San Saba News.

GEO. H. HAGAN, Pub.

San Saba, - - - Texas

RICHES do not seem to lengthen life. The man who is so rich he can go north in summer, and south in winter, does not live any longer than the poor fellow who has to stay at home and shiver or sweat with every change of weather.

A SWEET flower, by accident living and growing in a society of weeds, has no admirers among the things that surround it, and yet it is beautiful, and its seed may bring forth in parlors, while weeds remain out of doors to be at last plowed under.

THE mutual tolerance and forbearance of life are as greatly the secret of happiness in marriage as in anything else. We have to tolerate unpleasant things in our companians in any relation of life; and why try to build up a law of marriage in any other way?

RISE betimes in the morning and go early to rest, that the body may be preserved in health; let your first reflection be, how short are the hours before you—if devoted to business, study, social enjoyment, or other rational recreation, and then find time if you can to indulge in spleen and ill-humor.

AS THE greyhound cannot outstrip his shadow, nor (by a more appropriate simile) the eagle outsoar the atmosphere in which he floats, and by which alone he may be supported, so the mind cannot transcend that sphere of limitation within and through which exclusively the possibility of thought is realized.

If the nobility of Europe are going to marry all the American girls of this country the native American man is going to suffer. It is a strange sign of the leniency, mercy and forgiving power of women that they will frequently marry into noble families without hesitation. Even the most charitable Yankees of the other sex find this quite impossible and if they can't have American girls they will die forlorn bachelors.

THE danger from immigration arises first from the coming of the vicious, the idle, the helpless and the ignorant. The ignorant may learn after their arrival if they will. The helpless at the worst can but require to be supprted and the idle can be made to work. But the vicious, those who believe that our liberty and freedom means freedom from the restraint of law and liberty to follow the guidance of all that their evil natures may suggest, and to prey upon their fellow men whenever an opportunity may offer, they are the ones who are a danger to society and a menace to our institutions.

IT IS characteristic of modern university me[illegible] examining facilities [illegible] to jou[illegible]ry center to have their papers examined. All this has been done away with, and examination centers have been established in all the principal cities of the union. The wisdom of such a course is easily understood when it is known that letters of inquiry from prospective students come from every state in the union. It is by laying broad and deep the foundation of a new seat of learning that the right kind of future development is assured.

SUPPOSE that 6,000,000 workers are kept busy in a single nation to earn a living for themselves and 2,000,000 of idle soldiers. It is easily imaginable that they must toil nearly every working day in the year to do so; and 300 days for each of them would amount to a total of 1,000,000,000 days' work. Then imagine that the 2,000,000 soldiers are at liberty to do part of the work. The amount required to produce the same sustenance for the total as before is not changed; but there are 8,000,000 men to do it, and 225 days' work for each man, all that is needed to supply the total with the same living as they had before. In other words, the result, even if there were no general increase of production, would be relief for the workers of exactly one-fourth of their present labor.

It is clear, so the great doctors of the world agree, that the death rate of large communities may be reduced much below that at which it has been wont to stand; that the average duration of life may be made to approximate nearer to the allotted four-score, and the conditions of living may be greatly ameliorated. The chief obstacles to improvement have been ignorance and want of belief. A better knowledge of the laws of life and health, a more rational comprehension of the nature and causes of disease, are gradually but surely entailing improvement in the conditions of living and in the value of life, and the diminution and mitigation, if not extinction, of morbid conditions which have in past times proved so injurious or destructive to life.

THERE are two ways of regarding the question of charity. One is to recognize in it an ugly necessity—a tax upon the rich and the provident for the benefit of the poor and improvident. And the other is the broader, philanthropical, even Christian, attitude of doing what seems right by the sick, unfortunate and incapable, and so doing it as to materially benefit both the receiver and giver. It is folly to affirm that the impoverished have all attained that condition by acts for which they themselves are responsible, just as it is equally foolish to say that all the more fortunate have become so by habits of thrift, self-denial and foresight. Indeed, in the dispensation of charity it is not right to make discriminations. It is a grave fault of much that we term charitable work that any such phrase as "the deserving poor" should be employed.

MORE BOGUS SILVER

A Counterfeiter Caught at Gainesville Who Says He is a Dupe

OF A GANG THAT COINED BOTH METALS.

He Will Squeal on His Pals—A Switchman Killed at Houston—Sudden Death. Telegraphers' Strike Unchanged.

