

NEVADA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY QUARTERLY

“...*The Back Number*...”



A *Quarterly* containing “. . . nothing but ancient news; narratives culled from moldy old newspapers and moldy old books; narratives set down by eye-witnesses at the time that the episodes treated of happened . . .”

—*Mark Twain's Autobiography*—



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"... THE BACK NUMBER ..."

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DISCOVERY

THE FIRST ACCOUNT¹

J. F. Stone . . . reports the discovery of a vein of ore of extraordinary richness at the head of Six Mile Canon, about ten miles from the Truckee Meadows between the sink of the Humboldt and Carson Valley. . . . The discovery was made by a man who . . . took out in half a day \$300 with two hands. The vein is undoubtedly an exceedingly rich one, and will create quite an excitement in that region of the country. . . .

* * *

REMINISCENCES²

PIONEER REMINISCENCES IN WASHOE—DISCOVERY OF GOLD HILL.—Late in the Fall of 1858, four men, named James Finney, alias Virginia, John Bishop, alias Big French John, Aleck Henderson and Jack Yount, were prospecting in the vicinity of the place where the city of Virginia is now situated. Becoming short of provisions, they made a trip to Johntown, where there was a store to obtain fresh supplies. As they were passing along the ridge immediately east of the canon in which the town of Gold Hill is now located, "Virginia" pointed to the large mound now known as Gold Hill, and remarked to his comrades: "Boys, I believe that there are some good diggings over there. In a few days we will go over and try it." They returned from Johntown with their provisions, and in a few days went to the mound pointed out by "Virginia," as agreed upon. Snow was upon the ground at the time, but raking this away, they took up a shovel full of dirt and washing it out with water obtained by melting some snow, they found a very good prospect of gold. Virginia, however, in hunting around over the mound, discovered a hole which had been made by a gopher. From this they took out a considerable quantity of gold and carried it down to Crown Point Ravine, through which ran a small stream of water. Washing it out here, they found it to be very rich in gold. All then immediately thought that they had at last found the long-looked for El Dorado, which was to reward them richly for their long and arduous prospecting labors, and the bleak mountains which surrounded them echoed and re-echoed with their wild shouts of delight. They immediately staked out four claims of fifty feet each, and divided it among each other, giving Virginia, as the discoverer, the first choice. A few days afterward five other men,

named James Rogers, Joseph Plato, Sandy Bowers, Henry Comstock and William Knight, who had been prospecting in and about Spanish Ravine, came down to the newly discovered diggings and staked out another claim of fifty feet, being ten feet to each. During that Winter the weather was so severe that they were not able to do much work, but they secured water by bringing it in a ditch from Crown Point Ravine, obtained rockers, and early in the next Spring, commenced operations with vigor. Two men were employed about a rocker, the daily yield of which was from \$8 to \$25, being an average of about \$10 per day to each man. In the Fall of 1859 immigration commenced arriving, and some of the old locators began to sell out. So late as the Spring of 1860 rockers were still used. Of these four discoverers, not one owns a foot of ground on Gold Hill, and of the five second locators, only one, and the heirs of another now own an interest. Virginia first gave John Vignot, alias Little French John, nine feet, in consideration of his having attended him during a spell of sickness. This nine feet is now incorporated in the Logan and Holmes claim. He then sold twenty-one feet to Durgan & Co. for \$50 per foot. Of this, ten and a half feet now compose the Lindauer & Hirschman claim. The remaining twenty feet he sold to L. E. and J. W. Rice. Of this, six and one-third feet is now incorporated in the Logan and Holmes claim. The remaining thirteen and two-thirds feet is still known as the Rice claim. John Bishop sold his claim to Logan & Holmes for \$50 per foot. Jack Yount sold thirty feet to J. D. Winters and twenty feet to Henderson & Butler. Aleck Henderson retained an interest until last year in partnership with his brother Wm. Henderson, when he sold out and returned to the States. Of the five later locators, Rogers sold his ten feet to Mrs. Cowan (now Mrs. Sandy Bowers) for \$100 per foot. This, with the ten feet which Sandy Bowers owned and still retains, form what is now known as the Bowers claim. Comstock sold to one Frink. This ten feet is now known as the Harold & Co.'s claim. Knight's interest was sold and also passed to Harold & Co. These two interests are now incorporated in the claim of the Empire Mill and Mining Company. Plato died, but his wife inherited and still owns the ten feet which he located. Finney, alias Virginia, Plato and Rogers are now dead, the latter having committed suicide a few months since. Bishop still lives about Virginia. Aleck Henderson, as we have before stated, has returned to the States. Comstock, immortalized by the famous lead in this district, which bears his name, is now in the northern

