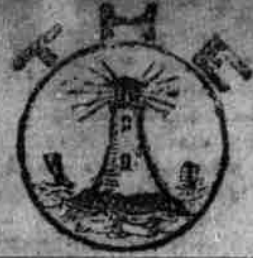


ROANOKE BEACON.



PUBLISHED BY ROANOKE PUBLISHING CO.

"FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY AND FOR TRUTH."

W. FLETCHER AUBSON, Editor, C. V. W. AUBSON, Business Manager.

VOL. III.

PLYMOUTH, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1891.

NO. 7.

SUPERNATURAL STORIES.

IN WHICH ARE RELATED SOME TRUE STORIES OF STRANGE EVENTS.

As long ago as 1878 a story was published in the *Galaxy Magazine* called "Aut Diaboli, aut Nihil." About two years ago a somewhat enlarged version of the same tale with the same title appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine* in London.

Whether the second version was a clean steal, or whether the author of the first himself rewrote and republished it, I do not know; at any rate it was an uncommonly good story.

The gist of it was that a company of young men of birth and education in Paris were in the habit of assembling periodically for a certain mysterious purpose.

An outsider, having secretly obtained admission, saw from his place of concealment, behind a curtain, a handsome square room with a bare, polished floor and without furniture, brilliantly lighted by gas jets along the cornices.

The company of young men in evening dress stood around the room in a circle, with hands joined, and chanted some sort of an incantation. As it proceeded a species of excitement was infused into them—an electric sympathy of will and definite purpose.

The chant grew more intense. At length they prostrated themselves, and bending forward, kissed the polished floor simultaneously.

One morbidly suspicious of your partner in the transaction. All of a sudden planchette, with a faint preliminary crash, starts off and makes a long, swinging, sidelong movement, marked by the pencil with a straight dash.

I confess this question interests me more than any ghost story I ever heard. A more curious sensation than this movement beneath your hand of a thing which is not alive, and which you are not yourself propelling, is seldom experienced by mortal man.

I have spoken of the attraction of a magnet. If you hold a small piece of iron close to a strong magnet you feel a slight pull. The pull the planchette gives to your fingers, when it proceeds on its peregrinations, is very similar to this.

When Alexander Pope visited the Orient nearly two centuries ago he obtained a slip of one of the willows beside the waters of Babylon whereon the children of Israel hung their harps in the days of captivity.

Sometimes three or four different persons (to call them that) will each write a sentence one after another, but the sentences are all characteristic in style and conception.

Who the genius was who invented the little table on wheels, with a pencil on it, I have never heard. He deserves the thanks of the many people who have been entertained by the little instrument.

The grand initial march is that planchette will move. When you first sit down to it, the idea seems so palpably absurd that it is with difficulty you compel yourself to remain in position.

It will do other things besides write. Let some one hide an object—say a key or a glove—somewhere in the room and let two others who don't know where it is hidden take up a planchette and let it rest on their right and left hands respectively, the forefinger hooked on the legs of the instrument.

If one take it outdoors it will act like the witchazel of tradition; it will dip very perceptibly in passing over certain places. Whether underneath these places there was water or gore I never made investigation, but the movement was always repeated at the same spot.

JULIAN HAWTHORNE.

"This is a tropical climb," said the monkey as he started after the coconut.

—[Washington Post.

CURRENT CURIOS.

A number of mules and horses were killed at Cotton Plant, Monroe county, Ark., recently, by a cloud of Buffalo gnats.

A cow being driven through the streets of Hannibal, Mo., charged on a post hanging on a pole, entangled her horns in it, gave a bellow, and dropped dead.

Keene, N. H., is meditating on the cheek of a resident who is receiving outdoor relief from the town and who paid a tax of \$9 the other day on his three dogs.

The people of Starlight, Grundy county, Mo., complain that the man who carries the mail to that town puts young pigs, etc., in the pouch along with the love letters, etc.

A tramp stole a razor and opened up a shop in a box car near the fire brick work at Mexico, Mo. He shaved 25 men in half a day, pocketed \$2.50, and again took the road.

John N. Ames, of Detroit, took a sick, friendless boy from the street into his office, wrapped him in his own overcoat, and notified the authorities, who took the boy to the hospital, where he soon died of malignant diphtheria.

The Ansonia (Conn.) Sentinel tells of a curiosity that was found in Charles Wooster's quarry recently. "It is the relic of a common toad, and the only portion remaining is the outside skin, the interior organs and every particle of flesh having mysteriously disappeared.

When Alexander Pope visited the Orient nearly two centuries ago he obtained a slip of one of the willows beside the waters of Babylon whereon the children of Israel hung their harps in the days of captivity.

Baron Rothschild's Maxims. The elder Baron Rothschild had the walls of his bank placarded with the following curious maxims:

Carefully examine every detail of your business. Be prompt in everything. Take time to consider, and then decide quickly. Dare to go forward. Bear troubles patiently. Be brave in the struggle of life. Maintain your integrity as a sacred thing.

Forgiving His Father. "In the matter of taking care of your father," said the visitor, "you have nothing to reproach yourself with.

"That is true," replied the host thoughtfully. "Fifty-three years ago, when I was a trusting, helpless, innocent child, he gave me the name of Adonijah. But I have tried to do my duty toward him."