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 19.—The United States officials have been for some time actively employed in trying to bring to justice a gang of counterfeiters who have been operating in and around Gainesville. Counterfeit silver dollars have been freely passed in that region, and evidence of gold coin washing imitated was recently reached in this way. A farmer's little daughter, while playing on the grass, found a $5 gold piece on the ground and took it to her father. He prospected around in the vicinity of where the coin was found and dug up near a post $180 in $5 gold pieces. Discovering that they were spurious, he delivered them to Sheriff Pat Ware. The officers finally arrested George Warren at Gainesville and brought him to Dallas on the charge of passing counterfeit money. He claimed that he was the dupe of a gang of counterfeiters, and says he will show the officers where the gang have been operating, close to the Red river, in the Indian Territory.

A New Steamboat.

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 16.—The steamboat Dallas will arrive at the Commerce street wharf to-morrow between 10 and 11 a. m. with a cargo of cordwood, the first ever shipped up the river on a steamboat, which will be sold by the cord to the highest bidder. Hugo Bakeney, Sr., will be the auctioneer. Soon after 10 a. m. the boom of cannon will sound the intelligence that the Dallas is approaching the Commerce street landing. After the speaking is over the auction will begin. A number of prominent citizens have been invited to make short speeches.

Grand Lodge Adjourns.

HOUSTON, Tex., Dec. 18.—The committee on the work of the grand lodge, after having been in session since the adjournment of the grand lodge last week, yesterday evening adjourned as to the general instruction work. The committee on work will remain here three days longer to give instructions to such delegates as wish to lecture. It will be a trial of instruction and examination, after which the delegates who have become sufficiently informed will be given certificates to lecture. There will be only a few remaining to attend these lectures, the others left yesterday.

Death Vicarious.

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 14.—Henry Letters, the man who shot himself five times on Friday last died at the city hospital yesterday and was buried. Five physicians worked on him nearly all of Friday night but they were unable to find one of the bullets and the one which caused his death. He shot himself five times with a twenty-two calibre pistol, but only one of the balls penetrated his brain. The other four made flesh wounds, one of them lodging in the skull but not penetrating it.

Counterfeiter Caught.

GAINESVILLE, Tex., Dec. 18.—G. W. Warren, a young man from the Indian Territory, was arrested here yes[illegible] Sixteen spurious dollars were found on his person. He says the coin was made by a set of counterfeiters whose rendezvous is on Red river in the Indian Territory and he was sent to this city to pass the money for the manufacturers, but he refuses to give the names of the counterfeiters or their place of operations.

Sudden Death.

BRENHAM, Tex., Dec. 19.—Thursday night Rafe Ashbury came in and reported that he found the remains of a white woman beside a path leading through J. R. Brophy's pasture, three miles west of here. Sheriff D. E. Teague and County Attorney Ben S. Rogers, accompanied by Tom Matchett and William Struse, went to the place indicated and found the body of Mrs. Christiana Muehlberger, a German lady about 65 years of age, who evidently died from heart disease.

Instantly Killed.

WILLIS, Tex., Dec. 14.—Willis Turner, a negro, was shot and instantly killed by Jesse Perkins, who keeps a confectionery store in the outskirts of the town, Saturday night. About 10 o'clock Turner came in and began cussing Perkins and reached for a double barrel shotgun lying on the bed and while in that position Perkins seeing his danger shot him, the ball passing through his heart, killing him instantly. Perkins at once surrendered to the officers.

Held Up a Judge.

SAN ANGELO, Tex., Dec. 16.—Judge W. B. Rimes, one of the most prominent attorneys in western Texas, was held up by a highwayman yesterday morning at 1 o'clock as he was going to the Santa Fe depot. The robber, after securing all the money the judge had—some $10—told him to go on his way rejoicing. No clew as to the identity of the highwayman. This is the second occurrence of this kind in the history of San Angelo.

Passenger Train Derailed.

BRENHAM, Tex., Dec. 16.—The southbound Santa Fe train No. 1 was due here at 5:57 p. m. Monday. It was reported seven hours late. Freight wrecks ahead of it caused the delay. Finally it succeeded in reaching a point a little over three miles north of here, when it went into a ditch, every wheel leaving the track. No one was killed, but quite a number were cut and bruised.

Work Trains Collide.

CAMERON, Tex., Dec. 18.—Two gravel trains on the Aransas Pass railroad collided about 11:30 yesterday one-half mile south of the city. George Holland, a brakeman on the north bound, jumped from his train and had his right leg dislocated. No other person was injured. Five cars were demolished and the track was torn up for about 200 feet.

Switchman Killed.

HOUSTON, Tex., Dec. 19.—William Schwabeck, a switchman, was run over and killed by a switch engine in the International and Great Northern yards Thursday night.

