A FLOOD MYSTERY.

TRAGIC FATE OF A COUPLE ABOUT WHOM LITTLE WAS KNOWN.

One Incident Only of the Terrible Destruction of Property and Loss of Life by the Rise of Water in Western Kansas Reviewed and Details.

During the floods of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and their tributaries the daily papers chronicled hundreds of cases, humorous, tragic and pathetic, which occurred along the banks of these streams from the junction of the two great bodies of water to points below St. Louis. But while hundreds of cases have been described, there have been also hundreds of cases that have not been mentioned.

Homes have been swept away, persons born in the midst of the flood, and poor dumb brutes drowned while pleading in their pitiful way for aid. Among the incidents of the flood, too, have been a few instances of genuine heroism which stand out in striking relief to the usual sombre hue of life.

Among the strangers recently located in this locality just above St. Louis was a man from Iowa. He had come with little cash to near the river, and knowing no one was unaware of his temper till he found himself in the centre of a stretch of water five miles wide and rapidly rising. Unable to escape, he was stop by stop driven with his few effects to the flat roof of his cabin, and prepared his frugal meals there for two days. Two men who saw him finally round their trees to save him, and succeeded in bringing him safe to dry land.

Other similar cases have occurred, in striking contrast with those numerous instances where the possessors of small means and shiftless have compelled somebody somehow to give them almost their entire possessions for merely passing to land.

A pathetic and mysterious incident occurred in a southern suburb of St. Louis, known as Happy Hollow, where poverty and squalor usually reign, which embodied in itself very evidently the elements of an interesting romance. Happy Hollow on one side of the street or alley or street (River Dr.) does doesn't know Happy Hollowites on other side, and doesn't desire to. The poverty and misery, and usually the crime, of each individual is only and solely their own concomitant. Hence when a gray haired gentleman and young girl moved into the neighborhood and took a little shanty down on the levee no one asked any questions, for no one cared a snipe about their affairs. They attracted no attention except for their neat appearance. Their clothes were shabby in spite of their manifest poverty, as were also their hands and face. After Happy Hollow had moved from the wreck of surprise that this poor musical disturbance, it soon set up another thought of the strangers.

The neat outfitters of Happy Hollow had not been in their shop since the flood came. By the end of a second day they spent off from escape and on the third day little shanty was standing as and so. The four rough spectators who stood enough to note their distance were bilfoned. One or two who had loans called over and asked how much money he had, and when the old man shook his head sadly, they turned off with a laugh and went to the nearest saloon.

One man, less brutal than the others, sprang into a skiff and started over, but he was drunk and, capsizing the little boat, he went to the bottom like a lump of lead. The skiff righted itself and floated along on the water, and the old man saw the only chance for escape drifting away. Springing into the water, nothing loath, he succeeded by almost superhuman efforts in reaching the little boat, only to find that the oars had been lost out. Just as he became aware of this fact he turned and saw the little shanty, washed from its foundations, floating down the rushing torrent, while the young girl stood in the doorway.

Casting a look of regret behind him, he sprang from the boat, which was a frame of safety, into the water once more and caught the edge of his shanty as it came past. Climbing into the rickety doorway, he had just clasped his companion in his arms when a pile of driftwood struck, with a little bulldog, tow it to pieces like a child's playhouse and the muddy, roaring waters swallowed up forever two human lives.

A reporter for a morning paper found among the debris washed ashore two day several books with other things from the little shanty. Among them were "Hinkerode la Pucas Proximade," by Smith; Kant's "Kritik der Reinen Vernunft," and well thumbed copies of Homer and Shakespeare. Each work was in its original tongue, and had evidently been read before. The name of the owner on the fly leaves or inner cover had been carefully cut out, and the secret of their lives, if there was one, was buried with the owners in the muddy and turbulent waters of the great Mississippi.—Detroit Free Press.

Setting the Venice Aright.

Years ago an elderly and benign priest from Sinalunky used to hold sway here, and on one of his visits a beautiful young woman came to ask for his advice and a fiery on a charge of stealing eighty-five dollars from a man. She was clearly proved guilty, but the jury, pressed by her youth and beauty, found a verdict of not guilty.

"Mr. Clerk," remarked the old judge, "pay the eighty-five dollars to the prosecuting witness, it having been clearly proved in this court that the defendant stole it from him, and you may also pay five twelve bottles of Chianti and let them go."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Worth More.

"What do you get an evening for waiting at entertainments?"

"Water—Five shillings, but if there is to be singing I want six six."—London Tit-Bits.

A METROPOLITAN WILDCAT.

A City Woman's Remarkable Experience with a Strange Pet.

