



## SIGNS OF ACTUAL DEATH.

## How to Avoid the Horror of being Buried Alive.

(For the Chronicle—by Medicus, Jr.)

There is, perhaps, no thought more terrible and heart-sickening to the living soul than that of being buried alive. The horror of premature inhumation has rendered many an existence miserable, and cast a shadow over many a life that would otherwise have been joyous.

This fear will, in our opinion, do more than any other one thing towards instituting, and furthering the adoption of the process of cremating the dead, which is, at this time, exciting so much interest in our own country as well as abroad.

As a general rule, it is easy to say when life is extinct. The deathly pallor, the glazed eye, the fixed and rigid muscles, all tell too well that the soul has left its tenement of clay, and that thenceforth the body must return to the primitive elements which enter into its composition, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes."

But cases often occur where this determination is by no means easy. Persons, bearing all the commonly recognized signs of death, have returned to life, and an examination of some graves has given unmistakable evidence, by the position of the bodies, that their inhabitants after interment have returned to consciousness.

These facts have led to numerous inquiries into the sign or signs of certain death which can be put in application by the common people, not possessed of any technical or professional knowledge.

Among those interested in the settlement of this very important question, none were more so than the Marquis d'Ourches.

He left a prize of 20,000 francs in charge of the Academy of Sciences of Paris, to be awarded to any one who would discover "a certain and infallible sign of death which could be applied by the ignorant and uneducated villagers;" and also another prize of 5,000 francs to be awarded to the discoverer of a scientific method of recognizing with certainty the signs of actual death.

The Academy has recently made a report on the subject of these prizes, and as the matter is one of popular interest, it has been thought well to give a popular account of it.

There were sent in all 102 papers, as contestants for the prize; but of all this number not one was deemed worthy of the first prize of 20,000 francs—showing that yet, in spite of all the study on the subject, and that, too, in the light thrown upon it by modern science, the popular mode of recognizing the sign of actual death remains to be discovered.

The prize of 5,000 francs, however, for a scientific method of recognizing death, was awarded and distributed between four individuals, each of whom had made the discovery of an

## INFALLIBLE SIGN OF DEATH

which is capable of being recognized by methods in science; so that now we need have no fear of a premature inhumation or cremation (as the case may be), if any one be at hand capable of applying those methods. Some of the methods require the possession of no particular skill, and can be put in application by persons of ordinary intelligence.

## ONE OF THESE SIGNS,

for the discovery of which five hundred francs was awarded, is the changes which the pulp of the finger undergoes in a flame. If the blisters which such an application produces be filled with water, life is not extinct; but if it contain simply vapor, the body is dead.

## Another sign is the

## STOPPAGE OF CIRCULATION

in the capillary vessels. The mode of determining this is as follows: Apply a cupping glass over the pit of the stomach, then make incisions into the elevated portions of the skin; blood will flow, but if some time after, incisions be made again, if the blood in dead, blood will not flow. This plan received honorable mention by the Academy.

It is known also that the muscles retain their faculty of responding to the

## ELECTRIC CURRENT

for only a few hours after death. If, therefore, upon applying electricity, the muscles fail to respond, the presence of death is declared.

## THE EYE

also shows important changes after death which can be detected within a few hours after dissolution. Very soon after death a grey, cloudy spot makes its appearance on the outer portion of the sclerotic or white of the eye, which finally takes entire possession of it. Valuable signs are also visible by means of the ophthalmoscope, but for their determination an expert use of that instrument is requisite.

A sign that has never been absent in fifteen thousand observations, is the presence of

## VIOLET COLORED SPOTS

in the dependent portions of the body. This is of such a character as to be applicable by all, and the Academy awarded a prize to the author, of two thousand francs.

It is well known that the body becomes cold after death; but still, that is not an infallible sign, unless it sinks below 68° Fahrenheit, and as the body can never go below the temperature of the atmosphere, in warm weather, even this cannot be relied upon. A more certain sign is

## THE GRADUAL LOWERING OF TEMPERATURE

from the moment of death. This has been determined to be about 2° Cent. for every hour until the temperature of the atmosphere is reached. For the discovery of this law, two thousand francs were awarded.