Strike Unchanged.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 19.—Chief Ramsay will be here this morning in the interest of the strikers at this point, which remains unchanged.

Preacher Arrested.

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 17.—Rev. Zack Parker, a circuit rider of the Methodist Episcopal church south, stationed at Sherman, was arrested yesterday morning in the postoffice by Officer Alexander of the police force, charged with forging the name of S. B. Scott, the county clerk of Dallas county, to a pension voucher. Recently a pension certificate purporting to have been issued in 18[illegible] to Martha Gilmore, colored, the voucher to which for $36 a quarter purported to have been executed before S. B. Scott, county clerk of Dallas county, was sent that authority from the pension office at Washington to ascertain if his signature and seal were genuine. Mr. Scott declared them forgeries and he at once made affidavit before Justice Lauderdale to that effect. Rev. Parker is well known throughout North Texas.

NEGROES SHOOT HOGS

Belonging to Another Man, Who Fired Upon the Thieves.

ATLANTA, Tex., Dec. 18.—News was received here yesterday morning of the killing of a negro by John Browning near Kildare, in this county, Wednesday. The trouble is said to have originated in this way: Browning heard some one shooting hogs in the woods and, on going to investigate, found two negroes killing hogs. They warned Browning to stand off. As Browning insisted on seeing the mark of the hogs the negroes raised a gun, at which Browning shot one dead and crippled the other.

Determined to Marry.

SHERMAN, Tex., Dec. 17.—A few days ago a young couple who live east of the city on Choctaw creek eloped. It was thought that they intended coming to Sherman. A messenger came post haste to warn the clerk not to issue marriage license. They never came after them. Finally an uncle of the bride, who is a minister, heard of the young folks on their way to the Indian territory and he went in pursuit. When he got to the river which divides Gretna Green and Texas he met the young folks returning, having been married in the territory. He prevailed upon them to return to Sherman and to procure license and marry again. This was done at the county clerk's office yesterday afternoon. The uncle was the officiating clergyman.

Death Sentence Passed.

WICHITA FALLS, Tex., Dec. 17.—Tuesday the mandate of the court of appeals in the Doc Brotherton case was returned to the district court here. Judge Miller ordered the prisoner brought into the district court room and after reciting to him the history of the case asked if he had anything to say why the sentence of the law should not be passed on him. Brotherton said that he did not consider that he had had justice done him in the trial and he thought it was hard for him to suffer for the crime of some one else; that he was innocent of the murder of his wife. Judge Miller then passed sentence that he should be hanged by the neck until he was dead on Friday, March 18, 1892.

Sensational Charges.

CORSICANA, Tex., Dec. 15.—Stokes and Cohen, members of the Blooming Grove firm that made an assignment in favor of J. P. Levy, Mr. Cohen's brother-in-law, had a preliminary hearing before Judge Rice yesterday morning. They were examined on three charges, two for embezzlement and one for theft, and were bound over to the regular term of the court in $1500 each. Bond was promptly [illegible]

Tragedy at Richmond.

RICHMOND, Tex., Dec. 15.—About 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon this town was thrown into a high state of excitement by the report of three gun shots on Morton street, near the Buck hotel, and immediately following the announcement that M. B. Dunlavy had killed Dr. S. B. Allen, both of this place. The deceased had lately settled here. M. B. Dunlavy is a planter and stock raiser, and has always lived here.

Found Dead.

TEMPLE, Tex., Dec. 15.—A. V. Young, a jeweler, was found dead at the German singing hall on north Fourteenth street yesterday evening. He attended a meeting there on Friday evening, since which time he had not been seen. His body is in a state of advanced decomposition. It is supposed he died of heart disease, as he seemed well when last seen.

Looked in a Gun.

WHITESBORO, Tex., Dec. 15.—Chas. Biddell, a farmer who lived near here, Sunday evening took an old fashioned cap and ball pistol to shoot at a hawk. The cap snapped and as he turned the weapon around to look at it the load was discharged. The ball pierced the brain shattering the skull in a frightful manner. Death soon ensued.

Sudden Death from La Grippe.

THRIFTY, Tex., Dec. 16.—W. P. Bare, from Auro a, Tex., stopped here Monday on his way to Jasper, Tex., with the remains of J. P. Scarborough. The young man was attending the Louisville medical college in Louisville, Ky. Mr. Scarborough was taken sick with la grippe one day and died the next.

Smothered to Death.

CALVERT, Tex., Dec. 15.—A dead negro, about 18 years of age, was discovered here Sunday afternoon by some boys in a cotton seed warehouse, two blocks south of the railroad depot. It is supposed the darkey went there to sleep Saturday night and the cotton seed caving in upon him smothered him to death.

