

A MONTANA PIONEER.

WHY HIS HAIR AND BEARD ARE AS WHITE AS SNOW.

Incident in the Career of Paul McCormick, One of the Men Who Helped to Open up the Yellowstone in Spite of the Sioux.

After being besieged in Fort Pease for some time it became evident to our adventurers that further supplies of provisions, ammunition, etc., would be necessary to hold out against the besiegers, and it was deemed important that one of these daring pioneers should volunteer to run the gauntlet and secure not only an ample supply of provisions and ammunition, but reinforcements also.

RUNNING A GREAT RISK.

One evening, after nearly a week's occupation of firing by the Indians on Fort Pease, and none of them have been seen in the vicinity of the fort for days, McCormick told some of his companions that he proposed to venture out early in the morning horseback and ascertain if there were really any Indians still in the vicinity.

True to his determination, the next morning found him ready for the trip. One of his companions, realizing the risk McCormick would incur, volunteered to accompany him, and the first approach of daylight the party was on foot, and the two horsemen quickly departed, the cautious warnings of their companions still ringing in their ears.

A VOLLEY FROM THE SAVAGES.

Just at that moment a whole swarm of savages rose up from behind the sagebrush and emptied their rifles on the riders. The distance was less than twenty feet, but evidently the aim of the Indians was very poor, owing to their haste and excitement.

But, poor McCormick! His terrible scare during that brief space of time had nearly unseparated him. Never was there exhibited a more awful picture of fright than was portrayed on his countenance on reaching the stockade.

Cleanliness of St. Petersburg.

The stranger wonders how, in St. Petersburg, for instance, the markets and shops are kept as clean as they are, when the water is so filthy. One can smell the water of the Neva, which furnishes the supply for drinking and household purposes, for a mile on an ordinary summer day.

Not to Be Disturbed.

Let us not throw too many stones at Chicago, where, if report speaks truth, books as well as land are bought by the "front foot." Rights here in Boston lives a lady who has in her parlor a very elegant bookcase filled with standard works in choice bindings, protected from dust by glass doors which are kept carefully locked, the key being removed.

The study of Volapuk, the new universal language, is obligatory upon the students of the Royal Gymnasium of Munich.

ABOUT INFERIOR CIGARS.

One of the Tricks Which Has Led to the Present State of Things.

"I read a recent article on cheap cigars with interest," said a cigar manufacturer to a reporter. "I not only manufacture cigars, but I do a retail business as well. I don't think that the quality of the popular cigar is as bad as it has been pictured."

"Do you think the quality could be made any worse?" asked the reporter. "Certainly," said the cigar man. "It could be made a great deal worse."

"Then I should certainly give up the weed and go back to the cob pipe and oak leaves of my boyhood delight," said the reporter. "The fact of the matter is," said the cigar man, "there are a great many people who do not know a good cigar when they get hold of it."

"Why did you change cigars on me?" "I gave you a better grade and I thought you would prefer it."

"Well, I don't think there is anything better about it, and I am sure I don't prefer it. Give me some of the same stock I have been used to having."

"You see, the man's taste is thoroughly vitiated. He would have made the same complaint had I given him a 20 cent cigar. The better the cigar the worse he would have considered it."

"That all may be true," replied the reporter, "but the fact remains that most of the cigars offered at public prices are simply stinkers. How do you account for it?"

"The fact of the matter is," said the dealer, "my custom is good and I have to furnish a high grade of cigar. But there is a class of manufacturers and retailers who cater to what we call transient trade. They are the people who get rich in a hurry and retire from the business. They, the retailers, never think of giving a man the grade of cigar he asks for. They never expect to see him again, and unless he investigates his cigar very closely he will not discover the inferiority of it until it begins to burn his tongue. Then he fires it into the gutter with an imprecation. They are the men who have no conscience, who make the money and who are responsible for the growth of cheap cigars. Where are they? Everywhere."

"Then, again, these transient trade fellows calculate that when a man has smoked the first half of a cigar he throws it away. To clinch an uncertainty they have manufactured for them a cigar the first half of which is filled with first class tobacco, while the second half is filled with miserable pickings. When the man finishes the first half he is in splendid humor; when he enters on the second half he finds his tongue beginning to itch, and the saliva in his mouth to have a pungent, nauseating taste, which makes him throw the cigar away. He cannot understand it, but thinks that it is all caused by the nicotine which collects in the second half of the cigar the nearer it is burned out."