A New York woman had an experience a few nights ago which she will not soon forget—one which, considering her environment, was very surprising. She lives in a ground apartment, occupying two floors, however, in one of the high class apartment houses in Fifty-third street overlooking the park. The library is on the second floor, and in this room she was seated one night when a peculiar noise from the family parrot, who was in his cage in an opposite room, attracted her attention.

Thinking the bird was merely restless and wanted his cage covered, she picked up a soft woolen couch cover and started across the hall. At the threshold of the second room she was astounded to see on the top of the parrot's cage a gray cat, which had succeeded by its weight and cleverness in dislodging the cage almost to the floor, and the full ensemble traveling up and down the upper side in a frenzy of fright. The combined struggle could not have lasted many seconds longer, and, caught by the cloth, through really quick work of the startled lady and fierce appearance of the cat, Puff's anxious advances into the room ending the south cover and attempting, after the manner of women, to "shoo" the cat away.

She had half crossed the apartment when the animal made a spring at her, and but for her quick movement in covering her head with the couch cover which she had her face would have received the brunt of the attack. As it was, the cat clawed violently for an instant at the mass of woolly material in which he was manifestly blind, aided by the dangerous pole which the new terrified woman grew him, leaped to the floor and dashed into the library.

Mrs. ——— recovered her senses and closed the door between herself and the cat, then cautiously rang the bell for assistance. The footman responded and, after carrying Puff to a place of safety in a remote room, ——— was made to dislodge the cat from the library. At sight of her persuasive the cat sprang from the table, upset a large Japanese screen with three enough to break it, knocking over books from and lower books, and sailing by seeking the window ledge as if it were a tree and cat-like and as the lady ran from the room. Puff's little pouch be placed down at three seventh floor until Mr. ——'s arrival shortly afterward. He was then produced and lowered through a window opened for him in the personal lodge, starting off in the park as soon as he reached the ground.

Policemen and others familiar with Central park say that stray cat cats often find homes in its concealed nooks, shrubbery and and entire property that become almost as free and terrible as a genuine wildcat. In this instance the animal was undoubtedly from the house in humor, and, getting in the open air and there, was attracted by the parrot's cage by the scent of the bird and its food.—Her Point of View in New York Times.

Curiosities of Superstition.

When Kaye was in the height of her power, when she was most highly civilized and delighted in being called the "mistress of the land and sea," her people worshiped a black bull. There was some old tradition in Samos, or in this form of worship. In order to be an object of real adoration it was necessary that the bull shall be born with a circular white spot in the exact center of his forehead, and the appearance of such a creature in any herd was the signal of wild demonstrations from the Mediterranean to the banks of the Lydian river. Even as late as the time of Cleopatra, "after years of peace, plenty, and excess of the Nile," such animals were shod with gold and led their horns tipped with the same metal. Herodotus tells of a man who died with grief because he sold a calf that was after he saw the mother of a black bull calf marked with the sacred white circle in his forehead.—St. Louis Republic.

WHISTLING DUCKS.

Novel and Attractive Water Fowl for the Farmer's Pen.

There are at least five varieties of whistling ducks known to the general public, viz., the Widow or Whitefaced, the Red Bill, the Black Bill, the Soft Bill and the Arrowhead. But as long as these species are poultry exhibitions or are kept by fanciers of water fowl, we call attention only to the two best known.

First—The Widow or Whitefaced whistler, Dendrocygna viduata, known also by the names of Spanish whistler and Canard Marquise, is a native of South America and is found in large flocks upon the lakes of Brazil. It is small in size, yet much exceeding that of the wood duck, can be easily kept in confinement, is vastly rendered quiet tame, is thoroughly hardy, and is therefore quite popular with that small class of men who do not look for practical results and paying investments in their poultry yard. It has rather long legs, a compact, narrow, but well shaped body, a slender, upright neck and carries the head very erect. It is altogether a quaint looking bird and its attractiveness is increased by its soft, low, melancholy, flutelike video, the notes of which seem to have been caught from the wind upon the edges and grasses of its native haunts.

In color it is a light chocolate or light ferruginous brown on the back and breast, shading into a lighter brown upon the under parts; the flanks centrally penciled with dusky bars, the centre of the abdomen is black, the wings are colored like the back, and both have every feather laced with a lighter shade of brown; the tail is black and conspicuous in shape; the bill is black, the eyes black; the back of the head and the neck are blacky; the forehead, face, cheeks and chin are white, the separation between the colors commencing just back of the eyes; the nostrils are stained with white; the legs are blue.

The Whistling whistler occasionally appears at the American poultry exhibitions, in the miscellaneous class, and always attracts attention.

