

**A MANIAC'S PRANKS.**

Series of Outrages Attacks upon Unattended Women.

...the devil, who or what is it?"

...ten years ago the above inquiring...

...village, and while some men re-

...others looked troubled

...for the women and child-

...they spoke in whispers, and looked

...them, even in daylight, as if expect-

...to be attacked.

...had been some curious doings in

...the village for several weeks

...the first alarm occurred on a

...Thursday night. There had been a

...meeting at a Methodist church, and

...the people who attended was a mid-

...woman named Lee. She was not

...and she left before the service

...well, and lived on a retired street

...a mile away, and half an hour after

...the church a man passing over the

...had taken found her

...SENSELESS ON THE PATH.

...had been snatched off and torn

...Her shoes had been removed.

...into the road. A set of false

...had been taken from her mouth and

...had been ground and destroyed.

...the woman revived she had but

...to tell in explanation. Some one had

...behind her ear, making a great

...but not breaking the skin. She had

...her speech, nor did she catch

...of any one. She was walking quietly

...when, all of a sudden, she lost con-

...and she had been in that condi-

...about fifteen minutes when found by

...stranger spoken of. The woman had

...No one had assaulted her for

...beyond the removal of the articles

...It was such a singular affair

...that everybody was talking and specu-

...but no arrests were made. Indeed,

...impossible to direct suspicion toward

...about a week the public was further

...and mystified. The wife of a vil-

...named Parker stepped out to the well

...half past 9 o'clock in the evening to

...a pump. She was working the

...of the pump when a hand clutched

...her. Before she could scream out she

...whirled around and flung down with

...know that she was stunned. As near

...she figured she was senseless for four

...minutes. During that time her hair

...pulled out and flung in the well, and a

...of soft soap was taken from a

...near by and smeared over her cloth-

...The hair which had been cut off was

...scattered over the ground. Mrs. Parker

...had not seen her assailant, but she knew

...HAND HAD CLUTCHED HER THROAT.

...now outrage raised the public pulse to

...heat, and the most determined efforts

...made to secure a clue to the identity

...of the perpetrator. Half a dozen arrests

...made, but in each case the person was

...discharged for want of proof to hold

...A detective was sent for, but after

...the case for four days he was

...able to pick up a single clue looking to

...the solution of the mystery.

...the tenth evening after the assault on

...Parker Mr. and Mrs. Loyd were sitting

...summer house in their grounds. It had

...grown dark when Loyd ran across the

...a distance of about 300 feet, to

...away a cow which seemed determined

...to strike him. He was not absent over seven

...minutes, but when he returned to

...summer house he found his wife lying

...the floor insensible. She had been struck

...and blow on top of the head. Her slip-

...and stockings had been removed and

...on the grass, and a lot of dry ashes

...had been sprinkled over her clothing and

...When she recovered consciousness

...had no information to give. She did not

...know when she was struck.

...now seemed apparent that the perpe-

...of these outrages must be a resident of

...village, and that he must be actuated by

...devility. None of the women had been

...beyond what had been stated, and

...the motive in going that far could be nothing

...other than what a plain-speaking man

...would call madness. The detective was

...called, and certain persons who had heretofore

...escaped all suspicion were placed un-

...der surveillance. The last assault had

...CREATED A REIGN OF TERROR.

...the women, not one of whom dared

...step foot outside the house after dark

...unaccompanied by an escort.

...While the detective was still in the town,

...a number of leading citizens were acting

...singles and patrols, the fourth outrage oc-

...curred. The wife of a citizen named Warner

...to the cemetery in the afternoon, ac-

...panied by her son, a boy of 16, to deco-

...one of her children's graves. In trans-

...ing the flowers it became necessary to

...considerable water, and the boy went to

...a creek about twenty rods away with a pail.

...The cemetery was thick with trees, and he

...at night of his mother for five or six min-

...When he returned he found her

...lying on the ground unconscious, with

...marks plainly visible on her throat,

...her hair and stockings had been removed,

...her ears and flung down. The only explan-

...she could make was that a human

...hand had suddenly grasped her throat. She

...heard no footsteps, nor had she caught

...a glimpse of anybody. The detective at once

...searched the cemetery, and in a brief time

...the murderer was thoroughly searched, but ne-

...thing came of it. One side of it was border-

...by an extensive field not under cultiva-

...and on the far side of this field was a

...One could easily have escaped in that

...direction before a search was institut-

...As may be supposed, public indignation

...now at the boiling point. The detec-

...and everybody else was helpless, when

...a woman made a suggestion. It was that

...the detective dress himself in female attire

...and "lay low" for the mysterious villain.

...The idea was carried out that very night,

...but it was a week before the climax came.

...left about 9 o'clock the disguised of-

...visiting, and he halted at the gate to

...a good night and to have the people of

...the house hope that he would get home all

...right. It was on a retired street, thick

...with shade, and unlighted, and the officer

**AS ALERT AS A FOX. He had not gone 500 feet when a figure**

STRIPE FROM BEHIND A TREE

and grasped his throat. The assailant was shaken off and grasped in turn, and then a terrible struggle took place. Not a word was uttered by either. The one sought to get away, the other to handcuff his man. This feat the officer finally accomplished, and when he conducted his prisoner to the village lockup the mystery was at once solved. He proved to be a half-witted fellow named Orson Taylor, living with his father on a farm a couple of miles from the village. Orson was unmarried, about 39 years old, and known around the country as a half fool. He had never been known to commit an offense against the law, and for this reason was not suspected of any of the outrages above detailed. He preserved a sullen silence when questioned, and when a commission of doctors had reported on his case he was sent to an insane asylum instead of being arraigned in court. He soon became a raving maniac, and died in about a year.

