

By JAMES REED.

Independent in all things.

\$2 in Advance.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

EDGAR HALL, Fire and Life Insurance and Real Estate Agent. Also, Notary Public and Conveyancer. Office over Sherman and Hall's Law Office, Ash. 1010.

ERIE RAILWAY.

Abstract of Time Table Adopted November 13, 71.

NEW and improved Drawing Room and Sleeping Coaches, containing all modern improvements, are run through on all routes from Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Cleveland and Cincinnati to New York, and direct connections with all the Foreign and Continental Steamers, and also with Sound Steamers and Railway lines for Boston and New England cities.

Table with columns: STATIONS, Day, Night, Express, etc. Lists routes to Buffalo, Cleveland, and New York.

Arrangement of Drawing-Room and Sleeping Coaches.

No. 2.—Sleeping Coaches from Cincinnati to Horwells Bridge, Niagara Falls and Buffalo to New York.

LAKE SHORE & W. S. RAIL-ROAD.

ERIE DIVISION—TIME TABLE. To take effect Sunday, Jan. 14, 1872.

Table with columns: Special, Toledo Ex., Pacific Ex., etc. Lists train schedules and fares.

O. K. RALPH'S, NEW CASH STORE.

I WOULD most respectfully inform the inhabitants of Ash. and surrounding country, that I have opened a Store with a new and select assortment of

DRY GOODS, BOOTS AND SHOES, GROCERIES, &c. which I propose to sell at moderate prices and ready store. One door South of Park, Silliman & Co's. Store. Please give me a chance to show that I mean business. O. K. RALPH.

J. S. Ryder, Photographer. 171 and 173 Superior Street, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

SELECT POETRY.

A Sparrow's Nest.

And what a neatly thing it is! I never saw a nest like this. Not neatly woven, with decent care, Of silvery moss and shining hair;

But put together, odds and ends, Picked up from enemies and friends. See! bits of thread and bit of rag, Just like a little rubbish-heap!

See his of dog and fur of cat, And ravelings of a worsted mat, And not a little good contriving, Compacted cunningly together.

Well, here has loarding been, and living, And not a little good contriving, Before a home of peace and ease Was fashioned out of things like these.

Think! had these odds and ends been brought To some wise man renowned for thought— Some man of men a very gem— Pray, what could he have done with them?

If we had said: "Here, sir, we bring You many a worthless little thing— Just bits of scrap, and shavings, and That they have scarcely size at all;

And out of these you must contrive A dwelling large enough for five, Neat, warm, and snug, with comfort stored, Where five small things may lodge and board."

How would the man of learning vast Have been astonished and aghast, And vowed that such a thing had been Never heard of, much less seen!

Al! I'm of learning, you are wrong: Instinct is more than wisdom, strong; And He who made the sparrow taught This skill, beyond your reach of thought.

And here, in this uncouthly nest, These little creatures have been bred; Nor have kings known, in palaces, Half such content as is in this, Poor simple dwelling as it is.

Plant Trees.

Plant trees, my friend, plant trees to-day— Braid your cottage door— And let their leafy shadows play With sunshine on your floor.

Plant trees, that birds may build their nests In bowers that you have made, And children play, and tire, and rest, Beneath their grateful shade.

Let oak and lindens round your field With iron arms your lumber they'll shield "Gainst winter winds and snow.

Let hemlock, spruce and fragrant fir, And hardy, graceful larch, Stand guard against the gales that stir The blustering days of March.

Let locust catch the breath of May, Co-adjutor cloth the prune, And chestnut base its lily and gay, Both wave in the air of June.

Plant trees along each thoroughfare, And let their branches flourish there, Above the country roads, and o'er The city's dusty street.

Let willows fringe the sparkling stream, And poplars line the land, And let the maple's silver gleam Be seen upon its fan.

Let elm and ash their shadows fling Across the murmuring rills, And let the pine's solemn strings Make music on the hills.

Plant trees, and something better leave To your daughters and their sons, Than "twere to have your name engraved On marble shaft or bronze.

A Thrilling Incident.

In 1858, a circumstance occurred in the city of New Orleans which, at the time, created an excitement that affected the entire population. An old merchant highly connected, wealthy and of distinguished social position, one night mysteriously disappeared. His family were in intense distress, and his business in consequence disordered. He left his house at a late hour, ostensibly to go home; but before going, contrary to the usual practice, put into his pocket a large sum of money.

