

GLORIOUS VICTORY.

An Exciting Contest and its Attendant Pleasures and Disappointments.

The fire companies of Lucknow held their annual contest a few weeks since. Jim Carter went about for some days in advance of the affair, offering big odds on the "Get Theres," and the takers were numerous. Brig Lampson, the head of the "Fire Flys," was especially ready and eager to wager with him upon the result, and bet every thing he could lay hands upon. He began with money, of course. But his week's salary, as chief clerk in Smith & Sons' grocery, was soon exhausted; so were his small savings in the bank; and he began to let his dogs, his new traps, and his progressive cache emit. When nothing else was left he put up half his favorite mare, "Lurella," against Jim Carter's promise of the privilege of keeping steady company with his sister, Miss Kitty Carter, to the term of one month. This was certainly a vicious wager; but in view of his destitution they had both reached in regard to valuable things to put up, what the impartial observer ought most to admire is the restraint which caused the bet to be limited on the one hand to half of Lampson's mare, and on the other to a month of the society of Jim Carter's sister.

"I can guarantee your sister's permission now, Jim," insisted Brig Lampson, when they closed the agreement, "the woman kept steady company with, against her will, has just the same attraction still for the other fellow. She's got to be willing, or it's no contest."

"You're safe enough there, Brig. Kit comes into the thing heart and soul, and if the 'Get Theres' get left, she'll be up to the bargain." But don't you see that I've got half the use of 'Lurella' if we send our stream over the roof of Nolan's Block, and the 'Fire Flys' don't?"

All the surrounding country was present to witness the contest which was to decide which of the companies could throw the highest stream. This was to be settled by determining which, if either, could in the language of the articles of agreement, "throw over the roof of Nolan's block" — the highest building in town.

The "Fire Flys," under the direction of Brig Lampson tried first; and Brig's heart beat high as he gave the word, and the boys fell to upon the old-fashioned pump with a tremendous will. They pumped for all they were worth, but the block was high and human strength has limits. The stream reached only to a level with the top of windows. Still, this was a big achievement in itself, and the friends of the "Fire Flys" shouted themselves hoarse with approval.

There were cries of division when the "Get Theres" trotted out their inferior machine under the orders of Jim Carter, for the "Get Theres" had been defeated woefully the year before. By there was a smile of confidence on Jim's face as he walked calmly to where the conductor-pumpster to convey rain water from the roof was fastened to the building. The elbow which terminates such pipes seemed to come off readily in his hands as if it had been fixed for the purpose, in advance, as indeed it had.

Then the people watched Jim with open eyes and mouths as he thrust the nozzle of the "Fire Flys'" hose far up the pipe, and cried to his waiting fire ladies: "Now, boys! Give it to her!" Give it to her they did; and before any one knew how it happened a great red rose for the umpire the "Empire" was a fair win, and said he could not go behind the agreement for the contest, which certainly said that whichever company throws its stream highest over the roof of Nolan's block, shall receive the prize." It was plain that the "Fire Flys" had not only thrown highest over the roof, but that they had not reached the roof at all; whereas the "Get Theres" had gotten in splendid shape. It was then they had used a conductor-pipe, and the fair empire could not find any thing against the use of a conductor-pipe in the agreement. So he awarded the prize to the "Get Theres."

Brig Lampson is not keeping company with Kitty Carter just now, and Jim Carter makes a point of taking out the mare "Lurella" on Sundays and holidays, when the chief of the "Fire Flys'" has invited a certain young lad (next best girl, counting from Kirby) to drive with him — *Tidbits*.

MEXICAN INDIANS.

The Remarkable Heavy Loads They Carry on Their Backs.

The fact is that the Indian puts himself in competition with the burro, that patient little beast of general toilage. The back of the Indian seems to be about as strong as that of the burro, and the Indian has this advantage, that after transporting his stuff to market he can make his own bargain for its sale. I know no more interesting sight than to go out in the early morning to one of the great highroads leading into the city, and to watch the nerve-enduring procession of Indians carrying burdens. The rag figures sold in a few Boston shops give exactly their expression. It is the bare face, that dull, bronzed countenance, with lusterless eyes, which seem to have accepted the lowest condition of life as all that is attainable by human endeavor.

