A LEGAL INCIDENT.

A TRAGIC ENDING OF AN UNJUST CRIMINAL CONVICTION.

Strong Circumstantial Evidence Proves to the Core of a Trusted Clerk, He Was Shown Before the Law.

The following thrilling story comes from the lips of a well known member of the Pennsylvania bar:

A very bad and dishonest fellow had entered, in which a certain trusted clerk seemed to have been guilty of the large share of the crime. He, with his employer, was arrested and charged with the crime. The clerk steadily protested his innocence and denied all knowledge of the fraud or any connection with his employer.

However, there was a chain of circumstantial evidence woven around him which was exceptionally strong and which his counsel could not break down, although he was firmly convinced himself of his innocence. The clerk was convicted and sent to jail for a term of years.

After being confined in prison for about a year the poor fellow's mind became weakened and finally he broke down completely. He was taken from prison and transferred to a hospital for the insane. All the time the clerk continued to protest his innocence. After he had been confined in the hospital three or four years, certain facts in the affair were elicited which clearly proved that the unfortunate clerk was entirely innocent of having committed any crime.

Of course steps were immediately taken to secure the release of the man, but facts were laid before the parties named at their next meeting and an order was given for his immediate release.

It was because the delicate duty of the counsel in the case to break the news to the unfortunate clerk. But the question that confronted them was what could be done to restore his reason, as it would be hideous the news if his mind could not be restored to him. After a consultation between the counsel on both sides of the case it was agreed to call upon the poor clerk and make an attempt to cause him from his quality and bringing into which he had fallen. This they decided to do by arousing him again of the theft of the funds. Whatever this subject was handled he always raised himself and became greatly concerned, always vigorously denying it.

While his mind was aroused by this episode it had been decided that one of the counsel was to announce that the matter had been fully investigated and his innocence fully established. The police to this strange drama assembled in the room of the stricken man. He sat erect and immovable, with his head in his hands.

As the old and ever rankling charge of dishonesty fell upon his ears the effect was exactly that which had been foreseen and expected. He slowly raised his head. Looking his parole accuser straight in the eye he repeated, in a faint tone of voice, with a rising inflection and with great energy, "It is a lie."

The critical moment had come. The party who had prosecuted him and caused his incarceration then stepped up to him and said, "You are right. It is a lie and you stand before the community vindicated now. I have the order for your release in my pocket."

Then the lawyers stood off to watch the effect, hoping that the joy at the prospect of release and vindication would have the effect of putting the clerk again in his right mind. But no sign of joy occupied the man's features. His features do usual stolid expression. It seemed to have no apparent effect upon him.

The clerk turned his face toward the speaker, as if to show he understood him. Then he bowed his forehead, and the man was precipitated upon the floor at the feet of the lawyers. A single glance sufficed. He was dead.—Green Bag.

A Wooden Statue in Tokio.

In Tokio, the capital of Japan, there exists a gigantic statue of a woman, made of wood and plaster and dedicated to Hachiman, the god of war. In height it measures fifty-four feet; the head alone, which is reached by a winding stairway in the interior of the figure, is large enough to comfortably hold twenty persons. The figure holds a huge wooden sword in one hand (the blade of the weapon being twenty-seven feet long) and a ball twelve feet in diameter in the other.

Internally the figure is fitted up with an extraordinary mechanical contrivance, supposed to represent the different motions of the brain. A fine view of the country is obtained by looking through one of the eyes of the statue.—London Tit-Bits.

Too Much of a Good Thing.

A French paper relates that Baron de Lara, the prime minister of the king of Bavaria, was much addicted to shrouding all his actions in mystery. Having recently hurt both his legs on one occasion, he consulted a separate doctor for each of his injured limbs. The one who treated the right leg was totally unaware that a fellow practitioner had been called in for the left one, and vice versa.

Just fancy that, instead of his two legs, each of his two toes had been diseased! Why, it would have taken a Fortuna to pay the bills of his doctors.—La Semaine.

One Year's Sale of Stamps.

The number of postage stamps used in a year is something astounding. For instance, the ordinary postal revenue for the year ending June 30, 1891, exclusive of the money order business, was $65,[illegible]. Of this $[illegible] came from postage. The bulk of this was represented in two-cent stamps, and it sets to get the whole number of this denomination sold at more than two billions per annum.—Kate Field's Washington.

Without Base.

