

THE FOREST MURDERER. A TALE OF INDIANA.

The incidents which I am about to relate are not drawn from imagination, but fact. They form an act of the never ending drama of human villainy.

'This is indeed a wild night,' said Charles Gray to his wife, as they sat before the blazing hearth of an Indian log cabin whilst the winds wailed around the roof and went sounding through the forest.

'Wilder than I ever knew,' observed his wife, 'Charles how thankful we should be to our Maker that he gives us this warm fire and close cabin to protect us from the rude elements.'

'Thankful,' and Charles Gray assumed a scowl, which of itself spoken the demon in his heart. 'Thankful,' wife you mock me. What is this cabin to the luxurious comfort of the town folks whom we used to see in New York, rolling through the streets in their cushioned carriages, or reclining on silk sofas and laughing at the ragged beggars that claimed their charity?

Mary did not reply. She feared him when in these moods, and was too judicious to irritate him even by words, though breathed from a scarp's lip, or syllabled by angel's lips, to one whose soul has become absorbed in the unacquainted love of wealth.

Charles Gray was a native of New York, and had been left a handsome fortune—but prompted by avarice, and too impatient to continue in the safe business which he began, joined others of an equally rapacious disposition in speculation which at first proved promising, but entirely failed, and left many an ardent dreamer a ruined man.

With a bitter spirit he had farwelled to 'home, and with a small amount of money, raised by the sale of his wife's jewels, sought the almost untrodden wilds of the west. With a small amount of cash, he purchased a few acres of ground on the Ohio river, where the beautiful town of— is now standing. For a short period he labored assiduously on his small farm, and cheered by the smiles of a lovely and devoted wife, seemed to forget his misfortunes.

A short time before our narrative opened, Charles visited L— as a hand on a flat boat, the only species of water craft then used to convey goods and produce down the river. Whilst he was there he met several of those who had failed in the same speculation, which had ruined himself. But whilst he had remained poor, they by some means had revived their fortunes and settled on the Ohio, where they were carrying on a brisk business.

Years rolled away. Villages arose on the ruins of that mighty forest. The steamer was heard with its perpetual thunder and lightning ascending the Ohio; lovely residences, like gems, summoned up by the enchanter's wand from the earth's bosom, studded the banks of the silver river. The suspicious mind of Gray, (for the wicked are always suspicious) rendered him fearful of discovery, as emigrants were crowding into the State, and entered the lands in the most frequent spots. The bones of Somers were still exposed, if they were found by any one rambling through the bluffs, the dark affair might be investigated and he met with his just deserts.

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Conversation soon commenced, nor was it interrupted until the night had far advanced towards the dawn. George Somers was also, he said a native of New York and from the neighborhood in which Charles Gray had lived. He informed Gray that he sold his property at the east and Emigrated to 'Edwards,' to speculate in lands, having with him a large amount of money for that purpose.

At last they all retired to rest. The traveler to sleep—Gray to brood over the wealth of his guest. What fearful thoughts passed through the brain of the wretch, that night! How often did his eye wander to the hunting knife. Once he was about leaving the bed, when a light motion of his wife in her slumber deterred him from his murderous intent. Who but the devil could paint the fears—the hopes—the dark resolves of the wretched Gray, while the wearied guest slept but a few paces from him, in that peace which virtue and weariness alone can give.

The morning came and glowing from:

his ocean couch, arose the sun, gilding the distant bluffs and surrounding forests with colors drawn alone from the pallet of heaven. His beams shown down upon the cottage yet unstained with blood, and aroused the sleepers. Did the evil spirit slumber in Gray's bosom?

The simple breakfast was soon over, and Somers asked Gray to set him on the nearest way to M—. With the blandness worthy the days when he stood a respectable merchant behind a city desk, he informed Somers that he would accompany him part of his journey, and under pretence of killing some game, shouldered his rifle and led the way. For some time they walked together, whilst renewing boyhood remembrances—remembrances which called to mind many a spot hallowed by childhood sports and parental affection.

