

**SKETCHES FROM
"TEXAS SIFTINGS"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649706013

Sketches from "Texas Siftings" by John Armoy Knox & Alexander Edwin Sweet & W. H. Caskie

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN ARMOY KNOX & ALEXANDER EDWIN SWEET & W. H. CASKIE

SKETCHES FROM "TEXAS SIFTINGS"

SKETCHES

FROM

65
"TEXAS SIFTINGS."

BY

Alexander Edwin

1 A.
SWEET AND KNOX.

ILLUSTRATED BY

14
W. H. CASKIE.

NEW YORK:

TEXAS SIFTINGS PUBLISHING COMPANY,

150 NASSAU STREET

1882.

68

P R E F A C E .

DURING the days and the years of our pilgrimage here on earth, we have accumulated vast quantities of cheerful statistics, hilarious facts and solemn truths. So full of these things had we become about a year ago, that there was not room inside us for even an ordinary appetite. The matter came to a crisis when, one day, we tried, with the aid of a mallet and wedge, to pack away an ordinary unripe anecdote, and realized the imminent danger we were in of cracking open in several places if we did not find some means of disposing of a part of the surplus information we were carrying. We felt that the public needed it more than we did, but having fears that the market would be glutted if we unloaded it all at once, we determined to give it to the American people in broken doses.

The result has been that for twelve months we have been digging these facts, statistics, and truths out of ourselves, and sending them abroad all over the land

through the medium of *Texas Siftings*—a weekly illustrated journal costing \$2 a year, and sold by all news-dealers in installments of 5 cents, payable weekly.

We now feel somewhat relieved, although there is a great deal in us yet that it will take years to get rid of. This book contains a part of what we have succeeded in enticing out of ourselves and publishing in *Texas Siftings* during the past year.

These Sketches are put in the form of a book, not so much to enlighten, educate, and ennoble the human race, as to put money in the pockets of

Alex E. Smet.

Samuel M. Knott.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
The Drummer. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 9
The Conductor. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 14
The Razor-Back Hog. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 17
Another Mystery Explained. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 20
The Hotel Clerk. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 23
The Cow-Boy. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet & Knox 27
The Solemn Bore. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 30
The Texas Cow. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 32
The Red Ant. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 35
Power of the Press in Texas. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 38
A Model Visitor. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet & Knox 44
The Reckless Local Reporter.	Sweet 46
Gunning for Quail. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 50
San Antonio Mexicans. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 55
Fire Cranks.	Knox 58
The Pelon Dog. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 60
Col. B. Snort's Legal Experience. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 63
The Hotel Waiter. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 72
The Statistical Crank. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 75
Dissatisfied Englishmen. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 78
Obituary. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 83
Heaven.	Sweet 85
The Texas Desperado. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 88
Mexican Bull Fight. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 91
The Coyote. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 94
A News Factory	Knox 98
The Patronizing Subscriber	Sweet & Knox 100
The Horned Frog. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet & Knox 102
That Typical Texan. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet 105
He Wanted a Notice	Sweet & Knox 107
The Editorial Crank. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox 110

	PAGE.
The Confidential Bore. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 112
Lavanburg's Substitute. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet . . . 114
A Texas Mustang. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 119
The Tumble Bug. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet . . . 121
Throwing the Lasso. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet . . . 124
Eighteen Eighty-One	Knox . . . 129
We Have Sworn Off. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet & Knox 132
The Egotistical Bore. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 135
A Foiled Book-Agent	Sweet . . . 136
A Poetic Gem. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 139
Texas Soldiers. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet . . . 145
The Gloriously Drunk Man. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 148
Why He Came to Texas	Sweet . . . 150
Death in the Pot. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 151
The Omnipotent Rope. <i>Illustrated</i>	Our Artist . 153
The Awful Coal Bug	Knox . . . 155
The County Fair. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 157
The Unhappy Farmer	Sweet . . . 160
Another Brass-Mounted Offer. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 163
Malarial Intoxication.	Sweet . . . 167
A Yankee Desperado. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet . . . 170
Editorial Sermon	Knox . . . 174
The Chapparel Cock. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet . . . 177
The Weeping Drunk Man; <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 179
Mulcahy's Cow. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet . . . 181
Writing under Difficulties.	Knox . . . 184
The Texas Climate	Sweet . . . 187
Sunday Reflections	Knox . . . 189
P. B. Lee—A Character Sketch. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet . . . 192
The Colored Cook. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 196
St. Patrick's Day. <i>Illustrated</i>	Sweet . . . 199
The Confidential Drunk Man. <i>Illustrated</i>	Knox . . . 202
A Rough Translation	Sweet . . . 203
Siftings. 1 <i>Illustration</i>	Sweet . . . 205
Answers to Correspondents. 4 <i>Illustrations</i>	Knox . . . 218
Brevities.	Sweet & Knox 225
Fashion Notes	Knox . . . 227
Tall Piece—End.	228

SKETCHES
FROM
"TEXAS SIFTINGS."

THE DRUMMER.



THE drummer inhabits railroad trains. He is always at home on the cars. He also temporarily infests the best rooms in hotels. In winter he wears an ulster, with the surcingle hanging loose behind, and in summer a linen duster.

He is usually swung to a satchel containing a comb and brush, another shirt, a clean celluloid collar, and a pair of cuffs; also a railroad guide, and a newspaper wrapped around a suspicious-looking bottle. That is about all the personal baggage

he carries, except a "Seaside Library" novel, and a pocket-knife with a corkscrew in the back of it. He has a two-story iron-bound trunk containing "sambles of dem goots," which he checks through to the next town. He always travels for a first-class house—the largest firm in their line of business in the United States, a firm that sells more goods, and sells them cheaper, than any two houses in the country. He is very modest about stating these facts, and blushes when he makes the statement; but he makes it, nevertheless, probably as a matter of duty.

He can talk on any subject, although he may not know much about it, but what little he knows he knows, and he lets you know that he knows it. He may be giving his views on the financial policy of the British government, or he may only be telling you of what, in his opinion, is good for a boil, but he will do it with an air and a tone that leaves the matter beyond dispute.

He is at home everywhere, and he never seems out of place wherever you find him, although we do not remember ever to have found him in church. Sitting on his gripsack at a way-station, waiting for a train six hours behind time, and abusing the railroad officials from brakeman to president, with a profuse and robust profanity that gives the air a sulphurous odor for miles around, he seems in perfect keeping with the surroundings. The scene would be as incomplete without him as a horse race without a yellow dog on the track.

When the drummer gets into a railroad train, if alone, he occupies two seats. One he sits on, and on the other he piles up his baggage and overcoat, and tries to look as if they didn't belong to him, but to another man who had just stepped into the smoking-car and would be back directly.

Drummers are usually found in pairs or quartettes on