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Iron County Register.

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Third Page—A Lesson for Tom, Foreign Gossip, London's Seven Dials, Fashion Letter, etc.
Sixth Page—The State University, Silver Convention, Political, etc.
Seventh Page—Little French Mary, Agricultural Hints, Domestic Concerns, The Markets, etc.

The Tragedy of Oakdale.

FOUNDED ON FACT.

Many years ago there was a high school for boys in one of the many beautiful valleys of Ozark Mountains. The building was situated at the base of a mountain, and the observatory commanded a magnificent view of the valley. At the right and a little behind the main building, stood a little two-roomed cottage, once the home of pioneer settlers, now remodeled and fitted up as a dormitory for the students which overflowed the large building.

The students, who occupied this cottage, considered it the highest privilege that could be given them: because of their removal from the immediate supervision of the professors they were trusted to be always on good behavior. Woe to the boy who took advantage of the trust.

The sun floods the hills with light one glorious day of early spring, as Jesse Norman adds a few lines to the letter written last night. His brother Alfred and cousin, John, are more deliberate in their toilet, having arrived at the age where the cravat must be tied just so precise, and each speak of dust carefully brushed from coat and shoes. Will Frisbie, the fourth occupant of the room is having a final tussle with the curls that refuse to lie straight on the high white forehead, and now the breakfast bell is heard. Jesse hurriedly finished his letter, and with ink fingers followed his companions. While he is gone we will read the letter which he has left on the table.

OAKDALE, April 14.
Dear Mother—Your letter came day before yesterday, and I can't wait any long to answer. Prof. Minard is a brick! To-day he said if we would have as good lessons to-morrow as we have had every day this week he will get some wagons and take us all down to Rock Creek for a fishing on Saturday. Joe Knight says he's been there, and there are just the old fellows in the creek! I wish it was Saturday now and you could go with us and cook our fish. Ed. Mays says he wishes there were some girls in this place; he thinks a picnic is no good without girls. He is afraid to touch a worm to bait his hook and afraid he will get his boots muddy if he looks at the creek bank. It is only two months now until school will be out. Alf says he can't write this time, because his Algebra lesson is harder than usual and he would not fall to-morrow for anything. I must stop and study my History.

Morning—It is a fine day. I am in an awful hurry for to-morrow, but there are all the lessons to-day. Good-bye, mother, I hope you are quite well. Don't let Daisy forget me. Tell Alice I think of her often. The breakfast bell! Your boy, JESS NORMAN.

The long day of trial is over. Twenty-five boys gather in groups of threes and fives discussing the promised treat. Do you think that every lesson was recited perfectly? that no whispering was done? Boys are boys and there are many kinds of boys, and although Prof. Ross was severe, he was always just.

Prof. Minard was hot-headed, irritable and at times unjust, but he really liked the boys and would willingly go out of his way to give them pleasure. Some loved him devotedly while others hated him quite as fervently.

"See that thunder-head?" said Ralph Seibert pointing to a white capped cloud rising behind Cedar Mountain. "Bet you a dollar it will rain to-morrow."
"The fish will bite all the better in the rain," said Joe Knight.
"Who wants to go fishing in the rain," said Ed. Mays, "I don't, I'm sure."
"You need not worry," said Walter Horner. "Prof. won't let us go in the rain; he would be afraid of getting his head wet. I wish he would get his head wet. I'm afraid it will blaze sometimes when he gets so awful mad."
"He never gets mad when a boy behaves himself, he is a long ways better than we deserve;" this from Will, who was a prime favorite with the professors, matron and boys.
Many anxious eyes took a last look at the threatening clouds ere they were closed in sleep. The eastern room of the little cottage was occupied by Frank Gates, a strong, carefree, homely youth, the athlete in all games, and Harry Brown, a timid book-worm. The first low rumble of thunder

awakened Harry. Each flash of lightning was brighter than the last, and the thunder grew louder. Peal followed peal until Harry grew nervous and frightened.

"O Frank!" he cried when it seemed as if he could bear no more, "do wake up! this thunder and lightning are awful."
"Well, what can I do?" said Frank. "I can't make it stop."
"I wish you would pull down the window shade, that will shut out some of it."

