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Weekly National Intelligencer.
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Local reports and absolute news of sufficient importance to justify publication will be welcomed from any one, and if valuable will be paid for.

Contributors are respectfully requested to refrain from sending to THE SUNDAY HERALD news items which have already appeared in other journals, as it is not desired to reproduce matter from the dailies.

AN "AD." IN THE HERALD.

It Brough Business From St. Louis, St. Augustine and Other Cities.
WASHINGTON, April 2, 1891.

Messrs. Soule & Hensley:

GENTLEMEN: We wish to say a word as to the exceptional value of THE SUNDAY HERALD as an advertising medium, not only in Washington, but in other parts of the country. Since we have inserted our card in your paper we have been able to trace a great deal of new business to it, and have received orders for flowers and plants from St. Louis, St. Augustine, Fla., and other cities, which were directly due to the advertisement in THE SUNDAY HERALD. Therefore, we recognize the fact that your paper is one of the best mediums by which to reach the class of customers we desire we have ever used. Yours, etc., A. GUDE & BRO., Florists, 1112 F street northwest.

In the present juncture the appropriate oil to cast upon the troubled waters is olive oil.

It isn't likely they play the great American game to any extent in Sicily, but they do seem to grow a first-rate quality of bluffer. Even Maine must acknowledge this.

Governor Hill grew quite hysterical in his letter to the Manhattan Single Tax Club, declaring that the Democratic party is not a free-trade party. Now, in the language of the late Sairy Gamp, What Democrat deniges of it, David?

A new publication which will meet a genuine want among business men, lawyers, and all who are interested in real estate is the Real Estate and Court Gazette, published by Messrs. Dutton & Maher, at No. 1319 F street. This publication enters a field now practically unoccupied, and will doubtless meet a cordial welcome among the large class to which it appeals.

The difference between the civilized man and the savage is, after all, one of degree rather than of kind. In the spring our wards of the nation are impelled by their warlike instincts to don their ghost shirts and their war-paint and begin their ghost and war dances preparatory to going forth to scalp the remote frontiersman and steal his horses and cattle. Among the civilized tribes of Europe the same impulses, working in a different way, become active every spring. The ghost-dances and war-dances of Briton and Gaul, German and Russ, go on in the gorgeous apartments of governmental palaces and in diplomatic consultation-rooms. Those who take part in them are arrayed in the elegant uniforms of the modern court and camp. They do not gyrate in savage frenzy and chant in barbaric cadences, but their purposes are none the less bloodthirsty and thievish than those of the untutored savage of our Western plains. Just now the usual spring rumors of a great European war fill the air and freight the cables. France and Russia clasp hands hot and hard with a common hatred of Germany and England, while Austria, Italy, and Belgium look on with anxiety, manoeuvre their armies, strengthen their defenses, and test anew the reliability of their allies. Maybe these warlike movements and rumors of wars will cease and die away as they have in former years, and that the would-be belligerents will restrain their hatred for another year. If they do not, all friends of humanity and of civilization will hope that the aggressors may receive such a crushing defeat that for years to come they will be unable to lift a hand against the peace of Europe.

One of the truths enforced anew by the events of the past week is that the American people are the most tolerant because the most enlightened and broad-minded in the world, and all classes of them preserve their self-

control under conditions that would drive any other people to outbursts of passion. It was inevitable that the strained relations of the last few days between this country and Italy should stir strong patriotic feelings in the hearts of all Americans. Feelings of hostility toward the country which faced us in defiance were a natural accompaniment of the feelings of patriotism. But with a recklessness of these facts that only a knowledge of and reliance on our tolerance and self-control can explain, Italian residents of this country, naturalized and unnaturalized, indulged in vigorous and often insulting criticisms of our institutions, laws, and public men. Italian papers printed in New York and other cities stopped at nothing in the way of abuse and threats. Yet, although American feeling was wrought up to a high tension, these wild and insulting utterances provoked no demonstrations against their authors nor against Italians generally. They were allowed to pass almost unnoticed, and it was best that it should be so. It will help convince civilized men the world over that it requires more than national or race prejudices or mere talk to stir Americans to action. It will serve to show that the men who took the law into their own hands in New Orleans against the Mafia assassins did not do so without strong provocation. But the wild utterances of these foreign journals and individuals will not fail to have an effect. They will help to strengthen the slowly forming belief that this country is attempting too much in the way of assimilating into our body politic large numbers of foreigners who know nothing of our institutions, and are so ignorant and degraded they do not care to learn. It will crystallize into conviction the suspicion that we are altogether too generous in according the privileges of citizenship or the advantages of residence to the off-scourings of European society, and that our generosity is not only unappreciated by the beneficiaries of it, but is actually availed of to endanger our own institutions.