They had thus proceeded about three miles, and arriving among those beautiful bluffs on the Ohio, since rendered celebrated by a deed which has given a name to a small crystal stream which dashed over a precipice some hundred feet deep. A bird swept over their heads, and wheeling on its light wing, lighted on a bough of a majestic oak—which bears the name of many an ardent lover of nature. Gray asked the traveler to move on while he attempted to bring down his game. Somers complied, and unsuspecting left Gray behind. A sharp rifle crack ran through the woods and a shriek mingled with its echoes. The host was a murderer for money. Blood may be shed for revenge, and our sympathies may be excited for the assassin. But who can find a chord in his heart from which pity may draw a note of feeling for him, who with blood stained fingers holds the glittering coin before his eyes?

Gray soon disposed of the body by hurling it over the precipice. As it went lumbering through the scrubble and jagged rocks that lined the chasm he perhaps felt remorse, but it was only for a moment—With eager hands he opened the portmanteau, and rolling out the shining coin upon the leaves for some minutes he gazed over his wealth; for the country was almost uninhabited, and his demon spirit could reject over his riches unhindered.

On returning home, he deposited his ill-gotten gold in the chest. His wife heard the ringing of the coin and her quick mind told her that Charles Gray, her husband, in whom her heart had confided, was a murderer. She fainted. This wretch heeded her not, but gloomily seated himself before the fire. From the floor on which she had fallen, Mary rose an altered woman. The rose fled from her cheek and a grave in the forest marked by a single stone, tells you where lies the broken hearted wife. Peace to her memory! She is gone where the blue streams are never crimsoned with blood—where the jagged never flashes over the head of the devoted wayfarer.

Charles Gray became a rich man. His lands, broad and fertile, bore luxuriant harvests. A tall mansion rose among these old woods to shelter the murderer's head—Strange to tell he lived unsuspected. No one cared for the emigrant in the country where he came.

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'I go through my work,' as the needle said to the idle boy. 'But not till you're

hard pushed,' as the idle boy said to the needle.

THE SOUTHERN CONVENTION.

Apparently slight causes sometimes produce tremendous effects. The monarchy of England was overthrown, and Charles the First probably lost his life, by his refusal to permit the celebrated Hampden, Oliver Cromwell, and others, to emigrate to the then Colonies of America. The impositions of the British government upon the Colonies in comparatively small matters, originated this great and glorious Republic; and we should be careful that the liberties which it has secured be not sacrificed by individual ambition, or from what may appear to be inadequate causes. It is proposed to hold a Southern Convention; and these who are most active for the measure avow fervent attachment to the Union; but it is a movement which we consider full of danger. The combination of any one section of the Union may produce counteracting associations in other sections, and thus split the country up into sectional factions, intent upon their own purposes, and regardless of the general welfare. It may be thought that the contemplated Southern Convention, if held, would proceed no farther than to pass some harmless resolutions, and then dissolve. But we are unwilling to trust to the moderation of those who might compose it. Its proceedings might be controlled by passion or by individual ambition, and consequences fatal to the Union might be the result. We consider such a convention useless for the protection of Southern rights, and had rather trust their defence to the constituted authorities of the country and to the justice of the American people, than resort to the proposed convention. The nation is in a critical position at present, and an imprudent movement might jeopard the existence of the Union.

The Southern States are by no means unanimous in favor of the convention, and we doubt whether more than one-half of them would be represented in it if held. It is not likely that either Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana or Missouri, will be fully represented. Some of these States will not send a single delegate, and condemn the whole proceeding. It has been denounced by Tennessee, and the people of Maryland are decidedly opposed to it, nor do we think that it will be approved by the Western section of Virginia. In fact, the South will not enter heartily into the measure as it is considered uncalled for and dangerous. Politicians may urge its propriety, but the masses will not be induced to gratify them at the hazard of the Union; the dissolution of which they would consider the greatest curse which could befall the nation.

