BY MARK TWAIN

An embankment ten or fifteen feet high guards both sides of the Mississippi all the way down the lower end o the river, and this embankment is set back from the edge of the shore from ten to perhaps a hundred feet, according to circumstances, say thirty to forty feet as a general thing. Fill that whole the banks, and turn a steamboat loose along there at midnight, and see how is shoreless, that fades out and loses itself in the murky distances: for you cannot discern the thin ribs of the embankment, and you are always imagining you see a straggling tree when you don't. The plantations themselves are transformed by the smoke, and look like a part of the sea. All through your watch you are tortured with the exquisite misery of uncertainty. You hope you are keeping in the river, but you don't know. All that you are sure about is that you are likely to be within six feet of the bank and destruction, when you think you are a good half mile from shore. And you are sure, also, that if you chance suddenly to hope he'll have them often. You just fetch up against the embankment and ought to have seen him take this boat also, that if you chance suddenly to topple your chimneys overboard, you will have the small comfort of knowing that it is about what you are ex pected to do. One of the great Vicksburg packets darted out into a sugar

plantation one night, at such a time,

and had to stay there a week. But

there was no novelty about it; it had

often been done before. I thought I had finished this number, but I wish to add a curious thing, while it is in my mind. It is only relevant in that it is connected with piloting. There used to be an excellent amid dangers and nightly alarms, its walk in his sleep and do strange things. He was once fellow-pilot for a trip or two with George E---, on a great New Orleans passenger packet. During a considerable part of the first trip crossing above the town in a very blind and tangled condition. X. had seen the night was particularly drizzly, sullen, and dark, E-- was considering whether he had not better have A. called to assist in running the place, when the door opened and X. walked in. Now on very dark nights, light is a deadly enemy to piloting, and you are aware that if you stand in a lighted room, on such a night, you cannot see things in the street to any purpose but if you put out the lights and stand in the gloom you can make out objects in the streets pretty well. So, on very dark nights, pilots do not smoke, they allow no fire in the pilot-house stove if there is a crack which can allow the least ray to escape; they order the furnaces to be curtained with huge tarpaulins, and the skylights to be closely blinded. Then no light whatever issues from the boat. The undefinable shape that now entered the pilot-house had Mr. X's. voice. This said,--

"Let me take her, Mr. F---; I've een this place since you have, and it is so crooked that I reckon I can run it myself easier than I could tell you how to do it."

"It is kind of you, and I swear I drop of perspiration left in mc. I have ligig."

So E- took a seat on the bench, panting and breathless. The black saying anything, steadied the waltzing and finally said.

"Well, I thought I knew how to steer a steambost, but that was another ers, attacking them with hoof and fast retreat with his prize. The doc- Mr. Spurgeon on the French and mistake of mine."

X. said nothing, but went serenely on with his work. He rang for the leads; he rang to slow down the steam; he worked the boat carefully, neatly centre of the wheel and peered slandly out into the blackness, fore and aft, to verify his position; as the leads shouled more and more, he stopped the engines entirely, and the dead silence and suspense of "drifting" followed; when the shoalest water was struck, he cracked on the steam, carried her handsomely over, and then began to work her warily into next system of shoal marks; the same patient, heedful use of leads and engines followed, the boat slipped through without touching bottom, and entered upon the third and last intricacy of the crossing; imper centibly she moved through the gloom. crept by inches into her marks, drifted tediously till the shoulest water was cried, and then, under a tremendous head of steam, went swinging over the reef and away into deep water and hours."

E-- let his long-pent breath pour out in a great, relieving sigh, and said,

BICKS

sippi River! I wouldn't believe it pended on his brave bearing. could be done, if I hadn't seen it."

There was no reply, and he added. a cup of coffee."

comforting himself with coffee. Just then the night watchman happened in, and was about to happen out again, when he noticed E. ____, and exclaimed,

"Who is at the wheel, sir ?" " X."

"Dart for the pilot-house, quicker than lightning !"

The next moment both men were flying up the pilot-house companion-way, three steps at a jump! Nobody there! The great steamer was whistling down region with an impenetrable gloom of the middle of the river at her own smoke from a hundred miles of burn- sweet will! The watchman shot out ing bagasse piles, when the river is over of the place again, E -- seized the wheel, set an engine back with power, and held his breath while the boat reshe will feel. And see how you will luctantly swung away from a "towfeel too! You find yourself away out head," which she was about to knock in the midst of a vague, dim sea that into the middle of the Gulf of Mexico! By and-bye the watchman came back

and said.

