

MONSTER OF ISSOIR.

MYSTERY OF THE FOURTEENTH ARRONDISSEMENT OF PARIS.

Singular Disappearance of Many Inhabitants of the Quarter—Enticing Its Victims With Music—Death of the Gigantic Spider.

For many years it is undeniably stated that in the fourteenth arrondissement of Paris—called the tomb of Issoir—a number of persons living in that quarter had mysteriously and periodically disappeared. The most careful researches, the most minute inquiries, the most skillful agents of the police had failed to discover the least trace of them.

Every year successively some inhabitants of this quarter would suddenly disappear, leaving their friends overwhelmed with grief and anxiety. It is also stated that these strange, inexplicable facts always occurred in the early spring—from the 20th to the last of March—and without regard to age or sex.

First a notary disappeared. It was thought he had used his client's funds and fled to parts unknown. Then an old woman, returning late one night from market, was the next victim, then a laborer going home from work. The last victim had been a young girl—a flower maker out late delivering her goods. From that time she had completely disappeared as if the earth had opened and swallowed her up. Strange to say, no children had been among the victims.

This peculiar fact was accounted for in this way. These mysterious disappearances always occurred late at night, when the children were at home asleep. As the time was drawing near for one of these periodical mysteries the chief of police became very anxious and instituted a strict surveillance, confiding the matter to a number of the most skillful of his assistants, hoping the combined efforts of so many zealous agents would surely be crowned with success. You will now see the result.

One night—this fact can be verified by applying to the office of the prefecture—a policeman about 3 o'clock in the morning heard a distant musical song, which seemed to come from the bowels of the earth. He listened and fancied the sounds came from an opening in the center of the street, at the foot of an enormous rock called the tomb of Issoir, or the Giant's cave.

It may be interesting to state that this rock derived its name from a legend that a great giant had been buried there many years before the Christian era, and this rock had been placed there to mark the tomb.

Surprised at this strange discovery—for the opening had never been noticed before—the policeman waited, listening to this peculiar song, when he suddenly saw a young man approaching. He knew from his costume that he was a countryman lately arrived in the city. This young man also seemed to hear the subterranean sounds, first walking slowly with a peculiar wavering step, as if in cadence with this musical chant, then faster and faster as he drew near the fatal rock, until he ran with such velocity that in spite of the warning cries of the policeman he was swallowed up in this mysterious opening. Without taking a moment to consider the policeman recklessly followed, first firing his revolver and giving one or two vigorous blasts on his whistle.

At this signal several of his comrades quickly arrived. The musical chanting had ceased, but they could hear in the dark, cavernous depths the muffled sounds of a desperate struggle.

By the aid of ropes and ladders they succeeded in entering this mysterious chasm. The light of their lamps revealed a sickening sight.

The countryman was lying on his back writhing in the grasp of an unknown monster, whose horrible aspect froze the agents of police with terror.

It was as large as a full grown terrier, covered with wartlike protuberances and bristling with coarse brownish hair. Eight jointed legs, terminated by formidable claws, were buried in the body of the unfortunate victim. The face had already disappeared. Nothing could be seen but the top of the head, and the monster was now engaged in tearing and sucking the blood from his throat.

As soon as they recovered from their horror and surprise a dozen balls struck the body of this sanguinary beast.

He raised up on his legs, a greenish, bloody liquid flowing from his wounds, and, with a frightful cry, expired.

The first policeman, who had given the alarm, was lying unconscious in one corner of the cavern, where he had fallen, a distance of 30 feet.

It was with great difficulty they succeeded in removing the two bodies and the unknown monster from the cavern. The poor countryman was dead, but the policeman was soon restored to life.

The agents immediately sent for the commissioner of police, who summoned a naturalist in great haste.

The first established the identity of the victim; the second declared the creature lying before him was a gigantic spider. The species had been considered extinct for centuries—ever since the days before the deluge. It was called "Arachne gigans" and was said to have the power of enticing its victims by a peculiar musical song. None had been seen or heard of for ages, but it is now believed some of these sanguinary beasts still exist in the deepest galleries of the catacombs.

The dead body of the spider was conveyed to the Museum of Natural History, where it was carefully prepared and stuffed and is now on exhibition.—Once a Week.

Twins.

Johnnie (seeing his twin cousin for the first time)—Isn't it funny, mamma? Mamma—What, dear? Johnnie—Why, this baby is a philopena.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Umbrellas made of oiled paper are used in Korea.

SIX WEEKS IN WATER.

The Compulsory and Prolonged Bath of a St. Louis Man.

George Hennessy, who had been immersed in water for six weeks, was taken out Tuesday evening. He declared that he felt like a fish that had just been landed and said he was much more comfortable under water than he was out of it. He is a patient at the City hospital and was suffering from a particularly virulent abscess which had formed on his back. When he was taken to the hospital, it became necessary to wash the abscess so often that Dr. Marks decided that the best way to treat him was to put him in a bathtub and have a stream of water flow over the sore all the time. At first Hennessy wanted to get out of the tub, but in a few days he became as comfortable as could be expected and did not object. A large portion of his body was under water nearly all the time, and the afflicted part has been constantly under water for six weeks. The temperature of the water was regulated so that it was the same heat as that of his blood, and at last Hennessy actually enjoyed his experience. Last night he said that he could not go to sleep without hearing the rippling of water as usual.

