

“UNCLE BILLY” GONE

Villagers Take Last Look at Face of Their Hero.

HELPED CATCH TWO PIRATES

William Johnson, in 1820, Assisted in Capture of Buccaneer Gibbs, Last Man to Be Hanged for Piracy in Present City of New York—Story of Landing and Burial of the Body.

New York, Feb. 24.—In spite of the snowstorm and the fierce wind that swept across the flats, very many of the villagers of Canarsie trudged clear out to the end of Flatlands avenue this afternoon to take a last look at “Uncle Billy Johnson.”

Every chick and child in Canarsie and all along the Flats knew the old man.

“There he goes, Tommy!” they would say. “That’s Uncle Billy. Caught two bloody pirates. Caught ‘em with red caps and their black beards. He did, by gosh.”

Which wasn’t strictly true, but pretty close, and the sweet potatoes would trot home and dream at night of the little, wrinkled, old man dragging off to execution “the bloody pirates,” red caps, black beards, and all, pounding them with his cane, like a nut.

As a matter of right, therefore, the villagers and their friends from far and near went to look at Uncle Billy as he lay in his walnut coffin with a look on his face as if he had got pretty tired of life and wasn’t sorry he was through with it.

Uncle Billy was born in Rahway, N. J., on December 27, 1809. When he was a boy he went to Canarsie, and stayed there the rest of his life.

On the night of November 23, 1830, a cold, wet night, the two brothers had gone to their bunks, when there was a hard rapping on the door of the shack and a gruff voice ordered them to get up and open the door.

Both carried pistols, and the white man had a long knife stuck under another belt. They wanted a horse and cart, and they wanted it quick, they told the brother John and William Johnson.

Maybe it was two hours later when they came back, tired and with their hands covered with mud. This time they brought a boy with them, and asked for lodging for the night.

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“People still cherish the idea that the press is a reflector of nature. It thrives on them.”

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RUNAWAY GIRL IS FOUND.

Mary Clay Wanted to Go to Germany to Seek Titled Mother.

New York, Feb. 24.—Mary Clay, the fourteen-year-old daughter of G. H. Clay, of Narbeth, Pa., who was reported missing at police headquarters on Saturday, was located to-day at the home of Mrs. Broese, 207 West 135th street, where she had gone to become a nurse maid.

After being brought to headquarters the girl was placed in the custody of the Gerry Society, and her father was summoned from Philadelphia.

Mary told a mixed story to the police. She said that she had run away from the girls’ school under charge of Miss Shapley, 5 Wood street, Auburn, on February 13, and had come down to the city with the intention of earning money enough to take her to Germany, where she wanted to find her real parents.

A strange woman had come to her yesterday was in school, she said, and told her that she was not the daughter of G. H. Clay, but that her mother was the Countess von Graff, of Donner Castle, Bitten Mountain, Germany.

This mysterious woman had shown her letters and documents, proving that she was the daughter of a countess, the girl said, and it was her intention never to see the man again whom she had called father, but to seek out her titled mother and come to her inheritance across the sea.

The girl was convinced that G. H. Clay and wife had been appointed caretakers for her by the Countess of Bitten Mountain. The girl’s mother died a few years ago.

ROMANCE HAS ODD ENDING.

Last Chapter of This Narrative Not Like that of Fiction.

Paris, Feb. 24.—A romantic marriage, or at least recalling a romance and also a tragedy, occurred here yesterday, when Louis Castel, one of the thirteen survivors of the Courrieres mine disaster, married Angèle Mollaret.

It may perhaps be recalled that when Castel was in the depths of the mine fighting desperately for his life, he called for his then fiancée, Marguerite Mollaret.

Analysts of passion asked if it were not the great power of love that gave Castel strength to fight for his life, yet yesterday he married another woman. Castel gives a simple explanation.

“After a period of distressing sorrow, Castel found in this consoling pain, and Angèle’s eyes did the rest. These, he says, made him forget.”

PARKURST AS AN OPTIMIST

New York Pastor Urges People to Look for the Good, Not Evil.

Declares Custom of Emphasizing the Wrongs Gives a Perverted View of Actual Conditions.

New York, Feb. 24.—Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, at the Madison Square Presbyterian Church, on occasion to-day to condemn the prevalent custom of emphasizing and dwelling upon the wrongs of the day and of allowing the good things to go unnoticed, on the ground that it tended to make the public think that everything had gone to the dogs.

