



THIEF IN THE NIGHT. MICHAEL THOMAS.

HERE was a large party at the Chateau de Kerdall, near Vannes. Marquis de Kerdall and his young wife had just returned from a tour of the world on yacht, during which they had visiting visits to Africa, America, Oceania, and they had celebrated home-coming by gathering to all their friends and relatives at beautiful country house.

The guests were old Dr. Cornabuc, an illustrious member of the Society of Metaphysical Sciences, so absent-minded, so venerable, so blonde peruke and his coat of the fashion of 1850. There was Mme. de Lartigue, an old friend of the marquis, a brilliant, friendly Parisienne. And there was Hawthorne, an English maid with youthful propensities. There were many others, all of whom were of amusement to heart's content at Kerdall.

On the ordinary pleasures of life there were some unusual attractions. In the first place, the host and his wife had seen and experienced so that was novel and startling that conversation was always fascinating. Then the rooms of the castle formed a veritable museum, being filled with rare and curious objects from two continents. And, finally, a series had been created in one of the park and stocked with various animals which M. de Kerdall picked up during the voyage.

There were many other things which seemed as though the keys would be broken. "This is too much!" cried the marquis, rushing toward the staircase, with all the crowd, excepting Dr. Cornabuc, close behind him. They hastily penetrated the salon. It was empty. The mysterious visitor was gone, but he could not be far away. The crash of china and glass announced his presence in the dining room.

Everybody rushed thither, and the marquis, who was in the lead, dimly saw a form escaping through the window into the garden. "This time we've got him!" he cried. The menzeled guns and knives from a hunting rack in the vestibule, and started across the garden and park in pursuit of the fugitive, while the women barricaded themselves in the salon and anxiously awaited the result of the chase.

THE MARDI GRAS ON

Ideal Carnival Weather and Thousands of Visitors. Humes' "Chronicles of Fairy Land"

The Rex Parade Started at the Usual Hour Under the Most Auspicious Circumstances—New Orleans Alive With Festive Gaiety.

NEW ORLEANS, February 26.—Shrove opened here today auspiciously with ideal carnival weather and with tremendous crowds on the streets, many distinguished people being among the visitors. Every hotel has for several days been taxed to its full capacity and private residences and boarding houses are entertaining large numbers of strangers from all sections of the country.

The streets this morning were packed and jammed with home people and visitors and the morning trains brought full cargoes of human freight from the surrounding country. The Rex parade started today at 11 o'clock and it will complete its route early in the afternoon. At night his majesty will hold a magnificent reception at Washington artillery hall and will be visited by both comus and proteus and their queens. The comus parade tonight will bring the carnival pageant to an end, and the exclusive ball at the French opera tonight will be a brilliant closing function of the fete days and a proper ushering in of the season of sack cloth and ashes.

Mr. Frank Howard, son of the late lottery king, impersonates Rex today. The subject chosen this year by Rex is "Fergus Humes' Chronicles of Fairy Land," and it offers exceptional opportunities for brilliant and artistic treatment. The different floats are taken from the principal scenes of the story—the Water Witch, the Red Elf, the Golden Goblin, Sorrow Singing, the Enchanted Princess.

The parade as usual is preceded by the "Boeuf Gras" in a handsomely decorated float and the second is a gorgeously beautiful float and in superb costume, float No. 4 is introductory and is a splendid creation of jewels and mountain treasures. The other floats are as follows: King O'Brien's Library, the Salamander, the Water Witch continued in four floats, the Rose Princess, Noon Fancies on two floats, the Golden Goblin, Sorrow Singing on two floats, the Red Elf on two floats, and finally the Enchanted Forest, making twenty gorgeous and brilliant cars and one of the finest parades Rex has ever treated his subjects to.

Every effort being made to keep Evans out of the Chair. NASHVILLE, February 25.—The committee left last night in three sections to begin the work of the election investigation. A sensation in the gubernatorial matter was developed Saturday when the committee completed its list of counties to be investigated and omitted from the list a number in which Mr. Evans alleged fraud in the election. His protest against this omission was to be heard by the committee, but when the hour for the committee meeting came only two of the democratic members were present.

Senator Ransom's Luck. Atpointed Minister to Mexico at a Salary of \$17,500 a Year. WASHINGTON, February 25.—The president Saturday nominated United States senator Matt Ransom, of North Carolina, for minister to Mexico, to succeed the late Hon. Isaac P. Gray. Senator Ransom said after his confirmation that he would not qualify until after the 4th of March, and therefore would serve out his term in the senate. After that time he would be prepared to proceed to Mexico as soon as the secretary of state desired him to go.