The stethoscope is also of great service

in the determination of real death. The perfect and complete

## CESSATION OF THE HEART'S ACTION

is certainly followed by death, still the heart may beat very faintly, so faintly as to be unheard, except through the mediation of instruments, and in this case animation may be only suspended. To determine then, whether the heart's action has ceased, the stethoscope is applied over the region of the heart, and if after a half hour's attentive examination, no heart sound is heard, life may be pronounced extinct. The application must be made some hours after presumed death, and of course, by an individual accustomed to making examinations with the instrument.

## THE PERSONAL HISTORY

of the man who has left these prizes may not be without interest. He was by birth a Marquis, but the revolution of '93 deprived him of both his title and fortune. He was then reduced to the necessity of working for his daily bread, which he did, at six pence a day. He continued a simple workman for fifteen years, beginning as an assistant to plumbers, but gradually working upward to the grade of glass-blower, and afterwards to be a manufacturer of scientific instruments. At last, by dint of hard labor he regained his title and came into possession of a fortune from his maternal relatives. He still continued, however, to wear the garb of the poor laborer. He spent his money liberally and always remembered the friends of his adverse days and divided his means freely among the poor mechanics and workmen. He left a large sum for the construction of a hospital in St. Germain, his native town. He investigated spiritualism and somnambulism, and made many interesting experiments in crossing, acclimating and taming animals. And, last of all, he left these prizes for the benefit of all the human race that may come after him.

It is the custom of Americans, and others, to speak disparagingly of the French character—its lightness, frivolity and instability; but it must be acknowledged, that the French nation, through its government and its people, has done more to make the Sciences subserve the uses of man than any other nation on the globe. And in this regard, it would be well for us to imitate a truly worthy example, whatever opinion we may entertain respecting the political institutions, national, or personal vanities of that gay, pleasure-loving people.

## "WHO IS HOBBS?"

## John Brown a Dead Cock in the Pit.

The Nashville Banner publishes a gossip letter from Memphis, on the subject of State politics, in which Governor Brown's and ex-President Johnson's senatorial prospects are discussed at some length. He says:

It seems to be understood on all sides that Gov. John C. Brown is a candidate, and with a view of getting a reasonably correct estimate of his strength in the western division of the State, I have endeavored to post myself on that particular point. I asked a prominent politician, not unfavorable to the Governor, how the latter stood in West Tennessee, and his answer covers about the average response I received. "Oh, the devil," said he, crisply, "John Brown is a dead cock in the pit." Another politician of no less prominence, in response to a similar question, blurted out, no less impatiently than profanely, "hell and damnation, Brown couldn't be elected to carry water to a kennel of sick dogs in any part of Shelby county." This language, if not remarkable for chasteness and elegance, is nevertheless not lacking in rude force and point. Frankly and positively, Gov. Brown is

## EXTREMELY UNPOPULAR

on all sides, from one cause or another, but mainly, I infer, from his prominent and official identification with the funding bill and the tax and assessment laws. You can not talk five minutes on the subject without hearing some allusions to the "CAPITOL RING."

Whatever that is. And then you can't talk two minutes about the "Capitol Ring," before the name of a certain Hobbs comes to the fore, with significant and mysterious allusions. Who is Hobbs, and what does all this mystery mean? Did he kill a man, or poison his mother, or commit some other terrible crime? If you have any regard for the officials who run the State Government, please enlighten a waiting world about the Hobbs mystery. Gov. Brown's Senatorial chances are simply pook-pooked her abouts, even conceding his plausible and taking personal manner, and his supposed skill in arranging the wires. Johnson is considerably more discussed, and while there are a numerous crowd who oppose him, he has a very large backing. If the ex-President will exercise that enough to tone down his youthful impetuosity, and not repeat his flagrant blunder in opening the campaign at Galatin, last year, he will fare a great deal better in the campaign of 1874. Starting out in a victrol onslaught on those who espoused the Lost Cause, is not the most successful way for conducting a campaign in Tennessee.

## The Civil Rights Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—At an adjourned meeting of the Republican senatorial caucus this afternoon there was a long discussion of the pending civil rights bill, with the view of rendering it acceptable to all the members of the majority by agreeing upon some modifications of its provisions. No definite conclusion was reached, but it is believed that action will be taken at another caucus to provide for such changes in the bill as will clearly admit of separate schools being provided for white and colored children, and also for separate accommodations for law-keepers, proprietors of theatres, &c., on condition that equal advantages are secured for all classes.

## LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

## ARKANSAS.

Brooks-Baxter Compromise Probable.

## The President to Gov. Baxter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 11.

To Hon. Elias Baxter, Little Rock: I recommend that the members of the General Assembly now at Little Rock adjourn for a reasonable time, say ten days, to enable Brooks to call to the body his supposed adherents, so that there may be a full Legislature. Any hasty action by a part of the Assembly will not be satisfactory to the people. Brooks' friends here agree that if this course is pursued no opposition will be made to the meeting of the Assembly in the State House as usual, and that he will at once dismiss his forces if you will do the same. I urgently request that all armed forces on both sides be disbanded, so that the General Assembly may act free from any military pressure or influence. The United States forces will give all necessary protection to the Legislature, and prevent, as far as practicable, all violence and disturbance of the public peace.

(Signed),

U. S. GRANT.

## The Same to Gov. Brooks.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 11, 1874.

To Hon. Joseph Brooks, Little Rock, Arkansas:

I have suggested to Mr. Baxter, that the members of the General Assembly now in Little Rock adjourn for a reasonable time, say ten days, to give you an opportunity to call in those members who may not respond to his call, so that there may be a full Legislature. The United States will give all the necessary protection to the Legislature in meeting and transacting its business as usual at the State House and prevent as far as practicable all violence and disturbance of the public peace. I urgently request that the military of both parties be at once disbanded, which is the first step towards a peaceable settlement.

U. S. GRANT.

LITTLE ROCK, May 11.—The Brooksites hold the bridge at Barringer Cross, one mile the other side of the river. There is much shooting going on, but no blood shed. Tankers, Speaker of the Legislature, is refusing St. Louisward, whence he will telegraph something to Col. Rose. The parties dread each other and the handful of Federal troops.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—At a very late hour last night a plan of adjustment for the serious troubles in Arkansas was telegraphed from this city to both of the disputants for the office of Governor of that State. Their representatives and attorneys had been in session all day yesterday, and were also with the Attorney-General, at his private residence, up to midnight last night, discussing some method which would receive the approval of the General Government.

It has now been agreed that both parties call a session of the Legislature, to meet at Little Rock on the 4th Monday in May, each to make a special call; no opposition is to be made by either party, and to receive the claims of Brooks in opposition to Baxter. Both parties are to have a full hearing and the Legislature is to determine who received a majority in 1872. Both Governors are to dis-arm with the exception of a body guard and to abstain from all warlike movements and from all interference with each other or their adherents. The Attorney-General directed that the above be the substance of what was submitted for the approval of the contestants, and expressing the hope that it would settle the questions at issue.

LITTLE ROCK, May 10.—Forty shots were fired. One negro killed. The Federal troops again brought the hook and ladder company apparatus to the front, when hostilities ceased. The Federals are entrenching. The stores are all closed. The women and children have been moved from the vicinity of the State House.

## Legislature Appeals for Protection.

LITTLE ROCK, May 11.—Federal Colonel Rose has ordered the restoration of the steamer Hattie to her owners, whereupon the Brooksites scuttled her, and she sank to her hurricane deck.

Both parties are reinforced. The lines are closely drawn. More cannon have been planted.

A number of Senators and Representatives have appealed to President Grant for protection in their assembling.

New YORK, May 11.—A Little Rock special dated last evening, contains the following:

Two negroes were killed by Baxter's pickets near the Fair Grounds yesterday morning. In the afternoon several skirmishers advanced up the street and joined Baxter's pickets, when the officer in command ordered all citizens to their homes and the soldiers to their quarters. The regulars kept close to their barracks. A fight was expected at any time during the afternoon or evening. There are two companies of regulars at the City Hall, and one at the United States Court building, and artillery with the horse batteries on a side street. The regulars have four barracks in the city and one on the opposite side of the river. Orders were issued by all parties yesterday afternoon, for the soldiers to go to their quarters and the citizens to keep in their homes. In the evening Col. White, of Baxter's force, rode to the outskirts of the city and the regulars followed shortly after.

## CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, May 10.

River and Harbor Appropriation Bill Passed the House.

The House passed a bill appropriating \$10,000 for the improvement of the Oostana river in Georgia.

The following bills were introduced and referred: By Mr. Harris, of Virginia, changing the revenue laws so that the

change of floor does not require new license. By Mr. Sloan, to amend the act regarding the redemption of lands held by the United States under direct tax sales.