mines. Sandy Bowers and wife now reside in Washoe county—the lucky location of ten feet, the lucky purchase of ten more, and, we may add, the lucky consolidation of the two interests, having placed them in the most affluent circumstances, far above the fear of future want. For these interesting reminiscences we are chiefly indebted to those well-known and highly esteemed citizens of Gold Hill, Almarin B. Paul² and C. C. Stevenson, of the firm of Coover and Stevenson. They are pioneers themselves, and were personally acquainted with the majority of the persons of whom we have spoken, from whom they obtained all the facts in regard to this discovery.

A COMPACT¹

Silver Star District March 1, 1860.

Met according to agreement for the Purpose of forming a new district. L. C. Oglesby Being called to the chair By consent of all Present took his seat and Called the meeting to order. C. Angus nominated C. S. Ellis as Secutary of the meeting By a unanimost vote.

Mr. G. Donley mooved that A Comitee of three bee appointed to draft A Code of laws For this new District which was agreed To and the chair appointed C. S. Ellis George Donley and Christopher Angus Said comitee the comitee retired and after the absence of one hour returned And beged leave to report

Which was granted and Reads as followes

Article 1 This District Shal bee called And Known as the Silver Star District

Article 2 This District Shal commence At Carson River at a Point on said River South East of the Shugar loaf mountain and run west course So as to Strike the South End of Said mountain and thence up the Ravene to the Dutch tunnel from thence to run a South West course on the South Side and to run withe the ridge on Center of Said mountains untill it reaches the Saw Pit and thence withe line of the Silver City Distr crossing the mountain on a Straight line to Carson River thence down Carson River to the Place of Beginning

Article 3 No one Person Shal bee Permitted to take or hold more than two hundred feet of any quartz ledge in this district unless he bee the discoverer of a ledge in all Sutch instances Said discoverer Shal Bee entitled To and addishional two hundred feet on Said ledge

Article 4 We have this day Ellected C. S. Ellis Recorder for this district to hold and to keep Said Office at a Point most convenient to the miners of Said district

Article 5 The fees of the recorder of this District Shal bee for Each clame recorded by him Fifty cents for Each name recorded and for Each Bill of Sale Recorded by him Shal bee one Dollars²

Article 6 It Shal bee the duty of the Recorder To Go on the Ground of Each clamunts and measure their clames and cause Stakes to bee Planted At Each end of his or their clames and mark Each notice Recorded in his own hand writing.

Article 7 The miners of this district Shal have the Power at any time to alter or amend these lawes by first giving ten dayes notice to the miners of Said district by Posting in the most

Publick Place in Said district a written notice Said notice is to State What the object of the meeting is called for

Article 8 it Shal bee the duty of claimants in this district after taking up clames to have the Same Recorded in the Recording Book in ten days From the date of their notice

Article 9 Any clame or clames not Recorded Withe in ten dayes Shal bee Subject to Relocation

Article 10 Each clame Shal bee worked to the amt of ten dollars Per monthe for the first monthe or fifty dollars worth of work to actually done on Said clames Shal hold Said clames for Six months

Article 11 Any company Performing labour To the amt of fifty dollars on any Set of clames Shal Entitle them to hold Said clames for Six months

Article 12 Each Company is allowed Each side of his or their clames Sufficient amt of ground To work the Same to a good advantage

Article 13 Each Company claiming any quarts Ledge in this district Shal bee allowed all dips Angles and Spurs of Said ledge also all mineral whatever inside of their Bounds of clames

