

# OUR STORYTELLER



## A MOUNTAIN BEAUTY.



USAN STEBBINS was by all odds the best looking girl on Grassy lick, without being remarkable beautiful, for beauty is not a noticeable characteristic of mountain women, old or young, and how she had ever come to marry Lem Skaggs was a wonder to me, for Lem was by all odds the homeliest man on the lick, and homeliness is a characteristic of mountain men. I knew Lem quite well, and had befriended him on many occasions, even logging him money enough to get married on, as his crops were not in and he was scant of funds, and when they had been married about a month I asked him one day how it happened. He was a good fellow all over, was Lem, as guileless as a baby and as honest as the sunlight, and when I asked my question he blushed and grinned.

"She was tuck by my good looks," he laughed.

"Of course, of course," I laughed back, "anybody ought to see that, but my eyesight is weak. Tell me what you did to win her?"

"I didn't do nothin', Colonel. I jist wuz."

"That won't do, Lemuel. You are not the kind that win that way; you must have made yourself attractive in some other way."

"Hope to die, Colonel, ef I did," he insisted. "I jist wuz and she got tuck."

"Didn't you court her pretty hard?"

"Did I?" and he drew a long breath as of relief at the thought of its being over. "Well, I should say I did. Why, I come mighty high mortgadin' the farm to git her things he didn't seem to want when I give 'em to her."

"What did you give her?"

"Everything, Colonel. It got so bad to'rds the last the folks at the store told me ef I'd lump my deatlin' they reckoned they could let me have 'em at wholesale prices."

"She couldn't stand your liberality, Lem. That's what got her."

"Not a bit uv it," he continued. "All the time I was takin' her all sorts uv things she wuz makin' eyes at evry feller that come along, and sorter expectin' me to keep up my end uv the single tree, jist caze I kinder seemed to hanker arter doin' it that a-way."

"But you kept at it?"

"I reckon not," he laughed. "All uv a sudden I sot in fer Mary Finnel and give the store folks a rest on buyin'."

"Then what happened?" I inquired, with a hope that I would now get some information.

He laughed a low, gurgling laugh, such as a boy would give vent to when caught in some of his natural deprecations.

"Well," he said, "she kinder swapped ends on 'other fellers, and swung 'round my way, but I wuzn't givin' a fuch, and I didn't have no talk with her fer mighty nigh two weeks, and then one evenin' as I wuz passin' her house on my way to Mary's, and she knowed I I sene her hangin' on the gate lookin' out into the future, or somethin' uv that sort, that I seen a picture uv on't an agent wuz sellin'."

"Good evenin'," says I, not offerin' to stop.

"Good evenin'," says she. "Pears to me you're in a powerful hurry."

"Kinder," says I, slackin' up some. "I promised to be down to Mary's 'bout this time."

"She kinder looked down at the ground when I told her that, and kicked a little rock out of the path that wuz layin' 'thar, and I felt like a sheep-stealin' dog fer sayin' what I had."

"I reckon you'd better be hurryin' along then, for Mary ain't the kind that likes to be kep' waitin'," says she.

"S'pose," said I, "that you don't keer of I stop and talk to you fer a minute, do you?"

"I ain't keerin' what you do," says she, kinder sullen.

"You look like you wuz expectin' somebody yerself," says I, feelin' ez ef I'd like to choose whoever the teller wuz.

"That's what," says she, and I felt more'n ever like chokin' somebody.

"Who is it?" says I, watchin' the streaks uv a laugh 'round her mouth and eyes.

"That's fer me to know and you to find out," says she, laughin' right out.

"I reckon I'll be goin' on down to Mary's," says I, thinkin' that I wuzn't makin' nothin' hangin' 'round Susan.

"Maybe you wouldn't ef you know'd who wuz comin'," says she, kinder reachin' over the gate.

"Well, tell me," says I, "and see ef I'll stay."

"I reckon not," she says, still a naggin' me.

"Who's they?" says I.

"She give a little chuckle, and I come up to the gate and rested my hands on it to one side uv her'n."

"Pa and mother," she says. "They've gone down to the schoolhouse to preachin' and won't be back till 8 o'clock."

"Ain't you kinder lonesome waitin' hyer by yerself, Susan?" says I, half way tryin' to pull the gate open, but she held it shut.

"I reckon I wuz," she says. "That's why I come out and hung on the gate. It's mighty still like in the house."

"You reckon you wuz?" says I.

"Ain't you, now?" and I chuckled myself for ketchin' her.

"Praps I am, and praps I ain't," she sniggered, and tossed her head.

"I tried to open the gate, but she held it shut."