In New York and Philadelphia the proceedings of abolitionists have been condemned—the Wilnot Proviso has been dropped by common consent in Congress, and there seems to be a fair prospect that all the compromises and guarantees of the constitution will be observed and enforced—there is, then, no occasion for any special movement at the South for the protection of her rights, and we therefore hope that the project of holding a Southern Convention will be abandoned. All parties seem disposed to accord in the one great principle, that the people of the Territories have the exclusive right to decide on the admission or rejection of slavery within their limits. If this be recognized as the governing principle in the legislation of the country, there can be no occasion for the indulgence of sectional feeling, or for controversies on the slave question.

LOOK TO YOUR PRESENTATION—A toast drunk at 4th of July celebration was given as follows: "Woman—without her, man would be a savage." The Boston Post think the punctuation erroneous, and should be corrected thus: "Woman, without her man, would be a savage."

VILLAINOUS ACTS—A correspondent of the Cincinnati Central Herald says, that in a certain village in the State of Indiana, on the Ohio river, there is a Society for the purpose of taking and returning to their masters, runaway slaves. It is said, that they have agents in Kentucky to persuade the slaves to run away, and who give them such directions as to their course after leaving the river, as will certainly lead to their being apprehended. Some of these slaves have it is believed, been sold by their captors, and sent to the South.

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BACON AND LARD. 10,000 LBS. new N. C. Bacon, assorted sizes, for sale by DEKOSSET & BROWN. 144 W. 1st.

LIME! LIME!! LIME!!! 500 BBL'S. Lincolnville White Lump; Also calcined Plaster, Plastering Hair, and Fire Brick, Hydraulic Cement, 1000 Bbl's. Lime for sale by J. G. & R. B. WOOD, Contractors and Builders. 119. Dec. 22, 1849.

BLAKE'S INDESTRUCTIBLE FIRE PROOF PATENT PAINT. I hereby give notice, that I have been appointed Agent, for the sale of the above singular and truly valuable substance. It can be applied by any person that can use a brush; and soon, by exposure to the atmosphere, forms a complete coating of slate or stone. Its adhesive properties are so great that it never cracks or scales off from the wood. It is particularly applicable to a southern climate, as the humidity of the atmosphere destroys the beauty of white lead, but cannot effect a change in this indestructible Paint. Roofs of buildings coated with it are Fire Proof; it has been used on Steamboats and Railroad Cars with success; it is much cheaper than a tinned Roof, or even white lead; 100 lbs. will cover 1000 superficial feet. Wholesale 4 cents per lb., at retail 5 cents; it can be procured at retail at the store of R. S. DRIVER and in barrels, of me, at my office. Terms cash, on delivery.

CROCKERY AND CUTLERY. A FULL assortment. For sale by GEO. ELLIOTT. 112-3. Dec. 6.

FRUIT TREES ON HAND. NOW is the time to grow fine Orchards, as we have a fine assortment of Trees of choicest Fruits. For sale by J. WILKINSON & Co. Jan. 19, A. and J. copy. 139

LIFE INSURANCE. THE MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE CO. continues to take Risks on Lives on fair terms. SURPLUS OVER \$500,000. JOSEPH R. BLOSSOM, Agent. Oct. 23. 94-4.

MOLASSES. 180 HHD'S. Prime new Crop, Also, 30 tierces Molasses, now landing, and for sale by J. HATHAWAY & SON. 122. Jan. 1.

HOOP IRON. A FULL assortment of the best brands. For sale by J. R. BLOSSOM. Oct. 20. 92-4.

FOR SALE. 6,000 BUSHELS Rough Rice. For sale by D. R. BAKER. 124-4. Jan. 5.