His wife, an elderly Peters street, on the bank of the river, but far down in the third district of the city. His life may have been sacrificed and his body thrown into the flood that rolled at his feet. Police regulations at that time were not infrequently perpetrated. A little way back from the street was a ruinous building, half tumbling to decay, and inhabited by a number of people, men and women inured to vice and living by robbery.

Among the band notes Mr. Crosby was known to possess was one of \$500 with the word "Canal" written on the back. The rest were of various denominations, and without peculiar identity.

Mr. I— and myself visited the residence of the missing man, at the request of his wife, and by her we were charged with the duty of tracing out and bringing to justice his supposed murderers. She was a tall, elegant looking lady, of commanding presence and great culture. The wealth of her rich beauty and fine mind was inherited by her daughter, a girl scarcely twenty. The terrible revelation had paralyzed the senses of the mother, but had aroused the energy and fire of the young girl's nature. More like a beautiful Nemesia than an ordinary woman she appeared to us.

As we entered the room she was in the act of consulting the mother. The long black hair had escaped from its confinement and had almost enveloped her person in its ebony tresses. The great luminous eyes were tearful but flashing and full of fire. The face was dark with the blood of her Spanish race, but the figure was queenly, slender and faultless to a model. Starting up as we entered the room she inquired very hastily, almost fiercely, I thought— "Are you the detectives?"

"We are," and I mentioned our names. "I must speak to you in private," she said, and led the way to an adjoining apartment.

"What do you think of the matter?" "As yet an opinion would be mere guess-work," I replied. "Nevertheless I have come to one. I have no doubt he was murdered, and that the deed was committed somewhere near the old ruinous building near the river."

"Some such idea has crossed my mind, but there is no trace as yet which can lead to the proof of it."

"We will find it out, rest assured," she said, "and to this end you must cooperate with me, and now listen to what I have to say. To night at twelve o'clock precisely do you two visit the old building. I will be there. Ask for the young woman who applied at nightfall to them for shelter. Let your object be, apparently, to arrest her."

"But I do not understand." "But you will. I am going there by dark, disguised as a beggar girl. By the time you have come, my information will have been collected."

"I will read the criminal's secret," she said, "if the criminal is there, however deep in his heart he may bury it."

Strange as it may appear, I made no attempt to dissuade her from her purpose. I could not. I felt as if the beautiful creature held over me a magnetic control.

Those acquainted with the city at this period can form some idea of the danger of the plot we had formed. To us it was a matter of daily occurrence. But for the young girl, inexperienced and tenderly nursed, to thrust herself into the very house of the unscrupulous and desperate wretches who were suspected of this crime, was simply appalling. It would not do, however, to go to the place before the hour appointed for our coming, for that would defeat the object in view. It was therefore with many a misgiving and uneasiness but poorly concealed, we bided our time. But we determined to be there at the very moment, and the clock was on the stroke of twelve midnight when we knocked at the door. The outside of the house gave no sign of life within. The shutters were securely fastened, and no ray of light penetrated the darkness, but a muffled sound of voices reached our ears, our knocks hushed them to a whisper. There was a momentary hesitation, as if consulting together, and then the door was opened wide.

It was a long room, dusty, and brown from age. About a dozen persons were seated around, but every eye was turned to the door. Two men had risen to their feet and stood in an attitude which might mean defence, before the fireplace; but the object that attracted our attention, was a young girl sitting in the corner of the apartment. Her face was as dark as a gipsy's and the long hair hung loose on her shoulders; her dress was of poor material, ragged and unclean. Patches and rents had almost changed its hue and disguised its texture. She seemed to us to be a creature of another world, and her slender frame shivered as if from cold as the chill air from the open door swept in.

"What do you want?" was the stern question addressed to us by one of the men at the fire. Before I had time to reply, the girl sprang to her feet and spoke instead: "Arrest these men!" Her voice was low, but her face flashing on the light of the fire, was that of the Nemesia I had seen that day.

There was a short fierce struggle, and the men were in our power. The girl then walked to a place in the floor and touching a concealed spring lifted a trap door. She bade Mr. I lift the box that lay in the hidden place. The lid was wrenched off, and in it were the old merchant's money, papers and pocket-book. With the money was found the bill and the word "canal" written across its back. It was not long before the men confessed their crime. The old man had been murdered and his body thrown into the river.

