

SOME NOTED WESTERN LIARS

Bloomed for a Time and Enriched Border Literature.

SAMPLES OF FORGOTTEN YARNS

Joe Mulhatten, Ike Cooley, Bill Leeds and Major Hazelcorp Fashioned Some Weird Tales

These are the regions of the joyful life. Here sprang and flourished the Major Hazelcorp, the Joe Mulhattons, the Isaac Cooleys and the Bill Leeds. These have their myriad imitators who lie for the fun of it. Joe Mulhatten, of whose death I have heard rumors, but of which I have obtained no confirmation, was in his prime the greatest source of amusement and excitement at given periods in all the country. Now, no one questions the fact that there are more good, honest, generous and well-meaning and right-living men pro rata in the west than there are in the east. The west is no place for the human skunk, but even the meanest man who needs a little neighborly help will find it in every community where the east would turn him the cold shoulder almost invariably. Yet these admirable people have Joe Mulhatten and imitate him.

Not since Baron Munchausen has there been a man to rise to such heights of mendacity as Mulhatten. He was born in Allegheny City in 1811, spent his boyhood in Louisville, but his young manhood, the real period of his training, was spent in the west. As a commercial traveler he was always successful and was marked for his business honesty, but going here and there over the country he delighted in duping large masses of the population with a long succession of astounding tales. His early stories were told to fellow traveling men, who spread his fame far and near. International fame did not come to him till 1858, when the newspapers of the continent as well as of the United States copied a story from the Louisville Courier-Journal, which stated that James Guthrie of Shelby county, Kentucky, had imported from South America a large number of husky monkeys and had trained them to break hemp, weed the garden, pick tobacco worms and do general farm work. So great was Guthrie's success that his neighbors, seeing the place of the slave laborer now filled, were sending for carloads of monkeys from Amazonas. The sober, solemn London Standard, under the caption of "The New Labor Problem," devoted a column and a half of ponderous discussion to the matter.

Some Mulhattosisms.

In 1888 there appeared a story from Atlanta, Ga., that appeared simultaneously in western papers to the effect that a central Georgia farmer drove a dozen geese into his cotton fields every morning with water-filled gourds about their necks. Each gourd had a hole in the side. The geese waded the cotton patch and drank from each other's gourds. As long as it was daylight and they held out they did excellent work. Some mystery connected with the water held them to their tasks. Amazing as it is, western papers still print accounts of farmers in remote districts, who having heard the tale for the first time, tried out the experiment.

Once, purely on paper, Mulhattosism struck off at Glasgow Junction, Tenn., and for two weeks the town had a great boom, from which it has never recovered. In 1890 he filled the papers with an account of a gigantic meteor which had fallen in a remote part of Texas. If demolished a Mexican's house and killed eight people. Six big colleges actually sent and for some time maintained searching expeditions. In 1890 he discovered Mono, lake near Virginia City, Nev., which bleached the hair and skin of all persons who bathed in it consistently. There is in that country today a large colony of negroes and others who traveled there and were never able to get away. On April 22, 1890, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat reported a large party of scientists in Mexico as having discovered a sort of tree called the arbor diabolus, which caught birds, wild cats, etc. In fact, anything that caught its branches-folded the victims to its heart and devoured them.

Again expeditions, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, set out and then the story was traced to Mulhattosism. A man on trial for murder in Shreveport, La., telegraphed him an offer of \$1,000 as an honorarium to come on and address the jury. The judge, hearing of the offer, offered to suspend court till Mulhattosism

could arrive, and in the interim the chief witness died and the prisoner went free. In 1909 Mulhattosism had deluded the world to such an extent that the delusions came home to roost and he was committed to the Arizona insane asylum for a short time. Alienists flocked to him from every direction and pronounced him sane, but since then he has been more careful.

Montana's Laughmaker. Major Hazelcorp, who lived at Basin, Mont., kept the west in a gale of laughter for years. His chief work is memorialized in the annals of the Royal Geographical society of London, being part of a highly scientific paper read by Sir Mountjoy Fitzmaurice, from which I quote a paragraph.