"Why don't you do it yourself?" said Frank, at the same time getting up and going toward the dazzling light which was barely intermittent. Well he knew that nothing ordinary could induce Harry to leave the shelter of the bed clothes. A fearful flash of lightning, followed instantly by a peal of thunder that shook the very firmament!

"Harry! get up!" shrieked Frank, "put on your clothes! we must get out of this." Even Frank's courage had left him, and snatching up their clothes, they ran out of the house calling to the other boys to follow. The little cottage was in flames, "O Jess, Will, Alf, Boys!" shouted Frank, "the house is on fire."
No answer but the voice of the thunder growing more distant now. The lightning had done its awful work.

The professors and other students now appeared on the scene.
"Are the boys all safe?" asked Prof. Ross.
"I can't find anything of the Norman boys and Will Frisbie," said Frank. "I've called over and over; the fire broke out in their room."

Prof. Minard took a fishing pole that was leaning against a tree, thrust it through the window and gave several smart blows across the beds and bearing no response, he said, "They must have escaped through the window and are hiding until they can dress. John, Will!" he shouted. At that moment the flames lit up the interior of the room revealing the bodies of the four boys now sleeping the sleep of death. They had received the lightning shock and were beyond the power of human awakening.

The sun shone next morning on a pile of blackened ruins. The ashes of these four bright boys were tenderly gathered up, and the students of Oakdale attended a funeral, not a picnic, on that April holiday.

Japan and Her Navy.

In considering the possibilities of Japan's future as a naval power, a leading reflection must be that which is suggested by the rapidity of her progress hitherto. In a recent lecture before the Japan Society, in London, Dr. Elgar pointed out that it was only about forty years ago that the Government withdrew the order prohibiting the building of seagoing vessels which measured "more than 500 koku, or 76 tons," and had more than one mast. It was about the time, too, that Commodore Perry appeared with an American squadron, and we can imagine the vast and perhaps impassable gaps which must have seemed to stretch between their rude naval craft and our wonderful warships.

Yet to-day, when people who looked upon Perry's ships with wonder are still in active life, we find all modern nations studying the lessons which Japan has taught them in the naval battles of the Palu and Wei-Hai-Wei harbor.

When the opening of her ports brought her into competition with foreign nations and exposed her to their covetousness, Japan determined to obtain for herself that sea power which made them so formidable. She purchased vessels in foreign ports, bent her youth abroad to learn the modern art of war. Then she gradually accumulated thirty-three war vessels, according to Dr. Elgar, besides the training ships Kiu-jo and Jungel, and forty-two torpedo boats. Four of the thirty-three were, however, wooden sailing vessels. The other twenty-nine included an old armorclad, the Fuso; two slow cruisers, with small water-line belts, the Hieiwei and Kongo; one fast belted cruiser, the Chiyoda; seven fast steel protected cruisers of modern construction, six unprotected cruisers, one torpedo gunboat, and ten composite or wooden gun vessels.

Among the protected cruisers is one of the fastest in the world, the Yoshino, credited with 23 knots, while four others have trial speeds of 18½ and 19 knots, and three a speed of 16 knots. They carry fine rifled guns, Krupp's, Armstrongs, or Canets. But besides these vessels, Japan has about a dozen captured from China. At Wei-Hai-Wei she took the armorclads Chen-Yuen, Tai-Yuen, and Ping-Yuen, the last defender, the protected cruiser Kwang

Ying, and six gunboats of the Alpha Beta class. Some of these vessels were greatly damaged, but those that can be repaired will prove effective additions to the strength of Japan.

Again, Japan has building in her own domains three fine protected cruisers, one of which, the Suma, launched at Yodosuka, is to have a speed of twenty knots, and in England two great battle ships, ranking among the first-class battle ships of the world, one of which, the Fujiyama, will be launched this year. Taking all these resources together, the strength of the Japanese navy is apparent, and we may well suppose that a part of the indemnity to be paid by China will be used for making it stronger. Reference has been made to the cruisers built in Japan; in addition, sixteen torpedo boats have been constructed there, chiefly at Onohama, near Kobe. As to the aptitude of the people for naval work, Dr. Elgar made these statements:

