

## A SWIM IN SALT LAKE.

I came near going away, like nineteen tourists out of twenty who visit these parts, without taking a swim in Great Salt Lake. If I had done so, you might have set me down a poor traveler indeed, for this day's experience has been quite as interesting and instructive, its sensations as novel, and its incidents as striking, as have been afforded by any other three days of my sojourn. A drive of twenty miles in the cool of the morning brought me and my companion to the best bathing place in the Lake. We had refreshed on the way with a nice country breakfast at Bishop Keeler's (think of breakfasting with a bishop and paying him filthy lucre for it!) and were in prime condition for a dash in the slight surf. There were no houses within gunshot, and the apathy which prevails at the city concerning all sorts of healthy sport had its compensations in this case, for it allowed us full opportunity for indulging in "buff bathing"—nature's own sort, which the watering places have suppressed hitherto, but are now, ashamed of their conventionalities at last, allowing to "come in" again. But Salt Lake cares naught for the watering place regulations, and we were soon in *paris nature*, neck deep in the salty waves, kicking and splashing, summersaulting and cavorting, as happy as clams (or schoolboys) in high water.

Neck deep! It is an arbitrary expression, and may mean five feet or twenty-five, for one cannot go beyond that depth unless handicapped. The dense fluid buoys him up so that, after reaching the depth of his shoulders, he may walk as he pleases; he can't touch bottom and his head refuses to keep down as persistently as an apple on Hallowsmas Eve, or a Chicago scapler under the Bankrupt act. Buoyancy you will never know the meaning of the word until you go to Salt Lake and bathe! You feel as if you had discovered a new element, superior for the time to earth, air, or water. You feel like cutting up all manner of antics. You strike out to swim in the usual way, and your back parts rear up like the roof of the Tabernacle, anon your feet are kicking in the air, and you flop to save your head from an unexpected ducking. Lying on your back, you float like a porpoise; then you try some new evolution, and about your astonishment and hilarity at the result.

"Halloo! how do you feel now?" I asked my fellow bather.

"O, buoyish," is the reply.

The sensation is akin to that described in slang as "salubrious," though it was none of the muddled quality of the tippler's salubriousness. You merely feel a little delicious uncertainty as to whether you are a Chicago traveler or a big air bladder; and you delight yourself with the reflection that, after all there's often not much difference between the two. The temperature is just right, and the effects seem exhilarating rather than weakening. By and by you get surfeited with novelty and go ashore. Then you get your first reminder of the exceeding saltiness of the water—first except some little gulps on first plunging in, which most likely taught you to keep your mouth shut to all further influx to the element around you. Under the drying influence of the sun, if you should stand in his rays for a moment, you will soon be encrusted with a white mass of pure salt—a sort of venerable *Levi's* wig. A friend told me that he once solved the Sambo problem by fetching him a bath in this water. The fellow was soon enameled white enough. But that was in the days when nigro-tude was a drawback; the albescent process would be unnecessary nowadays. But we did not test this peculiarity of the lake bathing. Less than the usual application of towels served to make us dry and glowing, and we realized no prickling sensation such as some visitors here have described, nor did we feel any need of a fresh water rinsing. On the whole it was one of the best things imaginable in the way of a bath. I may mention, also, that our bishop takes a daily bath in these waters for his ancient broken leg; with good effect, as he thinks.—*Utah Cor.* Chicago Post.

**LOSS OF LIFE IN MODERN WARS.**—In a recent speech by Mr. Pease, M. P. for South Durham, he remarked that in a very instructive volume lately published in France, a careful estimate (compiled from authentic documents) was made of the cost in lives of recent European wars. The Crimean war was stated to have cost 754,900 lives; the war in Italy in 1857, 45,000; in Schleswig-Holstein, 3,500; the American war, 800,000; the Prussian war, 45,000; Mexico and China, 65,000—making a total, between 1833 to 1898, of 1,750,000 lives; and those were men in the prime of life, men who ought to have been useful and productive citizens. And besides all these, there were the maimed, the halt, and the blind, who were scattered over all the nations of Europe. Such were the effects of thirteen years' war in the nineteenth century. M. Leroy Beau-lieu, in his *Recherches sur les Guerres Contemporaines*, (the work alluded to by Mr. Pease), supplies some very curious statistics about the cost of war.

It is really surprising to see how much money is spent for every man killed on the field or sent away to die of his wounds or of some sickness of the camp. The thing was done with comparative cheapness in the Crimean war, where a vast number of men were got together at very close quarters. Between the Russians and the Allies there were more than three-quarters of a million men killed, each of them at a price of £433. On the other hand, the maximum of cost was reached in the American civil war. Each one of the 800,000 deaths (though this is a small estimate, we should imagine) was purchased by an expenditure of £3,345. The belligerents in South America did the terrible business more cheaply, not spending more than £200 per man. Small wars are generally costly. The Danish war extinguished 3,500 lives at an average cost of £2,000. The campaign which ended at Sadovaya, to have been considered its brief duration, to have been expensive. Every life cost nearly £1,500. It is a strange policy which leads civilized societies to expend what would be a comfortable maintenance for three or four men on the destruction of one.

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