Historical Society

BOZEMAN AVANT COURIER.

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THE AVANT COURIER,

Published Every Friday,

AT BOZEMAN, GALLATIN COUNTY, M. T.

JOSEPH WRIGHT,

Publisher and Proprietor.

TERMS:

INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

One year	$5 00
Six months	3 00
Three months	2 00

ADVERTISING RATES:

SPACE.	1 Card.	1 Inch.	2 Inches.	3 Inches.	¼ Column.	½ Column.	1 Column.
1 Time	$ 2	$ 3	$ 5	$ 7	$10	$ 20	$ 30
2 Times	3	5	6	10	15	25	40
3 Times	4	6	8	12	17	30	47
1 Month	5	8	12	18	25	45	65
2 Months	6	10	12	8	30	45	65
3 Months	7	12	15	25	40	60	80
6 Months	9	15	20	35	50	80	120
1 Year	16	25	40	55	75	120	210

Local notices 15 cents per line for the first insertion and 10 cents for each additional insertion.

☞ Transient advertisements must be paid for in advance, and all Job Printing when the work is delivered.

NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's—or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The courts have decided that refusing to take the newspapers or periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

REGULATING LEGAL PUBLICATIONS.

AN ACT to amend an Act entitled, "An Act to provide for and regulate the rates of charges for the publication of legal documents," approved January 9th, 1872.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Montana:

SECTION 1. Publishers of newspapers in this Territory shall be entitled to the following fees for publication of all legal advertisements: For the first insertion of each folio of one hundred words, three dollars; for each subsequent insertion, two dollars.

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SEC. 1. The printer of such legal advertisements shall be entitled to payment of his full fees before being required to furnish a certificate of the publication.

Approved, December 28, 1871.

DIRECTORY OF FEDERAL OFFICERS OF MONTANA.

OFFICE.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Governor	BENJ. F. POTTS	Virginia City
Secretary	J. E. CALLAWAY	"
Chief Justice	D. S. WADE	Helena
Associate Justices	F. G. SCRVIS	Virginia City
" "	HIRAM KNOWLES	Deer Lodge
U. S. Dist. Att'y.	M. C. PAGE	Rederburg
Surveyor General	JOHN E. BLAINE	Helena
Register of Lands	SOL. STAR	Helena
Receiver "	W. C. CHILDS	Helena
U. S. Marshal	WM. F. WHEELER	Helena
Collector Int. Rev	T. P. FULLER	Helena
Collector Customs	T. A. CUMMINGS	Helena
U. S. Examining Surgeons	THOMAS REECE	Helena
	CHAS MCMASHROD	Bozeman
	J. H. MCKEE	Missoula
U.S Commissioner	JOHN POTTER	Hamilton

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICERS.

Probate Judge ..... H. N. MAGUIRE

Board of County Commissioners ..... P. G. DUKE, P. W. MCADOW, G. W. WAKEFIELD

Sheriff ..... C. L. CLARK

Deputy Sheriff ..... J. B. FINCH

Clerk and Recorder ..... ANCH GRAHAM

Treasurer ..... WM. H. BAILEY

Superintendent Public Instruction ..... F. L. STONE

Surveyor ..... S. M. READ

Coroner ..... A. D. MCPHERSON

Assessors, First District ..... GEO. W. DICKSON; Second District ..... ROBERT BELLER

Times and Places for Holding Courts in the Territory of Montana.

SUPREME COURT.

At Virginia City, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS.

First District—At Virginia City, first Monday in April, and second Monday in September.

Second District—At Lodge, second Monday in April, first Monday in September, and first Monday in December.

Third District—At Helena, first Monday in March first Monday in June, and fourth Monday in November.

TERRITORIAL COURTS.

First District—In Madison County, at Virginia City, first Monday in April, second Monday in September.

In Gallatin County, at Bozeman, 2d Monday in March and fourth Monday in October.

In Jefferson County, at Radersburg, third Monday in February, firs Monday in October.

Second District—Deer Lodge County, at Deer Lodge City, second Monday in April, first Monday in September, and first Monday in December.

In Missoula County, at Missoula, fourth Monday in June and second Monday in November.

In Beaver Head County, Bannack, first Monday in June, and second Monday in October.