And what loads these strong Indian backs can carry! I watched a gang of young lads who had just made all the pins in the hills and roads removed to get their last load, and I surmised three hundred pounds. A single ground chum, about as big as the

bag, and weighing not a pound over one hundred, would take a bag on his back and run up a platform which was on a level with the car, and then he would trot back at once for another load. And yet some writers assert that the lower Mexican class are lazy. I say that they are capable of as unremitting patient toil as any people on top of the planet, and that the true wealth of Mexico consists of her docile and industrious laboring population. Half the time they are idle and have nothing to do. Then they will work hard and continuously for six hours the history of the building of the Central railway shows. Ex-General Manager Robinson, now of the Atlantic & Pacific, said that he preferred them to any American gang of laborers for hard work.

I have seen an Indian carry from a weighing scale bag after bag of grain weighing three hundred pounds, and four cargadores will carry a grand piano or their shoulders from one end of the city to the other. For instance, it usually moves on litter, with a man at each end. These chaps will pile up stuff on a litter and load it with ropes, and then start off at a jog with a burden big enough for a horse. These furniture-movers are remarkably careful, and rarely injure any thing. They work cheaply and well.

Frequently you will see a man perched on another's shoulder, being taken about the streets. I have often seen well-dressed old gentlemen being trotted along in this fashion. They were victims of rheumatism but for an airing, or on a visit to some friend. The poorer classes carry their babies on their backs, and one of the quaintest sights is to see a little brown face with black eyes peeping out of the hood-like folds of its mother's upper garment. I often see babies being toted about in this way on the backs of little brothers or sisters, for the kindness of Mexicans of all classes to young children is a most praiseworthy characteristic. Even in the narrow streets, where the very poor live in mud-houses, you see no trouble among the children; they play quietly, and their mothers are not engaged in frequent brawls regarding childish difficulties. Indeed, there is a certain refinement of action, a decency and courtesy of behavior among the poorest Indians which would put to shame the coarseness of people of the same grade of life in an American city. — *Cor. Boston Herald*.

CAKE FOR BREAD.

A Mistaken Notion Which Is Bad for Many Men and Women.

It is not well to be guided by the motive suggested in tales which assert that virtue at once highly rewarded, however implicitly one may believe the stories themselves. Good deeds are always rewarded, sooner or later, but to expect and hope for an immediate "squaring of accounts" is most ignoble. Working for mere pay is to be governed by a mean motive. It is better to do right because such a course is noble in itself, than because of the pecuniary gain which may be derived from it.

FULL OF FUN.

—Elphins was passing along the street and saw a trunk outside the door of a dealer, bearing the legend: "This size for ten dollars." "So do I," said Elphins. —*Kaleidoscope*.

—Brown—"Hello, Jenkins! Why so sober? Thinking of your castles in Spain?" Jenkins (sipping his coffee)—"No, only looking over my grounds in Java." —*Colonial Spectator*.

—"Oh, he didn't have no trouble. He just proved a lullaby when he was brought up to court," was the explanation given by a fond mother, when asked how her son got out of his last scrape. —*N. Y. Telegram*.

—May I import to you a great secret, Herr Baron?" "Oh, certainly!" "A great secret—I am hard up and require at once five hundred marks!" "You may trust me; I am as silent as the grave; I have heard nothing!" —*Epitome Blitter*.

—A little three-year-old miss toddling upstairs the other day noticed that the servant had removed the carpet from her room and was scrubbing the floor. Said she: "Hello, Rosa, has you moved my kitchen floor up-stairs?" —*Bodleian Oracle*.

—A daily newspaper has been started in Greenland. During the year when the days are three months long the editor doesn't get down to the office until three weeks after breakfast, and stops work two months before sunset. An editor can get up pretty good paper in eight or nine days, if he has a large exchange list and a sharp pair of scissors. —*Narrators Herald*.

—Trials of an Editor.—The editor sat in his sanctum.

When the foreman with his modest request, "Come to ask for the gift of a statue," written up at the editor's seat, the editor looked at him coolly. "How ever was I low out of graft?" "You can take me, no, but you can't move my kitchen floor up-stairs!" —*Bodleian Oracle*.

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AN UNDESIRED HONOR.

Bismarck Relates How a Prussian War Minister Was Once Made.

When I again rejoined the party, Bismarck was telling them the following story of General von Stratha. He was at that time living quietly at Frankfort, in command of the allied garrison there, when one day he received a telegram from the then Minister-President, Count von Brandenburg, to come at once to Berlin and report himself to the Minister. Stratha starts for Berlin in hot haste, and thence immediately goes to Brandenburg.

"I have sent for you Excellency to ask you to become War Minister," said Brandenburg.

