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ra as Pictured by a Maine Man-Ballasting the Buggy. [Solon Chase in Lewiston Journal.]

A RIDE IN A PRAIRIE GALE.

At Charles City I missed railroad nnection and had to dr.ve across the antry to Creaso, fifty miles, and it is the first cold day of the season. The nd came with a sweep across the airies, and when it struck, shaved e a razor. The tree tops of the ke or bent like whip-sticks, and some-tes the buggy was lifted from the ound. The ariver got out and put rocks to hold the machine down the earth. We did not want to ke the trip to Cresco through the It was lucky that we struck a etch of country where there were iders. The road for the first ten es was on the section lines and the tlers were Irish and Norwegians. ey had large arms and large stocks attle and hogs and plenty of corn havstacks.

ve stopped at a farm-house to warm. proprietor was an Irishman. He when he lived in the old country he not taste meat once a month. Now old cattle and hogs by the car-load. came to this country years ago, a rage passenger on an emigrant ship. went back to Ireland last year on a He went in a sleeping-car to New rx and across the sea a cabin pasger on an ocean steamer. found the old country just he left it. There had not icen \$15 nt for improvements in the little n in which he was raised since he it. He had changed so much he s lomesick as a dog. He had grown with the United States and was so ged himself that the old country no attractions for him. He had e-horse teams plowing-one followafter the other, and a hundred s of corn that would "make" sixty hels to the acre. His "shanty" was two story white house with green ads. When he returned to the land his birth he found no attractions bese he had changed, become Amernized and the old country had

changed. he wind blew a gale and sometimes snow until we reached the "Wap-" The horses kept a dog-trot up and down and made about seven es an hour, in spite of the wind. The apsys' are the forks of a river, and ltered by timber. The woods are l of hogs and cattle that had taken to the timber to get out of the wind. The road in the "Wapsy" country was crooked and steep, washed out and wound around among the trees. At 10 wound around among the trees. At 10 o'clock the last fork of the "Wapsy" was crossed. Before rising up to the open prairie the driver took more rocks from the creek to ballast the buggy. The road took a bee-line for Busti. We had not gone far before we met a Norwegian with his load of boards all blown away. The boards lay scattered over the prai-rie to the windward, a distance of forty or fifty rods.

When the country is all settled the roads run on the section line that is due north and south or east and west, and there 9 20 is no direct road between business centers. When the land is "laying out" the roads run "angling" to the section lines. The "angling roads run on the divides and are more direct than the roads on the are more direct than the roads on the section lines. From Busti we took the "angling" road. The settlers were few and fashelwson. Thousands of acres vast stubble fields, to outlying little inclusion and frequently to a quaint upon lay as left by the hand of nature. Large flocks of prairie chickens flew up ahead of the horses like scared partridges. As the sun went down the wind went down. The driver began to throw overboard ballast and we arrived at Cresco at 3 p. m., in the midste of a dead calm, without a rock in the buggy."

DICKENS AT HOME.

Life at Gad's Hill-"Boz's" Vigarous Twelve Mile Walks.

[Edwin Yates' Reminiscences.]

Life at Gad's hill for visitors -I speak from experience-was delightful. You breakfasted at 9, smoked your cigar, read the papers, and pottered about the garden until luncheon at 1. All the morning Dickens was at work, either in the study-a room on the left hand of the study—a room on the left hand of the porch as you entered: a large room, entirely lined with looks, and with a fine bay window, in which the desk was placed—or in the chalet, a Swiss house of four rooms, presented to him by Fechter, which took to pieces, and was erected in a shrubbery on the side of the road opposite to the house, where he had a nne view extending to the river. In the chalet he did his last work, on the fatal ath of June, using a writingslope, which, by the kindness of Miss Hogarth, is now mine, and on which I write these words.

