

THE DEMOCRAT.

MONTROSE, APRIL 25, 1885.

The Greased Pole.

SHOWS HOW ZEKKE PHILPOT GOT SICK, AND TAKEN AGAIN HOW HE DIDN'T.

Ezekiel Philpot was born in America, some where near the head waters of the Penobscot and when he arrived at the age of nineteen he had "got his growth" and "cut teeth," a circumstance which was generally admitted by all who knew him. One bright morning in June, Zekke placed his long body into a clean shirt, ran his longer legs through a new pair of striped trousers, wrapped a brown waistcoat about his breast hauled up his stiff starched cotton dicky, and tied a check gingham about his neck, and then donned the swallow-tailed coat, the brass buttons of which looked like a row of newly risen stars—Zekke was literally a pioneer in the "Bloomer Costume," at least so one would have thought to have seen him now. He disdained to have his trousers legs dangling in the mud, or have the cuffs of his coat stopping in the wash bowl; so his blue stockings peeped forth from beneath the tops of his cowhides and looked up six inches to the trousers' buttons, while boys who had free scope from their shirt sleeves or cuff. Zekke's hair, which was of no color in particular, but bore all the lighter shades of the vegetable kingdom, was down flat with pure bar's oil, and directly on the spot of his head he put a white hat, somewhat resembling an inverted butter firkin, and after gazing at his presentment in the looking glass for four and a half minutes he said—

"Thar, Mr. Zekke Philpot, if you don't slide on that, then I guess what ain't what, that's all." Zekke was bound for Boasting with a load of good news, and he expected, ere he returned to make a slight commotion, if not more in the great metropolis. The old mare was harnessed, and due course of time Zekke and his lead arrived in Boston, where the "sassa" was disposed of to good advantage, and with seventy-five dollars in his pocket, our hero began to look round to see the sights.

"Hello!" exclaimed Zekke, as he stopped one morning before a blazing placard which adorned one of the brick walls in Flag Alley; "with tarnation's that! Golden ladder—a road to fortune—oh, fortin, that's it—a Road to Fortune!" Zekke went on to decipher the reading beneath, and gradually he obtained the intelligence that on the back Bay there was to be a pole twenty feet high, upon the top of which the proprietor would place a prize of \$200, to be obtained by any one who could obtain it. The chances—

"Wal, tew hundred dollars is some punkns," soliloquized Zekke. "I've climb some poopy skinnin' trees in my day. I'll jek water that feller's tew hundred, rot me if I don't." With this feeling of cupidty, Zekke started for the scene of action, and 'twas not till he had run down a couple of apple women in his course that he remembered his entire ignorance of where the Back Bay might be, and when this information was gained, he happened to remember that the "old mare" hadn't been seen to.

Zekke was economical in his horse keeping. He hired a single stall in a horse shed near the Providence Depot, bought his own hay and took care of his own animal. Thither he hastened his steps, and having watered his beast, he took from his wagon-box an old worn ear, and raked down the mare in the most approved fashion, "to be sure the steel teeth nipped a little more harshly over the bones than usual, but then Zekke was in a hurry for that "tew hundred" was in his eye.

"At length, by dint of much inquiry, Mr. Ezekiel Philpot found his way to the spot where the people had already begun to collect around the "Golden Ladder." "Hello!" exclaimed Zekke, as he came up; "whar's the chap wot keeps this 'ere pole?" "I'm the man," answered a surly fellow with a red nose and pimpled chin, who occupied a chair near the pole; "want to try a chance? Wal, you gentleman, walk up—only three dollars. Who wants the tew hundred?"

"Hole on, ole feller, interme!" "You mean to say as how tew hundred dollars in that 'ere bag?" "Certainly." "An' if I kin git it, I'm 'most 'eady." "Wah, now, there's yer three dollars, an' now here's wot goes for the hull lot."

Zekke divested himself of his coat, rolled up his shirt sleeves, and giving a powerful heave, he grasped the pole about ten feet from the ground. A single second—no longer—he slid, and then—slid back upon terra firma. Zekke looked at his hands, and then down upon his striped trousers. Then he looked at his hands again, raising them to his nose, while a deep, long snore seemed to eat his doubts and queries at rest, he uttered—

"The d—l! Hogs fat by hokay!" A broad laugh from the crowd soon brought Zekke to his senses, and convinced him that he had been holed. But ere he could find his tongue again, an old milk, about three sheets in the wind, paid for his chance, and essayed to climb the pole. The sailor hugged and ragged, got half way up, and then slid. The crowd laughed again, but this time their attention was turned from Zekke to the new aspirant and after waiting a moment in a sort of "brown study," our hero quietly slipped away, remarking to the red nosed man that "he was goin' to git three dollars more, and that he'd be danged if he didn't try it agin'."