"If you want me to stay, why don't you say so?" says I, gettin' ugly.

"I reckon you kin ef you want to," says she, mighty pesky.

"Susan," says I, "what's the use uv foolin'?"

"Foolin' about what?" says she.

"About me and you," says I.

"I ain't a foolin'," says she.

"You air," says I, "and you know it."

"I don't like me, Lem Skaggs," says she, bridin' up all over, "you kin go 'long. I didn't ax you to stop, did I?"

"But I do like you, Susan," says I, gittin' skeert an' tryin' to pull the gate open so's I could git clos't enough to her to coax her.

"I reckon you like Mary Finnel a sight better," says she, holdin' the gate ag'in' me.

"I reckon I don't," says I, and I could feel the gate give a little.

"You wouldn't talk that a-way ef she wuz in hearin' distance," says she.

"Wouldn't I?" says I, and I heaved and sot on the gate, but it didn't move a peg. "You jist fetch her up here and see ef I wouldn't."

"No, you jist go down thar," says she. "That's whar you started fer."

"I didn't do nothin' uv the sort," says I, gittin' despriter evry minute.

"You told me you did," says she, and I could feel the gate give some and then shut up ag'in'.

"You oughter know, Susan," says I, serious, "that I was jist a-foolin'," and I could feel the gate a-givin' my way and shettin' and then givin' my way ag'in'.

"An' you ain't lyin' now, Lem?" says she, a heap sight softer than any time in her life.

"Course I ain't, Susan," says I, and the gate come open about six inches.

"Ef I only thought you wuzn't, Lem," says she, lettin' the gate slip my way a little more evry minute.

"You know I ain't, Susan," says I, givin' the gate the strongest pull yit. "You know it, and you know I never give a snap uv my finger fer any other gal in these parts and that all the time I've been a-bankerin' arter you and wantin' you for my wife, but you kep' foolin' with me all along and bustin' my heart mighty nigh, and makin' me want to go off and chop a tree down on myself. You know it, Susan, you know it," and she blisted her hands and the gate swung wide open.

"What about Mary?" says she, standin' thar before me, lookin' sweet'er'n peaches and roses.

"Dern Mary," says I, clean forgittin' my manners, and I reeht out both hands fer Susan.

"Oh, Lem," says she, and—well, Colonel, he laughed as his honest face reddened beneath its saffron hue, "I reckon you're old enough to know the balance."

"I wouldn't be surpris'd, Lem," I replied, blowing just a shade as a memory, or two came slowly back from the rosy past.

He looked up smiling.

"And say, Colonel," he said, "I wuzn't any purtier that night than I wuz before."

"Come off, Lemuel," said I, slapping him on the back, "it was so dark Susan couldn't see you."—New York Sun.

## HELPFUL FARM HINTS

### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURIST AND STOCKMAN.

**Cheap Derrick for Stacking Hay—Butter Box Which Permits Sampling—Way to Thin Corn—Good Wagon Wrench—General Farm Notes.**

#### A Wagon Wheel Wrench.

The wrench shown in the cut for removing wagon wheels for greasing operates in a way to save time and patience and protects the hands and clothing. The casting is shaped as in the cut. The square box fits on over the nut or "burr." The crooked arms reach around the rim of the hub and at the ends are attached straps, one long and one short and both passing between the spokes and coming together on the inner side of the wheel. A buckle such as is used on overshoes or a hook and eye that will readily lock together are then fastened to the straps. The wrench having been attached, it is only necessary to raise the axle on a wagon jack to clear the wheel and give the wheel a whirl. The wrench being fastened securely to the spokes, the nut is turned off by the motion of the wheel. The wheel is then slipped nearly off, the axle greased and the wheel slid back in place, twisted round and the nut is on without dirtying hands or clothes. If the nut is inclined to stick, the wheel also acts as a lever.

#### Apples Pay Well.

"How the neighbors laughed when a farmer at the age of 60 years began to set out a large apple orchard," says the Massachusetts Ploughman. "He is now over eighty, and for some years he has sold a crop of four or five hundred barrels of apples. That is better than life insurance, he thinks." Yes; and some who have had no faith in orcharding for profit in Orleans County have got at least one eye open to see us lately sell a good crop of Scott's winter at \$2.50 per barrel, right at home. It pays much better than buttermaking at going rates, though the two go very well together. Swapping a barrel of apples even for a barrel of flour, or an equivalent in grain feed, suits us nicely. And it is but a few years since we sold our apple crop, right through, at \$4 a barrel. It don't hurt a man's feelings much, under such circumstances, to be called a crank. We can grow apples at less than we can potatoes. While the trees are young, and from that up to full bearing, we raise beans enough between the rows to pay all the expenses, and also good crops of currants and gooseberries between the trees in the rows. The Russian varieties of tree fruits come to fruiting age at least three years sooner than the old varieties—Spry, Baldwin, Greening, Nonesuch, Gravenstein, etc.

