

## A Stump Speaker "Up a Stump."

Stories of General George A. Sheridan, the stump speaker and lecturer, who is generally paraded as 'of Louisiana,' are often to be heard in the places where public men gather. He is said to have once declared the axiom that the one thing which a stump orator does not need to burden himself with is facts. It is the General's idea that a facile speaker can create all the facts he wants as he goes along in his speech. In illustration of his meaning he told a story of an occurrence when he was out on a tour with General Garfield. He had made an assertion with reference to the tariff which seemed to him to need some bolstering and he said that his statement had been based on a decision of the highest court of the State of New York. He was about to pass on, when a young man in the audience interrupted him and begged permission to ask where this decision could be found. The General was 'up a stump' and as a fight for time in the hope that Garfield might help him out he asked inquirer, 'Are you a lawyer?' The stranger replied in the affirmative. 'I thought so,' said Sheridan. 'You look like a smart and intelligent one at that. You have doubtless read this decision yourself many times.' By this time it became apparent to Sheridan that Garfield was enjoying his discomfiture and that he must get out of his scrape the best he could. It flashed across his mind that there was a report in New-York known as Denio's, and he said: 'The report is in 5th Denio, page 30 and so.' The young lawyer waved a minute and then sat down, saying meekly, 'Ah, yes, I do remember now having read it myself.' Sheridan says that he had curiosity afterward to look up the particular page to which he referred the inquisitive young fellow, and found that it was the middle of a report of a case involving questions of idocy.

## A Nevada Senator's Luck.

Senator Jones in the San Francisco Post says: 'I've always believed in Providence since one day, years ago, when I was Sheriff over in Siesta County. It was a roaster of a day, and I was returning on horseback from a hunt for some sluice robbers. I was slowly following a faint mountain trail, and the sun was just baking me, and the horse was in a lather. I came under the shade of a big rock, and thought it would be pleasant to get off and have a smoke. I sat down on a cool boulder, cut a pipeful of tobacco from my plug, filled my pipe and felt for a match. Well, Joe, there wasn't a match anywhere in my pockets. I searched and searched, but there was no match. I tell you, Joe, I felt worse over that disappointment than I've done since when the market has gone back on me and hit me for a hundred thousand at a clip. But while I sat there on that boulder wrapped in gloom, what d'ye suppose my eye suddenly fell on? A match, by heavens, lying on the trail not six feet away from me! I used it—though I was a little afraid to touch it at first—and had my smoke. So you needn't worry about how this political fight is going to come out. A man for whom Providence will go to the trouble of providing a match for a smoke in the wilds of the Sierra Nevadas, where man's foot scarcely ever treads, isn't likely to get left when it comes to a commonplace little thing like being elected to the United States Senate. Ever since that time,' concluded the Comstocker, 'I've never refused a dollar to a person, and have generally done my best, in a quiet, unobtrusive way, to make myself solid with the people who have the pull on Providence.'

## Bleeding the Farmer.

There is no other industrial pursuit than agriculture which is so burdened with alleged improvements for which patents have been secured. The farmer's soul is vexed with claims for royalties from an endless variety of people who demand money for devices for which patents have been secured unjustly. Fences, wells, churns, gates, harrows, devices and a great variety of simple tools and devices which are used by farmers; and even methods of pruning, laying down trees and vines for winter protection, and now an old method of making drains, have been patented and the use of them is denied to the public. The worst of it is that the majority of these claimants are farmers themselves, and do their best to tax their brother farmer without any adequate return being made, and moreover it causes and encourages litigation and wastes hard-earned money. This is a matter which needs reforming, and farmers should combine to insist upon a deliverance from this irritating and costly nuisance.

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