

## A REPORTER IN A TIGHT PLACE.

The following good story is told of a zealous English reporter, who nearly got himself into serious trouble by his efforts to get a "beat" on a rival sheet: He lived a mile or so out of town, and on one side of the road, for a considerable part of the way, was a thick grove. As he was returning home late one night, after having seen the paper to press, he observed that one of the trees near the roadside had an unusual appearance. Going within the fence he discovered that the body of a man was suspended from one of the branches. Hurriedly cutting it down, he drew the body into a part of the grove where the undergrowth was thick, intending to conceal it. This done, he went home. Next morning he was taken into custody on a charge of willful murder, and brought before a magistrate. A game-keeper, going through the wood at early daylight, had discovered the body in its place of concealment, and some other person remembered that, about midnight, he had seen the reporter issue from the grove. The case was suspicious—until a constable, searching the pockets of the dead man, discovered a written statement, containing his name and place of abode, and declaring that domestic misfortune had made life so unbearable that he had resolved to commit suicide. Of course the reporter was discharged. His explanation was to the effect that finding such a fine bit of "local" as this tale for his own paper, he had concealed the corpse in order that the rival journal, which was to appear on the next day, should not profit by the news. But for the suicide's confession, a pretty strong case of circumstantial evidence might have been made out against the knight of the pen. *Ec.*

## PIGEONS AT SEA.

The great anxiety which is felt for the fate of the steamship *City of Boston* has suggested a means of hearing from vessels in distress at sea, in the carrier-pigeon. It is said that, had this steamer kept on board two flocks of pigeons, one fledged in Europe and one in America, we might long since have received tidings of her. We have some doubts upon this matter. Audubon records an instance of one of these passenger birds shot near New York, with its crop filled with rice, and as the length of time in which they entirely decompose food is twelve hours, he inferred that it must have accomplished the distance of between three hundred and four hundred miles, from the rice fields of Carolina, in six hours. Accepting the inference as fair, the flight was exceptional, and does not justify the belief that they could fly from mid-ocean to either continent.

The average flight of the carrier-pigeon is held not to exceed thirty miles an hour. But the bird could hardly maintain this speed for more than four hundred miles, because, while its powers of digesting food are rapid, its loss of strength when deprived of food is equally so, and unless its supply of rice could be replenished on the way, it would break down. The experiment, however, is worth trying, and as the expense of maintaining pigeons on passenger steamers would be inconsiderable, it should certainly be made. Beyond all question, in case of disaster within soundings or on the coast, pigeons would convey intelligence in the quickest way to the nearest land, and enable expeditions to be fitted out immediately for the relief of the sufferers. *Ex.*

**HEART DISEASE—VALUABLE HINT.** At a regular meeting of the "Medical Society," at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Fennell submitted a rare specimen of a fatty heart taken from the body of a colored woman who recently fell in syncope, while shouting under great excitement at a religious meeting, and died in a few moments. The autopsy discovered that the entire structure of the heart had been transformed from the ordinary healthy muscular tissue to pure fat, and yet its organism remained perfect in all its parts. The doctor said he presented this case to the society not only for its rarity, but for the bearing it and similar cases had upon medical jurisprudence, the special object for which the society was organized. It might often happen, as it often did happen, that a man was knocked down by a blow in a quarrel, and was supposed to have been killed by the blow, when in fact he died as this colored woman did, from over-excitement acting upon a fatty heart.

It showed the importance of a careful autopsy in case of supposed homicide. Death resulted in this case from paralysis of the heart and long detention of blood from the brain; and it indicated the treatment in such cases that could not be too often or too strongly impressed upon the public, viz: that in the case of fainting, the patient should be immediately suspended head downward or, at least, placed in a horizontal position. Had this been done in the case of the colored woman, whose heart was here exhibited, she might probably have been alive to-day. Scarcely an audience could be got together in which there would not be individuals with feeble and fatty hearts, who are liable at any time, under any extraordinary mental or bodily excitement, to be attacked in the manner this woman was and who might die under the attack, unless immediately treated in a proper manner. *[New York Times.]*

The discovery during the war of an immense deposit of salt at Little Anse, in Louisiana, has recently been followed by another discovery of even greater value, an immense bed of sulphur in the Calcasieu region. The discovery was made by the Louisiana petroleum company while boring for oil on leased land, and resulted in a lawsuit by the lessors against the company to recover the lands that had proved to be so valuable. The suit has been decided in favor of the company, and it will proceed at once to develop the deposit. The bed is a solid stratum of crystal sulphur, one hundred feet thick, and yielding ninety-eight per cent of pure sulphur. Professor Hilgard, who has examined it, declares that it contains enough sulphur to supply the world.

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## TRANSFER DEEDS

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For cases where the Land is not subject to Private Entry.

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