Third District—In Lewis and Clark County, at Helena, first Monday in March, first Monday in June, and first Monday in November.

In Meagher County, fourth Monday in May and third Monday in October.

A. F. & A. M.

Stated communications of Gallatin Lodge No. 6 A F & A M. held at their hall on the first Saturday evening on or before the full moon of each month.

Visiting brethren are cordially invited to attend.

THOS. R. EDWARDS, W. M.

S. P. MENEFEE, Sec.

METROPOLITAN HOTEL,

JOHN BLUM, PROPRIETOR,

Main Street,

BOZEMAN, MONTANA.

HAVING assumed full control of this elegant and

Commodious Brick Hotel,

would respectfully inform the local and traveling public that it will be my constant aim to make the house

First-Class in all its Appointments.

No expense will be spared to make our guests comfortable. The house is comparatively new, and furnished throughout in the best style.

Terms Reasonable.

All Stages arriving in Bozeman stop at the Metropolitan Hotel. JOHN BLUM.

A PRAYER TO ST. VALENTINE.

Come, happy saint of olden time,
And grace the festal day!
Teach my lips some golden rhyme—
Some magic roundelay,
Through which my soul can whisper all
Her heart can scarce divine;
And let not quite unheeded fall
My simple Valentine!

Ah, weary doubts that press and chide?
Ah, cruel fear that mock!
How long shall I still stand beside
Her heart's shut door and knock?
Time flies, hope dies, the seasons wane—
Ah, join thy voice to mine,
So shall I plead not all in vain,
Thou kind Saint Valentine!

Bend o'er her head blue skies of peace,
Hang out thy brightest star,
To light her path till all storms cease
In that sweet home afar.
And wheresoe'ver her steps may stray,
Still keep Love's water benign;
And be by night and be by day
Her constant Valentine!

And, ah, dear saint, when none is by,
And she alone can hear,
On silken sandals steal thou nigh,
And whisper in her ear;
Speak but one word, breathe just one name.
But let that name be mine,
That she may know me still the same—
Her faithful Valentine!

A WOMAN'S ETERNITY.

"I will love you for ever, through eternity."

It is ten years since these words, earnestly spoken and sealed with a passionate kiss, sent a thrill of rapture to my heart. Then came a happy parting, which was to end in a few weeks; and I went to my lodgings with the words "for ever, through eternity" vibrating in my thoughts and mingling with my dreams through all the night.

Ten years ago, this very night, since that parting, so full of happiness and sweet anticipation; and to-night we have taken another farewell; ah, so unlike the first! I had thought that love and romance were dead words to me; but this meeting and farewell have brought them to life again only to die anew; and, sitting here alone in my old bachelor's quarters, I feel impelled to write out the two chapters of a love story which had so strange a beginning and ending.

Ten years ago, I was present at my cousin Rosa's wedding. She was the daughter of a wealthy Hungarian count, whose magnificent chateau was crowded on that occasion with aristocratic guests from near and far. It was an old romantic structure of immense size, and surrounded by a lovely park. Gay lanterns hung in the trees, and flambeaux sent a wavering illumination along the winding roads and pathways. One could imagine himself gazing upon a scene of fairy land. Distant music from various parts of the grounds lent an additional charm, while within the grand salons hundreds of merry feet kept time to merry notes. Late in the evening, my happy cousin came running up to me exclaiming, "give me your arm Fredrich, and I will introduce you to a young lady with whom you would wish to dance all the rest of your life!"

My cousin Rosa was beautiful; but the lady to whom she led me was the most beautiful and bewitching creature I had ever beheld. Even after ten years, I think so still. She was not more than seventeen, slight in stature and graceful as a fairy queen. Her golden hair, in which natural flowers were daintly interwoven, fell in long ringlets on her plump, white shoulders. Elegant bracelets of gold and precious stones glittered on her round white arms, and a rich pearl, necklace was clasped about her throat. I think I must have drank too much wine that evening; for my brain seemed on fire; and when I led the beautiful girl out to dance, she had to reprove me, in a laughing way, for my awkwardness.

"How awkward and confused you are! Don't you see you have trodden on your cousin Rosa's dress and nearly torn it off?"

