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MYSTERIOUS PERSONS IN HISTORY.

The records of the past furnish us with half a dozen historical characters that seem to have had a mysterious existence after the public have been informed of their tragical deaths. To such an extent has the belief of a post-existence been carried that one could say, with great propriety, in the language of Sir William Jones:

"The block may soak their gore,
Their heads may sodden in the sun, their limbs
Be strung to city gates and castle walls;
But still their spirit walks abroad."

And these spirits seem to be encased in tangible, earthly bodies, if we may credit the tales of travelers. This young Republic has not been slow in making a startling history, and one that has all the romantic pages of century old Europe. For have we not

JOHN C. COLT,

brother of Samuel Colt, inventor of the Colt revolver. He murdered in 1842 a man named Adams, to whom he owed an amount of money and who had dogged Colt considerably. Adams called at the office of Colt, on the corner of Broadway and Chambers street, when a scuffle ensued, and Colt seizing a hatchet lying near, dispatched his creditor. He then went out, closed the door, and while walking in the park, resolved to return, cut the body up and send it to New Orleans; but in the meantime Adams was missed, and having been last seen going into Colt's office, that gentleman was suspected, and it was ascertained from a carman that a box had left the office. This box was found at the bottom of the vessel. Colt was tried and convicted, but his counsel, who confessed to it on his dying bed, introduced a knife into the prison with which Colt committed suicide on the morning of his conviction. Several mysterious circumstances were attached to this murder and suicide, for the evening before the execution a man in disguise called upon the Sheriff and offered him $1,000 to afford facilities for the escape of the criminal, which proposition was not entertained; and an hour or two before Colt was to have been hanged the bell-tower of the Tombs took fire and a great deal of confusion ensued. Although an inquest was held on the body, it was almost universally believed that Colt had escaped. Even now, reports come from various parts of the world that he has been seen alive, and about fifteen years ago many sensational articles appeared purporting that he had escaped and was still living.

"THE MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY."

Whether or not the person who bears this pseudonyme was the subject of a cleverly concocted fable or not, it is at least a singular case. The person who is said to have borne this title was Philip Nolan, a notice of whose death appeared last year in a New York journal. It ran thus: "Died, on board United States corvette Levant, on the 11th of May, Philip Nolan." The story is as follows: When Aaron Burr made his first dashing expedition down to New Orleans, in 1805, he met a lieutenant named Philip Nolan, belonging to the Legion of the West. The young officer became fascinated with the brilliant statesman, who enlisted him in his treasonable schemes. The authorities suspected Nolan as being an accomplice of Burr's, and on the court martial the impetuous youth cried out, in a fit of frenzy, "D—n the United States! I wish I may never hear of the United States again.' These words shocked the Revolutionary officers that formed the court martial, and Nolan was condemned to be sent on board a vessel, where he was never again to hear the words United States, and the instructions received were as follows:

WASHINGTON, (with the date which must have been late in 1807.)

"SIR: You will receive from Lieutenant Neale the person of Philip Nolan, late a lieutenant in the United States army.'

"This person on his trial by court martial expressed with an oath the wish that he might 'never hear of the United States again.'

"The court sentenced him to have his wish fulfilled.

"For the present the execution of the order is intrusted by the President to this department.

"You will take the prisoner on board your ship, and keep him there with such precaution as shall prevent his escape.

"You will provide him with such quarters, rations and clothing as would be proper for an officer of his late rank, if he were a passenger on your vessel on the business of his government.

"The gentlemen on board will make any arrangement agreeable to themselves regarding his society. He is to be exposed to no indignity of any kind, nor is he ever unnecessarily to be reminded that he is a prisoner.

"But, under no circumstances, is he ever to hear of his country, or to see any information regarding it; and you will specially caution all the officers under your command to take care, that in the various indulgences which may be granted, this rule, in which his punishment is involved, is not broken.

"It is the intention of the Government that he shall never again see the country which he has disowned. Before the end of your cruise you will receive orders which will give effect to this intention.

"Respectfully, yours,
"W. SOUTHARD,
"For the Secretary of the Navy."

