

This? Why, a few knick knacks, which I sometimes distribute in Sabbath schools, in the shape of dialogues, speeches, &c., things to make people laugh, and to prevent the school from feeling too serious or thinking too much about religion. You must understand, sir, that I have continually to attend church, to regulate things there, and see that the bonnets are right, the rings are bright, and the dresses are complete; yet religion itself I hate as poison! And here is a box of the finest—what shall I call it? It is a sort of wit and smartness, which I deal out to preachers, with which they spice their sermons, and become popular. I sell them by the gross. They are growing in demand, and they are real saving of conscience and heart ache. Warranted to keep in any climate, a kind of sensation powder.

Pray, madam, what are those screws for?

Why, to pinch the feet, and make them look small, without regard to corns and bunions. They can't wear those little, dear little shoes, except you have the pinchers to go with them.

And that great heap of books in your arms?

Those! They are the latest, most exciting, and the weakest, most silly novels. But I hand them out, and shake my head with a smile, and crowds read them.

Well, madam, I'm very inquisitive, I know, but I do want to know what you have in that great bag thrown over your shoulder.

A great variety of valuables—such things as "late suppers"—in great demand, and which send people to the grave early, and thus make room for more. Then there are "late hours" and "late risin'," and all manner of hair-dressing, and expensive dressing,—things that ladies must have, even if their husbands fail. Here are diamond pins and rings—just the thing to stir up envy and create extravagance. Here are gold watches, cigars, meerschaum pipes, gold-headed canes, eye-glasses, and all manner of things to suit all manner of people. And I laugh and coax, and frown and command, till I get them to wear and use them, and do just what I please. Now, I have stopped to talk with you a few moments; don't you see what a crowd have gathered around me—low necks, thin shoes, muslin dresses, tight boots; some on crutches, some coughing, some breathing short, all crowding to get near me; and when I move, you will see how they all run and rush, and crowd after me. Oh, sir, I am the great power of the world. I rule kings and queens, beggars and philosophers. Don't you see?

Truly, madam, truly. And now may I ask your name?

Name! FASHION, sir; my name is MRS. PREVAILING FASHION! I thought everybody knew me!

FEATS OF A NEW YORK THIEF IN THE MOBILE JAIL.

The prisoners confined in the jail at Mobile, Alabama, recently made an attempt to escape, but were discovered in time to prevent any of them from getting off. The two ringleaders, named Hudson and Boone, were put in irons. The Mobile Register has this account of what ensued:

"In one of the corner cells, on the first floor, is confined the noted young Boone, alias Monroe, a handsome lad of about eighteen years. He was the first one released by Hudson on Monday night, and took the keys, after which he opened all the cells on the first and second floors. After the prisoners had been secured, and their efforts thwarted, the sheriff and jailor at once placed Hudson and Boone in irons, hands and feet. It was soon afterwards discovered that young Boone had thrown off the irons. He was taken out and heavily ironed again, the shackles and chains having been increased. In less than five minutes afterwards the jailor peeped into his cell, and saw all the cuffs, shackles, and chains lying on the floor of the cell, and young Boone sitting on his bed as if he had done nothing. Six different times did they place his limbs in irons, and the strongest and most intricate were called into requisition, but all to no purpose.

"When Captain Petty, chief of the Mobile police was told of the extraordinary feats performed by young Boone in throwing off his irons, he expressed a desire to be permitted to select the irons himself, and 'dress the young man' according to his style. The jailor cheerfully complied with Captain Petty's request, and, after the cuffs, shackles and chains had been procured, we repaired to young Boone's cell. He is a bright, intelligent, and very handsome boy,

with large blue eyes, effeminate features, and complexion as fair as a lady. He rose from his bed as we neared the cell, and came to the grated window with a cheerful smile beaming on his handsome face. We were accompanied by the sheriff, jailor, Captain Petty, and two turnkeys.