TEETH! TEETH!! TEETH!!! Cleaned, Plugged, Regulated, Extracted, and Inserted on Prints and Gold Plates by J. E. KEA, Dentist. His operating Room, East of Carolina Hotel, Corner of Second and Market streets, where he invites all who have decayed Teeth, scurvy, offensive breath, odontalgia, or any of the scourges of trouble, which the organs of mastication are heir to. All operations warranted to give satisfaction, or the money will be returned. Nov. 6. 99-4.

GUNNY BAGS. 1000 TWO bushel prime Gunny Bags. For sale by LEIGHTON, CHADBOURN & Co. 122. Jan. 1.

FASHIONABLE TAILORING. H. S. KELLY. HAVING disconnected himself from V. R. PRINCE, would inform his friends and the public in general, that he has taken the store on Front street, 5 doors from Market street, immediately opposite Dr. BULLAS's office, where he is prepared to carry on the TAILORING BUSINESS. In all its branches. Being in possession of the latest Fashions, he will cut and make gentlemen's apparel at the shortest notice, in a style of workmanship and neatness of fit not to be surpassed by any in the State; and he hopes to merit a continuance of the patronage of his former customers and the public. Oct. 6 1849. 98.

PORK. 10 BBL'S. soft Mass Pork. 40 " City do. For sale by DEKOSSET & BROWN. Nov. 24. 107.

COTTON YARN. 5 BALES assorted sizes. For sale by LEIGHTON, CHADBOURN & Co. 122. Jan. 1.

FOR SALE. TWO hundred lbs. Planting Potatoes, now landing from Big Tremont. By WM. NEEF. 141. Jan. 22.

ROSIN AND TAR. 1000 BBL'S. Tar and 1000 barrels common Rosin for sale by BARRY, BRYANT & ADAMS. 121. Dec. 29.

PLANTING POTATOES. 50 BBL'S. Irish planting Potatoes, a handsome article, just received and for sale by J. HATHAWAY & SON. 131. Jan. 22.

GLUE. GERMAN and American Glue, of prime quality for Distillers. For sale by DEKOSSET & BROWN. 125. Jan. 6.

SOMETHING NEW. THE Subscriber having added to his assortment, a choice selection of Stewart's best Loaf Sugar Confectionaries, solicits a Trial, assuring that a fresh supply will always be kept, if encouraged by the liberality of Wilmington, and at the lowest cash prices. GEO. MYERS, Family Grocer. Front Street. 139. Feb. 9.

THE NORTH CAROLINA MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE above Company has been in operation since the 1st of April last, under the direction of the following Officers, viz: Dr. Chas. E. Johnson, President, Wm. D. Haywood, Vice President, James F. Jordan, Secretary, Wm. H. Jones, Treasurer, Perin Busbee, Attorney, Dr. Charles E. Johnson, J. Medical Board of Consultation, Dr. Wm. H. McKee, Dr. R. B. Haywood, J. Hoisman, Gen'l Agent.

This Company has received a charter giving advantages to the insured over any other Company. The 5th Section gives the Husband the privilege to insure his own life for the sole use of his Wife and Children, free from any claims of the representatives of the husband or any of his creditors.

Organized on purely mutual principles, the life members participate in the whole of the profits which are declared annually. Besides, the applicant for life, when the annual premium is over \$38 may pay one half in a Note.

All claim for insurance against the Company will be paid within ninety days after proof of the death of the party is furnished.

Slaves are insured for one or five years, at rates which will enable all Slaveholders to secure this class of property against the uncertainty of life. Slave insurance presents a new and interesting feature in the history of North Carolina, which will prove very important to the Southern States.

The last four months operation of this Company show a very large amount of business—more than the Directors expected to do the first year—having already issued more than 200 Policies.

All Communications on business of the Company should be addressed to JAS. F. JORDAN, Secretary. Raleigh, August 29, 1849. 74-4.