No doubt it is necessary to shoot down strikers who are bent on violence, as they have been doing in Pennsylvania the past week. But it would be better for the nation and for American laborers in particular if the coal barons had never found it necessary to import these dangerous Huns and Italians into the country. They were brought in, as a rule, because they would work for less than the Americans, and their violent outbreaks necessitating the interference of the militia are bound to breed demoralization.

Of course, Italy had no idea of declaring war on the United States at any stage of the international incident of last week. And much more of course, the people of the United States do not seriously entertain the thought that the country might be plunged into war from any complications that might grow out of the New Orleans affair. There was assuredly no disposition among any section or class of our citizens to refuse satisfaction to the Italian government for any affront that might have been given her, nor to deny justice to any one who might have suffered wrongfully at New Orleans. The prevailing attitude of Americans toward Italy and Italians is one of sympathy and kindly regard. We are not rivals, nor have we interests which clash in any part of the world. Therefore the ordinary citizen could see no reason why the New Orleans affair might not be settled without in the slightest endangering the peaceful relations of the two hitherto friendly peoples. But somehow the matter was not so settled. Ill-feeling was somehow aroused in the secret diplomatic communications between the representatives of the two governments. The Minister of Italy seems to have become impressed with the idea that he was not receiving such frank and fair treatment as the representative of a great nation should receive, and doubtless he so informed his government. The peculiar state of politics in Italy may have caused the Marquis di Rudini to welcome this turn of affairs as affording him an opportunity to assume a belligerent attitude toward the United States and thus overwhelm his enemies at home in a great outburst of popular enthusiasm. But it seems hardly credible that the Marquis di Rudini would have ventured to take the succeeding step of recalling his minister if he had not been given some show of justification for it. Nothing but a full knowledge of the course of the negotiations between Secretary of State Blaine and Baron Fava can, of course, reveal whether or not there was such justification. Until the public is in possession of this information a full understanding of this exciting and perilous diplomatic incident cannot be obtained. But what the public does know is that Italy and the United States were plunged into a state of excitement in which a false move on either side, an attack on citizens of either country in the territory of the other, might have led to consequences that no civilized human being could contemplate calmly. Diplomacy and diplomatic routine may be effete, absurd, and an outgrowth of monarchical institutions which Americans should despise, but it still seems to be potent for evil, if not for good. Out of a situation that to the ordinary mind looked clear and propitious enough it succeeded in this New Orleans matter in evolving entanglements of a most threatening aspect, which stirred up passion and caused two friendly peoples to turn on each other in anger. Doubtless there was jingoism at the bottom of it; and if in the light of all the facts it shall appear that the jingoism was entirely on the Italian side Mr. Blaine will have the unswerving and ardent support of every American in demanding the amplest apologies from the insolent Italian premier.

Heavy Death-rate in New York. New York, April 4.—During the past week ending at noon to-day there were 1,100 deaths in the city, against 895 for the preceding week. There were 56 deaths from la grippe against 19 from similar causes of the week before. The police department has 244 of its force on the sick list.

THE SPARROW NUISANCE.

