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**ABOUT CHARLIE ROSS.**  
 A Great Mystery Still Unsolved. A Story of Twenty-Three Years. Scotland Neck Commonwealth.  
 Recently in a paragraph the Commonwealth referred to the death of Charlie Ross' father and the mystery of the strange abduction of the little fellow twenty-three years ago. We recently clipped from the Wilmington Messenger the following interesting facts about Charlie's abduction:

The death at his home in Philadelphia of Christian K. Ross, father of Charlie Ross, whose abduction from his parents' home was one of the most mysterious and sensational crimes ever committed, has recalled public attention to that remarkable occurrence.  
 Twenty-three years have passed since the crime was committed which wrecked the life of Christian K. Ross, cost him a fortune and made his name a household word all over the world. On July 1, 1874, Charlie and his elder brother, Walter, were playing in front of their home on East Washington Lane, Germantown, when two men came along in a buggy or light spring wagon.

Charlie had, according to the story told by Walter, asked the men for a ride. The men told him that they would give him a ride from the top of the hill and also promised to give him some firecrackers. The two boys walked to the top of the hill and they were then taken into the wagon. Walter wanted the men to take them to Main street for the fireworks, but they said they would take them to "Aunt Susie's," a fictitious person.  
 The men placed the boys with candy while the team was rapidly driven toward Kensington. Charlie cried and begged to be taken home. At Palmer and Richmond streets Walter was given a quarter and directed to get the fireworks in a cigar store. The boy obeyed and returned to find the wagon, the men and his curly haired brother gone. His tears brought a crowd and in the crowd was H. C. Peacock, a friend of the family, who took the boy to his parents.

Walter told an accurate and coherent story of the abduction and gave a full description of the abductors. The police were unable to discover any trace of the child, and it was not until July 4th that anything in the nature of a clue came to the searchers. This was in the shape of a letter from his supposed abductors. It was grossly illiterate and evidently purposely so. It informed Mr. Ross that they held the boy so securely that no earthly power could reach him, and that he would not be delivered without the payment of a big ransom. The father was warned that any attempt to recover the boy by detectives would result in his instant death. The writers promised to communicate with Mr. Ross within a few days.

Two days later they wrote demanding \$20,000 ransom for the return of the boy. This sum was promptly raised by the friends of Mr. Ross, but the police stepped in and asked to be given the conduct of the case. This was granted and Mayor Stokely offered a reward of \$20,000 for the arrest of the kidnapers and the return of the boy. This immense reward attracted world wide attention and set thousands of detectives at work and millions of tongues wagging.

During several weary months Mr. Ross received sixteen letters from the abductors, but they were so carefully disguised that no clue could be found to the writers.  
 The entire community had become intensely excited over the case and volunteers stood guard over almost every letter box in the city, but with no result. Public interest was at fever heat and meetings of citizens were held in every part of the city.  
 The true solution of the question (to the satisfaction of the police) came many years ago. Superintendent of Police Walling, of New York, found a clue that ended in fixing the crime of the abduction on William Mosher and Joseph Douglas, two notorious burglars who had long had their headquarters in

Philadelphia. Detective Sharkey and his surviving partner, Detective Charles F. Miller, of Philadelphia, were convinced of the authenticity of this clue and confirmed it to the satisfaction of nearly every one connected with or interested in the famous case.  
 This confirmation came through William Westervelt, a brother-in-law of Mosher, who acted as go-between in the attempted negotiations with Mr. Ross and the burglars. Westervelt was evidently willing to sacrifice Douglas, but wanted to save his brother-in-law. The police of the country were looking for the two burglars when the residence of Judge Van Brunt was entered by burglars on December 14, 1874, and were attacked by a brother of the judge and several servants. One of the burglars was shot and the other was mortally wounded.

They were Mosher and Douglas. Mosher was dead when their slayers reached them and Douglas was in death throes. The latter gasped: "It's no use lying now. Mosher and I stole Charlie Ross. Mosher knows all about him."

The dying burglar was told that his partner was dead.  
 "Then God help his poor wife and family," gasped the dying man. "He knew all about (ha-ley). The child will be returned in a few days."

