

The Chatham Record.

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THE DOCTOR'S RUSE.

There was a wild scene that May morning about the old mansion that had been for years the home of the Notten family. Under the great elms shading the lawn which sloped to the golden willows by the busy brook at its foot, farmers were talking excitedly while brandishing pitchforks, corn knives and an occasional rifle handed down from a pioneer ancestor.

From the summit crossed by the mansion the pretty country side seemed an Arcadia untroubled by the outer world. Its people were a simple trusting folk who lived in peace and thought no wrong. They never so much as looked the doors or windows; yet at the Notten's the night before there had been a murder and a burglary. The father, mother and daughter had been bound and gagged. The house was stripped of money, jewels and plate. It was Florence who first worked her wrists from the ropes that confined them. She freed herself, released her parents and then rushed to the den which faithful Tom had fitted up over the horse barn and would not have exchanged for the guest chamber. He was gone. Then she rang the dinner bell as an alarm and the nearest neighbors came running in response. One of them approaching by the hedge beyond the barn had come upon the body of Tom, who had been killed by a cruel blow upon the head.

A messenger had been sent for the doctor, mounted men carried the startling news to the entire community and the rally on the lawn was to send out searching parties, a useless but well-meant plan. Mrs. Notten had been an invalid receiving daily calls from the young physician during the three years he had been in the village. The shock had been too much for her, and within an hour of his arrival that eventful morning she was past all human aid. The doctor had been in love with the beautiful daughter for months, and with professional egotism, thought that he had learned her every mood. He knew that though stately and mature, she had not lost the flush of youth, and that behind her self-reliance there was the susceptibility tenderness of girlhood. But now she appeared to him in a new and puzzling light. Her face was white but firm and set. In her great brown eyes there was a flame that would have quenched every token of a tear. She declared that life would be worthless to her until she knew who had robbed her of a mother, and if they had been brought to justice. More than this, it was conveyed to the knowledge of the doctor by some occult subtlety that so long as the tragedy of the mansion remained unexplained his suit would be a hopeless one.

Promptly he went at the task thus assigned him. The two burglars had done their work in the dark and without noise save muffled curses when old Mr. Notten made a vigorous resistance. Two women servants who had been with the family for years slept in the wing and heard nothing. Henry Wirt, a college friend of her brother Bob, now completing in Europe, had arrived the day before on his school, as he was riding over the country for his health. He had been shown to his room at 10 o'clock the night previous, but his bed had not been occupied, and nothing had been learned of his since.

That is not possible. I knew him since from Bob's frequent descriptions. You will be wise to leave him out of your calculations. But there is one thing that may help in this search. When one of the men was trying to secure my wrists I bit him in the hand and an excellent I left a mark.

As the doctor walked to the barn for his horse he found under the bushes a handkerchief that had evidently been used as a mask, for it was knotted at the corners and slits had been cut for the eyes. There were no initials or other distinguishing marks, but he pushed it in his pocket, and was soon hurrying homeward almost as fast as he had dashed over the same road a few hours before. His haste was due to the fact that late the night previous he had dressed the hand of a man who represented that it had been bitten in a fight. A circus had been showing there, and this fellow said he was a circusman. The doctor at once telegraphed the sheriff and detective in the state to meet him at the town where the show next appeared. There was no trouble in finding the wounded man, but the evidence was overruled just as he said it was. The officer then went to the Notten home, and for days sought in vain for some clue. Then he went on a fruitless search for young Wirt, and after months of work about the case as a hopeless one. Both came home and acted with the doctor, to whom he took a great liking, but at length yielded to discouragement.

All at once the young friends of the doctor who had called at his office were surprised to find him a votary of spiritualism. He talked persistently of the wonderful phenomena proving individual spirit presence and emanation of a medium medium leaving communication with the departed, lifting the mist of obscurity to expose alike the mystic and hidden deeds of men. When the doctor went so far as to arrange for a seance there was a general suspicion that his mental powers had succumbed to some weakening influence, but curiously was sufficient to secure as large an attendance as he had desired. He insisted on the presence of Eph, his early men of all work, for whom the black drapings and darkened room had a fascination as well as terror. After there had been softed strains of music, weird sounds as of passing winds and unaccountable rappings, the doctor had a pretended conversation with the shades of departed relatives and then notified Eph that his former master from Alabama wanted to talk with him. With chattering teeth Eph stood up to receive a clammy hand in his and then went down upon his knees.