THE WEEK'S WORK IN CONGRESS

A Synopsis of the Proceedings of Both House and Senate.

The following is a synopsis of the proceedings of both branches of congress for the past week:

43RD DAY.—So far as the house is concerned the navy will be increased by the construction of three battle ships and nine torpedo boats. The house passed the naval appropriation bill practically as it was reported from the committee. The Jones silver bill was displaced in the senate, resuming it to the calendar, and the Indian appropriation bill was taken up, about two thirds of it being passed before the senate adjourned.

44TH DAY.—Consideration in the house began on the deficiency bill—the last of the general appropriation measures of the session. Sixteen pages of the bill was disposed of. Resolutions were pronounced upon the life and services of the late Francis E. Stockbridge, a senator from Michigan.

45TH DAY.—Senate proceeded with the consideration of the Indian appropriation bill and when the body adjourned at 5:35 o'clock the bill was far from finished and a proposition that a final vote should be taken before adjournment next day was killed. Washington's birthday was observed in both branches in the preliminary exercises. In the house the consideration of the general deficiency appropriation bill was resumed but again went over unfinished.

46TH DAY.—The Indian appropriation bill was passed after having been in the senate five days. A beginning was made on the sundry civil bill. The polling bill suffered a signal reverse if not a final defeat. The nomination of Senator M. W. Ransom, of N. C., to be minister to Mexico was presented by the president. Without delay the doors were closed, the senate went into executive session and the nomination was confirmed unanimously.

47TH DAY.—In the house the senate amendments to the Indian appropriation bill were considered in, and the bill was sent to the conference. The general deficiency bill was taken up in committee of the whole and passed with all the amendments, except the payment of the hearing sea award. Great applause followed the adoption of the amendment to pay an extra month's salary to clerks and members. In the senate thirty-two pages of the sundry civil bill were passed. Night sessions were agreed upon for the consideration of appropriation measures.

SONS OF DIXIE IN GOTHAM.

Gather at the Banquet Board and Honor the Name of Washington.

NEW YORK, February 25.—The sons and the descendants of the sons of Dixie gathered last night in the banquet hall of Sherry's to celebrate their ninth anniversary and ninth annual dinner, and also to do honor to the memory of Washington. The company gathered around the bounteous board was a truly representative one. They were a truly patriotic crowd, and every mention of that grand name that had made a nation, and who was a son of southern soil, was greeted with the wildest applause. The guests were seated around a horse shoe shaped table from which there branches a smaller table going down the center of the hall. All about the room "Old Glory" was draped, and the beauty of the scene was enhanced with many growing and flowering plants.

It was nearly 10 o'clock, for the members had dallied long over the viands, that the president of the society and the president of the dinner, Mr. Chas. A. DeShon, arose and in a short address introduced the first speaker of the evening, Hon. William Everett, who responded to the toast "Washington."

IMPROVEMENT IS EXPECTED.

Bradstreets Reports Bad Weather and Bonds Retard Southern Business.

NEW YORK, February 22.—Bradstreets today says: General trade during this, a short week, has been more irregular. A moderately improved demand has shown itself at cities along the Ohio river valley and in the lower and upper lake regions coincident with the partial disappearance of the extremely unfavorable weather. South, southeast and elsewhere to a smaller extent, practically impassable country roads have retarded already slow collections and prevented purchases of goods even in the face of requirements. The success of the latest emergency bond issue has revived confidence somewhat in the general financial situation. The success of the bond issue here and abroad has given a strong undertone to the New York speculative stock.

BLOOD IN THE SENATE AISLES.

Disgraceful Row in the Upper Branch of the Colorado Legislature.

DENVER, Col., February 23.—A disgraceful row occurred in the state senate yesterday. Senator Mills in the course of debate called Senator Peace a liar. Mills then threw a paperweight at Peace and the senators clinched and fought viciously. The result was four black eyes and a lively flow of blood. The contestants were finally separated. The senate ordered an investigation of the fracas and adjourned.

A FORTUNE IN TAXES DUE.

Half Million Dollars Worth of Untaxed Property Run Upon in Atlanta.

ATLANTA, February 25.—Through the effort of Julius Brown to get a \$50,000 fee, the city and county authorities have run upon about half a million dollars worth of property which has escaped taxation for some years. The property belongs to the old lessees of the Western and Atlantic railroad. The back taxes due on it amount to \$18,000. Proceedings will be instituted against the receiver, E. B. Stahlman, to collect the taxes.

PORT ROYAL TO KNOXVILLE.

Grading is Now Being Done and it Will Be Finished March 15.

