

STILL ON THE RIVER

Mr. Swensberg Steams Down the Mississippi

BY HISTORIC WAR TOWNS

Description of the Economy and Villages Along the Father of Waters—Some Figures.

[LETTER NUMBER LIV]

We are on the broad bosom of the Father of Waters, the lovely Mississippi river. From Cairo down the beautiful country along the Ohio river changes from the farms, hills, valleys and bluffs to alluvial bottoms and plantations covered by lake of water. The scenery of the lower Mississippi is entirely different from that of the Ohio and the upper Mississippi. It lacks both grandeur and beauty, but there is no scenery on earth more peculiarly striking. The dreary solitude and, in season, the snowlike appearing cotton fields, now under water, the trees with a long and melancholy drapery of pendant Spanish moss fluttering in the Southern balmy breezes, the gigantic river rolling unendingly onward and onward, its vast volume of the dark mud-colored, turbid waters through this wilderness, yet strange to say, impressive landscapes on which the eye of man or woman ever rested. No river in the world drains so large a portion of earth's surface as does the great father of American waters. It is a river of some 3,000 miles, more than two-thirds the diameter of the globe. We will compare the main rivers of the earth as to relative length, etc., in our closing remarks on river travels.

The surroundings of Cairo have somewhat changed. A locality called the Point, covered with a growth of fine trees, has been formed since the war. This is separated from Cairo by a channel, between Point Cairo and the island. Those who were there during the battles of this country, and no scene would hardly recognize the old scene.

Along the Iron Banks.

Twenty miles below Cairo lies Columbus, Kentucky, with its high iron banks extending along the river for two miles, and so-called for their color, resembling iron rust. Here the confederates had a main chain stretched across the Mississippi, to stop the union gunboats. Opposite Columbus, on the flats, is Belmont, where General Grant fought his first battle. From here we pass where the famous "Island No. 10" was located during the war, but since washed away by the swift current of the river. Between these two points Mr. Norwood, the pilot, then at the wheel, called our attention to the yet distinct shades of the two great river waters, after running twenty-five miles side by side, mingling little by little and finally lost in the bosom of each other.

Hickman, Kentucky, our next landing, it does an active business in shipping, it is a growing place beautifully situated upon a high bluff. After passing several points of local interest we land at New Madrid, Missouri, seventy-five miles below Cairo. This was the scene of a great earthquake in 1811. It was first settled in 1800. New Madrid, Missouri, is renowned as the outlet of the Mississippi river corn belt, and quite a large shipping business is carried on here.

Five miles below is the Tennessee and Kentucky state line. We pass Darnell's Point and stop at Point Pleasant, Missouri, and Ashport, Tennessee, both important shipping points.

We next pass the following points of local interest: Elytonville, Benn's Reef, Foot, Hathaway, Gayosa, Caruthersville, Booth's Point, Cottonwood, Mrs. Hickman's, Brotsick, Hale's Point, River Sta., Harfield, Chickasamba, Island 21, Ashport, Gold Dust, Elmont, Plum Point, Oceola.

Site of Fort Pillow.

We are now at Fort Pillow, 130 miles below Cairo and six miles above Memphis. Fort Pillow, Tennessee, is situated on the first Chickasaw bluff, and is celebrated as the scene of a horrible butchery on April 2, 1864, by the troops under the confederate cavalry officer, General Forrest, and known in history as the Fort Pillow massacre. The colored garrison of 3,000 men, though the testimony concerning it is somewhat conflicting.

We stop at Fulton, Tennessee, a large shipping point for cotton to southern ports. From here we go on to Memphis, Illinois, Golden Lake, Benn's Point, Capt. Andrews, Corona, Mound City, Hopwood and other places, located along the river and in the states of Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas.

We are now 250 miles below Cairo, and land in Memphis, Tennessee, which has become one of the cleanest, healthiest and most beautiful cities of the Mississippi valley. Memphis is the leading city of the state and is presently situated on high bluffs. The city presents a striking appearance as seen from the water, with an extensive several hundred feet in width, sweeping along the bluffs, which are covered with large elevators, warehouses and factories. It is the chief city of the Mississippi, between St. Louis, Missouri and New Orleans, La.