Bold Attempt at Robbery.

LUFKIN, Tex., Dec. 14.—Rev. J. E. McDonald came here from Homer and was paid $600, which he intended carrying home with him, but noticed two suspicious characters watching him. He deposited the money with a merchant and started home, and was held up on the road as anticipated.

The Telegraphers' Strike.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 16.—Mr. N. H. Kirch, deputy grand chief of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, is confident of final success. Nothing can be heard from a point west of Deming, but the strikers are sure of the sympathy and assistance of the train men in this part of the country.

Attempted Suicide.

GARLAND, Tex., Dec. 16.—Tom Boven, a highly respected farmer, attempted suicide by taking nearly three ounces of laudanum. Doctors saved his life, but his mind is wandering and it is feared permanently impaired. He has a large family and has stood highly in the community.

Fatal Accident.

GAINESVILLE, Tex., Dec. 16.—John Seiny, a young man residing a few miles south of this city, was killed by his horse falling down and on him.

ALL MADE A RUSH

To Get a Town Lot in Oklahoma's New Addition.—Some

WADED THE RIVER AND SLEPT OUT,

Without Shelter or Blankets in Order to Establish Claims. Edward Field's Crooked Transactions Amount to $400,000.

GUTHRIE, Okla., Dec. 19.—A telegram was received from Washington last night stating that Secretary Noble had rendered a decision giving 140 acres more to the Guthrie town site. This caused the wildest excitement, and in a short time hundreds were upon the new land. Business houses were deserted and whole families rushed to the scene. Many people waded the river. Though it was bitter cold thousands camped upon lots without covering or wraps and on every side camp fires were burning. The entire force left the Daily State Capital office, and being the first to get the news, the printers all secured very valuable lots. The city council rushed upon a portion of the land and secured many acres for a park. Many quarrels are already in progress and it is feared these will be bloodshed.

Blame Not in It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Though the appointment of Steve Elkins to be the secretary of war has been discussed as a possibility ever since Endicott resigned from the cabinet, and it is known that Proctor would quit the war office and take his place, still when the West Virginian's name was sent in to the senate yesterday, as the president's selection for secretary of war, a decided sensation was created. In ten minutes everybody about the capitol was talking about it. The general impression is that this settles the question of Blaine's candidacy for the presidency. Elkins and the secretary of state have been the most intimate of friends. Their enemies say that they have been in many jobs together and the ties that bind them are strong and close. No one disputes Mr. Harrison's political aiming, and when he puts Elkins in the cabinet he does not do it in ignorance of the relations of Elkins and Blaine. He would be very far from reinforcing Blaine in the cabinet if that gentleman were a candidate for the presidency. The Harrison men declare now that there is no possibility of Blaine being a candidate and that he will in good time announce himself as favoring the nomination of the president. Blaine's warmest supporters, and those enthusiastic for his nomination for president, are very much discouraged and have about given up all hope of his becoming a candidate.

Human Butchery.

ORANGE, Fla., Dec. 15.—Owing to a lack of telegraphic and rail communication, the news has just arrived of the horrible butchery on Friday of Miss A. H. Bruce of New York city, Mrs. L. D. Hatch and son of New York state, and young Frank Packwood, whose father is from New Orleans, on an orange plantation twenty miles from here. The crime is the most revolting ever known, but no clue can be had to the fiends who accomplished it. The scene shows that Miss Bruce fought savagely for her life, and tried several times to shoot her assailants, but the firearms either missed their mark or failed to go off.

[illegible]

VICKSBURG, Miss., Dec. 16.—John P. Richardson, the millionaire planter and merchant, died at his Epps plantation, twelve miles from Dallas, La., Monday. The deceased was widely known throughout the United States and is said to be the richest man in the south. He had large real estate interests in Chattanooga, Tenn., and was senior member in large wholesale dry goods house in New Orleans. He owned fifteen plantations in Mississippi and Louisiana. The deceased will be buried in New Orleans.

Field's Transactions.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The grand jury's inquiry into the crooked transactions of E. M. Field, according to Attorney Nicoll, so far reveal an aggregate of $400,000. A new indictment has been added to the former one against young Field for forgery in using fictitious shipments of wheat to meet the demands against him across the Atlantic. As the investigation proceeds it seems almost impossible for young Field to escape sentences which practically mean imprisonment for life.

Doubly Fatal Accident.

