#### MULHATTON, PRINCE OF LIARS

Recollections of the Modern Heir of Ananias and Munchausen.

TALENTED INVENTOR OF NEWSPAPER FAKES

Once a Trathful Commercial Traveler, in an Evil Moment He Told Stories and Fell Headlong from Grace.

(Copyright, 1991, by A. T. Vanee.) News comes from a remote corner of Texas that Joseph Mulhattan, the most stupendous and ingenious liar of his time, has recently turned up in that part of the country. It is now in order for the newspapers to be on their guard, for in his prime Mulhattan perpetrated and got Into circulation, through various important newspapers, hoaxes that would have made Baron Munchausen feel like an amateur and there is no guaranty that he won't go into the business again. The last previous definite news of Joe was some five years ago when it was announced that he had retired to the wilds of California to recuperate from his arduous mental labors. Soon after years of persistent silence gave credence to

Mulhattan had been a truthful commercial traveler for years before the passion for big story telling took possession of him. One day it occurred to him that the newspapers of his locality weren't interesting enough, so he proceeded to liven them up with the products of his own imagination. The Pittsburg Leader was the medium selected, and he kept the editors busy publishabout well known people. Presently these personalities palled upon him, and he sought to excreise his genius in a larger field. Ab u: this time the first crematory in the United States was erected at Little Washington, Mulhattan wrote an article an nouncing that a cremation would take place at a date two weeks ahead of the completion of the furnace, and Little Washington soon had an army or reporters to entertain, besides special artists from the illustrated papers. When they found the crematory unfinished and discovered that there was no corpse they sought for Mr. Mulhattan to supply that important omission, but he was far away.

first really imposing fake. He discovered wells discovered in out-of-the-way places to some half-dozen different trolley lines equal to that of an ordinary phonograph. that the remains of George Washington and the oil men of Pennsylvania became the right to carry merchandise, passengers' were petrified and that some well known half crazy with excitement. Prospectors baggage and the mails. The same privicitizens who were very desirous of seeing were sent out to the new oil fields, with lege was given to other electric roads althe Washington monument completed were instructions to lease land and put up der- ready incorporated by changing their charabout to remove the petrified body to the ricks without an instant's delay. exposition at Philadelphia, to place it on The famous story of the monkeys, told exhibition during the Centennial year. An on J. B. Parkes of Kingston, Ky., was an the money to be used in finishing the monu- It was said that Mr. Parkes had secured ment. This was printed and reprinted the seven immense monkeys from his brotherwide country over, and the newspapers in-law in South Africa and had trained teemed with letters, favorable and de- them to break hemp. The monkeys required of the Philadelphia Times, was particularly pay, and did their work so well that the vigorous in the denunciation of Mulhat-

For a time thereafter Mr. Mulhattan's stories, according to his own account, were low cost of his labor, he should obtain a what might be called "plain lies." But he practical monopoly of the business of growwent to Kentucky, and after he had ing hemp, and become one of the richest breathed the inspiring air of that locality men in the south. Then the story went on for a while he began to take pride in his to say that the Knights of Labor of Kenwork and produced some sparkling gems of tucky had become greatly excited over the ornamental prevarication. In 1877 he vis- affair; that they had denounced the imited the Mammoth cave and premptly portation of monkey labor from Africa, as evolved out of his inner consciousness an- being infinitely worse than the importaother great cavern fourteen miles long, tion of pauper labor from Europe, and that containing a large navigable river, to ply a strike of all the farm hands of Kentucky containing a large navigable river, to ply a strike of all the farm hands of Kentucay and electric roads is very acute. The upon the waters of which a steamboat was would certainly occur, and there might be steam-railroad corporations feel that the wlie's wrote for a sketch of the town near which the cave was located the legislature put a stop to Mr. Parkes' and for pictures of the cave. With an project by prohibiting monkeys. This story artist friend Mulhattan filled this order and the articles and pictures were printed attracted the attention of one of the inin Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. The cave was so brilliant a success that he Telegraph, who wrote an editorial a colfollowed it up with other caves, until he had nearly the whole state of Kentucky labor on the labor problem. ringing hollow to the footstep.