We remained twenty-four hours and during this time visited the following places of interest: The Clara Conway institute and Home place. This is a school of the highest order and known throughout the country for its thoroughness and individual character with which it endows its pupils.

We next visited the Cosset library, founded by Frederick H. Cosset of New York city in 1888. Mr. Cosset made his money at Memphis during the war and was liberal enough to pay to the city the interest on the fortune made by building for the people of Memphis a most beautiful stone structure costing \$100,000. We also visited the custom house, which is a prominent structure. Next we took a ride about the city, the "Levee Walk," then the Raleigh springs, twelve miles from Raleigh. This was at one time, before and during the war, a popular place of resort. A company is now trying to restate its former reputation by building a large hotel, a fine Macadamized road and electric road have been built. There are about thirty springs within speaking distance, and all differ as to their healing and mineral properties.

Scenes in Memphis.

The Court park is located on Main street in the business center. It is about the size of Fulton Street park, though of greater interest, assuming the appearance of a small zoological garden. It has got squirrels, doves, jack rabbits, geese, wild geese and peacocks, in fact, birds, birds and small animals of various kinds. It is a great resort for children. The two largest hotels in the city are

The Geyser and the Steamship. The Geyser occupies a high position on the river bank. It is the headquarters of the confederates during the war. The Memphis bridge, just below the city, is four miles from approach to approach and one mile across the river from bank to bank. It is claimed to be one of the finest structures in the United States.

Memphis is very substantially built, its streets are evenly graded, well paved and kept very clean. The alleys are paved with brick and kept in as good condition as the streets. They have a good supply of gas water, the Cook well system. The present population of the city is about that of Grand Rapids. It has added to its improvements of late years many wood working factories and ten up every wooden pavement, claiming that the same had been the cause of the cholera and especially fewer epidemics.

Fort Pickering, Tennessee, Star Lodge, Miss., and Peber's Lodge, Ark., are located below and in sight of Memphis. We hope to visit the lower Mississippi river trip from Memphis to New Orleans, thence into the gulf at some future day.

One who has never descended the Ohio or Mississippi rivers can gain clear and adequate ideas of its grandeur, and the amount of water the latter carries into the ocean.

Swollen Rivers.

The rivers were very high on our trip down, and somewhat exciting. Steamers could run anywhere out of their usual channel; they would run cut-offs whenever they could see an open passage between the islands and through the woods for the purpose of shortening distance, they would run where the plantations ought to be, land and usual freights on some temporary scaffolds built into the water, or into little boats which would tie to the steamer, because the regular levees were out of sight.

On our return trip the water had fallen some eighteen or twenty feet and the boat had to be very careful as to where it navigated. The "New South" attempted to run over the banks at Hale's Point to unload two barrels of potatoes taken at Memphis. The distance was 110 and freight 50 cents a barrel, total \$1.00. The boat rested on the top of the levee while the water was fast lowering. They worked for nearly four hours and she broke her starboard wheel. Taking the breakage, use of coal and time the loss sustained was about \$100, as informed by the electric boat. They are obliged to run where to take on passengers and freight in high water. We passed over many miles where everything was deluged and people had moved into the highlands. At times we would pass a place where there seemed to rise above the level of the water a little island, as it were, upon which stood a little house. The family was numerous, the cattle, horses, mules, chickens, pigs, cats and dogs were all associated; just ground enough for them to stand on and in danger of being swept away at any moment. We saw cattle driven swimming with men or women rowing after them in boats. In some cases the houses were entirely under water, in other cases partly so, with boards raised above the floor high enough to admit of their remaining. The whole country seemed like a succession of rivers, lake bays and islands, and the sight was one long to be remembered.

Miles of River Bank.

