

How He Paid Rent.

"Uncle Harry" is one of the fast-disappearing types of the ante-bellum negro. He remains loyal to his former master, tending his office and, in addition, takes care of several other rooms in the large office building where he and "Marse Johnnie pratis law," according to Harry. For this he is paid a dollar weekly by each. Some time since he came to his master, handing him several dollars, and requested him to keep it "fo' to pay de rent." About two weeks after he asked for his money, and was reminded that he asked it be held to pay his rent, then nearly due.

"De rent!" he exclaimed, in surprise. "Oh, I done fixed dat!"

Knowing his protegee's financial standing as well as he did, his master asked him how he had "fixed it."

"Oh, I moved las' week."—Philadelphia Press.

Queer Lakes.

One of the most singular lakes in the world is the celebrated Pitch lake of the island of Trinidad. This lake spreads over an area of 99 acres, and its surface is composed of one great floating mass of asphaltum seamed with veins of clear water. From it and a similar lake in Venezuela the world's supply of asphalt is drawn.

The Pitch lake is a hideous place as far as smells are concerned, for the air all about it is heavy with noxious vapors, and from the center of the lake gushes a fountain of liquid asphaltum in which there float and break bubbles containing the most horrible gases.

The workmen go out on the surface of this lake and cut great slabs of asphaltum, which are carted away. But the next morning the hole they left is filled up again with pitch that has risen during the night, so that the supply seems to be inexhaustible.

This curious lake was discovered by Sir Walter Raleigh when he landed in Trinidad in 1595, on his way to the mouth of the Orinoco in search of El Dorado.

Another strange lake is situated on a peninsula which juts out into the Caspian sea. The whole surface of this lake is covered with a crust of salt so thick and strong that a man can ride across it on horseback with safety.

In central Asia, near the Caspian sea, is a lake of a beautiful rose color, while the banks are covered with salt crystals as white as snow. From the waters of this lake there arises flower-like odor. The color and the odor are supposed to be caused by vegetable matter in the depths.

There used to be a curious lake on the top of the Volcano de Agua, in Guatemala, 14,000 feet above the level of the sea. It was not fed by springs nor by rivers, but was caused by accumulations of snow and rain—in fact, was an immense reservoir. It lasted for centuries.

Then, one day, the sides of the lake gave way, and down the waters rolled,

Rosebud Excursion Rates.

Chicago & Northwestern Railroad agents will sell special excursion tickets daily from July 1 to July 23 at one and one-third fare for round trip to Bonesteel, Fairfax and Yankton, account opening for settlement of unsettled lands in Rosebud Indian Agency, South Dakota. Passengers may return on any date up to August 31, 1904. Rate, Lincoln to Bonesteel and return, on sale daily July 1 to 23, \$9.30; Lincoln to Fairfax, S. D., and return, \$9.10. Return limit August 31. A two-cent stamp will bring you full information regarding the registration. R. W. McGinnis, General Agent, Lincoln, Neb. City office, 1024 O st.

dealing death and destruction, and digging a great barranca, or ravine, in the mountain side, which is still visible.—Dubuque (Ia.) Telegram.

Curious Condensations.

A Russian medical journal says Japanese physicians are almost invariably well educated and conscientious.

On June 4 the Order of Railroad Telegraphers will celebrate its eighteenth anniversary, having been organized at Cedar Rapids, Ia., in 1886.

The government of Queensland offers a prize of \$25,000 for a method of exterminating the opuntia, a species of cactus imported from America.

The Prussian state railway system contains 21,104 miles of track and its net earnings last year was \$140,000,000, being 10 to 12 per cent on the investment.

The famous cog railway up Pike's Peak in Colorado may soon be supplanted by an electric road, plans for the building of which are now under consideration.

A Parisian barber, to win a wager, entered a cage containing a lion and a man and composedly shaved the man while the lion interestingly viewed the operation.

Five carloads of Russians—men, women and children—recently arrived at Montrose, Cal., where they will be employed during the coming summer in the raising of sugar beets.

The history of international arbitration shows that by decades, from 1840 to 1900, there were, respectively, 6, 15, 23, 26, 45 and 62 cases. In the last three years there have been 63 cases.

The king of Denmark has a very valuable collection of birds' eggs, which includes specimens of nearly every kind in existence. The collection is considered to be worth about seventy-five thousand dollars.

The quarto of Shakespeare's "Henry the Fourth," sold for \$5,175 at Sotheby's in London, on Shakespeare's birthday, is now the property of Dodd, Mead & Co. It is far the highest price yet paid for a quarto.

It is said that when the tomb of Childeric, a king of the first Frankish dynasty in the fifth century, was opened in the seventeenth century hundreds of golden bees were found in it. So when the French empire was established the golden bee was adopted as one of its emblems.

Alum is one of the latest mineral substances of value to be added to the list credited to Colorado. A blanket deposit, four feet thick and of great width, has been discovered a few miles east of Florence, and it is pronounced to be of high commercial quality. This is the first discovery of alum in Colorado.