The daughter accomplished her mission. She carried out her design and traced to their hiding places the proofs of the murderer's crime. It is useless to state what followed. Long years have fled since then, and the Nemesia is yet among the living. Beautiful still, there are many hearts to grow glad at her smile and share with her the joy of the home she charms.

ANECDOTE OF HENRY CLAY.—One of the most notable members of the Two great Congresses was Thomas F. Marshall of Kentucky. He came to Washington with a high reputation as an eloquent advocate and a rising lawyer. He was a fine scholar, of elegant culture, lively imagination, and good logical powers. He spoke with fluency and animation, and always commanded the attention of the House. But his habits were erratic, and he was absent from the Capitol nearly half the time. There was an old family feud between Mr. Clay and the Marshall's, and the representative from Louisville, partook of the animosity of his relative, who had slain Mr. Clay in single combat. Marshall was decidedly opposed to the Bank bill, which the President had vetoed, and in a conversation on the Avenue, attacked it in a strain of argument and ridicule of the most effective character.

"Bravo, Tom," said a bystander, "I never heard anything better in my life. Why don't you make that speech in the House?" There's not a man there who can answer it."

"Why don't I, sure enough? Do you know what the people of Kentucky sent me to Congress for? Not to act upon my own judgment, not to carry out their wishes, but to vote at the dictation of Henry Clay. There's a collar around my neck bearing the inscription, 'Henry Clay, his dog!'"

The fur trade at San Francisco has largely increased since the acquisition of Alaska to the United States. Last year the importation of raw fur was of the value of more than \$2,000,000. Previous to the purchase of Alaska the trade in furs was insignificant, all that were obtained in the territory being sent from Sitka, by Siberia, to Europe. Now the trade has been diverted to San Francisco, with much of that from Siberia. From this port the markets of the world are more accessible. The trade is becoming more and more important, and it will become more so yearly, for some years.

Industry of English Women.

An English traveler writes: I can assure you that, having lived in different castles and manor-houses of Great Britain, and been accustomed to the industrious habits of duchesses and countesses, I was utterly astonished at the idleness of American fine ladies. No English woman of rank (with the exception of a few *parsons*) from the Queen downward, would remain for one-half hour unemployed, or sit in a rocking chair, unless seriously ill. They almost all, with hardly an exception, copy the letters of business of their husbands, father, or brothers, attend minutely to the wants of the poor around them, and even to take part in their amusements, and sympathize with their sorrows; and visit and superintend the schools, work in their own gardens; see to their household concerns; think about their visitors; look over the weekly accounts not only of domestic expenses, but often those of the farm and the estate; manage penny clubs in conjunction with the working classes, to help them keep themselves; and with all these occupations, by early hours, they keep up their acquaintance with the literature and politics of the day, and cultivate the accomplishments of music and drawing, and often acquire besides some knowledge of scientific pursuits. The late Marchioness of Lansdowne was so well acquainted with the cottagers in her neighborhood, that she used to visit and look at the corpses of the dead, because she found that her doing so soothed and comforted the bereaved. I have known her to shut herself up with a mad woman in her poor dwelling, who used to lock the door and could not be induced to admit any one else. Lady Lansdowne's only daughter used once one hundred guineas (given her by her father-in-law, Lord Suffolk, to buy a bracelet) to buy pig-sticks, with his permission, at her husband's little country residence. She educates her own children without assistance—teaching the boys Latin and the girls all the useful branches of education. The late Duchess of Bedford, I accidentally discovered when on a visit to Mornburn, had, for thirty years of her married life, risen at six o'clock, summer and winter, lit her own fire, made some tea for the duke and herself, and then, as she had her own letters to write, and a couple of them, and they came down to a large party of guests at ten o'clock, to dispense breakfast, without saying one word of their mutinous avocations, so that you might have been a visitor in the house without finding out that the Duke and Duchess had transacted the necessary business of the day—before, perhaps, you had risen. I would rather mention those that have gone to their reward than write of women still amongst us; but you may believe me when I say that I am constantly among those who live such lives of energy and usefulness, but they so constantly themselves without recognition, or an idea that they are doing more than their simple duty.

Horoskop for March.

The man born this month will be inclined to blow a little. He will be a domestic man, and will know how to rock the cradle and pare potatoes. He will marry the only daughter of a widower and will be a good judge of mothers-in-law. He will die about the usual time in life, and leave a house and lot with a small mortgage on it. He never will run for office but once, and then will get beat.

