

SMOKE THE BEST  
5-Cent Cigar in the Market,  
My Girl.  
HARRY BAUM & CO.  
Sole Agents.

# San Antonio Light.

SMOKE THE BEST  
5-Cent Cigar in the Market  
First Quarter  
HARRY BAUM & CO.  
Sole Agents.

Vol. 10. No. 62.

San Antonio, Texas, Wednesday, March 12, 1884.

Ten Cents a Week

## CITY GROCERY STORE

206 COMMERCE ST.

## WINES, WINES

Just Received a Carload of

## California White Wines,

SWEET AND DRY CATAWBA.

By the barrel or gallon, which must be sold at BOTTOM FIGURES. Call and be convinced.

EMANUEL ABRAHANS.

## TURNER OPERA HALL.

Thursday and Friday, and Saturday  
Matinee—March 13, 14 and 15.  
Engagement of the popular  
young comedian.

## Harry Warren!

In his great evolution  
SIR CHAUNCEY TRIP.  
The New York Duet.

In the greatest of all comedies  
A FRIENDLY TIP!

A whirlwind of fun, under the management  
of W. W. Kelsey.  
Admission 50c, gallery 30c. Matinee 25c.  
In all shows, seats secured at Hatcher's without  
extra charge.

GEO. W. VAN VORST,

## CALCASIEU LUMBER,

LATHS, SHINGLES, ETC.  
California Redwood, saw, doors, blinds and  
mouldings. Cor. Duval and Chestnut sts.,  
San Antonio. Telephone 24. 1-10-84

## The Vaudeville Theatre,

W. H. SIMMS, General Manager.

Sumptuous Repast for March 10, 11, 12

The whole to begin with the acknowledged  
Prince of humor, FRANK RICE in  
his hilarious extravaganza entitled

## "VOT I CAN DO."

Assisted by our corps de perfection.  
Musical music. Our Lone Star orchestra,  
Part II—curios of pleasant surprises, led by  
the perfect organist.

## MISS LIZZIE MACK

Followed by the vivacious, graceful and  
talented specialist—MISS MAY SMITH.  
Supplemented by the musical duo—CHARLIE  
FRYE—in his original specialty.

## THE CANALIZISTIC ZOUAVE.

Then we have the exceedingly interesting  
variety—MISS MILLIE DAVENPORT.  
Quickly succeeded by the charming MISS  
JOHN SIMMONS, in a bouquet of melody.

## FRANK RICE—in his Anglo Saxony-Therapeutic

Island specialty.  
The rollicking semi-comic—MISS JENNIE  
HOWARD.

For the first time in this city, the great East  
India

## NAUTIC DANCERS.

M'In Faria, M'In Euphrasia, M'In Claribello,  
M'In Casanova.

The most laughable Ethiopian absurdity extant

## SKIDINKADKADO!

Skidika, Charlie Frye, Dinkadoo, Ed Sylvester.  
And then the band played.

Once more to the front—MISS LIZZIE MACK.  
The transcendently beautiful vocal duo, the  
SMITH SISTERS.

Kitty and May, in captivating melange of  
melody. A veritable combination of loveliness,  
grace and vocal refinement.

By request, Mr. Charles Frye will sing the  
most beautiful solo, "THE OLD SEXTON."  
Particular attention is called to the depth  
and flexibility of this gentleman's voice.

MISS MILLIE DAVENPORT will again oblige.  
Our ever-welcome Son of Momus, ED SYL-  
VESTER, with a bang-bang full of fun.

MISS JOHIE SIMMONS.

Once more, the \$10.00 beauty, FRANK RICE,  
the most handsome man in the world—turn  
his hat down.

A few minutes more with the sprightly Miss  
JENNIE HOWARD.

MISS KATHIE SMITH, in her redoubtable  
specimens, wait for the Afterpieces, Orchestras.

Our mammoth entertainment will close with  
the side-splitting, uproarious piece,  
(by Charlie Frye) entitled,

## ASSASSINATION

Or, The Night Owls of Alamo Plaza.  
Heavily Bobbed. (Charlie Frye  
Tim Tunnity.) Outlaws. (Ed Sylvester)  
Other characters by the company.

