

J. H. KOOLER, Editor.

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Peter the Great and the Lying Husband.

The czar excited by natural curiosity and his love for the sciences, took great pleasure in seeing dissections and surgical operations. It was Peter who first made these known in Russia, and he was so fond of them that he gave orders to be informed whenever anything of the kind was going on in the hospitals, and he seldom failed to be present.

The czar once exercised his dexterity as a dentist on the wife of one of his valets de chambre, who wished to be revenged upon her for some supposed injuries. Perceiving the husband, whose name was Baboiarof, sitting in the antechamber with a sad countenance, the czar inquired the cause of his sorrow.

"Nothing, sire," answered the valet "except that my wife refuses to have a tooth drawn which gives her the most agonizing pain."

"Let me speak to her, and I warrant I shall cure her," said the czar.

He was immediately conducted by the husband to the apartment of the supposed sick wife, and made her sit down that he might examine her mouth, although she protested that she had no toothache.

"An! this is the mischief," said her husband, "she always pretends not to suffer when we wish to give her ease, and renews her lamentations as soon as the physician is gone."

"Well, well," said the czar, "she will not suffer long. Do you hold her head and arms?"

Then, taking out his instruments, he, in spite of her cries, extracted the tooth which he supposed to be the cause of the complaint with admirable address. Hearing a few days after, that this was a trick of the husband to punish his wife, Peter chastised him severely with his own hands.

Peter the Great died on January 28th, 1825.

Open Eating in Chicago.

Under Pacific hall, at the corner of Clark and Van Buren, is a basement used as an opium den, which would not do discredit to the Chinese quarter of San Francisco. It was formerly run by an old Mongolian medicine man, who accumulated a few thousand in the business and then lit out for his celestial home. Some laundry fiends conduct the concern at present, and if Ingersoll wants a good illustration of an earthly hell, he should not fail to visit that basement. The police broke into the den yesterday morning and surprised a large party from a late street dive, who contemplated picknicking on the deadly narcotic. Some were sprawling on the filthy floor, and others had rolled into dirty banks, and all were contemplating a glorious orgie, when their bright dreams were suddenly shattered by the entrance of a squad of blue coats. After a prelude of cursing in pigeon English and State street billingsgate, the opium eaters were brought before Justice Wallace, who held a reception at the armory. There were four females, prominently among whom was Mary Jane Kerwin, whose moral depravity is equalled only by her masculine power, and who is consequently a terror to policemen. The men were bleary eyed, degraded wretches whose proper place, during the remainder of their lives would be in the ante-room of Hades. All members of the disreputable party were fined \$20 each and upwards. Only few could liquidate their debt to the city and those who did went forth to resume their debauch.

Careful inquiry has developed the fact that a number of apparently respectable citizens patronize the horrible Clark street den. Some women, who are not professional prostitutes and an alarmingly large number of young girls from fifteen to twenty years of age, have been observed stealthily entering the basement at all hours of the day and night. Why such places should be allowed to exist at all in Chicago is a question not easily answered.

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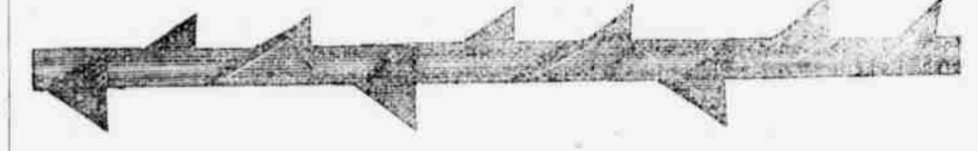
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