BARBER DAILY HAS

QUEER EXPERIENCE

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Colored Man Suddenly Discovered

That He Wash Shaving a Son of

His Master in Slavery Days.

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He and His Father Were Owned by the

Shropshire Family in Missouri and

Came to California With Them

in 1865

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“No sir, I can’t shave you sir, now. If you are the son of Mr. Jim Shropshire, and the grandson of old Dr. Shropshire, of Palmyra, Missouri, why I can’t shave you now. I’ll have to wait—I’m too nervous.” Thus spoke Cornelius Daily, the well known colored barber, after he had plastered the face of D.M. Shropshire with lather and was about to begin using the razor, and this occurred New Year’s eve, when Mr. Shropshire was anxious to get out of the barbershop in order to attend Engine Co. No. 1’s party.

It was a strange incident that caused the quite elderly colored man to be overcome, and it is worth the telling.

As Shropshire entered the shop that evening, he was in a great rush, as stated above, and he accepted the first opportunity to get a shave. By chance his turn took him into Daily’s chair. Daily was in a reminiscent mood, and remarked that upon the 25th of September 1865, he boarded a train at Palmyra, Missouri, and started for California. The Shropshire brothers had been reared near the town of Palmyra, hence Mr. Shropshire was at once interested, and the conversation brought them to the fact that the man being shaved was the son of the man who about forty years ago owned the barber as a slave, and the grandson of the man, Dr. Shropshire, who owned the barber’s father as a slave. It was the discovery of this fact that caused Cornelius to shed tears and remark as above. They were tears of joy, and the remark was entirely with a feeling respect. Shropshire enjoyed the meeting as much as did Cornelius, for the latter could tell him much of interest regarding the old folks. Daily declined to continue to shave Mr. Shropshire, until he had recovered his composure, which required fully a half hour.

Daily ascertained that Mr. Shropshire’s brother James was in Chico, and he was anxious to see him, for it was Daily who summoned the physician at the time of his birth.

The old colored man went down to Armory Hall about midnight, and had an interview with the brother, and there wept again as he reviewed the “good old days.” The young men endeavored on New Year’s Day to secure for Daily a big turkey, but all the stores were closed, and they made him another present of equal value.

The father of the Shropshire brothers brought Cornelius with him to California in 1865, and located in Colusa County. Cornelius labored and saved that he might secure enough money to send back to Missouri to his sweetheart, thus enabling her to join him in the far West. He sent the money, but she neither came nor returned it, nevertheless he married soon after.

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*CHICO RECORD,* JANUARY 5, 1903, Front page.

{The barberhop was at 432 Broadway}