

Daily Press and Dakotian.

Vol. 1.

YANKTON, DAKOTA TERRITORY, MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 20, 1875.

No. 204.

NO REPORT.

In consequence of the land slide in the bluffs near Sioux City we are without our telegraphic report today. The lines will be up tomorrow.

THE DRUNKARD'S FATE.

Their Liability to Spontaneous Combustion.

The Poor Wretches who have been Reduced to Cinders and Ashes.

The writer in the Cincinnati Commercial says: "Some years ago a story said to be one of those convenient, made-up stories, which help to fill out the bottom of a newspaper column, went the rounds of the press, and died away at last in the extreme rural districts, about the spontaneous burning up of an old Tennessee toper. It was said that he put a coal of fire upon his pipe to light it, and while in the act of blowing this coal to ignite the tobacco, his breath took fire, a kind of blue flame and dense smoke curled up, and in a minute or two, the smoke cleared away, and all that was left of toper, pipe, breath, and all, was a heap of ashes."

Nobody seriously believed the story of the Tennessee toper, and yet when one comes to look into the matter he will find that in different parts of the civilized world cases of spontaneous combustion of the living human body are on record which are as well authenticated as the battle of Bunker Hill. Medical men have been acquainted with such facts for years. Moreover, cases in which persons have thus anticipated purgatory, and at the same time disposed of their bodies by involuntary self cremation, are by no means so uncommon as one might suppose. Various medical books mention numbers and numbers of them, about which there can be no shadow of doubt.

The causes of such an extraordinary phenomenon as the spontaneous burning up of a live human being was at first an impenetrable mystery. Juries summoned in these cases readily arrived at the nearest and easiest way out of the difficulty, and decided it came by a "visitation of God;" and even now, when visitations of God are not supposed to be so frequent as they used to be, the mystery of spontaneous combustion is not yet wholly solved by science. This much is certain however; it occurs in elderly persons of intemperate habits. Both very lean and very fat drunkards are liable to be burnt up. Thirdly, women particularly are apt to be taken, out of the world in this awful manner.

Death from spontaneous combustion, or, as it used to be called, "preternatural combustion by visitation of God," is almost instantaneous. One moment the unfortunate individual is a live human being; the next moment he is a heap of ashes and a bad smell, with perhaps an item or two of a half-consumed head or foot left to tell what had been. There is but one well established instance which the spontaneously consumed person lived long enough to narrate how he was attacked. That individual was a Roman Catholic priest, Father Bertholi.

Father Bertholi retired to bed one evening in the house of a relative. A few moments after, "a strange noise, mingled with cries, was heard from the room." The people of the house rushed in, and beheld Father Bertholi standing on the floor, surrounded by a strange, flickering flame, which receded as they came near, like a will-of-the-wisp. A surgeon was called, who found the skin of the right arm and of the back loosened and hanging down.

The patient lived four days, and died in a most horrible manner, too horrible to describe. The only account he could give of the attack was that he had suddenly felt a blow upon the right arm, as if he had suddenly been struck with a club. On looking at his arm he saw a spark of fire hanging to his sleeve, which instantly was burnt off his arm. His cap was also burnt off, while his hair was not even scorched. In this case there was no fire or light in the room.

One case of "preternatural combustion," which occurred something over sixty years ago, served an excellent purpose to our good friends the Methodists, who printed it far and wide and made a truly awful example of it. The medical man who records this case is at pains to state in the beginning that he does not depend solely for his facts upon the Methodist Magazine, or even upon the Wesleyan minister who first told the story, but that it was confirmed from other sources. The story of this truly awful example is about thus:

Near 2 o'clock one night the keeper of an almshouse in Limerick was awakened by one of the inmates in great alarm. There was something

fearful going on in his room, the person said. The keeper, Mr. O'Neill, hastened to the spot, and found lying in the middle of the floor a burning human body, which was all over of the color of a red-hot coal. In the ceiling just above was a large hole, on fire around the edges, through which it appeared that the fiery, red-hot body had burned through its way and dropped down into the room of the inmate below. The person occupying the room above was an old woman named Mrs. Peacocke, who was not only a hardened sinner, but an inveterate drunkard besides. Mr. O'Neill rushed up and burst open this hardened old sinner's door. In this room he found to his consternation no Mrs. Peacocke, but only a hole in the floor through which Mrs. Peacocke had burned her way to the nether regions.