Dr. Heine Marks says the experiment has been an eminently successful one, for the man has almost recovered and is able to walk about. When he was taken to the hospital, he could hardly stand. Dr. Marks at that time asked him if he was accustomed to bathing regularly, and Hennessy truthfully replied that he was not.

"I think I'll give you a bath," said Dr. Marks, and he gave him one which lasted six weeks.

The object in keeping Hennessy in the water all the time was to have the sore kept clean all of the time and to keep down the fever, which destroyed the tissues. The case is a novel one and will doubtless inaugurate a new method of treating abscesses, although the French surgeons at the Bicetre have adopted a cure somewhat similar to this one.

"It feels queer to have the water flowing over you all of the time," said Hennessy last evening. "Some of the time I imagined I was drowning, and sometimes I thought I was a diver. I got so used to hearing the rippling of water, though, that I cannot go to sleep without hearing it now. There is no music so sweet as the constant sound of falling water. I have heard it so long that it has become just as indispensable to me as a bed when I wanted to go to sleep. I wanted to stay there longer, but Dr. Marks told me that if I did fins might grow on me, and then I would have to be put in a glass case, so I thought I would not object to coming out."—St. Louis Republic.

A LITERARY PLOT.

Walter Besant Uncovers an American Conspiracy and Applauds It.

A secret plot—a conspiracy—has been going on unsuspected for a long time. The conspirators are a small band of Americans. It has been revealed to The Times by an Englishman, one Edmund Gosse, perhaps himself a coconspirator—for all I know of him I believe him quite capable of joining the conspiracy. It appears that the arch conspirator, Mr. F. Holland Day of Norwood, Mass., concerted with the late Mr. Lowell a design secretly to prepare a monument to Keats and to present it to this country, partly by way of honor to the poet and partly as a gentle reminder to ourselves of our culpable neglect. This design was communicated to a small number of American artists and literary men and women, the result of which is a marble bust which Mr. Day has now brought over to this country. It will be put up in Hampstead church as soon as the bracket for it is ready.

It is curious that the secret should have been kept so well and so long. The gift is generous and conceived in the best spirit possible—that of claiming joint possession of every great and good thing written in the common tongue. What Keats gave us he gave to all the English speaking world. What Longfellow gave his countrymen he also gave to us. We have given a Lowell monument and a Longfellow monument to Westminster abbey. Let us accept this American gift in the spirit with which it is offered. The centenary of Keats' birth is Oct. 29, 1895. We shall, I hope, anticipate that date when we assemble to do him honor.—Walter Besant in London Queen.

Morphine Habit in London.

The rumor that the law courts are about to be troubled with a painful case involving the honor of a well known and respected family threatens to revive the controversy as to the prevalence of the morphine habit in the upper and middle classes, says a London correspondent. The doctors say the vice is quite as prevalent as it was five years ago, and this is amply confirmed by the advertisement columns of the daily newspapers. Every issue of that eminent, fashionable organ, The Morning Post, for instance, contains numerous notices of institutions in which the victims of morphine and other drugs are treated and of nurses skilled in the management of such patients. The saddest feature is that such advertisements are rarely applicable to men.

In Darkest Russia.

News by mail from St. Petersburg and other parts of Russia show that the recent wholesale arrests were caused by the growth of the doctrines of liberalism, not nihilism. The majority of the victims are persons of the higher, well educated classes, who have been demanding by means of a manifesto great freedom of the press, representative institutions and such rights as are enjoyed by the other nations of Europe. The bestowal of dictatorial powers upon General Tcherovin is regarded as proof that the outburst of dissatisfaction is more widespread than the authorities are willing to acknowledge.

A trade union of ballet girls has just been formed.

General Advertisements.

We have no intention to copy after the originators of the

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but the cut we are making for a few weeks on one of the best selling articles we ever thought of, for the very good reason, that we have a tremendous stock on hand which we are desirous of turning over quickly, will be appreciated by everyone.

As is well known, we had made for the

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a ton or more of SOUVENIR SPOONS; all of sterling silver and possessing real merit. Well, we have still

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(hundred) left, and are making this tremendous cut, in order to reduce the stock, and to do it quickly.

If it is to your advantage, you will be quick to catch on, and we expect to be kept busy selling Spoons for the next three weeks, if not longer. Prices on heavy coffee size reduced from \$1.75 to \$1.25.

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We offer lighting at the Government flat rates as follows:

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We do much better than this for our consumers. We place lights in every nook and corner of your premises if you wish, measure the light you use, and charge for actual consumption only. You use light when and where you need it and you don't forget to shut it off when that need is satisfied, nor do you feel bound to keep the lights going from dusk till dawn in order to secure the value of a stipulated bill. We in turn know exactly what we have delivered to you and can figure with certainty upon a definite and rock bottom basis.

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