

## ANARCHY IN ILLINOIS.

Outrages Upon Men and Women—  
The Son of a Baptist Minister  
at the Head of the Gang.

CHICAGO, August 24, 1875.

Neither the Williamson nor the Franklin affair has any political significance, the former being, as my dispatch showed, a purely family affair, the latter half romantic, wholly brutal and lawless, but not partizan. In fact, the Hendersons were loyal refugees from Tennessee during the war, and more than one of the Ku Klux were federal soldiers. Political parties are at present pretty evenly divided in "Egypt," and there is no pretence in any quarter that the troubles were incited for political reasons. It was bad blood in one case; inherent "cussedness" in the other. The wonder is, not that warring families should kill one another or even that masked scoundrels should "gad about o' nights," but that in such a State as Illinois scoundrelism should have flourished for such a length of time without the punishment of a single felon.

For some unaccountable reason Isaac Vanoll, an old farmer on the border of Jackson county, incurred the displeasure of some of the parties in the county of Williamson. They visited his house one night, put him on horseback and subsequently hung him to a tree. This performance seemed to have suggested to some bold and lawless fellows the idea of forming a secret organization on the Ku Klux plan. They perfected their company and were seen occasionally of nights mounted on horses disguised with drapery, their uniform being grotesque and ghastly. Their bodies were covered with long, white cotton masks, worn over their ordinary dress. Their faces were hidden behind white masks, fantastically daubed with black at the openings for eyes and mouth, and their heads were surmounted by long peaked hats, also of white cloth. Like the apparitions seen by Macbeth on the heath of Forres, they would appear suddenly and as quickly vanish into thin air. Frequently their excursions amounted to nothing, and were undertaken seemingly for the mere pleasure of terrorizing honest folk. But they became an absolute power. People feared them, and it was only necessary that they should make their commands known to have them implicitly obeyed. Occasionally they would assume to be champions of the law and warn some delinquent to settle his taxes and pay his debts, or incur their displeasure. But such illegal service in aid of law would be offset by the ravishing of a girl, the plundering of a farm house, the wounding or killing of a man. They had little excuse for force, since their warnings, symbolically conveyed, ordinarily received prompt compliance. There were exceptions, as in the case of Henry Carter, a farmer, who, being visited by a portion of the gang, fought them off; as also in the case of Bill Dungee, another farmer, who suspected the author of the warning to him and boldly trounced him within an inch of his life.

After enduring this terrorism for two years the people were led, by a series of recent outrages, to rise and crush this devilish band, and the story of their triumph is well worthy the narration. The outlaws commenced a series of men thrashings and women ravishings that were appalling. People told one another of the terrible scenes with bated breath, but made no move at retaliation. They were fearful for their own lives. Finally, two respectable and courageous men, John H. Hogan and J. B. Maddox, were warned that they were determined to resist, and the result was the battle of Maddox lane, of which I have telegraphed you.

They appeared, hideously attired, as was their custom, and advanced confidently down the lane toward the house. They were fifteen in number, a portion only of the band, and were armed like swash-bucklers—to the teeth.

They had almost reached the house, and were moving on without fear, when the Sheriff commanded a halt and demanded a surrender. The Ku Klux, thoroughly surprised, came to a halt, or, rather, their horses doubled, and the party was thrown into confusion. A second demand was made, the Sheriff's party never firing a shot, but it was met with an oath and a bullet. Thereupon Flanagan, a lawyer of

Benton, one of the Sheriff's posse, fired and a Ku Klux tumbled from his saddle. The firing then became general, the Ku Klux retreating through the lane, receiving as they went the fire of the ambuscade.

Fearing that there was a larger party in the rear, the Sheriff decided not to pursue immediately, but to guard Maddox's house until morning. The wounded man who had fallen into the clutches of the law was in the full costume of his crew, and received the kindest attentions from the family he was about to outrage. He proved to be a young man, Duckworth by name, well known in the county. He exhibited the deepest remorse, saying to one of the gentlemen who accompanied the Sheriff, "Oh! for God's sake, pray for me, for I will die. Forgive me. If I live I will never do so again."

He was removed to Benton, placed in a room of the hotel, and is now on the fair road to recovery and the penitentiary. Duckworth claims that he had belonged to the Order but a short time. He said that Neal, who was subsequently captured, was the leader of the attack on Maddox's house. He knew the grips and signs of the Order and said that betrayal of them is certain death.

In the pursuit which followed shortly after daylight Aaron Neal was captured at his house, also Green Cantrell, who was full of buckshot. Neal is a man of family, a Baptist minister's son, ostensibly a farmer, something of a lawyer, and generally, a bad man, though he positively denies that he was engaged in the affair of the lane, young Duckworth to the contrary.

The county is aroused at last, as if from a nightmare. For the first time in two years the people dare to speak out. They have organized a militia company composed of the best men in the county, and they will assert the supremacy of the law over every form of villainy. —New York Herald.

Captain Webb's feat of swimming across the British Channel, from Dover to Calais, 25½ miles, in 22 hours and 43 minutes, is accounted the greatest physical feat of this generation.

Mrs. Mary Vaughn, of Williamson County, Tennessee, gave a 100th birthday party lately. She is a "right pert" old lady, and headed a procession of 100 descendants in marching to the grove where they took dinner.

One-half these people who go around howling about the modesty of the present pinback style of dress, will step into an art gallery, and stand for hours and hours gazing at the Greek Slave and not say a word.

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