

# YORKVILLE ENQUIRER.

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY.

L. M. GRIST'S SONS, Publishers.

A Family Newspaper: For the Promotion of the Political, Social, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of the People.

ESTABLISHED 1855.

YORKVILLE, S. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1906.

TERMS.—\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.

NO. 73.

## OLD TIME HORSE SWAP.

Leading Features Just the Same as They Are In the Back Lots Today.

### A MATCH BETWEEN KIT AND BULLET.

Judge Longstreet's Story of Famous Trade In Georgia Is Still Repeated In York County With Variations; But Without Much Improvement.

From Georgia Scenes, Published by Harper & Brothers.

During the session of the supreme court in the village of —, about three weeks ago, when a number of people were collected in the principal street of the village, I observed a young man riding up and down the street, as I supposed, in a violent passion. He galloped this way, then that, and then the other; spurred his horse to one group of citizens, then to another; then dashed off at half-speed, as if fleeing from danger; and, suddenly checking his horse, returned first in a pace, then in a trot, and then in a canter. While he was performing these various evolutions he cursed, swore, whooped, screamed, and tossed himself in every attitude which man could assume on horseback. In short, he carried out most magnanimously "a term which, in our tongue, expresses all that I have described, and a little more, and seemed to be setting all creation at defiance. As I liked to see all this passing, I determined to take a peep at a little nearer to him, and to ascertain, if possible, what it was that affected him so sensibly. Accordingly I approached a crowd before which he stopped for a moment, and examined it with the strictest scrutiny. But I could see nothing in it that seemed to have anything to do with the cavort. Every man appeared to be in good humor, and all minding their own business. Not one so much as to glance at the strange figure who went on. After a semicolon pause, which my appearance seemed to produce (for he eyed me closely as I approached), he fetched a whoop, and swore that "he could out-swamp any live man, woman, or child that ever walked these hills, or that ever straddled horseflesh since the days of old daddy Adam. Stranger," said he to me, "did you ever see Yellow Blossom from Jasper?"

"No," said I, "but I have often heard of him."

"I'm the boy," continued he; "perhaps a little, just a little, of the best man at a horse-swap that ever trod shoe-leather."

I began to feel my situation a little awkward, when I was relieved by a man somewhat advanced in years, who stepped up and began to talk with much apparent interest. This drew the rider's attention, and he turned the conversation from me to the stranger.

"Well, my old oon," said he, "do you want to swap horses?"

"Why, I don't know," replied the stranger; "I believe I've got a best lead trade with you for that one, if you like him."

"Well, fetch up your nag, my old oon; you're just the lark I wanted to get hold of. I am perhaps a little, just a little, of the best man at a horse-swap that ever trod shoe-leather. Nature had done but little for Bullet's head and neck; but he managed, in a great measure, to hide their defects by bowing perpetually. He had obviously suffered severely for corn; but his ribs and hip-bones had not disclosed the fact, he never would have done it; for he was in all respects as cheerful and happy as if he commanded all the corn-crisps and fodder-stacks in Georgia. His height was about twelve hands, but as his shape partook somewhat of that of the giraffe, his haunches stood much lower. They were short, strait, peaked, and concave. Bullet's tail, however, made amends for all his defects. All that the artist could do to beautify it had been done; and all that horse could do to compliment the artist, Bullet did. His tail was nicked in superior style, and exhibited the line of beauty in many directions that could not be faulted. He was usually to be seen in some of them. From the root it dropped into a graceful festoon, then rose in handsome curve, then resumed its first direction, and then mounted suddenly upward like a cypress needle to a perpendicular of about two and a half inches. The whole had a careless and bewitching inclination to the right. Bullet obviously knew where his beauty lay, and took all occasions to display it to the best advantage. If a stick cracked, or if any one moved suddenly about him, or coughed, or hawked, or spoke a little louder than common, up went Bullet's tail like lightning; and if the going up did not please, the coming down must of necessity, for it was as different from the other movement as was its direction. The first was a bold and rapid flight upward, usually to an angle of 45 degrees. In this position he kept his interesting appendage until he satisfied himself that nothing in particular was to be done; when he commenced dropping it by half inches, in steady beats, then in triple time, then faster and shorter, and faster and shorter still, until it finally dived away imperceptibly into its natural position. If I might

