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Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., Feb. 9, 1894.

On the Old Mississippi.

What Travel Was in the Days of "Side-Wheelers."—Also What It Is Nowadays.—Difference Between the Customs of the days of the Planter and the Present.—The Stern Wheelers and their Crews.—Gossip on a River Journey.

To the Eastern traveler accustomed to the hurry and excitement of railway travel, to the swift propellers of ocean racers, or the steamers on the Sound or the Hudson, the trip up and down the Mississippi offers a decidedly new experience. But to enjoy it properly time must be of no value, and it is well for him to be a student of human nature in order to enjoy the new types to be met by the way, and a philosopher that he may be equal to the possession of his soul in patience while the boat lies tied up to a barren sandbank all day taking on lumber or something of an equally interesting nature. The commodious and imposing "side-wheelers," with their palatial furnishings and brass bidders and dancers, are now almost things of the past; they have gone with the wealthy planters who made them scenes of revelry by night and of feasting by day.

Hushed is the lute-string and vacant is the chair; the planters have gone to that bourne whence no traveler returns, their wealth has vanished with them, and in their place have come the backwoodsman, the lumberman and their woman-folk, with occasional tourists, who wish for a new sensation. The floating palaces which knew them have given place to long and narrow "stern wheelers," propelled by one immense wheel in the rear, drawing only four or five feet of water; these are more suited to the treacherous and shifting sands of the great Father of Waters, and their more modest dimensions do not cost so immensely, although even these carry a crew of about sixty men, including officers, pilots, waiters, roustabouts, etc. The cost is still not light, as it averages something like \$80 per day. The two pilots receive \$125 a piece a month, the captain \$100, and so on down to the freight-handlers, or roustabouts, who receive \$20 per month. These last, as well as the chambermaids and waiters, are all colored, and their duties are no sinecure; when the hoarse whistle blows for a landing they must stand ready to rush out so soon as the huge gangway, sixty feet in length, which hangs suspended horizontally from the bow of the boat, shall have been so manipulated by the turning of the capstan that it moves about like a thing of life and is landed on the steep, treacherous slope of the silt. Sometimes this landing occurs early in the night, and they must work until 10 or 11 o'clock next day, with only intervals for refreshments; they do not, however, seem to bear the burdens of life heavily, for their merry laughter and songs are frequently heard from the lower deck. If the freight to be taken aboard proves, as it often does, to be swine, it is amusing to watch the way in which the porker, if of moderate size, is dextrously slung across the back of the bearer, the feet caught over the shoulders on each side of his neck—midnight practice on neighboring pig pens has made perfect—and it is a curious fact in natural history, according to the pilot, that while his hogship may protest vigorously on being elevated to his uncomfortable position, he ceases to resist when once there and gives not so much as a grunt until landed on the lower deck. If very large, however, he is transported like an Eastern potentate on the shoulders of four bearers, only instead of the pelanquin of the Rajah the bearers shoulder two poles with four chains between, locally termed "chain barrows." In this, ignominiously turned on his back, with toes to heaven, he tells his woes to the world in loud squeals, but, none the less, is landed safe on the lower deck.

After leaving Memphis, with its well-paved levee and \$5,000,000 bridge, it is difficult to realize that on each side are the shores of States having millions of inhabitants and millions of dollars' worth of taxable property; thickly wooded to the very edge, the high, sandy banks, which, when the annual spring floods come a few months later, will be under water, are continually caving into the yellow waters, though now the tall, white cottonwoods grow thick and close as willows; there is no sign of cultivation, nor of life, except at long intervals the tent or cabin of some lumberman, the steam of his sawmill, or a "dagou"—a small skiff made of a single log—tied to the bank. Occasionally down the yellow stream, which floats at the rate of four miles an hour, skirting the edge of a sand-bar or hugging the shore, there comes a small houseboat or a tiny sailing vessel; the former, however, scarcely deserves to be classed under the same generic term as that vessel so graphically described by Mr. William Black—here it is generally but a good-sized rectangular box, mounted on a tiny platform, and having two small windows on each side. Sometimes, however, it attains grander proportions, and is propelled by large sweeps from the deck, instead of by small ones. One of the pilots has tale of a wedding party from the Upper Ohio who floated down to Memphis in a boat with four good-sized rooms, comfortably furnished on a tour which lasted four months. Given favorable wind and weather, and congenial and Bohemian tastes, the matter of hunting and fishing, there have been worse plans than this for passing the honeymoon.

