

A VISIT TO THE MUMMIES.

An American now traveling in Egypt, had the curiosity to enter a cave used as a sepulchre for mummies. "Imagine," he says, "a vaulted chamber, 25 feet high, cut in the heart of a huge granite rock. In this apartment, dimly lighted by our two flickering tapers, filled to the roof, was a countless piled up mass of uncoffined mummies. There they lay, in all shapes and postures. Time had burst the twining ligaments of some, and their bony arms and fleshless fingers seemed straggling out from the mass, as if to lay hold of the disturbers of their slumbers. Some were placed upright against the walls, and in the weird shadows of the candle's light, their features twisted and moved, and their long-sealed lips seemed opening to denounce us. Our Arab guide drew a long knife from a sheath on his arm and commenced cutting and tearing off the wrappings in search of valuables; and, as his naked limbs sank among the dry bones, and his swarthy arms tossed about the bodies, he looked like some hideous vampire at his nightly meal. The air was very bad, and I was about to beat a retreat, when suddenly a thought flashed across my mind that almost froze my blood with terror. I am not a coward, but for a moment my heart stood still. The cave was filled with 1,000 mummies, drier than the driest tinder, and soaked in bitumen, each one wrapped in many folds of mummy cloth, as inflammable as gun cotton. A single spark from one of the candles would have spread like wildfire, and no power on earth could have saved us from a fearful death. We would have been roasted alive in five minutes. I remarked this to Harry; he saw it instantly, and yelled to the guide to be careful of the light. While I started for the opening. On I went, through the narrow passage, tearing my knees and garments against the sharp stones, shudderingly expecting each moment to lay my hands upon the slimy coils of a serpent in the dark, and even now and then sticking fast and feeling (in imagination) the scorching breath of the fire fiend on my back. At last I reached the hole and was drawn up, very glad to breathe the pure air and feel the warm sun again.

AMUSING, VERY.—Dr. Sawbones having finished the amputation of a leg of one of his patients, a near relative of the latter took him aside and said to him: "Doctor, do you think that your patient will recover?" "Recover! there has never been the least shadow of a hope for him." "Then what was the use of making him suffer?" "Why, my dear fellow, you could not say brutally to a sick man, 'You are dying. He must be amused a little!'"

MORE ENTICING.—A fellow was doubting whether or not he should volunteer to fight. One of the flags waving before his eyes bearing the inscription "Victory or Death!" somewhat troubled and discouraged him. "Victory is a very good thing," said he; "but why put it 'Victory or Death?' Just put in 'Victory or Crippled,' and I'll go that!"

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SALT LAKE CITY.

[OFFICIAL.]

United States Mails.
UTAH.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Washington, Nov. 30, 1887.
PROPOSALS for conveying the mails of the United States from July 1, 1888 to June 30, 1890, on the following routes in the Territory of Utah, will be received at the Contract Office of this Department until 3 p.m. of March 31, 1888, to be decided by April 15, following:
16633 From Huntsville to Bennington, (no office) 120 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Huntsville Monday at 6 a.m.;
Arrive at Bennington Wednesday by 6 p.m.;
Leave Bennington Thursday at 6 a.m.;
Arrive at Huntsville Saturday by 6 p.m.
16634 From Beaver, by Greenville, Minerville, and Panaca, to Hiko, (Nevada), 195 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Beaver Tuesday at 8 a.m.;
Arrive at Hiko Friday by 8 p.m.;
Leave Hiko Monday at 8 a.m.;
Arrive at Beaver Thursday by 8 p.m.
Proposals for twice and also for three-times-a-week service invited.

NOTES.

Proposals must be to carry the mail with "celerity, certainty, and security," using the terms of the law, and they must be guaranteed by two responsible persons, certified to as such by a postmaster or judge of the court of record. Bids should be addressed to the "Second Assistant Postmaster General," subscribed "Proposals, Territory of Utah," and sent by mail. For forms of proposals, &c., and other information, see advertisement of this date, in pamphlet form, at the principal post office.

ALEX. W. RANDALL,
Postmaster General.

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