

BLUE RIDGE BLADE.

J. H. HALLYBURTON, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE BLUE RIDGE BLADE.

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J. H. HALLYBURTON
Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

CASH IN ADVANCE.

One copy, one year \$1.50
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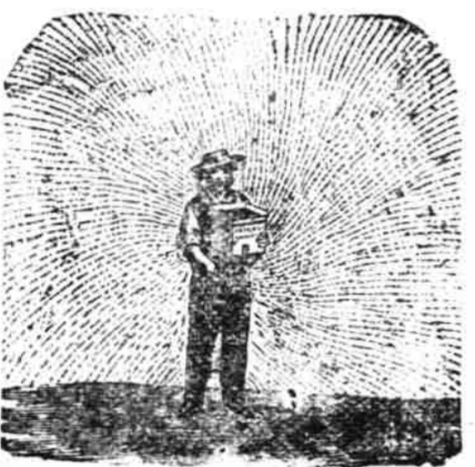
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"Doctors," said a lady patient, "I suffer a great deal with my eyes." The old gentleman adjusted his spectacles and, with a Socratic air, replied, "I do not doubt it, my friend; but then you ought not to forget you would suffer a great deal more without them."

SOUTHERN NEWS.

There is only one white woman in the Alabama penitentiary.

It is said that Sabine Pass has been deepened ten feet at an expense of \$50,000.

A vineyard in Live Oak county, Texas, is said to have produced three crops of grapes last year.

A single business house of ~~Chicago~~ N. C., has bought 250,000 rabbit skins this season.

Seventy buildings were erected in Raleigh, N. C., in 1880, of which one was a church and sixty-three were dwelling houses.

Col. Thomas Ruffin has been appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, vice John H. Dillard, resigned.

The Arkansas State Senate has passed a bill appropriating \$10,000 for a branch normal college at Pine Bluff for the education of colored teachers.

The proposed amendment prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in West Virginia has been indefinitely postponed by the State Senate.

In Gadsden, Ala., the value of taxable property has increased from \$293,792 in 1879 to \$414,200 in 1880, and the city tax at one-fourth of one per cent. from \$784 48 to \$1,033 15.

The Swedenborgian Publication Society has donated to the library of the Georgia institution for the education of the deaf and dumb Swedenborg's complete works. There are no funds to replenish the library of this institution, and persons who can give books should send them to Cave Springs, Ga., or to Gov. Colquitt.

The North Carolina Legislature has passed a bill providing for the publication of a roll of the North Carolina troops in the late war. The duty of collecting the names has been delegated to Maj. Moore, the historian. In addition to this work he will add other facts descriptive of the movements of each regiment during the war.

Montgomery Advertiser: Considerable sensation was excited by the sudden sinking of nearly 100 feet of the track of the Montgomery and Eufaula railway at a point near the limits of Union Springs a day or two since. Those who visited the spot speak of it as something of a phenomenon in its way. It had the appearance of a depression caused by an earthquake.

Memphis, Tennessee, is in a bad way, financially. Its taxable property has decreased from \$30,800,000 in 1866 to \$18,900,000; there is \$2,500,000 of back taxes due; and the tax rate for the next two years, if the health improvements are carried out, will be \$8.95 on \$100. The present population of Memphis is 33,593, and the total debt, \$6,000,000, is \$178 per capita, and 43 per cent. on the whole taxable property.

The rapid development of the business of importing fruit to New Orleans, the Times of that city says, has materially interfered with and reduced the foreign trade of New York, which city has heretofore supplied the entire West with fruit. New Orleans possesses exceptional advantages as a distributing point. Her climate is favorable. Fruit often reaches New York during the winter frozen, or is exposed to severe frosts on landing.

Speaking of the State debt of Louisiana, the New Orleans Democrat says: Under the provisions of the new constitution the debt, in case all consolidated bonds are exchanged for four per cent. bonds, would amount to \$8,879,550, requiring the sum of \$355,182 annually for interest. Collections for the interest fund already amount to \$355,225 83, or more than enough to pay the interest for 1880 upon the whole amount of the State debt refunded under the provisions of the new constitution. The surplus, \$43 83, doubtless goes to the support of public schools.