"Oh, yes; it is a sharp dodge—one of the trade—and dealers who count almost entirely on transient trade work it for all it is worth. It is in a majority of cases this second half of miserable pickings which is causing most of the complaints about the bad quality of the popular cigar. Not every man wakes up immediately to the deception, and he puffs away on the second half with as much vigor and satisfaction as he did on the first. Sometimes he don't discover it and sometimes he does, but don't care a fig. He smokes to be smoking, and a stinker suits him just as well as the choicest brand of Havana weed."—New York Evening Sun.

The Hog Bristles Trade.

Years ago it used to be the custom of our farmers to save all their hog bristles for taking to the stores as a marketable commodity, they usually getting a good price for them. But this has all changed now, like a great many other things of the past. Nobody buys bristles now, since there is no longer a market for them, owing to their not being equal in quality to European bristles. All needed supplies by brush makers are now imported from the old country. They are worth their weight in silver, and are sold that way, the money value being put on one side of the scale and the bristles on the other.—Westchester Local News.

Venice's Local Industries.

The local industries of Venice consist largely of the weaving of lace, the manufacture of glass utensils and ornaments, the selling of all sorts of old curiosities for as much as the sellers can get for them—and a fervent series of solicitations for copper and silver coins. The shipping interests and trade with foreign countries are said to be looking up, in a small way. The place has now probably 130,000 inhabitants, and is at times lively, especially when there are a great many tourists in town.—Will Carleton.

Fire From Steam Pipes.

It still seems to be an unsettled question whether wood can be ignited by the heat of a steam pipe in contact with it. It is admitted, theoretically, that it is impossible for wood to take fire at a temperature of 212 degs., or somewhat higher, but it is well known that there have been a large number of cases of fire reported as occurring from this cause, and the evidence is very conflicting.—New York Sun.

Money and Care Wasted.

If half the care and money expended on pet dogs in Washington were devoted to the care of needy and deserving children, some thousands of these might be rescued from want and prepared for usefulness in life. We suppose the preference for dogs is all right, since society by its acts says so, but somehow it does not seem to fit in nicely with our exalted Christian civilization.—Washington Post.

"Cheeserine" is the latest fraud in England. It has a suggestion of cheese, as American oleomargarine suggests butter.

THE SECRET.

I have a fancy; how shall I bring it Home to all mortals wherever they be? Say it or sing it, show it or wing it, So it may outrun and outfly me, Mercat cocoon web whence it broke free?

Only one secret can save from disaster, Only one magic is that of the Master; Set it to music; give it a tune— Tune the brook sings you, tune the breeze brings you.

Tune that the columbines dance to in June; This is the secret; so simple, you see! Easy as loving, easy as living, Easy as well, let me ponder—as missing, Known, since the world was, by scarce two or three.

—James Russell Lowell in The Atlantic.

THE MODERN PANORAMA.

Invention of the Circular Form of Picture—A Mystery to the Spectator.

However far back in the dim past the panorama idea can be traced, the roller panorama is comparatively modern, and its career was destined to be brief, for its miles of canvas with crude color furnished pictures that were devoid of enduring qualities. It gave rise or revived an infinitely better and more instructive and valuable exemplar in the present panorama that the eastern cousin calls the cyclorama. History credits Robert Barker, a Scotch artist, with the invention of the circular panorama, he having exhibited in Edinburgh that city's panoramic reflections in 1788, it being followed in succession with a view of London, sea fights and the Napoleonic wars. Between the old roller panorama and that of the present there is a deep gulf fixed. The former carried the spectator upon a long voyage, with the leather lunged lecturer as the vocal accompanist, and from the steamer's deck on which the audience were supposed to view a succession of scenes; something like a Stoddard lecture or a guide book that speaks in a stage voice from behind the friendly screen of darkness. The present panorama or cyclorama, without any such adventitious aids, provides the spectator with an elevated position in the center of a fixed landscape that has been made memorable by some great historical event. It provides a picture that bespeaks its own artistic value, and bases its incidents upon recorded fact. It now successfully invades the field of historical paintings and challenges the severer canons of criticism, as well as the skill, truthfulness and accuracy of the artist.