#### Two from Texas.

Animal stories were very popular then. Mulhattan concentrated his powerful intellect upon the domestic goose and the result was a highly detailed and interesting account of a Texas cotton plantation kept in order by a flock of trained geese. The geese carried under their necks gourds filled with water so that each goose could drink out of its neighbor's gourd. Each goose did the work of two men in weeding. The story concluded with the prediction that "if the farmer's experiment is as successful as he thinks it will be it is only question of a few years until the whole cotton crop of Texas will be weeded out by the ordinary goose." This was regarded by many newspapers, particularly in the south, as an important agricultural de-

Mulhattan's Texas meteor story attained the proportion of an international event. This was published in 1883 in the Fort Worth Gazette and was the making of that paper. An Associated Press agent swallowed the story whole and telegraphed it all over the country. On the day after the lished in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. story was published the Gazette received This was a story of a tree that devoured 114 telegrams in regard to the matter. birds. To begin with, there was a detailed Three of them came from Europe-one from description of how the narrator studied the London Times, one from the Edinburgh | botany and used to make long trips into the Scotsman and one from the Paris Gaulois. telegraphed for correspondents to get full something like the weeping willow, "but particulars and to draw on them for the the long, drooping, whip-like limbs are of have fallen at Williams' ranch. "It coy- and seem possessed of a horrible life-like ered an acre of ground; it plunged 200 feet power of coiling and uncoiling." One day in the ground and stood eighty feet above the observer saw a bird settle on the top it; it came down red hot and steaming. filling the air with sulphurous smoke and began to awaken and curl upward. They noxious gases and killing all the cattle. A twined and twisted like snakes about the 200 feet in the earth." The newspapers of down in their fearful embrace until I lost the country contained columns of interviews | sight of it." The next day the explorer meteor and thousands of letters were sent into the tree. "The moment I tossed in the to the postmaster at Fort Worth asking fowls," he says, "a violent agitation shook for further particulars. He was so indignant that he gave out word that if however, he relented and invited the famous tree, giving no sign of animation, I dared prevaricator to dine with him. The Gazette had to employ a special corps of writers to reply to the letters received, besides getting out thousands of explanatory circu-

Mulhattan next wrote an extended account of the discovery of the lest art of making malleable glass. The story was of how the explorer wrote of the discovery told with such sweet simplicity and careful and minute detail that the average reader felt that he could go right out and manufacture malleable glass himself with a few simple implements. Next, at the suggestion of a newspaper man at Lexington. Ky., Mulhattan located the star of Bethlehem. Among Mulhattan's friends at the time was John M. Klein, a hardware dealer of Richfield, Ky.

## Dabbles in Astronomy.

Mulhattan dubbed him "professor" and described him as a successful observer of sunspots and an astronomer of remarkable attainments and high scientific reputation. president. This was just before his retire-According to Mulhattan's story, The late Richard A. Proctor, the eminent Euglish astronomer, was in the United States at this time. Unfortunately for him, he didn't know about Mulhattan and he public from the paths of scientific error, and delicious flavor commends it.

So he devoted several columns of labored writing to an expusure of what he termed humbug. He said that there was no such thing and never had been any such thing as a star of Bothlehem, and if there was uch a star it could not have been discovered at Klein's observatory, which was quite true, as there was no such thing as Klein's observatory, the estimable hard ware dealer having never looked through EXTENSION OF nything bigger than a pair of opera glasses n his life. Proctor's denial of the star of Bethlehem's existence stirred up a hornet's Court Ruling on Question of Damages nest about his cars. The pious and orthodox fell upon him with truly religious ardor, defending Prof. Klein and denouncing Proctor with a vigor which soon made the English astronomer very sorry that he

