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BIRMINGHAM. - - - MICHIGAN.

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE story of "Scotty," the thief in the Jackson jail, sounds too "bookish" to be other than what it has been thought by sensible persons to be—a lie told by one of the most notorious criminals in the country. It is not at all probable that the attention of the officers will be diverted from the real facts in the case by this chimerical tale. It would be a happy day for the persons now suspected of the crime, if the evidence against them could be exploded as easily as "Scotty's" story.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY blushingly admits that President Arthur did squeeze her hand "just a little bit," and tells how it happened: "When I had finished my speech at the White House that day, he said in the politest manner possible that he believed the women ought to have whatever they wanted. I said, 'Let us shake hands.' He said, 'Mr. President,' and he took hold of my hand and held it while he was making his reply. But it was only a minute or so." She admits all this, but vows that she will never—no never—on that she keeps a poodle.

If cost a Clinton, Illinois, clergyman thirty-eight silver dollars to secure the attention of his Sunday school children through one discourse. He announced that he would preach on the following Sunday from the longest verse in the Bible without announcing what verse it was and would give a silver dollar to every scholar who found out for themselves where the text was. He was astonished when finished to weigh bricks pupils claimed their dollar, and he will adopt some other method of impressing religious instruction upon Clinton juveniles in future.

The Rev. Dr. Guthrie says: "Whisky is good in its place. There is nothing like whisky in this world for preserving a man when he is dead. But it is one of the worst things in the world for preserving a man when he is living. If you want to keep a dead man, put him in whisky; if you want to kill a living man, put whisky into him. It was a capital thing for preserving the dead admiral, when they put him in a rum puncheon; but it was a bad thing for the sailors when they lapped the cask, and drank the liquor till they left the admiral as he never left the ship—high dry.

THE casket in which the body of Minister Hunt was brought to this country is one of the most elaborate ever seen here. It is a fac-simile of the sarcophagus in which the body of the late Czar of Russia was buried. It is contructed entirely of ribbed metal, with massive gold trimmings in Egyptian designs. The lid bears two heavy silver plates, on which are inscribed the name, age, and date of death of Minister Hunt. The casket rests on six massive golden lion's feet. It weighed so much no hearse in Washington could carry it, and Secretary Chandler was obliged to fix up a gun carriage to be used as a hearse.

Concerning Watterson's copy right bill, the Cincinnati Enquirer very pertinently says: "The trumpeters for the Newspaper Copyright law subsided for a while, but are now at it again. It is gratifying that their prospects are no better now than they were before, and it is still more gratifying to know that they are likely to get worse instead of better. The press of the country, particularly the rural press, which would be the greatest sufferers by such a law, have been awakened to the threatened outrage, and are talking to their Representatives in Congress in their usual straightforward and vigorous manner. Such a gag as is contemplated by this law is against the North American style of doing business, and it pleasant to know that a very decided smack in the face is in store for it."

Moses in the Soudan.

American Hebrew.

The Soudan, the seat of the war in Egypt now, is none other than the Cush of the Bible, which the Septuagint and the Vulgate render Ethiopia. When Moses had arrived at man's estate Egypt was invaded by a similar plan army, which successfully laid waste the country as far as Memphis. In their despair the Egyptians prayed to their oracles for aid, and the advice they received was that they should offer the leadership of their armies to "Moses, the Hebrew slave." This they did. The great difficulty of the campaign was to traverse the roads which led to the Ethiopian camp, in consequence of their being infested with dangerous serpents. The wily Israelite provided his advance guard with a number of ibes in baskets and instructed the bearers to let the birds loose on the serpents. By this ingenious expedient the roads were speedily cleared and Moses was enabled to surprise the Ethiopians and defeat them with great slaughter.

Carrying the war into Meroe itself, Moses then laid siege to the capital, Saba. The obstinate resistance offered by the defenders prolonged the siege for some time, but eventually the city was delivered up by Tharbis, the daughter of the Ethiopian King who had watched Moses from a distance, and from admiring his valor had fallen in love with him. The story ends happily with the marriage of Moses and Tharbis.

A bar-keeper in Washington Territory was tried before a jury of seven women and five men on a charge of keeping a disorderly house. The female end of the jury was solid for conviction and the other for acquittal. They would have been there yet if the court had not peremptorily dismissed the jury and granted the man a new trial. The women say they know where to find five of the biggest fools in the country, and the men declare they will emigrate before they will sit on another mixed jury.

The other day Chief Engineer Melville of the Jeanette expedition received a bottle of whisky which had been forwarded to him on February 4, 1882, while he was in the wilds of Siberia. The bottle had traveled 5,000 miles by sea, over 11,000 miles on sled and about 4,500 miles by fall.

There are but few cases or illness where water should not be accompanied by the highest place as a remedial agent.

MICHIGAN NEWS.