“The past year has been exceptional in the amount of corruption that has been unearthed in places high and low. I have discovered that the general impression is that things are bad, and that these things are exceptional, and not general. I hear people bewailing these conditions on all sides. They are like Elijah, who entirely forgot the existence of the other 7,000 faithful ones. They bewail the fact that they alone are good, and that every one else has gone to the bad. In fact, this sense of moral loneliness is pathetic. The public is continually preparing inventories of wickedness, but never catalogues the good people.”

“Journalism,” continued the speaker, “takes another tack, ‘lives upon the exceptions, upon the things out of the ordinary. It has no interest whatever in what is usual. It is not criticizing the newspapers, however. If I were running a newspaper I suppose I should run it just the same way. The press is hardly to be blamed. The public is not interested in what is usual, and there is no money in printing it.”

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PROTEST STATE LAW

Virginia Code Recognizes One-fourth Negroas White.

Passed by “CARPET-BAGGERS”

People Hold that One Drop of Colored Blood Makes a Negro—Solution of the Problem to Be a State Issue, and Will Be Brought Before the Next Legislature.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 24.—According to the laws of Virginia, any person having negro blood in his veins, yet possessed of the one-fourth of it, is recognized under the statutes as a white man or woman. The people generally hold that one drop of negro blood makes a negro, and the solution of the problem bids fair to become an issue in this State in the near future.

The Virginia legislative body will assemble in this city next year, and there seems scarcely any doubt but that the existing situation will be brought to the attention of the members.

Recent objections raised by Mrs. W. J. Doss, of Hurts, Pittsylvania County, against children infused with negro blood being permitted to attend white schools, which complaints were made by letter to Gov. Claude A. Swanson, started the comments among the people of the State, as well as inquiry into existing laws concerning miscegenation and the intermarriage of whites and blacks in Virginia.

The matter has been referred to the superintendent of schools for Pittsylvania County.

If the alleged one-seventh of negro blood in these children is established, it will prevent their attendance upon the school under the law. The law fixes the limit at one-fourth or more of negro blood before a child can be called or classed as a negro.

Enacted by “Carpet-baggers.” Few people of the present generation are aware that such a law exists. It was enacted by a “carpet-bagger” legislature in 1866, and is not the representative voice of the people of the present day. One section of the old law reads:

“A woman whose father was white, and whose mother’s father was white, and whose great-grandmother was of brown complexion, is not a negro in the sense of this statute.”

With reference further in the matter the following appears: “A marriage between a white man and a woman who is of less than one-fourth negro blood, even though it be only one drop less, is legal. A woman whose father was white, and whose mother’s father was white, and whose great-grandmother was of brown complexion, is not a negro in the sense of this statute.”

The “carpet-bagger” legislation may conflict with the existing “Jim Crow” legislation. In fact, it has already caused a rupture, the complainant claiming by his mother to be a negro, was proven by the old law to be a white man, and lost in the litigation. The case was tried in the Circuit Court of the late Judge George A. Hancock.

Negro Proven a White Man. The complainant was an octogenarian. While traveling by rail he seated himself in a “Jim Crow” compartment, from which he was ordered by the conductor to move into the white coach. The man demurred, saying he was a negro. The trainmen insisted, saying that he (the passenger) must get up for the white or be put off the train. The man was finally ejected at a station, whereupon he brought suit against the railroad. He lost his suit on the ground that not having one-fourth negro blood in his veins he was, in the eyes of the laws of Virginia, a white man and not a black man.

Abiding by this decision as a precedent, and by the statutes of the code as a fundamental law, there would, apparently, be no such thing as a general enforcement of the “Jim Crow” law in Virginia.

Having so much in vain for an amendment of these statutes, as set forth and embodied in the code of Virginia, several inquiring lawyers of this city are beginning to look into the future. They hold that in spite of the best laid schemes to prevent the amalgamation of the two races, such a law, practically legalizing the intermarriage of the whites and the blacks, will certainly endow the long existence of the one or the other.

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PRESIDENT TALKS TO GROTON BOYS

Continued from first page.

few remarks, saying that he intended to visit Groton often, as he had one boy pupil there and expected to send another soon as he had become old enough. He told the boys that he had been interested by some of his friends when about to enter public life not to do so, as the governing class consisted of a lot of irresponsible men, but that he had disregarded this counsel and had not regretted it.

Lads Shake Hands with President. The President advised the boys to make a proper use of their education in their future life, and put in a word for athletics, saying, among other things, he firmly believed in intercollegiate contests, such as football, baseball, rowing, and hockey.

He wound up by wishing the pupils good luck. Afterward a reception was held at Prof. Gardner’s home, and here all the boys had an opportunity to shake hands with the President. Chocolate was served, and there was a general good time.