" Didn't that lunatic tell you he was asleep when he first came up here?" " No."

"Well, he was. I found him walking along on the top of the railings just as unconcerned as another man would walk a pavement; and I put him to bed; now just this minute there he was again, away astern, going through that sort of tight-rope deviltry the same as before."

"Well, I think I'll stay by, next time he has one of those fits. But I through Helena crossing. I never saw anything so gaudy before. And if he can do such gold-leaf, kid-glove, diamond-breastpin piloting when he is sound asleep, what couldn't he do if he was dead !'

Russian Brigands.

The Tcherkess of the Great and Lit

tle Kabardah breed a splendid race of

horses. Brought up in the wild steppe pilot on the river, a Mr. X, who was a apprehensive sagacity becomes early desomnabulist. It was said that if his veloped in a high degree. It is a fine mind was troubled about a bad piece of animal, with a strong spine, powerful river, he was pretty sure to get up and croop and thigh, and great width of shoulders and chest; the knee-caps are broad, the hoof as if formed of iron, head and neck tolerably light; every thing seems combined to make then trusty, indefatigable servants to man George was uneasy, but got over by The Tchetchents, the most ferocious and by, as X. seemed content to stay in and determined brigands of the Cauhis bed when asleep. Late one night the boat was approaching Helena, Arnumbers), used to buy their horses in kansas; the water was low, and the the Kabardah. They pick out the most promising one-year-olds, take them home, where they are, so to say, the crossing since E -- had, and as received into the bosom of the family. The receive-their food when the latter its brigand master is on an expedition Lord, N. Y. Witness. of risk and unlawful daring. A whispered word sends him down into the high steppe-weed or bushes situated near the road at a place where the latter is difficult, where a convenient ditch its attacks. Whoever can furnish from the bed and seized his pistol, is at hand to receive a carriage and its this becomes our benefactor. A contract to breakfast. No sooner had he human freight. In breathless silence viction prevails that Dr. Aver does touched the floor than a pet coon, both wait for what may turn up. The ears of the Tchetchentsian Black Bess it. Disorders of the blood have been which had entered at the window, mis am willing. I haven't got another wind, and before the man can hear the fections of the lungs by his CHERRY and up he went. This was too much slightest sound he sees by the demeander of his steed that business will soon of his steed that business will so the his steed that business will soon of his steed that business will soon of his steed that business will be also be been spinning around and around the or of his steed that business will soon tinetly to be disputed. His AGUE ingroom, out the back door into the wheel like a squirrel. It is so dark I be at hand. Hark! a faint sound of can't tell which way she is swinging the postal bell (fastened to the poll of the pol the vehicle) strikes his ear, he feels for to never fail, Reader, if you mus room, like a mad-mad, pistol in hand his gun, his pistol, his razor-edged have medical aid, take the best of calling for help. By this time the sword, the large dagger (kincha), and medicine. Poor remedies are dear, breathlessly awaits the approach of the as good are cheap, at any price you panting and breathless. The once of travellers. Not a single thought best have to pay for them.—Charleston it would have passed for a convention steamer with a turn or two, and then ity of the foe, he stands over his horse, stood at ease, coaxing her a little to which slowly gathers his feet up bethis side and then to that as gently and neath him. At last the moment for ing out upon an errand of mercy the nate individual returned to his room as sweetly as if the time had been noon- action has arrived. The carriage is other day was so unfortunate as to to dream of burglars, coons, and assass day. When E -- witnessed this mar- just at the right distance from the have his cap blown from his head. vel of steering, he wished he had not ditch or other accidental difficulty of As soon as possible he reined in his stand the curious sensation of a coon confessed! He stared and wondered, the road -a soft touch, and horse and horse, and on going back to look for shinning up his leg in the dark." man are up. With the bound of a the lost article, found that a dog had tiger the horse pounces upon the lead. been ahead of him, and was beating a tooth. Simultaneously the rider has tor, being unable to cope with the anfired at the driver; mad with terror imal on foot, returned to his buggy the post horses have jumped off the and chased the dog a distance of sevload, percipitating the carriage in the eral blocks. Then the latter turned cunning quadruped, know it full well; for to-morrow there will be an enquiry about where Muhamed, or Arsslan Boy, or Moussa, were that night. With a calm smile our brigand friend replies to the Russian Grado-Natchalmitted near the Aknonskoy Stanitzi,

A minute later E was biting was on exhibition. They saw it, and for a number of days in punishment into a pie, down in the "texas," and it was red, as a brickbat usually is. | for his foolbardiness.

Miscellaneous Items.