**A NORTH-WEST VOLCANO.**

Hunters Have a Remarkable Experience on the Manitow River.

A most startling story has come to light. A party of five young gentlemen from the maritime provinces, under the guidance of an Indian guide left Ottawa a couple of weeks ago to hunt in the Manitow river district in the North West territories. The five sportsmen have returned home, with no game, but instead they came burdened with a most marvelous story of a burning mountain in their hunting district. The parties' names are: Messrs. Sutton, Williamson, Van Horne, Cribbs, and Alexander. The district in which they were hunting lies about fifty miles to the south of the Canadian Pacific railway line from Brule, on the high lands just north of the Manitow river. This locality is just north of the United States boundary line, from Black Duck lake in Minnesota. They reported having left Brule together with their guide, and going south, when they met a mountaineer's family on the way into the town, with all their goods and chattels, packed on a couple of lean-looking horses. The mother carried a

**SICK CHILD IN HER ARMS,**

and two little girls, whose tow heads were fleecy grown, toddled on bare feet after. The father, two sons and a daughter led the way. Their appearance showed that they were leaving hastily for some reason, and on being interviewed by the would-be hunters, they said that they were fleeing from the region in which they had lived on account of some terrible fire. They had lived from hand to mouth on a patch of cleared ground, on a mountain's side whose base formed a portion of the Manitow river's bank; that the terrible fire was somewhere over behind or in under the mountain; that no smoke was visible, but that the air was stifling hot, and the river, at certain points, so hot that the fish died in it. The first information that the father, whose name is Malcolm, had of this strange phenomenon was the unusual sight of a great number of dead fish in the Manitow, whose ice had, earlier than usual, broken up this year in their vicinity, but to his surprise the ice had remained the normal length of time, both above and below the place they had lived. Strangely hot winds also came down into the valley, whilst elsewhere the atmosphere was of wintry chilliness.

**THE STREAM BECAME SO HOT**

that it had heated the water, which runs slowly at that point, until steam rose from the surface near the banks. This was faintly noticeable for a short distance further up, and beyond which the water by degrees resumed its normal state. The atmosphere was found to be very warm, and the slightest exertion brought out the perspiration. At a point near to where the farmer had lived the hunters found the air to be almost stifling, and there also the earth was too hot in places to lay the hand upon. Nothing else was noticeable, the mountains being bleak and bare from winter. But further back upon its sides the heat was absolutely unbearable, and after climbing up its thickly-wooded sides for two or three hundred feet the hardy hunters were forced to return, the air being unbreathable. Animals had left their retreats, birds steered clear of the locality, and not a living thing was to be seen. The earth was dry and cracked with the heat. Dead snakes without number, and vermin, were discovered by the hunters. The heat, instead of diminishing, was found to increase the higher they went up the mountain's side, and the cracks in the earth widened and new ones appeared, and the

**LOCALITY BECAME UNINHABITABLE.**

It was no wonder, they say, that the terror-stricken family, depressed in the knowledge that something strange and terrible was going to take place in the earth beneath them, and living in the midst of stifling hot winds, whose increasing heat brought to terrified and ignorant minds pictures of burning fields and volcanoes, had resolved to abandon the uncomfortable locality. The town of Brule is very much excited over the extraordinary discovery, and a party about half a dozen has started for the scene of the burning mountain. It is about five or ten miles from any habitation at present existing. Men well acquainted with the geology of the province declare that the location of this volcanic area has been fixed to a nicety, and might be with reason expected. Their theory is that the bituminous coal, in which this mountain range is known to be rich, has by some phenomenal means become ignited, the vast and smouldering mass, far down in the mountain's heart, thus making a mighty cauldron of the Manitow river's bed.

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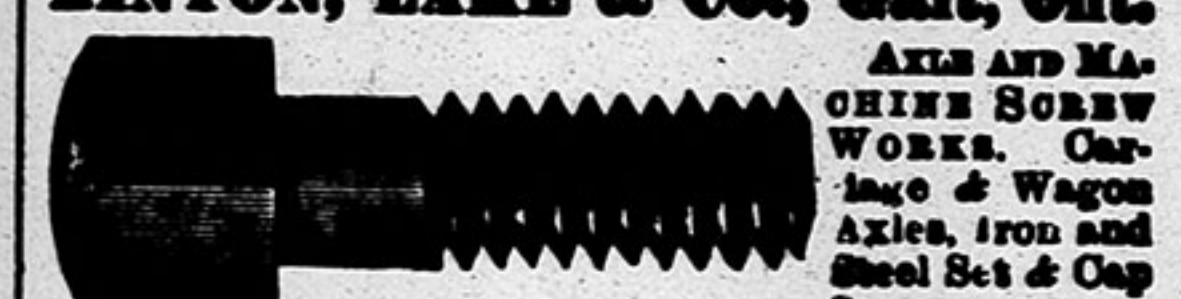
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