What only added to his horror was that in Peacocke's room there was found no sign of candle, candlestick, or fire, except a few coals which had been taken together and covered with ashes, to keep in through the night, and which had remained undisturbed and uncovered in the grate. It was clear as daylight that the fire could not have communicated from these coals. What was it then? There was but one explanation. In the morning the mayor of the city, several ministers, and other honorable standing and veracious gentlemen visited the scene and decided to the complete satisfaction of all parties, that since there was no sign of her having caught fire from anything in the room, and "the extraordinary circumstance of no part of the room being burnt except the center of it, through which she had fallen, added to the well authenticated circumstance of her recent diabolical imprecations and lies, obliged every observer to resolve so awful an event into the visitation of God's judgment in the punishment of a daring and persevering sinner."

When any flame is observed about these spontaneously burning human bodies it appears like the flame of alcohol, blue, flickering, very difficult to extinguish by water, and does not readily communicate to other bodies, even when they are inflammable. Often, indeed, extraordinary, to relate, the person's clothing has been found wholly unburned, while the person inside the clothing was burned to a cinder. The body itself is usually entirely consumed, while the head and portions of the limbs are sometimes left untouched. The maid of Cornelia Bandt, an elderly Italian Countess, went into her mistress's room to wake her up, one morning. She found no mistress, but upon the floor, a little distance from the bed, lay a heap of ashes, and in this dreadful heap of ashes some little parts of the head, eyes and arms of the unhappy Countess. This lady had been constantly in the habit of bathing her body with camphorated spirit of wine.

All over the room and furniture where the Countess had been consumed, there was a greasy, sooty deposit. This moist, disagreeable deposit of soot, and an offensive odor of burnt meat, always attend and result from the spontaneous combustion of a human body. An examination of the blood of these unfortunates—that is, where there is any blood left to examine—shows that a considerable quantity of alcohol is mingled with the watery part of the blood.

The Rev. Mr. Ferguson, of Dublin, relates that in the family of one of his parishioners, resided an old woman who, with her daughter, was in the habit of going to bed in a state of intoxication every night. The old woman slept in the same bed. The old woman, for some days, had been drinking much more ardent spirits than usual, when one morning the family were awakened by a horrible smelling smoke. They hastened to the apartment of the two women, and found the body of the old woman black as a cinder, and smoking all over. She was quite dead when they reached her, and almost entirely consumed, while neither her daughter, who was beside her, nor any of the bed clothing was injured in the slightest degree.

One poor lady was awfully overtaken in the midst of a matrimonial squabble. One night her husband came home late from a party, and the two quarreled violently, both being in a state of intoxication. The wife insisted upon sitting up, the husband upon going to bed. The lady persisted in her determination, whereupon the husband vowed that if she would sit up, she would sit up in the dark, and so took her candle away and left her.

Next morning the maid-servant, opening the windows of the back parlor, perceived "something" in her mistress's arm chair. She thought at first that it had been put there by her mistress's son, as a scarecrow to frighten her. Going nearer, however, she was suddenly horror-struck to find that this awful "something" was the

remains of her hapless mistress. The trunk of her body was entirely consumed, while her upper and lower extremities were not injured. The trunkless head with the hair in curls, was still leaning upon the right hand and against the wall. The face was slightly scorched, but neither the hair nor the curls were burnt in the least. The room was full of the offensive burnt odor before mentioned. It was only with the greatest difficulty that the medical profession were able to reach the facts of this case, since the family of the dead woman used every means in their power to hush the affair up.—No wonder!

When a human being takes fire inside, and burns up of himself, how does he do it? The world, especially the medical part of it, having outgrown the theory of the visitation of God on this subject, it became necessary to account for spontaneous combustion on rational principles. This theory and that have been held by different persons, but the most plausible one seems to be that the combustion is caused by the explosion of inflammable gases generated in a diseased and depraved organization. The body of a patient who died in a hospital in France was examined, and when perforations were made in various parts of it, a gas issued therefrom which took fire from the flame of a candle.

The body of a living human being sometimes becomes so diseased that its natural secretions are depraved and perverted. In this state it is supposed that certain inflammable gases are generated, which, mingling with air and oxygen form explosive mixtures inside the human body. The generation of these gases is attended with heat, and off your drunkard goes, pop! and nothing is left of him but a greasy smoke and a heap of ashes.

As the young lady remarked about the infant, "How sweet; but how bald for one so young!"

Cheer up, old maids! it's calculated that when a woman turns 30, unmarried, she still has left 151 chances out of 100 for getting a husband.

At one of the colored A. M. E. churches in Columbus, Ga., the other night, a woman screamed, "Glory! I see just like soda water! I see bilin' over!"

When a woman tells you that she is "doing her own work now," you need not take it for granted that she has previously been doing some one else's work.

"Alfred, darling," tenderly observed a young Milwaukee wife to her husband "I wish you'd take your ears down now; Maria wants to dust the ceiling Brooklyn Argus."

