HE COULDN'T BUCK.

The Mule That Was Ridden Once and Once Only.

"A fellow had a mule that nobody could ride and that nobody ever did ride but one time, so far as I know," said the old man who likes to tell stories. Here is the yarn about as he told it, with the names changed a bit:

"The banks on the Texas side of the Red river were sufficiently high to protect the adjoining lands from overflow. On the Indian Territory side the banks were somewhat lower and while overflows were not of yearly occurrence, they came frequently enough to be unpleasant. For this reason Jim Gabbot, a half breed, lived in Texas, though his farm was across the river in the Territory. Bob Sarasen, Jim's neighbor, lived and farmed on the Texas side.

"Gabbot owned a team of mules, Mike and Pete he called them. When the field work for the day was done he would unsnap them from the plow, and riding one and leading the other, he would ford the river to his home. Next morning he might be seen riding down to the river, which he was compelled to ford again to reach his field. Though he crossed the river twice almost every day in the year, and though both mules seemed equally well broken and gentle, he always rode the same mule, Old Pete.

"Sarasen would sometimes be working near the river as Gabbot crossed back and forth, and one day he remarked: "Gabbot, why don't' you ride that off mule once in a while and give Old Pete a rest?"

"'Truth is, Sarasen,' was the reply, 'Old Mike won't ride.'

"'O shucks, why don't you make him ride,' said Sarasen, with a touch of sarcasm.

"'Maybe you can ride him?' answered Jim.

"I ain't braggin' any,' said Sarasen, 'but I know what I'd do if he was mine!'

"'Well I'll tell you about that Mike mule,' said Gabbot. 'I'll bet a hard day's plowin' there ain't a man in the country can ride him a hundred feet.'

"'I'll take the bet, Jim,' said Sarasen, 'I'll ride him myself and do it now.'

"'If you do you win,' was the reply. Sarasen went to the animal, took off the harness, fastened a belt around its body; then he put a halter on the mule. He asked Gabbot to dismount from Old Pete and mounting Pete himself he led Mike down to the river, and riding one leading the other he urged them into the water until both mules were swimming. Then he held the mule he was riding back a bit and Old Mike swam unconcernedly alongside. As he did so Saracen grasped the belt about the mule's body and threw himself on its back. Mike went clear under the water but came up puffing and snorting. He made two or three attempts to lunge but they were utterly futile. Finally he settled down into business and swam steadily and rapidly toward the Territory shore, which was at least 150 feet away. Sarasen turned and waved his hand to Gabbot, who from the Texas side had watched the entire performance. When the mule reached water in which it could wade Sarasen slipped from its back and led both mules to the shore. After a brief rest he recrossed the river repeating the performance and Gabbot cheerfully admitted he had lost.

"A few hours later Jim might have been seen, busily turning the sod in Sarasen's field with a big double shovel and the mule that could not be ridden kept the tugs on the off side stretched.

"'Jim,' Bob would say as he lay in the shade and watched his neighbor work; there's more'n one way of ridin' a buckin mule.'"

Fewer marriages would be failures if the contracting parties were not such hypocrites during courtship.

Every time a great man does anything, along comes some little man who claims to have advised him.

The Plan of a Peacemaker.

Lord Charles Beresford, who is the head of the English navy, does not hone after an everlasting ruction on land and sea. Although he is one of the best sea fighters in the world, yet he has no heart in the work of incarnadining the oceans and sweeping the seas with sixteen-inch turret guns. On the contrary, he wants a "universal peace," and in order to get it he wants the United States and England to agree to fight together for it!

He believes in an alliance between the two Anglo-Saxon powers, accompanied by an announcement to the other powers of the earth that wars must cease and arbitration adjust international differences will do the business. His plan has the merit of being more tangible and effective than the general disarmament lately advocated by the czar and it is the logical sequence to the establishment of the Hague tribunal.