SADDLE, HARNESS, AND TRUNK Manufactory. THE subscriber respectfully informs the public that he has recently received large additions to his stock of Saddle and Harness, mountings, &c., the latest and most improved style, and is constantly manufacturing, at his store on Market street, formerly occupied by Gay C. HITCHCOCK, every description of articles in the above line. From his experience in the business, he feels confident that he will be able to give entire satisfaction to his customers, and all others who may favor him with a call. He has now on hand, and will constantly keep, a large assortment of

Coach, Gig, and Saddles, Bridles, Whips, Sulky Harness, &c.; Gentlemen's, Ladies' Saddles, Trunks, Medical Bags, &c. &c. all of which he will warrant to be of the best material and workmanship. He has also a large assortment of Trunks, Valises, Saddle and Carpet Bags, Satchels, fancy Trunks, &c. &c. and all other articles usually kept in such establishments, all of which he offers low for CASH, or on short credit to prompt customers.

Saddles, Harness, Trunks, Medical Bags, &c. &c. made to order. Repairing of all kinds done with neatness and dispatch. Old Saddles and Harness taken in part pay for new. JOHN J. COXOLEY. N. B.—All accounts standing on my book over six months, will be charged with interest. All persons indebted to the subscriber for last year will please call and settle, as by doing they may prevent what would be disagreeable to them and unpleasant to him, as persons sometimes have to do unpleasant things in self defence. March 13, 1849. 153-c.

CUT NAILS. 100 KEGS Cut Nails, assorted sizes, for sale by ANDERSON & LATIMER. 137. Feb. 5.

BILLS OF LADING, &c. POLIO POST BILLS OF LADING bound in books, and sheets, also Letter Sheets—with a variety of mercantile blanks, for sale at The Commercial Office.

FOR RENT. THE Wharf, Yard and Ware House at present occupied by the Merchants Steam Boat Company. Possession given on the first of October next. Apply to JAMES JINKINS, at Fayetteville. Sept. 11. 75.

DEEDS FOR SALE. Warranted Deeds, and Deeds for Mortgage on land, just printed, in correct form and for sale at the Commercial Office.

REMOVAL. S. R. FORD has removed his MARKET YARD to S. Dock street, 23 doors from Wm. Nell's. Aug. 12. 64-4.

LIME. 500 CASKS, for sale from Store, apply to RUSSELL & KENDRICK. 169. Nov. 27.

COTTON YARN. 5 BALES Cotton Yarn, assorted sizes. For sale by J. HATHAWAY & SON. 110. Dec. 1.

NOW ON HAND AT THE OLD NORTH STATE CLOTHING STORE.

The Largest Assortment of Superior Ready Made Clothing. Ever offered this side of "Mason and Dixon's." As brief mention of this

MAMMOTH STOCK. We name fashionable Dress and Frock Coats, Sack Vests, to this article we call particular attention—as they are the very best sold in the U. States; besides Plain and Fancy Silk, Cassimere. Also Merino, Boys and Youth Clothing—Assortment complete. Our Pants.—To this article we would ask particular attention, for who has not had just cause to find fault with his Tailor, on account of bad fitting Pants? For years did Scott, Keen & Co., try in vain to procure the Pattern that never fails; when at last they did succeed and now offer that pattern to the Genl's of Wilmington and vicinity, and guarantee the handsomest fitting Pants ever sold in the "Old N. State." Hosiery, Gloves, Cravats, Stocks, Suspender, Suspenders, Ends, Hdkfs., Silk Night Caps, Gauze, Shaker and Merino Shirts and Drawers. Being in the monthly receipt of the New York and Paris Fashion, any improvement in style is adhered to, in all articles of wearing Apparel sold by Scott, Keen & Co. Prices & Terms.—Our Terms are CASH, and prices challenge the world, in selling the same quality of Goods. "Small Profits and Quick Sales" shall be the motto of our establishment. SCOTT, KEEN & CO. Oct. 30. 99.