"The Japanese were good seamen. They were active, hardy, courageous, and could stand privation. The navy was recruited from volunteers, who were trained, did their term of service, and were pensioned, somewhat after our system. If the supply of volunteers failed, conscription was had recourse to. The officers were trained more upon the American system. It was one of the most striking instances in the history of the world of the acquisition and assimilation of knowledge and methods, which we should have thought in Europe were altogether foreign to the genius of the people. Two of the fastest and most powerful of the cruisers that took part in the battle of the Yalu were built, engine, and equipped at the Japanese naval yard at Yokosuka; and it must be remembered that the naval squadrons were commanded, officered, and fought entirely by Japanese. The officers had all been trained in the best schools of naval warfare, and had raised the modern naval service of Japan to a high state of efficiency. Speaking as a naval constructor, and one acquainted with the principal ships on both sides which fought the battle of the Yalu, he should say that the battle was won by the good organization, discipline, training, and bravery of Japanese seamen, and the knowledge, skill, and determination of the commander and officers. It was a struggle between a highly organized and efficient naval service on the one hand and a very inferior one on the other, and the difference in the manner in which the ships were handled and fought appeared to have been sufficient to override all considerations of the relative qualities of the armament or of the ships themselves. He should think it very probable that if the Japanese had had Chinese fleet and the Chinese the Japanese fleet the ultimate result would have been the same."

We may fairly presume that, after her recent experience with European powers, which has caused her the loss of some fruits of her victory which China had conceded, Japan will not slacken her progress in naval development. She may even become one of the leading sea powers of the world.—N. Y. Sun.

The Way to Get Bimetallism.

The most sensible word on the bimetallic question which has come from a New York Democrat was given in an interview in yesterday's Post-Dispatch by Frederic K. Coudert, the legal representative of the French Government in this country.
Mr. Coudert advances two propositions of the first importance in determining the course of the United States regarding the free coinage of silver. He asserts that bimetallicism would be the greatest boon in finance the world has ever received. He further avers that the United States can force the nations of Europe to come to a bimetallic basis by undertaking the free coinage of silver. He says the bimetallic movement in Europe arises from the recognition of the fact that if no international agreement is reached the United States will do business on a silver basis without the help of Europe and adds:

The result would undoubtedly be financial revolution and loss to the United States, but it would be ruin to Europe. They cannot get along without us, while we can get along without them if worst comes to worst. They are just waking up to the fact, and the prudence of the financiers of England and the Continent will force the conclusion that silver must be recognized as a currency or they will be forced to recognize it.

Except as to the prediction of revolution and loss to the United States if free coinage is adopted Mr. Coudert has substantially expressed the views of bimetallicists and accurately portrayed the situation. In asserting that bimetallicism would be the greatest financial boon the world ever received and that Europe will be forced to go to a bimetallic basis whenever the United States remonetizes silver he places himself on the same platform with the bimetallicists. He knocks out the gold monometallists and the international bimetallicists at one blow.
To seek the great boon of bimetal-

A Problem to Be Solved.

There is a new machine in the South which contains greater possibilities than any of the many labor-saving inventions which have been brought into the work of producing within the past quarter of a century.
It is a cotton picking machine which is now at work in many of the Southern fields, and with such success that its general introduction can apparently be postponed but a few years. The first cost is large, but the tremendous saving in labor cost effected by its operation is such an item in the total cost of harvesting a crop that the item of the first cost becomes insignificant by comparison to men who propose to go into cotton raising on a large scale.
It is evident that this machine will work along lines of land consolidation, making a few large planters the owners or cultivators of practically all the best cotton lands of the South. The small growers will gradually retire, going into the towns, which will increase in number, size and importance in that section, as manufacturing, and particularly cotton cloth manufacturing, increases in magnitude.
But a more serious question to arise out of the changed situation is what is to become of the negro field hand? Is he, too, to drift into the towns and cities, there to add to the idle and vicious population?
When the cotton field is closed to the mass of negro laborers in the South an element of danger is created. Every great labor saving machine turns men out of employment, but in the cases of whites such temporary deprivation usually results in ultimate bettering of their condition. They adapt themselves to new circumstances. The negro field hand may be able to do this and he may not be. The problem is one to be solved.—St. Louis Republic.

Notice.

During the absence of the undersigned, all Insurance and other matters pertaining to my business will be looked after by Mrs. H. M. Reese. Patrons will please give themselves accordingly.
JOS. A. ZWART.
Ironton, Mo., May 22, 1895.

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