

A JERICHO FAILURE.

THE ATTEMPT TO FORM A COMPANY OF HOME GUARDS.

Bill Lapham, the Postmaster, tells how the Jericho Guards were formed and how the attempt to form a company of home guards failed.

"I was getting the mail ready to put into the carryover bag when Bill Lapham came in. Bill runs a goose farm just out of Jericho and has his little up in the world like a bass-wood tree. I've known him for the last year that he wanted to do something smart to get his self talked about, and when I seen him come in with his chin in the air I spect he'd hit it."



"I'VE STRUCK THE BIGGEST IDEA EVER HEARD OF."

want to keep it to lit the crowd with tonight. I want the biggest, bustiest crowd to gather here tonight that the town of Jericho has ever seen. Give every man notice as he drops in today, and along about 7 o'clock I'll hev the fire bells rung and the horns tooted. Tell 'em it's a big thing, pap; tell 'em it's something that's bound to jump this town over a ten rail fence and make city lots with a thousand dollars apiece."

There was a good deal of excitement around town that afternoon, and when night came the crowd at the postoffice was as big as the time when war was declared ag'in Spain. Most of 'em thought Bill Lapham was going to declare war ag'in Mexico or Canada, and everybody was looking pale when Deacon Spooner called the meetin to order and said:

"Sons of freedom, we hev gathered here tonight to hear some remarks from our esteemed feller townsmen, William Lapham, and we kin take it that them remarks will go beyond geese and goshins. Make your pint, Bill."

"My pint is this," says Bill as he draws a long breath and steps out to git room. "We ar' now in the midst of the turmoil of a political campaign. Somebody is goin to be elected. I ain't sayin who it'll be, but the golden opportunity for which Jericho has sighed is at hand. When the newly elected official takes the oath of office, he will be escorted to and from."

"That's k'rect," says Deacon Spooner as Bill pauses for breath. "The speaker ain't through yet, but he's made a pint already. When he refers to the turmoil of campaign, it's not only high language, but a strong pint. Go ahead, Bill."

"That escort will not only do the president proud," continued Bill, "but every man in it will be mentioned by all the papers in the United States. They'll speak of his wife and children and town and home, and he'll be a big man for the rest of his life. He kin be elected sheriff without opposition, and if any one runs ag'in him for the legislature they'll be known under. What I'm here tonight fur is to ask the questions: Why not organize the Jericho Guards? And why shouldn't the Jericho Guards be that escort?"

There was yellin and whoopin fur the next five minutes, but when the deacon could make himself heard he said: "It's a pint, gentlemen—six or seven pints. I've read all the speeches ever delivered by Henry Clay or Daniel Webster, and both of 'em put together never made the point on Bill Lapham has. Bein I hev the floor, I'll say I hev the idea. Yes, sir, I'm with it heart and soul. I want my name to go down fut for the Jericho Guards, and I'm even willin to sacrifice myself and be captain of the company. Spooner, we hear from Abner Jones on the subject."

"I s'pose it's known in this town that my great-grandfather was killed at the battle of Monmouth," says Abner as he gets off the counter, "though I ain't braggin about it. I'll jest say that I'm willin to die fur my country any time I'm called upon, and if I'm elected captain of the Jericho Guards I'll promise that no invader shall set foot on these shores and live for five minutes."

"That's a pint in that," says the deacon as he looks a bit put out. "When a man's willin to die fur his country, that's a pint in his favor, but of course we want to hear from other patriots. How is it with you, Moses Plumber?"

"Does any man here doubt that I'm willin to die fur America?" asks Moses as he draws himself up. "My great-grandfather didn't die at Monmouth, but the blood of them seven uncles of mine that fell durin the civil war flows in my veins, and my watchword is 'Liberty or death.' As captain of the Jericho Guards you'll find me at the front, and if I don't kin all but seven invaders a week you kin bounce me out."

