Historical Society

# The Worthington Advance.

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## RECORD OF THE NEWS.

### Routes to the Black Hills.

The War-Department, with the approval of the Secretary of War, has issued a circular announcing for the information of all concerned, the following routes connecting the Missouri river with the Black Hills, in accordance with the late treaty with the Sioux Indians: Route No. 1.—Beginning at Bismarck, D. T., the present western terminus of the Northern Pacific railroad, it will cross the 103d meridian of longitude, the western boundary of the Sioux reservation, on the shortest and most practicable route to Deadwood City. Route No. 2—Beginning at a point on the right bank of the Missouri river, known as Fort Pierre, or at some point not over eighteen miles north of that place, it will cross the 103d meridian on the shortest and most practicable route to Deadwood City. Route No. 3.—Beginning at the Yankton crossing of the Missouri river, thence up the south bank of the Niobrara to the crossing opposite the mouth of Keyapaha river, thence up the latter stream to or near the sources of the Porcupine Creeks, whence it will cross the 103d meridian in the shortest and most practicable route to Custer City. All people who establish themselves at stations along these lines are notified that such establishing will not carry with it any proprietary right to the land, which will be subject to conditions which may be imposed by the Secretary of War. The western boundary of the Sioux reservation, as fixed by the recent treaty, is as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the 103d meridian of longitude with the northern boundary of the Nebraska; thence to its intersection with the south fork of the Cheyenne river, thence down said stream to its junction with the north fork of the Belle-fourche; thence up that fork to the 103d meridian, to the south branch of Cannon Ball or Cedar Creek.

### A Fearful Tragedy.

Geo. W. Jewett, Orville D. Jewett, A. Dean and Charles H. Jones were partners in the white lead business in New York. Orville was admitted to the firm of which his father, when alive, was a member, six or seven years ago, simply because of that relationship. He has been somewhat wild, and paid little attention to the business, which seems not to have been to his taste. He has been absent last winter yatching at Bermuda, and on his return recently expressed a desire to withdraw from the firm. His partners did not wish to make any change in the business, and opposed his retiring, but he persisted in his determination, and finally became so disagreeable that they conceded his request, and agreed to pay him two hundred thousand dollars for his interest. The necessary papers were drawn up and were to have been signed on the 5th. Young Jewett, probably crazed with liquor, came to the office on that day armed with a hand-grenade, a pistol and a dirk. Some angry words passed and he drew the grenade from his pocket and threw it on the floor. The explosion followed. The uncle was killed, his own legs broken, and he received three terrible wounds in the abdomen. He then drew a pistol and attempted to shoot himself through the head, but his aim was ineffectual. He died the same evening in the hospital. Mr. Dean was wounded but not dangerously.

### The Packard Party Indignant.

Packard's Senate has adopted a series of resolutions denouncing the pledges of Stanley Matthews and Charles Foster for the withdrawal of troops as a corrupt and dishonorable bargain; say they are slow to believe President Hayes a party to such bargain; call on the President to furnish the assistance necessary to protect against domestic violence and put down the Nicholls' insurrection; assert the legality of Packard's election cannot be questioned by any one who does not question the title of President Hayes; hat both titles are the same; recommend that Packard organize militia in every parish to meet any emergency which may arise in future. "If the President fails in his duty, which we not believe he will do, let the responsibility rest where it belongs." In conclusion the resolutions express unabated confidence in the patriotism, firmness, wisdom and forebearance of Governor Packard.

### Freight and Passenger Rates Advanced.

The general freight agents at Chicago, of the trunk lines have received a circular letter from their managers, stating the facts of the recent compromise in New York, and advising the adoption of the following rates, which the agents promptly adopted: Grain to New York, per 100 pounds, 30 cents; to Baltimore, 29 cents; Philadelphia, 28 cents; Boston, 35 cents. On fourth class freight, to New York, 35 cents; to Baltimore, 34 cents; Philadelphia, 33 cents; Boston, 40 cents. These rates take effect immediately. Agents are instructed to make no rebate whatever. The managers of the New York Central, Erie, Pennsylvania, and Baltimore & Ohio railroads agreed to advance rates for special limited tickets to the following figures: From New York to Cleveland $11; Detroit, $13; Chicago, $20; St. Louis, $24; Kansas City, $35; Indianapolis, $19; Cincinnati, $18; from Albany one dollar less than from New York, and from Boston by all routes one dollar more than from New York. The same figures will also be adopted on east bound.