"Me?" exclaimed Stratha. "For Heaven's sake, your Excellency, what made you think of such a thing? I am not in any way fitted for the post."

"I am afraid that can't be helped. See here is the order from his Majesty the King, requiring that you shall be War Minister."

Straha reads the order, looking greatly troubled, and then says: "Of course, if his Majesty commands, I must obey."

"Well, then, my dear colleague," continues Brandenburg, "you will attend the Cabinet Council at ten o'clock."

"Oh, I could not possibly do that," said Straha. "I am afraid you will have to. See here is another order from his Majesty, expressly desiring you to undertake the War Department in the Cabinet."

"Then I must, of course, obey," said the new War Minister, with a deep sigh of dejection.

He is just about to leave, in order to prepare himself for his presumably maiden speech, when Brandenburg stops him: "I suppose you know, General, that you must appear in *multi* (many) clothes at the council?"

Straha stood speechless with amazement. This was the finishing stroke, "I have none," he at last managed to stammer forth.

"Well, you will have to get yourself some by ten o'clock — such are the King's commands."

Then of course I must obey," replied Straha, leaving the room in a very crestfallen manner.

But he found his difficulty vanishing.

Jumping into a cab, he drove off to the Muhlenhain, where all the old Jews congregate, and at ten o'clock precisely a strange figure, with an enormously high collar, and coat sleeves hanging right over his hands, was seated at the ministerial table, this was the new War Minister! — *Chambers' Journal*.

—Watered Stock.

Junior Partner—Mr. Shortweight, don't you think we had better put up the price of coal up? It is going to be very cold to-night.

Senior Partner—I see, my son, you are not yet up to the line points of the business. Insert in to-morrow morning's paper an advertisement of a reduction of five per cent.

Junior Partner—A reduction of five per cent? Why, that is against all sound business principles. The greater the demand the higher the price.

Senior Partner Not to fast, young man. Order the men to water the coal thoroughly; that will add fifteen percent to its weight and bulk when it freezes, and after the reduction of five per cent, we will still have ten per cent advance. — *Philadelphia Call*.

—A small bird, which accidentally discovered in a looking-glass in a paint shop at Visalia, Calif., its counterpart, pays daily morning and evening visits to look at its reflection. The local paper says that while before the mirror it resorts to all the coquettish arts by which a bird could render itself graceful and attractive. The habits of the bird are so methodical that the painters know when to expect it. The weather does not deter it from visiting the mirror, and it has become quite tame and is a favorite with the workmen. — *San Francisco Chronicle*.

—ALWAYS prompt and sure and only 2 cents: Red Star Cough Cure. No opiates. The merits of St. Jacob Oil as a sure cure for rheumatism are known everywhere.

A MIND man is very sympathetic. He will never see anybody suffer.

Mrs. FRANCES E. WILHARD has selected some Gospel and Temperance songs, familiar tunes, 200 copies of which will be sent to any church or Sunday school. Address the Publisher, Mrs. LUCILLE G. FIXON.

—A HIKING club is very good number to form a man with—*Mark Twain's Traveler*.

50¢ gold as prizes for the greatest hiker.

As a young baby at a meeting is like a good suggestion—it ought to be carried out—*Texas Statesman*.

—**YOUNG MEN Read This.** The following is a case in point: "I paid out hundreds of dollars without receiving any benefit," says Mrs. Emily Rhoades, of McBride, Mich. "I have had many complaints, especially drag-drags, for years, and have been plagued with all kinds of trouble. Last summer I stopped the use of the medicine, and my health improved rapidly. I am now in full strength again, and have no trouble in my legs, feet, or hands. — *T. J. Hunter, Atlanta, Ga.*

—**SCROFULA of Lungs.** The following is a case in point: "I have had scrofula for ten years, with the disease running rampant over my body. The disease has been snatched almost from the very jaws of death, can testify that consumption, in its early stages, is no longer incurable. The discovery is no longer incurable, as a total and radical cure for consumption is now to be had in a short time, and the cost is but a trifling sum. — *Red School House Shoes*.

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—**LADIES' Home Journal** and **PRACTICAL HOUSEKEEPER** Three Months on trial for only 10 Cents. **SPLENDID DOMESTIC STORIES** by Harriet Prescott Spofford, Rose Terry Cooke, Mary Abbott Hand, Charlotte Snow.

—**HINTS ON ETIQUETTE**, How to entertain, etc. **ETIQUETTE**, <b