The state of Pennsylvania has eighty miles of Ohio river bank forty on the north, from Pittsburg to Glasgow, the state line between Pennsylvania and Ohio, and forty miles on the south, from Pittsburg to Georgetown, the state line between Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

From the Pennsylvania and Ohio state line along the north bank of the Ohio river, a little southwest, to the great Miami river, and about twenty miles below Cincinnati, following the river bends from line to line, gives the state of Ohio a river bank of about 480 miles. From the state line of Pennsylvania and West Virginia, following the bend of the river along the south shore to the Big Sandy river, which is the line between West Virginia and Kentucky, gives Virginia about 300 miles of Ohio river bank that is following the river channel. From the Wabash the line of Indiana and Ohio following channel of Ohio river to Cairo, gives Illinois about 140 miles of Ohio river north shore bank, from the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi the state of Illinois has the east shore of the Mississippi river bank up to the state line of Wisconsin, which distance we have given in a previous Mississippi river letter. We will now return to the south shore of the Ohio river, commencing at the line of Virginia and Kentucky to the Big Sandy river, following the channel down to the mouth of the Tennessee river, or Paducah, the state line of Tennessee and Kentucky. Kentucky has a south Ohio river bank of about 675 miles. Then from Paducah to Cairo, Tennessee, has an Ohio river bank of about fifty miles. From this point down it bounds the Mississippi on the east and then joins the state of Mississippi, which touches the gulf of Mexico between the states of Alabama and Louisiana. Missouri lies on the west side of the Mississippi river and joins Arkansas on the west of the Arkansas river, which bounds the gulf of Louisiana, which bounds the gulf of Mexico.

Overland.

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A Dash of Sympathy.

Bagley—Tall girls are all the rage now. Grace—That may be, but I like short ones better.

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Better Still.

"The bride's father gave her away, did he not?"

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FIN DE SIECLE FUN.

"A fine old gentleman"—you know the sort—With courtly air and congenial port, In dress fastidious to the last degree, But favoring styles of the last century, One to whom all the past might hold sweet, One saw, old jokes—be lived on Chestnut street.

All things to hygienic standards he referred, And "the old school" was his familiar word, He loved to give at his degenerate age, Fling some special collops at our stage, Citing the elder Booth, Macready, Keen, With lesser lights his favored eyes had seen. Thus at his side—the oldest in the town—Life's daily doings met his nightly frown, Until his friends, as how their patience ran, Resolved to trap the "fine old gentleman."

So on a night when he was at his best, And the whole modern audience assembled, When dinner served as dinner times approved, Was under way the song but just removed, A well instructed steward brought the fish, The "fine old gentleman" essayed the dish, Then, all things at once and water both, He fiercely launched a fine old fashioned oath, Whereat the servant, bowing humbly, said, "But favoring styles of the last century, For—with a wink of those who close their eyes—"

"That mackerel, sir, was one of the old school."

PRINTS FOR US ALL

Public Printer Does a Good Deal of Work for Small Pay.

WHAT HIS DUTIES ARE

Origin, Growth and General Progress of the Government Print Shop. Four Million Required to Run It.

"I presume that there comes a time in the life of every lawyer when he entertains an ambition to be a judge," says ex-Senator Moody, of South Dakota. It may probably also be truthfully said that there comes a time in the life of every printer in this country when he entertains a desire or an ambition to secure employment in the government printing office at the national capital.

The public printer is at the head of a great institution which employs over three thousand men and women. The government printing office is a hive of industry, and, because of the fact that the employees in this great printing house are not under the protection of the civil service law, there are applicants for employment on hand in person every day either accompanied by their representatives or senators, or bearing letters from men of standing and influence. The office of the public printer, which is upon the second floor of the building, is the most attractive camping ground in the city for the unemployed.

It costs nearly \$4,000,000 to pay the yearly expenses of this institution. Over \$2,000,000 are paid annually to the employees in wages, while the quantities of materials consumed by the government printing office are almost staggering in their volume. Last year 243 printers' reams of paper were used, costing over \$240,000. There were also ten tons of printers' ink, twelve tons of glue, six tons of twine, two tons of glycerine, two tons of anti-mony, one ton of bar tin, one-half ton of plumbago, 800 pounds of pumice stone and 750 pounds of beeswax consumed in the regular business of the government printing office; and there were also 6,500 gallons of oil, 4,500 gallons of benzine, 140 gallons of alcohol, 3,000 packs of gold leaf, 4,000 pieces of book cloth, 3,000 dozen Turkey Morocco skins, 250 square feet of calfskin, 4,000 yards of crash, 4,000 dozen sheepskins and 40,000 feet of Russia leather consumed in the regular business. It is claimed by many that the government printing office in Washington is the biggest on the face of the earth.

