

PERILS OF THE MISSOURI.

Gen. Miles' Imprisoned All Day on a Raft Amid Immense Ice Floes.

A letter from Gen. Miles' command says: Early on the morning of the twenty-sixth the raft, which had been constructed with so much labor the evening before, was by great exertion launched into the rapid torrent of the Missouri, and toward a couple of hundred yards above the mouth of Squaw creek, where it was desired to effect a landing. Here Gen. Miles, accompanied by Lieutenants Baldwin and Pope, got on board with a crew of twelve men armed with long cotton wool poles, and pushed out on the perilous voyage.

A more desperate situation could scarcely be conceived. The raft, in a frail raft in the middle of the most dangerous rivers, with a crowd of unarmored men close by, huddled together, and the prospect of an attack from the opposite shore staring them in the face, huge blocks of ice rushing down upon the craft—all combined to form a situation of utter helplessness. However, the clear voice of the general rang out above the clamor, ordering the assembly soundly, the banks lined, the cause of the firing ascertained, and a boat (which had been constructed from a wagon bed covered with canvas sent out from the curvas-covered wagon bed reached the raft, the men using spades for paddles. The rope which was to be stretched across the river was on the raft, and one central position was of advantage as one point of fastening. The wagon bed was then sent over to the opposite shore with the rope, and was secured. The object next was to reach the other bank, and the attempt was first made to reach this and then to reach another snag half way, but it was discovered that there was not sufficient rope. Another wagon bed boat was sent over to the raft, and an additional rope. This actually succeeded in reaching the first one sent to meet it, and the desired juncture was effected when the swift current captured the boats, the second of which was so rapidly filling that the rope attached to the north bank had to be cut.

It was now progressing toward evening, the party on the raft having been in their narrow prison all day; many having slipped through the interstices in the raft were wet and cold and numb. An abandonment of the enterprise became absolutely necessary, else a night must be passed in the water. The above seemed to have just broken up, for immense ice floes began to sweep down, striking the raft and boat with terrible force, until one field of solid ice, covering a third of the river, came booming down the rapid current. The outer edge alone struck the raft, while the main body bore down directly upon the men in the boat. The huge blocks warned those on the raft that it was high time to make for shore, and drawing in the rope from the opposite bank the raft was loosened from its moorings in a most rapid manner, and the boatmen paddled for the shore, while the poles on the raft were vigorously pined. The craft, with its thoroughly tired human freight, was hauled in about a quarter of a mile below the scene of their long imprisonment.

Are Brave Men Ever Frightened?

Gen. W. G. Hardin, of Tennessee, says that on one occasion, visiting Gen. Jackson, he asked the "gruff old soldier" in the course of conversation if brave men are ever frightened. The answer was: "The world, and especially those who know you best, accord you as much courage as belongs to man." General Jackson replied: "If that be so, sir, I would say that I have been as badly frightened as any man ought ever to be. It was, sir, when I fought the duel with Mr. Dickinson. In the first place, sir, I had no unkind feeling against Mr. Dickinson, and no disposition to injure a hair of his head. I had gone far as an honorable man could go to avoid the difficulty with Dickinson; he had not injured me, and I had no ground for complaint against him. My opponent had been with his father-in-law, Col. Erwin. I knew Dickinson to be a brave, honorable gentleman, and the best shot with the pistol I ever saw—far better than myself, for I was never an expert with that weapon. I knew that he could shoot quicker and freer than I could, and therefore went upon the ground expecting to be killed, and I owe the preservation of my life on that occasion to the assistance of the day, for I wore a coat with rolling collar and very full breast; but, fortunately for me, sir, I was organized with a very narrow chest. Dickinson's ball struck very near the center of my coat, and while it scraped the breast bone, it did not enter the cavity of the chest. In an instant, under the impression that I was perhaps mortally wounded, and upon the impulse of the moment, I fired and my antagonist fell, and no event of my life, sir, have I regretted so much. My determination before and after taking position was to discharge my pistol in the air, but because I felt the effect of his shot I fired at him. Just here, sir, let me add that the world has done me great injustice, for I am charged with having brought on the difficulty, and with having fixed the terms so as to reserve my fire and advance; and it charges me with having advanced upon Dickinson and shot him when I was within a few feet of him—all of which is false, sir. I fired instantly after receiving a shot, and from my position and Dickinson's position and position and received my fire like a brave man as he was."