"We have just passed through a part of the west where the changes of the temperature are of amazing suddenness. I am informed by one of the citizens here that five years ago, an immense flock of wild ducks settled upon the bosom of a small lake when the thermometer stood at 60. At daylight next morning the thermometer had fallen to 25 below freezing and the ducks were frozen in. Moved by a common impulse they attempted to rise and after a few moments they were in the air, carrying with them the frozen lake. It is one of the most marvelous occurrences which has come under our notice."

The Cooley was forced into fame as a liar. One day before it was time to shoot deer Cooley was out in the mountains of Colorado, and meeting up with a stranger, fell into talk.

"This is a fine hunting country," said the stranger, looking at Cooley's gun. "Yes, indeed. I shot a buck yesterday that weighed close to 300 pounds."

"That was a fine one, but do you know whom you are talking to?"

"No, can't say as I do."

"Well, I am the chief game warden of the state of Colorado."

"Oh—um—yes, yes," said Cooley, a bit shaken for a moment. "But do you know who you are talking to?"

"Not an idea—at least, not yet."

"Well, you are talking to the biggest liar in the state of Colorado."

That story flew on the wings of the morning, and soon the Cooley had a reputation that he decided to live up to. His tales cannot be repeated here, but their quality and nature is attested to by the fact that Captain Southworth, his next-door neighbor, a devout church-going man, moved suddenly to California, giving as his reason that he loved and believed the Bible, but he could not credit the punishment of Ananias and yet continue to live where he could look out any day and see the Cooley walking around alive and well.—New York Telegraph.

Adenoids Are a Menace to Children. Babies and young children must be carefully watched for the growth of adenoids, which spoil the mental and physical life of a child. They usually result from a succession of colds and throat irritations, and their presence is so productive of harm that many school boards have an examining physician to detect them. The conditions that cause them may be easily avoided by careful parents. Quickly and thoroughly cure all colds and throat irritations by the use of Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, and adenoids will not develop. All dealers everywhere.—Advertisement.

The Supreme Test.

"What makes you think that you really love me?" she said.

"No thought for a moment before he replied, and then he said:

"I am willing to button you up your back all the rest of your life."

"That is something, but is it all?"

"I am willing to let our house be run by strangers, and that you should ever remain in entire ignorance of its management."

"Rather good. Anything else?"

"I am willing that we should have no children, so that you will be able to go to Europe whenever you want to, entertain your friends, and not be tied down."

"Good! And is that all?"

"Is that not enough?"

"And she doubtfully replied:

"I suppose it ought to be, but I was in hopes that you would say you were willing to let me have the house, and everything I pleased all the rest of my life, no matter how really ridiculous it was."—Philadelphia Ledger.

That Dream Lion.

A Vienna professor is credited with saying that dreams are usually wish-fulfillments. Maybe so. What about that childish dream in which the ferocious lion comes bounding along behind you, and you run as fast as you can, and the lion closes the gap little by little, and then—all of a sudden—your legs grow limp and your muscles turn to water, and your feet fly out, and the lion leaps—and you awake with a yell, if you're not paralyzed, and everybody in the house wakes with you!

Why should you wish a lion on yourself?

The professor doesn't say.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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AN Opening of importance to the men and young men of Omaha and vicinity. Saturday we present for your approval the largest and most complete stock in the west of Fashionable Apparel at Moderate Prices.



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Here's a store where real service is the keynote and where your complete satisfaction is guaranteed at all times. Come, be our guest Saturday, the latchstring is out; we'll enjoy showing you through the Greater Nebraska.

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We're headquarters for the celebrated John B. Stetson hats and many other favorite lines of stylish headwear. Attentive salesmen here; real hat service at your command, all prices \$2 to \$5

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Complete showing of renowned Regal shoes for men and a very extensive stock of lower priced footwear. Reliable shoes from world's best makers—the best at \$2.50 to \$5 every price

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SENSE WEATHER CHANGE AFAR

Human Barometers More Numerous Than the Mechanical Ones.

Much has been written on the relations between weather and disease, and in medical literature there is no lack of carefully drawn curves showing the varying prevalence of particular diseases, the rise and fall of mortality, etc., side by side with others, indicating the march of one or more of the meteorological elements. There is, however, one phase of this subject that has been strikingly neglected. Many human beings are notoriously sensitive, not merely to the weather of today, but also to the weather of tomorrow. Arthritis, rheumatic and neuralgic patients need no barometer or weather map to tell them when bad weather is approaching. Old wounds give trouble at such a time, and members long since amputated reassert their power to cause pain. These phenomena are so well known that it would be sheer fatuity in any scientific man to deny them, merely because he cannot understand them, yet strangely enough they have been the subject of very little systematic investigation.