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 15.—Living twenty miles west of here is a farmer named Bronson with his married son and a number of grandchildren. His granddaughter, aged 18, has had the grippe, and the old man insisted that bleeding would be a sure cure. The feeble old grandfather undertook to open a vein in the girl's arm, and while engaged in the operation cut an artery, resulting in the girl's death. The shock to the octogenarian was so great that he died shortly afterward.

A Destitute Mother's Deed.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A sad case of destitution came to light yesterday morning, but the facts were revealed too late. A woman became utterly discouraged at the prospects before her and yesterday morning she took her babe in her arms and went to a railway in the city of Chester, waited until the heavy train came along, when she sprang to the middle of the track with her little child still clasped tightly in her arms. The mother and child were cut to pieces.

Fatal Boiler Explosion.

RICHMOND, Ind., Dec. 18.—The saw mill of Mr. Collett, at Ridgeville, was wrecked by an explosion of the boiler yesterday morning. William Wise, the engineer, was killed outright, and so were William Collett, head sawyer, son of the proprietor, and James Clawson; Isaac Nicholson, foot torn off and left arm so badly mangled that it must be amputated. He will die. Two others were seriously injured.

Louisiana Politics.

BATON ROUGE, La., Dec. 16.—The state Democratic central committee met yesterday morning and eighty-six members were present. After receiving reports of the various committees, adjourned until to-day. That indicates that Gov. Nicholls will refuse to allow the McEnerytes to use the state capitol for their meeting. The indications are that there will be two conventions.

Embezzled $20,000.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 18.—John L. Ferguson, bookkeeper in the National Bank of Kansas City, was arrested yesterday morning for embezzling $20,000.

Bloody Chapter of Crime.

SHREVEPORT, La., Dec. 14.—Joe Patterson, the negro who Saturday killed his wife and a negro man in Bossier parish, and afterward shot J. B. Lay and Dave Wallace, was run so close by a mob yesterday afternoon that he returned to his home, putting to flight the mourners who were sitting up with his wife's corpse. Realizing the situation Patterson blew out his brains. The mob gathered around the house shortly after, numbering over 100 men, white and black, removed the body of the murdered woman and set fire to the house. It was burned and Patterson's charred remains lie in the ruins. Mr. Wallace died at 9 o'clock Saturday night. Mr. Lay will recover.

FAMINE IN MEXICO.

Distressing Condition of the People in the Interior States.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 14.—So distressing has the condition of the poorer classes in the interior states of the republic become through the failure of the corn and bean crops that they are begging, praying and fighting like wolves for bread to escape dying by the roadside of hunger. Never before within the annals of the present generation has the failure of any crops resulted so disastrously as at present. No alone in one quarter does the trouble exist, but in every section of the country and appeal follows appeal to congress for relief for the hungry poor. The threatened condition of things as explained in the last of these letters was not over-estimated, indeed, full justice was hardly given to the prospective calamity. Every day, every hour, the outlook becomes more serious. In the small suburbs outlying Zacatecas the inhabitants have began to live on herbs and plants. In the city of Fresnillo the price of meats and groceries were placed so high as to be beyond the reach of even those of moderate means and desperate famine riots have resulted. In the city of San Christobal, state of Chiapas, the people are equally desperate and have also resorted to violence to get food for themselves and their starving families. Corn is now bringing $1 a quart in some places, while the smallest chicken can be sold for 75 cents and even $1. Eggs cost $1.20 a dozen, lard has risen to 27 cents a pound and sugar to 24, while prices equally exorbitant are demanded for every other article of food. The price of a day's labor is only 40 cents. Many deaths from starvation are reported.

The Psum Refused.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Early yesterday morning it was rumored that Col. Culberson, after further consideration of the offer made him by the president to put him on the interstate commerce commission, had concluded not to accept it. Later in the day the rumor was found to be true, and through the kindly offers of Mr. Burrows of Michigan Mr. Culberson asked the president this morning to allow him to withdraw his verbal assurance that he would accept the office of interstate commissioner. Upon mature reflection he became fully satisfied that he had discharged a duty to the president and the country by his declination of this office in October, because he feared the service would not be agreeable to him nor advantageous to the country. From the beginning of the matter Col. Culberson had serious doubts about the wisdom of taking the place, and though he accepted it, he did it with regret and doubt, and he is a candidate for the United states senate and his name will go before the special session when it is called to elect a successor to Judge Reagan. There is no doubt whatever about this fact. The failure of the president to send in the name of any one for the circuit court of appeals from the fifth district is ascribed to the breaking of the slate by the refusal of Mr. Culberson to accept the place on the interstate commission as this may have necessitated a change in the intention of the president in nominating a man for the circuit court from Texas.