One of the pleasantest places on board the river steamers is the pilot house—a square, box-like room built on top of the small row of "state rooms" in the centre of the upper deck, which is occupied by the officers, and technically known as the "texas." Three sides are formed of sliding glass sashes, while the fourth, closed nearly up to the top, is occupied by the huge wheel. The Mississippi river pilot, if talkative, can make himself very entertaining; he knows every turn of the river, and has much to tell that is interesting to a novice. There is a sort of excitement, too, in watching while he guides the boat through an untried channel, soundings being taken from the bow as it glides onward. "Half-twin" (15 feet), "Mark twain" (12 feet), are terms that sound familiarly in the ear, and recall other things than river travel. When the colored crier on the deck sings out, "Five and a half feet," there is a slight spasm of danger added to the interest, as the keel must be almost grazing the bottom. The new route in this instance was taken to give wider berth to the wreck of the Guiding Star, which lies in mid-channel above Point Pleasant, Mo., where the river is two and a half mile wide.

The pilots have an association and keep a locked box on the wharf in Memphis, into which notes as to new channels or other discoveries are dropped, each member having a key.

A significant sign of the social changes of the last twenty years is the fact that two river pilots wear petticoats instead of trousers, but the association unflinchingly refuses them admission. Their labors, however, are confined to the Lower Mississippi.

The absence of all signs of cultivation until the borders of Missouri and Kentucky are reached is explained as the result of the war. The shores of the great Father of Waters, for a thousand acres close to shore were covered with grain there now stand only white cottonwoods. Having lost their labors by the freedom of the slaves the owners became so poor that the well-tilled acres returned almost to the condition in which they were found by De Soto.

The monotony of this apparently endless woodland is occasionally broken by a frantic waving from its borders, and the steamer "slows up" and steers for the bank, where the precipitous sides seem to make landing an impossibility; the huge gangway, however, accomplishes it, and takes up on one instance an almost breathless passenger. The whistle of the boat miles below had reached him while at work two miles from shore, and turned his thoughts to home and family; dropping everything he had tossed a few things into a satchel, and had run all the way to catch the steamer, and thus be able to say "Merry Christmas" to all at home.

Another passenger is a young man with a modest and rather comely countenance. He is intelligent and talks agreeably, but has been blind from infancy. Brought up as a Baptist theological student he has fallen in love with a very charming Jewess and is on his way to marry her. As the seven miles an hour which the steamer averages prove too slow for the expectant bridegroom he leaves at Paducah, followed by the "God speed" of all the passengers. Perfect weather has attended us and him, mild and beautiful as spring, and we can but hope that the old proverb as to the happiness of the bride that the sun shines on may in this instance prove prophetic.

Frauds in China.

Dresden, Sevres and Palissy Ware Largely Counterfeited.

As to porcelain, it is probable that more than half of the "old" Dresden china now exposed for sale is counterfeited. Most frequently the originals have been copied, mark and all, but in some cases really old Dresden china that was originally white has been painted by an ambitious forger. With Sevres china, the more common ware has sometimes had the whole of the original painted and glaze removed and received a new design of color, or given the royal colors, to which painting or medallions in the old style have been added.

In 1816 a dejeuner service, with portraits of Louis XIV. and the principal ladies of his court, was offered to Louis XVII. as having belonged to his grandfather, Louis XV., but on examination it was found that the principal plate was of a design not introduced at Sevres until 15 years after the death of the reputed owner of the service. Instead of adorning the table of the king, the service was relegated to the museum at Sevres as an interesting forgery. Spurious Palissy ware is almost a drug on the market, and nearly every porcelain manufactory is now represented by pieces either wholly reproductions of its genuine products or having their marks and character in some way modified. There is no one who should more diligently apply to himself the motto, "Caveat emptor!" than the collector of pottery and porcelains.

A Wealthy Organ Grinder.

Made Enough Playing Tunes to Build a Row of Houses.

There was much surprise manifested in Hazleton, Pa., when it became known that Rocco Ballatero had been arrested at Scranton, charged with abducting Eddie Brotherton, of Ashley. Rocco was one of the first Italians to come to the mining regions. Twenty years ago he settled at Lattimer, two miles from Hazleton, and secured employment on the coal strippings. By a premature blast there he lost his arm, and to support his family he subsequently went to work in the breaker.

