As you look at this bright, shining coal, you think of the things that it has done for us. It has made us as any two things in the world. For it is made of the same substance—carbon. And although it is so simple, it is the most useful of all the things that we use. It has made us as any two things in the world. For it is made of the same substance—carbon. And although it is so simple, it is the most useful of all the things that we use.

Jehelmy and Revenge.

A singular story of jealousy and revenge comes to us from Sicily. A beautiful young girl named Florina, who was the belle of a traveling circus in which she figured as the lion-tamer, had been for some time receiving the attentions of an athlete belonging to the same troupe. By some means she ascertained that he was not faithful to her, but had another lady love. No signs, however, of her painful discovery were allowed to escape. She still smiled sweetly upon him, but repented coldly to his ardent caresses.

In her own bosom she planned a terrible revenge. One evening recently when the performance had been unusually brilliant—after Florina had whipped the lions and forced them to lie at her feet—she called her recalcitrant lover aside and said to him: "Do you still love me?" "Always," he answered. "Do you know that I should die if you should devote yourself to another woman?" "What an idea!" answered the young man. "But I should first kill you," said Florina. "And how would you do that?" "Thus," cried the girl, at the same instant pushing him violently into the cage of the lions. They attacked the unfortunate man at once and tore him to pieces, while Florina urged them on with blows of her whip.

A gentleman of the Western Union Telegraph office, at No. 145 Broadway New York, was sitting in the cable room when a telegram from Philadelphia, destined for Paris, came over the wires. The message, like all others for France, was to go over the cable via Duxbury, Mass. The operator called Duxbury a few times, and then said: "That fellow is asleep, evidently; but the cable men are always awake. I'll have to get one of them to go in and wake him up." So he stepped to another desk, called Plaster Cove, in Newfoundland, and sent the following message: "To cable operator, Duxbury: 'Please go in and wake up my own true love.'" This message Plaster Cove hastened to send across the Atlantic Ocean to Valencia, Ireland, which in turn "rushed" it to London; thence it was hurried to Paris, and still onward to the European end of the French cable at St. Pierre; the operator there flashed it back to Duxbury. In less than two minutes the clock the message had accomplished its journey of some 8,000 miles by land and sea, and was evidenced by the clicking of the instrument on the Duxbury desk, which ticked out in a manner a little more petulant: "That is a nice way to do; go ahead. Your own true love."

The finances of the State of Nebraska are in a flourishing condition, with a surplus of \$234,000. The taxation is at the rate of \$80,000,000 of property in the State, while its actual value is not less than \$300,000,000. There are over 1,100 miles of railroads in the State; 1,345 school houses; 210 students in the Normal School, and 100 in the State University. The loss from the grasshoppers has been greater than from any cause since the organization of the State. Considerable aid has already been sent forward, and a bill before the Legislature appropriating \$100,000 to the same object, which will undoubtedly pass. The Governor urges that steps be taken to have the State well represented at the Philadelphia Centennial—Inter Ocean.

A Brutal Father. One day recently, a respectfully dressed man carried a well-grown child muffled up, and apparently sick, into French's Hotel. He placed the child on the stairs and began to talk to it in a rough unkind way. The attention of the guests was attracted, and they gathered around. "You are able to walk up stairs yourself," said the man, "and I won't carry you."

The poor child began to sob worse than before, and the brutal man gave it a severe thump on the head. The child began moaning piteously. The indignation of the bystanders was excited, and one of them said to the man: "What's that to you?" the man answered, "I won't tell you."

"He's my father," the child sobbed; "and he—killed—my—mother—just—as—he—going—to—kill me." The man doubled his fist and made as if he was about to give the child a savage blow. One of the bystanders interferred and said: "Say, if you don't stop this, I'll call a policeman. I never saw such a brutal father in all my life."

THE DOMESTIC!

Dr. Foote is the author of "Medical Cases from the West," a book that reached a circulation of over 200,000 copies; also, of "Plain Home Talks," more recently published, which has sold to the extent of 70,000 copies; also, of "Science in Society," which is now being published in serial form. He is also the author of "The Domestic," a weekly paper published in New York, which is one of the most popular and useful papers in the country. It contains a great deal of interesting and useful information for the household.

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E. B. FOOTE, M.D.

120 Lexington Avenue, New York. An Independent Physician, Treats all forms of Chronic Disease, and receives Letters from all parts of the Civilized World. Conducting a Medical Practice in the West Indies, the Dominion of Canada, and in every State of the Union.

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