#### Hay Stacking Made Easy.

One of the best and cheapest derrick for stacking hay out-of-doors consists simply of one straight pole forty feet high, secured in an upright position by means of four guy ropes each about eight feet long. Place the pole in a somewhat slanting position so that the top will be directly over the center of the stack. For instance if the stack is to be eighteen feet square, the bottom of the pole will be placed on the outside of this square, with the top directly over the center. Fasten a strong piece of wood, 2x6 feet, on the bottom of the pole with wire rings in each end, by means of which it can be staked firmly to the ground. The four guy ropes are fastened to the top of the pole and to the ground by means of a stake. The pulleys and hay forks are attached much the same as in a barn and are operated similarly.

#### For making the pole I use two tele-



FOR STACKING HAY.

graph poles, one twenty feet, the other twenty-four feet, and splice them firmly together. For guy ropes, take six or seven strands of No. 12 galvanized wire, draw them tight and twist. The best way to do this is to fasten one end to a post by means of a chain with a swivel and pull them taut with a large wire fence stretcher such as is used in putting up woven wire fence. The swivel will permit the bunch of wires being twisted any desired amount. The guy ropes will cost \$2.40, the pole \$2.50, and in addition you will need the hay-fork and pulleys, which can be taken from the barn. The total expense of this device is consequently only \$4.90. The whole apparatus in position is shown in the cut.—Farm and Home.

#### Irrigate Early in the Morning.

The best time to irrigate is early in the morning before the sun becomes hot, or in the evening when it is about to go below the horizon, says the Agriculturist. A good time is when a cloud comes up and a shower is expected. The work should not be done when the sun is shining hot, as the plants are liable to be scalded. I prefer beginning

at four o'clock in the afternoon, or, keeping it up until midnight, especially on moonlight nights. At the Utah station the total yield of straw and grain was fifteen per cent. greater on plants irrigated at night.

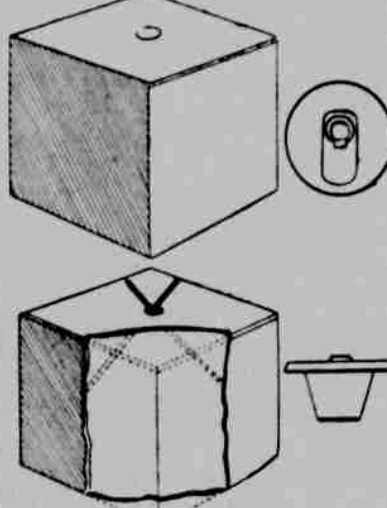
#### Thinning the Corn.

Corn should be thinned when it is under four inches in height. If left to grow six or eight inches, the stalks are deeply rooted, and when the extra ones are pulled out, the entire hill is disturbed. This work, in Baltimore County, is usually done by contract, 50 cents an acre being the prevailing price. The best time to thin corn is from the 10th to the 20th of June. After the third cultivation, when the ground is loose and moist, after the corn is thinned, cross-cultivate the field. The corn will quickly recover from the thinning and grow rapidly. Keep the corn ground frequently stirred, no matter how dry the weather is. If a good rich sod has been turned under, and a little phosphate has been put in the hill the corn will grow, in spite of a drought. With a steady pair of mules and a good sulky cultivator, a field of corn can be frequently worked at a small cost per acre. Do not let the soil crust over.—Baltimore American.

#### A New Butter Box.

Butter packed for export, or for ordinary shipment, has to be sampled by means of the "trier," and it is necessary to remove the lid of the box. At least it has been necessary hitherto, but a recent invention does away with that necessity by providing a very convenient method of sampling the butter without taking off the lid of the box.

The new arrangement is very simple and inexpensive. A hole is bored in the center of the lid, and into the hole is fitted a cork, attached to a metal cone, the latter, in turn, being fitted with a small ring and countersunk to the level of the surface of the lid. When the butter is to be sampled the ring is raised and with a slight turn and a steady pull the seal is withdrawn. The trier may then be inserted in any direction.



BUTTER BOX.

The whole process does not take more than a minute's time, and is thoroughly effective. The accompanying illustrations show how it is done.