At 4 o’clock the Roosevelt party drove to Ayre Junction station, with Representative Cushing handling the reins, and the special train started back to Boston at 5:13.

RECEPTION AT PROVIDENCE.

President and Party Hold Informal Reception at Union Station.

Providence, Feb. 24.—The Federal Executive, bearing President and Mrs. Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. Longworth, and a party of ten others in the President’s car, pulled out of this city at 9:31 to-night, forty-one minutes late. Owing to a series of mishaps the train was twenty minutes late in arriving here from Boston, and during the twenty minutes that were spent here Mr. Roosevelt and Congressman Longworth held an informal reception on the platform at the union station.

The train left Boston at 8:32, and at Sharon, when half the distance to this city had been covered, a freight train blocked the way, and a delay of five minutes ensued. Near Mansfield the steam pipe broke two cars ahead of the President’s coach, and in swinging under the car uncoupled the brake. The train came to a dead stop. It took fifteen minutes to straighten the air hose out, and from Mansfield to this city the President’s car and the day coach, directly ahead of it, were without heat.

On arriving here, the day coach was then taken out and side-tracked, and during the twenty minutes wait at the station Mr. Roosevelt left the car and came out on the station platform.

“I am glad to see you all,” he said, “and I think you show true New England hardihood in not caring a rap for snow.”

A line was immediately formed and the President shook hands with at least 200 people. Congressman Longworth also joined in the handshaking in response to repeated calls, and Mrs. Longworth waved to the crowd from the car steps.

Finally when the cars had been arranged the train pulled out, the crowd giving three rousing cheers for the President and his party.

Jersey City, Feb. 24.—The President’s train will arrive in Jersey City at 3:45 a. m., and leave there at 4:30 a. m., on its way to Washington.

MYSTERY IN BOSTON SHOOTING.

Accident in Which President’s Bodyguard Wounds Friend Not Cleared.

Boston, Feb. 24.—The narrow escape of Police Inspector W. A. Smith, of this city, from being killed last night by a bullet from the gun carried by Stephen A. Connell, one of the Secret Service men detailed to guard President Roosevelt on his visit here, was the talk of police circles to-day. The accident occurred in the cafe of the Quincy House, where four Boston inspectors were entertaining Connell, and Smith received a slight flesh wound on the forehead over the left eye.

The wound was treated, and in a little more than an hour Smith was able to go to police headquarters in Pemberton square, where he, with the others of the party, made a report of the accident to Superintendent Pierce. It is doubtful if anything comes of the matter, although the question no doubt will be raised as to how the revolver happened to explode.

Having so much in vain for an amendment of these statutes, as set forth and embodied in the code of Virginia, several inquiring lawyers of this city are beginning to look into the future. They hold that in spite of the best laid schemes to prevent the amalgamation of the two races, such a law, practically legalizing the intermarriage of the whites and the blacks, will certainly endow the long existence of the one or the other.

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HARRIMAN TO TESTIFY

Railroad Magnate to Appear Before Commerce Board.

HEARING TO-DAY IN NEW YORK

President of the Union Pacific Will Be the First Witness Called, and He Declares He Will Answer All Questions Freely and Explain in Detail All Transactions of the Road.

New York, Feb. 24.—E. H. Harriman will take the stand to-morrow morning as the first witness in the resumption of the Interstate Commerce Commission’s investigation into the so-called Harriman line. He is entirely prepared for the examination, and it was said to-day, will make an exhaustive and detailed explanation of the financial transactions with which he has been connected as an officer of the Union Pacific. Mr. Harriman, it is said, will not attempt to evade any of the inquiries which the attorneys for the commission might institute. He realizes, it was said, the importance of making complete explanation of all matters on which the management of the Union Pacific system and its subsidiaries has been criticized, and has prepared a complete history of his financial relations and other connections with the railroads in which he is interested. This history he will give freely, it is said, without prodding by the commission’s attorneys.

Accordingly it may be assumed that Mr. Harriman will tell more of the \$50,000,000 Union Pacific preferred syndicate, in which he gave James Hazen Hyde a participation, than he disclosed to the life insurance committee. It was broadly intimated that neither Mr. Harriman nor his attorney, Judge Lovett, would interpose objections to his examination on any of the financial affairs of the company.

It is probable that Mr. Harriman will set up the defense previously outlined to the charges of improprieties in connection with the purchase of \$2,000,000 Southern Pacific stock to William Rockefeller. It was to keep the road away from James R. Keene, Talbot J. Taylor, and their associates, he will say.

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