CLAYTON, Ga., February 26.—It is said that Rabun county is now to have a railroad on new crossings. Grading is progressing in this county on the proposed road from Port Royal to Knoxville. It is said that five miles of the work will be completed by the 15th of March.

WHAT THE MEN CLAIM

The First Statement From the Employees of the Southern.

MORE WORK PLACED UPON THE HANDS.

The Men Feel Sore Over the Publicity Given the Railroad's Side of the Matter by the Interview With Mr. Baldwin—Their Grievances.

ATLANTA, February 25.—The first statement setting forth the claim of the employees of the Southern railway with respect to the differences now existing between them and the company appears in today's Constitution, written by an officer of one of the lodges, signing himself "ex-railroader" to the statement.

It appears that while the men who have returned from Washington are themselves silent in the matter their grievances are pretty accurately and authoritatively voiced in the statement given out for publication. The statement goes quite into details and tells of the serious cuts that have been made in the forces of employees on the various branches of the Southern by the proposed system of wages offered by Third Vice President Baldwin.

It is claimed that on many runs one crew has been taken off entirely; from Chattanooga to Macon, for instance. It is claimed that while cutting down the crews places more work on the remaining crews their pay in many instances is reduced. The statement is made that the men feel very sore on Mr. Baldwin for making public his side of the affair, when he had asked them to be bound by secrecy. They claim that they have a right to talk now that Mr. Baldwin has given out statements to the papers.

There were meetings of all divisions of the brotherhood lodges here yesterday, but the disagreement of the Southern men was not brought up for action. It was widely discussed, however, and there is great interest among the employees running on both systems in the conference of the grand chiefs now being held in Washington.

FIRST SALE OF THE BONDS.

Small Investors With Gold Get all the Bonds They Want.

NEW YORK, February 26.—The first sale of the new government coupon four per cents at the stock exchange was reported at two o'clock yesterday, \$1,000 changing hands at 118 1/4.

No official statement of the allotments has been given out and none is expected. It is learned, however, that small investors with gold got all the bonds they asked for, the preference given to subscribers for \$5,000 lots and under. It is understood that over four hundred subscribers were notified that they would get no bonds. As a rule bids of stock exchange houses were rejected. It was stated at the sub-treasury at two o'clock that up to that hour \$1,400,000 gold had been deposited on syndicate's account and \$1,000,000 on account of bonds.

TO SUPPRESS THE CRUELTY.

Turkish Authorities Trying to Heibe the Outrage Families.

LOXDOX, February 23.—Professor Minas Tcheraz, editor of Armenia, is informed by correspondents in Armenia that the Turkish authorities are making every effort to bribe the families who suffered most keenly from the outrages last fall. They are said to have promised the Armenians in Sassoon to return the booty, taken by the Kurds, to pay them 500 pounds indemnity and to relieve them of taxes for several years in case the Armenians keep from the commission of inquiry all revelations concerning the abuses of Turkish rule. At Amassin, Professor Tcheraz is informed, the jailors scourge the Armenian political prisoners daily.

THE CARNIVAL AT MOBILE.

Mardi Gras Opened With Beautiful Weather and Large Attendance.

MOBILE, Ala., February 26.—The Mardi Gras carnival opened brilliantly here yesterday with an immense crowd of strangers already present and added to by every incoming train. The weather was delightful and clear and the whole population was out of doors. All day individual maskers and detached groups were about the streets; the various clubs and other buildings were decorated and the whole city was in a grand holiday good humor. At three o'clock the civic parade ordered by Felix, Emperor of Joy, formed and paraded the principal streets.

THE NATIONAL CAUTAUQUA.

First Meeting in the Interest of the Augusta Enterprise Held in That City.

AUGUSTA, Ga., February 23.—The first meeting in this city in the interest of beginning the National winter chautauqua assembly was held last night. A mass meeting was addressed by trustees. A large sum of money was arranged to be raised in this city to aid the enterprise. One of the largest suburbs of the city has been in large part given to the enterprise by the citizens of Augusta.

Want to Complete the Road.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., February 25.—The stockholders of the Ohio River & Charleston have been called to meet at Johnson City, Tenn., April 10, to consider a bond issue of \$15,000 per mile to complete its line in South Carolina and Tennessee. Samuel Hunt is president.

Marine Hospital at Savannah.

WASHINGTON, February 25.—The house committee on public buildings and grounds yesterday ordered a favorable report on the bill appropriating \$150,000 for a marine hospital at Savannah, Ga.

Clemson College Opens Well.

CALHOUN, S. C., February 23.—Clemson college opened yesterday with 231 students present, seventy-six of them being new. About one hundred more are expected.

Rev. Sam Jones' Father Dead.