The sight of the torn skirt brought me at once to my senses, and after stammering out some kind of apology, which my fair cousin received with a gracious smile, I again led my partner in the mazes of the waltz.

"Do you know the legend of Achmet and the beautiful Suleika?" I asked.

"No, I do not; but why do you ask?"

"If you did, you would possess the key to my absent-mindedness and confusion just now."

"Tell me the story!" she replied, with startling abruptness.

"A ball-room is hardly the place for story-telling, but I will gratify your curiosity if you care to listen."

"Do so!" she answered in almost peremptory terms.

"Well, then; the Caliph of Bagdad, once upon a time, had a beautiful wife, the favorite among all the women of his harem. Her chief beauty was her magnificent black hair, which fell in luxurious clusters to her very feet. Besides this, her form was as graceful and sylph-like; her face and eyes as beautiful as your own."

"Thank you for the compliment."

"It was not meant as a compliment, but only to give you an idea of Suleika's charms."

"Well, let me hear the rest."

"It was believed in Bagdad that every one who caught a glimpse of the beautiful Suleika fell hopelessly in love with her, and spent the rest of his days in bemoaning the cruel fate that shut him out of the possession of a creature so rarely endowed with captivating charms and graces; and one day, Achmet, the trusted counsellor of the caliph, discovered to his cost that this belief was no idle myth. As he was accustomed to accompany the caliph everywhere, he chanced one morning to catch sight of Suleika from a little distance, as she walked in the garden attended by her maids. Her raven-black hair interwoven with glittering pearls, her graceful figure, but slightly concealed by the flowing white robe which was fastened at the waist by a girdle of diamonds, and above all her beautiful face."

"In short," interrupted my fair partner, "it was a desperate case of love at first sight."

"Rightly guessed," I answered. "Of course he knew that it was idle to dream of possession; but he prayed day and night to Allah and the Prophet that he might for one moment clasp her in his arms, press one burning kiss upon her lips, and then forget that he had ever gazed upon such dangerous charms. One day, not long after that fatal sight, Achmet lay in the caliph's garden, under a lofty palm-tree. The fragrance of millions of flowers, the silvery splash of fountains and the low twittering of birds, charmed his senses into sleep; and in the gardens of the land of dreams he walked hand in hand with Suleika. Suddenly he awoke, and there close beside him stood—"

"Cousin Freidrich!" exclaimed Rosa, suddenly breaking into my story, "are you going to keep possession of Margaret the whole evening? See, every body in the room is wondering why you have ceased dancing and settled into a corner by yourselves. Come, Margaret, I will find a more lively partner for you." Without another word she drew the girl's arm within her own and whisked her away, giving her only time to say in a low tone, and with a tender glance, "you will finish the legend for me before the evening is over." I bowed, and she vanished among the throng of guests.

An hour later—it seemed many hours to me—I stood alone on the balcony, wondering at myself and hardly able to decide whether I had not been the victim of a strange dream or some illusion of the senses, when a sweet voice close beside me recalled my wandering thoughts.

"I began to fear I should lose the end of your story."

"Ah, how amiable of you to seek me out again. Is not this a lovely scene? I was just thinking that your presence only was wanting to make it perfect."

"Flatter! Well, do I bring perfection? But where were we in our story? Ah, I remember—Achmet had awakened, and—"

"Right! Achmet awoke from his dream, and there, close beside him stood Suleika. Bewildered by her dazzling beauty he sank at her feet and pressed a passionate kiss upon her hand. Instead of calling her slaves and attendants to punish the daring offender, as he expected—she only smiled upon him. This gave him courage to say, "Lady will I leave your presence forever, and seek refuge in the wilds in the most distant mountains of the East; but I beg of your grace to permit me one embrace and one kiss upon your lips."

"And Suleika granted his petition?" asked Margaret, in a low voice and averted glance.

"He embraced her—"

"Embraced her?"

"As my arm embraced you in the waltz—as I now embrace you"—

"Go on," whispered Margaret, as I paused an instant alarmed at my own temerity.

"And he pressed his lips to hers, as—

"As?"

"As I now press mine to yours, my own beautiful Suleika."

"Ah!"

"But the instant he had taken the embrace and kiss, he sank lifeless to the ground, killed by the rapture of the moment."