#### Keeping Potatoes from Mixing.

Whenever several varieties of potatoes are grown on the same farm much trouble has to be taken to prevent them from mixing. A lot of mixed potatoes never sells well, and ought not to do so. There are other differences besides the looks, as there is a variation in quality and in the time that the potato requires for cooking. Some of the worst mixtures are those of different varieties that look much the same. The Early Rose is very often mixed with the Late Rose, and while the Early Rose cooks to a mealy consistency the Late Rose will be watery and soggy after cooking. The seed potatoes should be carefully selected, and when the tubers are cut for seed each variety should be in a room by itself, so that the piles of cut tubers may not get together.

#### Vermin on Cattle.

The most effective remedy for lice on horses and colts that I have used is sperm oil. It will promptly destroy every louse and nit, and also remove dandruff, dirt, etc., leaving the skin clean and the hair in nice condition. There is not the least danger of taking off the hair or injuring the animal in any way. For large hog lice, apply common machine oil freely, and it will kill them all and at once. These are simple, reliable and effective remedies.

#### Berry Notes.

For market, pick every day before too ripe.

Much labor and profit is often lost by this neglect.

Always have a uniform quality, and the box well filled.

Cultivated berries are less liable to injury by frost or drought.

Never allow stems, leaves, dirt or imperfect berries in the box.

Of all farm work it pays best for work done, and suffers most from neglect.

The fruit and vegetable gardens require richest soil and best culture.

If any plants newly set fall to live, put others in their places at once.

For family use leave fruit on the vines until fully ripe, and pick fresh for the table.

Severe pruning of laterals will not only improve size and quality of fruit, but greatly increase the yield.

As soon as the leaves start, the affected parts are easily discovered, and should be cut out and burned at once.

Frequent cultivation stimulates an early vigorous growth. The roots strike deep into the mellow soil, and the ordinary drought is harmless.

Cultivate often. It warms the soil in early spring. It allows even light rains to penetrate the soil and retain the moisture for use in summer.

Most fruit gardens are deficient in potash. An application of wood ashes will supply this want, and is especially valuable for light, sandy soils.

## THE COLLEGE COURSE

### EMINENT MEN DISCUSS AS TO WHETHER IT PAYS.

Chauncey M. Depew and Frederick Couderc Believe that It Does, While Henry Clews Will Not Employ a College Graduate in His Office.

#### Affirmatives Have It.

How much of practical value is to be got from a college course by a young man about to engage in business or a profession has always been, and will continue to be, a mooted question. It is generally understood that the Hon. Chauncey M. Depew believes in the modern university, and that he is in about as close sympathy with the college student of to-day as when he was himself a student at Yale. But while Mr. Depew believes the college-bred young man has much the better chance in the race of life, still he does not consider the college training of these times altogether faultless. Indeed, he believes it lacking in one great essential, that is the decline of the de-



CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW.

bate as a means of training. "There were debating societies in college when I was a student," he said, "and all the brightest men belonged and took part in the discussions. Nowadays few college students would think of stooping so low as to belong to a debating society or of engaging in a set discussion of any problem. I regard this as a national calamity. It is a good sign when the people of any country begin systematically to debate on current affairs. They sometimes take up the wrong side, but that does not harm in the long run. People had better be mistaken than not to think and discuss, since thought and honest discussion are sure, sooner or later, to set them right."

While he does not in any sense approve of the extremes to which the enthusiasts of athletics carry their physical exertions, Mr. Frederick Couderc, the eminent lawyer and man of affairs, indorses the notion of thorough and systematic training most heartily.

"There is no doubt," said Mr. Couderc, "that the man who has a good body and a sound mind, and both well trained, possesses incalculable advantages over the man who has not these tools with which to carve his way through life. Just at present, perhaps, the craze for physical training has gone a little astray. As to the advantages possessed by the college graduate in business or professional life, there is no question at all. The college man has a great lead over his competitor who has not enjoyed the advantages of college education."

Mr. Henry Clews, the Wall street broker, who is as well known in his line as any of the men above quoted in theirs, disagrees with them most emphatically as to the advantages of college education in business.

"You can judge for yourself what I think of college training as a preparation for business life," he said, lifting



HENRY CLEWS.

his hands, "when I say that I will not have a college graduate in my employ. The boy who proposes to go into business should understand the English language so that he can express himself clearly and unmistakably; he should know how to write a plain, legible hand rapidly; he should know arithmetic, and lots of it. He should also have the severe training in business methods that can be got only by serving his time as a subordinate in a business office. My experience has been that the college graduate is apt to have none of these things, and, therefore, as I have said, I do not take college graduates into my office."

