A STAGE COACH INCIDENT.

It was a ride of thirteen miles by stage and as we all got seated the driver counted up and said there were four of us and one old woman

" No sais, if you please," replied the old Indy, as she pushed her umbrella under the "I've got a right to travel if I pay for it, and none of my relashuns never had to drive a stage, either !" " Perhaps they didn't know enough !" he

growled as he shut the door.

" Perhaps three of my brothers were not constables, you says, red-headed man !" she exclaimed, as she pushed a big satchel over my knees. "And perhaps my first husband didn't hold the situation of postmaster, and my second didn't go to the Legislature ! Oh, we are an ignorant family, we are !"

'The driver didn't have time to say further but as he climbed up and started off it was plain to the rest of us that he meant to have his revenge.

It wasn't five minutes before the whoels struck a stone, raised the left hand side of the coach a foot high. "Great catnip! but is anyone killed !"

screamed the old lady, as she went down. All of us were living. Looking around to make sure of this fact, she continued :

"I wonder if we struck a spur of the Rocky Mountains? I think I shall see the boss of this road when we get to X, and have that driver discharged to once. Such Jostling around as that will burst that satchel and like enough mash them boiled eggs all over my deep-mourning bonnet."

There was deep silence for the next fifteen minutes. Some were recovering from the jelt, some looking at the corn-fields, and the old lady was about to remove her spectacles when one of the hind wheels fell into a deep

" My soul i but was that an earthquake ?" screamed the old lady. "I felt every tooth in my head give way then! Is any one mortally injured to death ?*

No one answered. Selecting a red-faced man from Cleveland, the woman pointed to him, and said :

"When I ask you a question why don't you answer 7 Do you think you own all this world and Canada besides ?"

" I am all right," he grufily replied. "Well, I'm not anyways glad to hear it You don't look to me like a good member o society. I've been looking at you pretty

closely, and I'd be almost willing to swear that you was an escaped pirate !" He didn't reply. He didn't smile, nor let

on that he heard her at all, and each one of the rest realized that his own turn would soon come. We were as solemn as quakers when the wheels struck another stone.

" Garters and galluses i" shricked the female, as she was thrown against the side of the coach. "I've broke three ribs and swallawed my spectacles, and I call for the perlice l"

No one moved, but each one pretended not to have seen or heard her. She found her spectacles in her lap, discovered, after feeling around, that her ribs were all right, and reaching over she cuffed a man from Montreal on the head, and cried out :

" Didn't you hear my wails of agony ?" " Bog pardon, madam," he replied, as he faced hor.

" I don't care whether you begmy pardon or not; you are a nice man to sit here like an old wood-shed while I am being crippled for life ! Didn't I may that three of my rike were broken ?'

" I-I don't know," he stammered. " If you don't understand the English language you'd better have a Pawnee Injun travel around with you !" she observed.

"Thank you," he replied. "I don't want any of your thanks, sir I The more I slt and look at you the more I suspect that you have been in State's prison for murder!

He turned very red in the face and bit at his mustache, but the Ohlo man winked to him not to pursue the argument farther.

Half an hour later the stage rolled into a



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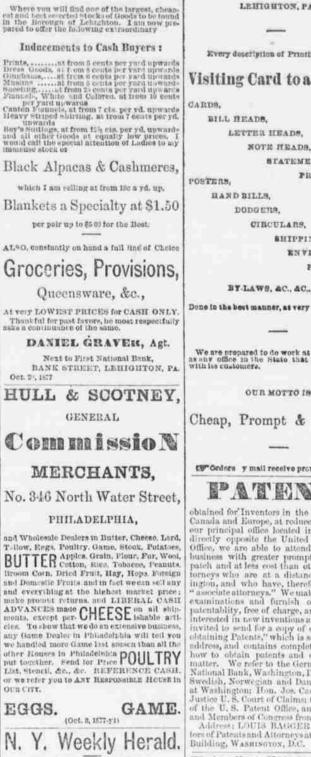
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small village, and as the vehicle halted in front of the hotel the horses were pulled up so suddenly that all of us were thrown forward.

"Help! Murder! Perlice!" screamed the old Iady, as she humped against a consumptive-looking young man who elerized in a Pittsburg store.

No one minded her voice until she gave the clork a kick on the shins and spunkily exclaimed :

" Boy't didn't you hear my shricks of mortal anguish ? Will you sit there like a shingle on the vast prairie and not care

whether I live or die ?"

" Be careful who you kick, madam !" he retorted.

retorted. "Don't talk back to me, you pale-faced infant! I'm old enough to be your great-grandfather, and if you give me any sass I'll make your knees knock your teeth out!" "And I don't want you to has me, eithert" he evoluted

he exch

His life was saved only by the fact that the landlord and others came out just then and wanted to know what the row was

about. The delver was ready to start in another minute, and when the wheels turned each man had his head out of the window, and was trendbing in fear. I was the only one left unsetthed by her vigorous bungue, and when three or four miles had been left he-hind, and she seemed to have gone to sleep. I felt relieved. relieval.

Great heast but who has been smoking an old day pipe in this stage ?" she sudd ly howled, giving each one of us a start. Budden

Didn't you hear me talking?" she exchilmed, r

almed, right hear not many range ex-almed, right to be not in the range of the range of the If we did we didn't answer. "I demand to know who has dared to mole cheap tobacco in an old clay pipe in ne presence of a hady !" she continued, who didn't asy. RIV!

We didn't say. She looked from man to min, shut her testh together, and 1 aiw that she meant the. "You miserable scalaway of the howling

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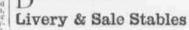


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