

AMERTON.

I thought, I hoped, I knew one thing.
And had one gift when I was young—
The impulse and the power to sing,
And so I sung.

To have a place in the high choir
Of one of the most daring songmen
What more could mortal man desire
Than poet's fame?

I sought it long, but never found:
The choir so full was, and so strong
The jubilation there, they drowned
My simple song.

The best of life went long ago
From me; it was not much at best;
Only the love that young hearts know,
The dear unrest.

A BIG BEAR FIGHT.

Col. J. W. Hall, for whom the famous Hall's Valley in Colorado was named, was one of the most daring sportsmen that the State of Territory ever knew. With a brilliant war record, which advanced him from the ranks to the position of brevet brigadier-general, although he was best known as the Colonel of the Fourth Michigan Infantry—he went to Colorado in 1866 and became cashier in a bank in Georgetown. He was a man of splendid physique and indomitable courage, and was very fond of the excitement of big game hunting. It was bear hunting, however, which afforded him the greatest relief. The greater the danger the keener the pleasure he derived from it, and this utter lack of fear involved him in many perilous situations, where only his marvelous nerve, activity and marksmanship saved him from death. On more than one occasion was it reported that he had been killed, but he always bobbed up serenely and with an enthusiasm which made him a man to be reckoned with.

He was a man to whom money quickly came and from whom it went almost as quickly, and some of his hunting trips were conducted on a scale of splendid prodigality befitting a multimillionaire. Particularly was this the case with the memorable trip which he made into Middle and North parks in 1877, with Sir George Prescott and other titled Englishmen as his guests. He, in fact, brought them over from England, and as a sample of the manner in which he treated them it may be said that the expenses of the party while stopping at the Glisley House, in New York, were over \$500 a day, all of which the Colonel, of course, paid.

The hunting trip was planned on a most elaborate scale. There were some thirty or thirty-five pack animals, while six or eight servants were taken along. The party went to North Park and down into the White River country, where game was abundant, and the sport was of the finest possible character. Enough bear, elk, black tail deer, mountain sheep, antelope, etc., were killed to satisfy even the proverbial love of the Briton for the sport, and that is saying a good deal. Col. Hill got his share of the spoils, and while he found pleasure in the stalk of elk, deer or sheep, his especial delight came when he was in pursuit of bruin, and the most of his time was spent in this way.

Some of his time, however, was spent in laying up for repairs, and especially was this the case after his encounter one day with a huge "cinnamon," which came near to finishing him.

The guide of the party and the head packer was Charley Utter, known afterward as "Colorado Charley," a widely known and picturesque character. One morning he told the Colonel of the discovery of the fresh tracks of an enormous bear near a spring some little distance from the camp, and so fervently did he dwell on the size of the tracks and so positively declare that the maker of them must have weighed at least 1,000 pounds, that the Colonel was soon all eagerness for the fray, and with but little delay started out in quest of the game. Utter said that the tracks led toward a deep, heavily timbered gulch to the north of the spring, and expressed the belief that there was a good chance of starting the bear there. The Colonel, a brother of Sir George, and another Englishman by the name of Nesbitt, both keen sportsmen, accompanied the Colonel. They also took with them a dog named Prince, a cross between a greyhound and staghound, a courageous and courageous animal, which had on more than one occasion demonstrated the value of his presence to hunting parties. He had a fairly good nose, but the greyhound instinct caused him to rely more upon his sight than scent.

The tracks were easily found, and their size fully confirmed all of Utter's statements regarding them. Prince took up the trail readily, for the scent was warm, and led the way over toward and into the gulch which Utter had mentioned. Heavy cover lay along its bottom, composed for the greater part of chaparral, and through this the trail led. Thinking that the bear might hear those in pursuit and thus succeed in evading them, in case he was resting, as they supposed somewhere in the gulch, the Colonel told the others to remain where they were with the dog, while he made a slight detour and gained a position considerably in advance, hoping in this way to intercept the retreat of the bear. They were to wait half an hour, and during that time the Colonel succeeded in gaining a bit of comparatively open ground a mile or more ahead of where the party had stopped. There were a few scattering small pines, but for the space of 200 yards extending across the bottom of the gulch the view was comparatively open. The Colonel took his position in a small clump of bushes near the center, and there he waited.

