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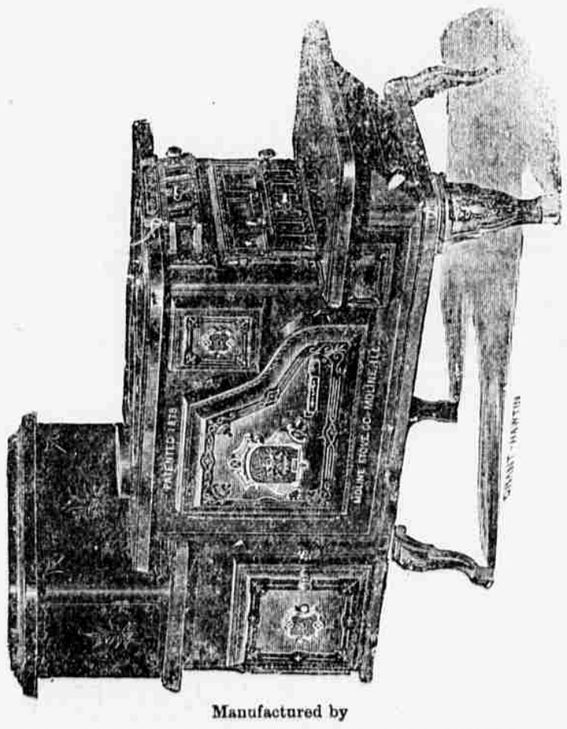
THE MOLINE STOVE



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"Pike's Peak or Bust!" "Busted!"

Correspondence of THE BEE.

This stern resolution so oft repeated in the past came to us—Will and myself—as we started one morning with canes in hand from Manitau. The distance was 12 miles, of which over one mile and a half was up in the air. The journey contemplated for the day was 24 miles. We expected promptly to march up hill and then march back again in time for supper. Others had done as much, and why not we! True, I weigh over 200 and am crossing the half century line, and Will has been sick all the spring and summer, but then the job must be done. Forty-three persons went up the day before on horseback, and we propose to make it a foot. We are off at 6 o'clock. Reader, you who have lived all your days on level ground, you think it isn't much to walk 24 miles in a day; well, you can do it if you don't have to stop to climb a ladder a mile and a half high, and then climb back again Well, that was just the rub—all but the ladder. About a mile out we pass the famous Ute Iron Spring, and take a drink of its powerful waters and then pass on. Our path begins to go up, up, up! Will it never stop? Yes, on the summit of the peak and not before. We follow a roaring mountain torrent and the view is grand. Sometimes the walls close in like canons, and you go through a deep gorge. Here massive rocks have tumbled into the stream and the waters tear around and under them. The mountain sides are covered with evergreens. The crust of gog and magog lift their granite helmits high the air, but under the exhiliaration of the mountain air we pass on into new wonders. Here are sheltered falls. A mighty rock has fallen from the mountain's brow into the stream and the water dashes over it foaming with rage. Above there is one cascade after another and by the furious fall of water you have some idea of your steep ascent. Now you follow the narrow path winding up around the mountain side and again we follow the stream. At 8 o'clock we reach a log house called the "half-way house." We inquire how far it is to the top of the peak? "Eight miles," and how far to town? "Four miles," but we thought this was half way house. "No, only a third of the way;" that begun to make us look solemn. We had put in our best time, and had been two hours in coming four miles. Just then two men with a drove of donkeys fell into the trail, and they told us to strap our baggage on them. We did so and helped drive them, but it was a help, and with two canes each we plodded on in good time. These men had a contract for supplying the signal station with wood at $20 per cord. It's all right! They may have a dollar a stick, for all I care. The patient little donkey, how he toils on. An iron wood-rack is fastened to his pack saddle, and he takes nearly an eighth of a cord to a load, and I found even then he was more of a success on a climb than we were. After going a couple of miles we resume our baggage and plod on. Now the path is more and more abrupt, doubling back and forth on the mountain side. Here we are in the burnt district—thousand of acres a tangled and wild desolation. Now we pass immense fields of clean granite. We are nearing timber line, where the trees close their struggle with the eternal frosts. But the air is certainly lighter and as you go on even at a moderate pace, your heart thumps like a sledge hammer against your side—poor thing it wants to get out of that and go back—you can't blame it. Now your breath comes troubled and labored, you fairly pout. There is not breath enough to go round, and to add to your discomfort you are getting tired—never so tired before. Keep your feet turned up to an angle of 45 degrees and it is too much. I found I could sit down easier than ever before, my feet and legs how they ached, and my poor calves how I pitied them. Now Will is a young man of a good deal of decision, and when he makes up his mind you can't budge him, "He said this is played, I don't go any further," and really the boy had my sympathy. We are now at the head of the stream, one of the highest there is, we are over 11,000 feet above sea level, nearly two miles high. A mountain guide appears leading a company on horseback. We ask him how much further it is, "three miles," well how much higher, "3,000 feet." We take our lunch by the spring, how cold the water is, we cannot drink enough to quench our raging thirst. Now we are joined by two men returning. They went up the day before and were caught in a thunder-storm right where we were. They described it as awfully grand. They were in the midst of the artillery of the sky and great balls of fire rolled from cloud to cloud and a dead tree not far off was shivered. Just then massive clouds rolled down upon us from above and the rain began to fall, and the men in alarm hastened downward. One of them had been very sick all night. He foolishly took his whisky bottle with him and took his pay for it. Up in these high altitudes the air is intoxicating enough. We now held a council of war. Will could go no further. He had a blinding headache. I wanted to go on and started, but my feet and legs "struck" then and there, where they were most needed. Never was an iron manufactory treated worse. It was the most downright rebellion I ever saw. It was a case of obstinate refusal to go another rod of up-hill grade. Then there came that melancholy thought which overwhelmed so many men twenty years ago,