CANTERSVILLE, Ga., February 22.—The father of Rev. Sam P. Jones, the evangelist, died at the family residence last night, aged 90 years. He joined the Methodist church when 16 years old.

WEEK'S NEWS CONDENSED.

Prince Bismarck is suffering from a cold and neuralgia.

Gen. Louis Jules Trochu, of the French Army (retired), is seriously ill.

The woman suffrage bill in the South Dakota legislature was killed.

Holy Terror Mine at Keystone, S. D., produced \$20,000 in a recent run of five days.

Two women have been elected school directors on a prohibition ticket at Grove City, Pa.

The lower house of the Indiana legislature has passed a bill making prize fighting a crime.

The republican city convention Saturday nominated Orlando Lewis for mayor of Auburn, N. Y.

Signor Giolitti will return to Rome for examination on Crispi's charge of slander, to be held on Saturday.

A bill has been introduced in the Nebraska legislature to remove the state capital from Lincoln to Hastings.

Ell Marler, probably the best known gambler in the south died in Louisville Tuesday.

The woman's suffrage bill passed the assembly of the California legislature by a vote of 45 to 29.

Mobile, Ala., is making preparations for Mardi Gras. The parade will be grander than ever before.

The Star Pencil company, of Atlantic City has been declared to be a fraudulent concern by the postoffice department.

Michigan republicans Saturday nominated Judge J. B. Moore, of La Peer, for associate justice of the supreme court.

It is asserted that Baron von Schele, governor of German East Africa, will resign if Dr. Kayser is continued at the head of the colonial office.

Captain Dreyfus has been removed to the Isle de Re, in the Bay of Gascony, until he is finally taken to French Guiana.

The Pope is suffering from influenza and was unable to-day to receive the Cardinals and others on the anniversary of his election.

Tuesday morning Mrs. McKinney, wife of Kim McKinney, the famous blind fiddler, was found dead in bed at her home in Augusta.

The Prince of Wales formally opened the United Service Institute yesterday in London. He was very hoarse and coughed frequently.

Projectiles from a ten inch rifle failed to penetrate a seventeen inch Carnegie plate forged down to fourteen inches at the government trials Saturday.

J. E. Lutz & Co., retail shoe and hat merchants, doing probably the largest business of this kind in Knoxville, filed a deed of trust Wednesday to James C. White.

The Michigan house Wednesday by a vote of 66 to 21, passed the bill legislation out of office the present board of health of Detroit and empowering the governor to elect a new board.

The funeral of Father Garin, the celebrated member of the Oblate order, occurred Wednesday in Lowell, Mass. The day was generally observed in his memory by the merchants and citizens.

Samuel Cowles, an old man from Illinois, was recently found dead nearly a mile from home in Martin county, Arkansas. It is alleged that his wife had chased him from the house with a horrow tooth, with which, it is claimed, she inflicted several wounds which caused his death.

The board of administration of Cincinnati has issued an order which, if carried out literally, will wipe out of existence about \$600,000 worth of property. It is an order directing the Cincinnati Inclined Plane Railway company to remove from the streets its tracks within one month.

Secretary Carlisle, accompanied by Mrs. Carlisle and his son, W. K. Carlisle, and wife, left Washington Tuesday at 10 o'clock for New York. The secretary's trip at this time was taken for the purpose of bidding Mr. W. K. Carlisle farewell previous to his sailing to Europe.

Nebraska and Iowa people were startled Wednesday by developments which indicate that Albert Whipple, the absconding banker, merchant and army contractor of Crawford and Hyannis, now a fugitive from justice with creditors left in the lurch for \$15,000 to \$20,000, and Albert B. Whipple, who was sent to the Fort Madison prison, Iowa, are one and the same man.

EARTH REELED IN MISSOURI.

Distinct Shock of Earthquake Felt in Paris of the West.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., February 26.—A distinct shock of earthquake was felt in the suburban town of Kirkwood, fifteen miles west of here, at five o'clock yesterday morning. A number of families were awakened by the vibration which was of sufficient force to shake windows and rattle crockery.

TACOMA, Wash., February 26.—Two slight shocks of earthquake were felt here at 8:30 and at 11:15 miles distant, at five o'clock yesterday morning.

The "Georgia Snake" Captured.

ATLANTA, February 26.—A negro desperado known as the Georgia Snake, was captured yesterday in Sumpter county. He swam out in a pond and from a log fought a battle with the posse until he was wounded twice. Rewards amounting to \$1,150 were outstanding for him.

Murderers of Miss Lawrence Captured.

ALLENTON, S. C., February 25.—Detectives have spotted the murderers of Miss Carrie Lawrence without a doubt and hope to have them captured today.