Costonaula river gets ten thousand dollars.

Upon motion of Gen. Young, several speeches regarding the memorial of the South Carolina tax payers were ordered printed.

The House passed the river and harbor appropriation bill under the suspension of the rules. It contains the following items:

NOTE.—[Here follows appropriation for Southern rivers heretofore reported and published in the CHRONICLE, including \$25,000 for the Tennessee river above Chattanooga, and \$100,000 below. Total appropriations for the South, \$1,525,000.—E.D.S. CHRONICLE.]

A resolution was offered by Mr. Nunn, of Tennessee, and referred to the Judiciary Committee for the appointment of a provisional government of Arkansas.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Fort, of Illinois, and adopted under the suspension of the rules, that if an increase of taxation be necessary it shall commence with the taxation of individuals and corporations on their incomes.

## WASHINGTON.

## Republican Caucus Agrees Upon the Order of Legislation.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 11.—The caucus of Republican Senators this morning agreed upon the order of business in the Senate as follows: The Geneva award bill is first to be disposed of; the currency bill will then be taken up, and subsequently the appropriation bill, in the order of their presentation to the Senate.

The minority of the House Judiciary Committee report that though the South Carolina memorialists show merits there is no power in Congress to interfere where suffrage is universal, and suggest that an educational qualification may be needed for Federal suffrage in that State.

Local option repeal bill defeated in Pennsylvania Legislature (Lower House) on third reading.

## ANDY CUT LOOSE AGAIN.

## He Favors Low Taxation and Economy.

## He Reads the Young Politicians a Lecture on Democracy.

Ex-President Johnson made a speech in Nashville on Thursday night, from which we make the following extracts:

If you talk about reducing the taxes, why the fear is that the Democratic party is to be disrupted. I claim to know something about the thing you call Democracy, and I claim to have been a Democrat sometime before some of those who are so scrupulous now about the Democracy, were born. (Applause and cheers.) I state, furthermore, that when they put their finger upon one single leading principle, and cardinal point of Democracy in the proper sense of the term, from which I departed, I will agree never to appear before the public again. (Applause.) Yes, if those measures are not ignored, Democracy is to be disrupted. Let me ask all here to-night, irrespective of party, when did any of you hear that a proposition to redeem the taxes of the country, to relieve the people from the oppressive burdens that rested upon them, was an anti Democratic measure? Is this tax bill, is this assessor's bill, is this funding bill taken and constituted as one of the tenets of the Democratic party? If they are tenets of the Democratic party, I am free to say to-night that my comprehension of Democracy is entirely wrong. Democracy is not responsible for them. They are not Democratic measures, and a Democrat has no right to talk about disruption, when we say we want those burdens taken from the people's shoulders. It is only a pretext to get up the idea that somebody wants to disrupt the Democratic party; then they will cry out disorganization and the thing is settled. I have never been out of the party proper, and never expect to be out of it. (Voices—"That's right, stick to it"—and loud laughter.) When others get out, who are much younger than the person who addresses you here to-night, they get out with the intention of disrupting the Democratic party. So far as the thing called Democracy is concerned, I am a Democrat in principle, and not in mere profession. I am a Democrat with those who agree in Democratic principles, and not simply in the name.

Suppose you reduce the people's taxes, and by reducing them you suspend a part or all the interest on these bonds for a short time, would that be repudiation? Would that be anything wrong? You want an item of a million and a half of dollars to pay the interest upon your bonds. Suppose you bring your assessment down to 20 cents on the \$100; you pay three per cent. on this debt, and as many of the holders of these bonds bought them for fifty and sixty cents on the dollar, they will then get six per cent. on their investment, and this would relieve the great mass of the community to a considerable extent.

I would recommend this same mode of reduction to run through your counties and corporations, and give the people relief correspondingly. But it is said that a tax question must not be touched. Now, I am for conciliation and reconciliation; but it seems to me that this proposition to reduce taxation is one of the best that could be submitted to people of all parties. It seems to me that this is one plank in a platform upon which we can all stand.

## THE LITTLE RING AT NASHVILLE.

In this State men say they want harmony between the Cheatham men and the Johnson men. Would not this question

be the best one in the world upon which to unite Cheatham men, Johnson men and Radicals? Would they not come forward and embrace each other around a measure that would relieve the people from oppression? I say to all, and extend open arms to every one, irrespective of what his opinions and position may have been heretofore, to come with me and stand upon this as one plank in the platform—to reduce the people's taxes and correct this assessment law. Is there anything to create discord in the party in doing this?