In a deep voice the "spiritual presence" recalled some of the memories of other days and then in tearful tones said: "But, Eph, you've gone wrong since we parted. You're a thief and a murderer." "Not that, not that. It was Johnson done kill ole Tom when he tried to stop us. It was dat rapscallion Johnson dat got into it. Peegins to 'less it all, an' get forgiveness." And his head, even to where the plunder and Johnson were to be found. Then the doctor ceased to be a spiritualist and told his story. Evaluating the handkerchief in six months after the tragedy he had found in it a few hairs from some one's mustache or beard. Eph being present, the doctor amused himself by telling how with the aid of a microscope he could examine the roots of the hairs, compare them with those taken from the faces of suspected persons and thus run down the murderer. Eph did not show up about the office that day, and next appeared with a cleanly shaven face giving reasons for this remarkable change so frequently that a light suddenly dawned upon the doctor. It was useless to accuse upon such evidence, and the doctor, knowing the dense superstition of the old man, played upon it with the result noted.

Value Given Wire by Labor. In an address before an association of iron and steel managers in England some new statistics were brought up on the remarkable achievements that have been noted in the manufacture of fine wire. The speaker said that he had been presented by a wire manufacturer with specimens of wire for which \$4.32, or more than \$8.00 per ton, was paid. This wire was largely used in the construction of pianos and other musical and mechanical instruments. Accompanying these was a sample of piano wire, which had a market value of \$21.63 per pound, or \$13,270 per ton. A still more remarkable illustration of how a piece of steel can be treated so as to become more costly than gold is seen in the manufacture of hair-springs. Of these it takes 754 to weigh an ounce of 437-1-2 grains, and 27,000,000 of them to go to the ton, which would cost \$100,000. Probably the limit of the value that can be given to steel by skilled labor is reached in the case of the barbed instruments used by dentists for extracting nerves from teeth, which are sold at the rate of some \$2,450,000 per ton.

New Swindling Dodge. "One would think that all of the swindling dodges had been tried," said Arthur L. Wood of Morris, Ill., at the Cochran, "but I ran across a new one in Pittsburg. In one of the first-class restaurants I sat at the table with a man who was eating a full course dinner. He was a very gentlemanly fellow and a charming conversationalist. I don't know when I have enjoyed a meal as I did the very nicest lunch at the restaurant. Before I was through he courteously bade me good day and left.

Windor Castle's Gold Plate. The London Standard's Gazette says that the gold plate of Windor Castle consists of about 10,000 pieces. It is kept in the gold pantry, which is an iron room situated on the ground floor under the royal apartments. The clerk of the pantry gives it out in iron boxes and receives a receipt for it. It is carried by special train under escort of a guard of soldiers, and delivered to the butler of Buckingham Palace. He gives a receipt for it, and is responsible for it while it remains at the palace. The same formalities are observed in taking it back, and all persons concerned are glad when it is once more restored to the safekeeping of the gold pantry. The total value of the plate in this department is nearly £2,000,000. A great deal of it dates from the reign of George IV, but among the antiquities are some pieces which were taken from the Aztecs.

Live Lizards in the Rock. Live lizards were found in the rock of the Lux & Talbot limestone quarries north of Anderson, Ind. While the men were cutting out the solid rock they hit a series of pockets. In each one of these was found a live lizard. They were taken out, but died a few minutes after being exposed to the air. They were of a peculiar copper color. Although there were places for eyes, there were no orbs. Zoologists state, and it is an excellent fact, that the lizards were living thousands and thousands of years ago, and that they were entombed when the rocks were formed. There were no air passages into their strange homes, and no way in which they could get any nourishment. One or two were taken out of the Lux & Talbot quarries recently. -Chicago Times Herald.

The Mystery of the Pearl. The usual source of pearls found within the oyster appears to be the intrusion of some small foreign body which sets up an irritation of cuticle. The only means of defense open to the mollusk is to deposit a layer of nacre around the irritating particle, and thus cut it off from the soft, tender skin. A grain of sand or a small crustacean may slip in between the lips, and setting up irritation, provoke the cuticle to deposit around it a series of thin films of nacre. These are added to from time to time, the little nucleus is completely encysted, and a pearl is the result. -Ladies' Home Journal.

A BIG GUN. Largest Cannon in the World for New York Harbor.