"The seven uncles and seven invaders is a pint, Moses," says the deacon, "and I'm proud that we both live in the same town. Bill Lapham seems to be on any, and I'll ask him if he has anything more to say."

A NIGHT OF TORTURE

IT BROUGHT A FORTUNE TO ITS INNOCENT VICTIM.

Twice Strung Up by Lynchers, He Confessed to Murder and Was Afterward vindicated and Recovered \$25,000 From His Assassins.

Late in the fifties George W. King was the proprietor of a hotel on the corner of 23rd and Washington streets, in 1852 a stranger arrived at the hotel and gave his name as Dr. Rowe. He told King that he had no money and asked to be trusted for his board till he could get practice in the place, promising to pay him as promptly as possible. King consented to the arrangement, and Rowce soon became a favorite with the people on account of his companionable disposition and superior intelligence. The doctor, however, fell deeper and deeper in debt. He had been at the hotel for nearly a year when King reminded him one morning that he had not paid anything on his board bill for three months. The conversation, it afterward appeared, was overheard by some one in the hotel, though King was not in the room at the time. A week after the conversation Rowe was called out late at night to see a patient and failed to return. Days passed without any word from him, and his disappearance soon was connected with the conversation that had taken place between him and the landlord about the unpaid board. One night three months later a party of disguised men entered the hotel and, overpowering King, took him to a woodland adjoining the town.

MULES, RATS AND MEN.

Miners Show Wisdom in Paying Heed to Certain Phenomena.

"Well, that isn't superstition; it's reality," and the coal mine inspector didn't seem a bit pleased with the suggestion that superstition might sometimes be responsible for the actions of miners. "Coal miners," he went on to say, "are not superstitious. Hear noises? Of course they do, but do people suppose these noises are imaginary? It beats all how little is known generally about coal mining."

"Folks got it into their heads," the inspector continued, "that a man who will quit work in a certain part of a mine because he sees the rats deserting that section is superstitious when, as a matter of fact, he simply displays sound judgment. Very soon after the rats quit sounds will be heard, and later on a slide follows. What would have happened to the man had he credited his fears to superstition by disregarding the exodus of the rats and the subsequent noises?"

"Rats are the first of a mine's inhabitants to realize danger, and so they desert the mine. Men is the last. So it is only natural that he should take as positive indications of trouble the actions of the others, and he should not be regarded as a superstitious creature on that account. "After rats desert an entry it is next to impossible to get a mule into it, not because the rats left, but because the mule realizes the danger. Left to themselves rats or mules would never be caught in slides in mines, but it is different with men, who will not follow the lead of the other two."—Denver Post.

A Joke on Offenbach.

M. Ernest Blum told a joke which he and some friends played on Offenbach when "La Belle Helene" was about to be produced. The composer was most anxious that his airs should not get about before the first night and had asked all his company to be most careful not to let any one hear them, but his tunes were so catchy that it was impossible to help singing them. One day Blum and his friends were sitting opposite Offenbach in a cafe when one of them began to hum a lead-in to "La Belle Helene."

"Who taught you that?" cried Offenbach in a rage. "No one," replied Blum. "I have known it for ages," and they all agreed that their nurses used to sing it to them when they were children. Presently Albert Wolff, who was one of the party, began to sing another of the airs. "What?" cried Offenbach. "You know that too?"

"I composed it myself," said Wolff. Offenbach then saw that they were playing a practical joke on him and demanded the name of the singer who had sung them the opera. They refused, and so the composer threatened that he would take the every one in the theater unless they told him. So Blum and his friends stood up and began the first chorus of the first act and declared they would sing the finale before the whole crew unless Offenbach relented. The composer, in terror for his music, gave in, beaten by his own facility in writing music.

A Gastronomic Cyclone.