The child was never returned. The bodies of the dead burglars were identified by Walter Ross. Former associates of Mosher and Douglas were arrested all over the country, but they could not or would not throw any light on the mystery. Westervelt was taken to Philadelphia, tried and convicted of complicity in the conspiracy to abduct the boy and was sentenced to seven years in the eastern penitentiary.

In the presence of Detective Miller the wife of the convicted man begged him to tell what he knew of the crime, and if he ever knew anything he never told it. He served his sentence and is supposed to have returned to New York.

**Original Observations.**  
 Orange (Va.) Observer.

There is a good deal of preaching in a smile.  
 The best way to kill a falsehood is to let it lie.  
 The parson at the wedding is the right man in the right place.  
 It is now in order for our merchants to sell twine by the cord.  
 Life is a quarry out of which we are to mould and chisel and complete a character.

If the earth were covered with flowers all the year round the bees would get lazy.  
 Very often a soldier, while having the highest motives, will leave the army furlough purposes.  
 Comparison is everything. A very ordinary looking girl in a railroad car filled with men looks lovely.

Do not let adversity discourage you. Were it not for the kicks which it receives the football would never get up in the world.  
 "We pardon sin; we do not pardon baseness," says Quida. Yes, we forgive the umpire, but when the second baseman makes a square muff and lets in two runs we tear down the grand stand.

**With His Dog \$1,700.**  
 Chicago Dispatch.

Rover, a big Newfoundland dog, has been made heir to \$1,700 by his master, John Spooner. The latter is a sailor and eccentric.

Attorney E. E. Allison drew up the will and the Guarantee Title and Trust company will act as trustees.  
 "People will think you are crazy," expostulated the attorney. "How can so much money be used upon your dog?"

"It cannot," readily assented the old sailor, "but I mean when I am gone my dog shall not be kicked and cuffed about the world as I have been. If you like, you may draw the will in such a way that the income of the property may be used in the dog's support, and the property itself, at the latter's death, and whatever remains of the income go to my sister in England!"  
 And so the will was drawn in accordance with these terms.

**WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER.**  
 From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 16, '97.  
 Another disgraceful chapter in the disgraceful history of Congressional sugar scandals was written this week. The thoroughly up-to-date brigands do not rob individuals upon the public highway; they stand in with those who control the making of a new tariff bill and utilize their advance information to make fortunes by speculating in the stock market. By giving it out that the tariff bill conference committee had agreed to a compromise sugar schedule that was more favorable to the sugar trust than the Dingley schedule sugar stock was pushed up sufficiently high to make thousands of dollars for those who bought before the rise and sold at the highest point, and there are good reasons for the belief that members of both branches of Congress were among those who did so.

A prominent republican was asked when the tariff bill would get out of conference, and he replied disgustedly: "When its schedules can no longer be profitably worked on the stock market." It is remarkable how often the assertion is heard that the conference is being purposely prolonged for speculative purposes.

Jerry Simpson had to smile when his resolution for the appointment of a select committee of five to investigate the sugar trust and its relations to Congressional legislation was referred to the Judiciary committee of the House, which has not been appointed yet.

Probably the majority of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations seek to ease their consciences by such "hot-stuff" as the report made this week on the resolution directing the President to demand the release of three Americans who are in Cuban prisons, having been captured on the steamer Competitor. They know the House will not act on it. Senator Tillman never loses an opportunity to remind the country of the contempt he feels for the democracy of ex-President Cleveland. The latest occurred during the debate which resulted in the insertion by the Senate of a clause in the General Deficiency Appropriation bill limiting the cost of armor plate for naval vessels to \$300 a ton. Senator Tillman referred to the remitting of a fine that was imposed upon the Carnegie Steel Co., by the Secretary of the Navy, for furnishing bad armor, by the President, when he was interrupted by Senator Allen who remarked: "And it was a democratic President who remitted that fine." Mr. Tillman turned to the gentleman from Nebraska and said with studied politeness: "Please don't leave out 'so-called' in referring to the democracy of that President, as it hurts my feelings to hear him referred to as a Democratic President. As for his remitting the fine, I have never sought to fathom the mystery of how he tried to over-ride law and decency by that action."