A Daring Robbery.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 16.—Jesse James' exploits were outdone to-night in Chicago. On one of the leading thoroughfares five daring highwaymen suddenly surrounded one of Uncle Sam's biggest mail wagons and at the revolver's point forced the postal employees to surrender several sacks. The bulky government vehicle then went flying on its journey, the occupants being threatened with instant death if they made any outcry or stopped. Near midnight the stolen mail sacks, split open and rifled of their contents, were found on Superior street in the north division of the city fully three miles from the scene of the robbery. The wagon was on the way to the main postoffice with mail from the stock yards and southwest stations. While one of the men covered the driver with a revolver, the others forced open the doors of the wagon, and hastily selecting registered pouches, made off.

The Situation Alarming.

BRAZIL, Ind., Dec. 15.—The situation in the bituminous coal regions in which 20,000 miners are on a strike, is a gloomy one for the strikers and the outcome may bring the wolf to the door of many a delver in the bowels of the earth in adjacent states.

Cyrus Field Dying.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Cyrus W. Field is sinking, not even his brother is permitted to see him. Dr. Fuller says he has now lost all hope of his ultimate recovery, but does not think death will claim him for some days.

Chief Mayes Dead.

MUSKOGEE, I. T., Dec. 15.—Hon. J. B. Mayes, chief of the Cherokee nation, died yesterday.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.	
COTTON—Middling	7⅞
WHEAT—No. 2 red	1 05¼
CORN—No 2	61
ST. LOUIS.	
COTTON—Middling	7⅞
WHEAT—No. 2 red	1 03⅝
CORN—No. 2	3 ⅞
CHICAGO.	
CATTLE—Texans	3 25
HOGS—Prime packers	3 70
SHEEP—Texans	4 90
WHEAT—No. 2	91¼
CORN—No 2	49
PORK—New mess	7 85
BACON—Short rib	5 35
LARD—Prime steam	6 05¼
KANSAS CITY.	
CATTLE—Steers	4 00
HOGS—All grades	4 00
WHEAT—No 2	78
CORN—No. 2	35¾
NEW ORLEANS.	
COTTON—Middling	7⅞
GALVESTON.	
COTTON—Middling	7 5-16
DALLAS.	
CATTLE—Steers	2 00
HOGS—Choice	4 10
SHEEP—Choice	3 00

SIBERIAN CHRISTMAS.

—BY—

MARIE VALBASKY

MY GRANDPARENTS on my mother's side were banished to Siberia in 1854. They were among the first exiles under the administrative process, that is, exiled without trial. They were refined, educated and wealthy.

My grandmother, a beautiful young woman of 26 years, was, during part of her journey, chained to a male convict of the lowest class. The treatment she then received drove my grandfather to frenzy, and he was killed by an officer a week after they left St. Petersburg. Whether there was ever any notice taken of his death I cannot tell. Three weeks after my grandmother gave birth to a daughter—my mother. Impossible as it may seem, they both lived, and to prove that there is a spark of manhood in the most hardened my grandmother received rather better treatment afterward, though how she could have lived God only knows. At length she reached Tomsk, and there her journey ended. Her sentence of banishment had been for twenty years, and she knew that meant for life.

Hopelessly she dragged herself from house to house, seeking a shelter for herself and little one. At length a wretched peasant gave her the use of one miserable room. She entered, believing she should at least find solitude; even this is denied political exiles. At any moment an officer may invade their privacy and their poor belongings pass under his inspection.

Hourly [illegible] prayed for death for herself and child, but they lived on and on, and strangely enough the little one throve.

They lived upon the small allowance furnished by the government treasury for the support of those unable to work. This was barely enough to prevent starvation; not enough to give them one comfort, not even paper and ink. Correspondence was, however, a doubtful pleasure, as every letter received or sent had to pass under the inspection of an officer. Many a night after they had retired their room was entered and everything examined—even the bed.

Through all this they lived and the little Marie grew into a fair, large-eyed, timid girl, with a beauty so rare and delicate that her mother's heart awoke to still another ache.

With nothing to help her but the wisdom of unutterable love, my grandmother educted her child and made her a worthy branch of the noble house from which she sprang.

For fourteen years they had lived in that dreary cottage. The mother was now unable to leave her miserable bed. Christmas was approaching and Mary had never had a Christmas present in her life.

Young and old, as you gather about your Christmas trees on this blessed morn, think of this little girl! She is only the type of a class. There are many more as forlorn, though, thank

PRAYED FOR DEATH

God, she now stands "where waters and where storms are calm, and the eternal hills are beautiful."