From the expense account epitomized above one would judge that there is some ground for that claim. It is not generally known, but it is a fact that the big building at the corner of North Capitol and H streets, in which over 3,000 men and women are employed, is a veritable fire trap and a gigantic tinder-box. If a fire should occur in any part of the building a fearful holocaust would result. Three years ago congress appropriated \$250,000 for the purchase of a site and the erection of a new building for the government printing office; but real estate dealers in this city have managed by active and energetic competition, thus far to prevent the selection of any site, and the old death-trap continues in use. In the basement of the building are 75 huge printing presses, while on the floor above there is an immense complement of binding machinery, appliances and fixtures capable of turning out, in phenomenally short time, the greatest jobs of printing that can possibly be projected. In the basement and on the ground floor are the press rooms, paper warehouses, safety cases and machine shops. On the second floor are the administrative offices, the main composition room, the job rooms, the stereotyping and electrotyping departments and proof rooms. On the third floor is the bind-

All the Women Bought the Novel.

An amusing paragraph which has been going the rounds of the press states that the publishers of a German novel recently did a neat thing in the way of advertising. They caused to be inserted in most of the newspapers a notice to the effect that a certain nobleman of wealth and high position desirous of finding a wife wanted one who resembled the heroine in the novel named. Thereupon every marriageable woman who saw the notice bought the book in order to see what the heroine was like, and the work had an immense sale.—Printers' Ink.

The Fashion in Necklaces.

Necklaces grow more elaborate, and old-fashioned chains with lockets are again revived, which is a mercy now that the fashionable bodice uncovers so much of the average unloveliness of the feminine neck and shoulders. Call them Venus' kissing places or saucers, what you will, the depressions above the shoulder blades are less noticeable with some kind of necklace, and the fairness of this skin is enhanced by the gold and gems.—New York Sun.

Overruled.

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Advertisement for Hudson's Tower Clothing Co. featuring a suit of cheap clothes and a straw hat sale. Includes text: "I want a Suit of Cheap Clothes", "There will be a Great Cut Price Sale of Men's and Boys' Suits this week", "The Big Straw Hat Sale Closes Saturday Night".

FOR ONE DAY ONLY

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, AT 8 A. M., GREATEST CUT DOWN SALE EVER HEARD OF AT

M. EHRMAN'S SHOE HOUSE, 69 CANAL ST.

- On Tuesday you can buy a fine pair of Ladies' Kid Oxford Tie, hand turned, with patent leather tips, all sizes, cut down from \$1.75, for... \$.79
On Tuesday you can buy a pair of the finest Lace Tan Shoes, Blucher cut, hand turned, all colors and styles, elegant fitting shoes, cut down from \$3.50, all sizes; be sure and get a pair the latest style; for... 2.00
On Tuesday you can buy a pair of the finest Dongola Button Shoes, plain toe, square toe or peccadillo, patent tip, lace or button shoes, all widths, cut down from \$3.00, the finest shoes ever looked at, all styles heels and tips, for... 1.48
On Tuesday you can buy a pair of the finest Men's Calf or Kangaroo Shoes, lace or gaiters, my style, wide or narrow toes, hand sewed, cut down from \$3.50, the nicest line of men's shoes in the city; for... 1.97
On Tuesday you can buy a pair of the finest Ladies' Hand Turned, Button or Lace, Cloth Top, Patent Tip Shoes in the city, stylish and comfortable, high or low heels, square or opera toe, light weight and without a doubt the best fitting shoes made, cut down from \$4.50; just think of the cut on these shoes; for this day... 2.43

On Tuesday every article in the house will be cut down, as our intentions are to sell, and sell we must, so if you have an idea of buying shoes or slippers, you cannot afford to miss this golden opportunity. Extra clerks will be engaged for this great cut down sale. So come early. Remember these prices quoted above are for one day only, Tuesday, June 27, commencing at 8 a. m.

EHRMAN'S SHOE STORE 69 CANAL STREET.

Advertisement for Systematic Treatment Monthly Pills. Text: "Systematic Treatment Monthly Pills", "Ehrman's Shoe Store", "69 Canal Street".