Nearly an hour passed uneventfully, and he was beginning to think the bear had been ahead of him, when suddenly he detected the movements of a large animal in the timber on the extreme eastern edge of the gulch. It was but a momentary glimpse that he caught of it, but it satisfied him that it was the bear. The animal was moving rapidly, as if aware of the fact that he was being pursued, and the Colonel saw with a sharp pang of regret that he was just about to spring to his feet and start in pursuit, when a quick glance revealed to him the fact that the bear would in a moment emerge into a bit of open ground, and, throwing his rifle to his shoulder in readiness, Col. Hall prepared to make a try at a rather forlorn chance, for the bear was a hundred yards away, and he would have

but a moment's sight of him. In another moment the bear appeared in view, and just as his head was disappearing in the bushes on the other side the Colonel fired. There was a quick, convulsive movement on the part of the bear which told that the bullet had not gone entirely wrong, and then the animal disappeared in the cover. Re-loading his rifle, the Colonel hastened in the direction the bear had taken, and had not progressed far before he had evidence that the bear had received an ugly wound, for the leaves and grass were thickly sprinkled with blood. In this way he followed the trail four or five hundred yards, it leading along the side of the mountain and then descending into the heavy cover of the bottom.

So engrossed was he in watching for those blood marks, and so confident was he that the bear was too badly wounded to give much fight—although that was a matter that never troubled him—that he pushed along without taking the precaution to keep a sharp lookout ahead. Suddenly the bushes beside him were violently shaken, and the bear with a fierce growl was upon him. The bear had cunningly doubled on its tracks and laid in wait for its pursuer. The enormous size and fierce aspect of the enraged animal, and its sudden and unexpected onslaught so startled the Colonel that for a moment he was dazed; but in an instant he recovered his wits, and, realizing that he had no time to throw his gun to his shoulder, he simply held it almost against the advancing bear and fired. A sharp cry of pain and rage greeted the report, and the next moment a stroke of the bear's paw dashed the gun from the Colonel's grasp.

The Colonel sprang to one side, hoping to escape the bear's rush, but he was only partially successful, for a sweeping blow of one of the great paws struck his thigh a glancing blow and threw him off his balance. He fell to the ground, and the bear, with a savage roar, rushed at him, and just as the Colonel regained his feet it was upon him. The Colonel, when he was drawn his long hunting knife, and as the bear rushed upon him he drove it deep into the great shaggy neck. Then he was dashed violently to the ground, and so dazed was he for a few moments that he would doubtless have fallen an easy victim to the bear's fury had not an unexpected and most welcome diversion been made.

At the sound of the Colonel's first shot, Prince, who was very fond of him, dashed away from the two Englishmen in the direction of the sound, and was evidently close by, for, locating the sound of the second shot, he dashed in that direction, and arrived just as the bear sent the Colonel to the ground for the second time. Prince rushed straight at the bear and laid a savage hold of the latter's hamstring, a favorite method of attack for him, and by which he has brought many a lordly bull elk to his sudden squatted, and then quickly turned about to face his new adversary. Around and around him the dog dashed, worrying him so with his agile and fierce tactics that he soon forgot all about the Colonel.

The latter soon recovered his wits, and, fearing lest he should attract the bear's attention, he crawled cautiously some little distance until he had gained a friendly cover, when he quickly made a circuit to where his gun lay, and then the battle was soon over. The wounds which the bear had previously received had, however, begun to tell on him very perceptibly, and it was evident that he would not have survived them long. He was a huge fellow, those who saw him estimating his weight to be at least 800 pounds. He was too large to be packed into camp, and unfortunately his fur was too poor to be worth skinning.

