

THE AVANT COURIER.

A Young Lady Relates Her Experience With the Burglars.

[Williamsport (Penn.) Gazette.] Miss Mattie C. White, of this, who was visiting in the family of Mr. John Whittlesey, the cashier of the Northampton Bank, writes an account of her experience with the burglars. She says:

About twelve o'clock, or a little after, five burglars entered our peaceful home with all the violence that we have often had pictured to us through the papers, and such as is hard to believe, and can only be realized through experience, such as we have now had. The first intruder Laura had of what was going on, over the setting room, and he had a dark lantern in his hand, and immediately sprang to their beds, while both screamed. They were then held by their throats, two men being there, and at once handcuffed and held down.

I had been asleep over ten minutes, for I heard the town clock strike twelve, and at half-past twelve we were all under their entire subjection there being a man or two in my chamber at once. The first I knew a man entered my room, and the dark lantern awakened me, I suppose. I screamed, thinking it was John, and that the house was on fire, and sprang out of bed. He then put me back and choked me, and then told me he would treat me kindly if I would keep perfectly quiet. He said I was caught. "You are all caught, and you may as well give up," I begged him to let me lie there, but he said, "No," and he pulled me up and led me into the hall and then handcuffed me. He then took me into Laura's room - no, not yet. After getting me into the hall he said I would take cold without more clothing, and I told him I would take my death of cold that way, and he led me back into my room, when I obtained more clothing, and he took me with them. Very shortly after Maria, Aunt Hattie and her husband walked into the same room, and the girl was brought in with us. After they had got us all in that room they made us get up separately and dress.

Of course we were rigged in each other's clothing, and some were half dressed. They kept hurrying us up, and we were wonderfully possessed. I was very calm, and acted accordingly. They opened L's bureau drawer and took out her handsome velvet cloak and handed it to her, saying, "I guess this is what you want." She put that on with her Balmoral skirt, and then I was fixed up, and they fell short of handcuffs.

Then Laura and I were joined by one handcuff, and they took us off into the front room and put us into the bed, and then tied our hands and feet with leather straps, buckled as tight as possible. Then they took heavy ropes and slipped through these, and brought the rope under the bed, and fastened it with extra ropes besides. They served us all this way. They treated John cruelly; also, Aunt Hattie. The last operation was to gag us with rubber bags. John was blindfolded and placed in another position. They then dragged him in the lower bedroom and he was almost dead when found.

Laura and I shrieked ourselves first by the greatest effort, and we dragged ourselves, bed and all, to the window, about seven o'clock in the morning, and with one hand free opened the window and alarmed the neighborhood. We had to have our handcuffs filed apart, and it was about nine o'clock when Laura and I were separated. We spoke alive and well, only that we are scratched and bruised, and John's chest is black and blue. They held a pistol at his head after they got him in the bedroom, when they demanded the keys and combination. They did not touch the silver, but took John's watch and chain. Laura grabbed hers and threw it under the bureau, and they missed it.

Shall we Undergo Dissection?

To yield up our lives for the advancement of science is something that few of us would be willing to do, but to yield our bodies as a sacrifice on the altar of truth and knowledge, after we no longer have any use for them, is not a very hard thing; and therefore we are not surprised to read that a society has been formed in Paris, the members of which bind themselves, by a special testamentary disposition, not to be interred after death. Their bodies are to be delivered to the dissecting rooms of the various medical schools for dissection.