Article 14 Any Surface claims taken in This district Shal bee two hundred feet Square with a Stake and notice on Each corner. any gulch or ravene Claims Shal bee two hundred fet on Said gulch or Ravene and the full width of the Gulch And ten feet in Each Bank³

Article 15 All disputes ariseing about mining Clames in this district Shal bee Settled by the miners of this district

Article 16 Any one taken up clames in This district on any quarts ledge after locating Said clames he has mistook the direction of Said leade he or they Shal have the full right To Change their notice So as to include the main Lead when the same Shal bee made Known

Article 17 It Shal bee the duty of the Recorder to Post a coppey of these lawes on an cause To bee Posted at Silver Cty Virginia Cty and Flowery digings

Article 18 It Shal bee the duty of Each member of this meeting to assign his own real name to these lawes or cause his name to bee Put to them in writing

Attested and agreed to this 1st day of March 1860

L. C. Oglesby chairman
C. S. Ellis Recorder
W. J. Wheeler
George Donley
Cristopher Angus

MARK TWAIN AND THE GOODMAN-FITCH DUEL¹

BELLIGERENT CONTROVERSY.—The Enterprise this morning smelt of blood. In fact it was red all over. While perusing the leading article we imagined we saw pistols, bowie-knives, blunderbusses, and bludgeons issue from the face of every type. The Union to-morrow will probably look equally as savage. Gracious—wish we had a hand in it! Our ire is up—"Mark Twain" and "the Unimportant" are "bilques." Wish we could insult them.²

* * *

. . . Mr. Joseph T. Goodman . . . editor of the Enterprise published an article severely reflecting on the private character of Thos. S. Fitch, the editor of the Union. The Union editor replied on the following morning in a comparatively mild manner, from which it was supposed that the difference would end there. But on the day before yesterday, a challenge was sent by Mr. Fitch to Mr. Goodman, demanding satisfaction. . . . The parties, attended by their respective suites, repaired this morning to Six Mile Canon, the place selected for the rencontre. . . . There were upon the ground some forty or fifty spectators. In fact, the whole arrangement seemed to be current throughout the city yesterday evening, and the livery stables did a thriving business this morning, as many vehicles were on the road to the Canon about the hour designated for the meeting.³

* * *

. . . While the parties were proceeding to the spot of the contemplated duel, a millman residing near observing so many well dressed equestrians, imagined a rich strike had been made somewhere in his locality, and that they were taking advantage of the early hour to "locate" before the whole city arrived. Visions of riches crowded upon his brain . . . Hastily he saddled his horse, mounted, and made all possible speed to the scene. Imagine his dismay, when he arrived, to learn that it was nothing more than a dueling party. He waited, however, until the affair was over, and then he retraced his steps homeward, remarking to one of the party: "I thought, by the way you fellers were rushing down here, *you had a d -- d good thing of it.*"⁴

* * *

A DUEL PREVENTED.⁵—Whereas, Thomas Fitch, editor of the *Union*, having taken umbrage at an article headed "The Virginia

Union—not the Federal,” written by Joseph T. Goodman, our chief editor, and published in these columns; and whereas said Fitch having challenged said Goodman to mortal combat, naming John Church as his “friend;” and whereas the said Goodman having accepted said challenge, and chosen Thos. Peasley to appoint the means of death—

Therefore, on Friday afternoon it was agreed between the two seconds that the battle should transpire at nine o'clock yesterday morning (which would have been late in the day for most duelists, but it was fearfully early for newspaper men to have to get up)—place, the foot of the canon below the Gould & Curry mill; weapons, navy six shooters; distance, fifteen paces; conditions, the first fire to be delivered at the word, the others to follow at the pleasure of the targets, as long as a chamber in their pistols remained loaded. To say that we felt a little proud to think that in our official capacity we were about to rise above the recording of ordinary street broils and the monotonous transactions of the Police Court to delineate the ghastly details of a real duel, would be to use the mildest of language. Much as we deplored the state of things which was about to invest us with a new dignity, we could not help taking much comfort in the reflection that it was out of our power, and also antagonistic to the principles of our class, to prevent the state of things above mentioned. All conscientious scruples—all generous feelings must give way to our inexorable duty—which is to keep the public mind in a healthy state of excitement, and experience has taught us that blood alone can do this. At midnight, in company with young Wilson, we took a room at the International, to the end that through the vigilance of the watchman we might not be suffered to sleep until past nine o'clock. The policy was good—our strategy was faultless. At six o'clock in the morning we were on the street, feeling as uncomfortable in the gray dawn as many another early bird that founded its faith upon the inevitable worm and beheld too late that that worm had failed to come to time, for the friends of the proposed deceased were interfering to stop the duel, and the officers of the law were seconding their efforts. But the two desperados finally gave these meddlers the slip, and drove off with their seconds to the dark and bloody ground. *Whereupon young Wilson and ourself at once mounted a couple of Olin's fast horses and followed in their wake at the rate of a mile a minute.*