After luncheon (a substantial meal, though Dickens generally took little but bread and cheese and a glass of ale) the party would assemble in the hall, which was hung round with a capital set of Hogarth prints, now in my possession, and settle on their plans. Some walked, some drove, some pottered; there was Rochester cathedral to be visited, the rains of the castle to be explored, Cobham park (keys for which had been granted by Lord Darnley) in all its sylvan beauty within easy distance. I, of course, elected to walk with Dickens; and off we set, with such of the other guests as chose to face the ordeal. They were not many, and they seldom came twice; for the distance traversed was seldom less than twelve miles, and the pace was good throughout. I have now in my mind's eye a portly American gentleman in varnished bools, who started with us full of courage, but whom we left panting by the wayside, and for whom the basket carriage had to be sent.

It was during one of these walks that Dickens showed me, in Cobham park, the stile close by which, after a fearful struggle, Mr. Dadd had been murdered by his lunatic son in 1813. Dickens acted the whole scene with his usual dramatic force. I had heard something of the story before from Frith, who is on excellent raconteur. The murderer then escaped, but was afterward se-cured; he had been traveling in a coach, and his homicidal tendencies had been aroused by regarding the large neck, disclosed by a very low collar, of a fellow passenger, who, waking from a sleep, found Dadd's fingers playing round his throat. On searching Dadd's studio, after his arrest, they found, painted on the wall behind a screen, portraits of Egg, Stone and Frith, Dadd's intimate associates, all with their throats cut-a pleasant suggestion of their friend's intentions.

Generally accompanied by his dogs (when I was first with him they were Turk, a liver-colored mastiff, and Linda. a St. Pernard, which Albert Smith had brought from Switzerland), Dickens would go along at a swinging pace; sometimes over the marshes famous in "Great Expectations:" sometimes along a hilly, tramp-infested road to Gravesen 1, skirting Cobham park, and pist the "Leather Bottle," whether Mr. Tup-man retired; past Fort Pitt, near which

Nathaniel Hawthorne's Appearance.

[Elography by His Son Julian.] He was the handsomest young man of his day in that part of the world. Such is the report of those who knew him; and there is a miniature of him, taken some years later, which bears out the report. He was five feet ten inches in height, broad shouldered, bat of a slight, athletic build, not weighing more than 150 pounds. His limbs were beautifully formed, and the molding of his neck and throat was as fine as anything in antique sculpture. His hair, which had a long curving wave in it, approached blackness in color; his head was large and grandly developed; his eyebrows were dark and heavy, with a superb arch and space beneath. His nose was straight, but the contour of his chin was Roman. He never wore a beard, and was without a mustache until his 55th year.

His eyes were large, dark blue, brill-iant, and full of varied expression. Bayard Taylor used to say that they were the only eyes he had ever known flash fire. Charles Reade, in a letter written Headache. Nerveousness, Debility. \$100 in 1876, declared that he had never before seen such eyes as Hawthorne's in a human head. When he went to London persons whose recollections reached back through a generation or so, used to compare his glance to that of Robert Burns.

While he was yet in college, an old gypsy woman meeting him suddenly in a woodland path, gazed at him and asked, 'Are you a man or an angel? His complexion was delicate and transparent, rather dark than light, with a ruddy tinge in the cheeks. The skin of his face was always very sensitive, and a cold, raw wind caused him actual pain. His hands were large and muscular, the palm broad, with a full curve of the outer margin; the fingers smooth, but neither square nor pointed, the thumb long and powerful. His feet were slender and sinewy, and he had a long, elastic gait, accompanied by a certain sidewise swinging of the shoulders. He was a tireless walker, and of great bodily activity; up to the time he was 40 years old, he could clear a height of five feet at a standing jump. His voice, which was low and deep in

ordinary conversation, had astounding volume when he chose to give full vent to it; with such a voice, and such eyes and presence, he might have quelled a crew of mutinous privateersmen at least as effectively as Bold Daniel, his grandfather. It was not a bellow, but had the searching and electrifying quality of the blast trumpet."

