

The Mother's Defense.—A tale of the frontier war.

"My husband's rifle," she shouted, and springing to her feet and rushing across the cabin, she tore the weapon and accoutrements from the wall; but on trying the ramrod it proved to be unloaded. She thrust her hand in the pouch, but it contained nothing but musket balls, that her husband had purchased a few days before, to run into bullets suitable for his rifle.

The powder horn was full, but of what use was the powder without the ball? Dropping the weapon, she wrung her hands in despair. Suddenly an idea struck her—she seized one of the balls, placed it between her teeth, and by a tremendous exertion bit it in two. Dashing a charge of powder into the barrel, she rammed down one of the fragments, primed and cocked the piece, and the next moment its muzzle protruded, through the aperture and covered the body of the chief, now advancing at the head of the party toward the house.

The quick eye of the savage caught the glimmer of the sight, as the sun fell upon it, and he stopped; but before he had time to make a rush, Miriam's finger pressed the trigger. When the puff of smoke at a distance had cleared away, she saw him clattering in the air in the effort to recover himself. Before the other Indians, who seemed paralyzed by the unexpected catastrophe, could afford him any assistance, he threw his hand above his head, and whirling quietly around, fell upon his face. A shout of triumph burst from the lips of Miriam, as she saw the effect of the avenging shot, and then retiring from the loop-hole, she commenced reloading the rifle.

The Indians remained motionless for a few moments, transfixed with astonishment, then lifting the body of the chief, withdrew to a respectful distance from the cabin, and the inmates half believed their peril was over. But they were deceived.

After getting out of gun-shot, the savages clustered together and appeared for several minutes to be in close conversation. At the expiration of their pow-wow, having apparently agreed upon their plan of action, the whole gang took open order, and dashed at full run, with wild yells, towards the house.

As the foremost came up Miriam Cook, who was now stationed at another loop-hole, again discharged her rifle, and the unlucky Wyandot shot through both legs, dropped in his tracks with an involuntary shriek of agony. The others kept on, and reached the cabin, six of them clambered on the roof, and the five who remained upon the ground commenced firing on the door and cutting openings in the logs.—Those upon the roof quickly kindled a fire on the shingles, and they were soon in a blaze. The destruction of the cabin and its inmates now appeared inevitable.

There was a hogshead half full of water in the house. Miriam, bucket in hand, mounted to the loft; Hope and Alice supplied her with water from below, by which she contrived to extinguish the flames as fast as they broke out, while she herself, enveloped and almost suffocated by steam and smoke, was invisible to the assailants.

At length the water was exhausted, and one of the Indians, observing that the efforts of the besieged party were slackening ventured to poke his head through one of the holes that had been burning in the roof, to see how the land lay. The undaunted Miriam was standing within a few feet of the opening, and that instant she whirled the empty bucket around her head, and with a powerful effort struck him directly in the forehead with the sharp edge of the staves. She heard the bones crush and the victim groan, and a moment after he was drawn away by his companions, three of whom descended from the roof bearing him in their arms.

Miriam now thought she heard the two remaining savages tearing the foundation from the chimney, and presuming they intended to attempt an entrance in that way, she ran down stairs to prepare for them.

"The feather bed! the feather bed!" she shouted as she reached the lower room, and this prized article in a frontiersman's inventory of household chattels was quickly brought forth and piled into the huge fire-place. By this time, one of the Indians had fairly got into the chimney, and the other was about to follow. "Thrust the lighted brands into it, quick," said Alice, and in a moment clouds of smoke from the burning feathers were ascending the chimney. The savage made an effort to scramble up again, but the pungent effluvia of the feathers overcame him, and he fell heavily on the hearth-stone. In the meantime Miriam had grasped the rifle, and held it ready for his reception. Scarcely had he touched the floor, when the iron-bound point of the breech crushed his skull. The other, who had caught a whiff of the vapor in time to avoid a like fate, hastily descended from the roof.

Four of the thirteen Indians were already killed, but these casualties only added new fury to the remainder. They well knew that the cabin was occupied by women only, and nothing could be more degrading in the estimation of the swarthy warriors, than to be baffled by a parcel of squaws.