A funny mistake occurred lately in printing labels for a meat preserving company. The printer had been in the habit of labeling lots of beef or mutton, as for case might be, with the words "without bone" prominently displayed. The company having added kidney soup to its list, the new matrix was duly ticketed as "Kidney soup—without bone."—London Tit-Bits.

GUINEA FOWLS.

A Poultry Expert Tells Us What They Are Good For.

For the cost and trouble required in raising these guineas are among the most profitable fowls that can be raised on the farm. They prefer to seek their own food in the meadows and fields, and as long as they can find plenty thereafter they will not come home to get it. In this way they eat up a great number of worms and grubs and keep down bugs and beetles to a great extent. A good flock of the birds made a large range, and every farm of any size should be blessed with a few at least. It is not profitable to attempt to raise them on small ranges, for they will not thrive when cooped up the same as the other barnyard fowls.

A flock of about twenty will forage over a farm of 50 to 100 acres, and by their persistence they will keep down all the bugs and insects. They will do more. They will help to keep down many noxious weeds and wild plants.

GUINEA FOWL.

The guineas are also the most trustworthy watchdogs. If bought to secure in the hen-house or close to it they will give the hoodlum alarm as soon as on entry approaches. Dogs, foxes and human beings alike attract their attention and they keep up the shrill cries until the enemy has left the place. A great many poultrymen try to keep a few guineas in their flocks simply for this one purpose of giving the alarm when chicken thieves come around.

The hens always take their nests, and often in very obscure places, but if one watches them carefully in the breeding season they are easily discovered. They always make a shrill noise when they come off the nest, and this always betrays them to those on the watch. All the hens of a flock lay in one nest, and in such a place it is not uncommon to find from 50 to 200 eggs.

Each guinea hen that is good for stock will lay about 125 eggs a year, and these can generally be sold for prices that range a little less than chicken eggs. It should be remembered, however, that the cost of feeding the guineas has practically been nothing, while the hens of the common fowls have required heavy feeding all the year around. The guinea hen will bring into the world a big brood of young ones, and these can generally be sold at a fair price. The eggs can be hatched under the hens in the poultry house or in the incubator. It takes about four weeks for them to hatch.

In raising the nest eggs should be taken not to touch it with the hands. The guinea hen can tell immediately if the hands have touched the nest, and she will leave it immediately, seeking another place. But if the eggs are removed with a stick she will never desert the nest, even if the eggs are taken out nearly every day or two.—Annie C. Webster in American Cultivator.

A Grade Station for Steers on Grass.

A Missouri correspondent writes that he has a bunch of steers in good thrifty condition, averaging about 1,000 pounds each, that he wishes to sell in December. Chicago is nearer and he thinks of feeding a grade station to hurry up the fattening process and make more solid beef. Corn is fifty six cents per bushel, bran has sixteen per ton, oilmeal twenty-two. He inquires what form of ration I would recommend, the whole to cost any fifteen or sixteen cents per head per day. The pastures are bluegrass, timothy and white clover.

At the prices named bran is the cheapest feed in the lot and I should use it liberally in the ration. Start with two pounds of bran and five of corn. This will cost ten cents per head per day. As the fattening period progresses corn will come down in price and should be increased in the ration, cutting down on the bran. Some oilmeal might be fed also toward the close of the period, especially for the purpose of making a glossy coat and giving the animal a finished appearance. It is a little unusual to recommend bran for fattening steers, but in a case like this I should not hesitate for a moment to use it in the way here mentioned. The albumen and phosphates in the bran are alone worth a large part of what the bran costs, and the droppings on the pastures will tend to make it very rich.—Professor W. A. Henry in Breeder's Gazette.

Egg Observations.

Eggs from the best egg producing breeds pay a higher price for what is grown on the farm than the farmer can get by selling it, or by feeding it to any other farm stock. It is still in feeding that it is much the successful farmer of the future, and it is reasonable to believe that he will feed more to his poultry than to any other farm stock.

Undoubtedly the honest, intelligent and skilful poultryman would be benefited if eggs could never be sold out of season. It would be better also for the mass of consumers. No matter what care is taken in keeping eggs over a year, there is some deterioration in quality. They are never exactly as good as the fresh product, however strongly this claim is made for them. Besides, if it were not for the competition of inferior cold-storage eggs there would be better winter prices and a larger winter consumption of eggs, thus giving additional inducements to those engaged in winter egg production.—American Cultivator.

Getting Away from Mosquitoes.