The woman who appears this month will be an old maid until she is 20 years old, and then she will suddenly put a stop to this kind of buzziness, by investing in a young man. She will be a good housekeeper, and know how to make a plum pudding, with the plums left out. She will hang to her baby till she is about 45, after that she will have to take chances.

I don't suppose there has ever lived a man without a single virtue. Even Judas Iskariot "went and hanged himself." The old saying has it, "it is a wise child that knows his own father," but in these daze of progress it is a wise father that knows his own child.

A man with a head full of brains can afford to be careless once in a while, for even his blunders are brilliant.

I am satisfied that there are no such things as *eloquent words*. Eloquence is a manner, and I have seen an eloquent mucker.

Style is everything for a sinner, and a beetle of it won't hurt even a saint. Gravity as a general thing, is either the wisdom of a phal or the cunning of a rascal.

Humility is a good thing to have, provided a man is sure he has got the right kind. There never is a time in a cat's life when she is so humble as just before she makes up her mind to pounce upon a chicken, or just after she has caught and it.

The man who has got into the habit of never making any blunders, is altogether too good to live in this world.

A Monkey as a Police Detective.

The following wonderful story, very hard to believe, is told in a Bombay paper: A Madras going on a journey took with him some money and jewels, and a monkey, of which he was very fond. The poor man, however, was waylaid, robbed and murdered by a party of ruffians, who went their way after throwing the corpse into a dry well, and covering the latter up with twigs and dry leaves. But they had overlooked the monkey, who saw the whole proceedings from the top of a tree. As soon as the road was clear, the intelligent beast set off for the Tehsildar's, or police officer's house, and having drawn his attention by cries and moans, lured him on by dumb signs to the tell-tale spot. In due time the body was discovered, and then with the monkey's help the Tehsildar found the stolen property where the thieves had buried it. He then followed the monkey to one of the murderers, ran after him, and with his teeth held him fast by the leg until the man was secured. This feat he seems to have repeated until all the murderers were caught. It is added that they have since confessed their crime, and being committed for trial before the Tellicherry Court. An Agra contemporary suggests that such a monkey ought to be made an inspector of police. Would not that be rather a descent for the monkey? We would like to hear more about him, how he behaves for instance in giving evidence before a magistrate. What sort of equivalent for an oath would be required of him, and would the identity of the culprit be proved by his showing his teeth? If the story should prove to have any foundation, it will deserve a prominent place in the next addition of one of Dr. Frank Buckland's amusing volumes.

Sample Clerk.

Jem B— is a wag. A joke to Jem is both food and raiment, and whenever there is an opening for fun he goes into it.

Jem was recently in a drug store, when a youth, apparently fresh from the "country," entered the store and at once accosted Jem, stating that he was in search of a job.

"What kind of a job?" inquired the wag.

"Oh, 'most anything. I want to get a kind of a genteel job; I am tired of farmin', and kin turn my hand to 'most anything."

"Well, we want a man—a good, strong, healthy man—as a sample clerk."

"What are the wages?" "Wages are what we pay \$1,000 to a man in that situation."

"What's a teller to do?" "Oh, merely to test medicines, that's all. It requires a stout man, one of good constitution; and after he gets used to it he don't mind it. You see, we are very particular about the quality of our medicines, and before we sell any we test every parcel. You would be required to take—say, six or seven ounces of castor oil some days, with a few drops of rhubarb, aloes, croton oil and similar preparations. Some days you would be required to test anything; but as a general thing, you may count upon—say from six to ten doses of something. As to the work, that doesn't amount to much; the testing department simply would be the principal labor required of you; and as I said before, it requires a person of very healthy organization to endure it. But you look hearty, and I guess you would suit us. That young man—pointing to a pale-faced, slim-looking youth, who happened to be present—was filled the post for the last two weeks; but he's hardly stout enough to stand it; we should like to have you take right hold if you are ready, and if you say so, we'll begin to-day. Here is a new barrel of castor oil just come in. I will go and draw an ounce out."

Here Verdant, who had been gazing intently upon the slim youth, interrupted him with:

"No, no; I g-u-e-s-s not—not to-day, anyhow. I'll go down and see my aunt; and if I c'n'de ter come, I'll come up tomorrow and let you know."