DISTILLERY PROPERTY FOR SALE. THE undersigned is desirous of disposing of the Distillery Property lately operated by Jewett & Co. There are 4 stills, all in perfect running order, and every thing in and about the premises conveniently arranged. The property has a front of 330 ft. on the river, with a street 60 ft. on each side, a constant and full supply of fresh spring water running directly into the tubs; and indeed every facility for conducting the distillery business to the greatest possible advantage. This establishment may, with very slight expense, be converted into an extensive Liquor Distillery—for which there is not a more advantageous location in the United States. O. G. PARSLEY, Proprietor. Wilmington, N. C., Sept. 13, 1849. 76-4.

LIGHT! LIGHT!! CONSUMERS of Pine Oil can be furnished by my team, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at all times at the Store of S. P. Polley and A. C. Evans and Brother, Shoe's corner. A. H. VANDOK KELIN. Nov. 20. 105.

COPARTNERSHIP NOTICE. THE undersigned have this day formed a Copartnership under the firm of ELLIS & RUSSELL. For the transaction of the GENERAL COMMISSION BUSINESS, and hope, by strict attention, and promptness to merit a share of public patronage. CHARLES D. ELLIS, HENRY P. RUSSELL. Jan. 1, 1850. 122-4.

DOCTOR B. A. KENNEDY, DENTAL SURGEON. Graduate of the Baltimore College of DENTAL SURGEONS. BEGS leave to tender his professional services to the citizens of Wilmington and public generally, on locating himself in this place. He is prepared to perform all operations in his profession on the latest and most approved principles. Incurable Artificial Teeth inserted on gold plate from one to another set. Whole upper sets inserted on the Atmospheric pressure principle. Having made an improvement in this mode of inserting teeth, he confidently recommends it as answering the purpose of mastication. They can be taken out and put back at pleasure by the wearer, worn with comfort, and cannot be detected from the natural teeth. Extracting, cleaning, and plugging &c. on scientific principles. All operations warranted to give satisfaction, and not be surpassed by any operator in the United States. Irregularities in children's teeth corrected. Ladies attended at their residences when necessary. Office formerly occupied by Doct. War's, May 3, 1849. 21-4.

BEANS AND PEAS. 20 BUSHELS White Beans; 500 bush. Cow Peas; black and grey eye ditto. In store and for sale by ELLIS & MITCHELL. Dec. 20. 115.

SHIPPING ARTICLES. FOR SALE at The Commercial Office, an elegant edition of Shipping Articles, embracing all the laws of Congress relative to the Merchant's Service.

MACKEREL. 100 BUCKETS superior No. 1 Mackerel, put up expressly for family use, just received and for sale by RUSSELL & KENDRICK. Jan. 24. 132.

SUGAR. 10 HHD'S. prime Sugar, just received and for sale cheap, by ANDERSON & LATIMER. 143. Feb. 19.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE MAILS AT THIS PLACE. ARRIVALS. The mail from the North, by Railroad, arrives daily about 14 P. M. The mail from the South, by Steamer from Charles ton, arrives daily about 8 A. M. The mail from Fayetteville, via Warsaw, is due upon the arrival of the cars, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The Mail from Fayetteville, via Elizabethtown, by Sulkey, is due on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at 9 A. M. The Mail from Onslow Court House, by sulkey is due on Mondays, at 5 P. M. The Mail from Black River Chapel, via Long Creek, by Sulkey, is due on Thursdays, at 5 P. M. The mail for the North, by Railroad, closes daily at 10 P. M. The mail for the South, by Steamboat, closes daily at 12 M. The mail for Fayetteville, via Warsaw, closes on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, at 10 P. M. The Mail for Fayetteville, via Elizabethtown, by Sulkey, closes on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 9 A. M. The mail for Onslow Court House, by sulkey, closes on Thursdays at 10 P. M. The mail for Long Creek, by Sulkey, closes on Thursdays, at 10 P. M. Letters should be in the Office at least 15 minutes before the time of closing the mails.