Nolan seems to have been passed from vessel to vessel, and to have remained a prisoner for over sixty years, and was made the subject of innumerable traditions and palpable myths. He was strictly guarded, and the name of the United States never mentioned to him. It is generally supposed, however, that this myth was originated during the recent war, by some highly imaginative individual who desired to institute comparisons and similes between Nolan and the rebel leaders. Of course, Nolan repented of his folly, and died deeply regretting the incautious words that condemned him to a life of exile from the country.

NAPOLEON II.

The mass of mankind, including many of the well read, have never heard of Napoleon II, and the reason why the present Emperor assumes the title of Napoleon III is to them a perfect enigma. Napoleon Francis Joseph Charles Bonaparte, or Napoleon II, was the son of Napoleon I, the fruit of a marriage between that sovereign and Maria Louisa of Austria, and was from his birth styled the King of Rome. When his father, the first Emperor, was compelled to abdicate in 1814, the King of Rome went with his mother to Vienna, and was there educated by his grandfather, the Emperor of Austria. His title was that of the Duke of Reichstadt, and he was carefully instructed, especially in the military art. But he appears to have inherited but little of the ability of his father; his constitution was weak, and early symptoms of consumption unfitted him for the laborious duties of a military career. On Napoleon's return from Elba, in 1816, an attempt was made to remove the young Duke of Paris, but frustrated by the Austrian authorities. He was made a lieutenant-colonel in 1831, and commanded a battalion of Hungarian infantry in the garrison of Vienna; but his death, when he was but twenty-one years old, cut him off before he had reached an age in which he might have displayed any abilities he possessed. During his lifetime he never assumed the title of Napoleon II, inasmuch as the abdication of his father in his favor was never admitted by the allies; nor was ever claimed by the French Government. But in 1852, when the resumption of empire by Louis Napoleon rendered some title necessary, he was considered Napoleon II, and the new Emperor took that of Napoleon III. The latter title, however, having been recognized by the several Governments of Europe, the recognition of the former is implied.

LOUIS XVII,

who was supposed to have been poisoned by some person in the Temple of Paris during the French revolution, and by others to have escaped, was the son of the unfortunate Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. It was only recently that a report was circulating in the papers that a gentleman of advanced age had died in March, in St. Petersburg, who was believed to have been Louis XVII. He was the third child of Louis and Marie Antoinette. His first title was Duke of Normandy, and he became dauphin by the death of his elder brother, Louis Joseph, June 4, 1789. He was carefully educated under the supervision of his father, and at the outbreak of the rebellion, was a beautiful, lively and intelligent child, but remarkably impatient and unmanageable. He was imprisoned in the Temple with the rest of the royal family, August 13, 1792. After the execution of his father, January 21, 1793, he was proclaimed King by his uncle, the Count of Provence, who was then a refugee in Germany, and was recognized King by most of the courts of Europe, by the Vendean chiefs, and by the insurgents in the south of France. These demonstrations, together with several unsuccessful attempts by the royalists to rescue him from prison, irritated and alarmed the revolutionary government, and on July 3, at 10 o'clock at night, the boy was forcibly taken from his mother' sarms, and, frantic with terror, was carried screaming to another part of the prison. Here he was consigned to the care of a shoemaker named Antoine Simon, a violent Jacobin of rough manners and brutal temper, who treated him with systematic cruelty, apparently with the design of getting rid of him without committing palpable murder. The young prince was shut up in a cell and left there alone day and night, without employment or amusement, or any opportunity to exercise or to breathe the fresh air. A vessel of water, seldom replenished, was given him for drink, and some coarse food was occasionally thrown in at the half open door. He was allowed no means of washing himself, his bed was not made for six months, and for more than a year his clothes, his shirt and his shoes were not changed. By prolonged inactivity his limbs became rigid, and his mind, through terror, grief and monotony, became imbecile and deranged. Something that he said in reply to questions having been perverted to the injury of his mother, he resolved henceforth to be silent, and for a long period neither threats nor blows, nor coaxings could induce him to speak. When not sleeping he sat quietly in his chair, without uttering a sound or shedding a tear, or shrinking from the rats with which his dungeon swarmed. Louis, after the reign of terror, was placed under the care of more merciful keepers, but he was still kept in solitary confinement, and not allowed to see his sister, who was imprisoned in an adjoining apartment. At length, in May, 1795, a physician was allowed to see him, who pronounced him dying of scrofula. He died at two p. m., in the arms of Lasne, one of his keepers, and the next day, June 9, his body was identified and certified to by four members of the Committee of Public Safety, and by more than twenty of the officials of the Temple. His remains were buried in the cemetery of St. Marguerite, and every trace of the grave carefully obliterated. Several pretenders, claiming to be Louis XVII, have appeared; among them, in France, Hervagari, a tailor's son, who died in 1812, in prison, and Bruneau, a shoemaker, who was sent to prison, in 1802; and in the United States, the Rev. Eleazer Williams, a half breed Indian, who died in 1850.