We sat silent for a short time. Margaret made no effort to escape from my embrace, and I found courage to say: "Margaret, I love you no less than Achmet loved Suleika. I know not why his fate was not also mine; but this I do know, that my heart will always be yours. To the latest day of my life it will beat for you alone. Margaret do you love me?"

"I love you," was the whispered answer.

And again our lips touched, and again I folded her to my heart in close embrace. "I shall never forget this sweet hour, when you became my own," I whispered, kissing her hand.

Fresh music from the dancing hall recalled me to the world we had left.

"They will miss us," said Margaret. "My love, we must part for a little while."

"It is true, we must. But give me one kiss more, my Margaret."

"There! Oh, Friedrich, I, too, am yours forever, as you are mine. I will love you forever—through eternity!"

With these words she released herself from my embrace, and casting back one loving glance, and throwing me a pouting kiss, she vanished thro' the doorway, and mingled with the other guests. I remained behind with her image in my heart.

Ten years have passed since that wedding festival; and to-night she was again my partner, in a quadrille at a court ball. She was still beautiful; her eyes were lustrous as when they first bewitched me, and she was dressed like a princess. Her husband, a stupid, good-natured Englishman, sat in a window niche and yawned away the time. I had not seen her since we parted in the balcony. The morning after that happy evening, her parents, to whom our secret had been revealed by an eave's-dropping maid, hurried her off to a country seat in Southern Hungary, where they kept her secluded until her "silly romance," as they called it, was outgrown, and she was ready to marry the man they had selected to be her husband. He was much older than she, very rich, and was good-natured and indulgent. She endured him, it was said, and spent his money with a lavish hand. This was all he asked. He doted on her, and was pleased to have her excite admiration. The most pointed attention never made him jealous or disagreeable.

In a pause in the dance, I remarked that she wore a pearl necklace; and that circumstances brought the scenes of ten years ago vividly before my mind, and I wondered if any tender remembrance still lingered in her heart.

"The pearl necklace becomes you well, Madame."

"Ah," she replied with a courteous smile; "my husband made the same remark when we entered the ball-room, and the Chevalier de Chataigne also expressed the same opinion."

"Do you remember the, Madame, the wedding ball at which we danced together, ten years ago, when as now you wore a pearl necklace, and when I told you the story of Achmet and Suleika?"

"Ten years is long enough to make one forget such love-lorn fancies; and since my marriage I have ceased to think of such things. I found it wiser to forget them."

"Forget the holiest emotions of the heart, by which you were once swayed as by a tempest?"

Heaven only knows what I might have said in my sudden heat and indignation, had she not calmly interrupted the torrent of my words.

"Can you still rave about young love? I thought you were a man of the world and above such folly."

The quadrille ended. She extended her hand, and then with a gracious gesture of dismissal, said gently, "Our interview is over. I am engaged to the Chevalier de Chataigne for the next dance."

I led her to seat, and gave way to the Chevalier. How sweetly she chatted to the handsome Frenchman, and rewarded his empty compliments with gracious smiles, that meant as little! And this was the Margaret, whose image I had worn in my heart so many years, for the sake of whose memory I had shut my heart against all other love. What was it she had said? "I will love you forever—through eternity?"

That was a short forever—a woman's eternity!—*E. B. L., in the Aldine.*

CHANG AND ENG.

For more than a half century the Siamese Twins have attracted the attention of scientific men of the medical profession in Europe and America, and their death which took place at their residence in Surrey county, N. C., on Saturday last, is calculated to revive, in some measure at least, the curiosity of the public with regard to the world-wide celebrities. Their names where Chang and Eng. They were born May, 1811, in a small village of Siam, called Maklong, of Chinese parents. They were taken from Siam April 1, 1829, by Captain Coffin, of the American ship Sachem, and for several years were extensively exhibited in the principal cities of Europe and America. The substance by which they were connected was a mass two inches long at its upper edge, and about four at the lower. In taking hold of this cord no pulsation could be discovered; but if touched in the center, the touch was equally felt by both; at half an inch from the center it was felt by but one. These twin brothers were about five feet two inches high and well formed, with feelings warm and affectionate towards each other. They never entered into conversation with each other beyond a simple remark, and never engaged in separate conversation with others. In their movements and thoughts perfect unanimity was observed, and the conclusion was arrived at that they were actuated by one mind. They were both married and each had a family of children. Chang was sick only a short time previous to his death, and it is quite possible if Eng had been less excited by the event that his life could have been prolonged, but he became immediately frantic, and in two hours from the death of Chang, Eng's death occurred, and the Siamese Twins remained united.