## BLOODY TRAGEDY.

BEN THOMPSON AND KING FISHER  
KILLED—JOE FOSTER WOUNDED.

A First Tragedy at the Vaudeville—The Slayer of  
Jack Harris Dies Beneath the Same  
Roof—Circus's Inquest.

The whole city was thrown into a state of the wildest excitement about 11 o'clock last night by the report that Ben Thompson and King Fisher had been shot and killed at the Vaudeville theatre. An immense crowd thronged around the doors of the theatre, but were denied admission by the officers, who had taken possession of the building.

From what could be learned this morning it seems that Ben Thompson, noted throughout Texas as one of the most reckless and desperate men in the State, and King Fisher, also bearing the reputation of a very desperate character, came in together from Austin yesterday evening by the International train, and after taking in the performance at Turner hall, left before the curtain fell, and went to the Vaudeville in company with another party. As soon as it became known that Thompson was in the city the officers were on the alert and expecting trouble. Fisher and Thompson entered the Vaudeville and after taking a drink at the bar went up stairs and took seats. They engaged in conversation with Simms, one of the proprietors, and the whole party took drinks and cigars together. Thompson and Fisher then rose, and in company with Simms and Coy, who is special policeman at the theatre, started down stairs. Near the door leading down stairs Ben Thompson stopped and the party was joined by Joe Foster, another of the Vaudeville proprietors. An excited and heated conversation followed during which Thompson called Foster a d-d thief and other epithets. Firing then commenced and some ten or twelve shots were fired in rapid succession. Captain Shardin and other officers rushed up stairs to find Ben Thompson and King Fisher weltering in their blood in the corner of the room near the door leading down stairs. Joe Foster badly wounded in the leg and Officer Coy slightly grazed on the shin.

A scene of the wildest confusion followed as soon as the shooting commenced. All who were in the theatre knew of the presence of Thompson and Fisher and were well acquainted with their desperate character, and when the first shot was fired every body seemed to be actuated by a strong desire to make himself absent. Pell mell, helter skelter, they rushed, jumping out of the windows of the second story, jamming each other through the doors and seeking every available means of escape. The whole crowd seemed to be panic-stricken. As soon as possible the officers quieted things and took possession of the dead bodies of Thompson and Fisher. These were removed to the city jail, where they were washed and laid out. Bill Thompson, the brother of Ben, was at the White Elephant at the time of the shooting waiting for Ben to return from Turner hall, and rushed out at once as soon as he saw that there was some trouble. He was met at the Vaudeville entrance by Captain Shardin, who stopped him and found that he was unarmed. The crowd seemed to expect Bill to attempt to avenge his brother's tragic death at once. An immense crowd followed the remains of the two desperadoes when they were carried to the jail, where they were laid out, and this morning the plaza around the building was thronged until it was difficult to get through. Every one seemed anxious to have a look at the bodies of two of the most noted desperate characters in Texas.

The floor of the theatre where the shooting occurred was covered with blood; also the steps down which Joe Foster and the ladies were brought. Justice of the Peace Anton Adam was notified of the killing and summoned a jury of inquest, which, after viewing the bodies and the locality of the shooting, was adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning.

From the statements of those connected with the theatre the killing was unavoidable, and it seemed to be understood when Thompson entered the theatre last night that his purpose was to raise a disturbance. Whether King Fisher shared in this design is not known. A colored boy who was washing glasses at the bar says that when the two men entered they took a drink and Thompson refused to pay, but Fisher paid and then they went up stairs. Foster and Simms, the proprietors, were both up there.

The substance of Billy Simms' statement is that he was up stairs when Thompson came up. The latter spoke to him and they shook hands; Thompson told him to sit down, that he did not

want to hurt him. The conversation was turned to the killing of Jack Harris and Ben Thompson said he never wanted to kill Jack Harris, and pointing to Joe Foster said: "That is the s--- of a b--- I wanted to kill." After some further talk the party rose to go down to the bar, when Ben stopped at the door and, walking up to Foster, offered him his hand. The latter refused to shake hands, and Thompson remarked that he had plenty of friends, and if any effort was made to hurt him he (Simms) would be killed. The trouble grew worse until the firing commenced, and Simms thinks that if Coy had not grabbed and held Ben's pistol several more would have been killed. Coy held the pistol downward, and Ben kept firing and trying to release it. One of the shots shattered Foster's leg and another grazed Coy's right leg below the knee. He thinks Fisher would have participated in the shooting, but his pistol had slipped too far behind him and he received his death wound before he could get it from the scabbard.

