

The Story of Ben. Wright and the Modocs.

SALEM, Oregon, April 28, 1873.

I had intended to obtain and write up facts as to the history of Ben. Wright, and of any treachery he may have been guilty of towards the Modocs. But I see that the facts are to be all made public through the Yreka papers, and I shall watch the appearance of the article with interest. I can, however, give some facts as to Ben. Wright and his own version of the story, which he told to J. L. Parrish some years afterwards, for Parrish was an Indian agent among the tribes along the coast of southern Oregon from 1854 to 1856, I think, and he informs me that he had Wright in his employ, and for four months the latter accompanied him in all his journeys up and down the coast making treaties with the various coast tribes. As this happened almost twenty years ago my informant's memory of details and of dates and numbers may not be perfect, but he cannot be mistaken as to the general facts. Parrish was one of the early missionaries of the M. E. Church, and is one of the best known citizens of this State. Ben. Wright told him that he went in 1852, or thereabouts, with a company of volunteers from northern California to chastise the Modocs for depredations they had committed, and that they were scattered around among the tule lakes so that he could not find them until he made a great feast and invited them into camp to partake of it. While they were there eating he killed the chief, who sat next to him, with his own hand, and his men killed all but three, who escaped. His remembrance is that Wright told him that there were seventy Indians killed. He speaks of Wright as a man of small size, light hair flowing to the shoulders, personally very brave and possessing many warm friends. Wright was afterwards sub-Indian agent there and he was himself a victim of Indian treachery, being betrayed by his guide and killed by Indians about the year 1856. Some one has told me that the cave in the lava beds was known as Ben. Wright's cave formerly, from some fact connected with his raid in 1852. Scar-faced Charley, it is said, lost his father at the feast massacre in 1852, and it may be very possible that the revenge which had slumbered for twenty years culminated in the treachery that basely murdered General Canby and Dr. Thomas only the other day.—*Sacramento Union.*

A Rich Scene in a Smoking Car.

An amusing incident occurred recently in the smoking car of a C. C. & I. R. R. train between Shelby and this city. A woman with a poodle dog entered the car just prior to the departure of the train from the former point, and after depositing her dog on one seat, turned over the back of another one, so that each seat faced the other. Together she and her canine companion thus monopolized two entire seats.

Appearances seemed to indicate that the car was one exclusively for the convenience of those addicted to the use of the "weed;" but of this fact she was soon apprised by the conductor, who advised her to obtain a seat in another car, informing her at the same time that the accommodation in the way of seats in the other coaches were superior to those where she was then. However, she insisted on remaining, urging that her presence would deter the occupants of the car from smoking, and she would consequently experience no discomfort from tobacco fumes. Long before the train reached this city, however, a gentleman sitting directly in front of her produced his case and taking therefrom a cigar began puffing away at it in a manner which seemed peculiarly calculated to aggravate the "strong-minded" woman immediately back of him. In an instant, by a strategic movement, she wrested the obnoxious cigar from his mouth and threw it out of the window, exclaiming, "If there is anything I do hate, it is tobacco smoke."

The passengers who had witnessed the affair were convulsed with laughter, but the offending smoker suppressed whatever emotions may have been struggling for expression in words or action and maintained throughout the same imperturbable gravity which had characterized him from the first. Calmly rising

from his seat, he opened the window nearest him, fastened it up, and reached over the seat back of him, took that woman's poodle dog and threw him out of the window and as far beyond as possible, at the same time saying, "If there is anything I do hate it's a poodle dog!"

The scene which followed beggars description. The car resounded with peal after peal of laughter, and as the extreme ludicrousness of the affair became apparent to the principal actors in it, they too joined with the rest. Despite the regret incident to the loss of her dog, the woman could not repress her inclination to laugh at the unexpected finale of the affair.—*Cleveland Times.*

The New Orleans *Picayune* gratifies its readers with the statement that the human family has features in common with the vegetable—as thus: corn has ears, barley stocks have corns, cypresses have knees, apples have blushes, locust trees have spines, and bulrushes have cat tails.

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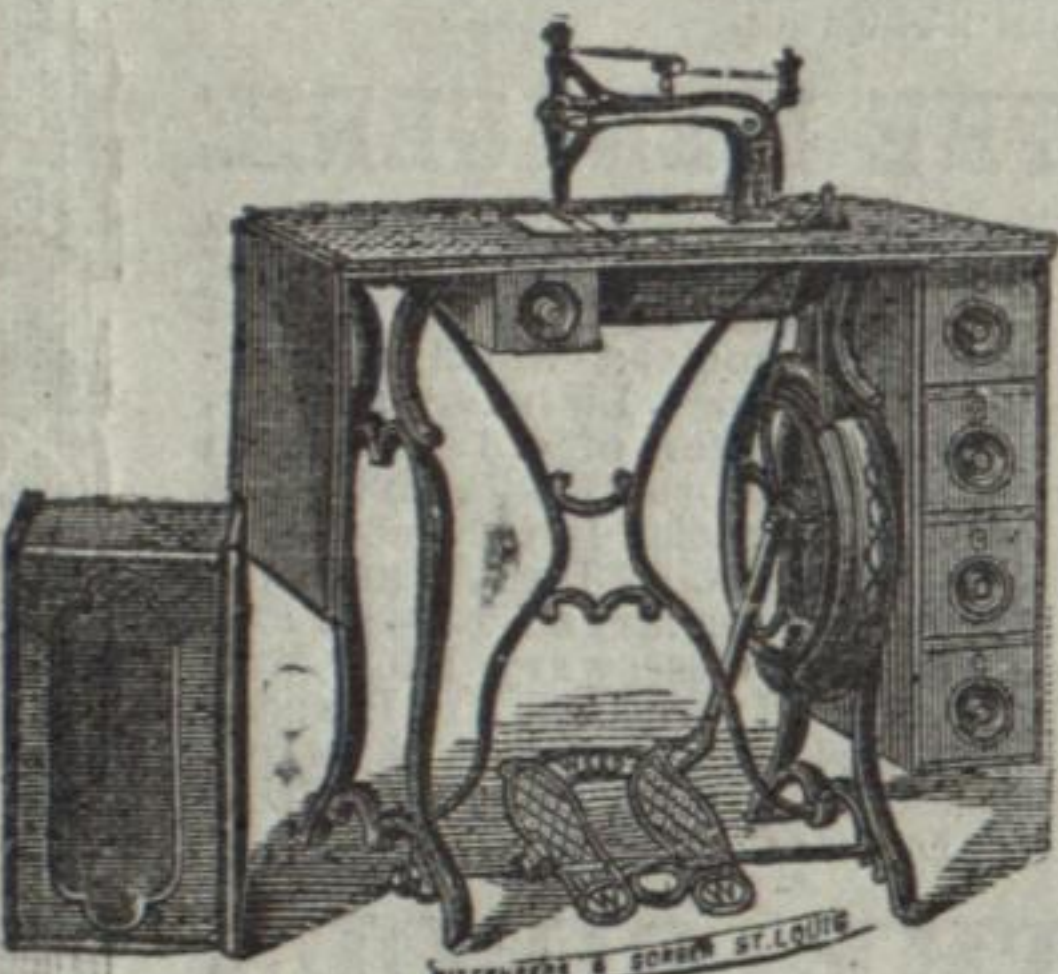
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