THE EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, - - - February 8, 1872.

BLACK JACK.

How Black Jack came to be sent out upon his adventures bestridden by so ill-sounding a name, never transpired, and if he ever possessed a civilized, Christian name, no one in those parts ever heard it. He was a man thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the frontier; and simplicity of character, personal courage, and dog-like faithfulness were to him natural gifts.

He was not black, and except that he had upon his skin the ineffaceable marks of sun and wind, would have been more than ordinarily fair. His hair was a reddish brown, and his keen blue eye had that steady and unflinching gaze which bespeaks in its own honesty without blemish, and vision without flaw.

It is not enough to say merely that Jack was a frontiersman, because in many instances that only expresses an accident, and not a character. He had that something about him which, while it can only exist on the border, is yet a part of the man. Though not a negative man, he was one of those of whom a clearer idea can be obtained by saying what he was not, than what he was. There is a whole world in which all the famous and remarkable, and nearly all the disgraceful and mean, transactions of mankind are performed, of which Jack knew nothing.

Women, in all the splendors of pearls of the ocean and gems of the mine, endowed with all the refinements of civilization, and the tact and delicacy born of cultivated life—bland, bewitching, and fearfully and wonderfully made up—he had never even seen. Femininity conveyed no such idea to him. The women he knew were only women in the broad sense in which female is not male. The wharfs and depots of crowded cities, the throng of the pavement and the exchange, the crowd and jam and bustle of trade, broad fields and paved roads, were all crowded out of his conceptions of life and men, and he had no speculations and opinions to digest concerning them. He had never heard the sound of church bells, and luckily for him, was entirely ignorant of the fateful differences in creeds which exist among those who diligently seek after the truth.

In his ignorance of all that is fashionable, and most that is bad, among civilized mankind, he was even ignorant of the praises and luxuries men sometimes earn by dying; and the velvet turf and shaded aisles, the fair monuments and flattering epitaphs, of Greenwood or Olivet would have filled him with astonishment. His was the rock-piled and lonely grave of the wilderness, and he never dreamed that a palace was necessary to the welfare of mouldering clay.

If the schoolmaster was ever abroad in Western Arkansas, where Jack first saw the light, the benign influence never reached his mind. He could not read, and was innocent of the primary rules of arithmetic, and everything else in the way of books. The immense literature of fiction and newspaperdom was something he had hardly heard of—and yet, (the fact is stated as a redeeming one,) he knew, traditionally as it were, some of Watts's hymns, and could repeat them with the same unction and pathos with which the childish and immortal lines are repeated by nearly all who speak the English tongue.

But Jack was not a grown-up child. He lacked none of the grand essentials which go to make up the curious biped whose ancestor was an ape and whose future is—doubtful. He spoke the mother tongue with a fluency equal to the requirements of his life, and he spiced and strengthened it with that piquant slang which expresses so much with so few words that it is a pity it is vulgar to use it. His most peculiar characteristic, however, was not an educational one. It consisted in the almost total absence of personal fear. Whole armies of men, surging masses which number many thousands, may, and often do, go through a long day of carnage without any instance of cowardice. But this is not the kind of courage he possessed. He limped, had lost a finger, and carried an ugly scar on his cheek. But all these had been obtained at different times, and all in Indian fights. But not for glory. With no particular interest at stake, pecuniary or otherwise, he still wandered through the canons and over the hills, alone, and solely bent on killing the game he loved to hunt; apparently unmoved by repeated encounters and former escapes. Unless questioned, he said nothing of his adventures. He seemed to be ignorant of any manner of life in the conditions of which was included the common essential of personal safety.

Nor was Jack an unsocial or solitary man. While he possessed the knowledge to go anywhere through a vast wilderness, he still availed himself, when he could, of the society of his fellow-men. He was employed as a laborer in and around the ranche of one Newsome, near a military post. He was faithful and hard-working, and in the course of his duty undertook alone to plow and sow in wheat a piece of land on the Rio Mimbres, twenty miles from any house, and in a country much prized and persistently defended by the Apaches. He plowed with his revolvers upon his belt and his rifle in his hand. He fought the prairie fire, always a fearful enemy in the wilderness, which his enemies had lighted to consume his cabin. He watched his mules night after night, sleepless and undismayed, to save them from capture, when he knew that his inveterate enemies were near. And when the final and decided attack came, he drove his team before him, and defended them from behind; finally got them into the cabin where he slept, barred the door and drove off a score of Indians by firing through the chinks of the house, and finally came off victor, though wounded.

There is a certain fire-arm, which all have seen, and with which many are familiar. The name of the inventor has gone down to posterity with some thing very like renown. Skillfully handled, this weapon is one which few like to face. It is a small arsenal of rapid and sudden death, and a single man, skilled in the use of Colt's revolver, and sure of his weapon and his aim, is almost equal to six men, each armed with a weapon which fires but a single shot. In the use of this pretty toy, Black Jack was a miracle, even among his skilful companions, he would discharge a dozen shots with a rapidity and certainty fearful to contemplate in connection with the soft and penetrable quality of human tissue. He was a walking *mitrailleuse*. Those two plaything of his, worn smooth by constant use, never left his person, and in his pouch he carried two extra cylinders ready for insertion.

To be continued.

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Every family in the Territory should be in possession of them. They will enable to CUT and FIT PERFECTLY, any one without trying on, all styles of Dresses, Sacques, Sleeves, Wrappers, Cloaks, &c., of the LATEST FASHIONS. Also Children's Clothing, Coats, Pants and Vests.

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ANGUS M. CANNON,

SALT LAKE CITY.

General Agent for Utah.

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NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Daniel H. Wells, of Salt Lake City, U. T., did on the first day of November, 1871, enter in the Land Office at Salt Lake City, U. T., for the benefit and home of the owners, the following described land, namely: Lots 1 and 2 and S ½ of Sec. 31, S ½ of Sec. 32, W ½ of Sec. 33, the E ½ of E ½ of Sec. 34, and Lots 1 and 2 in Sec. 35, all in Township 1 S., R 1 W., containing in all 1,280 acres and 65 hundredths.

ANY PERSON or PERSONS having claims in the above survey or any part thereof will file the same with the Clerk of the County Court of Salt Lake County before the first day of May, 1872, as prescribed by law.

DANIEL H. WELLS, Mayor.

Salt Lake City, Nov. 24, 1871.

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WM. H. H. SHARP, S. D.,

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