"SCOTTY'S STORY

Is not Believed by Representative Citizens of the Central City.

"Scotty," the man confined in the Jackson jail, and who claims to know all about the Cronch murders, refused a few days ago to have anything to do further in the matter of the prosecuting attorney in regard to the matter. But he agreed that if representative men, who would treat his statements with due consideration were asked, he would speak affiavit enough to convince them that he knew where the papers were, and who committed the Cronch murder. In answer to this request about a dozen men, a part of whom are on the bail bond, assembled in the Representative Hall press, repaired to the jail to hear Scotty unbosom himself. The crook was brought into the room where the party of representatives.

Scotty started off with an account of seeing the agreement, of the meeting at which he was made, between Byron and his father in regard to Dalton's estate. He said that he sold a tall drive out of Minneapolis into the country between Christmas and New Year's, and dug up the papers, which were locked in a tin box, and that they took them to their room in the National Hotel and removed them from the pipe. He thought he saw nine mortgages and four promissory notes. The mortgages were secured by promissory notes which came due in 1886. He said he had never seen Capt. Crouch, Jail, or Dan Rhodes, and when he told of the papers. In this opinion one of the papers was signed by Mr. Dalton. At the foot of the papers was made by his pal and given him. Scotty said he could not answer all questions the gentlemen present desired to ask, and stated that it was the belief the papers were now in the possession of the gentlemen's given the matter through the newspapers. He also stated that he knew one of the three men who had them, and there was talk of selling them to some one. He had made an arrangement with a man to keep a lookout on the parties who had them but did not know where the papers or the man was at this time. In answer to a question by the Prosecuting Attorney Scotty said he declined to give up the names of the parties to the furnishing officer of the Sheriff to see if he could locate the men in these parts at or near the time of the tragedy, and stated the boy's reasons for that. Some of the men were familiar with their handwriting, but he would not volunteer to give the clue. Scotty said he had he said he had traveled all about the country in company with these parties for ten years, and they were crooks.

This was all Scotty seemed to want to tell, and as it amounted to nothing, Sheriff Hewitt put the question to him direct, if he would tell the same story before a jury. Scotty begin would grant him an unconditional pardon for all his offences, and he said he declined. An offer was then made to add $6,000 to the proposition and see Scotty on board a steamer for Liverpool, or other ports, or some other point. But Scotty replied disgustedly that he could not give up the name, even for this, but added in a low tone: "Not that—the parties have not treated me so as to change my conviction."

This ended Scotty's attempt as an informer, and as the gentlemen filed out of the office they were unbiased in the opinion that the crook was a liar, and that no further attention should be given to his statements."

STATE ITEMS.

L. W. Suttle residence in Manistee was damaged by fire a few days ago to the extent of $1,000.

Some three years ago Judge Dickinson in Fairfield, Lenawee county, sent a man to jail for arm. Her attorney has brought the matter before the Village Board and claim damages to the tune of $3,000. The probability is that the board will pay up for the claim, in which event she will die in town.

Monday April 14, Kalamazoo saw gas life as a city.

Benj. P. Shepard, one of the most prominent men in Ann Arbor, died last Friday morning.

The Exchange hotel at Midland burned the other morning at a loss of $2,000 on the building and $1,000 on furniture.

The first Monday in April, 1883, (forty one years ago) the voters of Hillsdale went to Jonesville to town elections, and delight underfoot of solid snow. About two sleighs accommodated the voting population of Hillsdale.

During March 192,450 barrels of salt were inspected in Michigan.

George E. Ricksey, a prominent lumberman of Greenville, is dead.

Major E. E. Sights, of St. A., 10th infantry, died at Fort Mackinac of pneumonia.

Judge Mitchell, of Port Huron, has succeeded in getting advanced before the United States supreme court the case of Ten Wood against Ayres, involving the sum of $45,000 in a mortgage upon a salt block and other property at Port Austin.

The secretary of the state assembly of knights of labor reports 26 local assemblies in his jurisdiction, and says that there is no doubt that number will be doubled. The local organizations number over 500 in all.

Burglars attempted to rob the United States Express Company's office in Traverse City, the other night, but in some way the fact became known, and the agent slept on the office floor on hand at the appointed hour, who surrounded the building and captured the burglars.

The Lansing Republican very sensibly says: The Michigan farmer who plants Kansas or Kentucky seed corn on the first part of the season with a field of untripened corn on his hands. Plant seed that was raised in the same latitude as that of Michigan if you wish your crop to ripen.

Hon. S. W. La Due, of Alaska is mentioned as a gubernatorial candidate.

An enlargement to the house of correction in Detroit is being planned.

The office of the Detroit Daily Times, on Larned st. west, was burned out on the morning of the 13th inst. The fire was discovered about 12:30, and such rapid progress did the flames make that in a very short time the building was completely gutted. The entire editorial and typographical forces were in great danger, but all escaped safely, but at the loss of means of the fire escape. With the exception of the presses, which were in the basement, the entire office was destroyed.