Squirrels Suggested as a Remedy by a Smithsonian Guard. Any one taking a stroll through the Smithsonian Park in the early morning will notice the absence of the song-birds which are accustomed to return here with the advent of the Easter season. There are plenty of robins and blackbirds, because they are too powerful and pugnacious for the everlasting sparrows, but the blue-birds, the binnets, the chaffinches, the thrushes, and other warblers are absent. A SUNDAY HERALD reporter while taking a walk of the fresh morning air in the park encountered one of the guards. Said he: "That suggestion that you made in THE HERALD about this time last year ought to be adopted. I mean about the domestication of squirrels in the park. We have tried tearing down their nests and removing all the boxes from the trees, but it seems to do no good in abating the sparrow pest. After a time the Government will have to offer a premium for sparrow scalp, for they increase abnormally. Squirrels are pretty, amusing pets, and would add greatly by their presence to the attractions of this park. And then they would do much toward the abatement of the sparrow pest, as they would perhaps tear down their nests and possibly kill the young birds. I am told that in Louisville, Ky., the squirrels in the principal park constitute one of the shows of the town, and they are the pride of the young folks of the city in particular. But what is more important in this connection is that the sparrows have given a wide berth to that park since the squirrels multiplied. Your suggestion was a good one, and the Smithsonian authorities will doubtless heed it if it is properly brought before them."

THE LAFAYETTE MONUMENT.

Some Pertinent Suggestions About Putting It in Place.

To the Editor of The Herald: Two things suggest themselves to the passer by the corner of Lafayette Square, where now is being put in position the statue of Lafayette: First, the impropriety of allowing the figures to be freely exposed to public view during the process of setting up. It would seem that this ought to suggest itself to the person in official charge. It is the general understanding that there is to be a ceremonious "unveiling," at which the President and other high officials will be present with a lot of invited guests. An "unveiling" is supposed to afford the first opportunity to view a work of this kind. As the matter is going on half the town will have seen all there is to see before the time comes. Why not by the use of a few yards of muslin leave something for the official function to uncover. Second, are not the two "cherubs," or whatever the ideal figures on the north side are called, somewhat too bulbous in the head? Or is it a manifestation of permitted artistic license? The "boys" seem to be much on the Flemish style of architecture, and it may be perfectly correct that the chapeaux of the adult Frenchmen in their company would not fit them in case they needed any head covering. But if so, will not some one authorized to speak for the sculptors tell us what is the artistic exigency of the case? M.

PERSONALS.

Mr. Oscar Haines, representing J. J. Haines & Co., of Baltimore, Md., was in the city last week, combining business with pleasure.

O. G. Simonson, of the late firm of Goemmer & Co., architects, will continue the business at 511 Eleventh street northwest.

Mr. Jefferson Chandler, of St. Louis, and Mr. Charles H. Thompson, of this city, have formed a law partnership and will have offices in this city and in New York. Mr. Chandler will come East to take up his residence permanently in a few weeks.

Architects Paul Schulze, formerly of Cluss & Schulze, and Albert Goemmer, late of Goemmer & Co., have formed a copartnership. The new firm will be known as Schulze & Goemmer, and will have offices in the Corcoran Building.

EX-LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR A. WORTH SPATES, of Maryland, made a hurried visit to the city yesterday. Mr. Spates is the attorney for the merchants of Philadelphia against the railroads alleged to be discriminating against that city. He recently had the best end of it in his argument against the telephone companies of Pennsylvania before the Legislature at Harrisburg.

QUERIES.

Suggested by a Photo of "Victor," a Dog of High Degree.

Speak, O Victor, speak, and tell us
Of the wisdom long concealed;
Of thine insight we are jealous,
And would know the unrevealed.
Sure within thy brain are lying
Secrets of the buried past;
Signs that mark them, time defying,
On thy furrowed front are cast.
Something less of brute than human,
Thy weird, mournful gaze implies;
Tenderness like that of woman
Dwells within thy wondrous eyes.
In their light rests Will suspended:
Force is chained by threads of Thought;
Art thou by some shade attended?
Hath thy look its impress caught?
Doth a mighty spirit vanished
From the eons gone before,
Unto brutish thraldom banished,
Thro' thine eye scan cycles o'er?
Traces of Time's swift mutations
Linger on the desert plain;
Doth the Sphinx in meditations
Call the shadows back again?
Dost thou search receding ages
For companions of thy prime—
They who set the mental gauges
Marking scrolls of ancient Time?
Thus we vainly, blindly wonder,
Gazing on thy soulful face—
What doth bind and what doth sunder,
Earthy forms and spirit grace?
HARRIET N. BALSTON,
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 3, 1891.