Since then we enjoy more real comfort in standing up than sitting down, being neither iron-clad or even half-soled. But we lost our bloody item at last—for Marshal Perry arrived early

*with a detachment of constables, and also Deputy Sheriff Blodgett with a lot of blasted Sheriffs, and the battle ground lying and being in Storey county, these miserable, meddling whelps arrested the whole party and marched them back to town.*⁶ And at the very moment that we were suffering for a duel. The whole force went off down there and left the city at the mercy of thieves and incendiaries. Now, that is about all the strategy those fellows know. We have only to add that Goodman and Fitch were obliged to give bonds in the sum of \$5,000 each to keep the peace, and if anything were lacking to make this robbery of the reporters complete, that last circumstance furnished the necessary material.⁷

THEATRE

A BURLESQUED MAZEPPA

SUTLIFF'S HALL.—This place of amusement was crowded to its utmost capacity last night with men and women, who were there to witness the performance of the burlesque of Mazeppa, introduced for the first time. To describe the moving incidents in the serio-comical, equestrian, assinine, canine, melodramatic burlesque is beyond our ability; but some idea of its leading features may be formed when we state that the obese J. H. O'Neil performs a double part, appearing in some scenes as a thieving PiUte Indian and in others as a long-tailed Chinaman. Mrs. Beatty and Miss Henry, who both play the part of Mazeppa, appear dressed in less than two yards of calico, and after riding in these scant habiliments lashed on the back of a "fiery untamed steed," which, by the by, was the quietest of quiet and well-behaved mustangs, Miss Henry rides backwards and forwards *a la cavalier*, like some politicians ride the political fence—a straddle. The demure looking Charley Rhodes personates a "lovely shemale." . . . in the last scene . . . the stage is crowded with jackasses, half-naked women, Chinamen, PiUtes, niggers and the bow-legged dog "Bummer," all brilliantly illuminated with red fire! To be comprehended and appreciated, Mazeppa, as played at Sutliff's, must be seen—it cannot be described.¹

* * *

A TREMENDOUS CROWD.—There was a tremendous crowd at Sutliff's Hall last night to witness the successful burlesque of Mazeppa. His Excellency Governor Nye and staff were there, and enjoyed the fun as well as the rest of the audience. There is no use talking, Governors, as well as governed, like to enjoy themselves occasionally with a little fun. Our worthy Governor has as good an eye as any other man to view the points of the female form divine—so many and so much of which are nightly to be seen . . . Mrs. Beatty and Miss Henry have both got good legs and feet, busts and—all the rest—and men as well as big boys love to gaze on them and ruminate.²

* * *

A VIOLIN CONCERT

PAUL JULIEN.—You wouldn't suppose we'd be in Virginia when the famed fiddler was having a complimentary benefit by particular request, and not go to hear him and see him? . . . A poster told us to "go early and secure a seat." . . .

The gentlemanly management soon discovered that we were there, and an artist was sent to the front to open the piano. He opened it pretty thoroughly; but since the recent mining panic a Virginia audience requires a full development of everything; and the artist labored diligently some minutes to expose the entire machinery. At length, with the aid of another artist and a screw-driver, the top was loosened and carried off—amid great applause. We were pleased to see the mechanic and subordinate pursuits thus honored by a discriminating audience in this great city.

