

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

W. G. KENTZEL, Editor.

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THREE SHIPS.

Three ships were sailing
Betwixt the sea and sky;
And one is now, and one is then,
And one is by and by.

The first little ship is all for you—
Its masts are tall, its sails are blue.
This is the cargo it brings:
Joyful days with sunlight glowing,
Nights, where dreams like stars are growing,
Take them, sweet, or they'll be gone!
For they're every one for me.

The second ship is all for me—
A sailing on a misty sea—
And out across the twilight gray,
What I brought of gift and blessing
Would not stay for my enquiring—
Was too dear for my possessing,
So it sails and sails away.

The last ship, riding far and high
Upon the sea, is by and by,
O Wind, be kind and gentle blow!
Not too softly, neither harsh,
Sailing, floating, hissing, whistling,
To what port I may not know.
—Harriet P. Blodgett, in St. Nicholas.

BET HIS LIFE AND LOST.

ED John West,
or "Utic,"
was a better
known in the
early days of
Texas, in Fort
Worth, Tex.,
and a resident
there in the
future. West is
eighty years
old, and one of
the oldest men
in Texas, and
has a long and
interesting life
behind him.

He was born in
New Mexico, and
was one of the
most widely-known
all-around sporting
men in the west,
and delights in
telling the story
of "how he lost
his life."

"I'm the only man living that
ever lost his life, but I did it, and I'll
tell you how it was. It was about
thirty years ago and all the big sport-
ing men of the west were emigrating
toward Butte City. A crowd of cow-
boys left northwest Texas one day to
go up to Butte for a little gambling
spree. When we got up to Butte and
were all settled down, we got in with
all the gamblers and in less time than
it takes to tell about it we were num-
bered among the toughest set of men
in the community.

"Butte was all aglow one Saturday
night. The mines had just paid off and
every gambler was in the town. The
streets were filled with gamblers who
came to try their luck. I played un-
usually lucky that day, and toward
night I had something like \$16,000 won.
Now that was a pretty good run, but
I wasn't contented with it, especially
when everything was so high. Well, I
was feelin' in pretty good spirits, and
when a crowd of cowboys from Colo-
rado came up and asked me if I wanted
to get in a game of poker I told them
I didn't care if I did. I got into the
game, and for awhile things were com-
ing pretty much my own way. Then
they had money, and said they'd play
'till the sun went down. We played and
I kept a-losing. Yes, in a few minutes
every man who won a game was to
pay for the drinks. In those days
everybody drank whiskey, and it natu-
rally came about that we all got
drunk before morning. Well, when I
started I didn't have but \$16,000, but
by four o'clock next morning it was
trailing near on to \$30,000. Then I
lost my trail and began to lose. My
five o'clock pile was down to \$16,000
again. We were all drunk and making
a good deal of noise, and every table
in the house closed down to come over
and see us play. It was poker. Hand
after hand came tough, and every one
came tougher. I might know how
tough they were when a pair of jacks
took a jack pot of \$1,000. It was get-
ting daylight, and when I got down to
\$4,000 I picked up my five cards, and
what do you think were under them?
Four kings. Yes, in a few minutes
I wouldn't bet that? You can bet I
would.

"There was five of us in the game.
The ante was \$5, and it took \$5 more to
make it good. It was my \$30,000 to
play. The next hand I raised it \$200
and so did everybody. A fellow named
Green said he didn't have much of a
pile."

"I'll take one," said
"The next fellow said one, and every-
body said one but Green. He wanted
two."
"Then the time come for betting. It was
my, and I bet \$500. The next fellow
said one, and he raised it \$200 better.
The next fellow saw him, and so did
the rest, till it got to Green, when he
raised it \$2,000. We all saw that and
the third man saw it \$500 better again.
Then Green came up with \$2,000 bet,
and everybody dropped out but me
and him. I borrowed \$5,000 from a
fellow who saw my hand, and raised
the pot that much.

"Then things were getting exciting
around that table. It was the biggest
pot ever seen in Butte since Tom Owen
lost his ranch. Nobody said a word,
and the people around the table were
nearly dumfounded.
"I'll take that \$5,000," said Green,
and I'll go you my horse better."
"I'll see you three better," said I, and I'll
see you three better. Green only had
two more horses, so he saw me them,
borrowed \$500, and went me the other
\$100 better.
"I didn't have no more money, so I
bet the very clothes on my back, and
Green raised it his bet. I borrowed
\$500, and went me the other \$100
better. I didn't have no more money,
so I bet the very clothes on my back,
and Green raised it his bet. I borrow-
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"I couldn't move."
hand, but he thought he'd keep our
company.
"How many cards do you want?" said
the dealer.
"I'll take one," I said.
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body said one but Green. He wanted
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closed the door, and down went our
bet on the table. I saw Green's hat,
and then raised him my saddle. He
saw this, that other \$100 on the
table, and yelled out: "Cover it with
something; I don't want the money."
"This was getting too exciting, and I
commented to standing. Glancing to the
left I saw the corner of a discarded
card, and it was an ace. Then I thought
it was a dead-sure thing, and com-
menced throwing again. So did
Green. I had every earthly possession
up when Green raised me \$100.
"I'll bet my life against that \$200,"
I said, and Green threw the \$200 in the
pot.
"Then it came to a show-down.
Green threw down four aces.
"Hold on," I said, "that don't go,
Green."
"That's what you say," he said, and
then he threw his hands over the
money. I picked a dagger up from
where I had laid it on the floor, and
down I shot it through Green's hands.
It nailed them fast and he couldn't
move.

