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[WHOLE NO. 178.

THE MURDER IN MEMPHIS.

On the south side of Jefferson street, but two doors removed from the intersection of Second, in the city of Memphis, there occurred on the 9th of March of this year, one of those ruthless and calmly perpetrated murders that seem to leave behind them no trace of the criminal and but a startling reminder of how eternal in the human heart are the seeds of evil.

The murdered man was, while living a puzzle to many a philosophic mind, from a settled melancholy and misanthropic disposition which seemed at once to shade his steps with mystery, and to preserve him from the outlays attendant on social intercourse. He lived unknown, unfriended. None in Memphis know to whom under God he owed his birth. None in Memphis know to whom he owed his death. He came in mystery, lived in mystery, and died in mystery. But one object of his life was ever known, and that the common one of money-making, joined to the less common habit of money-keeping. The sole revealed object of his life proved, when realized, the cause of his death, and for that only.

Bonnwald is supposed to have been born in or near the good old German city of Hamburg, whence he sailed for the United States with a wife and one daughter. He took up his residence in the city of Chicago with this wife and daughter, and, on a very small capital, engaged in the purchase and sale of tobacco, with what success it is now impossible, and, indeed, immaterial, to ascertain. During his residence in Chicago, Bonnwald, then upwards of fifty, quarreled with his wife; and a tale of adultery was hissed about in Memphis, as an echo of a scandalous *on dit* spoken in the streets of Chicago. Whether well or ill founded, the resuscitated story found believers, and to his wife's infidelity has been respectively attributed the melancholy, misanthropic and solitary disposition of this old man, whose eyes never brightened beneath his dull spectacles save in reflection to the dull luster of gold. Bonnwald sent his wife and daughter back to Germany from Chicago, and himself came to Memphis, where he engaged in the selling of cigars, keeping a small store for a time on Front Row.

As he was last week, so was he when he reached Memphis. Quiet in manner, and noiseless as a cat, with a face that spoke nothing of its present owner, but unconsciously revealed that it had once known the page on which every varying emotion of an impulsive heart was as faithfully portrayed to the human eye as the heart itself to God. He was small in stature, stooped much, and had neither nose nor elasticity in his footfall. His one unvarying suit, was lusterless, even his silken hat shone not as other hats, but seemed to absorb all light and reflect none. Secrecy and silence brooded in the atmosphere around him, as though his rusty quiet had brought the very air into magnetic rapport with his own soul. No man ever spoke loudly in Bonnwald's store. Even the reveller called for a cigar in tones hushed by the influence of he knew not what. The dull clogs of the cigar boxes that lined his walls seemed ever more suggestive of the mouldering ghosts of cigars, than of fragrant, fresh and inviting Cabanas; and the writer never could divest himself of the idea that a cigar which had once passed through Bonnwald's hands, smoked ever under a protest against the noise of puffing it; and that even when burning, it ignited and absorbed in a dull redness more light than it gave, and offered a smoke of a duller hue and more miasmatic odor than any other Havana.

Bonnwald spoke seldom, nor did he seem to think the more for his taciturnity. The vague look he would at times throw around the store as you selected your cigar, seemed more that of a man wakened in a strange place, than an indication of thought. The sight or sound of coin alone interested him and woke speculation in his eye. He was often seemingly deaf to other sounds—never to that. His regularity of habits was not surpassed by the town-clock of Hamburg itself. He opened his store when he had breakfasted lightly, very lightly. He opened his door and behind it sat silent and dead to all on earth save a customer. One good meal per day at a restaurant, one poor supper, rest, and the same dull round again. From Front Row he moved his goods and himself to beneath the old post-office, thence across the way to the house in which he was so foully murdered.

Cent to cent, dime to dime, and dollar to dollar he added; till his total savings, they could scarce be styled earnings, amount to nearly \$20,000. This money he kept in banks, sometimes all in one, sometimes divided among many; but after the occupation of Nashville and the threatening military movements of the Federal forces, his uneasiness increased, he was ever "in the fidgets," drew out money and deposited it, and was, like all its intense lovers, exceedingly troubled what to do with it, where to keep it, and finally how to transfer it and himself to Europe. Sometime previous to his assassination, he gathered it all into his safe, fifteen thousand dollars in gold, and...

to exchange for gold, and on the Friday immediately preceding his assassination, he bought from a news dealer some fourteen dollars worth of silver at a premium of forty per cent. He was much perplexed about the acceptance or refusal of Confederate money, and frequently would ask of late, what one thought of its eventual value, determining at last to "have nothing to do with it." One or two of his neighbors, aware of his possessing a large amount of specie, repeatedly warned him that his wealth and solitude offered temptation to poverty and greed, and that it might one day cost him his life. He groaned, and knew not what to do, and finally offered one young man, whom he seemed to dislike less than the rest of humanity, all his store, with all the goods therein, if he could but advise him how to reach Europe with the specie he possessed. The deferred departure, however, was, as Bonnwald thought rendered an impossibility by the closing lines of Buell, and he lived in alternate fear of losing what he possessed and in hope of realizing great accessions to it from his stock of cigars, purchased ere the blockade had nearly tripled the fanciful value attached to the deleterious luxury.

