A FEMININE DESPERADO.

THE WOMAN WHO WAS HANDY WITH REVOLVER OR KNIFE.

Events in Her Career—Killing a Man and Intimidating His Companions—A Veritable Amazon.

A recent letter from Abilene, Texas, to the New York *Sun* says: Maud Raynor, the woman desperado, is in jail in this city for assault. She is wanted in a dozen places, and had several complaints against her before the one on which she is now held was lodged. She lived here quietly until a woman who was jealous of her revealed her identity to the police. As soon as she found that she was an object of suspicion she attacked her enemy with a club and almost beat her brains out. Maud Raynor has been a notorious character in this State, the Indian Territory and Kansas for several years. She gained the title of woman desperado by reason of her recklessness of human life and her fondness for fights. She goes armed to the teeth, shoots with unerring aim, and is quite as much at home with a bowie knife or a club as with a revolver. She has managed to escape arrest hitherto by reason of the fact that all manner of stories concerning her have been in circulation, and her actual appearance is very different from the idea which the people generally have formed of her. She is of compact frame, and about medium height, with a graceful carriage. Her features are small, her eyes steel gray, and her hair long and abundant. In jail to-day she was raving because her keepers had taken away her pistols and knives.

"I suppose I'll never see them again," she said. "When you get into one of these calabashes they always help themselves to what you've got, and whether you're sent up or not they keep all that they steal. I'll bet I've furnished half the sheriffs in Texas and Kansas with good weapons in the last five years. They don't get money enough together at one time to buy such things, but they know just enough to pinch them when they get a chance. I played it on a detective up here in Panhandle once. He had been following me for about a month, and finally when he got me he took two guns and three knives away from me. I saw his eyes bung out as he looked at them, and I says to him:

"'You'll be well heeled now, won't you?'

"He pretended that he didn't care anything about the weapons, and showed me some of his old firecracker pistols, and wanted me to admire them. I told him one of my guns was worth a bag full of his, and after getting him a little excited I grabbed one of my weapons to show it to him. I pointed several of the good points, and then turning it on him, I said:

"'I want to see your heels right lively now.'

"He thought I was fooling for a second, but when the pistol clicked he knew it was business. Then he backed off, and wanted to trade with me. I had his guns and mine, too, but I told him I wasn't trading. Just to hurry him up a little I sent a bullet mighty close to his ear, and a moment later as he was edging off I put another one near enough to his other ear to singe his hair. Such running you never saw. I watched him out of sight. Then I took his guns and threw them in the river. I wouldn't have been found with them on me."

Maud Raynor went through the Indian Territory once with about a regiment of Indians and white men on her trail. She had been up at a ranch on the Arkansas river, where a great many desperate characters were congregated, and in a shooting affray in which she took a prominent part the bartender was killed. Every man swore that the woman was the guilty party, and she recklessly admitted it, though it is probable she was not the real offender. Some friends of the murdered man came along just then, and organized to lynch her. Getting wind of the programme, she stole a horse and set out for Kansas, the men following. Several Indians joined the pursuing party at various places, until finally there were about a hundred men on her trail. She managed to elude them for several days, and coming finally upon a band of chivalrous cowboys, she made them believe she was a persecuted innocent. Her new-found friends promptly agreed to defend her against all comers, and when her pursuers came in sight they were met by a volley which brought them to a stand. In the course of three or four days they concluded to abandon the search.

The exploit of which she is proudest occurred a year or more ago in the Indian Territory. She had been up in Kansas on the warpath, and making her way back to Texas had fallen in with a rough crowd of plainsmen. One of these was a man named Dutton, whom she had known many years before. In the course of an evening passed at a ranch on the cattle trail, she had a quarrel with this fellow, and after some harsh words he rushed at her with a knife. She was too quick for him. He had hardly got within striking distance before she put a bullet through his heart. As he jumped in the air and fell back dead his comrades made a rush at the woman, and would have finished her then and there if one of the men had not taken her part in a mild sort of way. As they stopped to parley, she made this proposition:

"I'll fight the whole pack of you, one at a time. I killed that man, and I'm glad of it. I ought to have done it years ago."

One man went out with her, and the two stepped off twenty paces, turned and fired. The man got a bullet in his shoulder, and wanted to quit. The woman was unhurt. Standing there resolutely she called on the others for a victim, but no one stirred. Then she taunted them, and finally, when she found that they were not disposed to annoy her further, she said:

"Now, I'm going to Texas, and I want an escort. How many of you are going with me?"

