

ORIGINAL OF A HEROINE.

The Real Eliza of Mrs. Stowe's Great Story of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The incidents which formed the basis for the story of the escape of Eliza, the slave mother, with her child across the Ohio river on the ice, which is familiar to readers of Mrs. Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and to theatregoers who have often seen the dramatic representation of the scene, was the most interesting of the stories of runaway slaves told by the Rev. S. G. W. Rankin to a large audience last evening. The incidents came within the personal knowledge of Mr. Rankin, and he said that he gave them to Mrs. Stowe, and she used a younger woman, who escaped at nearly the same time, to complete the picture and make it more dramatic.

As Mr. Rankin tells the story, his father's family, living on the bluffs on the Ohio side of the river, were well known as in the business of helping runaway slaves, and slaves knew them as friends. It was one Christmas week that Eliza, a stalwart negro woman, came to the Rankin house in the night, having brought her husband across the river in a boat. He was covered with ice from the river, the night having been intensely cold, and the man, who was not as bright as Mrs. Stowe's George Harris by any means, had fallen into the river in getting out of the boat. Eliza, who was a woman weighing about 170 pounds, very religious and very determined, had planned to send her husband ahead to Canada, intending to join him with her children afterward. The husband was sent along, and Eliza crossed the river into Kentucky that same night, returning to her mother. She fixed a date two months ahead when she would again come to the Rankin house.

True to the arrangements, she crossed the river one night in February, when the river was in a treacherous condition, carrying her young child in a shawl strapped to her back. The ice was in broken floes, and she carried a board with a rope attached to it, by which she passed from one cake to another. She got across safely and was sent to Canada to join her husband. She still had five children in slavery, and said to the Rankins that she was going back to Kentucky after them the following June, naming a certain day. She was discouraged in this, but promised to come back nevertheless.

On the June day in question she appeared in Mr. Rankin's garden, and she was disguised as a man and sent across the river, where she made her way to her former master's plantation and hid beneath the currant bushes in his garden. Here she was discovered by her oldest daughter, a girl of seventeen, and at nightfall was hidden beneath the floor of her old cabin in the negro quarters. Sunday, after dinner, her master and his wife went several miles away to visit a friend, and Eliza, following the example of the Israelites when they despoiled the Egyptians, took blankets and household goods to the amount of about two hundred pounds' weight, divided them into bundles for the five children, and started on an eleven miles' walk to a point on the river which she was to reach at 2 o'clock Monday morning. She had been told to bring nothing but the children, but she had so over-loaded them with the packages that the smaller ones gave out, and she was obliged to carry one child a little way, a bundle a little way, and then go back after another child and another bundle, until she was so delayed that the river was not reached until 6 o'clock in the morning, and the boat that was to carry her over was gone. It was very foggy, however, and by walking about a mile and a quarter in the shallow water of the Kentucky side of the river, to throw off the scent of the blood hounds, she reached an anti-slavery man's house, where she remained all day.

"That morning," said Mr. Rankin, "when we expected to have Eliza and her children safe in Ohio, after the fog lifted we saw thirty-one men on horseback, with dogs and guns, across the river hunting this defenceless woman with five children after a reward of \$1,200." Communication was opened to Eliza during the day, and she was told what to do. At nightfall Mr. Rankin, disguised as a woman, with a party of young fellows, made a feint on the Kentucky shore, a few miles further up the river, and gave the negro hunters a lively chase, they supposed they had track of Eliza. The hunters were evaded, and at the same time a trusted boatman had ferried the woman and children across to the Rankin house, where she remained in hiding for two weeks, being finally taken to the "Quaker settlement" in a load of flour and bran. She escaped to Canada and lived there with her husband and six children.—Hartford Paper.

Precedents for our County Court.

