

THE CONDOIR IN CHILL

A HERD OF CATTLE STAMPEDED BY THE BIG BIRDS.

Ravenous Flocks of the Air Attack a Steadfast Hero in the Agency of Death. Victory for the Vultures—Vindictive Villagers.

The little village where I was staying in Chill lay at the very base of the Andes, with about a mile of plain stretching away to the ocean. At sunrise on the very first morning I was in the place I was awakened by a great commotion among the populace. Springing from the palm mat on which I had been sleeping, I looked out of the low window of my apartment. Men, women and children were running through the narrow streets yelling wildly, and men on horseback dashed away across the plain, in which direction the excited mob of villagers was tending. A roar as though a hurricane were passing came up from the plain, and there was a great commotion among the populace. I inquired what the trouble was, and was told that it was nothing but the condors, which had come down that morning in large force from the mountains and were even then engaged in selecting cattle from the village herd. Looking out, I saw the plain I discovered that the first time that a great cloud of dust covered it for a wide area, from which came the roar and the tremor that had alarmed me. The cloud and the roar and the tremor were made by the herd dashing furiously across the plain, fleeing in terror before the pursuit of the condors. Quickly saddling my horse, which was quartered in the small town yard, I dashed away across the plain to get a close view of the disturbance and see what the outcome would be, passing on my way jabbering and shouting groups of villagers hurrying on foot toward the flying cloud of dust, in which were hidden the enormous property of the place and its ravenous and determined foe.

As I rode up to within a dozen rods of the stampeded cattle, one of the herd burst suddenly from the dense volume of dust. Four immense condors followed it, and swooping down upon it, tore at its flesh with their talons and pincers, and lacerated it with their strong beaks. The animal's eyes were bloodshot and its nostrils were streaming with foam. Its legs were terrible to see. It lashed its tail in agony against its side, and bleeding sides, and rushed aimlessly in all directions, while the vultures beat against it and slashed and ripped it with beak and claws. While I galloped along and watched this sickening mutilation of this helpless creature, the herd of following villagers had also arrived at the spot and, huddled about in noisy groups, buried many Spanish curses at the bold flocks of condors that were battering one of their best animals before their very eyes.

Following the beleaguered steer, and circling around it dashed here and there in its vain attempts to escape from the torture which its cruel pursuers were subjecting it, the herdsmen cast their brains and hands to the rescue. Several attempts each fiascoed a condor. Once the poor steer, as if looking to us for assistance in its extremity, rushed in among the herdsmen and croaked and bawled. Regardless of our presence the desperate condors, clinging to its bleeding sides or dashed on its head, tore at the doomed animal with black and white teeth, streaming with blood from a hundred wounds. The excited crowd scattered before the advanced and fearless condors, the lassoers, having strangled to death the condors they had captured, advanced again to cast their brains.

The steer circled in a stambling and unsteady way. He carried his head high, and once staggered and fell. With a great effort he regained his feet, and once more moved toward the condors, who were bloody from dropping in great masses from his mouth. His loud cries of agony and changed to a hoarse cry of defiance, red and swollen, burst forth from his mouth. As he passed me a huge condor dashed forward, seized the steer's tongue in its beak and dashed down the roots. The steer threw his head up with a heartrending cry, and then I saw two hideous, sightless cavities, dripping blood, where his eyes had been plucked from their sockets.

The spot where the steer had been separated by the condors from the herd was not more than a mile from the sea, and the animal had been dashing madly about on the plain, circling and zigzagging here and there without drawing breath, and then suddenly, tongueless and sightless, and tottering and rapidly weakening under his mortal wounds, he reached, turned his head toward the ocean and, gathering himself as if for a last desperate effort, dashed madly away in that direction. Flung, and rushing onward, he was pursued by every ravenous vulture, the dying steer rushed straight for the surf. He reached the margin of the sea and fell dead with his head toward the ocean. Instantly a score of beaks were tearing the dead animal's flesh from his bones. I spurred my horse forward and galloped to the scene, where the condors were stripping the carcass. When I reached the beach the great birds rose easily, one after another, from the feast and flung them into the air, and then, until they were mere specks against the snowy summits of the Andes. A skeleton, half submerged in the sea, lay where the tortured steer had fallen. When I returned across the plain vindictive villagers were kicking the three lassoed condors and stamping them into the ground, hissing curses between their teeth at every kick. In the distance the lately disturbed herd was grazing quietly, as if no condor had ever threatened the peace of its domain.—Ed. Mont in New York Mail and Express.

A "CUSTOM" OF DAHOMEY.

Sickening Sights for the Eyes of Civilized Man.

Evans informed me that in a few days one of the "customs," as the Dahomians call it, was to come off in the court yard of the palace, and that I could witness it if I chose. I did choose, but I wished afterward that I had not. These customs, which have existed as long as Dahomey has been a nation, and which, years ago of various kinds, and with names. The one I was to witness was called "Throwing of the Presents," and was a custom of the king, and was called "Feast of the Troubadours." "The Day of the King." "The Milking of the Palm," etc.

