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CHASING INDIANS AND KILLING GRIZZLIES

We have been favored with the perusal of a letter from a young man in Major Smith's command, written at the South Pass, a few days since, in which he gave a very graphic account of a bear chase, of which he was an 'eye witness,' illustrative of the daring of the 'Mountain boys' who are serving on the Overland route.

A few weeks since, the Indians stole four or five mules from Big Sandy station, and Major Smith, with Lieut. Knowlton and twenty men, getting on the trail of the red-skins, who took a northern direction towards the Wind River mountains, followed them about one hundred and fifty miles to where they had crossed a branch of Green river, which was so high that it could not be crossed excepting by swimming, which the Major thought not prudent to undertake, as some of his men were not proficient in the art. The pursuit of the native thieves was therefore abandoned and the company moved down the river on their return to camp.

They had not proceeded far before a bear was discovered on the opposite side of the stream, and Major Smith, Lieut. Knowlton and Sergt. H. O. Spencer resolved to swim their horses over and give 'grizzly' a chase, which they did, and, on reaching the shore, they found two bears instead of one. The beasts moved off up the bluff at a rapid rate, and the Major and his comrades immediately gave chase. The grizzlies made good time, but the horses gradually gained on them till they came within short range, when the riders opened fire which caused the 'varmints' to change tactics, face and charge occasionally upon their pursuers, producing a lively and interesting scene. After some maneuvering of that kind, the bears tried their mettle in a downhill movement towards the river, receiving a shot now and then, making them each time more fierce as they turned to charge upon the sportsmen, who, in turn, became the pursued. The sport was continued in that way back to the river, where the smaller of the two was killed, and the other put off, endeavoring to effect an escape, pursued by Knowlton and Spencer, who, after following a long distance, succeeded in taking their game not far from the river to which they managed to haul it, although extremely large, and after attaching a large bundle of brush, rolled it into the water, hoping that it would ultimately float to the left bank, where they could get it, after swimming back to the company.

To get the first bear across the river, a different course was taken. All the ropes in the company were tied together and then one of the men attaching one end of it to his body, swam across the stream, when the rope was tied round the neck of the horse some distance from the end and then fastened to the bear, after which the Major pulled and plunged into the river. The men pulling heavily upon the rope, towed the horse and bear into the swift current, when the horse rolled over, feet upwards, and the Major swam ashore. The boys were not long in hauling the horse and bear out on dry land, but not till the horse had been nearly drowned, his head having been under water most of the time while being towed over.

All things were soon arranged, and the march back to camp resumed. Next day as they were proceeding down the river, the big bear, which Knowlton and Spencer had killed and rolled into the river, was found stranded as expected, and recovered.

After an absence of five days the party arrived back to their camp, having rode about three hundred miles, with the loss of one animal which died from fatigue.

Remember the WOOD, WOOL, and HAY.

A CARELESS SHOOTING AFFAIR.

On the evening of the "Fourth" two fast lads in the Seventh Ward, of sufficient age, however, to know better than to use fire-arms in a careless manner, as too many of maturer age are inclined to do, probably, to add some little to the variety of their amusements on that day, resolved to have a little target practice for improvement in "sharp shooting," and regardless of the laws of the city, in relation to the use of fire-arms in that manner, prepared and set up a mark, with no other obstruction to the force of their balls, than an inch board, beyond which was some growing corn, hiding them from view on the opposite side of the block. Although informed by a person who was passing, that it would be dangerous for them to shoot in the direction they had placed the target, as there were people dwelling on the opposite side of the block, and advised to place their target in some other place, they disregarded the admonition and proceeded to complete their arrangements and commence their sport.

The first ball set, passed through the board and corn, and hit a little girl, daughter of Thos. McLelland, who was playing with other children in Mr. J. Alger's door yard directly opposite. The cries of the child on being wounded, soon brought Mr. Alger and others to the spot, and she was carried into the house, apparently in great distress. Upon examination it was ascertained that the ball which had struck her in the back, near one hip, had not penetrated her body, although it had passed through her clothes and fractured the skin considerably. Mr. Alger and a young man named W. E. Cowley went out into the yard and found the ball which was much flattened and as they were examining it, a second shot was fired, and the ball striking young Cowley, passed through one thigh, wounded him severely, and but for some papers and a bunch of keys in the pocket of his pants, which turned the direction of the missile, it is believed that it would have produced a fatal injury.