He got along so well at the time that the company in whose house he lived suspected him of keeping a "shebeen." He was ordered to leave the place, but he declined, as he claimed he could not support his family if evicted. By subscription a hand organ was purchased for him. He succeeded so well that in a short time after he was able to build a home of his own at Hazleton.

He still kept at his hand organ business, however. His finances increased steadily until he built a whole block of houses, which he now owns. Lately his trips were more extensive than formerly, and he has visited his family only once in three months. It is said that he has a good bank account to his credit. His family now consist of a wife and six children. The police have kept a strict watch on his house and the station. The report that he was guilty of abduction is not believed in Hazleton.

Europe imports 600,000 tons of wheat a year.

There are 51 metals.

Thickness of Glaciers.

How the Great Ice Rivers Increase and Decrease in Size.

The most recent researches, according to M. Falsan, show that the thickness of the ice has been usually underestimated. A terminal moraine on the Jura at Chasseron is 4,000 feet above the sea, or 2,770 feet above Geneva. In order that the upper surface of the ice should have a sufficient incline to flow onward as it did it was probably 5,000 or 6,000 feet thick below Martigny and 4,000 or 5,000 feet over the middle of the lake.

It is certain, at all events, that whatever thickness, was necessary to cause onward motion that thickness could not fail to be produced, since it is only by the onward motion to some outlet or lowland where the ice can be melted away as fast as it is renewed that indefinite enlargement of a glacier is avoided. The essential condition for the formation of a glacier at all is that more ice should be produced annually than is melted away. So long as the quantity produced is on the average more than that melted, the glaciers will increase; and as the more extended surface of ice up to a certain point, by forming a refrigerator, helps its own extension, a very small permanent annual surplus may lead to an enormous extension of the ice. Hence, if at any stage in its development the end of a glacier remains stationary, either owing to some obstacle in its path or to its having reached a level plain where it is unable to move onward, the annual surplus of ice produced will go to increase the thickness of the glacier and its upper slope till motion is produced.

The ice then flows onward till it reaches a district warm enough to bring about an equilibrium between growth and dissolution. If, therefore, at any stage in the growth of a glacier a thickness of 6,000, 7,000, or even 8,000 feet is needed to bring about this result, that thickness will inevitably be produced.

THIS IS MEANT FOR YOU.—It has been truly said that half the world does not know how the other half lives. Comparatively few of us have perfect health, owing to the impure condition of our blood. But we rub along from day to day, with scarcely a thought, unless forced to our attention, of the thousands all about us who are suffering from scrofula, salt rheum and other serious blood disorders, and whose agonies can only be imagined. The marked success of Hood's Sarsaparilla for these troubles, as shown in our advertising columns when they might be cured. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is sold under a positive guarantee of its benefitting or curing in every case of Liver, Blood and Lung disease, or money paid for it will be cheerfully refunded. In all blood taints and impurities of whatever name or nature, it is most positive in its curative effects. Pimples, blotches, eruptions, and all Skin and Scalp diseases may affect the glands, causing swellings or tumors; the bones, causing "Fever-sores," "White Swellings," "Hip joint Disease," or the tissues of the lungs, causing Pulmonary Consumption. Whatever its manifestations may be, "Golden Medical Discovery" cures it.

Florida is third in sugar and sixth in rice.

LECTURE ON FOOLS. ADMIT ONE.

A gentleman who lectured on fools, printed his tickets as above. Suggestive, certainly, and even sarcastic. What fools are they who suffer the inroads of disease when they might be cured. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is sold under a positive guarantee of its benefitting or curing in every case of Liver, Blood and Lung disease, or money paid for it will be cheerfully refunded. In all blood taints and impurities of whatever name or nature, it is most positive in its curative effects. Pimples, blotches, eruptions, and all Skin and Scalp diseases may affect the glands, causing swellings or tumors; the bones, causing "Fever-sores," "White Swellings," "Hip joint Disease," or the tissues of the lungs, causing Pulmonary Consumption. Whatever its manifestations may be, "Golden Medical Discovery" cures it.

London consumes nearly as much fish as meat.

LA GRIPPE.—During the prevalence of the Grippe the past season it was a noticeable fact that those who depended upon Dr. King's New Discovery, not only had a speedy recovery, but escaped all of the troublesome after effects of the malady. This remedy seems to have a peculiar power in effecting rapid cures not only in cases of La Grippe, but in all Diseases of Throat, Chest and Lungs, and has cured cases of Asthma and Hay Fever of long standing. Try it and be convinced. It won't disappoint. Free Trial Bottles at Parrish's Drug Store.

