

A BOY AND A GHOST.

The Terrible Combat in the Breast of an Irish Lad.

The following strictly true incident evinces, I think, as much "sand" as is likely to be compressed into the compass of a small boy. In many parts of Ireland the peasantry are intensely superstitious; a trait which is fostered by the reprehensible practice of telling ghost stories.

Billy Sanders was an average Irish lad of some 10 summers, and with a full share of the popular belief in ghosts, brownies, water-kelpies, *et id genus omnia*. He was visiting a married sister in the town of B. whose residence, before her occupation, had been

THE SCENE OF A MURDER

or suicide; on which account it had stood tenantless for some time. The whole house was occupied by herself, husband and hired girl, with the exception of the garret. This garret, therefore, tell to Billy for sleeping quarters; and, as it was the reputed locale of the disaster, he was made fully acquainted with the story in all its details.

We can imagine the effect of this on Billy's mind, who was endowed with the vivid imagination of his country. His days were pleasant enough, but as evening approached, his apprehensions grew longer with the shadows. His great aim now was to get to sleep as quickly as possible after retiring. To accomplish this, he adopted two plans. One was to retire early, and fall asleep before darkness set in. The other was to take enough exercise to secure speedy oblivion by fatigue. In spite of these, however, he felt as if the sword of Damocles were hanging over him, and his gayest moments were clouded with apprehensions.

He awoke with a start, one night, and cast his usual hurried glance abroad. What was his unutterable horror to behold before him

A SHEETED SPECTRE,

white and glistening, the wrath of the unhappy victim so long expected and dreaded. No cry escaped his parched lips, but he instinctively tried to shut out the horrid vision by closing his eyes and then by burying his head in the coverings. All in vain. This seemed to intensify the horror. The fearful object burned into his very marrow. By a supreme effort he finally slid from his little cot and approached, with outstretched hand, the awful form—approached, what his excited mind pictured as the apparition of the suicide—to find only a moonlit wall. Bathed in cold perspiration and his heart wildly throbbing, he discovered that it was nothing but the reflection of the sky-light upon the opposite white wall, while all else was in profoundest gloom.

That lad is still living, but in a life of forty subsequent years of various adventure in many lands, has never experienced such a strain as that, and the memory of it is as fresh as though it had occurred yesterday.

An Electric Railway

One of the most interesting achievements in modern engineering is the electric mountain railway recently opened to the public at the Burgenstock, near Lucerne. The rails describe one grand curve formed upon an angle 112 degrees, and the system is such that the journey is made as steadily and smoothly as upon any of the straight funicular lines. The Burgenstock is almost perpendicular—from the shore of Lake Lucerne to the Burgenstock is 1,330 feet, and it is 2,860 feet above the level of the sea. The total length of the line is 938 metres, and it commences with a gradient of 32 per cent., which is increased to 58 per cent. after the first 400 metres, this being maintained for the rest of the journey. A single pair of rails is used throughout, and the motive power, electricity, is generated by two dynamos, each of 25 horse-power, which are worked by a water wheel nominally 125 horse power, erected upon the River Aar, at its mouth at Buochs, three miles away, the electric current being conducted by means of insulated copper wires. The loss in transmission is estimated at 25 per cent.—[Ex.]

Women and Art.

It is popularly supposed that woman has tamer advantages over man in the way of artistic temperament. Her instincts, we are told are subtler, her intuitions purer and nobler, her perceptive faculties at least as good, her sense of beauty, of form, of proportion, of coloring more innate and delicate. Hence the probabilities are, in the direction of more artists and more distinguished artists from among women than among men. Certainly it cannot be said that woman has been handicapped in her pursuit of art studies as she has been in other departments of education. And yet this popular view is not borne out by facts. There are a dozen distinguished male artists for every distinguished female one. And the present Exposition at Paris, is said to tell the same sort of story. Though some of the strongest work there present is the work of women, the relative total of women's work has been characterized as unimportant. Critics say that though in execution her status is excellent, in imagination or creative force she is practically without position. What will some of the enthusiasts for the equality of the sexes have to say to this indictment. In the French exhibit out of a total of 532 artists only 27 are women, and of these it is said that only three can be said to show any creative force.

Who does not wish that he had a moderate fortune invested in securities like Suez Canal Shares. The Directors of that "ditch" have recently recommended the payment of a 38 per cent dividend. How is that for returns on investment? A nice little legacy to leave to one's family would not be say \$100,000 only bearing yearly interest at 38 per cent?

There is something extraordinary about the craze which impels men to seek Government offices, comparatively few of which have respectable salaries attached to them. Scores of peace-hunters, for instance, have been waiting at Washington ever since Inauguration day in hope of obtaining appointments to the consular service, and yet of the 350 consulates in the gift of the president a large number are worth not over \$1,000 a year, while in not more than fifty does the salary exceed \$2,500. Comparatively speaking, however, any of these are considered prizes; nevertheless the rush for minor positions, etc., where the remuneration is ridiculously small, is even greater. There appears to be some mysterious charm about the ordinary government appointment which largely compensates for its lack of value.