The day came off. Evans, with a shudder, declared to attend. He had seen it the year before. In the center of the court yard a platform was raised, and on it, with silks, velvets and furs, including that of Dahomey—a white gown, with a figure in black holding aloft a decapitated head in one hand, and a scimitar in the other. On this platform stood the king, surrounded by his nobles, among whom I had a prominent place. One of the king's eunuchs, a man of more than 50 years of age, led a mass of 50,000 or more people, kept in some order by the woman king. The affair began by the king personally throwing into the air a number of small packages of goods, consisting of cottons, cloths and cloths, handkerchiefs, pipes and tobacco, all of which were fought fiercely by the crowd below. Then came the grand point—the slaughter. The victims were brought forth, lashed into bent shapes, and, in a sitting position, with knees drawn up to the chin and lifted into the slide, from which they went down to the crowd below. Then came the "Feast of the Troubadours," and with long and bright knives threw themselves on the victim and in a moment he was hacked to pieces, as well as were

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The new well that it meant a snail of paint and an utterly new room. A couple of weeks. He knew the sign would next week occupants of his own floor to look out for the oil and adhesive matter, and that he would find it. He knew that it meant preparation for the winter reception of similarly situated young men, but who had been more lucky in getting away for the summer. He could prophesy to a day when the laxton landlady would inform him that the time of summer prices was over, and that, in order to hold possession to the 10 by 8 box which he designated his home he must submit to an increase of rent. With the thought of winter clothing, the overcoat and the extra gloves and shoes, the young man pondered until the pangs of hunger drove him to the cheap restaurant near the corner, where a continued wrestling with dried up steak and elastic bread at least revived the circulation.

CHAMPY AND SPIRITLESS. The young man formerly lived in the country, where high mountains had towered over a bright and cheerful home. He had been supplied there with all the necessities of everyday life in abundance, and the society of straightforward, honest and pretty girls had kept far away every idea of a pessimistic nature. But in the change of time he found himself alone in the great city, without friend or even enemy, and the great loneliness from being among so many strangers who cared not a straw where he came or where he went, and who had come over him as a great cloud of snow in a winter day, shutting out from him the beautiful and throwing around him a mantle of selfishness. His thoughts turned naturally to the happy and cheerful home, and his mind had been a picture of the happy home, and his mind had been a picture of the happy home, and his mind had been a picture of the happy home.

But there is a bright side to life in a lodging house, and its popularity is on the increase in this great city. Of course by lodging house is not meant those east side tenements in which beds are crowded as berths in a steamer, in which a crowd of half dressed, half washed tramps are crowded together, but that class of houses found all over the city, where the owner, in modest print or writing is announced the fact that furnished rooms are to be rented at low prices. Certain parts of the city are becoming more generally known for this business. The section of town below Twenty-third street, reaching from the corner of Broadway to the corner of Broadway, is almost wholly given over to boarding and lodging houses, and the lodging houses are increasing. There are houses where women only, and there are half apartment houses in which only men can secure rooms, in different ranges of furnishings, and consequently at different prices. The places set aside for young women are a benefit that few who have not tried them know of. The young women of the city are becoming more and more free from all annoyances. There is no scanty bedroom to be always forced to leave to the attention of a landlady, and she is free from the stares and eavesdropping of a neighbor. There is a popular prejudice against boarding houses, but a man who has been on a journey will not wash the dust of his journey from his feet, but will, particularly if he has come from a lower to a higher altitude, as it is believed that the opening of the pores of the skin will bring on a fever.—Harper's Magazine.

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Story Told by a Traveler. The mode of living of Samoans is very simple, and they are somewhat without a Samoan partaking of any hot food. Coconuts, bananas, pineapples, yam and breadfruit, particularly the breadfruit, are a staple of their food. They are a white skin and a piece of breadfruit, especially when it happens to be one of your white neighbor's hogs, conclude the diet of the Samoan. The Samoan's famous drink is made of breadfruit, which grows in clusters from six to ten feet in height, and is a species of pepper tree. The fruit is a small, round, green, dried fruit, which is made into a intoxicating beverage which, when taken in small doses, is a delightful tonic. To drink aya is to get drunk, and it is a very common sight to see a Samoan, particularly the breadfruit, are a staple of their food. They are a white skin and a piece of breadfruit, especially when it happens to be one of your white neighbor's hogs, conclude the diet of the Samoan.

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The Sultan stands erect with his face to the east and his feet on his praying carpet, and, placing the thumb of each hand on his forehead, he bows his head to the ground, lifting his eyes upward as if to catch any sound from heaven, and with his hands in this position must turn first to the right and then to the left, and then, dropping his hands to his side, hold them rigid while he bends his knee and then his whole body forward from his hips, and again repeat the same three times. He repeats his prayer in this position, and gets upon his feet again, and repeats the same three times.

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believe that I was not thirsty, but this did not seem to work at all, and to my great horror I was offered the first drink after the storm, and I was told that it was the oldest fair neighbor to the right offered me quite a large bowl filled to the brim with aida, and I had to partake. I took a drink and tried to return the balance because I did not like its peppery taste, but it was no use. I had to drink it, and it was all that I was worth. I managed to get through as best I could, and washed the whole down with some coconut milk. I refused to drink it, and I was told that it was the oldest fair neighbor to the right offered me quite a large bowl filled to the brim with aida, and I had to partake. I took a drink and tried to return the balance because I did not like its peppery taste, but it was no use. I had to drink it, and it was all that I was worth. I managed to get through as best I could, and washed the whole down with some coconut milk. I refused to drink it, and I was told that it was the oldest fair neighbor to the right offered me quite a large bowl filled to the brim with aida, and I had to partake. I took a drink and tried to return the balance because I did not like its peppery taste, but it was no use. I had to drink it, and it was all that I was worth. I managed to get through as best I could, and washed the whole down with some coconut milk. I refused to drink it, and I was told that it was the oldest fair neighbor to the right offered me quite a large bowl filled to the brim with aida, and I had to partake. I took a drink and tried to return the balance because I did not like its peppery taste, but it was no use. I had to drink it, and it was all that I was worth. I managed to get through as best I could, and washed the whole down with some coconut milk. I refused to drink it, and I was told that it was