The cremation fever of 1873-4, accomplished something in the way of making people more indifferent to the disposition of this earthly tabernacle when life has fled. There were thousands of people who had firmly resolved that, if the projected cremation societies had their furthest success in operation, they would "give their bodies to be burned." The cremation cry is smoldering, the cremation corporations have turned to smoke and vanished in thin air, the gables will not take our carcasses, and what are reformers to do? They are now offered the expedient of our Paris friends, who invite them to throw themselves on the dissecting tables, and be of some use to the world after they are dead, if they never have been before. We are not afraid that the whole world will follow this example, and flood the market with useless corpses. There will still remain those who desire an old-fashioned burial. The scarcity of subjects in many countries at the present time, the attendant necessity of working on those in an advanced stage of decay, and the premium offered in some localities to body snatchers are a few of the reasons that may be advanced in favor of the formation of mutual dissecting societies. One of the great objections urged on moral ground against cremation, that it would shield crime by destroying its chief witness, does not apply to dissection. The first duty of the student into whose hands the body fell, would be to determine beyond a doubt, the cause of death. If this fact alone did not deter the prisoner or malpractitioner from his nefarious work, it would at least have the effect of bringing to light many crimes which are now hidden without any suspicion being aroused. It might even prove a protection to a man's life to be known as a member of a mutual dissecting club. -Scientific American.

How to Feed Poultry.

Barn-yard fowls thrive best on a variety of food, and resemble swine in their omnivorous propensity. They readily devour nearly all kinds of grain and most kinds of fresh meat. The grains best adapted and generally used in feeding poultry are corn, wheat, oats and buckwheat. When these are given separately they should be alternated daily in order to insure variety. But the better way is to mix two or more kinds before feeding. Mashed potatoes are found to be a very nutritious and healthy food, and, when mixed with sour milk and bran, are well adapted to young fowls. In cold weather this combination may be fed warm once a day to all fowls, young and old, with excellent effect. Chopped onions are eagerly relished by most fowls, and may be given several times a week with great advantage. The same is true of meat scraps and clover hay. During winter either meat scraps or other equivalent animal food should be continually accessible. In addition to these hints on feeding poultry it is pertinent to remind farmers of the importance of warm quarters, cleanliness, ventilation and sunlight. When these points are all duly attended to there is no difficulty in having a good supply of eggs through the winter, or in making poultry profitable throughout the year.

Lieutenant Cameron declares that a canal only twenty or thirty miles long cut through a flat country, would connect the waters of the Congo, flowing into the Atlantic, with those of the Zambesi, which empties into the South Pacific Ocean. The whole interior of Africa would thus be thrown open to commerce, and a watery channel be made through the heart of the continent from sea to sea. The cost of cutting the canal would not be very large, if the natives favored it and performed the labor, but the Gallala Falls on the Congo and the Victoria Falls on the Zambesi would offer almost insurmountable obstacles to access from approach to the sea.

Young statesmen and others who are trying to acquire brain power through a fish diet, may as well cease to squander their meagre salaries on that kind of meat. Many hundreds of years ago the fishermen of the Persian Gulf lived entirely on dried fish, pounded and made into a species of cake, and these people are represented as the lowest of all the Babylonians. It is possible that they may have overdone the thing, and thus failed to experience the benefit that might have been derived from a more moderate diet, but the fact looks bad for the fish theory.

The calcium light used in theatres are made by burning hydrogen and oxygen gases, brought in contact at the point of flame. Should they get mixed in bulk, an explosion would be the result; and that happened on the stage of a Rochester theatre. The noise was loud, the place was instantly filled with dust, and the concussion extinguished all the gas lights. Of course somebody shout-d-'Fire.' The manager prevented a panic by quickly turning the orchestra to play a lively air. The people probably reasoned that such music was incompatible with danger. They were quieted by it, anyhow.

A little girl four-year old created a ripple by remarking to the teacher of her Sunday school class: "Our dog's dead. I bet the angels was scared when they saw him coming up the walk. He's cross to strangers." -[Home Sentinel.]

The best way to cure hard times is, to cheat the doctor, by being temperate; the lawyer, by keeping out of debt; the demagogue, by voting for honest men; and the poet, by being in-a-ustrious.

A boy baby in Buena Vista, Ga., has a mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother living in the same house with it. The happy father of the child is well provided with mothers-in-law.

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