They now furiously assailed the door with tomahawks. To this proceeding, the inmates could offer no resistance. In striking the savage who had fallen down the chimney, Miriam had broken the lock of her husband's rifle, the only one they had, and now handing the weapon to her sister-in-law, she armed herself with the axe of young McAndre, which stood in the corner, and prepared herself for the last extremity. Alice betook herself to a very formidable weapon, the slaughter knife of the establishment; and thus armed, the three women arranged themselves on either side of the door, determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible.

In half an hour, the Indians had nearly cut through two planks of the door beneath the bar, a space just sufficient for a man to force his body through in a stooping posture. They brought heavy pieces of wood from the adjacent pile, and

using them as battering rams, soon beat in the weakened portions of the door, at the same time driving the articles which had been piled against it into the middle of the room. Taught caution by the losses they had sustained, they did not immediately attempt an ingress through the aperture, but thrusting in and crossing their rifles, discharged them into the house. In this they had a double design—that of killing or maiming some of the occupants, and getting in under cover of the smoke.

Before the deafening sound had ceased the feather-crested head of a Wyandot warrior parted the smoke-cloud that had obscured the interior; but as he arose from a stooping posture, Miriam's axe descended with tremendous force, cutting through the shoulder and collar bone into the chest. He dropped with a wild cry; half defiance and half agony.

Another savage followed, and another, each to sink in turn under the axe of the courageous matron. The fifth she missed, but instantly grappled with him, holding him powerless to her bosom. Of the next two that entered, one was disabled by a blow on the head from Hope's rifle, and the other well nigh decapitated by the cleaver in the hands of Alice.

Of the thirteen bronzed warriors who had left their tribe for the war but a few days before, only two remained unwounded and capable of service; and they, seized with a panic at the havoc made among their companions by the "long knife squaws," abandoned their design, and fled back to the village. To the wounded left behind no quarter was given. To have spared them, would have been treason to the dead. Miriam's axe and the long knife of Alice made short work of them; this duty fulfilled, the family lost no time in proceeding to Frankfort.

The next day a hundred mounted frontiersmen assembled, and after bringing in the bodies of the Cooks and McAndres, started for the next Wyandot village to take a wholesome revenge.

Living by One's Wits.

Nine persons sailed from Basle down the Rhine. A Jew who wished to go to Schalampi, was allowed to come on board and journey with them on condition that he would conduct himself with propriety, and give the captain eighteen kreutzers for his passage.

Now, it is true something jingled in the Jew's pocket when he struck his hand against it; but the only money there was therein was a twelve-kreutzer piece, for the other was a brass button. Notwithstanding this he accepted the offer with gratitude; for he thought to himself "something may be earned, even upon the water. There is many a man who has grown rich upon the Rhine."

During the first part of the voyage, the passengers were very talkative and merry, and the Jew, with his wallet under his arm—for he did not lay it aside—was the object of much mirth and mockery, as, alas! is often the case with those of his nation. But as the vessel sailed onward, and passed Thurington and Saint Veit, the passengers, one after the other, grew silent gazed down the river, until one spoke out:—

"Come, Jew, do you know any pastime that will amuse us? Your fathers must have contrived many a one during their long stay in the wilderness."

"Now is the time," thought the Jew, "to shear my sheep!" And he proposed that they should sit round in a circle, and propound curious questions to each other, and he, with their permission, would sit down with them. Those who could not answer the questions, should pay the one who propounded them a twelve-kreutzer piece; and those who answered them pertinently, should receive a twelve-kreutzer piece.

The proposal pleased the company, and hoping to divert themselves with the Jew's wit or stupidity, each one asked at random, whatever entered his head.

Thus, for example, the first one asked:—"How many soft boiled eggs could the giant Goliath eat upon an empty stomach?"

All said that it was impossible to answer that question, and each paid over his twelve kreutzers.

But the Jew said, "One; for he who has eaten one egg cannot eat a second one on an empty stomach," and the other paid him twelve kreutzers.

The second thought, wait Jew, and I will try you out of the New Testament, and I think I shall win my piece: "Why did the Apostle Paul write the second epistle to the Corinthians?"

The Jew said:—"Because he was not in Corinth, otherwise he would have spoken to them." So he won another twelve kreutzer piece.

When the third found the Jew so well versed in the Bible, he tried him in a different way.

"Who prolongs his work to as great a length as possible, and yet completes it in time?"

"The rope maker if he is industrious," said the Jew.

In the meanwhile they drew near to a village, and one said to the other, "That is Bamlach."

Then the fourth asked, "in what month do the people of Bamlach eat the least?"