CHUBBIE'S INQUEST.  
Justice Adam resumed the investigation of the tragedy this morning. The first witness examined was A. Casanova, constable, who deposed that he was in the Vaudeville theatre last night, sitting on the left hand side of the entrance and that Ben Thompson, King Fisher and another party, to him unknown, were seated on the same side and about six feet from the entrance. That Billy Simms approached them and shook hands with Ben. Simms then sat down on the left of Thompson, and the latter put his left arm over Simms' shoulder. The treats were ordered, and directly the party rose and started forward the entrance leading down stairs. At the door Thompson turned and Foster came up. A heated conversation followed, and Ben seemed to be getting angry. Heard him say something to Foster which he could not understand and then draw back. Could not see Thompson's hand. Immediately after this heard a shot fired, and six-shooter in hand, started on a run around the house in order to reach where the party was. Saw pistol flashes as he ran, but could not tell who had them the pistols. When he reached them he saw Fisher and Thompson fall and saw Special Policeman Coy rising from the floor with a pistol in his hand. Could not tell who fired the first shot.

J. A. COY.  
Sworn, deposed: "I am special policeman, on duty at the Vaudeville theatre; was on duty there last night when I saw Ben Thompson, King Fisher and another man come into the bar down stairs. I was standing with Mr. Simms between the bar and the theatre entrance. Mr. Simms called my attention to Thompson and Fisher, and asked if I knew them. I replied that I did, and he then said he was afraid there would be trouble, and warned me to be very careful. I told him that I would and that I had already notified the Chief Marshal, and asked for more protection. The men drank and then went up stairs. I told Casanova to go up and he followed. I then told Officers Karber and Hughes that Fisher had a pistol, and that my instructions were to let none but City Officers go into the theatre with deadly weapons. They told me that Fisher had a right to wear one as he was Deputy Sheriff. I went up stairs and took a seat beside Thompson, Fisher was on the other side. Thompson called a waiter and told him to tell Billy Simms to come there. Simms came and after shaking hands sat down beside Thompson. As he did so Fisher rose and took a seat opposite me. He then offered to treat and asked the party what they would have. Orders were given for two cigars, one beer and a whiskey and seltzer. After drinking the conversation turned on the killing of Jack Harris, but was so low I could not understand what was said. Soon Fisher remarked to Thompson, "Mr. Thompson, I thought we were going to have some fun—don't talk about past times." Thompson replied, "Don't be uneasy, we will have it soon." King Fisher then rose and said, "Well, let's go down stairs." The party then rose and started toward the door, Fisher and I in front and Thompson and Simms behind us. When we reached the door Thompson turned and asked, "Billy, sint that Joe Foster?" Simms told him it was, and went to Foster, who came and joined the party. Thompson asked him to take a drink. Foster replied, "You know, Ben, I wouldn't drink." Thompson then said something about shaking hands, which I did not understand. Foster told him he did not want to shake hands with him, as he (Thompson) had mistreated him. At this time Thompson, Simms and myself were standing side by side. Fisher was behind Thompson and Foster facing Thompson. Ben Thompson said: "G-d d-n you I am glad you won't drink nor shake hands with me." I requested him to behave and he ordered me to get out of his way, saying, "Let me settle this matter with Foster."

I again asked him to be quiet, and told him if he wanted anything to do with Foster to go somewhere else, for I would prevent him there. He replied, "Get out of my way," and called Foster a thief and a s--- of a b---, and slapped him with his left hand, drawing his pistol with his right. I jumped and grabbed the pistol on the cylinder, and it fired. I asked him to desist, and he told me to turn the pistol loose. I held on and he said: "G-d d-n you, turn my pistol loose." King Fisher also said "turn that pistol loose." We scuffled from the door toward the corner where we all three fell together, Fisher in the middle. I had hold of his pistol all the time of the shooting. When he fell Thompson released his pistol. I afterwards turned it over to Captain Shardin. Did not see who else had pistols. Did not see Fisher draw his pistol.