An old man in England was sent to prison for four months for petty stealing whose record, the Judge who sentenced him said, "is one of the most awful pieces of reading that has ever come to my notice." In 1863 he was sent to jail for three years for stealing two tame rabbits; he then got seven years for stealing five shillings and a shawl; then ten years, with seven years' police supervision, for stealing three ducks, and finally consecutive sentences of five years each on three charges of stealing a coat, a pair of reins, and a shovel, with another seven years' police supervision. In all, thirty-five years of penal servitude for six thefts of objects whose value amounted to a few dollars.

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WANTED BETTER MOONS.

A Theatre Goer who Objected to the Lunar Fictions Seen on the Stage.

Old Mr. Churchill is an inveterate theatre-goer. He is a great advocate for realism on the stage, and has become very much exasperated at many defects in the stage management and particularly at the inferior quality of the moons. Being recently introduced to a theatrical manager the latter happened to ask:

"What do you think of the theatrical performances at the New York theatres, Mr. Churchill?"

"Most of them are very good, but the stage management might be very much improved," replied the old gentleman, glad of the opportunity to ease his mind.

"In what respect?" asked the manager. "The moons which are sprung upon the audiences are very poor. The New York stage moon is getting worse and worse all the time. It is a disgrace to the city of New York."

"My dear sir, you don't expect me to supply the audience with real moons, do you?" retorted the manager.

"No, sir; the public don't ask that much, but you might have a bogus moon built that was not a reflection on the nineteenth century and the great Architect of the universe. You New York stage managers are very lucky. If you were giving performances on the planet Mars or Jupiter, you would have to bring out three or four moons. [As it is, on our planet you have only to trot out one moon purveyors might get up a decent orb of night.]"

"What are your objections to our moons?"

"In the first place, there is no regular size for the stage moon. At one theatre there is hardly enough to go around it there be a full house, while at others it has a bloated appearance. One moon rises as slow as a messenger boy travels, while another booms up like the circulation of Texas Sittings."

"Is there anything else wrong about our moons?"

"Yes, there is; every stage moon in New York has contracted the vile habit of rising about six feet above the ivy-mantled tower and then refusing to move a single inch. There it dangles in the air, in defiance of the laws of gravitation. You never saw the real moon display such ignorance, did you? Perhaps you never saw a real moon. You ought to go out some night and take a look at the moon."

"I've seen the moon frequently."

"Then you must know that she always arrives on schedule time. There is no messenger boy business about the moon. She never pauses to listen to what the lovers have got to say, as your moon invariably does. I, however, did see one pretty fair moon in a New York theatre, but it bobbed up and warbled about the sky in a most undignified manner. A number of club men in the audience thought that they were intoxicated whenever they looked at it."

"What was the matter?"

"I suppose the moonist was a little off again, as usual. You theatrical managers, in order to save money, rarely hire a competent moonist. You hire, for a few cents, some wretched bum, too ignorant even to sit on a jury, and turn over the moon to him. Because you have a full moon you think you must have a fool moonist, consequently the moon acts as if she had been taking too much gin, whereas it is the moonist who is full."

"Do you suppose we can afford to hire regularly ordained astronomers to take charge of our moon?"

"No, I don't; but when you hire a moonist you should apply the Jeffersonian test—Is he honest? Is he capable? Is his heart in his work? Does he stay out late at nights?"

"I am really much obliged to you; some of your points are well taken."

"Well, this is a matter in which the public is interested, and this palming off a painted mule of a moon for a real zebra is being overdone. Realism should be preserved on the stage. If such absurdities as three-cornered moons are tolerated, it will not be long before you will have Hamlet rebuking his mother through the telephone, and Julius Caesar standing off the conspirators with a Winchester carbine. The press, regardless of politics, should take hold of this growing outrage."

"I am much obliged to you for your timely hint. As soon as I have secured a good moon, and the services of the right kind of a moonist, I'll send you a complimentary ticket."

As the indignant old gentleman walked off the theatrical manager remarked to a friend:

"Why, he is a regular old stick of lunar caustic."—Texas Sittings.