It means, of course, that Uncle Sam and John Bull are to take on the job of policing the earth and patrolling the seas. In order to do this so effectually as to keep the other fellow in wholesome awe and order, both countries must advance their naval and military establishments to the highest efficiency. It would be futile for them to command the peace and yet be powerless to crack the noggin of the chap who refused to obey the order. So that Lord Beresford's plan means that the combined armies and navies of America and England shall be able to go anywhere on the globe and lick promptly any combination that could be set in opposition to them.

As for the czar, he is committed to follow any policy that will end wars and insure peace. The emperor of Germany, certainly, is a very obtrusive war-lord, in his mind, but he is by no means the great international "it," and would think a couple of times or more and right hard before he invited the pricks of English bayonets and the prows of American ships As for the other powers, we could bunch the whole of them and put them out of business by backing over them!

With such an alliance, if formed, there could remain no doubt that its sword laid across the table of war councils anywhere would at once convert the parties belligerant into suitors for arbitration and peace.—Atlanta Constitution.

NOTICE IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the United States Court for the Southern District of the Indian Territory. In the matter of J. H. White, bankrupt, in bankruptcy. No. 61. To the Hon. Hosea Townsend, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of the Indian Territory:

J. H. White of Wynnewood, in the Southern district of the Indian Territory, in said district, respectfully represents that on the 4th day of April, last past, he was duly adjudged bankrupt under the act of congress relating to bankruptcy; that he has duly surrendered all his property and rights of property, and has fully complied with all the requirements of said acts and of the orders of the court touching his bankruptcy.

Wherefore he prays that he may be decreed by the court to have a full discharge from all debts provable against his estate under said bankrupt acts, except such debts as are excepted by law from such discharge.

Dated this 8th day of November, A. D. 1902. J. H. WHITE, Bankrupt.

Southern District of the Indian Territory, ss:

On this 8th day of November, A. D. 1902, on reading the foregoing petition, it is ordered by the court that a hearing be had upon the same on the 29th day of November, A. D. 1902, before said court at Pauls Valley, in said district, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon; and that notice therof be published in the Ardmoreite, a newspaper printed in said district and that all known creditors and other persons in interest may appear at the said time and place and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petitioner should not be granted.

It is further ordered by the court, that the clerk shall send by mail to all known creditors copies of said petition and this order, addressed to them at their places of residence as stated.

Witness the Honorable Hosea Townsend, judge of the said court, and seal thereof, at Pauls Valley, in said district, on the 8th day of November, A. D. 1902. C. M. CAMPBELL, Clerk. (Seal.)

By S. H. WOOTTON, Dep. Clk.

First published Nov. 20, 1902.

A REMINDER.

By Dr. P. DeClark.

'Twas morning and the first beams of the rising sun
Broke through window panes on the darkness of my room.
I scanned the scene, and the whole aspect seemed to bring
Hades back to light, when the shades of night could fling
Dullness o'er my senses and could foul discord claim
As champion in the strife, and well deign
To laugh sarcastic at the tumults of the day,
As receding visions, to fling themselves away.

There was my mother's son in rude disheveled hair,
And the attire he claimed was scattered here and there.
His pants lay stretched upon the floor and wore
The aspect of defeat, retreat, and even more;
The legs were bent a dozen ways, as if inclined
To find their owner, though himself bereft of mind;
And his vest most rueful seemed, as it hung alone
Suspended from a gibbet post, for crime atoned.

Then there was my coat stretched across a riggling chair,
With its collar bent, and its broken back in air;
And shoes and socks lay scattered round upon the floor
As if for pedals they were hunting four or more.
I, blinking kindly, said: "How came ye so, my dears,
Scattered like sheep upon the desert, lost with fear?"
And each lone fellow from his poor retreat replied:
"We came here when your mother's son was sleepy-eyed."

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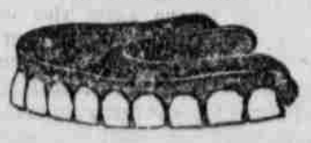

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