There is a tribe of South American savages who live in tree tops near Venezuela, and their singular mode of existence gave the name to that province. The villages of these people are built over the bosom of a great fresh water lake to escape from the mosquitoes.—Boston Globe.

As Immoveable.

Miss Pinkerly—You act as if you were uncomfortable, Mr. Tutter.

Tutter—Yes, Miss Pinkerly, the fact is, I have never been able to get a dress suit to fit me.

Miss Pinkerly—Perhaps you don't get there early enough.

His Only Attempt at Humor.

When "Colonel Bill" Hicklin was a much younger man than he is now he lived in Littletown, on the Humbal and St. Ice road. Just outside of the town was a back hill and a steep grade, up which trains had great difficulty in making their way. "Bill" and some of his companions decided that they were to have some fun with the railroad company, and procuring a lot of grease and soap smeared it on the rails on this grade. Soon a passenger train with C. H. Boardman, formerly of this city but now traveling passenger agent of the Burlington, in charge came thundering along. When the wheels struck that greased track they spun around like lightning, but the train would not budge an inch and even the sand would not hold it. The train was backed down the track and started up again, but it could not get over that grease, and after several unsuccessful attempts the train was sidetracked and a gang of section men cleared off the rails.

Of course this was all fun for Bill Hicklin and his friends and they would get off by themselves and laugh real loud about it, but the next day a young man came to the town distributing handbills on which was printed in cold black letters and signed by the superintendent of the road the announcement that the railroad company would pay $500 reward for the arrest and conviction of the persons who had greased the track. Right then and there Bill Hicklin ceased to be a humorist. In early twilight he stole out of town and did not return for two years, by which time the incident was forgotten.—Indianapolis News.

Artists Who Were Once Sign Painters.

There are not a few instances of sign painters abandoning their craft for a higher sphere in art. And of American artists especially a number have begun in this humble line.

Henry Smith Mount, a brother of the more talented William Sidney Mount, though a sign painter, executed some creditable pieces of still life and became an A. N. A. in 1861. W. S. Mount, first associated with his brother, showed a capacity for a higher order of art. He was one of our earlier genre painters, devoting himself mainly to depicting the humorous side of American rustic life. Francis A. Silva and Arthur Quartley, the marine painters, now dead, began their careers as sign painters. So did William McGrath, the clever genre painter, who of late has been painting subjects à la Alma-Tadema. Worthington Whittredge and William Louis Sonntag, both men well known as landscape painters, were painting signs together in Cincinnati a little more than forty years ago.—New York Times.

How Buffaloes Were Slaughtered.

The buffaloes traveled "on the run" and in great herds. It was always a better shelter shot at full speed, heads down, long, shaggy hair tossing over gleaming eyes, and every one for himself. If an animal fell it was trampled to death by the thousands passing on. The annual migration was simply a wild dash for food. The leaders were not always wild and stupid as the rest of the herd which followed in the awful scramble. They would scent danger, but that often availed little with the galloping, bellowing ones behind them.

So the hunters used to frighten the leaders into taking a direct bee line for a ravine, where if the front ranks halted they would be pushed over by thousands. It was a reckless, wholesale slaughter of noble animals, and accounts partly for the scarcity of the buffalo in later years.—J. L. Vance in Our Animal Friends.

Handling Special Delivery Letters.

A ten cent special delivery stamp on a letter is supposed to keep it in constant motion from the time the letter is deposited in the main or branch postoffice until it is delivered to the addressee. There is liable to be a little delay in the starting of a letter when it is deposited in a letter box instead of a postoffice, but everything must make way for special delivery letters after they once get into the vicinity of a mail bag. The clerk hustles them out with the first mail leaving the office and puts them on the outside of packages, or in a bundle by themselves, so that the next official can see them at once.

If the special delivery stamp is put on a package of second, third or fourth class matter it has to be treated in a first class manner—that is, it goes into a pouch instead of a sack, and is pushed through just as rapidly as a letter bearing the same stamp.—Kate Field's Washington.

He Had the Better Delivery.

Mrs. Brown—Isn't it a shame! Here's a baseball pitcher that gets $5,000 a year, and there are plenty of clergymen who do not receive $500.

Mr. B.—But it is just possible, my dear, that the pitcher has a better delivery than any one of those clergymen.—Boston Transcript.

A Great Strike.

The most valuable gold ore ever mined in the United States, and probably in the world, was a lot containing 200 pounds of quartz, carrying gold at the rate of $50,000 a ton. It was taken from the main shaft of the mine at Ishpeming, Mich.

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