Oysters Can Be Disciplined.
This is how they are taught to discipline their mouths shut on a long journey, and thus preserve their perfect condition. The newly dredged oysters are placed in water; then occasionally during the day the water is run off, leaving the oysters uncovered and otherwise unaccommodated. During the first time the oysters are uncovered, a great number of them open their shells, and these probably feel very uncomfortable until the water covers them again. After a few lessons of this kind, the oysters slowly learn not to open their shells when they are expected to keep them closed. From being at first only a very short time out of water, they are taught to bear longer and longer exposures to the air, until they have thoroughly learned the lesson of keeping their shells closed. Then, when they are sent to the Paris markets, they arrive with closed shells, and in a nice, healthy condition.

Catching Whales by Nets.
In New Zealand the old-fashioned methods in use in most other whale fisheries have been abandoned in favor of nets, which are now used for the capture in those waters of these Leviathans of the sea. The nets are made of two-inch manilla rope, and are so constructed that galvanized iron rings take the place of the knots in the ordinary nets. The mesh is six-foot one, and the ropes forming it are spliced into six rings. The nets are made in six sections, each ten fathoms square, with two ten-gallon barrels as floats to each section. When setting the net, the sections are joined together with line just strong enough to bear the ordinary strain to which they are liable to be subjected, so that when a whale gets meshed he tears away the section in which he is fast. While he is trying to get rid of the net, the whale's blows which are always waiting, dart along side and harpoon him.

The Mammoth Coal Vein.
What is believed to be the largest vein of coal in the world occurs at Shenandoah Stopping. It is fifty feet thick, and so near the surface that it is simply quarried like stone. No fewer than 7,145,000 tons of coal were extracted from it last year by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company. While upon this subject, it may mention that the largest "black diamond" or carbonado yet known, was recently found in the mines of Bahia, Brazil. It is the size of a closed hand and weighs three thousand carats. Its internal structure is similar to the artificial black diamonds made by M. Moissau, the French chemist, by heating sugar in the electric furnace. The stone is too valuable to waste, it seems, and is to be cut for industrial purposes; but a model of it will first be made.

HE WAS EXCUSED.

But the Foreman Brought His Message For Exacting Jury Duty.

A young man whose features and flashing eyes betokened great earnestness was summoned before a judge of the city court the other day for jury duty. He immediately asked to be excused. When the judge asked him what excuse he had for not serving, he replied:

"I believe it is a rule of the court that the jury is the sole judge of the facts and the court of the law—that the juror should only weigh the facts as presented by the evidence, not taking into consideration any of the rules of law governing the case, wherefore all lawyers are exempt from jury duty."

"But are you a lawyer?" asked the judge.

"No, but I have been a close student of the law for many years."

"I am afraid that I cannot excuse you if you are not a lawyer," said the court, smiling.

"But," continued the young man, with great earnestness, the color mounting to his temples, "I am sure if your honor knew as much law as I do your conscience would not allow you to serve on a jury."

After the bench and bar had recovered from this naive outburst the judge told the young man that if it was a matter which affected his conscience so deeply he would excuse him, and a very much abashed youth left the courtroom.—New York Times.

The Scorpion's Wonderful Ear.

I have studied the habits of the scorpion for many years and have often noticed how very sensitive scorpions are to the most delicate sound, musical or otherwise. Under the thorax the scorpion has two comblike appendages, which are the antennae (pectenae). It is pretty well settled by physiologists and entomologists that in insects the antennae represent the organs of hearing. These delicate structures are easily affected by the vibrations of sound, and there can be no doubt whatever that they are also affected by sounds quite inaudible to the human ear.

The slightest vibration of the atmosphere from any cause whatever at once puts in motion the delicate structures which compose the antennae, to which organs insects owe the power of protecting themselves against danger as well as the means of recognizing the approach of one another.—London Spectator.