It is questioned at Mobile whether the public property belonging to the defunct city of Mobile, now in the hands of the Commissioners for the adjustment of the debt of the late city, should not, under the decision of the United States Supreme Court, in the Memphis case, be turned over to the Commissioners of the port of Mobile for governmental purposes. The port of Mobile has not money enough in its treasury to meet the pay-roll of this month. The port Commissioners have paid to the Mobile Commissioners from rentals and markets about \$3,700 per annum for the last two years.

HOW THE BURGLARS BURGLE.

The modern housebreaker is, however, a far different person, and plays for a far higher stake. He has probably been in prison, and learned the tricks of the trade in the hours of combined labor while undergoing penal servitude at Dartmoor or Portland. It is here that he receives the first smattering of his scientific education. He may have been a clerk, or a discharged footman, or a small shopman, or an errand-lad—some one who has embezzled or purloined—

and the discipline of his prison career has resulted in nothing more than preparing him for the exciting trade of a professional thief. Society, he argues, has injured him by depriving him of his liberty, and he intends to be revenged upon society. He becomes a companion of old thieves, and he is elected a brother in the freemasonry of crime. He is told where property can be found, how it can be stolen, and where it can be disposed of. Stories of robberies, and burglaries, and midnight adventures, sound as fascinating as the yarns of miners at the diggings. Chance may decree a long course of ceaseless work and no reward; but when the "turn-up" does come the prize is worth the winning.

Thus educated theoretically in thieves' knowledge, the felonious neophyte comes out of prison to be a connecting link between the "lagged" and "lucky." He knows what policemen can be bribed, what information is necessary for his undertaking; what public houses and other haunts are frequented by thieves, and what should be the general plan of the campaign on which he has entered. He does not go rashly to work, but bides his time, setting his traps and snares with the care of an old sportsman. Unconsciously, domestic servants, male and female, drift into this world of roguery, and, before they are aware of it, are led to betray the confidence of their employers. They are plausible fellows, these modern burglars; they can tell a good story and sing a good song; they can "walk out with them" on Sundays; they bet a little and play cards; and gradually they inmesh a household by the agency of the in-door servants, who have not the faintest idea of the real objects of the crafty fellows who have made themselves so agreeable. People express themselves surprised at the constant success of the confidence trick, and all the devices in which good acting and plausibility are opposed to selfishness and vanity; and yet they cannot realize the fact that agents of the "intelligence department" of knavery are constantly on the alert.—London Telegraph.

DRENCHING A MADMAN.

The following account of a madman's freak illustrates how difficult it is at times to manage the insane:

As the insane patients of the great Charite Hospital at Berlin were taking their accustomed exercise in the gardens of that establishment, under the supervision of several attendants, one of them, a lunatic cab-driver of herculean strength, contrived to slip away from his companions, and to clamber up the trunk of a huge elm tree. Having reached one of the topmost limbs, and armed himself with a stout branch, which he snapped asunder as easily as though it had been a mere twig, he announced in stentorian accents his intention of "staying there forever." In vain did the perplexed warders alternately coax and threaten him; he laughed at their blandishments and defied their menaces.

No one dared to attempt his capture by force, so, after a couple of hours had elapsed, the medical authorities, having obtained permission from the District Lieutenant of Police, summoned to their assistance a detachment of the fire brigade and an engine, which forthwith commenced to play upon the deranged gymnast. Having drenched him for a ten-minute spell, the firemen summoned him to sparley, but could get nothing out of him save a fantastic and high-flown speech of thanks for their "refreshing attentions."

Another and still more protracted deluge proving equally ineffectual in inducing him to descend, the warders and policemen recurred to friendly negotiations, and their persuasions at length moved the triumphant madman to declare that, if they would pay homage to his gymnastic skill and heroic endurance by three rounds of enthusiastic applause, he would come down. His terms were promptly agreed to, and he descended.

Old truths are always new to us if they come with the smell of heaven upon them.—John Buryan.

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