Will Be Fifty Feet Long and Will Take Three Years to Make.

In a few years the United States will own one of the biggest guns in the world. It is to be sixteen inches in diameter on the inside and will shoot a projectile larger than the body of a good sized man and weighing over 1,500 pounds.

The building of this monster gun is largely an experiment. Ever since 1886 the board which has charge of fortifications and coast defenses has urged Congress to set aside enough money for building a sixteen-inch gun. Several foreign countries have such guns both for use in coast defenses and aboard vessels of war. Though there has been no opportunity to test them in active warfare, it is claimed that notwithstanding their enormous size and the force of their recoil when discharged, the result of their work will fully warrant their cost and the necessary danger connected with their use.

The United States government does not intend to use this big gun aboard ship, but it will be placed on one of the fortifications in New York harbor. General Flagler, the chief of ordnance of the army, says that one well-directed shot from the sixteen-inch gun would destroy or stop any vessel known at the present time. He says one such gun in New York harbor would do more good in case of war than a dozen guns of twelve or thirteen inches in size, the largest now in use by this government on land or sea. The more conservative officers of the War Department have recommended until recently the building of more twelve-inch guns, but it has been demonstrated within the last year that a twelve-inch projectile will not penetrate the armor now used on war ships unless the shot is especially favorable.

The argument for the 12-inch gun has been that if one shot at a hostile warship did not do the work more shots would, and that the largest vessel in the world could not stand a dozen shots from a 12-inch gun. General Flagler meets this argument by saying that while the 12-inch guns of the United States were pounding away at a foreign ship the guns on board the vessel would not be idle, and he thinks it wise, therefore, to have a gun big enough to do the work quickly.

Experiment With a Thermometer. A discussion arose recently between two gentlemen who at one time or another had learned and forgotten more or less about natural philosophy. The question at issue was whether the action of a fan in motion cooled a person by lowering the temperature of the air in his vicinity. It was maintained on one side that such was the case, and on the other that the atmosphere remained unchanged. To settle the point, after a sun had been put up by each party, a thermometer was placed directly in front of a revolving electric fan, where the full blast of air could strike it. After it had remained there ten minutes it was found that the temperature recorded by the instrument had not changed a fraction of a degree. -Washington Star.

Search Rewarded. "Little Johnnie opened his drum yesterday to find where the noise came from." "Did he find out?" "Yes; when his father came home the noise came from little Johnnie's drum." -Boston Herald.

Savannah's Round Tower.

"Visitors to Savannah," said Henry B. Galloway, of that city, at the Rogers House, recently, "exhibit great interest in a small, round tower that is easily discernible when approaching the city from the sea. It is of stone, moss-grown and ivy-covered. The residents of the neighborhood are fond of telling thrilling stories of the part the fort played in Spanish and Indian warfare, and they say that it was built about the time St. Augustine was founded.

The truth of the matter is that the tower was erected by the United States Government during the war of 1812. It was some little service during the "late unpleasantness," but it did not figure in any great action. The tower occupies a prominent position on a promontory. At present it is used as a reporting and signal station, and frequently in the summer season parties of bathers and fishermen make it their headquarters when on excursions from Tybee and other seaside resorts." -Washington Times.

Care of the Ears.

Never drop anything into the ear until it has been previously warmed. Never attempt to apply a medicine to the inside of the canal of the ear. Never wet the hair if you have any tendency to dizziness; wear an oil-silk cap when bathing and refrain from diving.

Never scratch the ears with any thing but the finger if they itch. Do not use the head if a pin, hair pin, pointed tip of anything of that nature.

Never put milk, fat or any oily substance into the ear for the relief of pain, for they soon become rancid and tend to excite inflammation. Simple warm water will answer the purpose better than anything else.

Never be alarmed if a living insect enters the ear. Pouring warm water into the ear will drown it, when it will generally come to the surface and can easily be removed with the fingers. A few pills of tobacco smoke blown into the ear will stupefy the insect. Whole Family Became Insane. A case more detailed in the annals of medical psychology has just been brought to light in Vienna. A whole family, consisting of four persons, has become simultaneously insane. The unfortunate victim was Alexander Sobransky, aged 66, and has three daughters, aged 18, 22 and 24 respectively. They are all suffering from Grassenwahn (megalomania or great delirium). The madly first manifested itself when the Sobransky family found that the house in which they live, and which they thought was their own property, belonged to some one else. They tried to get it at other times and made all sorts of absurd arrangements. The poor girls were only detained after a fierce struggle in which they defended themselves with hatchets. It appears that a son of Sobransky, aged 26, was seized with a similar mania a year ago, and is still insane. -London Chronicle.