J. B. CHARNWELL.  
Next sworn, deposed: Am a member of the city police force, was standing at the corner of Solomon Deutosh's store about 11 o'clock on the night of March 11 when I heard the first shot. Supposed it was on the stage at the theatre, and paid no attention to it. Soon heard other shots and saw Captain Shardin and others running toward the theatre. The shots seemed to me to come from the rear of the theatre, and I ran to the side door, but could not get in. I then ran to the front door, and as I reached the door somebody said "look out." I turned and saw Bill Thompson behind me. He asked me where Ben was and I told him I did not know. I then saw Captain Shardin carry Bill out. I went into the theatre and, with the night watchman, went up stairs, where we found the dead bodies of Thompson and Fisher. There was no one up there but myself and the night watchman. The bodies were lying in the corner. Fisher's across Thompson's. I reached down and took Fisher's pistol out of the scabbard and turned it over to Officer Hughes. I examined it and found but one chamber empty. We turned Thompson's body over to see if he had a pistol, but found none. Both were very bloody. Thompson was shot just over the left eye, and Fisher seemed to be shot directly in the left eye.

CAPTAIN PHIL SHARDIN.  
Sworn, deposed: Last night Special Policeman Coy, at the Vaudeville, came to me about 9 o'clock and told me Ben and King Thompson were in town and were likely to have some trouble. I sent Policeman John A. Ferris and Andrew Coy, following almost immediately myself. After I got to the plaza I inquired where Ben Thompson was, and was informed that he had gone to Turner hall, and was also informed that Bill Thompson was sober and had gone around to take care of Ben and get him to come down. I stood around there until about 10 o'clock, when Chadwell came up and I told him to be on hand in case of trouble. I think it was about 10 o'clock when I received a telephone message, as my wife's mother was very sick and wanted a doctor. I telephoned for a doctor and went home, and after the doctor came and left I went back on the plaza again, and was standing in front of the White Elephant when I was told that Ben Thompson and King Fisher had gone inside the Vaudeville. After being there for probably five minutes, I heard shots fired, followed by others very rapidly. I at first thought it was on the stage, but when the others came very rapidly I rushed in. I thought there may have been eight or ten shots, but there may have been more. The first thing I saw as I was crowding in through the crowd that was rushing out was Bob Churchill, one of the bar keepers, with a gun pointed over his shoulder. He said Ben Thompson is up stairs. As I ran up stairs I met Simms and Casanova supporting Foster, who was coming down stairs wounded. As soon as I got on the gallery to the right up stairs, I saw two men lying in the corner on the top of one another. Some one called "look out for Ben Thompson, he's coming with a shot gun." I turned and ran back down stairs, passing Simms and Foster again. As I passed them I noticed each had a pistol in his hand, and Simms cried out, "give us protection." I got on the floor when Bill Thompson came in the front door, as I saw him I heard parties calling "get out of my way." I was covering him with my body. I shoved him out behind the front stairs and searched him and found he was unarmed. I told him not to go in, and immediately ordered the house closed, and went to J. Coy and he turned over Ben Thompson's pistol (identified the pistol in court; a large, 45 calibre ivory handled one; engraved and silver mounted). I looked at it without revolving the cylinder; there were five chambers empty. Questioned by jurors: I had not seen Thompson or Fisher previous to the shooting; both Foster and Simms were on the steps when I came down. Mr. Thompson said that when he heard the shooting, he went on the train and remonstrated with him about drinking, and Thompson replied he knew he had been taking too much liquor and would not drink any more. His resolution evidently was not kept by the deceased.

## NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

Joe Foster's leg has been amputated and it is feared he cannot recover.

It was in the Vaudeville theatre on June 11, 1882, that Ben Thompson killed Jack Harris, the proprietor, and now just 20 months later he meets his tragic death beneath the same roof. Harris was killed about 9 o'clock in the evening and Thompson about 11.