THE CHILDREN IN THE TOWER.

The amour of Edward the Fourth suggested to his brother the Duke of Gloster, afterward the notorious Richard III, a means of attaining the throne. He even did not hesitate to malign his own mother, affirming that the resemblance of Edward IV and of the Duke of Clarence to notorious gallants, was a sufficient proof of their spurious birth, and that the Duke of Gloster alone, of all his sons, appeared by his features and countenance to be the true offspring of the Duke of York. Shakspeare and history have made the murder of the babes in the Tower a familiar story, as well as that of the numerous pretenders, among whom were Lambert Simnel and Perkin Warbeck, so it is unnecessary to give a recapitulation here. The account of Sir Thomas Moore, which was collected from the confession of the murders in the next reign, is as follows: That Richard had in vain tampered with the Governor of the Tower, Brackenbury, to put them to death, but found a ready instrument for the execution of his purpose in Tyrrell, his master of horse; that Tyrrell was dispatched with a commission to receive the keys of the Tower for one night, and that during that night he watched without, while one of his grooms, accompanied by a notorious assassin, entered the sleeping room of the princes, stifled them both with feather beds and pillows, and buried their bodies at the foot of the staircase. The testimony of Moore is almost contemporaneous with the event itself, and is confirmed by the honors which were certainly conferred upon the alleged murderers. In the reign of Charles II, when alterations were made in the Tower, there was found, at the foot of an old stairway (at present shown to visitors), a heap of decayed bones, which proved to be those of two boys. The indications were deemed sufficient that they belonged to the unfortunate Edward V and his brother, and they were removed, by royal command, to Westminster Abbey, where an inscription, beginning, "*Quos desideratorum dies et multum quæsita,*" was placed upon the monument. So well concerted a matter as the death of the royal princes leaves room for paradoxes and historic doubts; but it is certain that, though the name of Edward V stands on the list of English sovereigns, he had hardly the shadow of a reign; that under the dark protectorship of his uncle he went speedily from the palace to the prison, within whose precincts he found secret death and burial. Notwithstanding these corroborations, there are many among the English nobility who still believe the princes escaped, and one house in Yorkshire claims to be the direct descendants of Edward V.

Decision Against the Civil Rights Bill.

WILMINGTON, Del., Nov. 1.

In the Court of General Session of Delaware, at Dover, yesterday, in the case of the State vs. Moses Rash, it being proposed by the prosecuting officer to present the evidence of the complainant, Samuel Dewey, a colored man, objection was made by the counsel for the defense, that the laws of Delaware do not permit colored testimony where there are competent whites present. Chief Justice Gilpen ruled that the testimony be admitted, because, he said, it has been customary in his Court to permit the prosecuting witnesses to testify, even though they were colored, but he gave, as his opinion from the bench, upon a point which could as well be settled now as at any other time, that the Civil Rights bill of Congress, so far as it assumed to regulate or control the admission or rejection of testimony in this State, was inoperative and void. Judge Woolen concurred in the decision, and Judge Wales dissented. In the case of a decision to this effect by the Court, an appeal to the Court above would doubtless be sustained.

When a man has got enough money to pay for his dinner, there are plenty of people ready to give him a cold shoulder.