"The sheriff opened the door of the cell and invited young Boone to step out. He was then told that Captain Petty had come to place him in irons so that he would stay in them. This did not seem to move him in the least. He smiled pleasantly and remarked that 'such a thing could no doubt be did,' but hoped that no further efforts would be made in that direction. The sheriff ordered the irons to be placed on him, and Captain Petty commenced by drawing the young man's wrists together behind his back, after which he put on a tight fitting pair of patent handcuffs. He then drew his arms close behind him, and put on a pair of cuffs attached by a short chain, above his elbows. A chain was then attached to the cuffs at the wrist, which extended down to the shackles, which were closely fitted and locked on his ankles. During the operation, his large blue eyes were keenly fixed on every article of his iron dress, as each was adjusted.

"After Captain Petty pronounced him secure, young Boone's eyes fell, and a look of despair overshadowed his heretofore bright countenance. We could not help but pity one so young and promising in his painful situation. Captain Petty remarked to him, 'Now, Boone, if you wiggle yourself out of that dress I will guarantee that the sheriff here will give you the freedom of your cell, and so long as you behave yourself you will never again be ironed in this jail.' As these words were spoken Boone's face was fairly illuminated with joy, and he asked the sheriff if 'it was a bargain.' That official assented, believing with Captain Petty and all present that it was out of his power to accomplish such a feat. Young Boone wished to know if the agreement would be fulfilled as soon as the work was done. He was told that it would.

"He then asked the sheriff and Capt. Petty to go away from the cell while he was at work. They went off to the other side of the hall to iron some prisoners, and had not been gone two minutes before young Boone announced that his arms were free, and in less than three minutes longer the shackles were off his legs, and he stood without an iron upon him. He will have no more irons put upon him, but a close watch will be kept over him. He was put in for larceny about one month ago; and his trial takes place in June. He is a native of New York city, and has graduated from the Tombs. He came to the South before the war, and served in the Confederate army during the war, being a member of the 7th Virginia cavalry, and one of the noted scouts of the Army of Virginia. He is the last youth in the country who would be suspected for a professional rogue."

METEORIC EXPLOSION.—The Shreveport (La.) *Southwestern* reports the following: Two gentlemen a few days ago, while riding along the road a short distance from this place, witnessed a curious occurrence during the daytime. A rain was coming up, preceded by a slight sprinkling, when at a short distance ahead they saw a large ball of fire descend slowly from the clouds and affix itself to the trunk of a tall dead pine, at the height of a few feet from the ground. Both called to each other simultaneously to notice the strange object, which, to use their own words, blazed up where it stood like a candle. It so continued for some seconds, when it suddenly exploded with a tremendous detonation, tearing the tree into a thousand splinters and setting fire to the portion of the stump that remained. A considerable area was filled with fallen foliage, and fragments scattered in every direction. Immediately upon the explosion, a streak of fire was seen shooting off horizontally from the tree, following the surface of the ground, passing within 50 or 60 feet of them, and of the character of a stream of lightning, as often seen descending from the clouds when it strikes. The sight was terrific in the extreme. The air became strongly impregnated with a pungent, sulphurous odor.

THE steamboat owners of St. Louis have organized a levee police to guard their crafts from the operations of the incendiaries. Every steamboat contributes \$1 a day while she remains in port, for the support of this police.

A YOUNG man lately died in Philadelphia of hydrophobia from the bite of a cat three weeks previous.

A GREAT METEOR.—The most remarkable addition that has ever been made to the collection of meteorites in the British Museum, accrued to it in the past year by the arrival from Melbourne of the great mass of meteoric iron found at Cranbourne, near that city, and known in the colony as the "Bruce meteorite." It was purchased by Mr. Bruce, now of Inverquhomery, with a view to his presenting it to the British Museum. Through a misunderstanding the Museum at Melbourne had a promise of half of it. The trustees of the British Museum, therefore, acquired and sent to the Melbourne Museum the mass of meteoric iron, weighing 3,000 pounds that was sent to the Exhibition of 1862, and which had been found close to the great meteorite, and the latter was then forwarded entire to London. Its weight is rather more than 3½ tons. It is, consequently, by far the greatest meteoric mass in any collection in the world.—[S. F. Bulletin]

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