

BLIND TOM.

Chicago Record.

Blind Tom, the weak-witted, sightless negro whose phenomenal gifts as a pianist, and whose unnatural powers of memory and mimicry were the wonder of the world some years ago, is now a gray-headed, infirm old man living in retirement in a little cottage on the highlands of Navesink, on the New Jersey shore of New York bay, in charge of Mrs. Eliza Lerche, who was appointed his guardian several years ago. After the death of her first husband, John G. Bethune, who was Tom's manager nearly the entire time he was before the public, there was a long legal struggle between her and her father-in-law, James N. Bethune, who owned Tom and Tom's mother as slaves, and still claimed the sole proprietorship of the musician. Tom had been a valuable piece of property and had brought him a large income for many years. It is said that he earned several hundred thousand of dollars, and Col. Bethune naturally objected to losing so lucrative an investment.

Justice Andrews, of the Supreme Court of N. Y., to whom the case finally came by appeal, decided that Tom was a free man, and permitted him to choose his own guardian; for, although over fifty years old he was incapable of caring for himself, and Charity Wiggs, his mother, who still lived in Georgia on the old plantation where Tom was born, declined to accept the responsibility. In fact Tom did not know his mother. He met her at the trial for the first time since his childhood, nearly forty years before, when his musical genius was discovered, and he was taken out for exhibition by his owner. He has an abnormal appetite, his passions are strongly developed, and he has no respect for persons or places. He is simply an idiot, and his mother believed him to be possessed of the devil. With the instincts of a child, however, when Tom was made to understand that he must select the person who should care for him, he naturally clung to the lady who had cared for most of his life, and the recognized Mrs. Bethune as the natural and proper guardian. Shortly after she married Mr. Lerche, who had been her attorney in the litigation, and her circumstances are such that it is not necessary for Tom to return to the stage. She prefers to support him in idleness, and has him comfortably placed under the charge of a negro attendant, who seldom allows him out of his sight.

It is not probable that Tom will ever appear in public again. Although his peculiar faculties are retained, his health is feeble, and his mind has weakened with age. He spends much of his time at the piano playing his old pieces and practicing new ones, which he picks up as readily as he did years ago.

WHAT TO READ.

If you are down with the blues, read the twenty-seventh Psalm.
 If you feel lonesome and unprotected, read the Ninety-first Psalm.
 If you are out of sorts, read the twelfth chapter of Hebrews.
 If people pelt you with hard words, read the fifteenth chapter of John.
 If you are losing confidence in men, read the thirteenth chapter of I Corinthians.
 If there is a silly sensation about the heart, read the Third chapter of Revelations.
 If you don't know where to look for the month's rent, read the Thirty seventh Psalm.
 If the stove pipe has fallen down and the cook gone of in a pet, put the stove pipe up, wash your hands and read the third chapter of John.

CONTRACTING THE CURRENCY

Three Million in Bank Notes Retired in the First Twenty Days of December.

Washington, Dec.—Mr. Coffin, the Acting Comptroller of the Currency, called attention to-day to the fact that the retirement of national bank notes during the first twenty days of this month reached the sum of \$3,000,000.

This is said to be the first time during the past two years that the voluntary retirements have reached this amount in any one month. Under the National Bank act, the United States Treasurer is not allowed to receive for the retirement of circulation more than \$3,000,000 in any one month, and hence all deposits to retire notes during the last ten days of this month must be refused. This exceptional condition, Mr. Coffin says, is due to the prevailing low rates of interest arising from a superabundance of money for investment, which has advanced the price of United States bonds. Mr. Coffin expressed the opinion that the law should be amended in this particular, as it interferes with the elasticity of the currency and the natural laws of trade.

Honesty and Virtue.

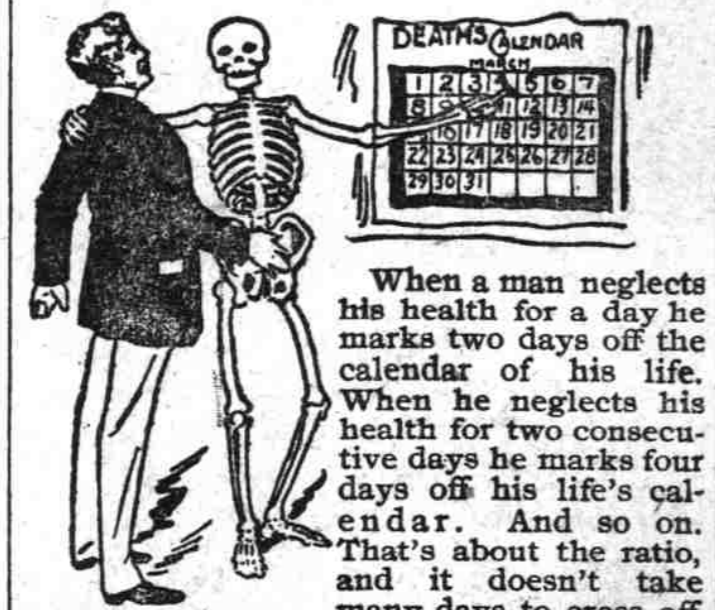
There is more honesty and virtue contained in a bottle of Salvation Oil, than in any other liniment known. "Mrs. A. Fiedler, 2864 Palethorp St., Philadelphia, Pa., confirms this truth: She found Salvation Oil to be an excellent remedy for rheumatism, stiff joints, bruises, etc., and thinks it should always be kept in the house." Don't listen to the dealer's arguments in favor of a substitute. Insist on getting Salvation Oil, it costs only 25 cts.