Stadfeldt came forward and bowed backward, and seated himself within arms-length of the piano. He hammered, showed a partiality for the small end of the board, and played fast and stopped quickly . . . A great deal of feeling but very little music in his performance. He was applauded. It seemed there were men there determined to applaud whenever anybody else was occupying the attention of the audience. Mrs. Wiley sang a song. It was a great effort. You could see it. Paul Julien then came down to the front. He was applauded for bowing. He had one of those steel-pen split coats onto him. Did you ever notice how the stately raven's tail tips up when the raven dips up a bug? Paul's coat tail tipped up the very same. He took a clean handkerchief from one side of the split and wiped his violin. He drew the hair of the horse across the bowels of the cat much to the same purpose as if the cat had been alive—a great noise followed. He could play well if custom would permit. In some portions he did descend to a tune and the violin sounded melodiously. He is a complete master of the instrument, or he could never succeed in torturing so sweet toned a violin into the squeaks and squalls he brings from it. He stops occasionally, and the claquers applaud, while he wipes the neck of the violin with that white handkerchief from the tail of his coat. Then he bows. When he leaves the stage he bows. The Virginians then set up a din of clapping and yelling, and Paul appears unto them, and bows. They applaud him for it, and he bows.

The Beermania Society sung a fine chorus. Mrs. Wiley and Stadfeldt perform, and Julien comes back and Steudeman is dished up, and we leave long before it is out, thinking we have enough for a dollar, and that the dollar passed the wrong way.³

TRAGEDY

MEDEA

Have you seen Matilda Heron?
Not the lean and lanky maiden—
Maiden angular and bony,
Years ago in California,
Took the rag from off the bushes;
But Matilda Heron Stoepel—
Matilda, fat and fair and forty?
We have "been there;" we have seen her!
Saw her act the fierce Medea;
Saw her act the outraged woman;
Saw her act the wife discarded—
Deserted and heart broken mother.
Saw her frenzied, fierce and maddened,
Wreak her fierce and awful vengeance
On her young and beauteous rival—
Slay her babes and perish with them.

'Tis a sad and mournful story,
Is the story of Medea.
The scene is laid in ancient Corinth,
In the dark and misty ages
Of the ancient Grecian poems;
In the days of gods and heroes—
Days of goddesses and women—
Days when deities and mortals,
Mixed in such conglomeration
That you can't tell which from 'tother.
Of those days and of such people
Is the story of Medea.
Consequently, if the audience
Ain't well posted in their classics,
They fail in due appreciation.
In short, to use a coarse expression,
Medea is a huckleberry
Above the popular persimmon.

But the story of Medea
Is a tale of human passions;
And the hearts of men and women
Are made of much the same material
Now as in the misty ages—
Here in Washoe as in Corinth—
And the woes of wronged Medea
Are a story *too* familiar
On the shores of the Pacific.
If we lay the scene in Washoe,
We can tell Medea's story
To the better comprehension
Of the masses of the people.

In the silver-land of Washoe
Lived a hunky boy, named Jason!
A mighty hero was this Jason
And his doughty deeds of valor
Rang from Tahoe to Reese River—
From Oregon to Arizona.
He had been with Captain Wallace
On the Walker expedition.
He it was who planned the movement
Which surrounded the "campoody;"
He it was, who in the pine-woods,
Watching, waiting, lay till morning,
Laying plans, dark and strategic,
With the Indian Chief "Josephus."
He was with the Nine-and-Twenty
Under Wells out on the Truckee;
They who slew the veteran legions—
Slew the nine-and-twenty Piutes—
Slew the squaws of Winnemucca;
Waded to the very arm-pits,
Through seas of guts and gore and garbage.
All alone had mighty Jason,
Slain with single-barreled shot-gun
The Fossil-Elephant of Truckee.
First he slew him, then he ate him—
Stripped his bones and left him lying,
A skeleton all bare and ghastly.
Took he then the mighty entrails,
Made a hundred miles of sausage
Stuffed with piutes and papooses;
Ate the sausage as he journied homewards.
Such a mighty man was Jason!