During the summer of 1888 Mulhattan, with the aid of a mythical Prof. J. N. B. Birdwhistle, of the equally mythical Lawrenceburg Academy of Science, dis-covered an invisible moon, the bulk of which was about two and a half times greater than ters is more generally agitated in New sufficient thickness and when moist, perthat of the visible moon, while its distance England than elsewhere, and the promise mit the passage of a current and prevent

from the earth was only about 20,000 miles "Its influence on our tides," wrote Muihattan, "on our atmosphere, our crops, and the great storms must be very great, and new fuel to the controversy that has long or may be deposited in larger amounts in a will in a measure account for the cyclones, tornadoes and hot and cold waves that sweep over the earth. It makes its orbit any other railroad corporation, and the metallic structures exposed to the soil, surin a path diagonally between the earth and fact that it intends to extend this service | rounded by a conducting substance, is that sun, in such a position, caused by the sun's indicates that it considers electricity a it was rumored that he was dead and his powerful attraction, as to be invisible except the upper edge, as it occasionally skirts August.

Then the romancer went on to say that Prof. Birdwhistle had telegraphed the disovery to Prof. Swift of the Rochester Observatory and Prof. John M. Klein, the noted astronomer of Kentucky, and had received a reply from the latter, stating that he had brought his instruments to bear upon the western horizon at the indicated ing denials of the little hoaxes he got up point, and that he, too, had gazed upon the avisible moon, thus corroborating Prof. Birdwhistle in every particular. The invisible moon careered visibly through the news papers for many days.

#### Mulhattan's Miscellanies.

tion to things terrestrial, and brought to them. The same conditions prevail in Rhode produced. This, of course, can be read public notice an ancient pyramid near Island and Connecticut, and the recent trip Lawrenceburg, Ky. He said it was found in of a trolley party from Boston to New brations are transmitted either directly or one of the huge mounds there abounding. York shows how extensive the electric indirectly; in the latter case the object is and was full of golden urns and other won- roads have become throughout this whole effected by an electrical current. In the derful relies of an extinct race. Later on section. got up another mound sensation, in scriptions on them. It was thought that distances, but they are making a bid for produced by means of the phonogram or these were copies of the original ten freight, baggage and even the mails. The which the message was recorded the words It was in 1875 that Mulhattan got up his commandments. He also wrote of great oil last legislature of Massachusetts granted were distinctly audible, the result being

admission fee of 50 cents would be charged, improvement on the cotton-tending geese, roads yet attempted, and it is with some Alexander K. McClure, editor little care in their keeping, received no tan's idea, while the Pittsburg Gazette sup- arrangements to import a thousand more monkeys, and looked forward with joy and confidence to the time when, owing to the incendiarism, unless was sent out by a press association. It telligent leader writers of the London umn long about the influence of simian Next came the remarkable story of the

lake of hair dye that was published in the summer of 1888 in the Virginia City Enterprise. Mulhattan discovered that Mono lake contained one of the greatest natural leposits of hair dye in the known world. All who bathe in the waters of that lake become blondes and if the bathing is persisted in for any length of time they get red-headed. A man last spring rented the Levining ranch, on the north side of the lake. He had three strapping daughters. As soon as the water became warm enough the girls daily went bathing in the lake, taking for their mermaid gambols a time when the 'men folks' were all out on the ranch at work. When they began taking their dips in the lake the girls were brown haired, but they soon found themselves becoming blondes. Next the hair of the girls became flery red. The old man and his the use of an approved appliance, at reawife tried the baths and now the whole family are Titian blondes."