THE Memphis Avalanche quotes a list of about twenty candidates for Governor of Tennessee, and adds that there are "perhaps a few more laid out in the bushes, to be brought forward in an emergency," but declines to suggest their names for less than ten dollars per head.

STAND BY THE LOCAL PRESS.

AN ARTICLE THE PEOPLE SHOULD READ, STUDY AND ADOPT.

[From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.]

The season having arrived in which people throughout the country are deliberating upon the allowance of reading matter they can afford for the year to come, the Inter-Ocean desires to offer its word of advice on that subject. The best indication of thrift, intelligence and public spirit of any community is evidenced to the outside world by the well-supported, neatly printed, sprightly and carefully edited local journals. There are many such on our exchange list, and we would like to name several that it is always a pleasure for us to read, except for the fact that such distinctions would seem invidious. In no way, through no other conceivable channel, can the wants, aspirations or consequences of any locality or community become so well known to the world at large, as through its own home papers. If the reader will call to mind any inland town near his residence, which enjoys a fine reputation all over the land, he will find that such a place is favored with an excellent county paper, the editor of which is wide-awake and alive to all its interests, jealous in protecting its good name and untiring in his efforts to promote its welfare. Such papers and such men deserve the highest rewards and most thorough appreciation at the hands of the people for whom they are performing so useful and noble a mission. This being true—and no one will dispute the premise—it follows that the first duty of the people in the interior is, to subscribe and pay for their own home paper before looking abroad for more reading matter of any kind. Do not put off paying for the local paper, or seek to make it a matter of barter, but make glad the heart of the editor and publisher, by paying him in the only medium which will buy paper and labor. This religious duty performed, the Inter-Ocean will not only commend your judgment, but be glad to continue your name upon its books, promising you everything that you can expect from a journal devoted to all the general topics of the times.—But we never solicit patronage, nor seek in any manner to advance our interests to the disadvantage of the local press, for it fills a measure of the highest usefulness outside of our field of labor, and with which we have neither the disposition nor the ability to compete. No moneys should be transmitted to the city papers until these faithful conservators of home interests are secured and paid for during the year 1874. Having served a long apprenticeship in the business of country journalism, we feel that we have an experience and appreciation of its merits and usefulness, which justifies us in this emphatic expression in its behalf.

THE new party in Iowa have called a State convention to meet in Des Moines, February 25th, to prepare for the campaign of 1874. The Republican papers do not regret it, but hope it may have a good effect on the legislation of Congress. The Burlington Hawkeye, for example, says: "The people care more for principles than for party. They were never more wide awake to what is occurring around them than at this present moment. A multitude of voters who have stood by and been part of the Republican party from the day of its birth until now, have reached the conclusion that if that party is to be run by such men as Ben. Butler and Matt. Carpenter, the sooner it goes down the better.

A BANK, conducted on a novel system, has recently been established in London, known as the "Check Bank." Persons may deposit various sums in the bank, for instance, fifty dollars, with an addition of twenty-five cents as a fee. In return they receive a packet of checks, each for five dollars, ten dollars or larger sums, as they desire, the checks issued being equal to the amount deposited. These checks are readily taken in payment, and are found very handy for the transmission of small sums by mail. No references are needed in opening an account with the bank, and it is impossible to overdraw, because the checks issued are only for the amount of the deposit, nor can they be drawn for a larger or smaller amount than that for which they are stamped.

ONE of the finest specimens of physical developments we have seen for a great while is Hugh LaRue, the son of Hon. H. W. LaRue, member of the House from Louisville. He was fifteen years old on the 8th day of January, and yet is six feet one inch in height, and weighs 178 pounds. His maturity is so well proportioned to his growth, that he has the appearance, as well as the stature of a man, and may well stand as a representative specimen of Kentucky growth.—*Frankfort Yeoman.*

WHEN President Grant promised some years ago that the appointments to Territorial offices would be made as far as possible from citizens of the Territories, people out there thought he meant it. And now Montana is wondering who its new Surveyor-General is. His name is Smith and that is all they know about him.—*Exchange.*

CHUCKLERS.