I think of her always. I will have no present. I will have nothing but an opportunity to work for those I love, who are still in exile. I write only to arouse attention. To help by ever so little is better than to sit still. When I read of those who give their lives in this cause how I exult—how I long for their glorious martyrdom.

But patience—my day will come. My grandmother knew that the coming Christmas was to be her last on earth, and she poured out her whole soul in supplication to God to send a protector to her child. One came, but if there is a God why did he not harken sooner?

One precious possession besides her treasured child my grandmother had kept all these years, so securely hidden that it had escaped the prying eyes of the vigilant officers. This was a picture of the little boy who died before the evil days fell upon her. A little joyous faced framed in curls, a manly, steady little fellow—so like the husband who had died for her—all that was left of a happy home. This picture she had never mentioned to Marie, afraid at times to even think of it, so ubiquitous were her persecutors. But now she must soon die and she would give herself the sad pleasure of bestowing this treasure upon her child for a Christmas present.

Christmas eve the two lonely ones sat encircled in each other's arms, and the mother again recounted the cherished memories of her brave little boy, again told the beautiful Christmas story and the customs of happy homes in other lands.

Then, it being very late, and the danger of a visit seeming to be past, the mother drew from its hiding place the picture.

Marie gazed upon it with wonder and rapture. She had never seen anything so beautiful, and it was her own darling little brother.

What can I say to make you feel this as I feel it? Pause, happy mothers and sisters, and imagine yourselves living through it.

The door opened, an officer entered, snatched the picture, and after a scene I cannot describe, carried it away. He never returned it.

Suspicion was aroused that this poor, hollow-cheeked woman, on the verge of

WONDER & RAPTURE

the grave, or secret communication with St. Petersburg.

A short time after my father took an adjoining room in this wretched cottage. My grandmother had known and loved his parents and she poured out the most devout thanksgiving to God for this friend who would surely watch over the child. His presence brought the first feeling of security she had known since her arrest so many years ago. My mother and father loved each other from the first and my grandmother died peacefully in my father's arms. After the burial they were married.

For a Christmas Dinner.

I shall always remember the bad luck our fifer had at Fort Ripley, Minn., some years ago. He went on "sick report" the day before Christmas and as the doctor (an old time contract physician) had no patients in the hospital, the fifer was admitted in order that the post chaplain could not use the ward for divine service on Christmas. The chaplain and the doctor were not the best of friends, and the latter doing all he could to provoke him by admitting the fifer as a patient, he performed a maneuver which completely overpowered his enemy. Now that fifer may have been sick, but if he was it in no way interfered with his appetite, and lying on his sick bed, with a mustard plaster on his manly chest, his thoughts were on the glorious dinner of the morrow. Christmas day arrived and with the first drum tap our fifer arose, but he ate sparingly of breakfast for fear of not being able to do justice to the mid-day meal. Noon came, the nurse yelled out "Chuck," our fifer vanished into the mess hall with a Sioux war whoop. The tempting dinner before him well nigh paralyzed him with joy, especially as there were only three to eat it, beside himself, viz: hospital steward, nurse and cook. Just as the fifer got his mouth in good working order for the turkey which the steward was about to carve, the doctor came into the room with a large roll of manuscript under his arm. Taking a chair within three feet of the table, the man of medicine unrolled the paper, put on his spectacles and after a couple of dry coughs remarked: "Steward, as this is Christmas day I thought I would come over and read a poem I wrote in 1869. It is entitled 'Lines on Grant.' After the reading I hope you will enjoy the excellent dinner before you." The steward sank back in his chair with a sigh; the fifer dropped two big tears on his empty plate. It was a few moments past 12 o'clock when the doctor began, it was 1:30 when he finished. By that time the fire had died in the stove, the dinner was cold and the small audience nearly frozen. Finishing, the audience was thanked for its attentiveness, when the disciple of Æsculapius retired for his own quarters, where a warm and tempting meal awaited him. Next day the fifer was returned to "duty," and although he still exists as a musical "windjammer" in the services of Uncle Sam, he is ready to shoot any one mentioning poetry to him.

GEO. DIXON.

Said About Christmas.

A warm Christmas, a cold Easter.
A light Christmas, a heavy sheaf.
A Green Christmas, a white Easter.
A green Christmas makes a fat graveyard.
A wind on Christmas day, trees will bring much fruit.
If Christmas finds a bridge, he'll break it; if he finds none he'll make one.
If ice will bear a man before Christmas, it will not bear a man afterward.
The shepherd would rather see his wife enter the stable on Christmas day than the sun.
If the sun shines through the apple-tree on Christmas day, there will be an abundant crop the following year.