## The Bird-Enting Tree.

Mr. Mulhattan is credited also with preparing the dispatch from Chihuahua, Mexco, dated April 22, 1889, that was pubmountains, hunting for specimens. Finally The editors of these enterprising papers the tree in question was discovered. It was necessary funds. The meteor was said to a dark and apparently slimy appearance of the tree. "The branches immediately family of Mexicans were struck and buried | bird, which began to scream, and drew it with distinguished scientists regarding the got half a dozen chickens and threw them its branches, which swayed to and fro with sinuous snaky motion. After devouring Mulhattan ever came to Fort Worth he the fowls, these branches, fully gorged, would shoot him on the spot. Afterward, dropped to their former position, and the approach it and take the limbs in my haud. They were covered with suckers, resembling the tentacles of an octopus. The blood of the fowls had been absorbed by the suckers, leaving crimson stains on the dark

surface. The dispatch concluded with an account to Prof. Wordenhaupt of the University of Heidelburg, who replied that the tree was the Arber Diabell, only two specimens of which had been known to science, one growother on the island of Sumarra. Mulhattan always prided himself upon his

'tall stories" and was never so happy as just after perpetrating a particularly atrocommercial traveler, it was difficult for the unwary editors to keep track of him. At one time the commercial travelers of the country talked of nominating him for against such injury, then I think is must with a minimum of trouble. The subscriber ment to the mountains, and the supposition "Prof." Klein who had discovered the star. is that the unexpected honor was too much for his modest nature.

When you want sparkling wine get Cook's

IN THE FIELD OF ELECTRICITY Steam Roads Having a Run for Their Life

TROLLEY PRIVILEGES

in New England.

from Electrolysis-Telephone Meter and Talk Register.

A writer in Harper's Weekly calls atelectricity within the coming year adds may be applied in a thin layer with brusher operates more miles of electric lines than in it. An incidental advantage of having power that will increase in importance on these structures will be enormounty in the steam roads. There are over fortythe steam roads. There are over fortytricity, while the Pennsylvania railroad has only its seven miles from Bordentown to Mount Holly, and the Baltimore & Ohio its four miles in a belt line through Balti-

"The conditions in New England probably ection progressive in the adoption of elec-The trolley has sprung up and multiplied there like the proverbial mushoom. The total electric mileage in Massait is reported that the returns for the cur-Mr. Mulhattan now turned his atten- is completely crossed and recrossed by spoken to is indented and a phonogram is

"The trolleys have not only entrenched which he told how a golden calf had been upon the preserves of the steam roads in length of wire over which it traveled repdiscovered, and tables of stones with in- the matter of carrying passengers short resented a considerable distance. As re-

"This is one of the most dangerous steps alarm that the big steam ratiroad corporations view this departure. The question naturally suggests itself whether the railbranch lines, which run through populous centers, in self-protection, or stand aside for the activity of the New Haven and down any message you may send, and Mr. other New England steam railroads in enemy's very camp. So far none of the can be received automatically. big railroad corporations have attempted this, but such a radical departure from old methods may be made any day in New steam-railroad corporations feel that they be surprised. and very important to all concerned."

## Damages from Stray Currents.

The supreme court of Indiana has overruled the defendant's demurrer to the omplaint in the case of the Manufacturers' Natural Gas company against the Indianapolis Street Rallway company for \$50,-000 damages for injuries to the gas company's pipes through electrolysis The ruling is one of the first, if not the

first, in the country on the question of whether or not damages will lie from injuries attributed to electrolysis. Judge Carter's opinion in part follows:

"The method in use by the defendant n operating its cars results in serious injury and in some cases to the destruction of plaintiff's pipes. The defendant can, by sonable expense, so operate its cars so as to avoid injuring the plaintiff's pipes. The plaintiff cannot by any known method protect its pipes from injury.

"The plaintiff owns its pipe line laid in the street by legal authority. The street railroad company seizes on these pipes and makes use of them as a conductor for its return current and in so doing greatly injures and in some instances wholly destroys them and this is done under a claim that it is performing a public service under authority of law. Is not this a taking of private property for public use and for which just compensa. tion must be made?

"The city could not and did not grant monopoly of the street either to the defendant or its predecessor, and when the tracks, poles and wires were placed in the street the railway company knew that gas and water pipes might be laid in the street at any time, and it acquired its rights to run an electric road subject to that fact, and all the consequences that might follow. The plaintiff is not a trespasser, but occupies the street lawfully, and while there its property is taken by the street railway company as a consequence of its operations.