Broken spirits—a brandy smash.

The sentinel who did not sleep on his watch had left it at the pawn-brokers.

Why is a beefsteak like a locomotive? It's not much account without its tender.

Here is the newest floral sentiment: "If you wish for heart's ease, don't look to mari-gold."

Don't strain your voice scolding your children. The little wretches won't appreciate your sacrifice.

What is the difference between a man's assertion and a drunkard's departure? One is an ipse dixit, the other a tipsy exit.

An exchange says: "Keep an eye out for the early resumption of payment." Both our eyes are already out looking for it, and so are our elbows.

At a late conference session a clergyman gave a reason why the Baptist Church is like a beaver's hut: "There is only one entrance to it, and that is under water."

In a California obituary it is stated that "The deceased was of a romanic nature. He placed the breech of his gun in the fire, and looking down the muzzle, departed hence instaneously."

Lord ——'s bailiff having been ordered by Lady —— to procure a sow of a breed and size she particularly described to him, came one day into the dining room, when full of great company, proclaiming, with a burst of joy he could not suppress: "I have been at Royston fair, my lady, and got a sow exactly of your ladyship's breed and size,"

TROUBLES OF A PRESIDENT.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE DIFFICULTY.

Major Balus Bales, Chief of the Executive "Hoss Buro," gives to the Louisville Ledger the following:

I never knowed what rale trouble is until I got into this bizness. It was only last Sunday when the President and me was sittin in my Buro, jest over the sorel filley's stall a smokin' a quiet segar, when, says the President to me, says he, "Bales what in the h—ll is the matter with the Senit? What do you 'spose they've got agin me. I offered 'em Williams, who, in my judgment, is chock full of law, that is to say, Fish tells me that Williams don't know anything but law; well, I offered them Williams for a Chief Justice, and after a terrible amount of bother, they would let into him, proved all manner of things agin him and then asked me to take him out of the ring! Well, not bein' disposed to be particular, out I drawed him, and then sent in Mr. Cushin'—a man that knows everything! Why, Balus, Cushin' told me one day that he could spell 'baker' in nine languages! Think of that Balus, nine several and distinct tungs—all in one man, and yet they ain't satisfied! Morton and that d—d Dutchman, Shirtz, are raisin' peticklar h—ll over Cushin' and the fust thing you know, I 'spose I'll have to draw him out! The truth is, Balus, that Senit i'll get a set-back yet, if it keeps on. Ben Butler says it's contumashus, and he knows. One thing I do know, and that is, contumashus or not contumashus, that Senit is d—d hard to please. First, I send 'em a man that don't know anything but law, and they kick him; then I send 'em a man that knows everything but law, and still they ain't agreeable. What's a man to do, Balus?"

Says I, "President I've hearn of a paralel case. At the meeting of the old Baptist Association at the Corners last summer, Selushus Addam and Micajah Marston were presented for the ministry. Salushus was a talkin man, his voice were loud and 'wakenin'—he was what Bije Moore called 'a walkin' rtnger,' but he were not to say much given to prayer—he were worldly minded, 'specially in the matter of a hoss-swap, and only two Sundays before, he had put off a blind mar' on the moderator of the association, getting a pretty fine geldin' and a ten dollar greenback to boot! Wall, Micajah had what old Sister Simpson called the 'gift of prayer.' Start Micajah and with his squelin', squeakin', onnatral voice, he'd wrastel with the Lord for a solid hour, but he mixed matters up so, and asked fur so many things that old Parson Peeley used to say, 'Micajah would never make a movin' prayer, because the Lord would never be able to tell what he wanted.' So when the time come for the committee to report on the two cases, they gave it agin both, because, they said, while Selushus 'had the voice, he lacked the divine flatus'—them's the exact words—as fur Micajah, he was a good man, but was entirely too scatterin' even to bring the Master to a correct understandin' of his case—thar's the trouble with your men, I'm afeard."

COULD anything be neater than the old darkey's reply to a beautiful young lady whom he offered to lift over a gutter, and who insisted that she was too heavy? "Lor Missus," said he, "I's used to liftin' barrels of sugar."