To keep from stuttering, don't talk.

THE BEAUTY OF OLD PEOPLE.

Men and women make their own beauty or their own ugliness. Lord Lytton speaks of a man who "was uglier than he had any business to be;" and if he could but read it, every human being carries his life in his face, and is good looking or the reverse, as that life has been good or evil. On our features the fine chisel of thought and emotion are eternally at work.

Beauty is not the monopoly of blooming young men and of white and pink maidens. There is a slow growing beauty, which comes to perfection in old age. Grace belongs to no period of life, and goodness improves the longer it exists. We have seen sweeter smiles on a lip of seventy than upon a lip of seventeen. There is the beauty of holiness—a beauty much more seldom met, and more frequently found in the arm-chair by the fire, with the grandchildren round its knees, than in the ball-room or promenade.

Husband and wife who have fought the world side by side, who have made common stock of joy and sorrow, and grown aged together, are not unfrequently found curiously alike in personal appearance, and in pitch and tone of voice—just as twin pebbles on the beach, exposed to the same tidal influences, are each other's second self. He has gained a feminine something which brings his manhood into full relief. She has gained a masculine something which acts as a foil to her womanhood.

Vallandigham Answers Bingham.

In a recent speech of Vallandigham's he paid his respects to John A. Bingham, one of the participants in the guilt of murdering that innocent woman, Mrs. Surratt.

Bingham had chosen to speak of Vallandigham as "sticking out his neck like a crane and gibbering like a ghost." Let me tell him that it is not the ghost of Vallandigham which disturbs his serenity. Vallandigham is still alive and able in the flesh to vex his foes. [Applause.] It is the avenging spirit of that unhappy woman which flits before his vision at noon day and glares across the meditations of his guilty conscience at midnight. It is the ghost of his victim that dogs his footsteps, mocking, threatening, tormenting and driving him to the doom of the suicide. [Applause.] Says this counsellor of a numerous conspiracy, "the negro is just as fit to vote as the tail end of a wheelbarrow," meaning thereby the hard working Irishman. Has he not read the history of the Emerald Isle? Knows he nothing of her statesmen, her scholars and her warriors? Has he never heard of her orators, carrying multitudes captive with the resistless power of native eloquence? Of her poets, thrilling the heart of humanity with their songs, and immortalizing the land of their birth and race from which they sprung? Must the great and the gifted and good be thus insulted by ignorance or malice? I shall dismiss this unmanly reviler of genius from further consideration, and if he wishes to discuss the merits of the Irishman and the African, let him produce for his negro pets a record that will compare with that of the people he assails.

HOW TO GET AN EDUCATION.—Boys say often, "we want an education, but we are poor, and can't get it; so we are going to learn a trade, or go into a store; or do something else." Now let me say, every boy that wants an education if he will bend his force to it, can get just as good a one as he wants. The way is open. Education does not come through academies and colleges and seminaries; these are helps; but comes by study and reading and comparing. All the schools and colleges and seminaries in the world will not make a scholar of a man without these; and with them a man will be one if he never sees a college. The same is true of girls, and what is true of this, is true of any other. The force must be from yourself and you must develop it. It is that indomitable "I can," that sets a man astride the world.

PLAIN TALK IN THE CONNECTICUT LEGISLATURE.—During the discussion of the suffrage question in the Connecticut Legislature, Mr. Hammersly, of Hartford, said:

"Sir, the gentleman from New London has suggested that Congress may force negro suffrage upon us, and he seems to think we may as well have it now as to wait for Congress to force it on us. I would not go for the change under any threat that Congress may make. Let them try it if they dare. Let them send on their armed cohorts and their Generals to say to Connecticut, 'You shall have negro suffrage.' If we don't resist to the death, then, sir, our free institutions will be lost forever." [Great applause, which drowned the speaker's hammer.]

Genius either discovers new materials of nature, or combines the known with novelty. Talent arranges, cultivates, and polishes the discoveries of genius.

Advertising for a wife, says a cotemporary, is just as absurd as it would be to get measured for an umbrella.