The Jew said, "In February, for that has only twenty-eight days."

The fifth said, "There are two natural brothers, and still only one of them is my uncle."

The Jew said: "The uncle is your father's brother, and your father is not your uncle."

A fish now jumped out of the water, and the sixth asked, "What fish have their eyes nearest together?"

The Jew said, "The smallest."

The seventh asked, "How can a man ride from Basle to Bern in the shade, in the summer time, when the sun shines?"

The Jew said; "When he comes to a place

where there is no shade, he must dismount and go on foot."

The eighth asked: "When a man rides in the winter time from Bern to Basle and has forgotten his gloves, how must he manage so that his hands shall not freeze?"

The Jew said: "He must make fists out of them."

The ninth was the last. This one asked:—"How can five persons divide five eggs so that each man shall receive one, and still one remain in the dish?"

The Jew said: "The last must take the dish with the egg, and can let it lay there as long as he pleases."

But now it came to his turn, and he determined to make a good sweep. After many preliminary compliments he asked with an air of mischievous friendliness.

"How can a man fry two trouts in three pans so that a trout may lay in each pan?"

No one could answer this, and one after the other gave him a twelve kreutzer piece.

But when the ninth desired that he should answer it himself, he frankly acknowledged that he knew not how the trout could be fried in such a way!

Then it was maintained that this was unfair in the Jew, but he stoutly affirmed that there was no provision for it in the agreement, save that he who could not answer the questions should pay the kreutzers, and fulfilled the agreement by paying that sum on the ninth of his comrades who had asked him to solve it himself. But they all being rich merchants, and grateful for the amusement which had passed an hour or two very pleasantly for them, laughed heartily over their loss and at the Jew's cunning.

NEW WAR PROJECTILE.—A remarkable series of experiments were made yesterday in the grounds adjoining Chelsea Hospital, by Captain Disney, the inventor of a new war projectile, which he states has been brought before the notice of the proper authorities, but does not yet appear to have been adopted in the service.—

The invention is one of a very simple description, and there seems to be no good reason why it should not be used with great advantage in the contest in which we are now engaged with Russia. It consists in fitting shells with a bursting charge of powder contained in a metal cylinder, and filling the rest of their space with a highly combustible fluid, which upon exposure to the air ignites everything with which it is brought into contact.

This fluid does not act upon the substance of the shell, is not of itself explosive, and being prevented from leaking by a nicely-fitted brass screw-plug, enables the missile to be carried about without much risk. Directed against ships or houses, or masses of troops, the new projectile would have all the destructive properties of the rocket, without its uncertainty of aim. Water only temporarily extinguishes its incandescent power, which is so great as to make even woollen materials burn with a quick flame. Captain Disney also states that by a similar use of another chemical fluid he can cause blindness for several hours to all troops coming within a quarter of a mile of its operation; but this portion of his experiments was, for obvious reasons, omitted. Applied to hand-grenades, the substance which he exhibited yesterday would be found very destructive, but its chief use would probably be as a charge for large shells. As the Select Committee of the Ordnance has now been reformed and enlarged, the attention which it pays to this and other inventions of apparently a practical character will be narrowly watched by the public.—[Times.

The preparations made by the Allies for wintering in the Crimea are of truly astonishing proportions. Kamiesch, Balaklava, Eupatoria, and Yenikale, have become military establishments of immense importance. The works at the two first named places more particularly are of a character to retain their importance even if the siege of Sebastopol were abandoned.

The possession of these positions will compel the Russians to keep a large army in the Crimea. It is believed that the arrangements for the campaign of 1856 include the concentration of an army at Verna, Burgos, and on the Bosphorus, while the field artillery, cavalry, and means of transport, will be stronger than that in the Crimea, and to which detachments of the army now in the Crimea would be added preparatory to operations in a new field. Whether the Karabelnaia suburb be taken and the Russian fleet destroyed, or the next assault be repulsed, the siege will equally be raised, and only the four points above named be occupied.—[Vienna Military Gazette.

THE WINGED TORTOISE.—A letter from Paris states that the existence of that curious phenomenon, the winged tortoise, has at length been fully established. Two of these curious creatures have been received from Surinam by M. de Cailiard. They evidently belong to some hitherto undescribed species of coleoptra, the shell being divided by an apparent or false suture, and the sides presenting projections which resemble feet.