WAS IT A MIRAGE?

A NEW THEORY OF THE CAUSE OF THE VILLE DU HAVRE DISASTER.

The New York Daily Bulletin publishes the following interview, which is curious, if nothing else:

The captain of the steamship Java, which arrived at this port on the 19th of this month, gives the following as his opinion as to the cause of the late disaster to the steamer Ville du Havre, viz: That *fata morgana* deceived the crew, and consequently the passengers met their most deplorable fate by an optical illusion called mirage, or, in other Northern languages, *kimmung*. Mirage, as most of our readers are aware, is a kind of optical illusion arising from an unequal refraction in the lower strata of the atmosphere, and causing remote objects to be seen double, as if reflected in a mirror, or to appear as if suspended in the air. The indistinct and magnified appearance of objects seen in particular states of the atmosphere is a species of mirage. The mirage is frequently seen in the deserts of Prussia, Tartary, in Lower Egypt, and also on the plains of Mexico and in other places, whereof the French physicist Biot, in his "Astronomic Physicale," vol. I., gives very interesting details. The mirage, for instance, presents to the caravan of weary, exhausted and thirsty wanderers the appearance of water, which induces them and, more so, their fatigued camels and parched horses, to hasten in the direction of the vision in order to get the means of quenching their thirst. They find, alas! too late, that only an optical illusion had led them astray, and are doubly disappointed at last. In those deserts generally the objects themselves are seen, besides a reversed image of them in the air. On the high seas, however, often three images can be observed, one of the object itself, in a direct way and in an upright position; next, one in the water reversed and caused by its mirror-like surface; and thirdly, a reflected one of the former, but in an upright position. "Fata Morgana" is a pretended fairy, which, by the superstitious Sicilian fishermen, is held in great dread for the fatal consequences she throws upon them by leading them astray through her fictitious objects. She brings forth her mirages rising from the sea by the water-evaporating heat of the sun, and they are the more deceptive, as they originate during serene, warm and quiet weather.—They gradually transform to strange likenesses of ships, towers, castles, and so forth, and deceive even the scientist. By the motion of the water and that of the air those insubstantial pictures receive motion themselves, and thus get the magical appearance which is usually the case with those apparitions of the Fata Morgana peculiar to the Sicilian coast, near the Strait of Messina.

A distinguished passenger of the Java, Mr. Moses L. Beach, (the former proprietor of the Sun) asserts that he witnessed some such apparition—that is to say, in looking from one part of the ship he at one and the same time observed a heavy rain pouring down; while looking immediately afterward, at the phenomonon, from another part of the same vessel, he did not perceive the least particle of the said occurrence, and could not observe even a drop of rain. The idea is, then, that the supposed apparitional place of the sailing vessel Eoch Earn, (resulting from the observations made from a different part of the Ville du Havre from that which would have shown the true position of the former) led to the fatal belief that the distance between the two was greater than it really was, and so produced the collision. The conclusion, therefore, is arrived at that, for the avoidance of similar collisions in future, observations—especially when the atmosphere is unusually loaded with the watery vapor which bring forth those reflected images—ought to be made from two different points, and these as wide apart as possible. It may be a fancy that the awful disaster alluded to was the product of an optical illusion, but in seeking to arrive at the real cause of the catastrophe fancies as well as facts, as aids to investigation, may not unreasonably be taken into account.

THE Japanese exhibit a decided preference for the physician of the white man. John Chinaman, on the other hand, entertains a horror of the "Melican doctor." Small-pox exists to a great extent among the Chinese, and rather than submit to the proper treatment they resort to the nostrums of any chance pig-tail who may be around. The San Francisco Bulletin relates a case of a lawyer's servant who fell sick and went home. On investigation the disease turned out to be small-pox. Upon this information the health officer traced Charley's whereabouts, and discovered him covered up in blankets, stowed away in a swinging loft in a third story, and in the room where a number of Chinese were at work with sewing machines. Another instance of how the disease may be spread. The clothes manufactured by these Chinamen are, of course, worn eventually by some persons, and in all probability carry infection with them. The most stringent measures, with punishment in wilful cases of neglect of sanitary law, sometimes fail to keep these pests in sight.