In these days we have rings and combinations that take charge of everything. If you don't agree with these rings, you are put on the outside, and hear the cry "mad dog! mad dog!" We have close corporations in this State, and they apply their standards and lay down their rules by which every man is to be measured, and if you don't help to put these men back in office after they get out, why you are a disorganizer. When I look at these close corporations, I am reminded of the story of the old man who drank a sentiment at a public entertainment. Taking up his glass, he said: "Here's to me and my wife, my son John and his wife; us four and no more." [Laughter.]

Those that don't come to the standard of these rings are "read out." Well, when they undertake to read me out of the Democratic party, I am inclined to think there won't be much of the church left. [Laughter.]

## ANDY GOES FOR THE ASSESSMENT LAW.

Let us, for instance, examine a few things that have been done by our State Legislature. Look at your present tax system and what is the complaint? Now what is the evil that the country seems to be afflicted with? It seems to be, to some extent, growing out of our tax system, improper and excessive—and, it might almost be said, unconstitutional legislation if not unconstitutional, at least oppressive in its character. For instance, you are taxed by your recent tax law, taxed by your funding bill, taxed by your assessor's bill; take all of them up and consider them, and when you look about and see the various collectors, (and my intention is to cast no reflection upon them,) it simply grows out of the system that has harassed and pressed the people for money and taxes.

We find that all this grows out of your excessive and improper legislation, and hence, it has become important that the people should begin to look into and investigate these things for themselves, and no longer depend upon those who have been deceiving us, perhaps not intentionally; but the fact is that our own condition fixes this legislation upon them. When we look at the immense taxes with which we are borne down, can not the people complain?

## HE OPPOSES DODGING THE GREAT ISSUE.

And when they ask for relief and redress the answer is, more taxes. When they ask who done all this, they will tell you that these measures must be ignored; that they must not now be considered with other questions that are brought before the country, but must be passed by.

It seems to me, my countrymen, that deception and indirection, and failure to come up and meet these questions, have carried the people away from the true merits of principles. Why, when we look at our taxes, when you go out through the country in the various sections of it, the cry is "nothing but how am I to pay my taxes." The query comes up, if the time has not come when the people can look into these things, and see if there is any relief or redress, I am free to say to you that the taxes ought to be reduced. (Applause.) The heavy hand of taxation ought to be lightened. (A voice, "That's business.") Why talk about more money and more currency and all such as that? It seems to me that what is needed to meet the wants and the present emergencies of the people is reducing our taxes and leaving the taxes in our pockets instead of extorting them out in these hard times. (Applause.)

## DOES NOT FAVOR REPUDIATION.

But when you talk about lowering the taxes; when you talk about easing and lightening the yoke that bears upon the neck of labor and toil, they ask, "Are you going to repudiate the debt of the State?" You must stop there, else somebody will become alarmed. Just the other day, you will remember, fellow-citizens, the interest upon the debt of the State was suspended for five years. There was but little said then about repudiation. The interest accumulated for five years upon the bonds. Did they pay it? No. What did they do. Why you were told that if you would come forward with coupons upon your bonds, which have been due for five years, they would do what? Pay you? No. What then? We will issue a bond of the State bearing interest forty years after date. [Laughter.] And these are the persons who are intimating and hinting repudiation. You see, then, how that operates. Well, now right here, my countrymen, I will say that the most I can do, if I were disposed to do otherwise, is simply to hold a friendly conversation and talk about these things. I believe Paul said once "Let us reason together." We see, then, the condition we are in. But they say the best way to relieve this is to amend the assessment law, and by so doing we would find out something we had not found out before. We would class in all the personal property of the country, and when we found out all this we would tax it again, and by finding out more articles to tax, after estimating your property higher they come to "relieve" your taxes. For instance, suppose you had a house and lot worth \$10,000 to-day; there is a certain tax upon it, but it does not yield enough to answer your purpose. They come along and say that in order to "relieve" your taxes they will assess it to-morrow at \$20,000. [Applause.] I don't think that makes the amount to-morrow to be paid by the people any less than it was before, but it makes it double. And so the tax bill runs.