Was it strange that all the women
In the silver-land of Washoe
Cast their brightest, sweetest glances
On the doughty warrior Jason?
Was it strange that fair Creusa
Child of old Creon the Wealthy,
Lord of all the Ledge of Comstock,
Should succumb to the advances
Of the mighty warrior Jason?

On one fair and lovely evening,
When the gentle Washoe zephyr
Wafted playfully the stove-pipes,
Signs, and boards, and dust and dornicks,
Through the streets and through the alleys,
Creusa made her preparations
For her wedding on the morrow.
Jason proudly stalked through C street,
To buy a ring and hire a preacher;

Met in front of Doyle & Goodman's,
Orpheus, his friend and pitcher.
And the tale that Orpheus told him
Made bold Jason rather weaken :
Orpheus told him that Medea
[His other wife from Philadelphia]
Had come out across the Isthmus,
On the Nicaragua steamer !
Had come out and brought the children,
For to see their daddy Jason,
Hero of the land of Washoe.
Jason was a man of action—
Hesitated not nor pondered ;
Hied him straight for "able counsel,"
And before the blissful morning,
Was divorced from poor Medea—
Free to marry fair Creusa.
And by Judge Burbank's decision
Both the children, too, were given
To Jason, and not to Medea.
Medea then took the hysterics,
Shrieked and yelled, and kicked and shouted ;
Sat down in the empty court-room,
Got her wind and planned her vengeance.
Then she took a half a dollar,
Hied straightway to a drug-store,
Bought a half an ounce of essence
Of the deadly Screw-ten-oo-ten—
Went then straightway to the chamber
Of the lovely bride Creusa.
On the bridal veil she poured it,
Poured the deadly Screw-ten-oo-ten ;
Went then to the house of Jason
Went and asked to see the children,
Just to see them and to kiss them.
Jason and the fair Creusa
Scarce were bound in holy wedlock
By the Reverend Mr. Rising,
When a piercing shriek resounded
Through the Church, and fair Creusa
Succumbed to the Screw-ten-oo-ten.
Horror-struck the wretched Jason
Homeward rushed and found his children
Stretched upon the parlor-carpet
Dead from ghastly wounds inflicted
By the dagger of Medea.
And the mother standing o'er them,
Howled a curse so fierce and dreadful
That the wretched Jason shuddered ;
Then she raised the bloody dagger ;
In her broken heart she thrust it,

And fell and died upon the bloody
 Bodies of her slaughtered children.
 That's the story of Medea,
 Adapted to the times and climate
 Of the Silver-Land of Washoe.

If you'll go and search the records
 Of the Courts of California;
 If you'll overhaul the papers
 In this First Judicial District
 Of the new State of Nevada
 You will find the same old story,
 The wretched story of Medea,
 Told so often that you'll wonder
 That the man who wrote that drama,
 Had to overhaul his classics,
 And grope amid the misty ages,
 To find his Jason and Medea.⁴

CONTRIBUTORS, SOURCES, AND NOTES

DISCOVERY: *Contributor*: The editor.

Sources: The Los Angeles Public Library and the Nevada Historical Society Library.

Notes: ¹San Francisco *Weekly Bulletin*, July 9, 1859, p. 1, col. 5. The *Bulletin* is quoting the Nevada *Journal* for July 1, 1859. The account in the *Journal* is regarded as the first newspaper account of the discovery of the Comstock lode. From this small beginning and from the news spread by word of mouth, the rush to Washoe began.

²Sacramento *Daily Union*, October 9, 1863, p. 4, col. 7. The *Union* is quoting the Virginia *Territorial Enterprise*, October 7, 1863. Almarin B. Paul is considered one of the most reliable sources for early Washoe mining history.

A COMPACT: *Contributor*: The editor.

Sources: The editor's collection.

Notes: ¹The "code of laws" drawn up by the miners for a district is, in a way, comparable to the Mayflower Compact, there being no federal, state, or territorial laws governing mining, then. The "Articles" of the Silver Star District differ somewhat from the "Articles" of the neighboring Gold Hill, Nevada Territory, District, and may even reflect a crude

attempt to correct the ambiguities and flaws of the articles enforced in the older district (the Gold Hill *Record Book* antedates the *Record Book* of the Silver Star District by less than a year). The Silver Star Records cover the filing of claims and bills of sales for the years 1860–1863. The Silver Star District is clearly shown on maps of the Comstock area.