MISCELLANEOUS.

To harden crayon pencil and charcoal drawings and sketches so that they will not fade soon or rub off, lay the paper in a shallow dish, and pour skimmed milk over it; when well wet all over, raise into a vertical position and allow it to drain, removing with a feather the last drops from the bottom edge; dry carefully, or wash it over with warm starch solution, thin isinglass-water, or rice-water, applying it with a camel's hair brush.

The owner of five acres of land near Picton in Prince Edward County is said to have discovered there a deposit of pure amber from which dazzling dreams of wealth may be realized, and now all his neighbours are exploring their farms with unexampled energy in the hope of discovering that nature has not poured all her store of pigment into one particular lap. The stuff is said to be genuine paint, and to be generously enough deposited to supply a good deal of the Canadian demand and make the fortunate discoverer a rich man for life.

Chicago enterprise is transporting the famous Libby prison to that Queen City of the Lakes, where it will be set up, and put on exhibition before the eyes of the curious. Threats are made by Southern papers that this will hurt Chicago trade, as Southern dealers will not countenance a city in which an attempt like this is made to keep alive the hatreds engendered by the war. Chicago newspapers reply defiantly that the matter is one of private enterprise with which the city authorities have no right to interfere, and that Southern merchants will go where they can get the best bargains, Libby prison, or no Libby prison.

The "New York World" says that a gentleman, described as a millionaire leather merchant of Chicago, told its Paris correspondent that more than by anything else in the great Exposition, was he struck by the way in which the Americans have overtaken the French in the manufacture of leather. Ten years ago, American workmen were sent to Lyons and Nancy to be educated. So good have the results been, that American leather workers are now able to give "points" to their one time instructors, and American leather has well-nigh driven French goods out of the American market.

It is comforting to know that all the movement across the border is not to the Southward. During the last six months it is said that no fewer than one hundred families have moved from North Western American States into Canadian Territory. And we have a strong persuasion that as our glorious river and lake lands become better known there will be a steady stream of emigration into them from Uncle Sam's dominions. Our "era of prosperity," may seem long in coming, but come it surely will, and if we mistake not the signs of the times, it is coming very soon. All things come to them who know how to wait, whether they be nations or individuals.

The day of Gas monopolists is over, and these aristocrats will need to play a much humbler role than hitherto they have been accustomed to do. Humble pie is not pleasant diet but it is as "good" sometimes as leeks are to over-proud stomachs. Electricity is the great light-giving agency of the future, and will supersede gas for illuminating our streets as certainly as gas has superseded oil. If the gas companies wish to put off the evil day as long as possible they should with all eagerness apply themselves to the problem of supplying a better product than they now do, and at a lower rate.

Electricity as an agent of capital punishment has found its first potential victim in William Kemmler who has been condemned to death at Buffalo and ordered to Auburn prison to await execution under a warrant which reads as follows, directing that the sentence be executed: "Upon some day within the week commencing Monday, the 24th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1889, and within the walls of the Auburn State prison or within the yard or enclosure adjoining thereto, by then and there causing to pass through the body of him, the said William Kemmler, otherwise called John Hart, a current of electricity of sufficient intensity to cause death, and that the application of such current of electricity, be continued until said William Kemmler, otherwise called John Hart, be dead."

Free libraries are among the most effective instruments for the promotion of temperance and for the prevention of crime. Let a lad have a taste for reading and the easy means of gratifying it, and the tavern will soon lose its charms. He would as soon think of getting down on his hands and feet and doing a spell at grazing as of joining in the stupid brutalities of the gin mill, and in the same way the eager and intelligent readers will not as a rule be found among the law breakers. His tastes carry him quite in another direction—in the direction of quietness—peace and good will. Indeed the more one thinks over the matter the more will he be persuaded that free libraries more than repay all the expense of their maintenance in the peace and sobriety which their use is naturally calculated to promote and maintain. By all means let them abound. They are a first rate investment every way.

An Irish National Society in Chicago; a dissatisfied member who threatens disclosures of alleged "crookedness" in the manipulation of Society funds; a sudden disappearance of that member, and the discovery of his dead body, with evident marks of violence on the head, in a suburban sewer.—Such is a brief summary of events in the recent history of the late Dr. Crozin, of Chicago. It is safe to inter that Phoenix Park and other places in Ireland have not exhausted the peculiar energies of certain sections of Irish nationalism which believe in thorough-going methods of dealing with those from whom they think they have anything to fear. The Irish National League of Chicago, however, has pledged itself to sift this tragedy to the bottom, and to purge itself completely, if it be found that any of its members have thus defiled its escutcheon with an infamous crime.

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On a Wife Hunt.