A Cat That Nuzzes Rabbits.

Mrs. Sophie Zentgraf of Westminster, Md., has a cat that is suckling half-a-dozen young rabbits. The cat had six kittens, five of which were taken from her, and Willie Babylon found the rabbits before their eyes were opened, and gave them to the despoiled dame. The animal at once adopted them and has been caring for them for ten days. She treats them in all respects as her own young. They are kept in a box, from which the cat takes them at intervals and allows them to play about the yard for a time, and then puts them back in the box. She displays the greatest maternal solicitude for them, and if any thing annoys them, exhibits signs of distress or anger. She carries them about in her mouth. -Baltimore American.

Strength of a Swan's Wing.

The first surgical case that I had in the State of Arkansas was setting an arm that had been fractured by a blow from a swan's wing. The accident occurred on Swan Lake, near Shawnee Village, Plantation, in Mississippi County, in the winter of 1870. The patient, a hunter from the Memphis market, was "fire-hunting" at night, and a band of swans flew at the light. The man was in a white frock, and instinctively threw his arms up to protect his head. The left arm was struck by the wing of one of the birds, and sustained a compound fracture of the forearm, both bones being broken. -Forest and Stream.

The Volunteer Inventors of England, numbering about 175,000, are soon to be supplied with a new ride—the Martin Metford.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

TO BLEACH A STRAW HAT.

First, scrub it well in warm water, softened with a tablespoon of borax to a pailful of water. Use a clean brush, and if the hat is very much soiled use a little soap. Then sponge the hat all over with a weak solution of borax, using a teacupful to a bushful of water. Brush in the sun for two or three days, sponging the hat frequently with the borax water. If the hat is very yellow, a little lemon juice or diluted oxalic acid, is good to sponge with white bleaching.

DRY SOME FRUITS.

When fresh fruit is coming freely into the market, the thoughtful housekeeper begins to make her preparations for the next winter, and spring. Much fruit is and should be canned, but where we have to consider the question of expense (and there are few who do not) it is well to prepare some by drying. Apples, sweet and sour, blackberries, raspberries, peaches, pears, apricots, corn and beans can be easily prepared and kept for an indefinite length of time. Sweet apples can be pared, quartered, strung on strong twine and hung back and forth on frames made for the purpose. It takes several days, sometimes a week, for these to become dry. They are delicious in the winter, soaked over night after washing, and then placed in a boiling pot with as much of the water as is needed to fill the pot, and sugar in the proportion of 1-2 pint to each quart. It needs to be cooked for two or three hours. Sour apples are pared, cored, sliced as thinly as possible and spread on clean boards in the sun. When perfectly dry they should be heated in the oven; all dried fruit needs to be finished in the oven. Pears, apricots and peaches are halved or quartered and then dried in the same way. Blueberries and raspberries are simply spread on clean boards or cloths and turned frequently. They are often used when citron, raisins or currants could not be afforded. Corn should be dried in the oven when full of milk, removing the kernel carefully from the cobs. Beans, when ready for boiling may be spread on the attic floor in their pods and allowed to remain until dry, being stirred occasionally. All of these keep better if stored in strong paper or cloth bags so that no insects can reach them. When using them remember that they need to be soaked in water over night, and usually are better for being cooked in this same water. -New England Homestead.

RECIPES.

Baked Potatoes—Choose fine large potatoes and wash clean. Bake forty-five minutes in hot oven. When done prick with a fork and potatoes will be dry and flaky when served.

Spoiled Currants—Stem off five pounds of currants; add four pounds of granulated sugar, a pint of white vinegar, four heaped tablespoons of ground cloves and four of ground cinnamon. Boil three full hours at the side of the range. It is a nice condiment for venison, lamb, or any game.

Spoiled Apples—Put into the preserving kettle five pounds of sweet apples, peeled, cored and cut into small slices, three pounds of brown sugar, two ounces each of ground cinnamon and cloves and a pint of good vinegar. Boil all together for three hours. This spoiled preserve keeps well, is inexpensive, and so within the reach of all, and will be found very good for every day use.

