CONSIDERED PROM HISTORICAL AND OTHER STANDPOINTS - A HUMOROUS REVIEW OF THE DISTINGUISHED CHAR-ACTERISTICS WHICH HAVE MADE THIS UNIQUE ANIMAL FAMOUS.

The mule is the only animal Noah didn't take into the ark with him. I have looked over the freight list carefully, and could not see a mule way-billed for any place. So clear headed a man as Noah did not dare to take one a man as Noah did not dare to take one on board, as he knew he would kick a hole through her in less than a week. I don't know a man on whose head you could pour quick-sliver and run less risk of its spilling off than on Noah's. He was a dreadful level-headed man, and before the freshet was over everybony on earth realized the fact.

The origin of the mule is enveloped in a good deal of mystery. Tradition informs us that when the flood had subsided, and the ark had landed on Mt. Ararat, Noah was very much surprised in one of his observations to find a good healthy mule standing on the top of an adjoining mountain. The same tradition informs us that the mule is the only animal that lived through the flood outside of the ark.

The mule can be considered in a good many ways, though the worst place from which to consider him is directly from behind, anywhere within a radius of ten feet. I never consider a mule from that point, unless I am looking out through the flue of a boiler.

Sea captains and people who have to do with mules always pay an extra rate to life insurance companies. A mule and a belt of country where yellow fever is indigenous generally stand the same as regards the death rate. The word mule comes from the Greek,

and signifies "to stop," and the mule himself comes to a stop also. Like multiplied by like produces like. Grass-hoppers multiplied by grasshopers produce famine, and potato bugs multiplied by potato bugs produce a rise in the price of yeast. But when you try to multiply mules by mules they don't multiply, and hence the word mule. You may study your arithmetic, and through all of Train's lectures, but you can't discover why this lectures. can't discover why this is so, any more than you can why a woman cannot put on rubbers without leaning up against something.

The mule has one more leg than a milking stool, and he can stand on one and wave the other three around in as many different directions. He has only three senses, hearing, seeing and smeli-ing. He has no more sense of taste than a stone jug, and he will eat any-thing that contains nutriment, and he don't care two cents whether it be one per cent, or ninety-nine. All he asks is to pass him along his plate, with whatever happens to be handy round the pantry, and he won't go away and blow how poor the steak is. He just eats whatever is set before him, and

asks no questions. Mules are naturally deaf, but that supreme wisdom that teaches the little boy to wipe his nose on his sleeve, has fitted the mule out with a pair of ears that counteracts its deafness, so he can hear as readily as a person when you don't want him to. These ears answer a double purpose, as tunnels to pour sound into his head, and also as fans to brush away the flies with and keep his head cool. They are hung by hinges to the sides of his head, and hap back-ward and forward like a pair of wet trowsers round a boy's legs. In cold latitudes quite a tasty business is done in mules' ears. The ears are cut off and dried, and sold for snow shoes, and then the stubs are trimmed up and the mules are sent South and sold for horses. In this way a great many fine horses were purchased for the army by the United States.

If I were to have a large picture of innocence, to hang up in my parlor, and did not wish to sit for it myself, I should get a correct likeness of a mule. There is innocence enough depicted in a mule's countenance to fit out a Sun-day school class. It looks as guileless

A mule never grows old or dies. Once brought into existence, he continues on forever. The original nute is now alive somewhere in the South, and is named Robert Toombs, because he is so stubborn.

Mules are chiefly found in the South and West. They have been more abused than Judas Iscariot. A boy who would not throw a stone at a mule if he got a chance would be considered by his parents as too mean to raise.

The mule is a good worker, but he cannot be depended on. He is liable to strike, and when a mule strikes, human execulation falls to find out any rule by which to reckon when he will go to work again. It is useless to pound him, for he will stand more beating than a sitting room carpet. He has been known to stand eleven days in one spot, apparently thinking of something, and then start off again as though nothing had happened.

Down South, when they have a sur-plus of small darkeys on the plantation they send them out into the barnyard to play where there is a loose mule. They always bid them good-bye when they start out, for they are sure the parting will be final. This is the most economical style of funeral now in the

To fully appreciate the mule, one should listen to his voice. You never can really know whether you like a mule or not till you have heard him sing. I attended a mule concert at Fort Snelling. The programme opened with a soprano solo, and then swung into a duet, and then praceed off into a trio, followed up by a quartette, and ending with a full chorus by 150 mules. I didn't hear the whole thing, for when I came to, the regimental surgeon was standing over me, giving me powerful restoratives, and I heard him say that I might possibly get out again, though I would never be a well man again. I have been through the New York Stock Exchange, and spent part of a day in a botter factory, and have been on one or two Sunday school excursions for child-ren, but I never know what noise was till I heard a lot of army mules bray.

ly with his hind feet. He never misplaces them. If he advertises that his feet will be at a certain spot at a cer-tain time, with a sample of mules shoes, to which he would call your at-tention, you will always find them there at the appointed time. He is as reliable as the day of judgment, and he never cancels an engagement. Every man now living who drove a mule team during the war now draws a pension.

I never owned a mule, but I came near buying one once. He was a fine looking animal; his ears stood up like the side spiles on an Episcopal shurch. the side spiles on an Episcopal church. His tail was trimmed down so that it looked like a tar brush leaning up against him. He was striped off like the American flag, and Raphæl's cherubs never looked more angelic than did that mule. He looked all innucence, though he was, in no sense. The owner sat in the wagon, with his chin resting on his hand and his elbow resting on his knee. In the other hand he held a stick with a brad on the end of it. I examined the mule and asked the man a few questions, and out of mere form inquired if the nule was kind. "Kind? Kick?" said the man, and these were the last words he ever uttered. He reached his stick over the front of the wagon and stock the brad front of the wagon and stock the brad luto that mule. It was awful to see a man snuffed out as quickly as he was. It almost took my breath he went so suddealy. I never saw the thread of life snap so abruptly as it did on that occasion. He didn't have time to leave a ffessage for his family. That mule simply ducked his head, and then a pair of heels flew out behind; there was a crash, a flying of splinters, and that crash, a flying of splinters, and that was all; and the next moment that mule was an; and the next moment that must and I stood alone, my face covered with astonishment two feet deen, and his covered with part of an old bridle. The next day I read an account in the telegraphic news of a shower of flesh in Kentucky. I was the only man that could explain that phenomenon, and I did not days to lest I should be impli-

did not dare to lest I should be impli-cated in the affair with the other mule. I have seen death in many forms, but don't recollect of ever seeing a funeral gotten up with less pomp and display than on that occassion. If I had my choice, to either work in a nitro-giveer ine factory, or take care of a mule, I should go for the factory, as in case of an explosion, there would be more possibility of my friends finding some little momentoes of me, with which to assuage their grief. A very small piece of me

would lighten a very big sorrow.

I will hunt all round and if I find any other facts that belong to the mule I will write them down and send them to you by express C. O. D.—By George A. Quimby, of the Boston Weekly Globe.

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