compare sights to sounds, I should say its setting was more like the note of a locust than anything else in nature. Either from native sprightliness of disposition, from uncontrollable activity, or from an unconquerable habit of removing flies by the stamping of the feet, Bullet never stood still, but always kept up a gentle fly-scaring movement of his limbs, which was peculiarly interesting.

"I tell you, man," proceeded the Yellow Blossom, "he's the best live horse that ever trod the grit of Georgia. Bob Smart knows the horse. Come here, Bob, and mount this horse, and show Bullet's motions." Here Bullet bristled up, and looked as if he had been hunting for Bob all day long, and had just found him. Bob sprang on his back. "Boo-oo-oo!" said Bob, with a fluttering noise of the lips, and away went Bullet as if in a quarter race, with all his beauties spread in handsome style.

"Now trot him by," Bullet reduced his tail to customary, sidled to the right and left airily, and exhibited at least three varieties of trot in the short space of fifty yards.

"Make him pace!" Bob commenced twitching the bridle and kicking at the same time. These inconsistent movements obviously most naturally disconcerted Bullet, for it was impossible for him to learn from them whether he was to proceed or stand still. He started to trot, and was told that wouldn't do. He attempted a canter, and was checked again. He stopped, and was urged to go on. Bullet now rushed into the wide field of experiment, and struck out a gait of his own that completely turned the heads of all the riders, and certainly deserved a patent. It seemed to have derived its elements from the jig, the minuet, and the cotillon. If it was not a pace, it certainly had pace in it, and no man would venture to call it anything else; so it passed off to the satisfaction of the owner.

"Walk him!" Bullet was now at home again, and he walked as if money were stacked on him.

The strange man named Peter Ketch, having examined Bullet to his heart's content, ordered his son Neddy to go and bring up Kit. Neddy soon appeared upon Kit, a well-favored sorrel of the middle size, and in good order. His tout-ensemble threw Bullet entirely in the shade, though a glance was sufficient to satisfy any one that Bullet had the decided advantage of him in point of intellect.

"Why, man," said Blossom, "do you bring such a horse as that to trade for Bullet? Oh, I see, you've no notion of trading!"

"Ride him off, Neddy!" said Peter. Kit trotted off at a handsome lope.

"Trot him back!" Kit came in at a long, sweeping trot, and stopped suddenly at the crowd.

"Well," said Blossom, "let me look at him; maybe he'll do to plough."

"Examine him," said Peter, taking hold of the bridle close to the mouth; "he's nothing but a tacky. He ain't as pretty a horse as Bullet, I know, but he'll do. Start 'em together for a hundred and fifty miles, and if Kit and Neddy keep at it the same time as the coming out, any man may see that he's the scariest horse, too, you ever saw. He won't do to hunt on, no-how. Stranger, will you let Neddy have your rifle to shoot off him? Lay the rifle between his ears, Neddy, and shoot at the blaze upon his head. Tell me when he head is high enough."

Neddy fired and hit the blaze, and Kit did not move a hair's breadth.

"Neddy, take a couple of sticks, and beat on that hoghead at Kit's tail."

Neddy made a tremendous rattling, at which Bullet took fright, broke his bridle, and dashed off in grand style, and would have stopped all further negotiations by going home in disgust, had not a traveler arrested him, and brought him back, but Kit did not move.

"I tell you, gentlemen," continued Peter, "he's the scariest horse you ever saw. He ain't as gentle as Bullet, but he won't do any harm if you watch him. Shall I put him in a cart, gig, or wagon for you, stranger? He'll cut the same capers there he does here. He's a monstrous mean horse."