The offenders were soon waited upon, and their shooting operations summarily suspended, but how heavily they were fined has not transpired. Fears are entertained, however, that if the punishment of the amateur Berdams consisted principally in a herbal homoeopathic lecture, they may not have been thoroughly cured of the disease with which they were afflicted.

There has been too much careless shooting about the city within the last few months, for the safety of the citizens, and several persons have narrowly escaped fatal injuries from balls shot at random regardless of consequences; and, if the city ordinances, in relation to such matters are not to be enforced, they had better be repealed.

ACCIDENTAL BUT UNBEARABLE.

As the Fillmore mail coach was crossing Amercan Fork river, on Thursday last, the carriage was upset and the bags containing the entire southern mail were submerged, immersed and soaked till their contents were as thoroughly saturated and macerated as it could be in cold water, and to add to the calamity after they were recovered they were placed upon a pack animal, as per report, and churned from thence to Provo, some fourteen or fifteen miles, as extensively and completely as was possible for an inexperienced carrier to do, and no doubt he supposed at the time that he was doing his country a great service.

On the arrival of the mutilated mass at Provo, Postmaster Southworth, as the postmaster at Pleasant Grove should have done, emptied it out and took measures to have it dried and as much of it saved as possible, but he reports that the destruction of both letter and paper mail was nearly complete. We regret the occurrence, particularly as the first number of the twelfth volume of the News for our subscribers in Utah, Wasatch, Juab, Sanpete, Millard, Beaver, Iron and Washington counties, was forwarded that morning, most of which were reduced to pulp by the packing process instituted after the plunging operation had been consummated, and but few of the papers destroyed can be replaced, if desired.

The upsetting of the coach might have been unavoidable, but the course taken with the wet mail afterward was reprehensible and unbearable.

DEATH BY "UNOXYDATED" LEAD.

The Eastern Mail coach brought in on Thursday evening, the body of Delia M. Gibson, one of the escaped convicts, who was killed at or near the crossing of Weber, on the evening previous, by Mr. Greenleaf, who had him in charge, while attempting to escape from custody.

By a letter from our esteemed friend, Judge Carter, under date of the 2d inst., we are informed that one John Higgins had been arrested, in Green River county, on a charge of larceny, and on trial, had been found guilty and sentenced to three months' imprisonment in the Penitentiary; and that, on that day he had, with the necessary papers, placed the felon in custody of S. C. Greenleaf, Esq., to be by him delivered to the Warden of the Penitentiary, that the punishment awarded might be inflicted.

The sequel of the story shows that, on the way from Fort Bridger, by stage, Mr. Greenleaf's prisoner, Higgins was recognized by some person at one of the stations as the notorious Gibson, who had escaped from prison some four or five weeks previous. On being informed of the character of his "bird," Greenleaf, as reported, on arriving at Weber, thought proper to take measures to prevent an escape, by the application of some irons, for which Gibson had no relish, and watching an opportunity, started off at great speed. His custodian immediately started in pursuit, and considerable ground was passed over before the escaping convict was sufficiently neared to be within range. As soon as that point was made, and no heed being given to the order to stop, fire was opened, and on the sixth round, Gibson fell, mortally wounded. The body was brought in by Greenleaf and delivered over to the Warden, who would not receive it as the body of Higgins, but as the body of Gibson he received and interred it in an appropriate place, but not in the City Cemetery.

CHANGE OF THE EASTERN MAIL ROUTE.

The government has authorized the contractor of the Overland Mail Line east, to change the route from that which has hitherto been traveled by the public to that known as "the Cherokee trail." The adopted route will continue as before from here to Ham's Fork, then proceeding down that river to the Cherokee trail, continuing up Bitter Creek through Bridger's Pass, by Medicine Bow Butte to Cache la Poudre, where it will intersect the route from Denver to Julesburg, about sixty miles to the north of Denver. By this change of route the mail, unless otherwise arranged for, will cease to pass through South Pass City, Deer Creek and Laramie. A hundred and seventy miles travel is abridged by the new route.