### Flood at Bismarck.

A Bismarck telegram of the 4th says: The flood in the Missouri at this point growing out of the ice gorge was the higest ever known. Four persons—Ed. Reynolds, Mike Caldwell, Charles Taffe and Wm. Gould, were drowned or died from exposure Wm. McHenry and Thomas Simpson were badly frozen and may die. The bodies of Caldwell Gould and Reynolds have been recovered. Many others suffered much from exposure. George Peoples lay out one night with the Buford mail. Nine men of N. P. Clarke's were three days and two nights in a hay stack without food, and finally got off on the ice. Dan Stevenson lost forty head of cattle and horses, Clarke seven head of mules. The steamer Union was left about two hundred feet from the water, but was uninjured. The river is now within its banks and free from ice.

### Interview with A. Oakey Hall.

Louis J. Jennings, editor of the New York Times at the time of the great ring exposure, now London correspondent of the World, has interviewed A. Oakey Hall in London, and telegraphs as follows: We had a long interview, but he absolutely refuses to make any explanations whatever as to his motives in leaving New York under such extraordinary circumstances, and seems altogether at sea as to his future plans. He is evidently very much broken in mind and body, and says that he now only desires rest and peace. The general details of our conversation I am not at liberty to publish, but I venture to suggest that it is now only charity to an utterly broken man to say as little more about him as possible.

### The Bender Butcheries.

The Kansas City Journal of Commerce contains a sketch of the Bender butcheries in Sabetha county, Kansas, in 1873, for which the Kiefer family were recently arrested in Arkansas. It is positively stated that none of the Benders are now living; that the old man, wife, son and daughter were captured by a band of vigilants, and lynched while attempting to escape from Kansas. This statement is based on the confession of one of the party who participated in lynching. All the facts in the crse are said to have been in possession of Governor Osborne and Senator York, brother of Dr. York, one of the victims, ever since the occurrence.

### Mass Meeting at New Orleans.

The adherents of Nicholls held a great mass meeting at New Orleans on the 6th, at which from ten to fifteen thousand were present. Speeches were made and lengthy resolutions were adopted, the resolutions concluding as follows: We appeal to the President to stand firm to the just and constitutional policy of non-interference, and we entreat the people of the United States to sustain and encourage, and if need, by the mighty power of public opinion to enforce the adoption of that policy.

### No Railroad War.

The reports of a coming railroad war seem to have originated in an effort by the other trunk lines to bring the Baltimore & Ohio railroad to terms. The movement has been successful and the N. Y. Central, Erie, Pennsylvania, and Baltimore & Ohio roads have entered into a compact to keep the peace. The result will be an advance in grain transportation from Chicago to New York to 25 cents per 100 pounds and also an advance in passengers.

### Missing Persons.

During January, February and March sixty-four persons were reported missing in New York and forty-one in Brooklyn, making the total in the two cities of one hundred and five; of this number thirty-four were found through the agency of officers and detectives, thirty returned to their homes and gave explanations of their absence; one, A. Oakey Hall, has reappeared in England; eleven were found dead, having committed suicide or been murdered, and thirty are still missing.

### The Louisiana Commission.

President Hayes has invited the following gentlemen (and they have accepted) to to visit Louisiana and report upon the political situation in that state: Judge Charles B. Lawrence of Illinois, ex-Gov. J. C. Brown of Tennessee, Gen. Joseph M. Martin of Kentucky and Wayne McVeigh of Pennsylvania. It is understood that it will depend upon their report whether Packard or Nicholls is recognized.

### Rhode Island Election.

For the first time in three years the Republicans have elected the entire State ticket by the people. The plurality for Governor and Lieutenant Governor is about 500, and for the remainder of the State officers is two or three times as large. The Republicans have a large majority in both branches of the Assembly.