Murderous Russian Duels.

or more murderous than in Russia; the Russians being, especially when in their cups, as quarrelsome among themselves as they are proverbially courteous to foreigners. The mode of combat uni-versally adopted is that termed the duel versally adopted is that termed the duel a la barriere; the opponents being put up at fifteen paces, with liberty to ad-vance five paces each at a given signal, and to fire at will. Should one of them them fire and miss, his adversary is en-titled to complete his five paces before returning the shot. Many cases have been known in which a duelist, although mortally wounded, has yet retained mortally wounded, has yet retained sufficient st ength to take steady aim and fire with fatal effect. The great Russian poet, Pushin, was killed in a

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The Hope of the Nation-Children, slow in developement, puny scrawny, and delicate, use "Wells Health Renewer." "Wells

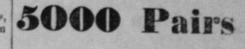
Wide Awakethree or four hours every night cough-ing. Get immediate relief and sound ship. rest by using Wells 'Rough on Coughs. Troches, 15c ! Balsam, 25c.



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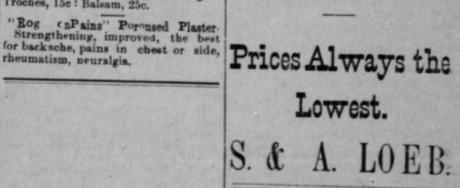


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[Pall Mall Gazette.] In no country are duels more frequent

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Artificial Ball-Lightning.

[Scientific Miscellany.] One of the most remarkable of electrical manifestations is that known as globular or ball lightning, which is so rare that physicists have had little opportunity of studying it. A similar phenomenon, however, has been pro-duced in the laboratory on a small scale. It has been caused accidentally on vari-It has been caused accidentally on vari-ous occasions, and, on having a piece of apparatus destroyed by one of the dis-sharges, Mons. Plante, the well-known French electrisian, has been led to experience in which a suc-cessful imitation of ball light-ning has evidently been obtained. With a powerful current from secondary batteries he has produced in an air conpatteries he has produced in an air con-lenser, formed of two moistened pads of filter paper placed near to-rether a small incandescent globule, sting some minutes, and moving lowly in a curious and most erratic When a condenser was used in thich the insulating material was ebonte a sound was emitted like that of a oothed wheel rapidly rotated against a liece of card-board.

California's Orange Lands. [San Francisco Chronicle.]

ISan Francisco Chronicle.] Four or five years ago the town of Los Angeles contained 10,000 to 12,000 peo-ple, and land within reach of water could be bought for \$25 per acre. Los Angeles now contains 25,000 people, and take for grape or orange land with water on it, he inquires whether you take him for an idiot? There is land near water which can be bought for \$200 or \$250 per acre; but land with oranges, or olives, or lemons planted and bearing is not for sale, except at some ridiculous price. In fact, in Los Angeles, and to some extent in Santa Barbara county, the thing has been overdone, and lands are held so high as to repel settlers.

New Use for Plambago. (Exchange.) A Frenchman has devised a process of giving to felt a slight coating of plum-bago or metal, by which the appear-ance of burnished steel, copper, bronse or silver may be imitated. The product is likely to prove very useful when ap-plied to stage properties, as, besides be-ing inexpensive, it does not materially increase the weight of articles treated with it. with it.

Awkward Idiot-Your train is quite long, Miss Lucy. Miss Lucy-It will not be so long if you take two feet off it.

A Boston firm advertises "shoes for opements." They don't sqtaat

churches, and frequently to a quaint old almshouse standing, I can not remember where, in a green court-yard, like an Oxford "quad."

They were stiff walks for any one not in full training, as Dickens always was at that time, but to me they never seemed long or fatiguing, beguiled as the time was by his most charming talk. With small difficulty, if the subject were deftly introduced, he could be induced to talk about his books, to tell how and why certain ideas occurred to him, and how he got such and such a scene or character. Generally his excellent memory accurately retained his own phrases and actual words, so that he would at once correct a misquotation; but on more than one occasion I have, in conversation with him, purposely misquoted from one of his books, in order that he might set me right.