Second—The Red Bill whistler, Dendrocygna autumnalis, is about the size of the widgeon. The bill, from which it takes its popular name, is about two inches in length and red in color. The eyes are hazel; the legs are red, and the blue in rather long. The plumage is diversified, the crown of the head being chocolate; the sides of the head, cheeks and throat grayish or dusty white; the collar, or lower part of the neck, shades into the back and scapulars of the same color; the breast pale ashy yellow, with feather margined with dusky; the sides between the shoulders ashy yellow, but deeper than on the breast; inner wing coverts rusty with greater coverts white; quills black, while all the tail, including its upper wing for half its length, lower part of back and under tail coverts black; under tail coverts a rusty white, barred or mottled with black.

The Red bill whistler is found in Southern Asia and the West Indies, and Eaglen, writer upon wildfowl for one with whom visitors may be kept. No admirer of these fancy water fowl need slight for country accommodation, for their use requires only with the small garden area of London villas who succeed with them commonly. All that is necessary is a mere, dry house facing the sun, humidity from tide and a wood grass run in which is a small area of water, but not a pond, or even of wood or canvas. The water must be periodically changed, but the pond need not be of large dimensions. Food costs two cents a lb. or 2 will pay a couple. With regard to breeding, these are not particularly shy. They may accept almost all kinds of grain from mates to oats, and as a rule prefer it when put into their water tin.—Poultry World.

Innovation for Swine Plague.

At the recent meeting of the National Association of Expert Judges of Swine held at Lincoln, Neb., a committee was appointed to investigate the work of Dr. Billings with swine plague, and its conclusions will be read with interest. The recent bulletin issued by the bureau of animal industry against inoculation receives attention in this report, and it would appear that some Nebraska farmers have coupled themselves up by giving hog cholera and swine plague inoculation—one to Dr. Billings and one to the department of agriculture.

The report the committee's report is that it is not wise for farmers to be disseminated by the bureau's bulletin from experimenting with non-virulent in infected districts. Evidently the committee treated the case reckless, as G. S. Prentiss agent of the department of agriculture who an official personal interpretation that inoculation as a preventive of swine plague has been proved a success in Nebraska. Not resulting Gov. Boyd's report the department has taken it that officially applied inoculation. Dr. Billings may refer in the future to avoid this fact to mind.—Breeder's Gazette.

We learn that the cattle of the present day come from a crossing of the two breeds, the aboriginal and the longhorns. So glad to know it!

Protecting Trees from Sunburn.

E. H. Hilton, at a meeting of the California State Horticultural society, said, in reply to a question:

It is not necessary to wrap trees to protect them against sunburn if the trees are planted with the same side to the sun as in the nursery. Trees are generally planted on the north side, because it is easy to remove them in the second so that the thinker bark shall continue to face the sun. Trees thus planted seldom or never sunburn in the coast counties, but might require some further protection in the hotter, inland valleys.

A correspondent of The Prairie Farmer, who thinks that the injury from sun cold occurs during the season of planting, though not so apparent as two years later, advises the following device for protection: Provide eight laths and use small wire. Weave the laths with the wire and encircle the tree. This protector is made in a few minutes and will last till the tree needs no further protection. This will prevent injury from sun scald, borers, rabbits, mice, chilblitters, calves, sheep and hogs, cost three to five cents a tree and will last six years.

Insecticides Recommended.

Professor Smith, of the New Jersey agricultural station, attests the value of potash salts for insecticidal purposes. Kainit was found to be more effective than the muriate of potash. Used of a strength of half a pound to a gallon of water, it was effective against cabbage maggots, plant lice, flea beetles, rose bugs and other species. Muriate of potash of the same strength quickly killed the scale bugs on greenhouse camellias when sprayed upon them without injury to the plants. It was also promptly effective upon the scale of rubber. It was found to injure some of the more delicate plants, and therefore needs further experiment with it.

Of the several repellents of tobacco, Professor Smith gives preference to that known as "Z. O. dust," which seems to be tobacco, carbolic acid and wintergreen. It was more active against plant lice than seven greenhouses, and all kinds of naked larvae yielded results. The cabbage worm was destroyed by it.

Fruit Notes.

The Elberta, according to some authorities, is one of the hardiest of peaches. It is excellent in quality and the tree is productive.

At the Indiana experiment station Catalpa and the old Bradley were found the best of red raspberries. The Gaylorde Hilborn is the best of its colors.

The Kelsey plum from Japan finds that the Japan cherry thrives best on clay loam.

Select hardy varieties of raspberries and be sure to get the roots far enough apart.

The wild grape plant is not always productive unless planted near to other varieties.

The Trumpeter is a beautiful variety of the siberian crab apple.

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