The Wilsons Out.

The Supreme Court has filed its opinion in the case brought against the two Wilsons, Railroad Commissioners, to turn them out put Walton and Pearson, appointed by the Governor, in. The Court holds that the Governor had the power to suspend them and appoint their successors, and so they are out and Walton and Pearson in.

Chief Justice Faircloth did not agree with the other members of the Court and filed a vigorous dissenting opinion.

A writ of error has been granted and the cases go to the Supreme Court of the United States.



When a man neglects his health for a day he marks two days off the calendar of his life. When he neglects his health for two consecutive days he marks four days off his life's calendar. And so on. That's about the ratio, and it doesn't take many days to cross off an entire year. And yet men recklessly neglect their health for weeks at a time. It is the easiest thing in the world for the average man or woman to get good health and then keep it. It only needs a little stitch here and there. The big, dangerous maladies that threaten life are only the culmination of the little illnesses that are neglected. If when a man feels "knocked out," "out-of-sorts," "run-down," overworked or overworried he will resort to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery he will soon feel bright, strong and vigorous again and able to combat all the big maladies in the doctor-books. Moreover the "Golden Medical Discovery" is a sur and speedy cure for some of the most dangerous diseases. It cures 95 per cent. of all cases of consumption. It cures nervous prostration and exhaustion. These are not mere assertions. Thousands of grateful men and women have testified to the facts, and hundreds of their names, addresses, and photographs are printed in Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser.

"I used Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for torpid liver and indigestion, and obtained permanent relief," writes J. A. Williams, Esq., of Mill Brook, Washington Co., Tenn.
 Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser has had a larger sale than any other book of this class ever offered the public. This book of 1,000 pages with 300 illustrations, is full from cover to cover, of practical advice on health matters. This great book, in heavy manilla covers, is now offered free to whoever will send 21 one-cent stamps to pay for mailing only. If an elegant French cloth binding is desired, send 10 cents extra: 31 cents in all. World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

Aetna Life Insurance Company

OF HARTFORD, CONN.

Assets, January 1, 1897,	\$45,557,272.15
Liabilities " " "	38,845,769.90
Surplus " " "	6,711,502.25

MORGAN C. BULKELEY, President.

J. C. WEBSTER, Vice President.

J. L. ENGLISH, Secretary.

H. W. St. JOHN, Actuary.

J. D. BOUSHALL, General Agent,

RALEIGH, N. C.

The Aetna Life FURNISHES EVERYTHING DESIRABLE IN LIFE, ENDOWMENT AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

Reliable solicitors wanted in every locality, where we are not at present activity represented.

LIFE INSURANCE PAYS.

The arguments of life insurance are prudence, benevolence, and the higher and better qualities of the human heart. The Scriptures declare that "if a man provideth not for his own, especially those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." It is not enough for him to provide for his household while living. Every consideration of love and devotion urge him to insure and to place his family beyond the possibility of pecuniary suffering which may arise in event of his untimely death. Rev. Dr. Cummings of London says of life insurance: "It is one of the most Christian things that I know of. It is taking the lead that would crush one family and spreading it over twenty thousand families so that a mere drop falls upon each instead of the overwhelming torrent falling upon one. It seems to be a good illustration of bearing one another's burdens, and, therefore, let every young man entering upon life, every head of a family, whether high or low, get his house in order so far as to insure his life." From any standpoint at which life insurance may be tested, there is nothing that offers a more profitable and accumulative return for small sums of money than, a life insurance policy.

REV. F. H. JONES.

Statement of a 10-Payment Life Policy, issued on the life of Rev. F. H. Jones, of Reidsville, N. C., on June 29th, 1869.

Policy, No. 63840. Age 33 Amount \$5,000.