Flour and Wheat
TAKEN in exchange for Goods at
the Deseret Store. 37-3m.

RAGS! RAGS! RAGS!!
DAVIS COUNTY PAPER MILL.—
Wanted immediately, any quantity of cotton and linen Rags, which will be received at the Tithing Office, G. S. L. City, and the amount credited on tithing.
25-3m. HOLLIS & GEPSON.

JUST PUBLISHED!
NEW and Improved Edition of Pitman's PHONOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTOR, by J. V. Long.
All the Lessons are printed from neatly executed engravings, and the books can soon be obtained of the Publisher by those who wish to teach or study Phonography. 44-3t.

REMOVAL OF BUSINESS.
H. J. JARVIS respectfully informs his friends and the public generally, that he has removed to his New Premises, two Blocks west of Temple Block.
All kinds of produce taken in exchange for Goods.
H. J. J. has in operation one of Tindall's Patent Pressing Machines, for pressing Linseys, Flannels, Family Linen, &c., on reasonable terms.
44-3t.

DANCING SCHOOL.
GEORGE GODDARD can accommodate a few more scholars, to fill up a second class for Monday evenings, and will take wood, lumber, store orders or anything else that is good for payment, and for a third class of 30 couple to meet on Tuesday evenings he will take pay on the Tithing office. Those who wish for improvement in the art of Dancing will find this a very favorable opportunity, and will please make immediate application. GEORGE GODDARD, Proprietor.
44-2t. O. F. ATWOOD, Dancing Master.

Saddler and Harness Manufactory.

J. JENKINS, from London, takes the opportunity of informing the citizens and the surrounding neighborhood that he has commenced in the aforesaid line, and hopes by strict attention to the same, by good work and materials, to ensure public patronage.

N.B.—A good assortment of Saddles and Harness always on hand. Old Harness bought or taken in exchange for New.

Shop at north end of the Union Hotel, opposite Union Square, 17th Ward.
43-3m.

GEORGE GODDARD'S
REFRESHMENT SALOON, Bakery
and Confectionary Establishment.

Hot Dinners from 12 till 2 o'clock every day, and other refreshments at all hours, with Tea and Coffee at 5 cents per cup.

Roast Beef - - - 10 cents per plate.
Vegetables - - - 5
Bread - - - 5
A cup of Coffee - - 5

25 cents, making a moderate meal for a moderate appetite at a moderate cost.

Thirty couple can be comfortably seated in a warm room with a good supper, well cooked and genteelly served up, whenever required, at G. GODDARD'S.

Thirty couple can be accommodated in Goddard's Hall, with good music, for a dance on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday evenings.

Suppers prepared to order at G. G.'s.
Merchants and pedlars supplied with all kinds of Candles on liberal terms by G. GODDARD.

Cash paid for Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Fat Turkeys, Chickens, Ducks, Hares, Geese, Pigeons, Corn Meal, Flour, Parsley, Winter Savory and Thyme. 44-4t.

GREAT LAND SALE
TO PAY the delinquent WATER

TAXES. The following 5 acre lots will be offered for sale by Public Auction at 12 o'clock on Saturday the 15th of January 1856, near the Sugar House Ward School-house; excepting such lots as may be redeemed before the hour of sale.

Joseph Bat	Lot	12	on Block	1	tax \$3.25
Addison Everett	13			1	1.25
William Empey	4			16	1.50
J G Hardy	6			16	2.50
Hyrum Mikesell	7			16	2.50
Lewis Neely	8			16	1.50
William Swope	20			16	1.50
Christian Christiansen	3			17	2.25
Benjamin Covey	5			17	3.75
Maxfield	7			17	1.50
Torson Simpson	6			15	8.25
J Everett	8			15	4.75
John Ellis	1			18	6.00
Thomas Harey	2			18	2.50
J Coats	3			18	1.50
J Malen	7			18	1.50
John Carter	8			18	4.25
David Rogers	15			18	2.50

CHARLES KENNEDY, Water Master.

Sugar House Ward, Dec. 25, 1855.

N.B.—Others whose bills are unpaid will soon appear. So look out. 43-3t.

DESERET NEWS:

Printed every Wednesday,
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Six Dollars per Annum, in Advance:

OFFICE—POST OFFICE BUILDING.

AGENTS.
The following persons are requested to act as Agents for the Deseret News, Vol. 5:

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