The water is bitter and the grass is very scarce on a large portion of the Cherokee trail, which will probably prevent its being generally adopted by the emigration; but as the Mail Company can sink wells for its own use, and make up with "feed" what it fails to find in grass, the obstacles named will be of little importance. We understand that Major Kerr, who was here a year or two ago, is now entrusted by the stage proprietor in building the new stations, and that the mail has already been transferred to the new route. The temporary break up, from the stealing of stock on the Sweetwater, need not therefore interfere with the regularity of our mails, as the distance saved will fully compensate for the miles that have travelled into the Indian's camp.

If ever the mail route east becomes a peaceable institution, which we earnestly hope, for our citizens have lost enough by its difficulties, there will be a large abridgement in present schedule time, between this and Atchison—that is, there should be that abridgement.

A NEW BRIDGE.—A note from a citizen of Sanpete county announces that a good and substantial bridge has recently been built across the Sanpitch river, in that county, at a point known as the Upper Ford, over which the traveling public can pass without being saluted by a toll.

ARRIVALS.—Stephen S. Harding, of Indiana, the recently appointed Governor of Utah Territory, arrived here on Monday evening by the mail stage, accompanied by Mr. Abel Gilbert of the firm of Gilbert & Gerrish, and by the latter's friend, Col. Hardesty, of Missouri.

NEW MAIL ROUTES.

By letter from Hon. J. M. Bernhisel, we are informed that Congress has, during the present session, established the following mail routes in Utah Territory.

From Springville, in Utah County, via Fairview and Mount Pleasant to Springtown, in Sanpete County.

From Toquerville, via Pocketville and Grafton to Adventure, in Washington County.

From Virgin City, via Grafton to Rockville, Washington County.

From Denver City, Colorado Territory to Provo, Utah Territory.

The extension of Postal facilities, to the citizens of Utah in the small degree, indicated will not be unacceptable, but the citizens of Morgan, Summit, and Wasatch counties and of many other places in the Territory have not had as yet, either Post office or Postroads established for their accommodation, and both are exceedingly desirable as some of the settlements in those new counties are from forty to sixty miles distant from a Post office, an inconvenience of no small consideration in these days of commotion when there are but few individuals who are not more than anxious to become acquainted with what is transpiring in the world at the earliest practicable date. In process of time, however, their prayers may be heard and answered, and they be numbered among the favored ones.

The Post office department will probably advertise for proposals for service on the new routes, soon after the adjournment of Congress, and when that shall be done, the citizens in the towns and villages through which the new routes pass, should lose no time in getting Post offices established and competent Post masters appointed, that the facilities extended may at once become subservient to the wants of the people.

FURTHER EFFECTS OF THE FLOOD.]

All the tributaries of the Jordan having commenced falling, it was believed on Wednesday last that no further damage to the roads and bridges in this county would be sustained; but on Thursday, a strong south wind prevailed, causing the waters of Utah Lake to pour out copiously; the consequence was, the Jordan, which had on Thursday morning receded some six inches, rose at night higher than it had been before by one inch, and on Friday morning the bridge across the slough on the road crossing the Jordan, near Taylorsville, went off, entirely obstructing the travel westward. It has since been rebuilt, and it may not be expected to go off again, unless a longer and stronger blow occurs than that which prevailed on Thursday last.

City Creek is falling rapidly. The only bridge across it left standing, within the limits of the corporation, west of Governor Young's premises, is the one at the intersection of East and North Temple Streets. The West Temple Street bridge became impassable for teams on the 3d inst., after the water had fallen considerably. A very little expense will make the stream fordable on First and Second West streets, which will accommodate the public till the bridges can be rebuilt.

THANNING THEM OUT.—It is reported that James Clift, a reputed thief and murderer who had to flee from Lower California, not many months since, to escape the gallows at the State prison, made his appearance at a station or trading post on the Overland route, in Dakota Territory, where he was soon after a rested, for stealing or some other crime, by those "in authority" at the post, and a court organized in modern military style, a trial had, the prisoner convicted and executed under the local "code" in less time than it takes for a grand jury to find a bill, when constitutional forms and rules are observed. Such proceedings have not been of unfrequent occurrence on the plains intervening between Salt Lake and the Missouri of late, and more than one alleged thief has been disposed of in that way.

SEVIER RIVER FERRY.—The traveling public, especially those desiring to go southward, beyond Nephi, may be glad to learn, that a ferry boat has been built at the crossing of the Sevier of sufficient capacity to carry any wagon, not a "land schooner," and by swimming their stock travelers can now pass in that direction without hindrance.