

Hand Organs.

Hand organs, writes a correspondent of the *Troy Times*, are a modern infiction, and have introduced the monkey, which is a feature formerly unknown in medicament minstrelsy. The monkey, indeed, is so amusing that one almost forgets the organ-grinding while watching his antics. These animals are worth from \$10 to \$30, according to their training, and when an Italian owns his organ and monkey he is really well-to-do in the world.

The best hand-organs cost from \$100 to \$150, but which so commonly torment the public rarely cost more than \$40. The best are the flute organs, and they play nearly a dozen tunes, and some have extra cylinders, which add to their capacity. The principal factory is in Chatham street, this locality being so near the Italian quarter (Baxter street) that it is very favorable to trade. There are some Italians who own a number of organs, which they rent by the season at a large profit and with little loss. The grinder having finished his summer itinerancy, of course comes back for winter quarters, and thus pays his rent. Both organ-grinders and boy fidlers have their regular routes, which they repeat year after year, and there seems to be some general arrangement which prevents interference. It is said that more than 300 of these peripatetic minstrels have gone from New York this season and yet it will be rare if two men visit the same village. When cold weather sets in the grinders return to Baxter street, where there pack together—sometimes nearly a dozen in a small room, with neither fire nor lights. The Italian can sustain life under extreme privations, and he seems content to sleep on the floor and live on what he can pick up.

A Struggle for Principle.

A rainy day had housed us up in the cabin of a Tennesseean, and about 9 o'clock in the morning a man who was addressed by our host as Uncle Billy came riding up through the steady pour on a mule. The animal was placed in the stable, and as the two entered the house our host observed:

"Well, Uncle Billy, how'll you trade mules?"

"Oh, 'bout \$3 ten boot," was the answer.

They returned to the stables and talked until noon. Then we had dinner, and they talked until 4 o'clock. The rain let up a bit then and we went out to see a cave, leaving them talking mule. We returned at 6 and they were still at it. We had supper, and the interrupted conversation was resumed and kept up until 9 o'clock. We went off to bed with Uncle Billy saying:

"Tell me what I'll dew. I'll trade fur \$3 ten boot."

"It thundered about midnight, and I woke up and heard that mule talk still going. At 6 o'clock I got up. Uncle Billy was still riding away. I asked of our host:

"Beat him down to \$2 and three bits," he replied.

"So you saved two shillings?"

"Exactly, though I wasn't working for that. It was the principle of the thing which I looked at." — *Detroit Free Press.*

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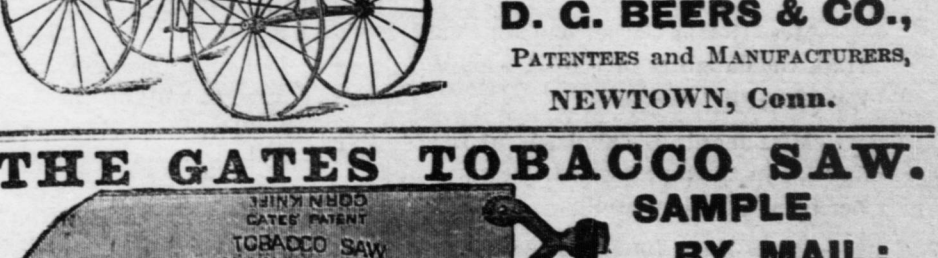
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