THE EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, - - - February 29, 1872.

A DARE-DEVIL FEAT.

[CONCLUDED.]

"This is as good a bridge as I want," and grasping the cable with both hands, he swung down from the bank and proceeded to cross the "stormy water" in a hand-over-hand fashion. The miners looked on with amazement, and at first took so much interest in the novel feat as to forget that its successful accomplishment involved the loss of their chances of the extension. But they soon remembered the financial aspect.

"I hope the d—d little ourang-outang 'll fall off and drown, blast him!" exclaimed one vehement individual.

"He's a weakenin', by jingo," said another, "and he ain't more than half-way across yet."

Ward had, indeed, come to a stop about midway on the rope, and was dangling there, some fifteen feet above the stream. The miners gazed intently on, expecting every moment to see him loose his hold and drop into the seething torrent, whence the escape would have been almost hopeless. The better feelings of humanity overcame the lust for gold in the rugged breasts on the bank, and some ran down the stream to be ready with such assistance as they could render for his rescue, while others rushed about in search of logs, planks—anything which might be of service to a drowning man. One old fellow remained on the bank, and shouted words of encouragement to the suspended acrobat:

"Hang on, little 'un—hang on like grim death! Ef you let go thar, saltpeter won't save you! You'll be ten miles down the creek in less'n two minits if you let go whar yer hangin' now. Try and get back, or else keep on and get nearer in shore on 'tother side afore you let go. The current ain't so swift a little further over."

No reply came from Ward, who was quietly enjoying the perturbation of the men on shore. Presently he began to swing his body to and fro, and then, presto! he was hanging by the legs, head downward and arms folded across his breast. The miners threw down their planks in disgust, and began to realize that they had been slightly sold. This conviction was strengthened when the "feller" on the wire performed a few more gyrations, such as hanging on, now by the chin and then by the back of his head, until at last they wouldn't have been surprised if he had hooked his nose on the wire and loosed all other holds.

After "resting" sufficiently in this novel mode, Ward dropped under the wire again and crossed over, hand over hand, without any trouble, to the opposite bank. He then proceeded at once to the ground and nailed to a tree his notice of location of 3,000 feet Atlas extension, after which he re-crossed the stream again by the wire cable, and remarked to the party on the bank that he had made "that thar location."

One of the disappointed miners met Steve G——a that afternoon and said:

"I thought you told me that little feller from the Bay was a capitalist?"

"Well, so he is a capitalist," said Steve.

"Capitalist be d——d!" was the profane rejoinder; "you can't play that on me. I'll bet a hundred dollars he is a circus actor."

Ward went at once to Sonora, had his claim duly recorded, and arrived here last Friday. Under all these circumstances it would not be any more than right if the rest of the locators should make his share of the mine unassessable. The Chinese Campers have already taken steps to perpetuate his memory by calling the wire "Ward's Bridge."—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN GIRLS.

An English traveller writes: "I can assure you that, having lived in different castles and manor-houses of Great Britain and been accustomed to the industrious habits of duchesses and countesses, I was utterly astonished at the idleness of American fine ladies. No Englishwoman of rank (with the exception of a few Parvenues) from the Queen downward, would remain for one half hour unemployed, or sit in a rocking-chair unless serious ill. They almost all (with hardly an exception) copy the business letters of their husbands, fathers, or brothers; attend minutely to the wants of the poor around them, and even take part in their amusements and sympathize with their sorrow; visit and superintend the schools; work in their own gardens; see to their household concerns; think about their visitors; look over the weekly accounts, not only of domestic expenses, but often those of the farm and estate; manage penny clubs in conjunction with the working classes, to help them to keep themselves; and with all these occupations, by early hours, they keep up their acquaintance with the literature and politics of the day, and cultivate the accomplishments of music and drawing, and often acquire, besides, some knowledge of scientific pursuits. The late Marchioness of Lansdowne was so well acquainted with the cottagers in her neighborhood that she used to visit and look at the corpses of the dead, because she found that her doing so soothed and comforted the bereaved. I have known her to shut herself up with a mad woman in her poor dwelling, who used to lock the door, and could not be induced to admit any one else. Lady Lansdowne's only daughter used one hundred guineas (given her by her father-in-law, Lord Suffolk, to buy a bracelet,) to build pig-styes, with his permission, at her husband's little country residence. She educated her own children without assistance—teaching the boys Latin and the girls all the useful branches of education. The late Duchess of Bedford, I accidentally discovered, when on a visit to Woburn, had for thirty years of her married life, risen at 6 o'clock, summer and winter, lit her own fire, and made some tea for the Duke and herself, and then, as he wrote his own letters of business, she copied them, and they came down to a large party of guests at ten o'clock, to dispense breakfast without saying one word of their matutinary avocations; so that you might have been a visitor in the house without finding out that the Duke or Duchess had transacted the necessary business of the day before, perhaps, you had risen? I rather mention those that are gone to their reward than write of women still among us; but you may believe me when I say that I am constantly among those who live such lives of energy and usefulness, but they so employ themselves without ostentation or an idea that they are doing more than their simple share."

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