NEWS OF THE WEST.

Mosquitoes Drive Farmers From Fertile Valley, N. C.

SHOT IN MISTAKE FOR A BURGLAR

Hundred Houses in Streets—Bird Dies—A Chinaman Suicides.

On Monday a Chinese passenger on the steamer Umatilla, in San Francisco harbor, committed suicide by strangling himself with a silk sash. He had been refused the privilege of landing, and died rather than be sent back to his native land disgraced.

At Bagley, Wyoming, on Saturday evening, Hiram Straw of Utah and D. L. Henderson got into an altercation over some milking claims and came to blows. Henderson stabbed Straw in the back and side, and is under arrest awaiting the result of the wounds.

Thomas A. Smith, a surveyor and old resident of Chilicothe, died suddenly Saturday night while in camp at Newman's ranch, ten miles above Arcola, in company with John Wills. They had retired for the night and Wills noticed that Smith was snoring or breathing heavy, but went to sleep without paying particular attention to his companion. When he awoke the camp fire was out and Smith was dead. The cause was heart failure.

Arizona Gazetteer: Last Monday morning about 4 o'clock a young girl by the name of Phoenix Talley was awakened by a burglar in the house of her brother-in-law, William Richards, who lives in Safford, Graham county, and was shot; the wound proved fatal, and she died three days later in great agony. The girl is said to be of lovely disposition and a general favorite. The sad mistake has thrown a cloud over the whole community at Safford and has blighted the future lives of the Richards family.

St. Johns, Arizona, Herald: It is a common sight here, after a heavy rain, such as that which occurred last Sunday night and Monday afternoon, to see a considerable portion of the community turn out to shovel dirt and repair the ravages done to the flat roofs and interiors by the rain. This could all be avoided by the general adoption of shingle roofs, and as the shingles done to furniture and other household goods is considerable, we believe their adoption would prove to be a great economy. There is no better nor more comfortable kind of house in which to live than one built of adobe, provided it is covered with a shingle roof.

The Fraser valley, British Columbia farmers occupying the low-lying lands are wondering whether any more misfortunes can come before their meager crops are harvested. First came rain and floods which were followed by a scorching drought which turned up the vegetation and rotted by water. The drought was followed by scourges in the shape of forest fires, burning up many homes and forcing the residents to abandon their settlements. The farmers are now facing another difficulty, which is a grave one. Mosquitoes have been driven to the river by the fires and are hovering over the flats and farms in swarms, in some localities so dense that men cannot be hired at $1 a day to harvest. In some localities in Chilliwack district farmers have been actually driven from their homes by an aggressive attack of mosquitoes and flies. Farmers in the valley have called a meeting to decide whether they should ask the federal government to improve the river at a big cost. If the river is not made a deep-cut many farms will be abandoned.

A Beautiful Effect.

At the final rehearsal of Mozart's opera, "Don Giovanni," the company was dismayed with the rebuke of the young lady to whom the part of Zerlina was assigned. Zerlina is frightened at Don Giovanni's too professional lovemaking and cries for assistance behind the scenes. Mozart was unable to infuse sufficient fire into the poor girl's screams, until at last, losing all patience, he clambered from the conductor's desk on to the boards. At that period a few tallow candles dimly glimmered across the floor of the wooden room, but over the stage and the rest of the house almost utter darkness reigned. Mozart's sudden appearance on the stage was therefore not suspected by poor Zerlina, who, in the assured idea she ought to have entered the city, revolted from the composer's sharp pinch on the arm, emitting in consequence a shriek which caused him to exclaim: "Admirable! Might you scream like that tonight!"

What by the Express.

Suburban Resident—Is here, sir? You told me this country place I bought of you was only 45 minutes from the city.

City Agent—Yes, sir. 45 minutes by express. You remember, when we went out to look at it, the time was 35 minutes exactly.

But, confound it, sir, the express trains don't run there, for one of them, and the accommodation takes about an hour and a half!"

"You and I know that it hasn't stopped since."

"It will stop if you like a man at your station to buy a through ticket for somewhere. That's the way I got the city scattered."—New York World.

A Puzzle.

Perhaps some one can now inform us how the word "penny" came to be universally applied, as it is now, to a small coin. It is incorporated into the language and to us bears a fabulous expression. The earliest instance of its use with which I am acquainted occurs in "Neil Cook," in "The Ingoldsby Legends," published originally in Bentley's Miscellany, about 1840:

"You are no common penny,"
Says Mrs. Cook to Neil;
"But how things have left and left me bad
Will want a shift to fill!"

—Notes and Queries.

Alone Each Other.

"What is the basis of friendship between Mrs. Bush and Mrs. Rasht?"

"Each thinks the other is as flighty."—Chicago Record.

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