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

Freight is unloaded by electricity. Electricity is to send a train 150 miles an hour.

Professor Barnard has brought out an ingenious device for discovering comets, based upon the principle of selenium cell.

A new substitute for ivory, called lacite, has been invented by a Norwegian. It is made from skimmed milk, and will take any coloring.

A Newcastle inventor has applied for a patent to construct cycle wheels without spokes, using instead two disks of very thin steel, riveted together at the rims and axle holes.

The works of watches are now plated with palladium, which is a whiter, lighter, and more fusible metal than platinum.

A new pianoforte keyboard having six rows of keys has recently been exhibited in Manchester, England. An octave is formed by six keys in two contiguous rows.

It has been calculated that the electro-motive force of a bolt of lightning is about 3,500,000 volts, the current about 14,000,000 amperes, and the time to be about 1-20,000 part of a second.

The Washburn-Moen Company at Worcester, Mass., is making a series of experiments which promise to transform the rod and wire business.

By careful experiments made at the United States Mint, says *The Iron Industry Gazette*, it has been shown that \$5 are lost by abrasion every time \$1,000,000 in gold coin are handled.

Some cheap and simple process by which wood, especially sawdust, can be made incombustible is desired by a correspondent of the *Bulletin* at San Bernardino.

Professor G. W. Johnson, in his "Chemistry of the World," explains the character of the acids in many of the food articles used by man.

Defects and Excellencies. The Boston Transcript hears a school boy who has found out, what all of us find out sooner or later, that a single fault attracts more notice than many excellencies.

"I am sorry, Henry," said Uncle George, "that you exhibit so little proficiency in orthography. That letter you wrote to Mr. Brown the other day had so many misspelled words that it set the whole counting room in a roar."

"He Had Not the Nerve. A gentleman in the orchestra was unable to see the stage on account of a tall hat, so he leaned over and whispered to the lady's escort:

A DEFICIENCY.

INSTEAD OF A CASH BALANCE IN THE TREASURY.

AN UNUSUAL SITUATION OF AFFAIRS IN THE FINANCES OF THE UNITED STATES—\$600,000 DEFICIENCY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 18.—The Treasury statement issued today shows that the cash balance is \$44,415,000, of which \$22,029,000 is on deposit with national banks, and \$22,386,000 is in fractional silver, deducting which items the net cash balance is but \$1,235,000, which is the lowest figure yet reached.

The expenditures so far this month have been \$5,188,864 in excess of the entire revenues of the Government during the same period, amounting to \$13,221,852.

IN HONOR OF DAVIS.

THE FIRST MONUMENTAL RECOGNITION OF THE CONFEDERATE CHIEFTAIN.

PENSACOLA, Fla., June 17.—To-day has witnessed the greatest assemblage ever gathered within Pensacola's limits, the occasion being the unveiling of the Confederate monument.

The unworried heroes of the Southern Confederacy, whose joy it was to suffer and die for the cause they believed to be just.

The monument furnished the first monumental recognition of Jefferson Davis. The exercises were as follows: W. D. Chipley, mayor of Pensacola, introduced Rev. H. S. Yarger who opened the exercises with prayer.

Never put yourself in the power of the man who kicks a dog for fun. Earth's bliss so joy lies unto that of the woman who has made eighteen calls and found every body out.

A PLEA FOR THE UGLY GIRL.

E. T. Andrews, in Lippincott's. It does not matter much to a boy whether he is good-looking or the reverse. He is not obliged to wait for somebody to ask him to dance, and his matrimonial prospects don't appear to suffer any serious discount from personal shortages that would send a girl's stock away down below par, or even put her out of the market altogether.

Now suppose the same rule applied to men, and that only the good looking ones could hope to attain to wealth and distinction; suppose, for instance, that the famous war on Oliver Cromwell's nose had been sufficient to condemn him to obscurity, as it inevitably would have done had he been a woman.

It were possible for a man to be so hideous that a woman would not marry him (which, of course it isn't), there are still dozens of careers open to him, in which a red nose or an applepie chin needs stand in his way, but the ugly girl has no such resources.

Now, we ugly girls think all this very unfair. We don't ask the men to marry us nor hope to earn our country's gratitude by becoming widows, but let some modest standard, which one can hope to attain, be recognized.

JUDGE THOMAS C. FULLER.

Col. Thomas C. Fuller, of Raleigh, has been appointed by President Harrison one of the judges of the Land court. The term is five years, with a salary of \$5,000, and traveling expenses.

It is known that great care was taken in the selection of judges for this new court. The amount involved in the disputed land titles will probably reach one hundred million dollars.

A NORTH CAROLINIAN HONORED.

A Washington special says: Dr. Sterling Rollin, of North Carolina, a nephew of Judge Fuller, and grandson of the late Justice Griffin, of the Supreme Court of this State, has been placed on the staff of students at the Medical School of the Johns Hopkins University.

News & Observer. A Washington special says: Dr. Sterling Rollin, of North Carolina, a nephew of Judge Fuller, and grandson of the late Justice Griffin, of the Supreme Court of this State, has been placed on the staff of students at the Medical School of the Johns Hopkins University.