

# Hawaiian Gazette Supplement, April 4th, 1883.

## His Pa's Marvellous Escape.

"Got any vassaline, said the old boy to the groceryman, as he went in one cold morning, having the door open, and picked up a cigar stub that had been thrown down by the stove, and began to smoke it."

"Said that four don't you. Was you brought up in a saw mill? You'll freeze every part in the house. No-I haven't got any vassaline. What do you want of vassaline?" said the groceryman, as he set the vassaline on a chair by the stove where it would thaw out.

"Want to rub it on my legs," said the boy as he tried to draw smoke through a cigar stub.

"Why, what is the matter with your pa's legs?"

"Was my rheumatism," said the boy, as he threw away the cigar stub and drew some coffee in a broken tin cup. "Pa has got the worst looking hind legs you ever saw. You see since there has been so many fires pa has got afraid of them, and he has bought three fire escapes, made out of rope with knots in them, and he has been telling us every day how he could rescue the whole family in case of fire. He told us to be cool, whatever happened, and rely on him. If the house got on fire we were all to rush to pa and he would save us."

"Well, last night we had to go to one of the neighbors, where they was going to have twins, and we didn't sleep much, because ma had to come home twice in the night to get coffee and an old flannel petticoat that I broke in when I was a kid, 'cause the people where ma went did not know as twins was on the hill of fear, and they only had flannel petticoats for one. Pa was cross at being kept awake, and told ma that when all the children in Mawakeke were born and got grown up, she would take in her sign and not go around night acting as water to baby's mothers. Pa says there ought to be a law that babies should arrive on the regular day trains and not wait for the midnight express. Well, pa he got asleep, and he slept till about eight o'clock in the morning, and the blinds were closed, and it was dark in the room, and I had waited for my breakfast till I was hungry as a wolf, and the girl told me to wake pa up, so I went up, stairs, and I didn't know what made me think of it, but I had some of the powder they make out here in the kitchen, that we use for our shoes, and the F-words of only, and I put it in a wash-dish in the bathroom, and I touched it off and buttered the fire. I was going to wake pa up and then tell him it was an eight and laugh at him. I guess there was too much fire, or I pulled too hard, 'cause pa jumped out of bed and grabbed a rope and rushed through the hall towards the back window, then gave out on the street.

"I tried to say something, but pa ran over me and told me to save myself, and I got to the back window in half time that there was no fire just as he let himself out of the window. He had one end of the rope tied to the leg of the wash stand, and he was climbing down the back side of the shed by the kitchen, with nothing on but his night shirt, and he was the scariest looking object ever was with his legs flying and trying to stick his toe into the rope and the side of the house. I don't think a man looks well in society with nothing on but his night shirt. I didn't blame the hired girl for being scared when they saw pa and his legs come down outside the window, and when they yelled I went down to the kitchen, and they said a great man with no clothes but a pillow-case around his neck was trying to kick the window in, and they ran into the parlor, and I opened the door and let pa in the kitchen. He asked if any body else was awake, and then I told him there was no fire, and he must have dreamed he was in hell or somewhere. Well, pa was astonished and said he must be wrong in the head, and I left him yawning himself by the stove while I went after his pants, and his legs were badly chilled, but I guess he'll be fine. He says it all in his head, and he stayed at home and let people see their own body shows, and there would be more to say in his shoes. Ma came with a white towel over her head, and a bowl full of something that smelled terrible, and after she had let us what the results of her visit was, she sent me after vassaline to rub pa's legs. Pa says he has demonstrated that if a man is cold and subjected in case of fire, and goes deliberately at work to save himself he will come out all right."

"Well, you are the coolest boy I ever heard of," said the groceryman. "But what about your pa's dancing a ring dance in church Sunday. The minister's hired girl was in here after some coffee yesterday morning, and she said the minister said your pa had scandalized the church the worst way."

"Oh, he didn't dance in church. He was a little excited that's all. You see, pa chews vassaline, and it is pretty hard on his teeth all through the sermon without taking a chew, and he gets nervous. He always reaches around in his pocket when they stand up to sing the last time and looks in his shirt-box and gets out a chew, and puts it in his mouth when the minister pronounces the benediction, and then when they get out doors he is all ready to spit. He always does that. Well, my chum had a present on Christmas of a watch box, just about as big as pa's tobacco box, and all you have to do is to touch a spring and it plays 'She's a Daisy, She's a Daisy.' I borrowed it and put it in pa's pocket, and when he keeps his tobacco box, and when the choir got most through singing pa reached his hand in his pocket and began to fumble around for a chew. He touched the spring and just as every body bowed their heads to receive the benediction, and it was so still you could hear a pin drop, the music box began to play and in the stillness it sounded as loud as a church organ."

"Well, I thought he would sink. The minister heard it, and he looked towards pa, and everybody looked at pa, too, and pa turned red and the minister looked mad and said, 'Anna, and people begin to put on their coats, and the minister told the deacons to beat up the sources of that worldly music, and they took pa into the room back of the pulpit and searched him, and ma says pa will have to be christened. They kept the watch box, and I have pa to carry in coal to get money enough to buy my chum a new music box. Well, I shall have to go and get that vassaline or pa's legs will suffer. Good day." - Pa's Son.

scattered throughout the different parts of the island, but chiefly residing in Guzerat and the Bombay Presidency. They are a small but most important and influential body of men, noted for their energy, enterprise and opulence. The most curious feature of their religion is its apparent worship of fire and the other elements, regarded by them as visible representations of the Deity. Nothing similar to their funeral rites exists among other nations. The Towers of Silence stand in a garden on the highest point of Malabar Hill, in the neighborhood of Bombay. It is a beautiful spot, a place of silence and peaceful rest. There are five towers in all. A sixth structure stands apart; it is square in shape - not round like the others - and is only used for members of the community who have suffered death for heinous crimes. On the parapet of each tower usually sit a troop of vultures, larks and other birds, unless when a funeral is seen approaching - then they show signs of great excitement. At a funeral, after the recital of prayers and some other ceremonies, the corpse is placed in the interior of the tower chosen, and abandoned to the destructive agencies of nature and the insatiable birds. At the end of a fortnight, or at most four weeks, the corpse descends - who form a distinct class among the Parsees, and live apart from the rest of the community - returns, and with gloved hands, and impalpable muslin gloves, place the dry skeleton in a well in the center of the building. Rich and poor all lie together. "In these five towers," says the Secretary of the Parsee Panchayat, "rest the bones of all the Parsees that have lived in Bombay for the last two hundred years. We form a united body in life, and we are united in death."

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