### Minister Washburne in Minnesota.

Hon. E. B. Washburne, Minister to France, is on a visit to his brother, W. D. Washburne, at Minneapolis. He was called upon by the Germans on the evening of the 5th, and an address of thanks was delivered for his action in behalf of the Germans during the late Franco-Prussian War. Mr. Washburne made a brief response.

### Latest Markets.

MILWAUKEE.

GRAIN—Wheat, No. 1 $1.47½; No 2 $1.37½; seller May 1.38¾; seller June $1.38¾; No. 3 $1.26¼. Corn, No. 2, 43c; new 41c. Oats, No. 2 in demand 31½c. Rye, No. 1, 70c. Barley quiet; No. 2, 74c.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork $14.26. Lard, prime steam, 9½c.

DRESSED HOGS—Firm; $6.00.

CHICAGO.

FLOUR—Extra western $5.25@6.75; Minnesota extra $6.70@7.25; Minnesota patent process $7.25@8.25; winter extra $6.00@8.00.

GRAIN—Wheat, No. 2 Chicago $1.28¼ cash; $1.33¼ seller May; $1.34 seller June; No. 3 Chicago $1.20@122½; rejected $1.01½@1.03½ Corn, 38¾c cash; 42¾c seller May; 43c seller June; rejected 39c. Oats, 30¾c cash; 34½c seller May; rejected 26½c. Barley, ‡6.

### The Public Debt.

Following is the statement showing the condition of the public debt at the close of March:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Six per cent. bonds | $ 934,877,050 | |
| Five per cent. bonds | 703,366,650 | |
| Four and a half per cent. bonds | 500,000,000 | |
| Total coin bonds | | $1,688,143,700 |
| Lawful money debt | $ 14,000,000 | |
| Matured debt | 6,062,390 | |
| Legal tenders | 362,721,296 | |
| Certificates of deposit | 35,155,000 | |
| Fractional currency | 23,440,512 | |
| Coin certificates | 48,279,400 | |
| Total without interest | | $ 469,596,208 |
| Total debt | | $2,177,802,298 |
| Total interest | | 27,029,977 |
| Cash in Treasury— | | |
| Coin | $ 86,818,285 | |
| Currency | 8,184,863 | |
| Special deposits held for redemption of certificates of deposit | 35,155,000 | |
| Total in Treasury | | $ 130,158,148 |
| Debt less cash in Treasury | | $2,088,781,143 |
| Decrease of debt during March | | 14,107,016 |
| Decrease of debt since June 30, 1876 | | 24,765,218 |
| Bonds issued to Pacific railroad companies, interest payable in lawful money—principal outstanding | | 64,623,512 |
| Interest accrued and not yet paid | | 969,352 |
| Interest paid by the transportation of mails, etc. | | 8,044,094 |
| Balance of interest paid by the United States | | 25,974,829 |

Appended to the statement is the following:

"The large reduction of the public debt, as shown by this statement arises from the cancellation and destruction of the balance of the 5 per cent. bonds of the funded loan of 1881, held in trust for the payment of awards made by the Court of Commissioners of the Alabama Claims, as provided by the 15th section of the act of June 23d, 1874, viz: $7,150,000, the balance of the original investment of $15,500,000, and $2,403,800, representing the accrued interest thereon. The coinage of the mints of the United States during the month of March, was: Gold, $5,873,000; trade dollars, $896,000; silver change, $1,674,000; total number of pieces struck, 8,515,650; total value gold and silver, $8,443,000."

## The Louisiana Commission.

The Louisiana Commission, composed of Messrs. Lawrence, Brown, Hawley, Harlan and MacVeigh held their first meeting at New Orleans on the 6th. Judge Lawrence was chosen chairman and Gen. Hawley Secretary. Informal calls were made by the Commission upon Packard and Nicholls, and the question of uniting the two legislatures was discussed, but no real business transacted.