#### Education in China.

In no country is education more highly esteemed than in China. The child of the workingman, as a rule, cannot hope to get more than a mere smattering. But scattered through the country are numberless families, the members of which for generation after generation are always students and from whom, as a rule, the officials come. They have no knowledge of any business or trade. They correspond very closely to what are, or used to be, called gentlemen in England, and preserve their positions with great tenacity, even when hard pressed by poverty.

Rich parvenus, as a matter of course, engage tutors for their children; and in

the humblest ranks of life occasionally parents will start themselves to give an opportunity to some son who has shown marked intelligence at the village school. But neither of these classes compete on an equality with those to whom learning is an hereditary profession. The cultivation and intellectual discipline prevailing in such families give their members a marked advantage over those who get no help of any kind at home, and who must therefore depend entirely on what they learn from their paid teachers.

The orthodox scheme of education is entirely concerned with the ancient literature of China. The original works which occupy the student's attention were for the most part written before the literature of either Greece or Rome had reached its prime. But there are commentators belonging to later periods who must also be perused with diligence. China has not seen an influx of new races, such as have overrun Europe, since the days of our classical authors; but still, from mere lapse of time, the language of the country has greatly changed, and the child beginning his studies cannot without explanation understand a single sentence, even if he has learned to read the words of the lesson which he has before him. The student makes himself acquainted as thoroughly as possible with those classical works. The more he can quote of them the better, but he must master the matter contained in them as well.

He must get to know the different readings and different interpretations of disputed passages, and, finally, he practices himself in verse and prose composition. In prose he carefully preserves the ancient phraseology, never admitting modern words, though there are certain technicalities of style which will prevent his production from being an exact imitation of the ancient literature. His verse must be in close imitation of the old-time poets. They must follow elaborate rules as to rhythm, and the words must rhyme according to classical sounds, which are very different from those of to-day.—The Nineteenth Century.

#### Gov. McKinley on Illiteracy.

Gov. McKinley of Ohio in addressing the students of Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., said: "The last census shows that 87 per cent. of the population over 10 years of age can read and write. Match it anywhere if you can."

The showing is certainly very creditable to the United States considering the large number of illiterate blacks at the South, but there are a good many nations on the globe in which the percentage of illiteracy of the population above 10 years of age is less than it is in the United States. According to the Governor of Ohio 13 per cent. of our population above 10 years of age are illiterate, but in Switzerland only 2.5 per cent. of the same class are illiterate, in Scotland only 7 per cent., in England and Wales only 9 per cent., in the Netherlands 10 per cent., in France 11 per cent., while of the army recruits of Saxony, Wurtemberg, Bavaria, Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway less than 1 per cent. are illiterate.

The percentage of illiteracy in this country is higher than it would be if it were not for the uneducated colored children of the South and the foreign population in some sections of the Northern States. Italians, Poles, Bohemians and many other foreign-born inhabitants come to this country unable to read and write, and never learn to do either. Perhaps no country on the globe spends as much money per capita in public education as the United States, and few have poorer or worse-executed compulsory education laws. But we are making very commendable progress in this country and the time is not far distant when we can match the more cultivated countries in Europe in the matter of education.

#### School and College Notes.

The growth of public libraries in the United States is one of the remarkable features of our system of progress. There are now nearly 5,000 of them.

The bill providing for the study of the nature and effects of alcoholic drinks in the public schools of New York state was vetoed by the governor.

It is likely that Mayor Swift of Chicago will follow the example of New York's mayor and appoint two or three women as members of the Board of Education.

The recently issued senior class book of Yale gives the average expense of the students at \$92 for the freshman year, \$943 for the sophomore, \$942 for the junior and \$1,032 for the senior. This is an average of \$18 or \$20 per week for the college year of about thirty-five weeks.

About twenty years ago William Henry Rinehart, the American sculptor, left a legacy to the Peabody Institute of Baltimore that now amounts to about \$100,000. The trustees of the institute have determined to use this fund for the establishment of a school of sculpture in connection with the institute.

The universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh report decreased attendance in recent years. Only a few years ago Glasgow had more than 2,000 students, but now has only 1,671. Edinburgh, heretofore, never had fewer than 3,000, but now only has 2,049. On the other hand the number of women students has steadily increased. Edinburgh in the last term reporting 140 and Glasgow 265.

Only a few days ago it was announced that a gift of over \$500,000 had been made to the University of Pennsylvania by the late E. A. W. Hunter, to become available upon the death of his widow and daughter. Now it is said that the prorate of the university has given \$500,000 in honor of his father. This is indeed a day of generous benefactions to educational institutions.