

## Danger from a Broken Spine!

We are apt to gather inspiration from words of wisdom. Congress has just published a volume of nearly a thousand pages from a Committee on the war. In it we find the following striking dispatch from the late lamented Mr. Lincoln to "Fighting Joe" Hooker, just before the latter was hooked by Lee at Chancellorsville:

"I wouldn't," writes the President, "take any risk of being entangled up the river, *like an ox jumped half over a fence and liable to be torn by dogs, front and rear, without a fair chance to gore one way or kick the other.*"

This striking metaphorical language of Mr. Lincoln will live in history alongside of the figure of Corked-up Butler. As it was then applied to Hooker's army so it may be now applied to the United States. It is like a huge ox, half-jumped over a *bois d'arc* hedge and stuck fast on the reconstruction thorns. There sticks the old ox, with tongue hanging out and eyes rolling in agony, unable to gore forward at John Bull or kick backward at Mexico! If the President will only twist its tail a little or build a fire under its nose, by restoring the writ of habeas corpus, we think the old ox will get over.