During all this time Blossom was examining him with the nicest scrutiny. He rather had the nicest scrutiny, he now looked at his eyes.

"He's got a curious look out of his eyes," said Blossom.

"Oh, yes, sir," said Peter, "just as blind as a bat. Blind horses always have clear eyes. Make a motion at his eyes, if you please, sir."

Blossom did so, and Kit threw up his head rather as if something pricked him under the chin than as if he feared a blow. Blossom repeated the experiment, and Kit jerked back in considerable astonishment.

"Stone blind, you see, gentlemen," proceeded Peter; "but he's just as good to travel of a dark night as if he had eyes."

"Blame my buttons," said Blossom, "if I like them eyes!"

"No," said Peter, "nor I neither. I'd rather have 'em made of diamonds; but they'll do—if they don't show as much white as Bullet's."

"Well," said Blossom, "make a pass at me."

"No," said Peter, "you made the banner, now make your pass."

"Well, I'm never afraid to price my horses. You must give me twenty-five dollars boot."

"Oh, certainly; say fifty, and my saddle and bridle in. Here, Neddy, my son, take away daddy's horse!"

"Well," said Blossom, "I've made my pass, now you make yours."

"I'm for short talk in a horse-swap, and therefore always tell a gentleman at once what I mean to do. You give me ten dollars."

Blossom swore absolutely, roundly, and profanely that he never would give boot.

"Well," said Peter, "I didn't care about trading; but you, such high talk, I thought I'd like to back you out, and I've done it. Gentlemen, you see I've brought him to a hack."

"Come, old man," said Blossom, "I've been joking with you. I begin to think you do want to trade; therefore, give me five dollars and take Bullet. I'd rather lose ten dollars any time than not make a trade, though I hate to fling away a good horse as clever as you are. Just put the five dollars on Bullet's back, and hand him over; it's a trade."

Blossom swore again, as roundly as before, that he would not give boot; and said he, "Bullet wouldn't hold five dollars on his back now. But, as I bantered you, if you say an even swap, here's at you."

"I told you," said Peter, "I'd be as clever as you; therefore, here goes two dollars more, just for trade sake. Give me three dollars, and it's a bargain."

Blossom repeated his former assertion; and here the parties stood for a long time, and the by-standers (for many were now collected) began to taunt both parties. After some time, however, it was pretty unanimously decided that the old man had backed Blossom out.

At length Blossom swore he "never would be backed out for three dollars after bantering a man," and, accordingly, they closed the trade.

"Now," said Blossom, as he handed Peter the three dollars, "I'm a man that, when he makes a bad trade, makes the most of it until he can make a better. I'm for no ruses and after-claps."

"That's just my way," said Peter; "I never go to law to mend my bargains."

"Ah, you're the kind of boy I love to trade with. Here's your horse, old man. Take the saddle and bridle off him, and I'll strip yours; but lift up the blanket ease from Bullet's back, for he's a mighty tender-backed horse."

The old man removed the saddle, but the blanket stuck fast. He attempted to raise it, and Bullet bowed himself, switched his tail, danced a little, and gave signs of biting.

"Don't hurt him, old man," said Blossom, archly; "take it off easy, I am, perhaps, a little of the best man at a horse-swap that ever caught a coon."

Peter continued to pull at the blanket more and more roughly, and Bullet became more and more covetous, inasmuch that, when the blanket came off, he had reached the kicking point in good earnest.

On the removal of the blanket disclosed a sore on Bullet's backbone that seemed to have defied all medical skill. It measured six full inches in length and four in breadth, and had as many features as Bullet had motions. My heart sickened at the sight; and I felt that the brute who had been riding him in that situation deserved the halter.

The prevailing feeling, however, was that of mirth. The laugh became loud and general at the old man's expense, and rustic witticisms were liberally bestowed upon him and his late purchase. These Blossom continued to provoke by various remarks. He asked the old man "if he thought Bullet would let five dollars lie on his back."