The Senators do not enjoy being snubbed by Mr. McKinley any more than they did being snubbed by Mr. Cleveland, as they have very plainly shown in their private talk to each other since it became known that Mr. McKinley had decided not to furnish the Senate with the correspondence with Great Britain relating to the Seal fisheries, asked for in a Senate resolution unanimously adopted nearly two months ago. Copies of the correspondence have been prepared, but this week it was decided not to send it to the Senate, on the ground that it would be "incompatible with the public interests" to do so. As an additional reason for not complying with the respectful requests of the Senate, officials say it was feared that a publication of the correspondence might result in making the English mad. Probably the uniqueness of this excuse is expected to make up for its lack of plain, everybody common sense. Meanwhile the administration has made public its instructions to Ambassador Hay, which charge the government of Great Britain with trickery.  
 Republican Senators resorted to filibustering to break a quorum in

order to prevent a vote on the Pacific Railroad resolution of Senator Harris, of Kansas, which Senator Morgan declares will save the people of this country \$30,000,000, if adopted in time to prevent the commutation of the scheme started during the last administration to get possession of the road through an alleged reorganization and purchase, not to mention what will be saved to other creditors and to stockholders. Republicans were afraid to kill the resolution by a direct vote, so they resorted to such roundabout methods of doing it as refusing to vote, thus breaking a quorum. Under the Senate Rules a "counted quorum" doesn't go.

**Hints to Farmers.**  
 Philadelphia Record.

In 1850 the average annual yield of milk per cow in this country was 1,400 pounds; in 1890 it had increased to 2,600 pounds. But to be very profitable a cow should yield during the year at least 5,000 pounds of milk.

The burdock, considered a nuisance in this country, has been cultivated as an article of food in Japan for centuries. The roots, leaves and tender shoots are cooked and eaten, and the annual value of the burdock crop is said to be about \$400,000.

The chemists at the New Jersey experiment station claim to have proved by analysis that a crop of crimson clover six inches high has accumulated nitrogen per acre that would cost \$15 to buy; at 13 inches high, \$25.50 per acre, while at full maturity the nitrogen taken from the air by the clover is worth \$30 per acre.

It will pay any farmer to read about his business; no matter how experienced he may be there are many things he will never know from his own ventures. Especially in such work as dairying is reading beneficial, because there are so many problems which require scientific attainments, and which many farmers can hear of only through constant reading.

At the price at which wheat-bran always sells for in spring it is quite as profitable for feeding to buy wheat and have it ground whole without bolting. If this makes too heavy a feed some more bran added to keep it from cloying the stomach, or perhaps some oats ground with the wheat, may be added. Yet for the nutrition afforded the whole wheat ground makes a cheaper feed than does the bran, and for both horses and cows it can be safely fed with cut hay, cut corn-stalks or cut straw.

A good milk cow has broad hind quarters and thin fore-quarters, thin and deep neck, pointed withers, head pointed between the horns, flat and fine boned legs and fine hair. Choose one with udders well forward, wide apart and large enough to be easily grasped. A medium-sized cow will give more milk in proportion to the food she eats.

Southport is to have a newspaper.

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**North Carolina's Giant.**  
 Salisbury World. Salisbury, N. C. Monday's World stated that William Austin, the tall man of Stanley county, was in the city. Mr. Austin is now working at the old Barker blacksmith shop on Lee street.

He was 21 years old the 13th of last April, measured 6 feet and 9 1/2 inches in his stocking feet and is still growing. He weighs 225 pounds and is apparently a skeleton now, but with large bones and muscles. He lifted when only 19 years of age a bale of cotton weighing over 500 pounds and carried it some 25 yards. Only recently three Northern gentlemen offered him \$5,000 to go in training for five years, to fight the champion of the world, but as he was only a boy at that time, it could only be expected that he would not know how to do. But from a conversation with him he seems ready to accept a fair proposition for that purpose at present. He has never smoked, chewed or drunk any intoxicants, and looks the picture of health.

Rev. K. Gudger, of Asheville, has declined the Valparaiso consulate because it is too far from home and the pay is too small. He wants something else.

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