At the first view of the spectator the panorama seems to be a mystery. It is apparently an absolute reproduction of the scenes represented, the objects seeming equal in size with the original objects, and the space covered equally great. A circular building, less than 100 feet in diameter, and not much more than fifty feet in elevation, expands to the dimensions of the space that can be covered by the eye in an open landscape, and reaches upward to the clouds. A portion of the foreground, it is very well known, is composed of real figures and objects; but the illusion upon the painted canvas is so perfect that the painted figures seem hardly less objective than the real figures, and without the most careful scrutiny the dividing line cannot be distinguished. Surely the spectator thinks there must be some wonderful secret known only to the painter in this illusion. The largest life size figures are between three and four feet high.

The most remarkable of recent realistic aids to the panorama is the foreground. A recent writer says: "On the real objects in the foreground from the eye and the distances in the perspective will not be diminished, nor the figures on the canvas rendered less strong in their relief. The only service that seems to be rendered by the objective portions of the foreground is to bring the entire landscape to the feet of the spectator, and to shut out the intervening space of bare floor that would otherwise destroy the illusion. One is surrounded by the picture above, below, and upon all sides, and is permitted to see no other object, standing upon a platform that seems to be erected in the very center of the field delineated. These are aids to render the scene more realistic. Any one who has observed a painting of this character, without the foreground in position, will readily recognize its immense advantage, when it forms the link between the platform and the canvas. Good drawing, spirited color, and finely sustained perspective, are three requisites that must figure on the plane of a worthy panorama.

The linen canvas for panoramas, from the Wehmer studio, is specially woven at Brussels, in broads thirty feet wide by fifty long, that are neatly stitched together, fourteen widths furnishing the regulation size. The ground colors alone cost upward of \$800 before there is a trace on the canvas. It requires nearly 2,000 pounds of pure white and ultramarine blue for atmospheric glazing. When a panorama is painted and rolled for shipment it is coated with three tons of color, and weighs about five tons, and is liable to consume another ton of color in the finishing touches. The panorama of the "Battle of Sedan," the heaviest in the country, weighed eleven tons.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

The Terror of Riches.

Statistics of suicide show that, after all, the poor man rarely commits suicide owing to poverty. Hundreds of good fellows, with rarely \$50 a week, and five or six in the family to clothe and feed, go on with more equanimity than men with good bank margins. They are generally looking for a job, and frequently have no work ahead for longer than one to six months. Tens of thousands of day laborers in the United States rarely know what their income is to be three months ahead, yet fifty are neither depressed nor miserable. They readily spend their last dollar; eat liberally, as long as food can be had, and economize when they must. The terror of poverty is not so overpowering as the terror of riches. The fear of losing is greater than the fear of not getting.—Globe-Democrat.

Earthquakes and the Planets.

From a set of earthquake statistics it has been shown with some degree of probability that earthquakes occur with more frequency at the times when the planets Jupiter and Saturn exert their influence jointly upon the earth than at these times when the influences of these planets are opposed.—Edward S. Holden in Overland Monthly.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Stray Bits of Good Reading Clipped from the Various Exchanges.

Chambersburg, Pa., has a fire company that was organized 108 years ago.

The most trying position a truthful clergyman can be in is to be preaching the funeral sermon of a man who died rich and mean.

A movement has been started for the purchase of the early home of the poet Whitier and its preservation as a shrine for patriotic Americans.

An English firm calls attention to its admirable supply of sermons for melancholy occasions, which they retail for seven pence each. Special sermons are two and six a head.

A New Orleans newspaper says that the millions of pickaninnies seen around the cotton fields of the south furnish a complete refutation of the theory that the negro race in America is dying out.

An eighty-ton flat car, which is claimed to be the largest ever made in this country, is being built in Parkerton, Pa., and when finished will be used for hauling a lot of machinery from New York to Bethlehem.

An Orlando (Fla.) newspaper man has substituted a pair of sand hill cranes for watch dogs, and he finds that their loud, clear note of warning when a tramp or a burglar comes near is an effective means of protection.