He declared most seriously that he had owned that horse three months, and had never discovered that he had had a sore back, "or he never should have thought of trading him," etc., etc.

The old man bore it all with the most philosophic composure. He evinced no astonishment at his late discovery, and made no replies. But his son Neddy had not disciplined his tongue to such good use. He opened wide and wider from the first to the last pull of the blanket, and when the whole sore burst upon his view, astonishment and fright seemed to contend for the mastery of his countenance. As the blanket disappeared, he stuck his hand in his breeches pockets, heaved a deep sigh, and lapsed into a profound reverie, from which he was only aroused by the cuts at his head. He bore them as long as he could; and, when he could contain himself no longer, he began, with a peculiar intensity to what he uttered: "His back's mighty bad off; but do not drop my soul if he's put it to daddy as bad as he thinks he has, for old Kit's both blind and deaf, I'll be do for it he ain't!"

"The devil he is," said Blossom.

"Yes, do drop my soul if he ain't! He eyes don't look like it; but he'd just as levo agin the house with you, in a ditch, as anyhow. Now you go try him." The laugh was now turned on Blossom, and many rushed to test the fidelity of the little boy's report. A few experiments established its truth beyond controversy.

"Neddy," said the old man, "you oughtn't to try and make people distrust their things. Stranger, don't mind what the little boy says. If you can only get Kit rid of them little fallings you'll find him all sorts of a horse. You are a little the best man at a horse-swap that ever I got hold of; but don't fool away Kit. Come, Neddy, my son, let's be moving; the stranger seems to be getting snappish."

NO HEAVEN FOR HIM.—The opportunity to "speak out in meanness" was never more eagerly grasped than by a youngster of five, says the Chicago Record-Herald, who recently accompanied his mother to a revival meeting at one of the southside churches. He had reached the "fidgety" stage of enforced quiet, when the minister called upon all the members of his flock who desired to live a better life and enter the promised land to signify the same by standing. Noting the child remained seated, the worthy reverend walked down the aisle and stopped facing him, him, the child inquired: "My dear little boy, you want to go to heaven, too, don't you?"

"No, I don't," quickly came the reply in tones perfectly audible to the entire congregation. "I want to go home, and pretty blamed quick, too!"

Needless to say, his desire was granted.

## SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE REVOLUTION

How the Spirit of Liberty Was Kept Alive By an Unconquerable People.

By REV. ROBERT LATHAN, D. D.

From the Yorkville Enquirer of 1874.

### INSTALLMENT XXX.

#### The Battle of Cowpens.

Everything in this world is attended with uncertainty. When the British captured Savannah and Charleston and in a short time after literally demolished the army of General Gates at Camden, the people of Great Britain were jubilant. They thought the blow had been struck which would reduce the American colonies into subjection to the British crown. The British officers in South Carolina thought they had nothing to do now, but by easy marches advance as far as Chesapeake. This done, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia, would be reduced to hopeless servitude to the majesty of Great Britain. The plan adopted by the British commander was to advance through the country, establish garrisons at convenient places, and thus keep in subjection the territory overrun. The military posts were designed to be so many places of rendezvous for the Tories and loyalists. His majesty's troops were expected to live on plunder.

This was not the dream of mere devices in the art of war. It was the most understood of the British commander. He was justly proud. American liberty is enhanced in value, when we reflect that it was won by raw militia against officers trained in the best schools of Europe. Those who talk about Cornwallis, Tarleton and Rawdon as fools and cowards, suffer their judgment to be perverted to blind prejudice. No braver man ever drew a sword or commanded a military organization than he who fell on King's Mountain. He was justly proud. American liberty is enhanced in value, when we reflect that it was won by raw militia against officers trained in the best schools of Europe. Those who talk about Cornwallis, Tarleton and Rawdon as fools and cowards, suffer their judgment to be perverted to blind prejudice. No braver man ever drew a sword or commanded a military organization than he who fell on King's Mountain. He was justly proud. 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