An affair of the heart-the circulation of the blood. If it seems good, a sewing-machine

may be likened unto a kiss. Lord Bacon says, "I am of opinion that except you could bray Christian-

ity in a mortar, and mould it into a new paste, there is no possibility of a holy war.' "Three and sixpence per gal!" ex-

elaimed Mrs. Partington, looking over the stranger was at once received with the Price Current. "Why, bless me, effusive kindness, and invited to spend what is this world a coming to when gals are valued at only three and sixpence?"

rhyme which strikes us as being a evening. Night at length drew on ungreat improvement on its predecessor.

'It is good to be merry and wise; It is good to be honest and true; And before you are off with the old love, It is best to be on with the new."

A Nevada woman recently knocked old boy out of bed and "whaled" him the reply, "it is not a quarter of a ing his mother.

ASTHMA, AND GREAT DEBILITY .---

In answer to your questions I can only say for about two years my wife was afflicted with the Asthma, and it sometimes seemed as though she would never get over the convulsive fits of suffocation. She was also greatly debilitated, appetite not good, proceeded to Melbourne, the host being &c.. From reports, we concluded to entrusted with the metalfor the purpose try DEPEW'S MEDICAL VICTORY. She of disposal. As the stranger was in vant took it for a month or so, and quite of some cash meanwhile, his friend recovered her health and strength. at his request, advanced him a cheque

Thurlow, Ont. A story is going the rounds of the press which seems to be greatly appreciated by experienced journalists. It is related that a man sold his soul to the devil on the condition that if for a period of years the latter failed to supply him with as much money as he could spend, he would be free. Having exhausted every pleasure and overy artifice for disposing of wealth, he was about giving up in despair when a friend suggested to him to start a newspaper, after the adoption of which idea his life became a grand success. Long before the prescribed period was out, he had exhausted the powers of his patron.

Moody, an American in London, and Varley, an Englishman in New sits down to a meal, and they often sleep in the same room. The young children will play with them, talk to pel of the grace of God! It not this night. After retiring to his room he them, and crawl all day long over and a noble international effort? a blessed fastened the door with a chair, but failabout them; what wonder if the horse reciprocity? a sure token of the onebecomes almost as wise as its master? ness of the Evangelical Church of to bed. Just as his weary brain had The young boys will sometimes mount Christ? And now would it not be a ceased to throb, and he was sailing into him and gallop over the prairies, but lawful rivalry to see which of the two dreamland in the arms of Morpheus, no adult thinks of bestriding him before he has finished his sixth year. The largest meetings for the produm-where nested his devoted head. He His bones have then become firmly de- ation of the Gospel, and derive the raised up in bed, and looked and felt veloped, his sinews and feet are steel, most good from them? Surely it is round in the darkness, but discovered his wind is invincible. He knows not in vain that God has given this nothing. He again lay down, and his master's voice and look; nay, he great power of attracting multitudes has even some notion of his character. His nerves have from his birth been finely turned to the sound of danger or may, therefore, now look for tines of ation resulted as before, and again he mysterious enterprise. It knows when refreshing from the presence of the sought exhausted nature's sweet restor-

slily move to every waft of the light healed by his SARSAPARILLA, and at. took one of his limbs for a fence post, Courier.

valuable. to the steed to discover from his appear- deliberately raised the weapon, fired, to your palace-garden, and run man was then about to repeat the ex- tens of thousands." periment, when the police, secretly informed, it was said, by the boy's A good many people were recently mother, came upon the ground and "Just hold her five minutes longer, deluded into going into an apothe interfered to prevent the continuance partner, and let me run down and get carv's shop in a village to see a red of such a dangerous experiment, and bat, which had been captured, and arrested the father, imprisoning him

A Dream and its Consequences.

