

THE REPORTER WAS CRAZY

And the Artist Had an Abnormal Jag With Him That Night.

Together They Were Assigned to Do the Flydecker Fashionable Reception.

Reporter Kerr's Manuscript Was Not Read and Artist Scrawl's Drawing Passed Without Question.

In order to make space for my story on the Christmas number of the New York Journalist, its editor, Allan Forman, kindly enlarged that number to seventy-six pages, writes Charles Lederer.

Though the suspicions of none had been aroused it had been going on for some time. That most faithful and longest serving member of the local staff of the Daily Demonstrator, Frederic A. Kerr, had gone mad—hopelessly mad.

Yet Mr. Kerr, reliable, methodical, Mr. Kerr, had been for several months gradually losing his mind. He had by nature a grumpy, saturnine disposition, and his increase of moodiness, his intensified gloom was unnoticed by his associates.

Nothing unusual had been noticed in Mr. Kerr's conduct on the day, Dec. 26, 1889, that his madness culminated—that is, nothing except that he was more than usually surly toward the new city editor, a very nice young man, by the way, with a very nice voice and a very high collar.

And his copy was simply beautiful. Probably no other newspaper artist had ever achieved more renown in his narrow field than had Vincent Scrawl.

Even the editor in chief dared not discharge Scrawl, for had not the latter threatened to go on the opposite page and through that medium caricature the entire staff of the Demonstrator, from office boy to editor in chief.

The foreman of the engraving room, a dapper man with a tenderly mounted nose on the bias and rout away important lines in the engravings, always rustled Scrawl's drawings through the engraving process of butchery; thence to the composing room, where the completed cuts were dumped into the particular articles that they were intended to beautify.

No one knew that Scrawl had taken to drinking excessively. Yet for weeks he had been carrying a nice quiet "still" to use a professional technical expression. But none suspected that he was carrying that "still" any more than any one suspected that Mr. Kerr was suffering from a malady that affected the gray matter of his ponderous thinking machine.

Sometimes young Scrawl saw pink-eared sea-serpents, with lavender colored tails, emerging from his lower right-hand vest pocket, but the imperterbous artist preserved the equanimity of his outward appearance. Even when he would with his fingers remove from his hair the turquoise-beaked alligators and green-tressed mermaids that nestled and entangled themselves there, thanks to his malade imagination, his peculiar motions were not commented upon other than as the actions of a youth overburdened with genius.

On the morning of Dec. 26, 1889, on arising to dress for the day, Mr. Scrawl discovered that a pair of conders, with smoking, fiery bills, had built a nest in one of his socks, and on attempting to don his trousers he found, somewhat to his surprise, that a large muscular rhinoceros, with a United States military brand on each ear, was an active disputant for possession of that garment.

However, he contemplated the situation complacently and merely remarked that he should be under the painful necessity of caricaturing the whole menagerie outfit if they did not at once vacate his wearing apparel. Whereupon the objectionable and distorted specimens of natural history left Mr. Scrawl's premises.

Reception—Mrs. Flydecker, 4316 Blue-point avenue (Head 1)—Kerr, Scrawl, 1/2 col. cut.

Democrat Office, 11:30 p. m., date as before. Kerr's copy and Scrawl's drawing just turned in—the copy is shot up into the composing room and a small, fatigued boy rushed to the engraving department with the drawings. "I'm afraid they'll miss the first edition," said the old engraver, as the perspiration of doubt trickled down his grimy brow, "but I'll do my best." And he did, for the cuts were ready by 1 a. m., and in time to be stereotyped for the first or mail edition.

columns it appeared in the Daily Demonstrator, Dec. 27, 1889:

A GORGEOUS AFFAIR. THE MAGNIFICENT FLYDECKER RECEIVED THEIR FRIENDS.

THE CHERRY DE LA CHERRY AND THE ELITE DE ELITE FURNISH AT ONE OF THE MOST ARISTOCRATIC ENTERTAINMENTS OF THE SEASON—BEAUTIFUL DECORATIONS, SWEET MUSIC AND LOVELY LADIES IN SPLENDID GOWNS.

Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Flydecker's reception last night was, from many standpoints, an unequalled, unqualified success, a distinguished success—it was certainly amusing—to an outsider, a student of human character. The magnificent, fully mortgaged, fully insured Flydecker residence, on Blue-point avenue, was one huge cauldron, crater rather of moving, ogling gossipping life.

