

# ONE NIGHT WITH A HANGMAN.

Extraordinary Experience of an Artist—Meeting a Public Executioner Under Peculiar and Exciting Circumstances.

An artist connected with a New York political paper tells the following story of his experiences of a night:—

The particulars of the Silver creek murder are matters of record, showing how Rheinhardt cut his wife into pieces, trampled her a long distance over a plank road, and finally threw the dissected remains into the creek. I was then and am still connected with one of the leading illustrated papers of the city, and was detailed to watch the trial and take sketches of the prisoner, judge, counsel, jury-men, and any prominent persons who might attend the trial.

The trial over, I was again instructed to attend the execution of the murderer in order to get a front-page picture of the scene and the gallows. The day preceding the hanging I met a couple of friends from the country and was compelled to show them some of the sights. Between you and I time flew so fast that I found myself at the Staten island ferry barely in time to catch the last boat. It had been snowing for some days, so that when I reached the island I found travelling on foot anything but agreeable.

I went straight to the police-station house and asked the sergeant on duty if he knew where I could get a sleigh or any kind of a conveyance to bring me out to the jail. I soon learned that I would have to depend upon shank's mare, and started to walk.

I must have walked about an hour when I heard a sleigh approaching at an ordinary pace. I got out in the middle of the road and bellowed at the top of my voice. "Who the — are you?" was the response. Or, "What are you doing out at night like this?" I explained who and what I was, and I got a lift. Arriving at the jail I bade my friends in need of good-night, showed my badge, and was admitted within its dismal precincts.

There were a number of representatives of local and outside journals stretched here and there around a room, with their coats, backs of chairs, stools, or anything that might answer for pillows. I noticed one man who sat upright. He was neatly-dressed and looked intelligent. I took him for a newspaper man at once and greeted him. We chatted very pleasantly for a while when I told him of my lonely tramp along the road. Both flasks were emptied, and when I told my new-made friend that I would give a good deal for a drink, he volunteered to escort me to a neighboring saloon. When we reached there one of the most promiscuous crowds I ever saw was present, all of whom had traveled for miles to see a human being expiate his crimes on the scaffold.

Having taken a nip or two we returned to the jail. It was then far into the night, and I was so tired that I could stand standing. There was nothing left upon which I could lay my head. The man told me he was going to turn in, and that he was willing to share his bed with me such as it was. I agreed, and by the aid of the light of a tallow candle we climbed to the garret and entered a small room. In it was one small cot and a rickety chair without a back to it. By this time I had concluded that the man was an attaché of the jail.

"Take off your coat," said he, "and tumble in. We have not much time for sleep, for the job is to be done early, so as to disappoint the big crowd that is expected or any demonstration in favor of the condemned man." While sitting on the side of the cot I thanked my acquaintance for his kindness and intimated that, as I had told him who I was, I would like to learn the same about himself. He hesitated for some moments, looking straight into my face, a sickly smile or grin on his countenance all the while, and after an apparent struggle, said:

"Well, if you insist upon knowing, I will tell you. I am Joseph —, the hangman."

If I had been stricken with palsy I could not have been more frightened. I felt my hair gradually creep up until it stood on end. A cold, clammy perspiration came out through my whole body, a mist floated across my eyes, and I became as weak and scared as a babe. I looked at the hangman for several seconds, but was unable to articulate or slip a word. He still leered at me, but remained motionless. As soon as I recovered I seized my coat which I had already taken off and on the plea that I had forgotten something down stairs I borrowed half of the candle and made my way down the rickety stairs the best way I could, fearing every instant that some one would seize me from behind. My head was swimming and I could hardly walk. Once down I got sick in my stomach and remained for at least an hour in an indescribable stupor.

Early in the morning Rheinhardt was hanged. I saw my friend of the evening before dispatch the unfortunate man into eternity. The moment I laid eyes on him I was attacked with the same symptoms. The sketches I made were from memory principally, and were necessarily far below my average work. When all was over I again saw the hangman for the third and last time. He looked as calm as though nothing had happened. Approaching me he held out his hand, which I refused to touch, and whispered in my ear:

"I told you my name on your word that you would keep it secret. So long. We may meet again. Meanwhile you may come across worse men than Joseph —, the hangman."

For nights and days the hangman was ever in my thoughts. Finally I got sick from want of sleep, and told my doctor what I thought the cause, and he no doubt told you. Since then the illustrated paper with which I am connected has asked me to attend a number of hangings, but I have always declined.

You may laugh at me if you will, but until my dying day I can never forget the idea of my going to sleep in the same bed with a hangman. I am willing at all times to face any danger, but keep hangmen away from me; they are worse than grave yard specters.

## BLEACHING HUMAN BONES.

How Detroit Medical Students Use a Neighboring Roof.

A couple of citizens walking up Woodward avenue the other night sniffed a peculiar odor near the Finney house corner. It was something like the smell that comes from the carbon-works at Delray, and one of them suggested that perhaps there was a crematory in the neighborhood. He was right as far as saying the smell came from human bones. An ambitious student at the Detroit medical college had part of a skeleton sizzling in a big iron kettle in a lumber-room of the college building, which opens into the alley behind the Finney house. From inquiries at the college it was learned that it was a common thing for students to take choice bones from the dissecting-room and boil and scrape and prepare them for mounting nearly every other night in an atmosphere strong enough to kill rats.

Norman H. Williams' livery stable is a two-story brick building on the corner of Farmer and Gratiot streets, and it joins the college building. Said a recent graduate of the college this morning: "The roof of that barn is where we need to bleach the bones before boiling. You see, we used to get frequently three or four subjects a week, and when the flesh was shaved off we would take the bones around in the alley up the steps in rear of Cardoni's marble-shed, and then up a ladder to the roof of the barn. The roof is gravel, and there is a brick ledge all round, so the skulls couldn't roll into the street."