Ben Thompson and King Fisher arrived in the city together. Ben yesterday presented one of his photographs to Fisher, and it was taken out of the latter's pocket dyed with his blood.

On the train en route to San Antonio Ben Thompson was drinking and cut his hat to pieces because Fred Bader would not wear it. He had on a stiff silk hat. Fred also took a knife from Ben as he was going after a porter who would not give him any water. His conduct on the train is reported as having been otherwise disorderly.

BEN THOMPSON  
Was born in Kootingly, England, in 1844, and at the time of his death was 39 years old. His father was a sea captain and book-keeper for Sampson & Handricks during the war. He is well remembered by Captain Hughes and others here. Ben leaves a wife and two children in Austin. A bright boy of 14 years and a girl of 11. They are going to school and receiving the benefits of a good education.

The career of Ben Thompson has been one of desperate and bloody deeds. Besides Jack Harris and Wilson he has hurried several others to eternity. Will Hamnd, of Belton, still carries on his body the scars of Ben's bullets.

His tragic death is no more than could have been expected from his life. From sober he was genial, affable and courteous, with a tender heart and generous nature; he had a host of friends. But when his brain was fired by liquor he seemed transformed into a very demon, and thirsted for blood. When drinking he was overbearing, cruel and reckless. His many escapades are well known through this section. At one time he was City Marshal of Austin and made an efficient officer.

His remains were taken charge of this morning by Bill Thompson, his brother, and carried to Austin, where they will be interred. Thompson was a strikingly handsome man, and looked but little like a desperado.

## KING FISHER.

Too, had a bloody record, and was well known on the frontier. He, too, was a man of handsome personal appearance and for some time past had been acting as Deputy Sheriff of Uvalde county. Many say that he little anticipated any trouble when he entered the theatre last night, and had no design of engaging in a row.

## BILL THOMPSON.

The younger brother of Ben, was seen by a Lacey reporter this morning, and his statement, in substance, is: Last night while standing in the White Elephant saloon, with friends, some one told him Ben was in town. Upon going out of the door he found Ben in a hack, but he had no hat. He got in, and they were driven to a store where Ben purchased a hat. He had the brim of a silk hat on his head when he drove to the saloon. He and Ben then started out in company; they took a drink at a saloon on Commerce street, and then walked up the street. Ben wanted to go in and buy a six shooter, but he persuaded him not to do so, telling him if he was bound to have one he would get it for him. Ben then asked him where was the pistol he gave him. Bill replied that he had it. Ben then went to a barber shop on Second street, and Bill went to the White Elephant and got the pistol. When he returned to the barber shop Ben was gone, but he learned from a hack driver that he had gone to Turner hall. Bill then saw King Fisher, whom he met, the pistol to give to Ben, and at the same time, he says, begged him (Fisher) to keep a watch on Ben and guard him against any trouble.

Bill then went to Mr. Fowler, proprietor of the White Elephant, and asked him to keep a watch on Ben. Also made the same request of Captains Shady, Shardin and others, and they promised to do so. He was at the White Elephant waiting for the theatre to be dismissed when the shooting took place. Learned afterwards that Ben and King Fisher left before the play was over at Turner hall and came around to the Vaudeville. He ran out and up to the Vaudeville when he saw a great crowd. He made his way in and was confronted with a number of weapons. Captain Shardin came to him and searched him, and told him not to go in. Fisher's remains will be shipped home to-night.

## THOMPSON'S FATAL VISIT PURE CHANCE.

Mr. Thomas I. Houghton, of Austin, stated this morning that Ben Thompson drove to the train in his buggy yesterday afternoon in Austin to see some friends of who were coming south. Thompson had been drinking and was considerably under the influence of liquor, and on being invited by some of his friends to go as far as the city with them he boarded the train. He evidently had made no preparations to leave Austin, and had but \$4 or \$5 with him and borrowed \$10 from United States Marshal Gosling on the train. Mr. Houghton talked with Thompson on the train and remonstrated with him about drinking, and Thompson replied he knew he had been taking too much liquor and would not drink any more. His resolution evidently was not kept by the deceased.

## TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

GREAT DEPRESSION IN IRON BUSINESS  
—CHURCH TROUBLES.