Railways in Argentina.

"The railway system of Argentina," says a correspondent of the London Post, "is second to none in the world. Trains run at frequent intervals and, punctually, especially the long distance trains. The rolling stock is excellent, and a long distance journey by rail is a luxury. The sleeping cars are sumptuously appointed, the permanent ways are well laid, and there is consequently very little jolting. It is possible to breakfast or dine in the trains as comfortably as in a hotel. The dining cars are well fitted up and beautifully decorated with flowers and pot plants. The food is properly cooked and tastefully served at any hour of the day or night. And, above all, the charges are extraordinarily low. Fare, too, are very low, so that traveling is an easy and a cheap matter."

Horseshoe Nail Rings.

Finger rings made of horseshoe nail. They are certainly not pretty or graceful, but they are said to bring good luck to the wearer on certain conditions. To be a genuine charm the ring must be made from a nail taken from a horseshoe found by the owner herself and nobody else. This is taken to a jeweler, who bends it to fit her little finger and cuts off the superfluous length.

The ring is not welded together, and the head of the nail stands for the setting. There's no way of proving it, but those who have adopted these ornaments say that they bring just as much luck as a horseshoe itself hung over the door with ends up.—New York Herald.

The Rosemary at a Wedding.

In the island of Crete, it is said, a bride dressed for the wedding still calls, last of all, for a sprig of rosemary to bring her luck. Thus we come to find rosemary in close association with both marriage and death, just as the hyacinth was, and perhaps still is, among the Greeks. It is interesting to trace the connection by which the same plant came to have two such different uses.—All the Year Round.

The Color of the Eye.

The color of the iris is not uniform in any eye. Some eyes have spots, others stripes, still others blotches of white, green, blue, yellow and black, and the eye takes its color from the predominant color of one hue. An eye that is considered gray will often be composed of black and yellow. An eye that is thought to be brown will be very dark red, with spots of yellow or blue.

It Would Be Awful.

Mr. Frank—No, I won't take that horrible stuff.

Mrs. Frank—But the doctor ordered it.

Mr. Frank—I don't care. Why, that stuff would kill a mule.

Mrs. Frank—If you really think so, John, don't take it.—Philadelphia Press.

Desperate Resolution.

Rivers (exhibiting it)—This is a necktie my wife gave me.

Brooks—What are you going to do with it?

Rivers (heroically putting it on)—I am going to try to live it down.—Chicago Tribune.

2008-11.

How can I say God speed you, when I know
The words must be a prayer to let you go?
From out my sight? I love you, dear,
And those we love the best we want most
To stay.

But yet I say it—May God speed you. See,
I loose my hold upon you. There will be
The ocean's breadth between us very soon,
And when the sun is over me the moon
Will light your path and shine upon your
way.
And yet—God speed you, in the prayer I
say.

—Kate Field's Washington.

LOCH FINAICH.

It was hidden away in the chalice of the hills like a dewdrop in the folds of a burdock leaf—one of those mountain tarns of western Ross which are roamed by sunshine into distinctive beauty of their own, denuded by mist out of all individuality, so that the wandering fisherman has some excuse for forgetting names of places, of everything save the trout between the shallow and the deep. The time was June, and I had slipped away from London for three weeks' freedom, and the gathering of the gillies and the general raid of the populace on the Sassenach made the West Highlands a purgatory instead of a paradise to those who have not the purse of Fortunatus.

Day after day rose cloudless, serene, in true June fashion. There was no one to hurry me, no one to hint at a light basket. As for sport, fish must feed, even in the driest weather, and the loch, which had been dimmed the water and a cotton-wool breeze, a brief half hour would come, sufficient for most men. Then the charm of the loch evenings, when, though the light left the world, it lingered in the sky till dawn brought renewal, kept me in thrall and drove my cock to distraction.