Lamb Hash—Chop fine cold cooked lamb to make one large cupful. Put a tablespoonful of butter and one of flour in a saucepan; melt without frying, and add a small half-pint of milk; stir until boiling; add a salt-spoonful of salt, a good pinch of cayenne, half a teaspoonful of onion juice; then stir in the lamb; add a pinch of nutmeg, and spread on toasted bread, cut round with the biscuit cutter; place a poached egg on each round of toast and serve.

Breaked Omelet—Two pounds veal cutlet, one cupful bread or cracker crumbs, one egg beaten light on a plate. Cut veal in pieces suitable for serving or use cutlet whole as preferred. Season with salt and pepper. Dip in egg and then in crumbs on both sides and fry in a fryingpan in hot dripping or lard. Cook slowly for half an hour, covered the first fifteen minutes. Make gravy with three-quarters pint of milk poured in pan after veal is taken out. Thicken with tablespoon flour made smooth in a little milk, boil well, season with salt and pepper and pour over veal.

Song. Bring from the empty haunts of black and blue Then wild wind, bring. Even forest stars from that realm of thine, Upon thy wing!

O wind, O night, magnificently wild, Blow through me, blow! Thy lowest forgotten things into my mind From long ago. John Edgerton.

HUMOROUS.

Monna—Tommy, have you been in another fight? Tommy—No'm; just had the second round today.

He—Would you marry me if I were poor? She—No; I wouldn't marry a man unless I loved him.

She—If I don't accept you this time you won't get discouraged, will you? He—Oh, no! There are others.

"How Miss Fashion does sail alone!" "She can't help it. She has got six yards of canvas in that new skirt."

Mrs. Dizzy—Do you keep a servant girl? Mrs. Dooly—No, though goodness knows we hire them often enough.

Crust—Gracious! Your linen is the dirtiest I ever saw. How long do you wear a shirt? Wagway—Not quite to my knees.

Fadlock—I never hear you talk about your inventions, Kestick. Well, they never talked about me that I know of."

He—Oh, yes, when I was in London I was enthusiastically received in court circles. She (truly)—What was the charge against you?

"What makes you women kiss when you meet?" "It is a sort of apology to each other for what we mean to say about each other after we part."

Wife—What a happy looking couple those two are! I wonder how long they have been married. Husband—Oh, I guess they're only engaged.

Johnny—Tommy Brown's mother makes him go to Sunday school every Sunday. Monna—Why do you say she makes him go? Johnny—Because he goes.

Headsheeper I notice you have "Lake Manure" on your wagon. Boy—Yes; that's what dad named the frog pond in the holler where we got it.

"I have here a pardon for you from the governor," said the sheriff to the old blooded murderer. "Ah," replied the latter, "No news is good news, as the proverb says."

Architect—Have you any suggestion for the study, Mr. Verrill? Verrill—Only that it must be brown. Great thinkers, I understand, are generally found in a brown study.

Louise—Harry, I hate to ask you, but tell me, do you snore in your sleep? Harry—Sometimes, darling; you know an active business man doesn't get time to snore when he's awake.

The governess was giving little Tommy a grammar lesson the other day. "An abstract noun," she said, "is the name of something which you can think of, but not touch. Can you give me an example?" "A red-hot poker."

A Bicycle Orchestra Suggested. Would it not be well, suggests a wheelman, to organize a bicycle orchestra; not a brass band affair, but music produced by the bells. The tinkling of the bells of a party of cyclists is a merry sound, but why not have them ring chords and play simple tunes? Eight or more persons in a club might have the bells on their machines arranged so as to form a scale, each bell being tuned to the correct note. It should not be difficult to do this. Then with a little practice a pleasing effect might be produced by the players. -Washington Star.

"England's Great Black Cormorant." The common Great Black cormorant of the English is the only bird, except hawks and falcons, which has been trained to assist man in the capture of living prey, to which he is especially adapted by sense, memory and affection. The male bird is a great long, very strong and heavy, rather quaint than beautiful, whether flying or diving or sitting on the rocks. The female cormorant hardly differs from those which are now fishing from the rocks in which their petrifical ancestors are imbedded.

The Noble Red Man Awakened. A fitting indication of the progress of civilization among the Indians of the far West, was furnished recently by "Little Back Bay," who is a chief in the Nez Perce tribe of Oregon. He was so anxious to get a bicycle that he had three horses for one sold, considered that he had made a bargain.