

ABSENCE

What shall I do with all the days and hours... That must be counted ere I see thy face...

A SONG OF GET THERE

You kin hear the storm winds blowin' from the land...

Though our ships may toss an' dangle on the billows beatin' high...

A TRAIN "HOLD UP."

A RAILROAD MAN'S OBSERVATIONS OF THE ROBBER GANG'S METHODS.

"I have been connected with railroad matters to a considerable extent, and in 1892 I travelled over 76,000 miles as special auditor of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe road.

"The speaker was Mr. Thomas H. Higham, of this city. The event to which Mr. Higham referred was the sensational train robbery which took place on the Northern Pacific road, near Graycliff, Mont., in the latter part of last August.

"I left Boston," Mr. Higham said, "on July 29, and arrived in Livingston, Mont., on August 7. I found that I had an errand to the town of Billings, in that State, about 120 miles from Livingston, and I took a train for that place on the evening of August 26.

"About nine miles from this station the train came to a sudden stop, and when we put our heads out of the windows we were greeted by a shower of bullets, and were informed by some persons outside, who emphasized their remarks with plenty of curses on our curiosity, that if we had any interest in living we had better keep under cover.

"I didn't have a great deal of money, but what I did have I did not feel like making a present of to bandits, so I pulled out my pocketbook, in which I had about \$250, pecked out a few small bills, which I placed in my vest pocket, and then slipped the rest of the roll inside the collar of my shirt and let it slip down.

"It seems that when the train left Graycliff two of the robbers got on to the front of the express car, and after the train had got fairly under way they masked themselves and crawled over the tender and down into the cab.

"There were two safes in the car, one a small one, known as the 'way safe,' and a large one, called the 'through safe.' The little safe is used

to keep small packages of money received at the small stations along the route, while the large one is reserved for larger amounts which are being shipped some distance.

"As they passed along the robbers fired a perfect shower of bullets through the top part of the cars. This was to impress us, and while I felt that they did not intend to hit us, I did not take up any more room above the top of the seat than it was absolutely necessary for me to occupy.

"The procession entered the car in the same formation as it marched down on the outside of the train. The leader of the gang did all the work, the other robbers keeping watch for a surprise, while he collected the goods and chattels of the passengers.

"I was the third person they approached, and I sat in my seat trying to appear unconcerned, but in reality inwardly wondering where I was at, when the leader and his file came up and the former said:

"Come, hurry up, hurry up," he answered, and by way of emphasis he put the muzzle of his Winchester rifle under my nose.

"I put my hand down in my trousers pocket and pulled out 75 cents in change and some poker chips. He laughed when he saw the chips, and then he started to feel of my pockets, asking me again if that was all the money I had.

"Well, hung on to that. Buy a drink with it." "As he started to walk off he said: 'Don't you carry a watch?'

"With that he walked off. The poker chips and the story of the Butte races were strong points of circumstantial evidence in his eyes, and he left me satisfied that he had all that was worth taking from me.

"The robbers appeared to be good-natured enough, but they were not out for trifling. Just in front of me sat a young telegraph operator and his best girl. Naturally he wanted to appear a hero in the eyes of the young lady, and when the robbers came to him he was leaning with his elbow on the sill of the car window near him apparently unconcerned about their presence.

"Come, shell out," said the leader. "I haven't anything for you," the young man drawled, slowly shaking his head to emphasize his remarks.

"The leader said nothing, but quickly bringing his Winchester rifle into position he placed the barrel diagonally under the nose of the young man and pulled the trigger. The ball just skimmed by the young man's face and crashed through the window near him.

"Oh, Charley, if you have anything give it to him. Oh, do! do!" screamed the young lady, but Charley didn't need any urging after that shot, and he soon fished out a roll of greenbacks from his pocket.

"I see that you have something for me, after all," the robber said as he passed on.

"I heard the robbers laugh as they passed me, and I looked up the aisle to see what the hilarity was about. I couldn't help laughing myself. The stout woman had hidden the upper part of her body, but she had forgotten all about her lower extremities, and there, across the passage, when she thought she was literally 'out of sight,' were a pair of well-filled white stockings blocking the advance of the gang.

rest, which she did, much to her own discomfort. Then he commanded her to 'shell out,' and she did so without any parley.

"One of the other passengers in the car was a young lady, and when they came to her she gave up all her valuables without a murmur until she came to her rings. One of these she refused to part with.

"It's my engagement ring. Won't you please let me keep it?" she asked. "Can't do it. It's engaged to us now," responded the leader, as he pocketed the gem.

"Leaving our car, they went into the Pullman ahead. I didn't hear of any incidents in the other cars which would be worth mentioning, except, perhaps, one. One of the passengers was a cattle detective. He is employed by the Northern Pacific to look out for cattle thieves, and there is said to be no cooler or braver man in Montana.

"While we were being held up a freight train backed down to a side track, but, although the robbers saw it when it came in, they apparently took no notice of its presence.

"I had read and heard a great deal about Western nerve on such occasions, but I didn't see any great amount of it manifested at the time of that train robbery. All seemed to regard discretion as the better part of valor, and I was with them. The cattle detective on that train was a heavy man as ever lived, but when he saw the odds and the loss of life which would ensue in consequence of a resistance, he hid his guns instead of firing them.

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Subterranean Fires.

Some idea of the terror of volcanoes may be gathered from an account of an eruption in one of the Hawaiian Islands, as graphically described in the London Budget, when the crater was filled from 500 to 600 feet deep with molten lava, the immense weight of which broke through a subterranean passage of twenty-seven miles and reached the sea, forty miles distant, in two days, flowing for three weeks and heating the water twenty miles distant.

Such was the scene as the fiery catarrh, leaping a precipice of fifty feet, poured its flood upon the ocean. The old line of coast, a mass of compact, indurated lava, whitened, cracked and fell. The waters recoiled and sent forth a tempest of spray; they foamed and lashed around and over the melted rock, they boiled with white heat, and the roar of the conflicting agencies grew fiercer and louder.

"The Phenomena of Thunder. Many theories have been offered in explanation of the phenomena of thunder. Here is Prof. Heron's description: The sound which is known as thunder is due simply to the fact that the air traversed by an electric spark, that is, a flash of lightning, is suddenly raised to a very high temperature, and has its volume, moreover, considerably increased.

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Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Butter per lb. \$ .30, Eggs per dozen .30, Lard per lb. .14, Ham per pound .14, Pork, whole, per pound .07 to .08, Beef, quarter, per pound .06 to .08, Wheat per bushel .85, Oats " " .50, Rye " " .80, Wheat flour per bbl. 4.00, Hay per ton 18.00, Potatoes per bushel .70, Turnips " " .25, Onions " " 1.00, Sweet potatoes per peck .25 to .35, Cranberries per qt. .10, Tallow per lb. .08, Shoulder " " .12 1/2, Side meat " " .14, Vinegar, per qt. .08, Dried apples per lb. .08, Dried cherries, pitted .15, Raspberries .18, Cow Hides per lb. .03, Steer " " .05, Calf Skin .40 to .50, Sheep pelts .60, Shelled corn per bus. .65, Corn meal, cwt. 2.00, Bran, " " 1.25, Chop " " 1.25, Middlings " " 1.25, Chickens per lb. .10, Turkeys " " .12, Geese " " .10, Ducks " " .10, COAL.

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