Sensational Suicide.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, April 4.—Albert Bemis who was arrested at Canton, Ohio, a week ago for shooting at Miss Carrie Schneider with intent to kill, was taken from jail to a hotel to pay a bill he owed. At the hotel he swallowed a draught of poison and died soon afterward.

VOODOO SUPERSTITIONS

Rites Usually Practiced in Secret But Sometimes Seen by Whites.

The superstitions more or less current among the negroes of Louisiana, under the general name of voodoo, are without doubt relics of savagery brought by the ancestors of the civilized negroes from Africa. The voodoo ceremonial has never been described in detail by any writer on the subject, because for the most part there is no regular routine or form of the rites, which, whatever they may have been in the beginning, have doubtless become confused and mingled with various superstitious customs, some of which were derived from the whites themselves, and were preserved from the medieval times when even the most enlightened people of Europe believed in witchcraft and the practice of magic.

Voodoo rites, as practiced in Louisiana, have usually been conducted in secret, but they are commonly believed to consist of prolonged and violent dancing by persons of both sexes, sometimes with little or no clothing. Tales are told of scenes of wild debauchery which occurred at these dances, and from the frequent statements that living snakes are used in some of these exercises it would appear that a sort of serpent worship makes up at least a part of the groundwork upon which the rites are based. These rites are imposed not only upon the worshippers, but they must be conformed to by persons who resort to the voodoo priests or "doctors" for treatment for physical diseases. From time to time the fact is brought to light that not only are the voodoo dances carried on in this city, but that persons of the white race take part in them in obedience to the commands of the "doctors" to whom application was made for the cure of bodily ailments. Not longer than a year ago a house in the lower part of the city, occupied by a voodoo "doctor," was raided by the police, and the operator and a dozen other persons, among whom were several white women, were arrested while engaged in a dance.

In the West Indies, but most particularly in Hayti, these survivals of negro savagery are quiet common, and the rites are described as revolting in the extreme, embracing serpent worship, the most abandoned debauchery, with human sacrifices and cannibalism. Sir Spencer St. John, in his work on the Black Republics of the West Indies, has related at length accounts of these matters, which appear to be established as facts by testimony entirely credible. His narratives of the voodoo practices in Hayti are detailed and circumstantial, and while all the testimony is conclusive as to the African origin of these superstitions, the writers who have paid most attention to the subject have not been able to trace the myths to the particular tribe and localities from which they were derived.

The fact is that the negro tribes in Africa are not very numerous, but they are mostly at war with each other. In this respect they resemble much the wild tribes of America; each tribe possesses its peculiar language and religious belief, and in these matters one tribe differs widely from another. Like the American Indians the Africans regard people of other tribes with suspicion and aversion and it has never been possible to secure any coalition or combination against the whites. The African tribes war upon each other, and are accustomed to kill or reduce to slavery all prisoners of whatever class or degree.

The first writer to give any apparent accurate circumstantial account of the African superstitious rites is the Hon. Maj. A. B. Ellis, a British officer, who, it seems, has made a study of the negro tribes in their ancient Africa. In the March number of the Popular Science Monthly he prints an article in which we find some interesting matter. He gives the following as to the derivation and definition of "voodoo":

The word vodu belongs to the Ewe language, which is spoken on the slave coast of West Africa, between the River Volta on the west and the Kingdom of Porto Novo on the east, and extends inland, as far as it is known, about one hundred miles. It is derived from vo—to inspire fear—and is used in just the same way as English-speaking people use the word "fetich"—that is to say, it is used as a descriptive noun "god" and also as an adjective in the sense of sacred or belonging to a god. Thus any native god may be described as a vodu, and his image, paraphernalia, and sacred tract of bush called vodu. A priest is termed vodu-no—"He who stays with the vodu." The word is not an epithet of any particular god, it is a general term, and it is, therefore, incorrect to say that "it is the name of an imaginary being of vast supernatural powers residing in the form of a harmless snake." No doubt the python god, worshipped by the inhabitants of the southeastern districts of Ewe Territory, may very correctly be described as a vodu, but it is not more a vodu than Khehioso, So, Legba, Bo, Hunti, Wu, and other gods of the Ewe pantheon. The expression "vodu worship" means, then, "god worship," which is a rather comprehensive term.

