

The Madisonian.

VOL. 23.

VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1896.

NO. 41.

THE NORRIS SHOOTING

MINER MOORE AND RAIN EXCHANGE COURTESIES

Moore Wounded in the Side and His Left Arm Punctured by a Bullet—Rain Sustains a Flesh Wound in His Hip—Rain Arrested.

They missed having a man for breakfast at Norris, Monday morning, by a short, broken eyelash. The men engaged in this Montana pleasantries were Miner Moore, who will be remembered in Virginia as one of the Revenue men, who contested in the drilling match, and Garry Rain, a Pony miner. Both are large men, and both can thank their lucky stars that their marksmanship is not of the infallible, Dr. Carver kind. As it is Miner Moore got the worst of the melee, one bullet striking him in the left side, skirting around his abdomen and lodged in his right side, and another bullet punctured his left arm. Moore's injuries will confine him to his bed for a week or so. Rain escaped with a slight flesh wound in his left hip, which will make him lame for a week or two. Inasmuch as the men emptied their revolvers at each other, the results are not of a disastrous character.

There are numerous stories of the encounter; so many in fact that it is easier to pick the winner in a field of fillies than to tell which of these yarns has the solid foundation of truth. The most generally accepted story is that Rain had been drinking, Monday, and got into an altercation with "Frenchy" a porter at the hotel. In the melee, which always follows a difference of opinion in Norris, Frenchy was decidedly worsted, receiving a black eye, which he is still wearing. Then according to some who claim to have been eye-witnesses of the affair, Rain laid his pistol across the back of Frenchy's neck and fired—of course no worse result than frightening Frenchy, giving his vertebrae a shock which he will remember for some time to come.

The next day Rain and some friends were drinking in Wallace's store, when Miner Moore entered. Moore is alleged to have said: "Rain, are you as good a man to-day as you were yesterday?" To which Rain, in the Norris retort courteously replied that he considered himself just as good a man as he ever was, or that he was in good form, or something to that effect. Moore responded in the Norris code duello lingo, finally concluding the whole with an invitation to step outside, and adjust matters with a demonstration pugilistic. Rain accepted the invitation and went out first, followed by Moore, and as Moore stepped out he asked Rain if he had a gun. Rain replying that he had none. Rain walked on across the street towards the barn, and Moore requested him to stop, remarking that they could settle the matter where they were, about this time the shooting commenced, and it did not stop until both revolvers were empty.

As to the above narrative the combatants practically agree. But here is the parting of the way of their statements. Rain and his friends contend that Moore fired the first shot; that when Moore entered the store, the butt of a big revolver in the inside pocket of his vest was plainly discernible. Moore seems to have the most friends, however, and they are unanimous in declaring that Rain fired the first shot, and fired several times before Moore drew his gun.

Rain made a statement for the MADISONIAN yesterday. He said first that he was very sorry that the shooting had occurred and that he hoped Moore's injuries would not prove serious. His statement was similar to that narrated above, but he claims that Moore fired first, and while his (Rain's) back was turned. "Immediately after the first shot," said he, "I turned and commenced shooting. I fired so quickly that there was scarcely any interval between his first shot and mine. I think his last shot struck me. I saw him stagger twice and thought I had him both times."

"We had had some trouble before, over an old friend of mine, whom

I thought he had not treated right, and warm words passed between us." Rain also intimated that he and Moore had differences over a matter which he declined to talk about, and it certainly does not seem reasonable to suppose that two men would act as these men have done unless the reason therefor was of a much more serious nature than that given.

The news reached Virginia by wire shortly after the occurrence. The first news was to the effect that both men were badly wounded, one probably fatally. Later came the news that Rain had fled. Undersheriff Summers and Special Deputy Frank Kensella left at once for Norris, arriving there about 9 o'clock. They were met by a number of men who were awaiting their arrival, anticipating trouble. They were told that Rain had taken refuge in a barn with a friend. Some were of the opinion that Rain would give himself up without trouble, while others said that he was a desperate man and would make a fight. One man even suggested that the only safe method to take Rain and his companion was to pump them out of the barn with a Winchester. However, the two officers did not flinch. They walked up to the open door of the barn and asked Rain to come out. He asked them what they wanted. They told him and he came out with his hands up. He said that he had been anxiously awaiting their arrival, as he feared violence at the hands of Moore's friends. "And now that you have me I hope you will protect me." They assured him that they would. He was taken to the hotel where the officers alternately stood guard over him until 4 o'clock the next morning, when they started for Virginia. His partner, Tom Bluff, was arrested at the same time, searched and turned loose.

There is another story to the effect that Rain took refuge in the barn when the fight became interesting, and would occasionally step out of the door and take a shot at Moore, who was in the open.