The manager of the automatic machines which furnish weights, swivels, pens, paper, and other things to London people, recently showed the editor of a ton of lead and zinc cast into thousands of pieces of cardboard that had been dropped into the machine instead of pennies.

The two new victories of the samaras from California are said to be the most elegant carriages seen in Washington. Senator Stanford's attracts the greater attention for the reason that the coachman and footman are in deep mourning and match the somber line of the horses and the harness.

The crown princess of Austria presented her husband, Prince Rudolf, with a complete outfit of geometrical instruments as a New Year's gift. The case of walnut, inlaid with silver, which held the instruments, also contained a pretty letter from the princess trusting that their lives would "henceforth be happier."

California is proud of her record for 1887. Three hundred miles of new railroad were laid, the assessed value of property increased \$142,000,000, the wine and brandy product was large, 50,000,000 pounds of canned goods and 35,000,000 of ground fruit were shipped, and there never was such a year for tourists.

Among the gifts offered to the pope on his birthday is a contrivance by a French engineer, named Arragon, for ringing large church bells by electricity. A similar arrangement is, we believe, at present at work in a London church, the apparatus having been designed and erected by some of the students at the Finsbury Technical college.

A Russian general has created a great sensation in Europe by furnishing an elaborate scheme for the construction of a railway through Siberia to the Pacific ocean. It is intended to go by the shortest possible cut from the Urals to the Pacific ocean. The total cost of the road is estimated at \$200,000,000, which, it is believed, can be readily raised in Russia itself.

Ex-Governor Alger's great Michigan pine forest is located at Black River, on Lake Huron, near Alpena. It comprises 50,000 acres, or over 100 square miles. The annual product of the forest is from 75,000,000 to 100,000,000 feet of lumber, according to the state of the trade. There are 500 men employed in the nine camps in the forest.

It is stated that there are so numerous in some parts of town that they are a serious annoyance to housekeepers. A lady in West Philadelphia, tired of their repeated rings at her door bell, adopted a very absurd means of getting rid of them. She notified every one who came to her house that she would have him arrested for selling without license if he came again. It was only a guess of hers as to the license, but the shot went home in every case.

The wife of a United States senator is believed to have broken the Washington visiting record. She made forty-eight calls in one afternoon. Assuming that she galloped the round of her social duties in four hours, she made twelve calls an hour, or one every five minutes. Including the time taken in going from house to house and estimating it at two minutes, the average duration of a call would be about three minutes. Three minutes, however, is sufficient for the requirements of Washington friendship.

Opening of Spain's Parliament.

The opening of the Spanish parliament by the infant king and his mother, the queen regent, was a most interesting spectacle. The infant king was dressed in white, with a white bonnet, the latter being removed upon his being seated on the throne, to the right of young Christina, whose black dress, only relieved by a tulle and a gold collar of diamonds, formed a striking contrast to the mass of gold color covering the house and lighting up the tribunes. While the queen read the speech from the throne in clear, audible tones, without the slightest signs of the nervousness attributed to her, the young king surveyed the scene with complete composure, fixing his attention alternately upon the assemblage and upon the queen. When the reading of the document was completed, his majesty showed a wish to be among the first to leave, but being taken in the queen's arms he remained perfectly quiet.—The Argonaut.

Ten Favorite Novels.

The Unity club of Denver recently addressed letters to the leading ministers, lawyers, politicians and literary men of the state asking each to furnish a list of ten novels he considered the greatest. The results showed the favorite novels to be, in the order named: "Les Miserables," "David Copperfield," "Scarlet Letter," "Ivanhoe," "Vanity Fair," "Romola," "Jane Eyre," "Adam Bede," "Ben Hur" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin."—Chicago Times.

The Plattsmouth Herald Is enjoying a Boom in both its DAILY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS.

The Year 1888

Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place. The people of Cass County who would like to learn of

Political, Commercial and Social Transactions

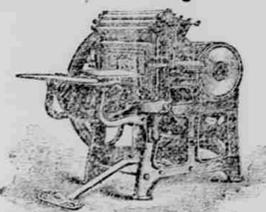
of this year and would keep abreast with the times should

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