One day -a queen's birthday, on which I had a holiday from my office, we had spent together at Gads hill. The family were absent, and the house was in charge of the gardener, whose wife cooked us a steak, and Dickens had taken care to bring the colles hav with taken care to bring the cellar-key with him. We rambled about during the afternoon, and at night we went to the Rochester theatre. I forget the play; indeed, I recollect nothing but the presence of mind of a large man in a great baize tunic and a pair of buff boots, who, to Dickens' joy, evidently did not know a word of his part. He strode into the middle of the stage without uttering a syllable, looked fiercely round, then said in stentorian tones, "I will r-r re-tur-r-n anon!" and walked quietly off to read up his part at the "wing."

Not Necessarily Complimentary.

[Texas Siftings.]

Bill Sniverly belongs to a very aristo-cratic, but somewhat impoverished, Gal-veston family. Bill has very distin-guished manners, and it is generally be-lieved that he is looking around for a

lieved that he is looking around for a wealthy wife. He returned to Galveston recently from a trip to Houston, where he be-came engaged to a lady. The day after he returned, he showed the picture of his intended to Aunt Dinah, an old family servant. The pho-tograph represented a rather elderly fe-male of most forbidding aspect. "Well, Aunt Dinah, what do. you think of my intended wife!" The old servant looked at the pho-graph, shook her head, and replied: "She mus' hab a heap of money."

A Little Thoroughfare. In the old records of the town of Olinton, Mass., a certain little thorough-fare was called "Cat alley." In the present book of tax registration the name is euphonized into "Pussy avenue," and it is supposed that the next step will be "Feline boulevard."

Norristown Herald: When a man aims his gun at a cat, and pulls the trig-ger, and the cap simply snaps, it might be likened to the frizzes on a fashionable maiden's forehead. It is a falle bang.

a la barriere, after severely wounding his antagonist.

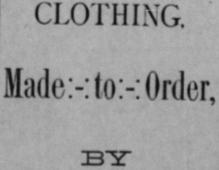
In the Baltie provinces a system prevails which at first sight appears even more murderous. The adversaries are placed only three paces apart; their pis-tols are held with the muzzle pointing upward, and are brought down and dis-charged at a given signal. It may ap-pear almost impossible for the men to miss each other at so short a distance; but this is not the case. Each of the opponents is so desperately anxious to gain the least fraction of a second on his adversary that on the signal being given the weapons are often brought down with so hurried and violent a jerk that the bullets bury themselves in the ground. At a duel fought last year at Riga between an officer and a student in this fashion, three shots were exchanged without any result, while at the fourth discharge the student had the great toe of his right foot cut clean off by his op-ponent's bullet.

Contrasts of Progress [Pirenological Journal]

A New England observer says: "One hundred years ago it took two days to go from Concord, N. H., to Boston; now it takes three hours. Then the price of supper, lodging and breakfast on the road was a pistareen and a half (30 cents); now it is \$3. Then all work was honestly done (as witness two pork bar-rels in the cellar under the house in which I write, which have been in use which I trute, which have been in use since 1781-150 years); now honest work, as the term was then under-stood, is unknown. The girls were edu-cated to become thrifty wives and healthy mothers; now it is considered more important to make a good match. In 1772 the average number of children in each family in New Hampshire was seven; now it is two; there was at that

The cash family in New Hampshire was seven; now it is two; there was at that time one physician to every 400 souls; there is now one to every seventy-five; auits at law for all purposes not criminal then averaged one annually for every 100 inhabitants; they now average one for every twenty-four. The expenses which a well-to-do family incurred every year for its support were at that time \$400; they are now five times that sum. "When the war of the revolution be-gan, there was but one man in the above state who was worth more than \$30,000; there are now forty-five worth more than \$1,000,000. There were then but thirty-five wheel carriages and they all were chaises save two; there are now 50,000. Oxen then did all the agricul-tural work, and there were 1,241 yokes of them in the state; oxen and horses now equally divide such work, and they number hundreds of thousands."

Paris' Omnibus Company. [Philadelphia Ledges.] The important matter of public con-veyances is left to great companies, yet with their 9,000 cabs and 1,200 omni-buses and horse cars, and 18,000 private carriages, there is still complaint of a want of cheap and convenient means of transportation to the growing suburbs. The great omnibus company, in return for an exclusive privilege fasting until 1012, and at prices itzed by law, pays to the city \$500,000 annually.



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