The Louisiana Commission met a joint committee from the Nicholls Legislature on the 7th, but the conference was secret. The committee made a detailed verbal statement of status of the government, giving a number of parishes and officials that had acknowledged allegiance to the Nicholls government, and will, at a future interview, present documentary facts. When the Democratic committee retired Packard's Supreme Court Judges were admitted to the parlor and begun their argument as to the status of their case. At three o'clock District Judges Marks, Cole and Hunter, for the 4th, 5th and 9th Judicial Districts of the State, each elected on the Republican ticket, had a long interview with the Commission, and emphatically declared the sentiment of their districts to be in favor of the Packard government. These three districts embrace eleven parishes with a total population of 130,694. An exciting interlude in the interview was the cross-examination of Judge R. A. Hunter who was asked, "Who did you vote for?" "For Governor Nicholls." "Who did you vote for for President?" "Tilden." "How long have you been a Democrat?" "All my life; I was born a Democrat right in this State, and expect to die a Democrat." "Why do you now desert the Democratic party and support Mr. Packard?" "Because the Democratic party has left me, and does not protect the rights of citizens, but advocates murder, and I do not approve of murder, and because I believe Packard was squarely elected, and a majority of white peeple of my district, Rapides, Grant and Vernon parishes prefer him for Covernor."

## Louisiana and South Carolina.

Letter from the President showing his Policy—Troops Withdrawn from the South Carolina State House.

To Hon. Charles B. Lawrence, J. R. Hawley, John M. Harlan, John C. Brown and Wayne Mac Veighe, Commissioners.—Gentlemen: I am instructed by the President to lay before you some observations upon the occasions and objects which have led him to invite you, as members of the commission about to visit the State of Louisiana, to undertake the public service. Upon assuming his office the President finds the situation of affairs in Louisiana such as to justly demand his prompt and solicitous attention, for this situation presents as one of its features the apparent intervention of the military power of the United States in the domestic controversies which undoubtedly divide the opinions and disturb the harmony of the people of that State.

This intervention, arising during the term, and by the authority of his predecessor, throws no present duty upon the President, except to examine and determine the real extent, form and effect to which such intervention actually exists, and to decide as to the time, manner and conditions which should be observed in putting an end to it. It is in aid of his intelligent and prompt discharge of this duty that the President has sought the service of this commission, to supply by means of its examination, conducted in the State of Louisiana, some information that may be pertinent to the circumspection and security of any measures he may resolve upon. It will be readily understood that the service desired of and entrusted to this commission does not include any examination into or report upon the facts of the recent State election, or of the canvass of votes cast at that election. So far as attention to that subject may be necessary, the President cannot but feel that the reports of the committees of the two houses of Congress, and other public information at hand, will dispense with and should preclude any original exploration by the Commission of that field of inquiry; but it is most pertinent and important in coming to a decision upon the precise question of exclusive duty before him that the President should know what are the real impediments to the regular, legal, and peaceful procedure under the laws and constitution of the State of Louisiana, by which, the anomalies in the government there presented may be put in course of settlement, without involving the element of military power as either an agent or a make-weight in such solution. The successful ascertainment of these impediments, the President would confidently expect, would indicate to the people of that State the wisdom and mode of their removal. The unusual circumstances which attended and followed the State election and canvass, from its relation to the excited feelings and interest of the Presidential election, may have retarded within the State of Louisiana the persuasive influences by which great social and material interests common to the whole people of a State and the pride of American character as a law-abiding nation ameliorate the disappointments and dissolve the resentments of close and zealous political contests. But the President both hopes and believes the great body of the people of Louisiana are now prepared to treat the unsettled results of their State election with a calm and conciliatory spirit.

If it be too much to expect a complete concurrence in a single government for that State, at least the President may anticipate a submission to the peaceful resources of the laws and the constitution of the State of all their dissensions, at once relieving them from reproach and their fellow citizens of the United States from the anxieties which must ever attend a prolonged dispute as to the title and administration of government of one of the States of the Union. The President therefore desires that you should devote your first and principal attention to a removal of the obstacles to an acknowledgment of one government for purposes of an exercise of authority within the State, and a representation of the State in its relations to the general government under section 4 of article 4 of the constitution of the United States, leaving, if necessary, to judicial or other constitutional arbitrament within the State, the question of ultimate right.