"BUSTED!"

It was a melancholy fact. I could not get around it or above it. Further I could not go. My rebellious ankles were becoming rigid with weariness, and though I argued and reasoned and thought of what others had done, and I ought to do, it was all of no use. Just then a wintry chill invaded our bones. It was like an Arctic blast. We shivered and our teeth chattered. Again I tried to go forward, but my feet were as obstinate as ever. I never saw a worse rebellion; I was disgusted. Denouncing one foot as Jeff Davis, and the other as Arabi Pasha, I started back. I had not gone far when I found it easy to rest, even on the down grade. Presently the clouds parted and a glorious ocean of sunlight flooded mountain and plain. I looked as far eastward as the vision could go, and saw afar off the smoke of railroad trains on the distant plains, and far, far away I could see our own prairie state robed in green, and flooded with the light. Well, such a vision was worth the effort. The mountain lake clear and cold, the bald peaks, the pitting crags, the roar of torrents, the stately spruce, the rush and roar of cataracts, and that cold, cold spring, issuing from the very mountains brow, all go to form a picture not to be forgotten. It was hard to give up, but we consoled ourselves with the thought that we would have been drenched with rain and sleet, for it snows often every day on the summit. We could not have endured the piercing cold, and once there we could have seen nothing on account of the clouds. Tired as we were, we found it much easier going down than up. We reached Manitou at 5 o'clock, having accomplished eighteen miles of about as difficult travel as this earth affords, but two such tired mortals it would be hard to find

C. S. HARRISON.

SOUTH PUEBLO, Colo., Aug. 30.

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As a rule we do not recommend patent Medicines, but when we know of one that erally is a public benefactor, and does positively cure, then we consider it our duty to impart that information to all. Electric Bitters aretruly a most valuable medicine, and will surely cure Biliousness, Fever and Ague, Stomach, Liver and Kidney Complaints, even were all other remedies fail. We know wereof wespeak, and can freely recommend them to all.—Exch.—Sold at fifty cents a bottle, by C. F. Goodman.

Alex. H. Stephens and His Roller Chair

Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

At 8 o'clock Mr. Stephens arrived with his friends of the executive committee and other gentlemen. They entered the house by the rear entrance of the stage, and unobserved by the audience. While Mr. Stephens was in one of the wings preparing to make his appearance, a portion of the audience caught sight of the roller chair and began cheering. The audience quickly guessed what the cheering was occasioned by and at once took it up. The house rang with cheers. Having been adjusted and settled down in his roller chair, Mr. Stephens wheeled around and rolled himself out upon the stage amid the most uproarous applause and enthusiasm. He was followed by the members of the executive committee and other leading democrats, who took chairs that had been placed for them on the stage. Mr. Stephens continued to roll his chair out until he had passed across a little more than half the stage when he wheeled around, and facing the audience went a step or two forward and scotched the wheels of his roller chair against a heavy two-inch plank that had been placed across the stage near the footlights to keep the chair in position, as the stage floor slants toward the audience.

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We cannot help noticing the liberal offer made to all invalids and sufferers by Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption. You are requested to call at C. F Goodman's Drug Store, and get a Trial Bottle *free of cost*, if you are suffering with Consumption, Severe Coughs, Colds, Asthma Bronchitis, Hay Fever, Loss of Voic Hoarseness, or any affection of the Thro or Lungs. It will positively cure you.

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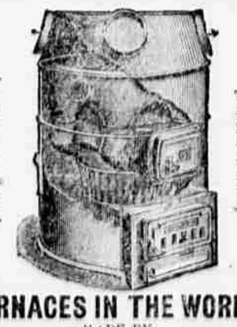

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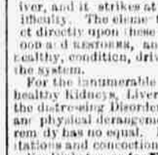

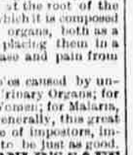

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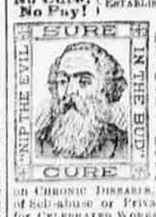

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