On the flat housetops of Morocco girls may often be seen flying kites which they believe will give an augury of their future. If the kite remains unbroken good fortune is in store for them; if mishap befall it evil days will be their portion. Their faith in the oracle is so great that mishap to the kite plunges them in dejection.

The most beautiful volume in the Congressional library at Washington is a Bible which was transcribed on parchment by a monk in the sixteenth century. The general lettering is in the German text, each letter is perfect and there is not a scratch or blot from lid to lid. Each chapter begins with a large illuminated letter, in which is drawn the figure of a saint, some incident of whom the chapter tells.

Visitors to China are particularly struck by the numbers of pairs of boots hung in separate wooden cages in the archway of the main west gate of Hsuan-Hua, the valedictory gifts of beneficial prefects. It is an attractive custom in China to invite a departing magistrate whose rule has been popular to leave a pair of old boots for suspension in a prominent place as a hint to his successor to follow in

his footsteps.

Mrs. Nancy Rose, who had kept the Stony Point light house for nearly half a century, died at the age of 80. She succeeded her husband in 1856, and up to within a few days of her death she had kept the lamps trimmed and burning, and rung the fog bell in the fogs. The bell tower was moved an eighth of a mile from the light house two years ago, and ever since Mrs. Rose had walked that distance every three hours in bad weather to wind up the machinery that rings the bell.

The "dogs of war" in these days assist in field hospital work. In Germany and Italy St. Bernard dogs have been trained for years so as to aid, after an engagement, bearer parties in their search for the wounded, especially at night. Russia, apparently, has no canine corps, and Major Richardson of Carnoustie, England, who has made a specialty of training ambulance dogs, has received a communication from St. Petersburg asking him how many he can supply for service in the Far East.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Not Much Impressed.

If New York has a word to say to the stranger within its gates, says a correspondent of the New Orleans Times-Democrat, it is this: "Have you succeeded at home? If not, why do you think you will succeed where conditions are more complex and difficult?" But in New York, as in other large cities those who are not to be "bluffed" or discouraged and who go resolutely about their business are reasonably sure of success. Sometimes, perhaps, a little success makes more of a noise in the world than it should.

One evening in a restaurant, says the correspondent, we were waited on by a real southern dandy. He was so unmistakable that at last I said to him, "George?"

"Yas'm," was the grateful rejoinder. "You're from the south, aren't you?"

"Yas'm. Ah's from de south."

"How did you get up here?"

"Ah don' know, ma'm, how come, Ah come."

"And what do you think of New York, George?"

He hesitated, and then summing it up in his mind, he said:

"New York? 'Peah's lak dish hyeh New York es got a good deal er rattling de dishes fer de victuals what's served."

Beecher Changed His Mind.

General James McLeer, awhile postmaster of Brooklyn, in 1886, has refused \$100 for a letter from Henry Ward Beecher which he never even published until recently, says the Peoria (Ill.) Star. A note of Mr. Beecher's containing a check for \$150 was returned from the dead letter office in Washington, and when he received the usual notice he sent this to the postmaster:

"Oct. 28, 1880.—Colonel McLeer.—Dear Sir: Your notice that a letter of mine was dead and subject to my order is before me.

"We must all die! And, though the premature decease of my letter should excite a proper sympathy (and I hope it does), yet I am greatly sustained under the affliction.

"What was the date of its death? Of what did it die? Had it in its last hours proper attention and such consolation as befits the melancholy occasion? Did it have any effects?"

"Will you kindly see to its funeral? I am strongly inclined to cremation.

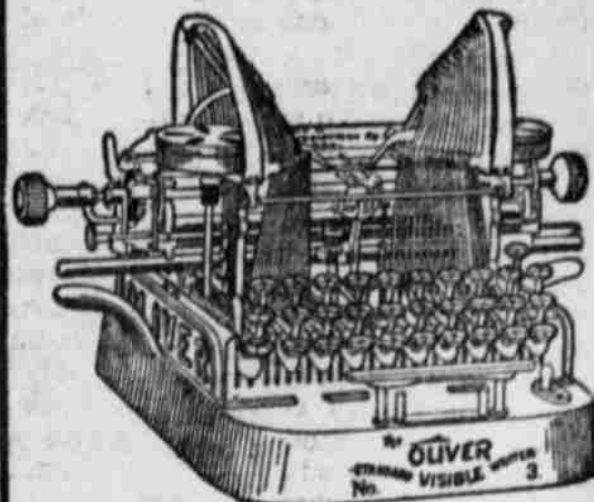
"May I ask if any other letters of mine are sick—dangerously sick? If any depart this life hereafter don't notify me until after the funeral. Affectionately,

"HENRY WARD BEECHER."

On learning that the letter contained a check Mr. Beecher called at the office and withdrew the request for its cremation.

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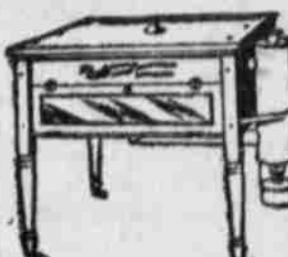


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