There is a yarn told at the expense of a rancher, who was an eye-witness of the shooting and whose horse was directly in range of the bullets. "Whatever you do for heaven's sake don't kill my horse" yelled the farmer, as the fusillade waxed warm, and running in range of the duellists he untied his animal and took him out of danger.

Some of Moore's friends claim that Rain, a day or two previous to the shooting, declared that either he or Moore would be under six feet of earth within two days.

The case is badly mixed up and presents as many phases as the present presidential campaign.

NEXT FRIDAY EVENING

The Young Ladies' Orchestra Will Give an Enjoyable Concert.

The Young Ladies' orchestra will give a concert at the Methodist church next Friday evening. The announcement will be received with pleasure, as this is one of the institutions in which Virginians take much pride. The orchestra will undoubtedly be greeted by a large and select audience. The admission will be 50 and 25 cents. Appended is the program:

- PART I.
- March, Washington Post.....Sousa Orchestra
 - Overture, Little Beauty.....Ripley Orchestra
 - Schottish, Pretty as a Pansy.....Christie Orchestra
 - Recitation.....Miss Mable Eiling
 - Flute Solo, Tyrolean Air with Variations.....Berg
 - M. Berg
 - Sincerity, duet for cornet and violin.....Bowman
 - March, University of Pennsylvania.....Adler
- Intermission.
- PART II.
- Overture, Wild West.....Swift Orchestra
 - Waltz, Visions of Paradise.....Bennet Orchestra
 - Song.....Miss Mable Eiling
 - Violin Duet, Sounds from Home, C. A. McNulty and M. Berg
 - Polka, Queen of Hearts.....Fahrbach Orchestra
 - Gallop, Sappho.....Brooks Orchestra
 - March, Constellation.....Clark Orchestra

G. Moritz handles the General Arthur cigar. Try it. It is acknowledged as one of the best on the market.

THE NEW CITY HALL

PLANS THEREOF ARE APPROVED

With Some Minor Changes—It Will be a Handsome Building—A Superintendent of Construction to be Appointed—The Cole Lot Paid For.

The plans and specifications of Messrs. Crasser and Germain, the city hall contractors, were approved and accepted at last night's special meeting of the city council. A full council was present, Mayor Bennett presiding.

The treasurer was instructed to pay for the Nelson Cole lot, on which the hall is to be built, the deed for which is in escrow. The treasurer was also instructed to place the deed for the property on record.

The mayor was delegated a committee of one to look up a suitable builder to act as superintendent of construction and look after the interests of the city.

The plans and specifications call for a building 45x90, two stories, the lower floor 16 feet and the upper floor 14 feet in the clear. The lower floor will be divided into two offices and vestibule in front, back of which will be an auditorium 45x70 feet, with stage and dressing rooms. The upper floor will be divided into a large and commodious lodge room in the rear of the building and offices in the front.

The front will be of modern architecture and decidedly up to date. It will be very pretty. A tower will rise from the center of the front. The roof will be what is known in building parlance as the "hip."

The contract calls for the completion of the building within 90 days after the work begins, and work is to begin as soon as brick can be had.

The whole will be a handsome structure, and a credit to a town several times Virginia's population, and best of all it is being so constructed as to be a sufficient source of revenue to pay for itself in time. Every room in it will be for rent. It may help to create a little building boom here, something which Virginia needs badly.

TOM POWER ACTIVE

Trying to Shape Politics in Northern Montana.

Great Falls, July 22.—Ex-Senator Thomas C. Power, of Helena, Fort Benton and Fergus county, is in the city today consulting with friends and hobnobbing with wool growers of the McKinley type. It is very generally understood that the ex-senator is not visiting this section of the state in search of health, and the impression obtains that he is deeply interested in a political deal wherein delegates to the Republican state convention from northern Montana can be utilized to the advantage of Mr. Power—if the slate he has arranged is not fractured and the scheme set down upon by the silver Republicans of Cascade, Choteau, Fergus, Teton and Valley counties.—Standard.

ORDERS TO PROCEED

Capt. Hoyt Receives Instructions to let Contracts for Building at Ft. Harrison.

Capt. George S. Hoyt, quartermaster in charge of the construction of Fort Harrison, has received word that he must at once take the necessary steps to let the contracts for the construction of a double set of officer's quarters and a double barracks at Fort Harrison, and acting under that authority he will at once advertise for bids. The advertisement will appear in the papers as soon as it can be prepared, and it must run thirty days. As soon thereafter as possible the contract will be awarded and work will then begin immediately. The present intention of the authorities is to have the work completed and the new buildings ready for occupancy before the first snow of winter.