They all agreed to go but two, and to those two she addressed herself, saying:

"You're just the ones that I want to go with me, and you've got to go, too."

The others rather enjoyed the sport. She never took her pistols off them for a minute. They got her horse out of the corral, mounted their own, and at her command rode on in front of her. When she had driven them ten or fifteen miles she made them turn back, while she rode on toward the south.

A "Brilliant" Man.

The following is from the gossip of "Man About Town" in the New York *Star*: As I was walking up Broadway one day last week with a friend of mine, who is a prominent physician—that is, he has been lucky enough to catch on to a practice among wealthy people—I exchanged nods with an equally prominent and wealthy contractor.

"Do you know that man?" inquired the physician after he had passed.

"Yes," said I, "he's a rich man, and the jolliest fellow at a dinner party, the best raconteur in any company you ever saw."

"Very brilliant, is he?"

"Brilliant isn't strong enough to express it," said I.

"Do you know where his brilliancy comes from?" inquired the doctor.

"What a fool question that is," said I. "Why, from his natural activity of brain and vivacity of spirits."

"You're wrong," said my professional companion. "It's all due to morphine."

"Morphine? He take morphine?" said I, incredulously.

"Yes. He's a slave to it. He'd be a raving maniac if deprived of it for a day. He will die of it in a year."

"I can't believe it," said I.

The doctor offered to prove it if I would meet him the next day at one of the big drug stores up Broadway. I went at the hour stated, and was concealed with the doctor in a dark room back of the office. At precisely 3 o'clock in the afternoon, as had been predicted, my friend the contractor appeared and purchased the morphine. Stepping into the office he took off his over and under coats, rolled up his shirt sleeves and prepared to inject the poison with a syringe. His arm was covered with scars.

Utilizing Sea-Weed.

In tropical climates the little air bladders which support the seawracks are of great service; for the masses of seaweed are several hundred feet long and of considerable height, having stems the thickness of a man's thigh, and branches and drooping stems which support innumerable forms of animal life, such as corals, crabs, worms of different kinds, together with mosses and weeds of the sea, and being beside a place of deposit for innumerable eggs of various creatures. In Scotland the tender parts of the seawracks, known as tangles, are used as food, and when cooked are considered choice diet for cattle. The stems of a very hard, horny variety of the seawracks are used as knife-handles. They are cut in short pieces, and while moist or green the blade is forced in at one end. When the stem dries it clings firmly to the knife-blade. Being gnarled and horny it resembles buck's horn, and when tipped with metal and full finished, forms a neat, inexpensive knife-handle. The rose-tangles are higher up in the scale of vegetable life, and their delicate tints renders them very beautiful. Of these, pulse is an important variety to the Scotch and Irish, who, beside using it as food, both in its raw state and cooked in milk, find it a substitute for tobacco. Carrageen moss is another kind of rose-tangle, from which a nourishing jelly is made. The Chinese use one variety of rose-tangle as a chief ingredient in other glossing preparations; twenty-seven thousand pounds are brought annually to Canton and sold at from six to eighteen pice per pound.

Restoration of Apparently Dead Carp.

Wishing to examine some scale carp anatomically, says Charles W. Scudder, of the United States fish commission, I visited the central hatching station of the United States fish commission in the armory building, and called for dead carp, as they would answer my purpose as well as live ones. Mr. J. E. Brown handed me seven or eight, which were from one to three inches in length, and which had been thrown out of the tanks as dead. These I at once put into an envelope and carried home in my pocket.

At least an hour later I removed them from the envelope and put them in a wash-bowl of water for cleansing them. I soon noticed that two of them were floating on their sides and occasionally gasping. A half-hour after this, for the purpose of discovering how much vitality there might be in the two in which I had observed signs of life, I placed in the mouth of each one a drop of brandy diluted with an equal amount of water. These I returned to the bowl, and paid no further attention to them until six hours afterward. I then noticed that the two which had received the tonic showed a marked improvement, and were swimming on their sides nearly at the top of the water. I then changed the water and administered the same amount of brandy as before. On the following morning, thirteen hours after the first administration of brandy and seven hours after the second dose, the two fish in question were apparently fully restored, and were swimming naturally and actively about the bowl. The restoration proved to be complete.

How Dogfish Destroy Mackerel.