If these obstacles should prove insuperable, from whatever reason, and the hope of a single government in all its departments be disappointed, it should be your next endeavor to accomplish the recognition of a single legislature as a depository of the representative will of the people of Louisiana. This great department rescued from dispute, the rest of the problem could gradually be worked out by the prevalent authority which the legislative power, when undisputed, is quite competent to exert in conflicts in the co-ordinate branches of the government. An attentive consideration of the conditions under which the Federal constitution and the acts of Congress provide or permit military intervention by the President in the protection of a State against domestic violence has satisfied the President that the use of this authority in determining or influencing disputed elections in a State is most carefully to be avoided.

Undoubtedly, as was held by the Supreme Court in the case of Luther vs. Borden, the appeal from a state may involve such an inquiry as to the lawfulness of the authority which invokes the interference of the President in supposed pursuance of the constitution, but it is equally true that neither the constitutional provision nor acts of Congress were framed with any such design. Both obviously treated a case of domestic violence within a State of an outbreak against the law and authority of the established government, which the State was unable to suppress by its own strength. A case wherein every department of the State government has a disputed representation and the State therefore furnishes to the federal government no internal political recognition of authority upon which the federal Executive can rely, will present a case of so much difficulty that it is of pressing importance to all interests involved and should be avoided. A single legislature would greatly relieve this difficulty, for that department of the State government is named by the constitution as the necessary applicant, when it can be convened, for military intervention by the United States. If, therefore, the disputing interests can concur in or be reduced to a single Legislature for the State of Louisiana, it would a be great step in composing the unhappy strife.

The President leaves entirely to the Commission the conciliatory influences, which in their judgment, formed on the spot, may seem to them to conduce to the proposed end. His own determination that only public considerations should inspire and attend this effort to give ascendancy in Louisiana to the things that belong to peace, is evinced by his selection of Commissioners who offer to the country in their own character every guaranty of public motives and methods of transaction which they have undertaken. Your report of the result of this endeavor will satisfy the President, he does not doubt, of the wisdom of his selection and his plenary trust in the Commission.

A second, and less important subject of attention during the visit to New Orleans will be the collection of accurate and trustworthy information from public officers and prominent citizens of all political connections as to the state of the public feeling in the community at large upon the general questions which affect the peaceful and safe exercise in the State of Louisiana of all legal and political privileges conferred by the constitution of the United States upon all citizens. The maintenance and protection of these rights and privileges by all constitutional means, and by every just moral and social influence, are the settled purpose of the President in his administration of the government. He will hope to learn from your investigation that this purpose will be aided and not resisted by the substantial and effective public opinion of the great body of the people of Louisiana. The President does not wish to impose any limit upon your stay in Louisiana that would tend to defeat the full objects of your visit. He is, however, extremely desirous to find it in his power at the earliest day compatible with a safe exercise of that authority, to put an end to even the appearance of military intervention in the domestic affairs of Louisiana, and he awaits your return with confident hope that your report will enable him promptly to execute a purpose he has so much at heart. The Presedent desires me to add that the publication of the results of your visit he shall hope to make immediately after their communication to him.

I have the honor to be with great respect, your obedient servant,

WM. M. EVARTS.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON. D. C., April 3, 1877.

SIR: Prior to my entering upon the duties of the Presidency there had been stationed, by order of my predecessor, in the State House at Columbia, South Carolina, a detachment of United States infantry. Finding them in that place, I have thought proper to delay the decision of the question of their removal until I could consider and determine whether the condition of affairs in that State is now such as to require or justify continued military occupation of the State House. In my opinion there does not exist in that State such domestic violence as is contemplated by the constitution as the ground upon which the military power of the national government may be invoked for the defense of the State. There are, it is true, grave and serious disputes as to the rights of certain claimants to the chief executive office of the State, but these are to be settled and determined, not by the Executive of the United States, but by such orderly and peaceable methods as may be provided by the constitution and laws of the State. I feel assured that no resort to violence is contemplated in any quarter, but that, on the contrary, the disputes in question are to be settled solely by such peaceful remedies as the constitution and law of the State provides. Under these circumstances and in this confidence I now deem it proper to take action in accordance with the principles announced when I entered upon the duties of the Presidency. You are, therefore, directed to see that the proper orders are issued for the removal of said troops from the State House to their previous place of encampment.