The Whydahs, a people of the Ewe nation, are well-known worshippers of a python, or serpent god, and they, about the year 1729, were wholly subjugated by the Dahomeys and sold into slavery. Many of them were carried to the French West Indies, where they maintained their religion. Some of these Whydahs were brought to Louisiana, and hence the snake cult which is found here. But many more tribes, which were not snake worshippers, were also reduced to slavery, and some of their superstitions were mingled with those of the others.

The Whydahs had a very elaborate serpent cult, maintaining temples where bands of young girls ministered and took part in the dances and other exercises. These female attendants were organized as a sisterhood, known as Kosio. Their order was a seminary of debauchery. The name of their snake god is Danh-gbi. Says the writer quoted above: The Kosio of Danh-gbi usually appears with the bosom smeared with palm oil, but their distinguishing mark is a necklet called adunka, made of the twisted filaments of a sprouting palm leaf. On ceremonial occasions they wear a fillet of the same material, with anklets, armlets, and neck-strings of cowries. The remainder of their costume consists of a strip of cotton print hanging from their waist and barely reaching to the knee. They are most licentious, and the festivals, which are usually kept up all night, present a horrible scene of drunkenness and debauchery. As is the case with the women attached to temples in India, this life of prostitution is not considered dishonorable, because it is regarded as part of the service of the religion. The Kosio are indeed not considered as responsible for their actions. It is the god, say the people, who inspires them at such times.

CATARRH!

Its Effect on the Throat.

A Letter From Dr Lighthill.

1411 K STREET NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, March 31.

MR. EDITOR: In a large number of cases of catarrh the throat is affected as well as the nasal passages, and when such is the case a feeling of irritation, fulness, rawness, tenderness, or pain is felt in the throat, increased upon pressure or while swallowing, and occasionally a distressing sensation is complained of, as if a hair or bristle or other foreign substance had lodged in the throat. The mucous membrane is coated with a tough, viscid discharge, which provokes an almost constant desire for scraping, hemming, or hawking, while at times a disagreeable sensation of dryness in the throat is almost constantly present. In some cases the ability to swallow is sensibly impaired, so that patients find it somewhat difficult to force down the food, and are troubled occasionally with paroxysms of choking.

The tonsils are more or less enlarged and inflamed and often contain a cheese-like offensive matter, which can only be removed by pressure. The uvula is elongated, irritating the epiglottis, giving rise to prolonged fits of distressing cough, and often producing by this constant friction more serious ailments of the larynx. The fauces are thickened, the follicles are enlarged and inflamed—the eustachian tubes partly closed—producing distressing noises in the ears and head and more or less loss of hearing—from an uneasiness and occasional opening and shutting sensation in the ears to a decided deafness, which increases with every cold until useful hearing is lost.

The voice is always more or less affected, becoming hoarse, weak, or cracked, and occasionally it is so impaired that it degenerates into a mere whisper. Cough of variable severity is often present, sometimes of a mere hacking character, but occasionally of a very severe and troublesome nature, accompanied by wandering pains and other uncomfortable sensations in the chest, together with great debility and progressive emaciation. In fact, so alarming are these symptoms in some cases that they are apt to be mistaken for those of tubercular disease, and many a case of catarrh that came under my observation had been pronounced consumption, even by experienced physicians, and vainly treated as such, while all the symptoms rapidly disappeared as soon as the treatment was directed to the eradication of the catarrh.

For over thirty years I have devoted my exclusive attention to the careful study and scientific investigation of catarrh and diseases of the respiratory organs, and have succeeded in formulating a system of treatment which is absolutely painless, prompt in its action, and positively curative in its effects. From the first application great benefit is experienced which continues from day to day until a final and permanent cure is the result.

Respectfully yours,
A. P. Lighthill, M. D.,
SPECIALIST,
1411 K Street Northwest.
Hours from 8 to 12 and 4 to 6.