Bonnwald's last abiding place in life consisted of a rather large store, fronting on Jefferson street, and a smaller room back of the same—the two rooms communicating by a small door, the upper portion of which was glazed. In the back room, which was lighted by a large window, the old man sat and slept; and often sat, even in the day time, keeping the door of his store closed by a propping board, which fell as the former was pushed; and in answer to the noise thus made, the old man would walk feebly forth, stare at you vacantly, and in a mechanical monotone ask, "mild or strong, sir?" His eager fingers clutched your dime or quarter, and with a low "thank you," never omitted, was safely and carefully deposited in the drawer beneath the cigar case whence he had supplied you. This case stood laterally between the front door and that which led to the sleeping room, which could be reached but by passing round it.

Between the hours of six and seven, on the evening of Sunday, the 9th, the young man whom we have alluded to as being least distasteful to the solitary misanthrope, bought some cigars from him, and was reminded that he owed one dollar and thirty cents. Later than this, as has been ascertained, no one ever saw Bonnwald alive, save those or him who left him dead.

On the morning of the 10th, a printer, whose office was situate west of Bonnwald's store, sent the boy for a key which had been left in charge of the old man. The boy returned and reported the store still closed; and the printer so finding it, went round to the window at the back, which lighted the sleeping room. This window was half up. The printer looked in, saw a cup and saucer, spoons, bread, &c., on the little table, and beyond it, with his feet towards the window, his head towards the street, lay Bonnwald, stretched across the door that formed the passage-way between his two apartments.

A crowd gathered quickly; the coroner was sent for; the body was examined. No evidence of a violent death appeared on examination, save a discoloration about the throat, which rendered it certain that the old man was strangled. The premises were searched, and a safe containing but a gold watch was observed open, and with every indication of having been rifled of the murdered man's metallic idol.

In the afternoon the votary and victim of gold was buried, attended to the grave by a solitary carriage occupied by four men who knew no more of the past than they know of the present of him to whom, in a city of twenty-five thousand inhabitants, they were the only living beings who vouchsafed even so small a tribute of respect.

With the body seems to have disappeared all memory of the old man in Memphis. No clue to the perpetrators of the crime has been found, none has been made known or published; and oftentimes, since the dreadful deed was done, has it flashed across our mind that we saw the murderer daily, shook his death dealing hand, and esteemed him "a very honest fellow." No stranger did the deed, for no stranger could suppose that the old man owned more than a beggarly account of empty boxes. The secrecy, silence and security which characterized the deed, render it more than probable that the murderer was one familiar with the habits of his victim's neighbors. But if man saw not the deed, it was seen by Him who seeth all that is done in Heaven and upon earth, and in the waters under the earth; and the lightning that flashed that night revealed the deed to the shuddering angels above, while the angry thunder sounded like the echo of that through which pealed from Sinai's height, the eternal prohibition, *thou shalt not kill.*

Oftentimes, too, since the momentary thrill of the town has ceased to utter its passing wonder at the deed, we have mused at the yearnings of the mayhap forgiven wife of the murdered miser. Oftentimes in dreams have we seen her peering the borders of the Elbe, casting uneasy glances towards the winding road that should...

bring the husband of her youth from the neat town of Gluckstadt, and as often have we seen her passing the kindly postmaster of Hamburg to know if he had no message from America; and sometimes, too, we have fancied that the nurser of vengeance and the lover of gold might be vouchsafed one glance from the realms of mystery on the young frau-lein who knows not that she is made an orphan.

Had Bonnwald died thus in Hamburg, and had he been an American, the authorities of the city would have taken steps to forward his child the little left by the murderer, and to have made his fate known to his wife through consular channels; but as it is, she may never know how he passed from life to eternity till they meet in the Judgment Hall of God, where her supposed sin and the name of his murderer stand alike recorded forever.—*Southern Monthly.*

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED "AN ACT TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE."

In view of the exigencies of the Country, and the absolute necessity of keeping in the service our gallant army, and of placing in the field a large additional force to meet the advancing column of the enemy now invading our soil; therefore,

SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,* That the President be, and he is hereby authorized to call out and place in the military service of the Confederate States, for three years, unless the war shall have been sooner ended, all white men who are residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five years at the time the call or calls may be made, who are not legally exempted from military service. All of the persons aforesaid who are not now in the armies of the Confederacy, and whose term of service will expire before the end of the war, shall be continued in the service for three years from the date of their original enlistment, unless the war shall have been sooner ended; provided, however, that all such companies, battalions and regiments, whose terms of original enlistment was for twelve months, shall have the right, within forty days, on a day to be fixed by the commander of the brigade, to re-organize said companies, battalions, and regiments, by electing all their officers, which they had a right heretofore to elect, who shall be commissioned by the President: Provided, further, That furloughs not exceeding sixty days, with transportation home and back, shall be granted to all those retained in the service by the provisions of this act beyond the period of their original enlistment, and who have heretofore not received furloughs under the provisions of an act entitled "An act providing for the granting of bounty and furloughs to privates and non-commissioned officers in the Provisional Army," approved 11th December, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, said furloughs to be granted in such times and in such numbers as the Secretary of War may deem most compatible with the public interest; and provided further, That in lieu of a furlough the commutation value in money of transportation hereinabove granted shall be paid to each private, musician, or non-commissioned officer who may elect to receive it as the furlough would otherwise be granted; Provided, further, That all persons under the age of eighteen years or over thirty-five years who are now enrolled in the military service of the Confederate States, in the regiments, battalions and companies hereafter to be organized shall be required to remain in their respective companies, battalions and regiments for ninety days, unless their places can sooner be supplied by other recruits not now in the service, who are between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five years, and all laws and parts of laws providing for the reenlistment of volunteers and the organization thereof into companies, squadrons, battalions or regiments, shall be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That such companies, squadrons, battalions, or regiments organized, or in process of organization by authority from the Secretary of War, as may be within thirty days from the passage of this act so far completed as to have the whole number of men requisite for organization actually enrolled, not embracing in said organizations any persons now in service, shall be mustered into the service of the Confederate States as part of the land forces of the same, to be received in that arm of the service in which they are authorized to organize, and shall elect their company, battalion and regimental officers.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That for the enrolment of persons comprehended within the provisions of this act, who are not already in service in the armies of the Confederate States, it shall be lawful for the President, with the consent of the Governors of the respective States, to employ State officers, and, on failure to obtain such consent, he shall employ Confederate officers, charged with the duty of making such enrolment in accordance with rules and regulations to be prescribed by him.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That persons enrolled under the provisions of the preceding

section shall be assigned by the Secretary of War to the different companies now in service, until each company is filled to its maximum number, and the persons so enrolled shall be assigned to companies from the States from which they respectively came.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That all seamen and ordinary seamen in the land forces of the Confederate States, enrolled under the provisions of this act, may, on application to the Secretary of the Navy, be transferred from the land forces to the naval service.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted,* That in all cases where a State may not have in the army a number of regiments, battalions, squadrons or companies sufficient to absorb the number of persons subject to military service under this act, belonging to such State, then the residue or excess thereof shall be kept as a reserve, under such regulations as may be established by the Secretary of War, and that at stated periods not greater than three months, details, determined by lot, shall be made from said reserve, so that each company shall, as nearly as practicable, be kept full. Provided, That the persons held in reserve may remain at home until called into service by the President. Provided, also, That during their stay at home, they shall not receive pay. Provided further, That the persons comprehended in this act shall not be subject to the rules and articles of war until mustered into the actual service of the Confederate States; except that said persons, when enrolled and liable to duty, if they shall wilfully refuse to obey said call, each of them shall be held to be a deserter, and punished as such under said articles: Provided further, that whenever in the opinion of the President the exigencies of the public service may require it he shall be authorized to call into actual service the entire reserve, or so much as may be necessary, not previously assigned to different companies in service under provisions of section four of this act; said reserve shall be organized under such rules as the Secretary of War may adopt: Provided, The company, battalion and regimental officers shall be elected by the troops raised in any one State, shall not be combined in regimental, battalion, squadron, or company organization with troops raised in any other States.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted,* That all soldiers now serving in the army or mustered in the military service of the Confederate States, or enrolled in said service under the authorizations heretofore issued by the Secretary of War, and who are continued in the service by virtue of this act, who have not received the bounty of fifty dollars allowed by existing laws, shall be entitled to receive said bounty.

SEC. 8. *Be it further enacted,* That each man who may hereafter be mustered into the service, and who shall arm himself with a musket, rifle or shotgun or carbine, accepted as an efficient weapon, shall be paid the value thereof, to be ascertained by the mustering officer under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War, if he is willing to sell the same, and if he is not, then he shall be entitled to receive one-dollar a month for the use of said received and approved musket, rifle, shotgun or carbine.

SEC. 9. *Be it further enacted,* That persons not liable for duty may be received as substitutes for those who are, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War.

SEC. 10. *Be it further enacted,* That all vacancies shall be filled by the President from the company, battalion, squadron or regiment in which such vacancies shall occur, by promotion of any officer or officers, or private or privates from such company, battalion, squadron or regiment who shall have been distinguished in the service by exhibition of valour and skill, and that whenever a vacancy shall occur in the lowest grade of commissioned officers of a company, said vacancy shall be filled by election: Provided, That all appointments made by the President shall be by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 11. *Be it further enacted,* That the provisions of the first section of this act not relating to the election of officers shall apply to those regiments, battalions and squadrons which are composed of twelve months and war companies combined in the same organization, without regard to the manner in which the officers thereof were originally appointed.

SEC. 12. *Be it further enacted,* That each company of infantry shall consist of one hundred and twenty-five rank and file; each company of field artillery of one hundred and fifty rank and file; and each cavalry of eighty rank and file.

SEC. 13. *Be it further enacted,* That all persons subject to enrolment, who are in the service, under the provisions of this act, shall be permitted previous to such enrolment to volunteer in the service.

Sunflowers are valuable for poultry, and are eagerly devoured by stock generally. Grown in large quantities, much valuable grain may be saved.