[Signed] R. B. HAYES.

Hon. George W. McCrary, Secretary of War.

In accordance with this letter the Secretary of War has issued an order withdrawing the troops from the State House, on the 10th.

## Papa's Strange Guest.

It was a warm June evening, and my father and mother and I were seated in our drawing room, with the long doors leading on to the lawn thrown open, to admit the air. I was sitting at my bureau, examining some of my jewelry, which I kept there, when the door opened, and M. Menton (friend of my father's staying with us at the time) entered. He was a French Canadian, rather a fine-looking man, but a man I never liked; there was a look in his black, beady eyes which, to me, was at once repulsive and distrustful. He looked curiously at me, and approached.

"Mademoiselle is busy?" he asked.

"Yes," I replied shortly.

My father and mother had dropped asleep, so, much to my disgust, M. Menton took up his station on a chair by my side. I say disgust, because I loathed the man; his politeness always seemed to me unreal.

"Mademoiselle has some fine jewels," he remarked, presently taking between his finger and thumb a handsome brooch and rubies."

"All of this jewelry is not mine," I answered, "Most of it belongs to my mother."

Soon after tea was announced; after which meal M. Menton and my father adjourned to the latter's study, to talk on business, and my mother and I returned to the drawing room.

I had finished putting away the jewelry in the bureau, but had not shut or locked it, when I turned to my mother.

"What is this business that so often keeps M. Menton and papa closited together?" I inquired.

"Some money matters, my dear," returned my mother.

"Is papa in any difficulty!" I inquired anxiously.

"No, no; but, between ourselves, Louisa, I think Monsieur Menton has some heavy bills due, which I fancy he cannot pay; but if he expects that your father can help him, he is grievously mistaken."

My mother took up a book and commenced to read, whilst I went over to the piano and played.

In about half an hour, our visitor and my father entered the room, the latter again taking up his station on a chair by my side, as close as he possibly could. Song after song he made me sing; and, much as I would have liked to, I could not, with common civility, refuse.

It was ten o'clock when I rose from the piano and prepared to retire to my room. I shut my bureau and locked it, kissed my father and mother, and bade Monsieur good night.

* * * * * *

It was about half-past one, when I was awakened from a light sleep by hearing a stealthy footstep in the corridor outside my room. It approached my door, the person, whoever it might be, walking soltly and cautiously, as if fearful of disturbing me. Who could it be! My first impulse was to jump out of bed and see; but I was of a timid nature, and imagined burglars and all sorts of horrible things, so I remained still, listening with suspended breath.

Presently the handle of my door was turned. Oh, heavens! I felt paralyzed. A man entered my room with a small dark lantern in his hand, and, after pausing for a moment, slowly approached the bed. I had just sufficient presence of mind to shut my eyes and feign sleep as he bent over me. I felt that he had turned the light full on my face; his breath fanned my cheek.

My heart beat to suffocation; and I felt that if the ordeal lasted much longer, I could not control myself, and should scream or faint.

Happily, however, the next moment the light was withdrawn, and my nocturnal visitor left the room.

I heard the footsteps pass along the corridor, and descend the stairs leading to the drawing-room. Then it flashed upon me, though I had locked my bureau containing my jewelry, I had not taken away the key.

I have remarked that by nature I was timid; but, at this juncture, I felt as brave as a lion, and, springing from my bed, threw on my dressing-gown, and went out to the head of the stairs.

I paused. A dreadful fear came over me. All was dark, and I heard not a sound. I began to descend.

When I got opposite the door of the drawing-room, which was partially closed, I saw a dim light proceeding thence. Oh! my agony, of fear lest the stairs should creak and betray me!

On reaching the door of the room, I saw to my delight that the key was in the lock outside. But if I should not be successful in making this villian prisoner.

I shuddered at the thought. How this man had got into the house I could not tell. He must be a friend of one of the servants, I conjectured.

My hand was upon the key of the door, when the handle with a sharp click, betrayed me.

I heard a quick step across the apartment. A moment decided me.

I must feign somnambulism.

