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A Night of Horror.

It was night when I arrived home. There was something so provoking in the darkness and utter quiet in which I found the premises wrapped that I determined to give a lovely surprise; but nature, appealing to me on a vital point, I dropped into the dining room with the view of refreshing myself with a bite of cold joint by way of preliminary.

Striking a light, I found that my wants had been anticipated, for there on the table lay the remains of a repast—breast of chickens, cakes, cheese and what not.

All at once my eye caught sight of a meerschaum upon the mantle. Now there is nothing very alarming in a meerschaum per se, but when the meerschaum is the property of a stranger and is found upon one's premises during his absence, it becomes invested with an importance which it could derive from no other circumstance.

Now Maria knows I am not in the least jealous; knows it had never entered my head to suspect her of any imprudence; but this, to say the least of it, had a very suspicious look about it, and nevertheless I drank again.

Sammy's my name. 'Perfidious woman! It is thus—' I threw it into the fire after stamping on it. I fortified myself with another glass, took off my stockings, and I started up stairs. On the way I tumbled over a strange cat in the kitchen.

In my ascent I suppose I must have made some noise, for a strange dog set up a furious yell in the back area. It may be as well to prepare for contingencies, I reflected, as I re-entered the parlor with a view to possessing myself of a poker.

Excuse me, dear, I whispered, 'I think I hear burglars.' 'What—again? I think you must be mistaken.' 'I'll go and see said I, and huddling on something I groped my way to the stairs, descending them with a cold feeling all the way down my back, and crept into the basement.

thinking how should I manage to return the borrowed toggery.

Resolved on an explanation, I rung the bell boldly. I heard the tip, tippety-tip of a pair of well known feet, and was at once in the arms of Mrs. Spivins.

'Why, don't you remember, Sammy's,' she said, in reply to my interrogation; 'I told you brother Charles was coming from the country with his new wife to pass a few days with us. I have given up your own bedroom.'

An Invincible Hand. HOW FIVE JACKS BEAT FOUR ACE.

During the session of the United States District Grand Jury, a witness was called before them named Scipio Choteau, a half-breed Creek Indian and negro, bright, sharp and intelligent.

He answered, 'Yes, sah; I see do man.' 'Will you have no objection in telling it?' 'I see afeard it will get me into trouble; but if de Judge is willin', appealing to the foreman, 'I will tell it.'

'You see I live on the cattle trail from Texas through the Creek country to Kansas, and I was out on de road one day, and meets a gentleman ahead, a big drove of cattle.

'He says 'Old man do you live in this country?' 'I says, 'Yes sah.' 'He says, 'It's a mighty poor country how do you make a livin'?' 'I says, 'Sah, putty good country; we has plenty meat an' f'ood, and I make a good livin'.'

'So we gets off our horses, along side de road and sat down, and I pulls out de kerd. Well, in a short time I beat de gentleman out of sixty two dollars and a half, and I tought I had him; so I puts up a hand on him—for I is, de I say it myself, a mighty smart hand, at kerd—and I knowed he would have tree jacks and I would have tree ace, and in the draw I know'd he would git the other jack and I would git de oder ace.

'He says, 'Ole man, dem is right good briches you is got on; how much did dey cost?' 'I says, 'Yes, sah; dey cost me ten dollars.' 'He says, 'I puts up ten dollars agin dem.'

'I says, 'Berry well, sah; but I tells you I got an invincible hand.' 'He puts up de money, and I holds up my legs and he pulls of de briches and lays dem down.'

'I says, 'Yes sah, dat am do jack of hearts.' 'Dens he runs his hand in his bosom and pulls out a great long pistol and points it at me and says, 'Ain't dat jack haul?' 'I says, 'Yes sah, dat am do money.' 'I says, 'Yes sah, dat is Jack haul, and dat is five jacks, and five jacks beats an invincible hand.'

The Eastern man thought he had better drink.

'He lagged last in the crowd, however, and, satisfied that his absence would not be noted, stole out of the back door and hung round behind the kitchen until the boys should have gone.

'You see, it served me right, for I tought de man was a green Misourian when I put up de hand on him; but he was a Arkansas chap and I finds dem mighty sharp, Judge.'

A Narrow Escape.

One evening, before Wichita, Kansas, had realized its hopes of securing a permanent place upon the map—so long ago, in fact, as the spring of 1871—a gentleman registered his name at the Harris House, and announced his intention of stopping a few days in order to see the country, and perhaps to buy some land in the neighborhood.

'Yes, it is obtainable, isn't it? You can get it here? I'd be willing to pay for any extra trouble, you know.'

The Eastern man looked as if he thought himself sold, but still stuck to his request, because he wanted to know how buffalo meat tasted when he was not wrestling with it under the false impression that it was Texas cow.

'I guess you are right,' he remarked; 'let's go.'

'Fairst of your sex, permit me to remark that I did not know that kissing across the table constituted a marriage ceremony; but I am content. I have never seen one who so completely filled my ideal of a beautiful, sweet, loving, and modest woman.

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'The other 'weakened' a moment and looked at Dan dubiously.

'I mean it, by G—d! You git, or I'll plug you!' 'He did 'git.'

Will You go to Bed. THE TROUBLE THAT A DRUMMER FELL INTO.

The Western Mode of Getting Married, and How He Fooled the Lady. At Big Creek, Arkansas, they have a peculiar custom which sometimes proves embarrassing.

One of Beau Hickman's Tricks. Rather Pointed.

Beau once made a raid on the Baltimore restaurants. He determined to dine well that day, or know the reason why.

'What is this?' inquired the Beau. 'De bill, sah,' said the waiter.

'The next day the Beau fared sumptuously at the St. Clair, and the scene was re-enacted. The bill was presented and the proprietor wound up with, 'Beau, I'll give you \$50 if you will play this off on Guy.'

'My dear sir,' said the Beau, 'why didn't I call here first? Guy has paid me \$25 to play it on you.'

When a lovely woman stoops to office holding, she may be suspected the same as any other public servant.

The gate of a faste age—investigate. Evasion from truth is affiliation with falsehood.

The greatest bet that was ever made—The Alphabet.

A man of honor respect his word as he does his bond.

'You can't do that again,' said the pig to the boy who cut his tail off.

The cheapest of lawyers—keeping one's own soul.

Two Irishmen were in prison—one for stealing a pin, the other for stealing a needle.

Questionable—when a man marries a poetess, does he take her for better or for verse?

It is apparant that a great many children get on the wrong track because the switch has been misplaced.

A Chicago clergyman preached a sermon in a billard saloon last Sunday. He made nineteen points.

One thing, said an old topser, was never seen coming through the rye, and that's the kind of whiskey one gets nowadays.

It is said that two Iowa lovers wilt sit up half the night with only one chair in the room, but that's easily explained to any one who has been there.

'Mono-poets' is the new name for persons who write but one bit of a verse and then die.

The latest zoological curiosity is reported from Richmond, Va—a dog with two tails! One of them, however, was an ox tail, and the dog carried it in his mouth.