The floral decorations were profuse and useful. They were at every hand. An immense faro-bank of chrysanthemums extra dry, and red, white and blue poker chips was the first thing the guests saw on entering the door. The next they observed was Mr. Flydecker's store, recently been removed to Lucerne's candy store, where an office has been partitioned off for the great chiro-podist's special use.

During the evening the host mysteriously absented himself for about an hour, and on his return it was with the greatest difficulty that Mrs. Flydecker, with real tears in her eyes, persuaded him not to sing a stanza from "A Warrior's Hold." Mr. Flydecker voluntarily retired to the privacy of his bedroom fully two hours before the reception was at an end.

An Italian street band disguised as a mandolin orchestra was hidden in the parlor floor clothes press, and discoursed some remarkably original if not melodious music.

Improved Passenger Service. The Union Pacific is now running a brand new line of buffet and drawing-room Pullman cars between Butte and Salt Lake City.

Health is Wealth! DR. E. C. WEST'S NERVE AND BRAIN TREATMENT. A QUARTER SPECIFIC FOR HYSTERIA, DIZZINESS, CONVULSIONS, FITS, NERVOUS NEURALGIA, HEADACHE, NERVOUS PROSTRATION, caused by the use of alcohol or tobacco, Wakefulness, Mental Depression, Softening of the Brain, resulting in insanity and leading to misery, decay and death.

DR. ACKER'S ENGLISH REMEDY. It is recommended by the best physicians in Europe and America. 25 cents, 50 cents and \$1.00 per Bottle.

W. H. HOOKER & CO., 46 West Broadway, New York.

Jas. McMillan & Co., PROPRIETORS OF THE MINNEAPOLIS SHEEPSKIN TANNERY

Dealers in Hides, Sheep Pelts, Wool, Tallow, Ginseng and Seneca Root. SHEEP PELTS AND FURS A SPECIALTY.

RE-OPENED! THE : BEDROCK : STORE

New and Second-Hand FURNITURE, CARPETS, AND HOUSEKEEPING GOOD Everything Bought and Sold. NO. 24 JACKSON ST., BETWEEN BROADWAY AND GRAN

NO INCREASE IN PRICE ON Furniture, Carpets, Shades, Lace and Chenille Curtains.

WALL PAPER AT COST TO CLOSE OUT! J. R. SANFORD, NO. 112 AND 114 BROADWAY, HELENA, MONTANA.

SAND COULEE COAL. Try It and you Will use no Other.

FOR SALE ONLY BY Mackenzie Fuel Company, Wm. Zastrow Fuel Company, and J. L. Smith.

Mrs. Flydecker's dress has already been described, but it should also be stated that she also wore Alaska diamond ornaments, which certainly, in the bright glare of the chandeliers, looked quite as well as if they had been gems of the purest water. Mrs. Huestone Jacobs, whose husband is in the advanced-made-on-securities-without-removal business, is the one who kindly gave the Demonstrator reporter the desired information regarding Mrs. Flydecker's diamonds.

Besides a number of poor relations of the Flydeckers there were present. Presiding over the tea and chocolate in the dining-room were Miss Wartzburger, in blue crepe and lemon hose, and Miss Sofia Sluzge in white nunlike de sole draped over the pink silk that she wore at her debut in 1862.

The fact that Mr. Flydecker was a prominent wholesale dealer in paper and was a heavy creditor of the Demonstrator Publishing company, as well as one of the principal stockholders therein, didn't help matters much the next day.

DR. STODDART. The specialist in chief of Medical and Surgical Association will visit the above-named cities on above dates for the purpose of contracting with all desiring to be cured of Chronic and Complicated Diseases, diseases of the lungs, heart, throat, head, eyes, ears, blood and skin.

Health is Wealth! DR. E. C. WEST'S NERVE AND BRAIN TREATMENT. A QUARTER SPECIFIC FOR HYSTERIA, DIZZINESS, CONVULSIONS, FITS, NERVOUS NEURALGIA, HEADACHE, NERVOUS PROSTRATION, caused by the use of alcohol or tobacco, Wakefulness, Mental Depression, Softening of the Brain, resulting in insanity and leading to misery, decay and death.

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COMING TO MONTANA. DR. LIEBIG & CO.

Will be at Hotel Florence, Missouri, January 19, 20 and 21, 1891; at Phillipsburg, January 23, 24 and 25; at St. Louis, Missouri, January 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and at St. Paul, Minnesota, February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and at Helena, Montana, February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and at Butte, Montana, March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and at Great Falls, Montana, April 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and at Missoula, Montana, May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and at Bozeman, Montana, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 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