Captain Joseph Smith, of Gloucester, Mass., says that while off Wood Island, Maine, he observed what he supposed to be at first a moderate-sized school of mackeral at the surface of the water. On closer inspection, however, he found that only a small number were mackerel, probably not exceeding more than half or three-quarters of a barrel, and these were completely surrounded by an immense school of dogfish. The body of dogfish was formed in such a manner as to inclose the mackerel on all sides and underneath, completely preventing their escape. Captain Smith had an opportunity of observing the mackerel closely, and says that many of them, he noticed, were bitten by the dogfish, some being deprived of their tails, and others having wounds on their sides. He is of the opinion that every one of the mackerel was ultimately eaten by the dogfish. It is probable, he thinks, that at first a much larger body of mackels was surrounded. The school of dogfish he estimated to contain at least enough for one hundred barrels. Another school of dogfish surrounding a small body of mackerel was seen on the same day.

There is but one place in the United States where gun cotton is made.

WISE WORDS.

Bacchus has drowned more than Neptune.

The more a man knows the less he believes.

Be charitable and indulgent to every one but yourself.

Learning by study must be won; 'twas ne'er entailed from sire to son.

The more a man speaks of himself, the less he likes to hear another talked of.

It is not genius so much as ability that carries one through the battles of life.

If you are determined to live and die a slave to custom, see that it is at least a good one.

To most men experience is like the sternlight of a ship, which illuminates only the track it has passed.

The life is long which answers life's great end; the tree that bears no fruit deserves no name; the man of wisdom is the man of years.

As a man's yes and no, so his character. A prompt yes or no marks the firm, the quick, the decided character; and a slow, the cautious and timid.

The beauty of the face is a frail possession, a short-lived flower, only attached to the mere epidermis, but that of the mind is innate and unchangeable.

A Queer Partnership.

As most of my young readers are doubtless well aware, there is a continual warfare between the insects and the birds, the latter finding in the former their natural food. Knowing this, any exception we may find to the rule, must seem very remarkable, especially when it is a bird and a spider on terms of the closest friendship, and actually partners in house-building. The bird is the purple sun-bird named by naturalists Nectarinia Asiatica. It is common in many parts of India, where it flits among the trees in gorgeous garbs of deep purple-blue, flashing green, gold and yellow.

At the nest-building time, the sun-bird searches the woods until it finds the large shining web of a certain kind of spider. This it proceeds forthwith to appropriate without further ceremony, though we can well imagine that there has been some understanding between Messrs. Spider and Sun-bird.

The web is generally spun between two stout limbs, and upon this web the bird begins to place all sorts of rubbish, such as bits of glass or fiber, and pieces of paper and cloth, picked up or stolen from some neighboring camp. At first the spider must be somewhat astonished at the capacity of its net for catching such strange flies. But curiously enough as fast as the bird places these objects upon the web, the spider secures them with its silk, spinning industriously and assisting its friend as much as possible. Finally, when the materials have accumulated until they reach the limb, they are fastened to it, and bound over and over, first by the bird and afterward by the spider. Now the nest begins to assume a definite shape; in pearance like a bottle, a flask, or a dome; the grass and twigs being generally wound in and out by the bird and then covered by the silk of the spider, both bird and insect working harmoniously, until they have made a perfect dome-shaped nest hanging in the midst of the web, partly supported by it and partly hanging from the limb. In some nests an entrance is left at the bottom; but, usually it is at one side near the upper end, with a little platform or awning built over it by the bird, to keep out the rain.

The nest would now naturally be a very conspicuous object; but the spider's work is not yet done. It continues to spin its silken web around the nest, carrying the threads from one part to another, inward and outward, forward and back, until finally, after spinning miles and miles of silk, the nest is completely hidden behind a screen of web.

Here, together, the partners live; the spider rearing its young on the outside, and the sun-bird caring for its eggs and young within. In this queer partnership the spider is, evidently, not the loser, as it certainly gains peace and protection from the presence of its feathered friend.—*St. Nicholas.*

The Weather.

Lieut. Charles W. McKim, Portland, Ky., states: "For twenty years I suffered with rheumatism. During the bad weather my suffering was terrible. I was about to give up. Some one suggested the application of St. Jacobs Oil. I tried it and its relief was rapid. In half an hour I could stand up. I no longer suffer with the pains."

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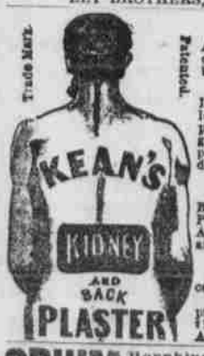

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