²Article 5 was amended: the original fee for recording a Bill of Sale was “two dollars.”

³Article 14 underwent a complete revision before the committee brought in the final draft.

MARK TWAIN AND THE GOODMAN-FITCH DUEL:

Contributor: The editor.

Sources: The Library of the University of Nevada and the Nevada Historical Society Library.

Notes: ¹The material from the *Sacramento Daily Union*: “A Duel Prevented” (see: footnotes 5 and 6) is a Mark Twain writing that researchers looking for Twainiana have overlooked.

²Virginia City *Evening Bulletin*, July 30, 1863, p. 3, col. 1.

³*Ibid.*, August 1, 1863, p. 3, col. 2.

⁴*Ibid.*, August 1, 1863, p. 3, col. 2.

⁵*Sacramento Daily Union*, August 4, 1863, p. 2, col. 5, quoting the *Virginia Daily Territorial Enterprise*, August 2, 1863. “A Duel Prevented” is the title given by the *Sacramento Union*.

⁶Italics not in the original; the italicized material, with slight variations and additions, constitutes the Mark Twain account as it is reprinted in Myron Angel, ed., *History of Nevada* (Oakland: Thompson and West, 1881), p. 292. Investigators have ignored the ellipsis indicated by Angel and have assumed that the item in Angel is the sum total of Twain’s account; see: Edgar M. Branch, “A Chronological Bibliography of the Writings of Samuel Clemens, to June 8, 1867,” *American Literature*, XVIII (May, 1946), 109–159; and Henry Nash Smith, ed., *Mark Twain of the Enterprise* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1957), pp. 27, 28; Smith follows Branch in continuing the notion that the complete text is in Angel. The Angel text is garbled and a poor copy of Twain. The Angel text and the text in Twain’s letter to the *San Francisco Daily Morning Call* (A. E. Hutcheson, ed., “Mark Twain’s Letters to the *San Francisco Call*,” *Twainiana*, XIV (March–April, 1952), p. 1), differ from the Twain material in the *Union*, which account is probably copied word for word from the *Enterprise*.

⁷Although bonded to keep the peace, Goodman and Fitch stepped over into California, and at Ingraham's Ranch in Stampede Valley, settled their argument on September 28, 1863, at 5:45 in the morning. Fitch fired first, and missed. Goodman immediately fired and wounded Fitch, "slightly," below the knee of the right leg. See: *Sacramento Union*, October 1, 1863, p. 2, col. 1, quoting the *Enterprise*, September 29, 1863. The duel earned for Fitch the nickname: *Limpy*. Of course, Twain explains why Goodman appeared to be the better shot; see: *Mark Twain's Autobiography*, Stormfield Edition, pp. 350-354.

THEATRE: *Contributor:* The editor.

Sources: The Nevada Historical Society Library and the Library of the University of Nevada.

Notes: ¹*Virginia Evening Bulletin*, February 18, 1864, p. 3, col. 2. Sutliff's melodeon troupe burlesqued the famous *Mazeppa*, Adah Isaacs Menken's starring vehicle. The Menken opened at Maguire's Opera House on D Street in March, 1864.

²*Ibid.*, February 23, 1864, p. 3, col. 2.

³Unionville, Nevada Territory, *Humboldt Register*, October 1, 1864, p. 3, col. 1; and copied in the *Gold Hill Evening News*, October 7, 1864, p. 2, col. 2, where the author is identified as "the eccentric Forbes," the editor of the *Register*.

⁴*Gold Hill Evening News*, April 3, 1865, p. 2, col. 2. The *News* and the *Daily Union* of Virginia were staunch supporters of Mathilda Heron; the *Enterprise*, seemingly, was highly critical. The feud between the *Enterprise* and the management of the Opera House, as mentioned in Sam P. Davis, ed., *The History of Nevada*, II (Reno-Los Angeles: The Elms Publishing Co., 1913), pp. 718-720, probably took place for a brief period during the engagement of Miss Heron, not during Menken's engagement.

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