Cycling on the Briny Deep.

A bicycle boat has been invented by a telegraph operator in Seattle, and has been successfully operated on the waters of the harbor there at a speed of nine miles an hour. It is a combination of whaleback boat and bicycle. Described in the simplest way, it is a boat with a bicycle mounted amidships, the power exerted on the pedals being transferred to a propeller arrangement at the stern. The rudder is operated by the bicycle handle bar, just as an ordinary bicycle is steered. The boat shell is a steel framework covered with canvas, and the whole thing is kept right side up by a 260 pound keel of lead. The inventor thinks he will be able to get much more than the present nine miles an hour out of his bicycle boat when he has perfected it.

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WORLD'S COAL SUPPLY.

Great Britain in the Lead and the United States Next in Order.

Coal was first discovered in the United States in Rhode Island in 1768—that is in one of the States into which practically all the coal used is imported. Coal mining was begun at Pittsburgh before it was tried in Rhode Island. Fifty years ago the three coal-producing States of the country were Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Rhode Island. There is a very close relation, political economists have not failed to notice, between coal and manufactures, and in the expansion of the manufacturing interests of civilized countries during the present century, the rate of increase has kept up pretty evenly with the increase in supply of coal, taking, of course, those manufactures into which steam power enters.

At the head of all the coal-producing countries of the world is Great Britain, with a yearly average of about 180,000,000 tons.

At the head of the countries using steam power for purposes other than railway traction is Great Britain, also. Second of the coal-producing countries are the United States with a yearly average of about 140,000,000 tons, and the United States are also second in respect to steam power exclusive of railroads. Third in production of coal, 100,000,000 tons a year, and also third in steam power for manufactures is Germany; and France is fourth. Russia comes fifth, the increase of the coal production of the Russian empire having been very marked during the last few years. It doubled from 1875 to 1885 and nearly doubled from 1885 to 1895. Among political economists it is pretty generally admitted that the dearth of coal in Italy is one of the chief barriers to a material development of manufactures which would otherwise be sufficient to put that country in a position of greater prominence in the commercial world. There is the same trouble to be found in Spain, though Spain furnishes some of the coal required for domestic use. Some 25,000,000 tons of coal mined in England are annually exported to European countries which either have no coal supply or mine an amount inadequate for their needs. France, Italy, and Spain, receive a large share of this imported coal. Some, too, goes to Egypt, and some to Canada. A table which recently appeared in England makes this subdivision of 150,000,000 tons annually mined; Used in manufactures, 55,000,000 tons a year; for domestic purposes, cooking and heating, 40,000,000 tons; for railway locomotives and for steamships, 20,000,000 tons; for gas or water works (particularly gas works), 20,000,000 tons, and for mining 15,000,000 tons.

The gradual extension and utilization of the electric current has diminished the demand for coal in many parts of the United States, and the utilization of natural gas, in the natural gas belt, has had a like effect. One paradox connected with the production and use of coal in the United States has come up for discussion again at the Atlanta Exposition, where many of the Southern speakers have been pointing out as peculiar the facts that hundreds of thousands of tons are transported from Southern ports to New England ports for use in Yankee factories, and that the products of such factories are in turn sold to the States and districts from which comes not only the coal but also the cotton.—N. Y. Sun.

Good Points of a French Wife.

Her constant aim is to be interesting to her husband. She multiplies herself. In turn she is his friend, his confidante, his partner in business, his chum, and, if I may use the word in its best and most refined sense, his mistress. She is forever changing her appearance. For instance, you will seldom see a French married woman wear her hair in the same way longer than three or four weeks. She knows that love feeds on trills, on illusion, on suggestion. She knows that, when a man loves his wife, a rose in her hair, a new frock, a bonnet differently trimmed, will revive in him the very emotion that he felt when he held her in his arms for the first time. She also knows that the very best dishes may sometimes become insipid if always served with the same sauce. She understands to a supreme degree the poetry of matrim