A poor woman in St. Louis went to a doctor the other day for medicine to check the appetites of her five children she being unable to provide sufficient food for them.

Spilkins says that all the perils and horrors of maelstrom aren't a circumstance to the horrors to the horrors of hearing a female storm on the piano, next door, from morning till night.

Providence seems to watch over the little man with a big wife, and teaches him that one of the principal conditions of domestic tranquillity is to always keep his dauber at low tide.

Barnum's baby hippopotamus sold \$25,000 at auction. There are babies in this country that couldn't be bought for twice the money. No indeed!—the iddy, pity, goosey, pooseys.

When you dream that you are sitting a straddle of an iceberg, floating around the North Pole, that is a sign that your wife has pulled all the cover from you and wrapped herself up in it.

The other day, when a Detroit grocer spelled sugar "s-h-u-g-e-r," a friend pointed out the word, and remarked, "That word isn't spelled right." "Ha! I see," laughed the grocer, "One would think I had no education." And he crossed it out and wrote s-h-u-g-o-r.—Free Press

At Whitehall, N.Y., recently, after a wedding, the bridegroom handed the clergyman what he supposed was ten dollars, but was really a hundred dollar bill. On the following day he discovered his mistake and telegraphed the fact to the clergyman, who however, was unable to rectify the error, as he had joyously hastened as soon as he had received his fee to libelate a long standing debt.

SCIENTIFIC.

E. STEINBACH,

ANIMAS FORKS, COLORADO,

(San Juan Mines.) attends to

General Assaying Business,

And will visit, inspect, and report upon mines and mineral property. Also Deputy U. S.

Mineral Surveyor.

Correspond solicited. &c. &c.

FLOUR & FEED.

Incorporated Jan. 1, 1875.

D. T. BRAMBLE, Pres. W. M. MINER, Supl.
P. L. VAN TASSEL, Secy.

Excelsior Mill

COMPANY,

MANUFACTURERS OF

FLOUR

Corn Meal,
Bran,
Shorts,
And Dealers in all kinds of Feed

CASH PAID FOR

Wheat, Corn, Oats, etc.

Flour delivered in all parts of the city free of charge. Call and see us. Our flour speaks for itself.

CAPITAL STREET,

YANKTON, DAKOTA.

THE

INTER-OCEAN

THREE EDITIONS

WEEKLY, SEMI-WEEKLY and DAILY.

Established less than three years ago as a Representative Republican Paper, pledged to main- tain and defend the principles and organization of the National Republican Party, the Inter-Ocean was early pushed to the forefront of journalism and achieved a success unprecedented in the history of such enterprises. By universal assent it has been designated position as

The Leading Republican Paper IN THE NORTHWEST.

Not alone in its political character does the Inter-ocean reel its claims to popular favor. It aims at the highest excellence in all departments, and in this era of progressive journalism aspires to position among the best.

The Inter-Ocean makes special claim as

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Its columns are carefully guarded against objectionable matter, and every effort is made to render it a pleasant and profitable companion to the home fireside.

THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

is conducted with great care, and everything possible is done to make the

MARKET REPORTS

Such as the farmers and business men of the Northwest can rely upon.

The Agricultural Department

is carefully edited by gentlemen of ability and experience.

In Literature, Local and General News, Foreign and Domestic Correspondence.

And everything that goes to make

A FIRST-CLASS NEWSPAPER.

It is not excelled by any publication in the country. The Inter-Ocean is a

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER,

One that will be found useful and interesting to Americans in every part of the globe. While it especially represents the

Great Interests of the Northwest,

it is National in its views and comprehensive in its news-gatherings. Firm in its political faith, it is not bigoted, and in all discussions aims to be candid, dignified, and above personal abuse.

The Inter-Ocean has the largest aggregate circulation of any newspaper published in the Northwest. It is sent to more than 6,000 Postoffices distributed in every State and Territory of the United States, in all the British Provinces, and numerous foreign states and countries.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

DAILY.

By mail (in advance), per year, post paid, \$10.00
By mail (in advance), 3 months, post paid, 2.50

SEMI-WEEKLY.

By mail, per year (in advance), post paid, 3.50
By mail, club of four (in advance), post paid, 12.50
By mail, club of six (in advance), post paid, 17.50
By mail, club of ten (in advance), post paid, 28.00
One FREE copy with every club of ten.

WEEKLY.

By mail, per year (in advance), post paid, 1.65
Club of four (in advance), post paid, 5.60
Club of ten (in advance), post paid, 13.50
Club of twenty (in advance), post paid, 21.00
One FREE copy with every club of twenty.