In another instant tho door was opened, and I, with my eyes fixed wide open, entered the room.

The thief started back with a smothered exclamation of surprise.

I dared not look at him, but walked straight past him to the bureau, and spoke the following words disjointedly.

"I lost my key here. Where can it be?'

The man walked over to the other end of the room, where an overcoat was hung on the back of a chair, and began to search the pockets.

I had in that moment time to regard him.

I could hardly forbear a cry; for in this room, trying to rob my mother and myself of our jewels, was Monsieur Menton.

He returned to the bureau (where I was still fumbling to find the key,) and forced one into my hand.

I then pretended that I had found what I wanted, and, turning round, left the room.

I have often wondered since then why I did not raise the house, but, truth to tell, my movements on that night were quite mechanical; my faculties seemed to have given way under the unnatural tension to which they had been subjected; I felt a sort of stupor, and hardly knew whether I was asleep or awake. I returned to my bedroom, and looking at my key as I placed it on my dressing-table, saw that it was that of the front door of our house, which Monsieur Menton must have taken from my father's study after we had all retired for the night.

Then I returned to bed, leaving a thief down stairs ransacking the place. After about a quarter of an hour I heard a stealthy step ascend the stairs. I closed my eyes, and as I did so my door was opened, and again I underwent another examination by the light of the lantern.

Presently I heard my persecutor go over to the dressing table. There was no article of jewelry there; so if that was what he wanted, he was disappointed. Soon he withdrew from my room, and descended the stairs once more. I heard nothing more. I cannot say I slept, but the heavy stupor which had been creeping over me deepened into complete insensibility, and I remained in that state till morning. It was my habit to wake without being called by the servant, but it was late when I arose the following morning, and I was informed by the maid that my father and mother were at breakfast. I could not wait till I was dressed to tell my adventure, so I threw on my gown, and hurried to the breakfast room. I opened the door. My father's back was turned to me, and my mother was facing me. She looked up, yes, and, with a terrific scream, rushed toward me.

My father evidently thought, as I did, that she was deranged, till he looked at me, when he in his turn uttered a cry of surprise and horror. My parents both dragged me to the chimney-piece, above which there was a looking-glass. It was then my turn to exclaim. When I took down my hair to brush it the night before, it was black as jet; now it was streaked with gray.

The work of years had been accomplished in one terrible night!

An explanation was asked, and an explanation given; after which my mother left the room, and in a few moments returned, bringing with her the key of the bureau.

"You must have been dreaming, my love," she said; "evidently not a thing has been touched. Our jewelry is as safe as it was this time yesterday."

"Well, where is Monsieur Menton?" I asked.

"In his room, undoubtedly," answered my father. So saying, he went from the room, but quickly returned with a pale face, and in his band a note hastily written in pencil.

"Read it aloud," he said, handing it to my mother, who took it, and read as follows:

My Very Dear Firends: I write to say farewell to you. We shall never meet again. When you read the confession I am about to make, you will think yourselves well rid of one who accepted your hospitality and then turned traitor.

Yes, I am a poor, despicable wretch. You, my benefactor, remember that last evening I asked you to help me in money matters, which you said you could not do, and you know I had asked you several times before, and you had declined; but yesterday night you said you had given me my final answer. I then grew desperate (though to your face fair enough), and determined to steal the money from you, if I could get it in no other way.

Earlier in the evening—before our conversation in your study—you may remember that your daughter (who, by the way, never seemed to like or trust me) was seated at her bureau, looking at some jewelry. An idea seized me that if I could only get possession of these jewels—for some of them were very costly—I could sell them at a price which would not only pay my debts, but would leave me enough beside to enable me to get clear out of the country.

Your daughter in having locked her bureau, did not take her key, but left it in the lock; therefore, so far the way was paved for me.

I did my best to conquer these temptations, but alas! we are but weak creatures, and I at length succumbed, and resolved to turn (oh! my friends, pass over the word as soon as possible) thief! So at a quarter past one this morning I descended to the drawing-room, opened the bureau, and was about to take the jewels, when, hearing the handle of the door move, I went to see the cause, and imagine my feelings at seeing your daughter standing before me. I soon perceived, however, by the fixed look in her eyes that she was asleep. She began talking disjointedly of having left the key in the lock of her bureau. I went to my overcoat, which was in the room, and got a key—that of the front door—which I had taken from your study, and forced it into her hand. She believed herself to be the possessor of what she wanted, and, turning round, left the room.