The Prince of Naples is looking for a wife, and has difficulty in finding one. This is not so much because of the fact, which is indisputable, that he personally amounts to nothing, but rather because those whom he has been willing to marry have been Roman Catholics. His father, though a prosperous gentleman who has done a lot for his country, is excommunicated for his lack of reverence for the Pope, and the mothers of Catholic young women do not look at that kind of a parti. It is expected that the Prince, or rather those who interest themselves in him, will soon set about trying to marry him in England to a Protestant with no objections to excommunication. She would most probably be one of the Prince of Wales' own daughters. The Italian Prince is a very little man, notices things very carefully, but draws rather foolish conclusions, does not look particularly masculine and looks younger than he is, though he is very young. He is proud of being a captain, and is fond of speaking of we military men.

Judging by some newspaper reports the game of French and English is not unlikely, to be played in Newfoundland before long to the accompaniment of rifle shots. Relations between the two are said to be strained well nigh to breaking on account of certain fishing grounds to which the French lay exclusive claims, but in which the English fishermen claim equal rights. A British war ship now on the scene is said to favour the French side of the question, and to have behaved in a way which has made the English very wrathful. Some private letters predict bloodshed before long, unless more peaceful thoughts prevail than are at present in the ascendant.

The Ladies' Favorite.

The newest fashion in ladies' hats will doubtless cause a flutter of pleasurable excitement among the fair sex. Ladies are always susceptible to the changes of a fashion plate; and the more startling the departure, the more earnest the gossip over the new mode. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a positive cure for the ills which afflict females and make their lives miserable. This sovereign panacea can be relied on in cases of displacements and all functional derangements. It builds up the poor, haggard and dragged out victim, and gives her renewed hope and a fresh lease of life. It is the only medicine for woman's peculiar weaknesses and ailments, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money refunded. Read printed guarantee on bottle wrapper.

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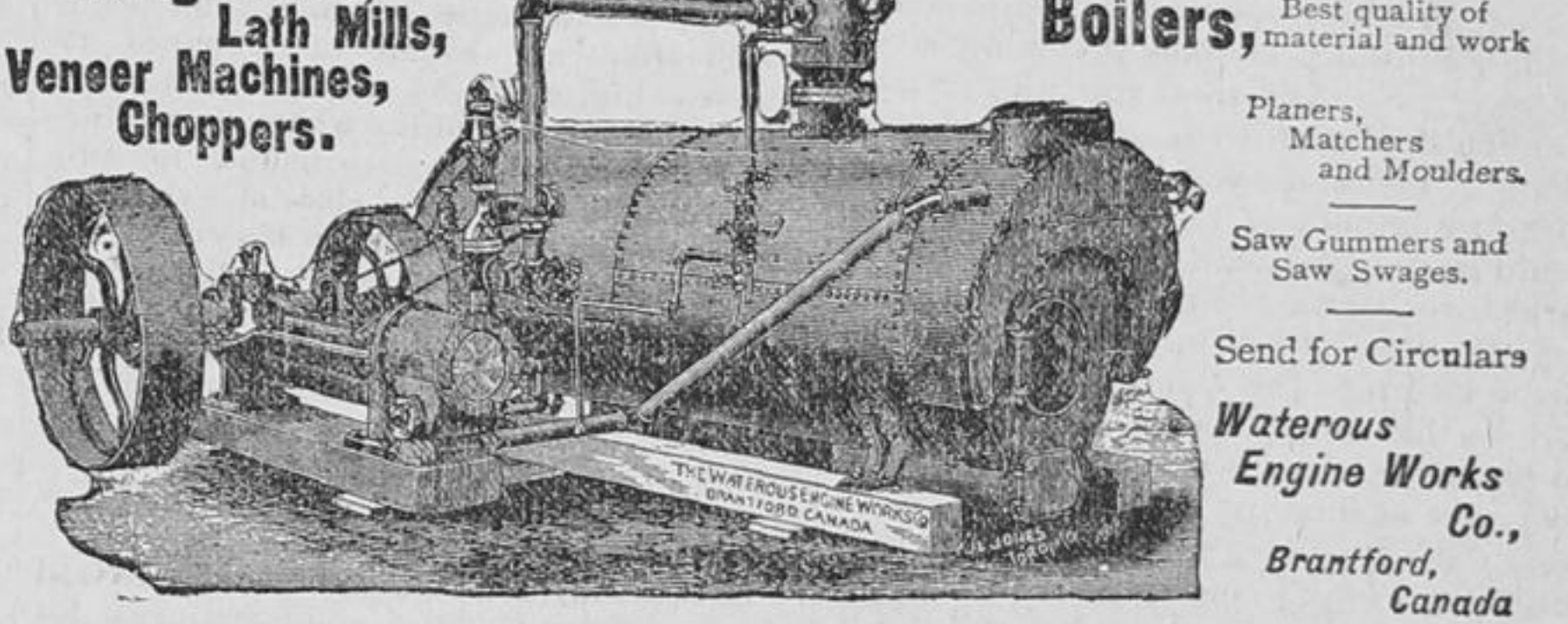
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