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Optical Camera.

N. O. Picayune.

Many years ago a startling theory was put forth that the eyes of a dead person would present a picture of the last object gazed upon before life became extinct, and in this way it might be possible to detect murderers if the portrait of the guilty person should be so photographed upon the eyes of his victim.

This theory, after enjoying notoriety for some time, and furnishing incidents for several detective stories, finally dropped into oblivion upon the declaration of failure, after much investigation, to find any pictures or images of any sort on the eyes of the dead. But it has been since brought into sensational prominence by the statement, within a few days past, that important revelations had been made by a dead woman's eyes.

On the 15th of December, two women, Mrs. Shearman and Mrs. Davis, were found murdered at their residence, at Jamestown, N. Y. There was no apparent clue to the murderer. But it was announced that Coroner Bowers, accompanied by Fred S. Marsh, a local scientist, went to the residence of Winslow Shearman, where Mrs. Shearman and Mrs. Davis were murdered, and made microscopic examination of the eyes of the dead women. Nothing was revealed in the eyes of Mrs. Davis, but on one of those of Mrs. Shearman the form of a man was distinctly photographed. The microscope used enlarged the object viewed 400 times its real size. The picture as revealed did not show the face of the man, who is supposed to be the murderer. The man's position was such, according to those who made the examination, that the body was shown only from the breast down to the feet.

After the first surprise of the startling discovery made Mr. Marsh was over, he made a most careful examination, which clearly revealed the man's form. He was apparently a big man, with a long heavy overcoat unbuttoned, and which reached below the knees. The wrinkles in the trousers could be plainly seen, and one foot was behind the other, with the knee bending as if in a stooping posture about to take a step. Dr. Bowers, the coroner, then made an examination and says he saw the picture as distinctly as he could see a man standing in front of him. E. G. Partridge, Albert Hazeltine and the Rev. Stoddard, who were at the house when the examination was made, were called into the room and examined the eye, each one of them verifying the statement as describing the man in similar language.

Such is the story of the photograph in a dead woman's eye, and, should it be verified by proper tests, it may lead to something extremely important. Anybody who will look into the eye of another person will see that it is a mirror, the pupil or central part, reflecting the picture of the observer. The eye, whether of human beings or of ordinary animals, is to the outside observer a mirror, while precisely the same picture which is thus seen in the eye is imprinted on the brain of the possessor of the eye. If there were also some natural process by which the last scene which the eye in life had witnessed could be fixed upon that organ in death, as if it had been photographed, then the eye of a murdered person would become an important factor in the detection of criminals. The only question to be settled is, does this power of ocular photo-

graph exist? The facts of the case can only be determined by experiment. The subject is one of great interest and importance, and it should be given the fullest attention.

The Tariff War.

The newspapers are pointing out indications of a coming tariff war between the United States and several European countries, perhaps all of them. A tariff war fully inaugurated means non-intercourse commercially. It will naturally result also in social non-intercourse to a considerable extent. This looks simple enough on paper, but its ultimate results might be serious.

At first view it might appear that the advantage would be on our side. It is true that the foreign market for our surplus agricultural products would to a great extent be closed by a general tariff war, but the chief utility in the export of such things is to exchange them for European manufactures. So far as money is concerned, the balance of trade is unlikely to be against us as for us and may actually carry money away.

But the absence of European goods would result in the production of their equivalent in the United States and the producers would constitute as much of a market here as they now do abroad for our farm products.

There might be nothing gained or lost, of actual money, by this change of commerce; but it is quite evident that this country could manage to get along pretty well without Europe. The inconvenience would probably attach rather to the other party to the new arrangement, especially in view of the loss to Europe of the several hundred millions of dollars now annually left them by American travel.

But the real danger is that matters could hardly be kept down to this pacific basis of a stand-off. Europe would have several active sources of temptation for war. First, the enormous pecuniary loss from non-intercourse would not be long endurable to the chief sufferers, and, secondly, the irrepressible antagonism between Monarchy and Democracy would find in the situation a convenient excuse for coming to blows. France is not yet solid in her Republicanism and, even if she were, she could not avoid being swept away by the current inter-continental hostility.

In such a contest the odds of strength would be enormously against America. It is idle to say that Europe could not transport her armies across the oceans. Our fleet would not dare take the sea in face of the combined navies of the Old World, and their transports would land troops as safely as though there were no war. Europe, it must be remembered, already holds Canada, portions of South America and all the West India Islands.

Our statesmen will no doubt figure on all these contingencies before they give way to a spirit of resentment and retaliation. Wrath is a thing that will keep, if bottled up and well corked, for further use.—Morning Star.

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