For some moments, I stood where she had left me, looking after her as if I myself were in a dream. When I had seen her standing before me with a face as pure and innocent as her mind, unconscious of all evil or danger, I seemed to realize for the first time what a mean and guilty wretch I was.

Contrition seized me; I recoiled with horror from the thought of the action I had been about to commit, and thanked Heaven it was not too late to resist the temptation. After the lapse of a few moments I went up to her room to possess myself of the key I had put in her hand, which I found on her dressing table. I then went back to your study, put it back in its place; wrote the present letter, opened the window and shutters, and bade farewell to the house where I had spent so many happy hours.

And now that you know what I have done, try and forget my ingratitude if you can.

Ever yours lovingly, my dear friends,

EUGENE MENTON.

So ended the letter. Poor man! I inquired of my father if nothing could be done to trace him and get him to return. He replied he would do what he could. We succeeded in tracing him to New York, and there the clue was lost. We tried every means which occurred to us for discovering his whereabouts, and inserted advertisements in the New York and Canadian papers, begging him to let us know at least that he was alive and well, but all our endeavors were in vain—we never heard of him again.

We often think of him with pity and regret, for, whatever were his faults, there must have been some good in a man who was capable of feeling such sincere and profound contrition for a guilty intention.

### Skunk-Bites.

It is stated by Col. Dodge, in his "Plains of the Great," that, in the tract of country between the Republican River and the Indian Territory, the skunk is more feared on account of its bite than the most powerful "grizzly." The animal is nocturnal in its habits, and is much given to prowling around camps and tents in search of food. If it finds nothing more tempting, it falls to consuming the face, hands, or any part of the exposed body of a sleeping man. The bite is not of itself so much to be dreaded, but it frequently results in hydrophobia. This result seems, from the observation of Col. Dodge, to be quite peculiar to the region indicated, where skunks are very numerous. While he was stationed at Fort Dodge, in 1872-'3, he knew by report of sixteen cases of rabies caused by skunk-bites, which proved fatal. The crowds of buffalo-hunters who visited the plains in 1872-'3-'4 were greatly afflicted with the assaults of this pestiferous animal. Assistant-Surgeon Jumeway, U. S. A., reported to the Medical Review eleven cases of skunk bite treated by him while stationed at Fort Hays, ten of which were followed by fatal attacks of hydrophobia.

Col. Dodge relates that, when camped, one night in 1872, on the Cimarron River, he was wakened by a noise in the servants' tent, next his own; and the next morning one of the men came to him with a wounded hand, to ask if there was any cure for a skunk-bite. On examining the wound, it was found that the whole ball of the right thumb was gnawed and lacerated in a frightful manner. The man stated that, while asleep in his tent, "He dreamed that he was being devoured by some animal, but a sort of a nightmare prevented his moving. After some time, however, the pain and horror together woke him up to find a skunk eating his hand. With a cry and sudden effort he threw the animal from him. It struck the other side of the tent, and fell upon the other man, who waked up, and recognizing the intruder, rushed out of the tent.

The bitten man, who had heard of the surely fatal result of skunk-bite, was so paralyzed with fear and horror that he made no effort to get up, and, seeing the skunk come towards him again, buried himself in the blankets. The skunk walked all over him, apparently seeking for an opening, and, finding none, began to scratch the blankets as if trying to dig out his victim. In the meantime the other man had loosened the tent-pins and lifted up one side of the tent, letting in the moonlight; then, pelting the animal with sticks from a distance, at last frightened it so that it ran off into the deep, dark bank of the river. This skunk emitted no odor, and was undoubtedly simply hungry."

The wounded hand was thoroughly washed with Castile soap, the hanging bits of mangled flesh were cut off, and it was treated with a simple water dressing until it healed, which was in about ten days. The man was with Col. Dodge for a year after, and no symptoms of hydrophobia had in that time supervened.