POSTAGE—The new postage law took effect the 1st day of January, A. D. 1875. Under this law the postage on newspapers must be paid at the office where they are mailed. Money can be sent by draft, money-order, express, or registered letter, at our risk. Special arrangements made with country publishers for clubbing with their publications. SAMPLE COPIES FREE.

Address INTER-OCEAN, 110 Lake St., Chicago.

GROCERIES.

H. E. CUTTING. J. B. CLOUDAS.

GENE & JACK
(Cutting) (Cloudas)
DEALERS IN

GROCERIES

TOBACCO & CIGARS,
THIRD STREET,

Opposite Postoffice

YANKTON DAKOTA

Goods delivered free to any part of the city. The best and cheapest always on hand.

CUTTING & CLOUDAS.

O. P. HAGE,

DEALER IN

Staple & Fancy Groceries,

CROCKERY &
GLASSWARE.

THIRD STREET,
YANKTON, D. T.

GREGORY BROTHERS,

GROCERS,

BROADWAY YANKTON.

Finest stock of

Staple and Fancy Groceries.

In the west. Pure Confectionery in stock.

Favorite Brands of Cigars, & Tobacco
A specialty

Blatt & Buerdorf,

Wholesale and Retail

DEALERS IN

STAPLE

&

FANCY

GROCERIES.

DRUGS.

John Bremner,

Wholesale and Retail

Druggist,

And Dealer in

Paints, Oils, Varnishes,

Window Glass.

Wall Paper,

Blank Books,

School Books,

Stationery.

Good Goods. Satisfactory Prices.

Capital Street.

T. W. BRISBINE,

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

OFFICE, CEDAR STREET.

Second door north of Third street.

YANKTON, ST.

Sioux City & Pacific Railroad.

The Pioneer Route

TO
Chicago, St. Louis

AND ALL
Points in the East and South,

FOR
Speed, Comfort and Safety,

IS UNRIVALLED.

Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars

From Missouri Valley to Chicago, and Council Bluffs to St. Louis.

Through Time Table, in effect May 23, 1875.

	Chicago Express.	St. Louis Express.
Leave St. Paul	8:00 A. M.	7:40 A. M.
Yankton	3:00 P. M.	4:45 A. M.
Sioux City	3:18	5:03
Arrive Sergeant's Bluff	3:37	5:20
Salix	3:50	5:33
Whiting	4:12	5:56
Onawa	4:30	6:18
Benson	4:50	6:38
River Bluff	5:15	7:00
Mondamin	5:38	7:19
Modale	5:53	7:33
California Junction	6:06	7:45
Missouri Valley	6:25	8:00
Chicago	4:00	9:15 A. M.
Council Bluffs	10:30	6:15 P. M.
St. Louis	10:15 A. M.	10:00 A. M.
Arrive Sioux City	8:00 P. M.	10:30 P. M.

CONNECTIONS.

1. At U. P. Transfer with Union Pacific Railroad for Omaha.
 2. At Council Bluffs, with Kansas City, St. Joe and Council Bluffs Railroad for St. Louis and all points south.
 3. At Missouri Valley with Chicago & North-western Railway for Chicago and all points east.
 4. At Sioux City with the Sioux City and St. Paul, Illinois Central and Dakota Southern Railroads. Steamers for upper Missouri river, during navigation, and with stages for all points in the Northwest.
 5. At Blair with Omaha and Northwestern R. R. for Omaha and Southern Nebraska.
 6. At Fremont, Neb., with the Union Pacific R. R. for all points west, and the Pacific coast.
 7. At Winona, with stages for Norfolk, and all points in Northern Nebraska.
- Be sure your tickets read via S. C. & P. R.
F. C. HILLS, Gen'l Ticket Ag't.
C. S. BURTON, Pass. Ag't, Sioux City, Ia.
L. SWANETT, Superintendent.

WHOLESALE GROCERS.

BRAMBLE & MINER

WHOLESALE

GROCERS

LEVEE,

YANKTON, DAKOTA

HOTELS.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL,

Corner 3d and Capital Sts.

YANKTON, DAKOTA.

JOHN ROSS, PROPRIETOR.

FIRST-CLASS IN EVERY RESPECT.

This House has been entirely refurbished and refitted throughout. Good sample rooms for commercial travelers. Free Bus to and from Hotel.

SMITHSONIAN HOTEL,

SECOND STREET.

YANKTON, DAKOTA.

H. M. SMITH, PROPRIETOR.

Convenient to the Depot, Steamboat Landing and business part of the city. First-class accommodations given. Strictly Temperate. Terms Reasonable. Good stable attached. All stages leaving Yankton will call at this house for passengers.