

Friday, Dec. 4, 1874.

A Sad-Eyed Man.

HOW JACK CHANDLER GOT EVEN WITH CONKLING.

I do not care to say that Chandler drinks to excess; he might arrest me for criminal libel, but I think I may venture, with impunity, to the statement that he is not a strictly temperate man, and that after dinner he inclines to become excessively garrulous. A friend reports me a sample of Chandler's style, as follows: Chandler loves to boast of his strength. Upon this particular occasion he raised his arm over his head.

"See my muscle," said he, "I can lick any man of my size anywhere, if I am an old man; that is because I am old in the business. But I won't lick a man of my size about me, and I would lick him, but Don Pot is no gentleman. George Townsend I was going to lick once for telling a dam lie about me, and I hunted him for over a week, but before I found him, I learned that he was no gentleman, and so his hide was wasted."

Chandler's great hobby is his skill as a pugilist. Roscoe Conkling is also a great boxer. He has a private gymnasium in his residence at Washington, where after dinner he invites such of his friends as are gymnastically inclined for a friendly little bout with the gloves. Conkling is a very good and a fair boxer, and as he is a very large, powerful man, he generally has it his own way with the guests who are bold enough to put the gloves on with him. For some time there was an open dispute between Chandler and Conkling which was the better boxer of the two. Chandler would, after every dinner party of which he was a member, calmly assert that he could lick any man of his weight in the United States. One day last winter Chandler dined with Conkling, and the latter invited the great war Senator into his private gymnasium. The gloves were donned, and the two doughy champions passed a few minutes in a friendly bout, but the result was a draw. Chandler suddenly received a blow between the eyes, which caused the huge senatorial form to go over backward; his trusty legs failed him, and then he set down so hard that years came out of his eyes. It took four men to get the war Senator upon his legs, but he threw up the sponge at once, without any further attempt to punish Conkling. The only remark he was heard to make was, "Damn strange," and "I'll fix him yet."

Conkling and Chandler were much together in a social way, and it was not long after the above occurrence when Chandler received another invitation to come up to his house and spread his legs under Conkling's feet. Chandler, who had been told that he regretted very much his inability to be present, but he had a guest at his house, a valued constituent from Michigan, and he could not leave him. Conkling sent back word, "Bring your friend along." With this form of invitation Chandler consented to come up. He brought his friend with him, and introduced him as Howard, of Detroit, Michigan. Howard was a sad-eyed man of different manners, who contented himself with paying a very close attention to the themes of the bill of fare rather than to join in the general conversation at the dinner table. Conkling was in great glee during the dinner. He told over and over again the story of Chandler's discomfiture as a boxer, and never seemed to tire of asking him what he thought of his ability to lick any man in the United States. Chandler took all these remarks in an absent-minded way, as if, suddenly, he had become lifted above any such ambition of considering himself a fine athlete. After dinner, Conkling led his guests into the gymnasium for a general smoke and chat.

"Come," said he, pleasantly, to Chandler, "don't let me want to beat with the gloves," and then Conkling laughed again in his most cheerful, turkey-gobbler style, as he put on a pair of gloves.

"No, I don't want to box," said Chandler, "but perhaps my friend here would consent to amuse you." Turning to Howard, Chandler remarked, "You box, do you not?"

Howard still looked sad-eyed and absent-minded. He did once know something about it, but it was such a long time ago.

"Come, come," said Conkling, "let us have a friendly bout. I won't hurt you."

Evidently the great New York Senator was plying to knock some one down. The sad-eyed Howard, evidently flattered at the prospect of being knocked down by the distinguished man, began slowly to put on a pair of gloves. As he was drawing on the gloves, Chandler was observed to walk down a little to the background. A contented look was on his face, and every now and then he would raise his huge right foot up under his swaying voluminous coat-tail and give himself a congratulatory kick, expressive of rapture.

The sad-eyed man now came forward, and the round began. Conkling was for proceeding at once to knock his opponent down, and he would have done so had he not found great difficulty in getting anywhere near the sad-eyed man. The affair culminated by the sad-eyed man's suddenly rushing forward and landing a thunderbolt of a fist between Conkling's eyes. The Senator with over fifty years of age, and rolled into the corner of the room, where he lay for a moment stunned by the concussion. He was heard to say afterward he thought the house had fallen on him.

Conkling had enough of boxing for once. Chandler made several pleasant little remarks about the skill of his friend Conkling, which were not received in the most cheerful way. Judge of Conkling's feelings the next day when he learned that Chandler had played a joke upon him by giving Howard \$100 to come up and bounce Conkling. The Howard, of Detroit, Michigan, was none other than the notorious pugilist Jim Mac-Grady, of Pittsburg Leader.

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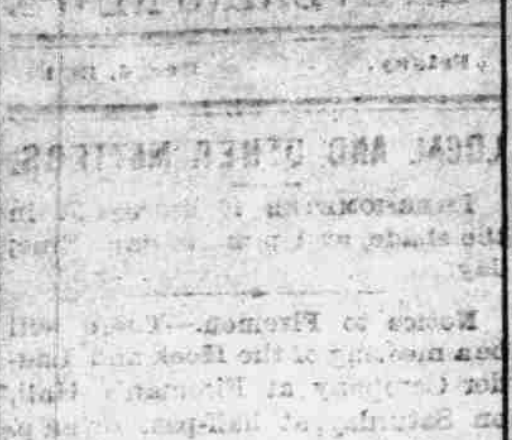
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