A special case under this general head is the extreme sensitiveness of some persons to the approach of thunder storms. The pathological condition experienced by such persons before a thunderstorm need not be confused with ordinary dread of thunder and lightning. In fact, this condition often comes on before there are any ordinary indications of the storm's approach; and the symptoms commonly subside before the storm is over. Attention was called to this condition some years ago by Dr. G. M. Beard, in Beard and Rockwell's Medical and Surgical Electricity, and it was given the name of "astrophobia." Cases of its occurrence are, however, familiar to almost everybody. The symptoms of the complaint seem to include all kinds of nervous manifestations, going on quite often to extreme nausea and physical prostration.

One turns naturally to German literature for the elucidation of almost any scientific question that lies off the beaten track, but in this particular case without much satisfaction. It is true that W. Heilpach's unique book, "Die Geopsycho-

MEXICO'S HIGH EXECUTIONER

Plague of Scorpions Ouelousa Revolutions as Cemetery Promoters.

Whatever the limitations placed upon life expectancy in Mexico in these restless days the Mexican scorpion still holds the record as official executioner of the republic. Four thousand persons are reported to die each year in Mexico from the stings of scorpions. There are several varieties of scorpions in Mexico, some of them exceedingly venomous and others little feared. In the neighborhood of Tepic the virulent centurion gracilis abounds, but it is little known about the more northern state of Sonora. It is one of the most venomous creatures in the world.

In the small city of Durango scorpions are perhaps more plentiful and more dangerous than anywhere else in the republic. Here the climate is humid, and torrid—it is in the "tierra caliente"—and it is estimated that more than 100,000 scorpions are killed each year, with no appreciable effect on their numbers.

A scorpion resembles a diminutive lobster. Some specimens are eight inches long, though the average length is from two to four inches. The claws closely resemble a lobster's; with them the scorpion crushes its prey after disabling it by means of a sting.

The body of a scorpion consist of several segments joined the last five or more narrowing down to form the tail, which curls up forward over the body and terminates in the sting. This body-naslike appendage is a horny, sharp spine containing two little openings which connect with the venom gland within the cell of the last segment. In striking the scorpion gives the tail a rapid lashing motion forward in advance of the body and literally administers a hypodermic injection of poison, or rather several injections, for it usually stings repeatedly when it does strike.

NO WHIPPING POST FOR HIM

New York's Sheriff Will Have None of it as a Crime Corrective.

Sheriff Julius Harburger of New York county sees the sure advancement of civilization in America. The sheriff of Nottingham held his job in England—that was even before Harburger went into politics—he armed his deputies with blunderbusses, which the said deputies occasionally would discharge in the direction of Robin Hood and other lawless persons. And then in the days of the Spanish Inquisition there was one Torquemada who used to put the screws on helpless victims of his anger, even as "Boss" Murphy has put the screws on Mayor Gaynor.

But none of this for Sheriff Harburger of New York. Civilization has advanced, and even in his grapple with bomb throwers and "midnight assassins" he does not favor corporal punishment, although he believes electrocution is all right. The sheriff received a letter from Mrs. Mary Scott Rowland, who lives at the Hotel Savoy, London, in which she suggested that the whipping post was about the best deterrent of crime. But the sheriff disagrees with this view.

"Civilization is advancing in America," he replied to Mrs. Rowland. "In England it is retrograding. I am not a believer in the whipping post, but in education. It is abhorrent to think that lashes on the back should purify the individual. We are not in the days of Torquemada. We hear occasionally of lynchings in America, but in the next decade we will read of outrages committed as of the past, but not chronicled where the searchlight and sunshine of progression has left its indelible mark.

"No whipping post for me, nor for our country. Perpetrators of crimes will go on, but checked, and while I have but four more months in the shrievalty ball-wick, I will after that enter a new field, where my dealings will be with dead ones, where electric lashes might resuscitate and bring to life good souls, who have been seekers of contentment, longevity, and purity."—New York Tribune.

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