Christmas Slippers.

Devoted Wife—Have you any embroidered Christmas slippers?

Dealer—Plenty of them. You wish hand-worked, I presume?

"Yes. I want a pair that will look as though it took all summer to do them."

"Yes, Madam, we have that kind; they make a man almost weep when he thinks of the days and weeks and months of silent labor all for him."

"Well, here is my husband's measure. Don't send any bill except for the soles. Charge him a few dollars extra for his next pair of boots."

THE END OF 1891.

We Can Now Look Back at Our Successes And Failures.

To the young the years speed not fast enough; to the old they are too short. The young employ the closing of one year in ambitious planning for the next; the aged muse over the events of the past and contemplate the mysteries of the future. In the lives of some the year has proved a memorable one, while in those of others it is suggestive of no special events. The hopes of one have reached fruition, the aspiration of another have fallen short of success, and thus the last day of December brings alike pleasant and sad memories. Whatever the year of 1891 has brought to us, there is a valuable lesson to be learned. If any undertaking upon which we entered has proved unsuccessful, we can now, on looking back over the ground, see more clearly the cause of our failure. No lesson is so forcibly learned as that born of experience. A past failure ofttimes points to a future success, if we but profit by the lesson. No year is wasted which brings to us a clear realization of our individual worth and its best employment. The experiences of the old year will make our successes during the new more assured, for we will have learned what shoals to avoid in the sea of life. If our bark has just ground over rocky reefs with but slight injury, let us feel thankful that we were not entirely wrecked. To be successful, the truth has been taught that the best success is that which is born with modesty and a humble exterior. It is a poor success that brings with it an outward self-consciousness of our talents or gifts. The most admired and beloved men and women are those who combine prosperity with modesty. And thus to all the year can be fruitful of good results, if we but extract from our individual experiences only that which will be the most profitable for us to remember. Then we shall be the better prepared to enter upon the new Year with wisdom, zeal and energy.

The Holiday Season in Dark Town.

Deacon Burnside (of Brewster station)—Go slow, chile; doan' you drap nuffin' on dis 'casion, 'cause we 'spec's city-folks dis Krismus, an' coons frum town nevah 'knows when t' quit stuff' der skins when you puts biled birds in front uv 'em.

Young Rube (disciple of the deacon)—Dis am de las' chick on de roos', uncle, an' of yo' fren's frum de city doan' swell up 'nuf on dis load ob white meat den you'd better chuck in er lot o' snowballs fur dessart!

Deacon Burnside—You pore chile; you doan' know de joys ob 'ligion. Wa'st yer heerd las' Sabbat' 'bout it bein' mo' blessed t' gib den t' take doan' 'pear t' hab tak'n er grip on yer intelek'.

Young Rube—I doan' kno' nuffin' 'bout interlek, but I nevah kno'd a city moke yit dat didn't think dere wer heep mo'

joy in takin' things den in gibbin' up a cent. An' I also can't he'p seein' dat de preachers who am all de time talkin' 'bout gibbin' nevah gib up nuffin'.

Deacon Burnside—Fo' de light o' de moon, Reuben, I 'spec you turn inter er rock er salt befo' sun-up! Massy on us' de chile mus' be hoodooed, sah!

The Mistletoe of Pagan Origin.

The mistletoe is looked upon as the Christmas plant. A great many people believe that the distinction is owing to the fact that it blossoms in some countries at this time of the year. Such belief is founded on fiction. The mistletoe has been an emblem of Christianity almost since the time of Christ. It first came into use as such under the reign of Pope Gregory I, who sent some missionaries to Albion (now England) to spread Christianity among the Druids. Some years afterwards a pilgrimage Christianized Druids visited the Papal city bringing mistletoe branches and throwing them at the feet of Gregory as an evidence of their renunciation of Druidism. It will thus be seen that the mistletoe was first the emblem of Druid-paganism.

An Obsolete Custom.

The custom of arranging the Yule log in the hearth Christmas eve is now almost obsolete. It became customary in France at the beginning of the christian era. It spread rapidly and was soon adopted by all christian countries. In some parts of Russia the custom still thrives. So also in Ireland only in different form, a turf fire being substituted for the "back log."

If you hear a man protesting loudly during the week against the promiscuous slaughter of seals you may depend upon it that he very grudgingly bought his wife a sealskin sacque for Christmas.

Now is about the time when the fond wife will begin to hook change out of her husband's pockets with which to buy him a present, so as to make him believe she loves him.