WOMAN'S WONDROUS LOVE.—His last words to her in the morning were: "Wrap up warmly, darling, if you go shopping to-day; the weather is very cold." She said she would, and before she went out she had all her bustles weighed and put on the heaviest one. What will not a woman do for the man she loves?

A party of vegetarians who were boarding at a water cure establishment, while taking a walk in the fields, were attacked by a bull, which chased them furiously out of its pasture. "That's your gratitude, is it, you great, hateful thing!" exclaimed one of the ladies, panning with fright and fatigue. "After this I'll eat beef three times a day."

Four Men Blown to Pieces.

The boiler of a portable saw-mill at Alford, Ind., exploded just as the men were going to start the engine, the explosion killing four men and wounding as many more. The engineer was blown through the top of a large oak, and struck a limb of the tree, his clothes catching and the body swinging over the limb till the clothing tore away, and the body fell to the ground. A boy was blown in two, the top of his head blown off and the brains scattered in every direction. One man was smashed. The rest of the boiler was some thirty-two hundred yards from the mill. Another piece, the fire box, was found far away in an opposite direction. The cause of the disaster is unknown.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Domestic Hints.
HOP STRUT FOR A COUGH.—To one ounce of hops and one pint of water, add one tablespoonful of flaxseed. Put all in a saucepan and boil it till reduced one-half. Strain it off, add one-half pint of molasses, or, for those who prefer it, a quarter of a pound of brown sugar. Boil this until it becomes a thick syrup. When cold, take a spoonful at a time.

FRESHEN UP POLISH.—If you wish one of the simplest and best, get a pint bottle and fill it with equal parts of boiled linseed oil and kerosene oil; any druggist has the former; mix and apply with a flannel, and rub dry with a second flannel. It will remove all scratches and white marks made by brimstone. Destroy the rags or keep in sight, as oiled cloths have been known to ignite spontaneously.

TO BAKE BEER.—Lay the meat on some sticks in a dripping pan or other vessel, so that it will not touch the water which it is necessary to have in the bottom. Season with salt and pepper, and put in the oven three or four hours before you wish to eat it. The beer is made often with the water in the bottom of the pan, renewing it as often as it gets low. This makes sweet, juicy, baked beef. The great secret of it is, not to have the meat touch the water in the bottom of the pan, and baste it often. Tough, unappetizing morsels of beef are best cooked by steaming them an hour and a half or so, and then putting them in the oven and baking as much longer.

A TIMELY SMOKE.—Boil in a saucepan two quarts of oysters, season with white pepper, four blades of mace, a bay leaf, a pinch of cayenne pepper, a lump of butter and a little water; when done drain on a sieve, chop them fine, and save the liquor; in another saucepan make a white roux with four ounces of butter, six ounces of flour, cook slowly for five minutes, then mix well and carefully with the chopped oysters their liquor, a quart of veal or chicken broth, a quart of boiled milk; boil five minutes, pass forcibly through a fine sieve, and boil again if too thick, add more broth or milk, season to taste and serve with square pieces of bread fried in butter.

MOLDED CRUSHED WHEAT.—While the boiled or steamed crushed wheat is still warm, pour it into molds slightly wet, and let it stand several hours, or until quite cold and loose at the edges; then turn it out on a dish of corresponding shape, and mold on a platter, a layer of molasses, a layer of butter, and a layer of wheat, and so on, until you have a dish on the table, use a large mold; if it be brought on already dished, teacup molds, served in saucers with trimmings, look nicely. After cooked wheat is once cold, it cannot be warmed and mashed up again, but water and then molded; long standing only causes it to lose its fluidity, but even then it will not be so good nor mold so readily as when first cooked.

Fowls on the Farm.

Fowls often do well when colonized with catfish, and a dry hen will be excavated for a home for them. A wooden roost should be built over a stone foundation. Farmers might average 250 fowls if all such places were made available. Boys should be encouraged to breed and care for the chickens. It will afford an excellent school, and they will learn lessons that will be of great use to them when they come to the breeding of animals, for the same laws are applicable to both. They should be taught to breed "in line," but not too close. Close breeding for three years will cause the eggs to be unproductive every year and change old stock for new. Young fowls pay much better than old ones. Brahmas should seldom be kept more than two years, if one is seeking the greatest profit. Never keep more than one hundred grown chickens in the same yard, and if of different ages and colors, the best of the flock are enough to occupy one coop. One-sided and droop-headed birds are produced by crowding them in too close quarters. They may also slip their hips down by "rowing between the slats of their coops."