"The number and size of the cars proor to compel the street railway company "reading" is to be taken the switch

#### not to adopt such approved appliances." To Prevent Electrolysis.

In a patent issued November 6 to Prof. burned with zeal to save the American Imperial Extra Dry Champagne. Its purity and Engineer, a plan of protecting under- Ash Bitters is a certain cure at any stage ground metallic structures is described, of the disorder.

based upon the fact that a current which leaves a metallic surface by a conducting path which is non-ionizable or not chemcally decomposable, will produce no electrolytic effect on that surface. To this end the pipe or other metallic structure to be protected has interposed between it and the surrounding soil an electrolytically conducting medium, such as a mixture of graphite with some binding material by means of which it may be applied and fixed to the surface of the metallic structure which it is designed to protect. A conductive mixture of graphite and paraffin is well adapted for this purpose, though it is not essential that the substance of the protective medium should be itself conduc tive, provided it permits the passage through it of current, and will prevent ac tention to the expansion of electric roads cess to the metal surface of the products in the New England states and its effect of decomposition. Among such substances on steam railroads. "The question," says are precipitated chalk, pulverized anthraof the New Haven road to have many new the recombination of the products of elecmiles of its branch lines equipped with tro decomposition. The protective medium raged there. Already the New Haven road | trench and the metal structure embedded the strength of any electric currents from our horizon during the months of July and five miles on this road operated by elec- albe points of exit, thereby relieving these structures of currents, which are harmful particularly at the joints.

Telephone Recorder.

Some interesting experiments are reported with the telephonograph, which is a combination of the phonograph with the help to make the steam railroads of that telephone, and is intended to take and record telephone messages by automatic means and, to a limited extent, give an answer in the same way. The message spoken by the person sending it into chusetts in 1894 was about 600 miles, but the telephone in the usual way, and the vibrations set up by the voice are caused rent year will show nearly 2,000 miles of to act upon a recording stylus by the imelectric railways in the state. New lines pact of the sound waves. In this way the are almost daily projected, and the state wax cylinder in the office of the person off at leisure in the usual way. The vitest mentioned a message was transmitted from one room to another, although the good and the impressions on the cylinder being as deep as the impressions made when speaking into an ordinary phonograph. Of course, large battery power in encroaching upon the rights of the rail- was needed, and a reinforcing current was required at the receiving and registering A special use appears likely to be found for the telephonograph in small offices where a limited staff is employed. reads will adopt electricity on certain Thus, if an office is left without an attend ant and a call is made, the phonograph can be so set as to reply "Mr. and see their profits materially cut down, out. The instrument is fitted with a tele-This condition of affairs largely accounts phonograph which will automatically take

- will read it on his return." It is building electric side lines or changing the possible to throw the phonograph action out motive power on old established branches, of play and use the telephone in the or-It is even intimated that the big railroads dinary way. The arrangement of the will make a bid for street traction privi- mechanism is such that any number of mesleges, and thus carry the war into the sages up to an aggregate of 15,000 words