Curious tales have been told of remarkable dreams, but seldom has anything more amusing been related than the experience of a gentleman who a short time since professed to be a dreamer. The story, which appears in a Melbourne paper, runs as follows :--- A colonist, living in the capital of Vicerio, was visited one afternoon lately by a "gentlemanly-looking stranger," who presented a note of introduction. the afternoon at the suburban residence of his host. The invitation was accepted, and in each other's society the There is a new version of an ancient two newly-made friends passed the noticed, and return to the city being difficult at such an hour, the stranger was asked to stay. At breakfast next morning he appeared greatly perturbed, and, on being interrogated, admitted that he had had a dream which somewhat agitated him. He had dreamt, in down seven burglars one after an-other. Her husband watched her described, he had seen an old man bury rom the top of the stairs, and felt so three small bags of gold, each enclosed brimful of battle that he couldn't cool in a preserve jar; did his host know off until he had jerked his eight-year any such spot? "To be sure," was soundly for not getting up and help-mile away; we will go at once." Go they did, and, what was more astonishing, discovered three bage, precisely as related by the dreamer, these bags cononly say for about two years my wife taining what appeared to be gold, in There has been no sign or symptom of the disease since.—John H. Preston, a final adjustment of their relative a final adjustment of their relative claims in the afternoon. Need it be added that the stranger was heard of no more: that the gold turned out to be spurious; that the note of introduction was a forgery; and that just now the Colonial police are anxiously enquiring for the genial old man who buried the pags, and then dreamt that he saw them? "Mankind," it has been remarked, "is divided into two classes -fools and rogues." The old saying vas somewhat exaggerated, but it is clear there are some of each class in every quarter of the globe.

Frightened by a Queer Burglar.

An Oregon paper relates this story -" A few days since ane of Portland's principal business men had occasion to visit Roseburg, where he tarried over er, balmy sleep. In a few moments he felt the pantaloons glide from beneath Sickness is an affliction that waits the pillow, and heard them fall heavily house was aroused and came to his res cue, and had the meeting in the hal been transferred to some secluded snot of ghosts. The coon was captured and A Bridgeport physician while driv- turned out of doors, while the unfortuins. Even the gentlest lamb could not

German War.

On the outbreak of the war in 1870 hole, and before its inmates have time in at a gate and the doctor again Mr. Spurgeon published a vigorous into invisible marks, then stood at the to feel for their revolvers they are leaped bareheaded to the ground, but but sensible address to the Emperor eased of at least part of their property, had to run through several yards and of the French and the King of Prussia, and may thank God if they have not scale half a dozen back fences before which thus concludes: "Did either broken neck and limb in their fall, he recovered his cap. The dog had of you ever think of what war means? Before they recover from their fright arrived home and appeared very much Did you ever see a man's head smashed the Tchetchent is already several miles delighted with the race. The doctor or his bowels ripped open? Why, if on his gallop home. He has a hard also was delighted to recover his head you are made of flesh and blood, the ride before him, and he, as well as his gear, for it was of seal-skin and quite sight of one poor wounded man, with the blood oozing out of him, will A reckless Bavarian, who prided make you feel sick. I don't like to himself upon his skill as a marksman, drown a kitten; I can't bear even to recently bethought himself of a crown- see a rat die, or any animal in pain. ing proof of his unerring aim. He But a man! Whore's your hearts if thereupon led his son, a lad of eleven you can think of broken legs, splinnik's question,—" Where should I have years, to a certain spot and paced off tered bones, heads smashed in, brains been but here? The robbery was com- seventy yards. Upon the boy's head blown out, bowels torn, hearts gushseventy yards. Upon the boy's head blown out, bowels torn, hearts gushthus posted he placed an apple, and ing with gore, ditches full of blood, 150 versts (80 miles) from here; and retiring with his rifle to the distance and heaps of limbs and carcases of what? at nine o'clock you say; why, I of 210 feet, he called upon his friends mangled men? Do you say my lanwas here at twelve, as I can prove, and who had assembled to witness the guage is disgusting? How much I could not ride that distance in three dangerous and heartless act to ob. more disgusting must the things themhours." The officer, up to Tchetchent's serve that he should cut the apple in tricks, and anything but satisfied, turns two without harming his child. He How would you like to get a man inance the effects of so severe a ride; but and cut the apple in the middle, leave carving-knife into his bowels, or cut the nag is quietly eating his corn, and ing the child neither scathed nor his throat? If you did that, you "That's the sweetest piece of pilot looking as contented and playful as it frightened, so confident was the latter would describe to be hanged; but it ing that was ever done on the Missishe knew that his master's safety dein the father's skill. The heartless would not be half as bad as killing

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Proof After Proof.

(From the Maratime Sentinel) Amherst, Nova Scotia, Jan. 23, 1674.

We would call the attention of our renders to the Diamond Rheumatic Cure, advertised in another column. We do this having some experience in the matter. Being slightly sceptical as to the results promised, we purchased a bottle of the Cure for a friend of ours, who was much troubled in the shoulders and hands. Hardly three months have clapsed atter using a single bottle, and sire h. s. not had a recurrence of rhoumatic attack, although previously she suffered with it almost constantly.

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J. B. WOODLAND, Editor. HUNDREDS DAILY BEAR EVIDENCE,

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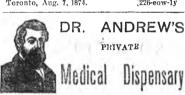
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