Year	Premium	Dividend	Cash Paym't
1869	\$228 50	.....\$	\$228 50
1870	228 50	20 10	203 40
1871	228 50	22 00	206 50
1872	228 50	23 81	205 19
1873	228 50	15 68	212 82
1874	228 50	15 43	213 07
1875	228 50	22 47	206 03
1876	228 50	28 44	200 06
1877	228 50	35 53	192 98
1878	228 50	40 05	184 45
Dividends Paid in Cash after 10th Year.			
1879	.....	.....	\$47 22
1880	.....	.....	40 87
1881	.....	.....	41 85
1882	.....	.....	42 86
1883	.....	.....	43 88
1884	.....	.....	44 93
1885	.....	.....	46 00
1886	.....	.....	47 09
1887	.....	.....	48 19
1888	.....	.....	49 31
1889	.....	.....	50 44
1890	.....	.....	51 59
1891	.....	.....	52 76
1892	.....	.....	53 95
1893	.....	.....	55 12
1894	.....	.....	56 31
1895	.....	.....	57 51
1896	.....	.....	58 72
1897	.....	.....	59 94

Total ten Premiums,	\$2,285.00
Total Dividends to Date,	1,181.04
Net cost	\$1,103.95

The cash value of the policy is now over \$2,000, thus furnishing an insurance of \$5,000 for 28 years free of cost with a profits of over \$900 to be insured.

Policies like the above, fully paid up, participate in the profits during the remainder of the insured's life—thus producing an annual income.

Read What they Say:

CHOWAN BAPTIST FEMALE INSTITUTE,

MURFREESBORO, N. C.,
 Sept. 20th, 1897.

J. D. BOUSHALL, Gen. Agt., Aetna Life Insurance Company, Raleigh, N. C.

DEAR SIR:—The Aetna Life Insurance Company, of which you are the General Agent for North Carolina, is all that it claims to be. Its policies, so far as I have been able to examine them, are liberal in every particular to the holders. Its rates are as low as a safe company can put them.

The Company and its management in North Carolina has been fair, liberal and accommodating to me as a holder of one of its policies.

Very truly yours,
 JOHN C. SCARBOROUGH.

MR. J. D. BOUSHALL, Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir:—For several years I have had a small endowment policy in the Aetna Life Insurance Company. Before I took my policy I was convinced that it was one of the most reliable companies in the country. A more intimate acquaintance confirms this opinion, and my experience as a policyholder leads me to think that the dividends of this Company are liberal and I am perfectly satisfied with its methods and the treatment I have received from the officers. It gives me pleasure to commend your company, for I sincerely believe it is safe and trustworthily.

Respectfully yours,
 W. C. TYREE.

RALEIGH, N. C., Oct. 1, 1897.

J. D. BOUSHALL, Gen. Agent, Aetna Life Insurance Company, Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir:—There is no Insurance Company in the State for which I have a higher regard than the Aetna. I am sure it is as sound, as strong, as

safe as business institutions ever get to be. The cost of its policies is no greater than that of other companies, as I know from experience; but for my part, I would willingly pay more for an Aetna policy, were it necessary, because of my confidence in it.

It has been gratifying to me to note the steady progress the Aetna has made in North Carolina, in these years of financial hesitancy, under your aggressive administration. Your company is today better known in this State than ever before.

With best wishes, sincerely,
 J. W. BAILEY.

RALEIGH, N. C., Sept. 15, 1897.

J. D. BOUSHALL, Gen. Agent, Aetna Life Insurance Company, Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir:—I have two policies in your company, and am well pleased with the same.

I have noticed the economical management of the Aetna Life Insurance Company for a number of years, and am fully persuaded that its policy holders are securing results not surpassed by any of its competitors.

I thoroughly believe in Life Insurance, and would advise any man who can possibly do so, to make an investment of this kind, and I know of no company that I would more cordially recommend than yours.

Wishing you great success,
 Yours Truly,
 N. B. BROUGHTON.

OXFORD SEMINARY,
 Oxford, N. C., Oct. 1, 1897.

J. D. BOUSHALL, General Manager, Raleigh, N. C.

Your letter inquiring of my experience has been received.

I carry three policies, one of which was taken twenty five years ago. My dividends are more than forty per cent of the premium. I have most perfect

confidence in the Company. It has long been synonymous with strength. Its management in North Carolina during all these years has been of the most satisfactory character, but it has never been more satisfactory than at present. You have my heartiest wishes for your success.

Yours truly,
 F. P. HOBGOOD.

Burlington, N. C., Aug. 19, 1897.
 To whom it may Concern:

This is to say that I carry insurance in the Aetna Life Insurance Company to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, as follows:

A policy issued in July, 1890, for \$10,000; two policies of \$5,000 each, issued in July, 1892, and a policy delivered to me this day by J. D. Boushall, General Agent for the Aetna, for which I have paid one premium of more than \$6,000.

If I did not have the fullest confidence in the ability of the Aetna Company to fully comply with its contract and to pay the face of these policies at the end of their periods at death, I should not make these large investments with them.

I was led to take the policy delivered me to-day by the results of the two policies of five thousand dollars each issued to me in 1892.

Respectfully,
 LAWRENCE S. HOLT.

Scotland Neck, N. C., Sept. 10, 1897.

J. D. Boushall, Esq., Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir:—I have had two policies in your Company (the Aetna Life) for over twenty years, and I think my interest is perfectly safe. I regard the company as one of the very best companies doing business in our State. Wishing you much success

I am very truly,
 GS

T. H. STREET, Agent,
MILL CREEK, N. C.