

THE EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, March 19, 1912.

THE BEST COW IN PERIL.

Old Farmer B. is a sturdy man. He keeps all his cows, and he gets all his milk. By all his friends he is said to be as tight as the bark on a young birch tree. He goes to church, and he rents a pew. But the times that he gives to the Lord are few. If he gets to heaven with the good and great he will be in at the smallest gate.

Now, farmer B., besides drag and plow. Keeps a number of cows due calves and cows. He makes no butter, but sends by express. The milk to the city's thriftness.

"What do the city folks know about milk? They are better judges of cloth and silk. Not a man who buys, I'd vow, can tell if it's water, or water, or water. If they do not know, then where's the sin? I will put the sparkling water in. Thus talked to himself old farmer B. How much he is young and old can see.

One night it was dark, oh, fearfully dark. The watch dog never came out to bark. Old farmer B. in his bed did snore. When rap, rap, rap, nearly shattered his door. And a voice cried out in a hoarse breath. "Your best cow, neighbor, is coming to death."

Clipping of the end of a roasting snore. Farmer B. bounded out on the bedroom floor. And the midnight voice was heard no more. He pulled on his pants, he knew no bow. For his thoughts were all on the shivering cow. He flew to the yard like a frightened deer. For hissing soul was filled with fear. Looking around, by his lantern's light. He found that the cows were there all right.

"I will give a dime," cried farmer B. "To know who plays that trick on me. May the hand be swift and the knuckle be sore That knocked to-night on my farm house door."

With a scowl on his face and a shaking head. Farmer B. again sought his nice, warm bed. No good thoughts came, they were all over-powered. The little good nature he had, had soured.

When he went to water his milk next day. The midnight voice seemed again to say. As he pumped away with panting breath. "Your best cow, neighbor, is looking to death." The meaning of this he soon found out. For a stone was driven in the old pump's spout. Old farmer B., when he drove to town. Now meets his judges with a savage frown. They smile, and ask, as they kindly bow. "How getteth along the best cow now?"

REMARKABLE COURT SCENE.

JURY COMPELLED BY THE COURT TO ACQUIT AN ALLEGED MURDERER.

The Philadelphia Telegraph has the following as having occurred in that city:

At 12 o'clock yesterday Judge Woodhull charged the jury in the case of Josiah Ward, indicted for the murder of John Ward, and directed them to return a verdict of "not guilty," inasmuch as the evidence did not support the indictment.

The jurors were then directed to stand up and give their verdict. Not a juror moved from his place. They seemed to be extremely puzzled what to do under the new aspect of the case.

Judge Woodhull, Rise, gentlemen, and say what you think.

At this second command they slowly rose, one after another, still under the impression of the proper course for them to pursue. The jurors also rose at this point and crowded forward toward the bar, without making any disturbance, however, beyond the noise of scuffling feet and of suppressed whispers.

Judge—"The jury cannot understand exactly what is meant by the court. There is nothing unusual about this case, any more than there would be about rendering a verdict of acquittal. You may render it in this form, 'Under the discretion of this court we find a verdict of not guilty.'"

There was no reply to this, and the judge added: "Why, gentlemen, you simply say what the law requires you to say under these circumstances."

The jurors showed every evidence of obeying the request of the court. Their faces were flushed, and were anxious expressions of indecision. One of them finally said: "We won't agree upon that verdict."

Judge—"Well, gentlemen, you may go to your room and consult each other. If you find any other verdict that you wish to render, you may do so. But if you are in acquiescence with the verdict of the court, say 'not guilty,' but I think differently."

Another juror—"That is my view. Judge—it don't make any difference, gentlemen, what your views are; the court has decided this matter now. You need not compromise your conscience at all. It makes no difference what your private views may be, and we have not even speculated upon them. We take this course because we think it is right. Mr. Wilson—"We have not had a moment to speak with each other; we are surprised, and we can hardly tell what to say."

Mr. Jenkins—"If the jury renders a verdict of guilty the question may be tried again. Judge—"That is exactly what we do not want."

Mr. Jenkins—"Cannot the jury always give a verdict which will satisfy their own view of the case?"

Judge—"No sir, I think not. The jury are now under the direction of the court, and it is their duty to give such a verdict as will satisfy the court. If they refuse to do it they will be discharged, and the prisoner will also be discharged. If the gentlemen think they have anything to deliberate about they can retire to their room."

The jury did retire, and after an hour, returned with the following verdict: "Being compelled by the court, we render a verdict of not guilty."

It was rumored about the court-room that eleven of the jurors were in favor of conviction, and one in favor of the prisoner.

Immediately after the verdict was rendered, Josiah Ward, in company with his brother Samuel, passed out of the court-house and proceeded homeward.

The three trials in this case lasted fifty-eight days, and cost the county \$25,000.

London papers protest against the cruel frivolity which occasioned a wholesale slaughter of song birds this year for the purpose of ornamenting valentines.

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