Cleaning Seed Grain.
It will pay to sow the very best seed of all kinds, as I know from fact. I clean it thoroughly through the fanning mill, to get all the weed seed and small and light grain from the heavy, and have a side spout for the mill, so I can take out the heavy, plump grain and sow the very best on heavy, and the lightest on the best. There will always be enough volunteer weeds without sowing them, and if farmers would generally be more particular about seed grain, they would get well paid for it. The grain will grow taller, the heads longer and yield more. It is not only a saving, but it is the best grain for seed as it is to take the place of corn or potatoes, or to select the best cattle, horses and hogs to breed from. Now, in the winter, when we probably will now and then have a leisure day, is a very good time to prepare seed grain and not until we are crowded with spring work. If we wait until we have to sow it, the chances are that it will not be cleaned as well, and perhaps not at all. Don't put it off.—*Correspondence Country Gentleman.*

Color for Butter.
The best coloring for butter, writes a correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, is a good mess of corn chopped with cut hay. My butter is a rich yellow low the year round, from this feed, and I have no Alderney or any other fancy stock, but common East Shore cattle, which give an abundant supply of milk and butter; good feed is the secret. If farmers feed on dry fodder and straw, and want yellow butter, they must use what some of my Alderney friends do—a small quantity of annatto, costing ten cents an ounce, enough for several hundred pounds of butter. Dissolve in a little warm cream; add a few grains of super-carbonate of soda, which develops the peculiar yellow principle of the annatto, which I think is the base of all the coloring matter for butter.

Franchman of Tours. To his friend from Paris: "And did you meet my friend Mme. —?" "Yes, but I saw very little of her." "Ah! she was not, then, in evening dress?"

The Charm of Simple Cookery.

English cooks overlook everything, and the great charm of a French dinner is the simplicity of its dishes only, but even of its sauces. An English cook, for instance, puts butter into her apple sauce, and considers that every joint ought to be accompanied by three vegetables at least, if not by four. The English host is never so proud as when he sees upon his table some gorgeous dish, such as a salmon a la Chambord, or a Normandy sole. Now, carp a la Chambord, or chub a la Chambord—if chub is to be eaten at all—is all a quarter of a pound of brown sugar. Boil this to be dressed up, so, too, when a sole is not quite so fresh as it ought to be, an ingenious cook will smother it with mussels, oysters, truffles, onions, mushrooms, and a hundred other such garnishes. But fresh salmon or a fresh sole cannot be cooked too plainly and simply.

We spoil half our dishes by this English barbarism. There is, for instance, only one way to eat an artichoke; but at an English table artichokes are literally served as a vegetable with the meat. Asparagus is similarly desecrated. Salad is taken in conjunction with hot meat, and as often as not on the same plate; while the English idea of salad is that you cannot thrust too many different kinds of herbs into the bowl together. The result, of course, is that each neutralizes the flavor of the other, and what we get is a jumble of hot, cold, pungent, and often as not on the same plate; while the English idea of salad is that you cannot thrust too many different kinds of herbs into the bowl together. The result, of course, is that each neutralizes the flavor of the other, and what we get is a jumble of hot, cold, pungent, and often as not on the same plate; while the English idea of salad is that you cannot thrust too many different kinds of herbs into the bowl together.

The French, who know better than this, allow some one herb to predominate distinctively in every salad. Too much art in cookery may be as fatal to so little.—*London Examiner.*

Forty-six Bullet Holes in One Man.

The *Greely Sun* says: Thomas G. Macy, of Greeley, returned home from his freighting trip to Custer and Deadwood at Cheyenne. The party were joined by two men named Stevens and James Reed, partners, and one Fritz, from near Boulder. They went in company to Hat creek, 157 miles from Cheyenne, where the main party camped. Fritz, Stevens, Reed and two others, going on eight miles further to Indian creek. About eight miles from the camp, they were fired into by Indians. Stevens and Fritz fell, and the other three started for Hat creek, Reed being pursued for some distance. He heard firing for sometime in the direction of the camp. In the morning Macy and his party went to look for the bodies of Stevens lying on his back with forty-six bullet holes in him. Fritz was shot through the chest and head. The flour and corn had been emptied in piles on each side of the wagons, and the sacks of a wagon cover and some sugar carried off. The guns of the party, one an excellent Sharp's improved, had been broken over the wheels.

History of a Picture.

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