Southern Immigration Association at Nashville—  
Too Much Time Spent—Mexican  
Treaty Ratified.

PHILADELPHIA, Me., March 11.—The snow is four feet deep. No mail since Friday.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The Senate has ratified the Mexican treaty by a vote of 41 to 28.

BOSTON, March 11.—The House has passed a bill providing punishment by logging for wife beaters.

BALTIMORE, March 11.—The Merchant's Co., shippers of flour, have made an assignment. Liabilities, \$20,000; nominal assets, \$45,000.

LEXINGTON, Ill., March 11.—Nine jurors have been accepted by the prosecution in the Carpenter trial for the murder of Zora Burns, and 12 by the defense.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 11.—The directors of the Board of Trade met to-day and protested against the cut in railroad rates from St. Louis to the seaboard, which is a discrimination against Louisville. A resolution asking for a remedy was adopted.

PATERSON, N. J., March 11.—Bishop Wigger has refused to allow the funeral of William Hayden's wife to take place from the church because Hayden disobeyed an order given by the Bishop three years ago prohibiting the sale of liquor on Sunday.

OTTUMWA, Ia., March 11.—The trial train on the new fast mail system between Chicago and Omaha reached this city at 10 o'clock, having made the 300 miles from Chicago in seven hours. It overtook at this city the regular train, which left Chicago at 10 o'clock last evening.

DREXEL, March 11.—A lively contest is promised between Father Murphy, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic church, and the Emmet association, Murphy having by authority from the bishop notified the members of the organization to disband or suffer excommunication.

CHARLESTON, March 11.—The Republican convention of the seventh district has nominated Robert Sull, colored, for Congress to succeed Mackey, deceased. There was but little opposition to Sull's nomination, which is considered equivalent to an election. Also that the majority of negro voters in the district being overwhelming.

OTTAWA, Canada, March 11.—Theatrical managers visiting Canada complain of having to pay 50 per cent. duty upon all scenery they carry. It is also claimed that discriminations are made in favor of wealthy combinations. It is stated that Henry Irving's scenery, valued at \$10,000, was admitted free of duty. Also that the custom laws were abrogated in the interest of Colonel Mapleson.

CITY OF MEXICO, March 11.—The Mexican Government demands a reduction of the tariff on the Mexican and Vera Cruz railway under the terms of the convention stipulating that the tariff rates must be reduced as soon as the earnings of the company permit the payment of 8 per cent. dividend on common stock. The first through train over the Mexican road from the United States is expected here on Saturday.

TORONTO, March 11.—Besides the goods placed in the Parliament building and Government house, extra precautions have been taken at Osgood hall, the educational department, and other public buildings of the city. Detectives are also keeping watch on all parties entering the city, and are in constant attendance on all railway stations. The authorities refuse all information respecting the cause of this measure.

NASHVILLE, March 11.—This morning at 8 o'clock William Spence shot and killed his son-in-law, Edward S. Wheat, at the Merchants' Exchange, the corner opposite the telegraph office. Spence was formerly United States Marshal for the middle district of Tennessee, and was succeeded by Wheat. The trouble arose from a disagreement in a settlement of business matters. Wheat was a member of the firm of Buford, Thomas & Co., of this city. Spence is in custody.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 11.—The Southern States Immigration association met at the Capital at noon. Representatives from Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky and Arkansas were present. Delegates from Mississippi, Texas, Missouri and other States will arrive on the evening train. The hall was handsomely decorated with flags and evergreens. After the appointment of a Committee on By-Laws and Constitution, the convention adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow.

PETERSBURG, March 11.—Alfred Marland, of the Marland & Neely Nut and Bolt company, of this city, just returned from a secret meeting of nut and bolt manufacturers of the United States held in New York last week, says that never in the history of the trade has there been such depression as at present. He did not suppose that out of 14 firms in the country, one was making over nine days out of two weeks work. Fifteen thousand men are interested in this branch of manufacturing and \$25,000,000 capital was invested. The Presidential election and tariff tinkering he says are responsible for the depression and he did not think there was much prospect of a renewal of business until after the November election and a settlement of the tariff issue.

The best smoking tobacco is "Little Joker."