

**LEWIS AND CLARKE.**

Extracts from the history of the Lewis and Clarke expedition show that their hunting trips, which were purely business ventures, were anything but the pleasure excursions enjoyed by the modern Nimrod.

Ninety-seven years ago, Captains Lewis and Clarke hunted the Missouri valley, in what is now North Dakota, and, as you may readily see, experienced more or less difficulty in preserving the game after killing it.

"Wednesday, the 13th. The morning was cloudy, the thermometer at 2° below zero, wind from southeast. Captain Clarke returned last evening with all his hunting party. During their excursion they had killed forty deer, three buffaloe, and sixteen elk; but most of the game was too lean for use, and the wolves, who regard whatever lies out at night as their own, had appropriated most of it. When he left the fort on the 4th instant, he descended on the ice twenty-two miles to the new Mandan island, having killed nothing, and therefore without food for the night.

"Early on the 5th, the hunters went out and killed two buffaloe and a deer, but the last only could be used, the others being too lean. After breakfast they proceeded down to an Indian lodge and hunted during the day. The next morning they encamped forty-four miles from the fort, on a sand point, near the mouth of a creek, which they called Hunting Creek, and during this and the following day, hunted the adjoining plains with much success, killing a number of deer and elk. On the 8th, the best of the meat was sent with the horses to the fort.

"Thursday, 14th. Last night the snow fell three inches; the day was, however, fine. Four men were dispatched with sleds and three horses to bring up the meat, which had been collected by the hunters. They returned, however, with the intelligence that about twenty-one miles below the fort, a party of upwards of one hundred men, whom they supposed to be Sioux, rushed on them, cut the traces of the sleds, and carried off two of the horses, the third being given up by intercession of an Indian who seemed to possess some authority over them. They also took away two of the men's knives and a tomahawk, which last, however, they returned. We sent up to the Mandans to inform them of it, and to know whether any of them would join a party to pursue the robbers in the morning."

The history goes on to relate how a fruitless chase was made after these dusky highwaymen, who succeeded in getting off with the spoils of the chase

which these hardy pioneers had secured by such energetic search, the party of hunters having, upon one occasion, walked more than thirty miles, knee deep in snow, in a single day.

In his speech at **RETROSPECTIVE.** Buffalo, during the struggle which preceded the publication of the First Battle, the Peerless said:

"I am aware that in the making of a platform it is impossible to please all. I recognize that people who think will differ, and that a platform often contains declarations which the voter does not like, and omits things which he would like to have included."

That lays bare the real motives of this statesman, when building platforms. No lament is heard that he is unable to make a platform which, being successfully carried out, would steady the pulse of commerce, strengthen business, promote good will between capital and labor, stimulate industry and secure to posterity the blessings of free institutions; but, "to please all" seems to be his only object, and, his inability to do so his only regret.

There the bray sounds, though the form be enveloped in the hide of a nobler animal. A platform; a toy; a plaything constructed to "please" and, pleasing, to procure votes. Commoner indeed!

It is not impossible that there are readers who doubt that the Peerless ever gave tongue in this strain. We regret to say that we can bring no positive proof, neither strong circumstantial evidence, that these burning words ever floated in the flood of eloquence which once fell in cascades from the mouth of the Platte-like orator; all that we can produce by way of authority being the none too conclusive fact that the nursery talk above quoted may be found in the First Battle, page 353, for the veracity of which we by no means stand sponsor.

**IMPRUDENT OR IMPUDENT.** Emperor William has laid before the Reichstag a draft showing the comparative strength of the German and the American navies.

Those who attach a sinister motive to this impulsive act, will do well to remember that the comparative effectiveness of navies can only be found by giving due consideration to the comparative effectiveness of the men behind the guns.

When the Kaiser does this—by a simple 1 equals 3 method—we may well believe that he has intentions, and an appropriation of a few billions for defense will be strictly in order.

**MESERVE.**

Judging from the editorial effusions in the fusion press of this commonwealth, Mr. Meserve, late populist treasurer of the state, is a much persecuted individual. His indictment is entirely political and persecutorial. In other words, Nebraska grand juries evolve only political indictments. Bartley's indictment, however, according to populism, was brought about by the fusion love of justice. But Meserve's indictment is the result of republican love of injustice.

The two cases demonstrate the folly of asking bonds from state treasurers. The great majority are supposed to be intelligent enough to select a competent and honest man to handle the public funds. But when that majority ask a few citizens to jeopardize their fortunes in protecting that majority from the peculations or misdoings of its own selectee, they plead the baby act and admit that they are incapable of self-government, incompetent to choose competent, efficient and honest men to count, conserve and pay out the tax-gathered money of the state.

The good ladies **BE IT ENACTED.** of Greater New York—some of them—have improved the interval between the holidays and spring house cleaning, by organizing a "Society for the Improvement of the Speaking Voice." Of course the country should expect this fraternity to have the usual number of state conventions, district organizers, local officers, half-fare excursions, satin badges, ice-cream-on-the-grass fetes and soliciting committees, but this grand order goes the whole length; it has a "legislative committee."

Soon, then, will the harsh, discordant note of the rag-and-iron man be, by the stern mandate of the law, toned to a cultivated alto, while in harmony with his dulcet tones, will be heard the soaring tenor of the train announcer, and the trained barytone of the park policeman, as they feelingly deliver their respective solos, "Don't crowd" and "Move on there," and the itinerant vender of the ever-popular "bay-nan-no" will sing the virtues of his wares to the melodious airs of his own fair Italy.

All this, and much more, by law; then the stately dames and giggling damsels of Greater New York may pin on their S. F. T. I. O. T. S. V. badges, and rest in sweet content, well knowing that the military and naval branches of the state government may, at need, be invoked to protect their aristocratic ears from any less melodious sounds than the periodical yowl of the circus calliope, and the nightly lamentations of their own pet poodles.