I had had a bleak day on the bigger lochs. Even the time between 7 and 7:30 o'clock, when the glitter goes from the water, brought me no luck. On my way home, partly for the sake of lingering longer in the surpassing beauty of the moors, I bethought me of a blue dot which, according to the map, should lie half a mile to the westward.

I shall never forget my first sight of Loch Finaich, or Loch of the Heather, as it was called. Held in the hollow of the hills, it had two arms, one stretching west to where the moorland sloped swiftly to the sea. Thus, at its further end, the shining level of water looked as if about to plunge into space as if intent on quenching the fires of sunset in the sky. The other arm wound, dark and deep, like a shadowed mirror, into a precipitous corrie, where the snowdrifts still lay, despite the heat. There was an unearthly stillness and silence in its beauty, which thrilled me through and through. A distinct desire to take refuge in the commonplace made me hurry to a strip of shingle and throw my fly where a faint shadow told of weeds below the water. The next instant I forgot everything in the knowledge that a big fish had risen short. The brown body and turkey wing lit like a thistle-down again and again without response, and I was about to turn away when a circle of widening ripples told me the brute was at me once more. I threw over it, round it, to windward, to leeward of it, without success. The glimmer had faded to pearly gray, and gold. It was growing late. But one more cast—"by all that's tantalizing at me again!"

"Very annoying," said a voice behind me as my fly fell on the water, light but determined. I turned in surprise. Some ten yards off on the bank behind me a man of about 30 was leaning on a landing-net. From his dress a fisher-like myself, though he carried no rod.

"Very annoying," I echoed, "but I'll get the brute yet."

"I doubt it," I thought so, too, but I was mistaken.

To a fisherman a confession of failure in a rival is never disheartening. I put a little more skill into my cast, that was all.

"It has been a delightful day, hasn't it?" went on the voice behind me, just as the fish stirred again. "As fine a midsummer eve as I remember." By the way, do the folk about here tell tales of the dangers of St. John's eve, as they used to?"

"No," I replied, shortly, for I was rapidly losing my temper over that devil of a fish; "but I can't imagine it. Pixie, fairies and all that kind of thing."

"Just so; all that kind of thing."

Something in his tone made me pause.

"Doubtless, and yet—" he paused in his turn, "how are you going to know that the big fish yonder which is tempting you to linger here—on St. John's eve, mark you—is not a pixie?"

The conceit amused me; besides, the brute might think better of its ways after a rest. I laid aside my rod, took out my pipe and leaned against the bank on which my new acquaintance had seated himself.

"Because it isn't," I said stoutly.

"Nevertheless, it is a thing that is absolutely incapable of proof save by experience, and if its experience means death and silence—"

"It is not much use to the world, naturally," laughed I.

"None; unless you admit the possibility of ghosts."

"No go, either. Ghosts never are useful. The bad ones don't care, I suppose, and the good ones are too happy."

I heard a faint sigh behind me and looked up. Then he smiled. "It was a charming face—refined, with a touch of humor in it."

"Let us imagine a Landseer ghost, then. Say a fellow like you or I—no harm, perhaps, not much good, either—a bit of a drone, eh? Can't you imagine such a one pursued, when the game is over, with a sort of wish to have played a stronger hand? I can."

I can imagine him coming—say to a far-away spot like this—to a loch where life ended for him, perhaps, to lay my head on someone's shoulder and say, 'I lay my head on your shoulder, and my heart on your heart, and my life on your life, and my love on your love, and my hope on your hope, and my faith on your faith, and my soul on your soul, and my spirit on your spirit, and my very self on your very self, and my whole being on your whole being, and my entire existence on your entire existence, and my complete life on your complete life, and my full being on your full being, and my perfect self on your perfect self, and my absolute being on your absolute being, and my ultimate being on your ultimate being, and my final being on your final being, and my last being on your last being, and my first being on your first being, and my beginning on your beginning, and my end on your end, and my middle on your middle, and my center on your center, and my core on your core, and my heart on your 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