In an hour Zekke was again upon the ground. "Now, ole feller," said he to the man who took the entrance money, "I want to try to understand 'an' I shall jek take off my shoes." "Got nothing in your stockings?" suggested the man. "Nothin' but my feet," returned Zekke, as he planted thirteen inches of flesh and bone in the lap of the quarts. Zekke paid his three dollars, and minus coat, vest and shoes grasped the pole. Slowly, yet steadily he crept up the ground. He hugged like a blood sucker to the greased pole, and by degrees he neared the top. He had within a few

feet of the big dollars, and he stopped to get breath. One more lift and then another, and the prize was within his grasp. Zekke slid to the earth with two hundred dollars in his hand!

"Thar I know'd I could do it! I bain't claim spruce and white smiles all my days for nothin'! Good bye, folks, an' I envy of you ever come down to wonder and made the best of his way to his stable. He shut the door of the shed, and then pulling up his trousers, he united from the inside of each knee one half of the steel latched leather of his horse comb!

"Wel old Dobbin," said Zekke, putting the mare affectionately on the back, while he held the pieces of card leather in his hand, the scattering teeth of which had been filed sharp; "rather guess Iken ford to buy you a new lead now?"—Carpet Bag.

Family Secrets.

While ascending the Mississippi, some eighteen months since, on board the steamboat Huntsville, the commander of that excellent vessel related the following anecdote of a couple of worthy disciples of old Father Miller:

In Coles county there lived a man named Dodson, and his wife, who were both firm believers in the prophecy of old Father Miller; and not doubting for a moment the correctness of their Prophet's calculations for the eventful day that was to terminate the existence of all subsidiary things.

After having set their house in order the following conversation took place.

"My dear wife, I believe I have made every preparation for to-morrow; I have forgiven all mine enemies, and prayed for the forgiveness of all my sins, and I feel perfectly calm and resigned."

"Well husband, I believe I am ready for the sound of the trumpet."

"I'm rejoiced to hear it. But my dear wife, I have no doubt there are many domestic secrets which we have hidden from each other, which had they been known at time of their occurrence, might have produced unpleasant feelings; but as we have but one day to live I reckon it right to make a clean breast to each other. I am ready—"

"You begin, husband."

"No, dear you begin."

"No, husband you begin—I can't."

"No, you know, my love, Paul says, husbands have the right to command their wives. It is your duty as a christian woman, to obey your husband—the father of your children—so, begin love."

"In the sight of God I reckon it is right, so I will tell you, dear husband, your oldest son, William, is not your child!"

"Great God, Mary! I never dreamt of your being untrue to me! Is that true?"

"Yes, God forgive me, it is true. I know that I did very wrong, but I am sorry for it, in an evil hour I fell, but there is no help for it now."

"William is not mine. In the name of God whose child is he?"

"He is Mr. Graham's, the constable. The Lord be near your poor wife!"

"So William ain't my child? Go on."

"He is the one-eyed shoe-maker's who lives at the forks of the road."

"Well, my God! Gabriel blow, blow your horns! I want to go NOW."

Strive to make Home Happy. Do not let a fretful fault-finding disposition destroy your domestic happiness; for as equal as you indulge in a morose and cross temper, you destroy your own comfort and the comfort of all around you; the influence of your example will be felt for generations. Let there come one cross, discontented spirit into a family, and will turn a happy family into distress and confusion, for even sickness is not so distressing where there is cheerfulness and patience, as the constant contention of a fretful and impatient spirit. The little ones of the household are greatly influenced by the example of the fretful and cross. When they are spoken to in a cross and fretful manner they soon get along, and a little brother or sister is soon treated in the same manner. And if the influence ended with their childhood it would not be so bad, but it does not—not even with their death. It is the duty of each one of the family to make home happy, but it is the special office of woman to make home the happiest place on earth. In all the relations of life, as wife, mother, daughter and sister, let cheerfulness and kindness reign. The spirit of kindness is glorious in the aged. When we look on the cheerful and resigned countenance of a good, kind grandmother, we cannot but venerate and love her; and although she may not be able to do much with her hands to benefit the household, yet by imitating Lois of old she may do much good for the family. While she believes the mother of some of her pressing duties, she interests the little ones and gains their love and affection, and renders herself a real blessing to all.

In the daughter a gentle cheerful and quiet spirit is a crown of beauty. It is a pearl that renders the possessor more lovely than the richest jewels or the most costly ornaments could make her. She has a kind word for all; the little ones look up to her for example and encouragement, they put confidence in her, knowing that she is always gentle and obliging, and the encouraging smile of a gentle sister will stimulate the brothers to good and noble actions. Every member of the family—male and female—strive to make home happy, and they may render home a sweet home, even a heaven upon earth.

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BUSINESS CARDS.

G. Z. Dimock, Physician and Surgeon, No. 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 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