All men and women eat. If they don't, they won't last long, and no one need worry as to whether they count for much or not. But good eaters are usually very depend-on-able. By good eaters I do not mean large eaters or greedy eaters, though I may include some of both, but I mean the men and women who enjoy what they eat and show no disposition, either from dyspepsia or other form of indigestion, to quarrel with their food. Gluttons, however, are not very lovable. I sat at table once with a woman at a summer resort who every day ate dinner at 12 ears of corn from the cob. That is more than the regulation mid-day feed for a horse. And in the operation she greased her hands and her cheeks, and every now and again her nose was decorated with the well buttered grains. She was a sight, and at the end of the table she bred a famine that it took waiters to relieve. And that was in repose not by any means a bad looking woman, but in action—in the action at the table—she was a kind of human cyclone, leaving desolation in her path. She had had three husbands and is a widow again. What became of the poor men I never knew. Maybe she ate them.—John Gilmer Speed in Criterion.

A Cruel Joke.

A Yale student joke recently played a cruel joke on her mother, and this is how it happened: She accidentally found a love letter that her father had written to her mother in the halcyon days of their courtship. She read the letter to her mother, substituting her own name and that of her lover. The mother raved with anger and stamped her foot in disgust, forbidding her daughter to have anything to do with a man who would write such nonsensical stuff to a girl. The girl then gave the letter to her mother to read, and the house became so suddenly quiet that she could hear the cat winking in the backyard.—Salsbury Press.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Some Useful Facts.

Salt puts out a fire in the chimney. Salt in solution inhaled cures cold in the head.

A brush is the best thing yet for cleaning vegetables. Salt in water is the best thing to clean willowware and matting.

Salt thrown on soot which has fallen on the carpet will prevent stain. Salt put on ink, when freshly spilled on a carpet, will help in removing the spot.

Salt on the fingers when cleaning fowls, meat or fish will prevent slipping. Salt in the oven under baking tins will prevent their scorching on the bottom.

Salt thrown on a coal fire when broiling steak will prevent blazing from dripping fat.

To clean bottles put in broken egg shells and soap and water; shake well and rinse thoroughly.

Decanters may be cleaned by putting in a spoonful of salt and some vinegar. Shake and rinse.

The corks of bottles or jars containing substances apt to be sticky should be dipped in salad oil before being replaced.

Meat for soup should always be put in cold water, that for serving in boiling water; if roasted it should be put into a hot oven, quickly seared over and then baked with a steady heat, but not too great.

If mud is deep and sticky and the children's rubbers pull off in going to school, cut slits in the back of them, run in a leather shoe string and tie over the ankle. Rubbers may be bought with straps but this method is effectual where the common ones are in use.

Spinach is now in high favor as an article of diet. Chemists affirm that it contains more iron to the square inch than most of the renowned purgative remedies. Spinach not only contains salts of iron and potassium, but other salts, which are good for the liver and the blood; it, therefore, improves the complexion.

POINTING THE WAY.

When a brave admiral in war time goes into an enemy's harbor he knows that the life of every man in the fleet depends upon his skill and courage. He is held to a tremendous responsibility; and yet he cannot feel it in his patients; he feels that his work is truly that of a conscientious physician feels his responsibility for the lives of those who are dependent upon his professional care and skill. He feels that his duty demands more than a mere routine, stereotyped interest in his patients; he feels that his work is a serious matter; that it is often a question of life and death.

"You have my many heart-felt thanks for your kindly advice to me in my sickness," writes Mrs. Clara Nelson, of Pico Heights, Los Angeles Cal., Box 31, in a cordial letter to Dr. E. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y. "Also for your book 'The Sufferer's Friend.' I thought my case could not be long, but your kindness and medicine were not only a relief, but a cure."

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Notice to Creditors. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims or demands against the above named deceased to present the same to me at the office of my attorneys, Messrs. J. C. Peebles & Co., within one year from the date of the first publication of this notice, or the same will be forever barred, said notice being designated by me as my place of business.

Executrix of the last will and testament of E. O'Toole deceased. Date of first publication, Oct. 5, 1900.

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