When a man subscribes for 900 telephone calls under the impression that be England, where the war between the steam is covered for a year if he gets a bill for be justified in this action since the but be has been helpless, for he must take light electric railways have broken down the company's count. Now, however, a dethe barrier by securing legislation permit- vice has been invented to be attached to ting them to enter what has been hereto- a telephone and register the number of calls. fore considered the special rights and ter- Broadly, it may be called a "telephone ritory of the former. Whether the inter- meter. The meter looks like a black ests of the two systems of transportation box about five by three and a half inches will ultimately be found to harmonize, or in size. Through the top protrudes a rod, whether they will be antagonistic to the which serves as a press button. In the bitter end, is a question that is interesting front of the box is a slot, through which appear the numbers of the dial, which are arranged on the peripheries of wheels, as n most counting machines. When the subscriber wishes a connection he presses on the push button, which registers the call on the dial before his eyes. But suppose the subscriber tries to cheat and fails to push the button? Whenever the button is pressed properly the machine sets up a buzz somewhat like the dime-in-the-slot telephones. The meter is in electrical connction with "central" and the girl at the switchboard waits to hear the buzz before making the connection. If the sub scriber tries to cheat she gently reminds him to "press the button." But there is another side-that of the company. Under the system of an unlimited number of calls many persons use the telephones of regular subscribers without paying anything for the service. If the company could collect proper compensation for this unauthorized use its revenues would considerably increased. Failing in that, if it could stop the practice it would make the work of the central office much lighter, either reducing the expense or leaving the girls freer to render better service to subscribers. The telephone companies have sought a remedy by the introduction of a system known as "measured service." The subscriber contracts for 900, 1,200 or 1,500 calls per year, according as he thinks a daily average of three, four or five calls will answer his purpose. There is one serious objection for the company to this system. The girl making the connection has to make a record by hand, which means a loss of time and an interruption in her work of answering calls, to say nothing of the liability to error. The meter contains a small magnet and is filled with wheels, springs, cogs, pawls and other mechanical devices that may be called roughly "clockwork." The dial is operated by the clockwork, but the buzzer is open ated by electricity. Electric power plays more prominent part in sending the 'reading" of the dial to "central." Every time the button is pressed it not only pelled through our strests by electricity the record by winding up a spring. Each larger than ever before are used on the in the sample meter of the inventor the at ests, and the currents of electricity which spring is large enough to "store" 1,000 now are, or soon will be discharged into calls. The invention provides for a second the earth of the streets are very large, and machine, a register, that is kept in the if it be true that these currents not only central office. This is a comparatively attack gas and water pipes, but the steel simple counting machine, with a dial comframes of tall buildings as well, and that posed of figures arranged on the peripheries such steel frames may be deteriorated and of several wheels. By means of a switch weakened so as to imperil such buildings, it can be put instantly into electrical is there no remedy in the law to prevent it, connection with the meter. When a

to control its return current when it is turned on and the subscriber is asked to ing on a peak of the Himalayas and the conceded that it is reasonably in its power to press the button of his telephone. The spring in the meter is released and begins "Where a corporation is exercising a pub- to unwind. By an ingenious mechanical lie franchise, and does so in such a manner device it closes and breaks the electrical as to cause actual material injury to legal circuit for each call that has been "stored," ious hoax upon some newspaper. As he rights and destruction of property when at and each time the circuit is closed the was constantly going about the country as reasonable expense, by the adoption of register in the central office counts up one well known and approved appliances, the on its dial. The record of the meter since injury could be avoided, and the person in- the previous "reading" is thus transmitted jured is powerless to prevent or guard to the company with great rapidity and be held to be negligence in the use of its knows when the "reading" takes place and franchise on the part of such corporation it present to take a record for himself if he chooses, so that there is absolutely no

chance for dishonesty Constipation leads to liver trouble, and Lucien I. Blake, says the Electrical World torpid liver to Bright's disease. Prickly



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One of his wise remarks was "Of making many books there is no end." He had never seen the making of a great dictionary. It is like the making of many books and seems to have no end. In making the

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ords of all other clergymen of his demonination.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sargent of Rochester, N. Y., made a Christimas present of a plat of ground valued at \$15,000 to the First. Universalist church of that city.

The Methodists of San Francisco and vicinity are expecting great things for the international convention of the Epwerth league, to be held in San Francisco this year.

Rev. J. W. Cunningham of St. Louis claims to be the oldest Southern Methodist. He entered the Kentucky conference of the Methodist Episcopai church is September, 13t4. Mr. Cunningham was born in 183. It is stated that there are 19,000 Poles in Chicago who are intelligent and successful afternational citizens and that fully one-fourth of their number have recently abandoned to the rounder have recently abandoned the Roman Catholic church and policed the independent movement imagurated by one of the Baptist temple, Philadelphia, iea well of the Baptist temple

ords of all other ciersymen of his demon- fame by publishing eighteen volumes of