"Have you many bones there? Well, now, I would like to have shown you the collection last fall. I guess there were two dry-loads spread out when the first snow fell—everything from the skulls to the bones of the toes. You could rake up piles of 'em all over the roof. And when the sun was shining bright, oh, how they smelled! We used to tie the handkerchiefs around our noses when we went up there. I often wondered that the public didn't find us out. The graduating class last week skimmed the roof clean, but come along with me and see if there are any left."

There was about four inches of snow on the roof. A few patches were kicked clean and the doctor picked up a handful of finger-bones, half a dozen knee-caps, a section or two of vertebra, and the bone from a forearm.

"Those weren't worth taking, I suppose," he remarked. "Too common. If the roof was clean I could find half a bushel of them. No, people in the block didn't know they were there. If they did we would have had to gather them up pretty quick."

## "I Love Her Better than Life."

Well, then, why don't you do something to bring back the roses to her cheeks and the light to her eyes? Don't you see she is suffering from nervous debility, the result of female weakness? A bottle of Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" will brighten those pale cheeks and send new life through that wasting form. If you love her, take heed.

Muscle is the sound which one's children make as they romp through the hotel. Noise is the sound which other people's children make under the same circumstances.

## How Pale You Are!

is frequently the exclamation of one lady to another. The fact is not a pleasant one to have mention, but still the act may be a kindly one, for it sets the one addressed to thinking, apprises her of the fact that she is not in good health, and leads her to seek a reason therefor. Pallor is almost always attendant on the first stages of consumption. The system is enfeebled, and the blood is impoverished. Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" will act as a tonic upon the system, will enrich the impoverished blood, and restore roses to the cheeks.

De narrier-minded man totes a short string by which he measures de good qualities o' de men whnt he meets, but his own good p'int he measures wid a cloze line.

If you have catarrh, use the surest remedy—Dr. Sage's.

"Papa, didn't you say if I was a good boy you would give me a cent?" queried a 7-year old. "Yes, my son," blandly replied paterfamilias. "Well, then," said young hopeful, "couldn't you make it payable in advance?" He got his cent.

## Make a Note of This.

Pain banished as if by magic. Polson's NERVINE is a positive and almost instantaneous remedy for external, internal, or local pains. The most active remedy hitherto known falls far short of Nerville for potent power in the relief of nerve pain. Good for external or internal use. Buy a 10 cent sample bottle. Large bottles 25 cents, at all druggists.

The dismantling of the old Hollis Street Church in Boston, to make way for a theatre, does not convert all the material to ungodly uses. The inscription slab and a memorial window will be given to the Bostonian Society. The wooden tablets of the Lord's prayer and Scriptural quotations go to a church at Atlanta, Ga., and a bust of Starr King and a Thaxter baptismal font to the new Hollis Street Church.

A naturalist says that the sponge of commerce has a nervous system and secretes gall. The social sponge has also considerable nerve, and his gall is immense.

## The Sting Within.

It is said there is a rankling poison in every heart, and yet that none would exchange their own for that of another. Be that as it may, the sting arising from the heart of a cern is real enough, and in this land of tight boots a very common complaint also. PUTNAM'S PAINLESS CORN EXTRACTOR is a never failing remedy for this kind of headache, as you can easily prove if afflicted. Cheap, sure, painless. Try the genuine and use no other.

Years of exasperating experience have taught us that nothing closes quite so promptly on the minute as the bank, the post office and the barber.

Many people are not aware that it is the wrapper of tobacco which gives the color to the plug, and are, therefore, often deceived by a handsome outside appearance. The wrapper is a single film of leaf wrapped round the plug, and is never good smoking tobacco. It is costly only because of its fine color. In the "Myrtle Navy" brand the chief attention is paid to the "filler," which is, the inside of the plug. It is this which determines the smoking tobacco. A tobacco can be made to look as well as the "Myrtle Navy" without much trouble or expense, but at the same time be a very inferior article.

A new drama is called "The Skating Rink." The actors are studying their roles and have begun to tumble to the business of the piece.

## Young Men!—Read This.

THE VOLTAIC BELT Co., of Marshall, Mich., offer to send their celebrated ELCO TRO-VOLTAIC BELT and other ELECTRIC APPLIANCES on trial for thirty days, to men young or old afflicted with nervous debility, loss of vitality, and all kindred troubles. Also for rheumatism, neuralgia, paralysis, and many other diseases. Complete restoration to health, vigor and manhood guaranteed. No risk is incurred as thirty days' trial is allowed. Write them at once for illustrated pamphlet free.

"Is Mrs. Blank a very cold woman?" "I don't know; why do you ask?" "Oh, because she always has an 'ice' air about her."

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## Catarrh—A New Treatment.

Perhaps the most extraordinary success that has been achieved in modern science has been attained by the Dixon Treatment of catarrh. Out of 2,000 patients treated during the past six months, as many as 90 per cent. have been cured at one sitting. No one else has ever attempted to cure catarrh in this manner, and no other treatment has ever cured catarrh. The application of the remedy is simple and can be done at home, and the present season of the year is the most favorable for a speedy and permanent cure. The majority of cases being cured at one sitting. Sufferers should correspond with Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON, 305 King-street West, Toronto, Canada, and enclose stamp for their treatise on catarrh.—*Medical Star*

A story in a weekly paper bears the ghastly title of "Chased by a Corpse." It must have caught him on a 'dead run.'

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