The cost of the work will not be far from \$60,000. The original estimates of the department for similar work, according to similar plans, was \$40,000 for the barracks, and \$18,000 for the officers' quarters. The contracts were let for less than that, but materials were considerably cheaper then, and it is not believed that the bids will be as low this time, and the buildings may even exceed the former estimate. The amount available for this year is \$60,000.

IN A FIT OF MELANCHOLY.

George S. Lewis Kills Himself Near White Sulphur Springs.

George S. Lewis, a former resident of Butte, while suffering from a fit of melancholy, last week, took his own life, near White Sulphur Springs. He placed the muzzle of a Winchester rifle against his head and fired it, death being instantaneous. The following letter, addressed to his son and his daughter-in-law, was found in his room:

"When you read this I shall have passed out of this troubled life. It is, I know, an awful thing to do, but I cannot stand the strain. You both have been very kind to me, you both have burdens enough of your own without any of mine. Of course you will have my business to settle. Life is a burden to me. You will be executor and administrator without bonds. You need not go to any unnecessary expense for my burial. There will be no use of an inquest. Of course you will lay me beside ma. Good-bye Len, Jennie and the children. I forgive all of my enemies and pray God Almighty to have mercy on me. This is the last from your father."

George S. Lewis was a native of Onondago, New York, and 73 years old at the time of his death. Early in life he went to Illinois, but when the gold fever broke out he went to California, and settled in Nebraska City. In 1866 he followed the rush of gold seekers to Montana, settling on a farm on the Gallatin river. For a while he lived at Diamond City, and later moved to Butte, where he resided until last spring. Four years ago he lost his wife, which affected him deeply.

HIS PROMISE GOOD.

Sheriff Bell of Texas Will Take His Prisoner Home and Turn Him Over.

Sheriff Thomas Bell of Hill county, Texas, returned from Helena yesterday with a pardon and requisition papers for Frank McGowan, alias Jules Bolt, a convict at the Deer Lodge penitentiary, who is wanted in Texas to answer a charge of murder committed six years ago last Christmas. Bolt's victim was a Mexican, and between them there had been trouble of long standing. On the night in question Bolt walked into a saloon where the Mexican was and deliberately shot and killed him. Bolt was arrested by a deputy sheriff and held over night in a house. During the night Bolt got possession of a gun and in the morning compelled the deputy sheriff to go in one direction while he went in another. Bolt escaped to Montana and his whereabouts were not discovered until about two years ago, when a letter was intercepted, and he was located at Billings, Mont. There was a reward of \$500 offered for him at that time, but before he could come after him he was arrested for assault with intent to kill, and fearing the Texas officer he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary for two years.

Bolt was considered a bad man in Texas and he became an issue in the last election in Hill county. Mr. Bell pledging himself to bring Bolt to justice if he should be re-elected. He was successful at the election and started to make good his promise. He spent a lot of money in chasing the murderer and after he found him he encountered more trouble in getting him but finally succeeded in securing a pardon for him yesterday, and with the necessary requisition papers he will start back with him to Texas to-day. Mr. Bell says he has sufficient evidence to make Bolt's conviction sure.—Standard.

Smoke the J. T.—Clear Havana filler and hand made. Montana Mfg. Co., Butte.

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER MOST PERFECT MADE.

A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

HIGHT & FAIRFIELD, Jewelers BUTTE.

If the local jeweler in any of the towns of Madison County cannot supply your wants, we can.



If you need anything for yourself; if you wish to make a birthday, anniversary or wedding present; if you need an engagement or wedding ring; if you need watches, diamonds, jewelry, Sterling silver, fine silver plated ware, American cut glass, fine china, Hungarian and Bohemian bric-a-brac, clocks, opera glasses, canes, umbrellas, tortois shell combs silver mounted belts, blouse waist sets or anything in the way of silver novelties, you find in our stock just what you are looking for. If your watches or jewelry need repairing, send them to us. If desired, we will mail you an estimate of expense before repairing. We furnish an engraved plate and one hundred calling cards for \$1.50; after the first lot \$1.00 per hundred. Samples sent on application.

HIGHT & FAIRFIELD, Jewelers

A Leading Citizen

Of this County said the other day—I have doubled the Value of my Clothing Money since I began buying

Hammer's Clothing.

They cost no more than others, and wear longer, fit better and hold the shape until worn out. The best can be found here, and no matter if you are slim or stout, you can be fitted out from a most extensive stock.

You should see his line of Shirts and Underwear, Hats and caps He has goods at all prices, and if anything bought does not prove satisfactory, then—your money back for the asking. Call on

N. E. HAMMER,

DILLON, MONTANA. Leading Clothiers of Southern Montana.