"What's this?" said Green.
"Robbed!" I yelled. "You worked
in cards on me."
"It's all right," Green said.
"Things rather quieted down, and
when I examined the deck I found no
traces that another ace had been
worked in.
"Tain't my fault," said Green; "I
didn't put it in."
"And sure enough, he didn't. For
I searched him and every other man
in the house, and found three more aces
in a feller's pocket who went broke
early in the game and fell asleep. Then
I saw that Green was straight, and I
went and searched the hands and
pockets of all the other men in the
house, and after finding that he was
fifty thousand dollars ahead of the
game I went to the hotel across the
street—stark naked—and went to bed,
and all you know I was pretty sleep-
y."

"Well, about eleven o'clock that
night I hadn't got up yet—somebody
came up and rapped at my door.
"Who's there?" I asked.
"It's Green," came the answer.
"What do you want?" I inquired.
"I want you."
"I got up and went to the door,
and there he found Green.
"Well," said Green, "come on."
"Come on where?"
"Anywhere," he said, "don't you be-
long to me?"
"Yes, but I commenced thinking
about betting my life in that poker
game."
"There was a big crowd of cowboys
with Green, and I knew if I refused to
let Green take them they would kill me
on the spot. I thought about the mat-
ter, and decided that I had as well let
Green take my life as anyone else. I
dressed myself in a blanket and went
with the mob. There was plenty of
ropes in the crowd, and I was afraid
"They took me to a mountain about
five miles from the town, and Green
came up and talked to me.
"Your life belongs to me, don't it?"
said Green.
"Yes," I said; "what do you want
with it?"
"Why," said Green, "I want to take
it. Surely it's mine; I want it."
"Yes," I said; "take it."
"Yes," he said; "I want to see you
dead, three or four times a day, and
I'll be in the act of pulling it
when I yelled: 'Stop!'"
"What's up?" said Green.
"Why," I said, "if my life is yours
you can take it, but if your crowd can't
it, it don't belong to me."
"Well, then," said Green, "I'll take it."
"Then he took hold of the rope and
began pulling. I could feel the cords
in my neck straining, and I knew well
that I was dead come."
"He hoisted me way up in the air,
and then yelled from the bottom: 'You
can get a pretty good view of the town
from there, can't you?' I didn't answer,
I didn't have time to do so, and
I fell to the ground, lighting on
my feet.

"Green got a little sympathetic then,
and coming up to me said: 'What
good's your life any way?'"
"Yes," I said; "if my crowd can't
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AMERICAN MOSAICS.

California Three Thousand Years Ago
Wealthier than a Prince
An interesting feature of California,
especially in the southern portion, are
the evidences of a vast ancient popula-
tion that once thrived upon its shores, says
the Los Angeles Times. These people were
by Cabello in 1542, and by Viscaño
sixty years later; possibly Coronado
may have seen some of them. In any
event, three hundred and fifty years
ago California probably had a large
native population as it has Americans
at present, and the land was held by
scores of tribes from the extreme south
to the north, a different dialect being
spoken with every few miles, while the
offshore islands also supported a large
and vigorous population.

These people were supposed to be
savages, and compare favorably with
the people who are identified in Euro-
pean history with the Cro-Magnon; in
other words, all their articles of use
were of bone, stone or wood. The
writer has during the last few years
visited many localities formerly oc-
cupied by the people, and it is
evident from what has been discov-
ered that they were not the savages
generally supposed, but were possessed
to a limited degree of aesthetic tastes.

Some of the objects of the same stone
found in the southern California first
discovered at the site of the ancient
discovery excavation resulted in the
discovery of vessels of a gray or
greenish stone, known as steatite. The
writer has found small pieces of it at
Santa Monica, the broken parts of
mortars, curious shaped objects at
Murietta, San Diego county, and small
slabs in the adjacent Santa Rosa
mountains, deep in the canyons.

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FOREIGN GOSSIP.

The Order of the African Star was
founded in 1888 for the purpose of re-
warding the adventurers who took
part in the colonization of the Congo
valley. As yet it has achieved no very
prominent place among the orders of
knighthood.

There is a little patch of land abut-
ting on one of the magnificent build-
ings that flank Victoria street, West-
minster, London, which has remained
waste for more than twenty years. It
is surrounded by a high boarding, cov-
ered with advertisements. The income
derived from these is such that it would
not pay the proprietor to substitute a
building.

A Greek journal states that so
great is the quantity of wine now in
stock on the island of Cyprus that last
year's crop remains a glut on the mar-
ket, and if we are to believe further
accounts, wine there has become
cheaper than water. In the village of
Trikou, it is said, a man was seen
drinking a home-brewed wine, which he
provided the masons with wine instead
of water to mix with the mortar.

Divorce has been legal in France
now for eight years. The first year in
which it was legal, 708 cases were
4,000; in 1894 it was 8,000; the total for
eight years is 40,000. The working
classes supply the largest proportion,
47 per cent; the peasants the smallest,
7 per cent. Incompatibility of temper
is the most common cause, and the most
common time for bringing suit is the
fifth year after marriage. Geographi-
cally, Paris heads the list.

The great ordnance survey map of
England, containing over 100,000 sheets
of which every part of the country is
about a million dollars a year, is
nearly completed. The scales vary
from 10 to 5 feet to the mile for the
towns, through 25 inches, 6 inches, 1
inch, 4 and 1 1/2 inch to the mile.
The details are so minute that the 25
and 6 inch maps show every hedge,
fence, ditch, wall, building and even
every isolated tree in the country. The
25-inch map shows in color the mar-
shaling of all letters of various sizes.
From across the room she was unable
to read even the biggest of the letters.
I put a pair of glasses in front of her
eyes, and she at once exclaimed:
"Oh, doctor! That is wonderful! I
can see so much better now."
"In fact, she was able to read all of
the letters, down to the very smallest,
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