Ceylon is the most remarkable gem deposit in the world.

—Mr. Albert Favorite, of Arkansas City, wishes to give our readers the benefit of his experience with colds. He says: "I contracted a cold early last spring that settled on my lungs, and had hardly recovered from it when I caught another that hung on all summer and left me with a hacking cough which I thought I never would get rid of. I had used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy some fourteen years ago with much success and concluded to try it again. When I had got through with one bottle my cough had left me, and I have not suffered with a cough or cold since. I have recommended it to others, and all speak well of it." 50 cent bottles for sale by F. Potts Green.

Glass blowing by machinery is accomplished.

—Best remedy for sprains and pains. Mr. J. M. Spring, Bennings, D. C., writes: "I have been using Salvation Oil and have obtained great relief. Among so many remedies tried, Salvation Oil is the best for sprains and pains in the back." It kills all pain.

—An aluminium bridge over Gibraltar is proposed.

—Never be without it. Mr. Chas. Visscher, 44 Lincoln Ave., Springfield, O., writes: "Five doses of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup cured me of a severe cough. I shall always keep it."

LOVE'S YOUNG DREAM.—Love's young dream was a very bright one and its fulfillment will be bright, too, if the bride will remember that she is a woman, and liable to all the ills peculiar to her sex. We remind those who are suffering from any of these, that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will renew the hue of youth in pale and sallow cheeks, correct irritating uterine diseases, arrest and cure ulceration and inflammation and infuse new vitality into a wasting body. "Favorite Prescription" is the only medicine for women, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle-wrapper, and faithfully carried out for many years.

Medical.

THE GRIP.

Has shown by its sudden attacks, its terrible prostration, and its serious, often fatal results, that it is a disease to be feared. For a fully developed case of the Grip, the care of a skilled physician is necessary.

—TO PREVENT THE GRIP.—

We confidently recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla, which purifies the blood, keeps the kidneys and liver in healthy action, gives strength where it is needed, and keeps up the health-tone so that the system readily throws off attacks of the Grip or of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Pneumonia, etc.

—AFTER THE GRIP.—

Convalescence is very slow, and to recover the health-tone a good tonic is absolutely necessary. Hood's Sarsaparilla has been used with wonderful success as a building-up medicine and blood purifier after attacks of the Grip, after Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, Pneumonia or other prostrating disease. It possesses just the building-up effect so much needed; it vitalizes and enriches the thin and impoverished blood, and invigorates the kidneys and stimulates the liver so that they resume regular and healthy action. Thousands have taken

—HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA.—As a preventive of the Grip with success. Thousands have found in its restoration to health and strength after this dreaded complaint. Be sure to get Hood's, because Hood's Cures.

HOOD'S PILLS cure Constipation by restoring the peristaltic action of the alimentary canal. 39-4

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CASTORIA PROMOTES DIGESTION, and overcomes Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, and Feverishness. Thus the child is rendered healthy and its sleep untroubled. Castoria contains no Morphine or other narcotic property.

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"From personal knowledge and observation I can say that Castoria is an excellent medicine for children, acting as a laxative and relieving the pent up bowels and general system of the mother. Mothers have told me of its excellent effect upon their children." Dr. G. C. OSBORN, Lowell, Mass.

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Mandrake Pills have a value as a household remedy far beyond the power of language to describe. The family can hardly be true to itself that does not keep them on hand for use in emergencies.

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Is the only vegetable substitute for that dangerous mineral, Mercury, and while its action as a cathartic is fully equal, it possesses none of the perilous effects.

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Hotels.

TO THE PUBLIC.

In consequence of the similarity to the names of the Parker and Potter Hotels the proprietor of the Parker House has changed the name of his hotel.

—COAL EXCHANGE HOTEL—

He has also repapered, repainted and otherwise improved it, and has fitted up a large and tasty parlor and reception room on the first floor. WM. PARKER, Phillipsburg, Pa. 33 17

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A. A. KOHLER, Proprietor.

This new and commodious hotel, located opposite the depot, Milesburg, Centre county, has been entirely refitted, refurnished and replenished throughout, and is now second to none in the county in the character of accommodations offered the public. Its table is supplied with the best market affords, its bed contains the purest and choicest linens, its stable has attentive hostlers, and every convenience and comfort is extended its guests.

Through travelers on the railroad will find this an excellent place to lunch or procure a meal, as all trains stop there about 25 min. 24 24

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