The Calumet & Hecla copper mines returned the astonishing amount of refined mass and 950 pounds of material in March, which is 156 tons and 545 pounds more than ever was taken of the mine in one month before.

A. I. Beckley, a cabinet maker at Battle Creek, has applied for a patent on an ingenious cot bedstead. Its principle point is the remarkably small space in which it can be folded up. In the fall Mr. Beckley will erect a factory in which to manufacture.

James Hogle, the fire bug who dug out of jail at Allegan October 12, has been recaptured in the jurisdiction of the Sheriff of Ionia county. Allegan to await trial at the June term of the court.

Mrs. G. H. Perry, of Bellevue, was elected school inspector in her district at the recent election.

Over one hundred buildings are now in process of erection in Bessemer.

The Middlesex brick and tile company's buildings and the Hall Carriage was entirely consumed by fire on the 9th inst. Loss $5,000; insurance $3,000.

The Academy News, a monthly publication devoted to the interests of the Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake, has just been launched upon the sea of journalism.

The wrestling match at the Detroit opera house on the 10th inst. between Col. J. H. McLaughlin of Detroit, and Duncan C. Ross of Cleveland, for $1,000, a side and championship and the profits, was won by McLaughlin.

O. B. Gibson of Grand Rapids offers $50 to any paper which will ignore the national game this summer.

William G. Dewing, a resident of Kalamazoo since 1836, died suddenly on the 11th inst., aged 75 years. Mr. D. founded the Children's Home, an institution in Kalamazoo county which has largely been sustained by contributions from his ample means and the generous efforts of himself and wife. He was widely known throughout the state and country as a benefactor of all similar institutions.

Highland pickle and vinegar company have contracted for 180 acres of cucumbers for the coming season and want nearly as many more, as far as handed.

Van Buren county cannot have a new jail at present, the proposition to build one having been voted down by a large majority.

D. Chisholm, treasurer of Osceola township, Osceola county, and Geo. Haskin, deputy treasurer, were arrested on the 10th inst. charged with embezzlement and stealing money belonging to the township, an investigation of the treasurer's accounts having shown a deficit of about $1,300. Chisholm pleaded not guilty, and furnished bail in the sum of $2,000 for appearance for examination. Haskin waived examination and was bound over for trial in the circuit court, being placed in jail in default of $2,500 bail.

Michael Brennan o Jackson attempted to pass between two coal cars at that place the other evening and was caught between and separating the last car, the car struck him, the jury said granted the man a new trial. The women say they know where to find five of the biggest fools in the country, and the men declare they will emigrate before they will sit on another mixed jury.

The other day Chief Engineer Melville of the Jeanette expedition received a bottle of whisky which had been forwarded to him on February 4, 1882, while he was in the wilds of Siberia. The bottle had traveled 5,000 miles by sea, over 11,000 miles on sled and about 4,500 miles by fall.

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THE NEWS.

CONGRESS

SENATE—Consideration of the naval appropriation bill was resumed, but no action was reached.

HOUSE—A resolution was introduced looking to an investigation of the Indian agencies and tribes. The House went into committee of the whole on public buildings bill.

APRIL 10.

SENATE—The Secretary of the Treasury laid before the Senate a statement of estimates of the necessity for a new revenue cruiser for Alaska, which he recommended an appropriation of $175,000 for that purpose. The Legislature of California presented a memorial urging the passage of the Chinese exclusion bill. Reports were submitted on the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill, and post office appropriation bill. Bills were introduced for the relief of Jefferson Davis, for the civil rights, to punish infringers of patents, and to protect employes of railroads engaged in their occupation. Bills were also introduced for lands granted to the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Vicksburg railroad, and for consideration of the naval appropriation bill was resumed and considerable progress made in the journament. The House will not meet again until Monday.

HOUSE—Mr. Eaton of Connecticut, from the committee on foreign relations, reported back the joint resolution of the House relating to the Chinese treaty, with the amendments proposed by the Senate bill on that subject, and the House agreed to the Senate amendments, and the joint resolution was passed. A joint resolution was introduced directing the postmaster general to investigate the expenses of the post office department with a view to the reduction of postal rates. A bill was reported authorizing the Secretary of War to use the immediate transportation of suitable material for the construction of a suspension bridge across the Niagara river. The House went into committee of the whole on the bill for a public building at Omaha.

APRIL 11.

HOUSE—The bill passed to repeal the $2,000 tax on banks was passed. A bill was reported limiting the jurisdiction of the United States courts in cases of contested election, and also providing for the trial of contested election cases in the state courts, and also providing for the trial of contested election cases in the state courts. The House went into committee of the whole on the bill for a public building at Omaha, and after a long debate the bill was passed. The House then