DEVOURED BY SHARKS.

Tragic Death of a Murderer.

Recently a man named Grant committed a murder at Demarara, W. I., whence he escaped to Halifax, N. S., where he was arrested and put on board a vessel to be returned to Demarara for trial. On arriving in sight of his destination the prisoner jumped overboard, and was immediately seized and devoured by sharks. The Halifax *Citizen* gives the following particulars:—

"On the passage, although closely watched, he on one occasion obtained possession of a knife, with which he attempted to open his cabin window in the night; but the attempt was discovered and frustrated. On the morning of the arrival, when the vessel was within four miles of the lightship, he feigned an excuse to go on deck. Mr. Joseph sent Christian with him, and gave the officer strict injunctions to keep a firm hold of him. From the testimony the seaman Christian seems to have endeavored faithfully to fulfil his instructions, but was thrown off his guard by a sudden request from Grant that he would do him a trifling service, and relaxed his hold for a moment, when Grant, with a yell of exultation, instantly leaped overboard. The vessel was put about as quickly as possible, but to no purpose, for the lookout man soon cried, 'Shark's got him,' and pointed to the spot where he had seen Grant disappear, and where the water was tinged with blood. The vessel continued to sail around the spot for an hour, without discovering any other trace of the miserable man."

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

The City Amusements.

AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC the splendors of *The Black Crook* will only be visible for nine nights more, as the building has been engaged for other purposes. This spectacle has achieved a brilliant success from the fact that no pains or expense has been spared to make it as complete and elegant as possible. It is not a mere revival of the entertainment given under the title of *The Black Crook* in this city a few seasons ago, for, while the drama itself is the same, all the scenery, costumes, and accessories are new, and are far superior to anything ever seen here before. Independently of the magnificent scenic attractions, a great variety of amusing features are introduced, and with the fine ballet troupe, the grotesque performances of the Majiltons, the funny capers of the skaters, and other incidentals, there is abundant entertainment provided. The great transformation scene is a marvel of beauty, and is itself worth the price of admission to behold.

AT THE CHESNUT the comedy of *Saratoga*, which continues to enjoy in a remarkable degree the favor of the public, will be repeated this evening. Last night and on Monday the house was crowded, and the piece was applauded in the heartiest manner. We record the success of this play with great pleasure, for while it does not fulfil all the conditions of a true American comedy, it is a step in the right direction, and it proves that the public are prepared to patronize American plays, and especially plays representative of contemporary American life, if they are well written. Mr. Howard is undoubtedly capable of better things than *Saratoga*, but he has possibly been wise in endeavoring to produce a successful piece at his first attempt rather than, by aiming too high, to overshoot the mark. *Saratoga* is abundantly entertaining, and it looks as if it were likely to have as long a run in this city as it did in New York, where it was the great hit of the season.

AT THE WALNUT the drama of *East Lynne* will be represented this evening with Mrs. Bowers as "Lady Isabel" and "Madame Vine."

AT THE ARCH Mr. John Brougham will this evening personate "Corydon Foxglove," in his new comedy of *Flies in the Web*. The performance will conclude with the farce of *A Thumping Legacy*.

AT THE AMERICAN a variety of attractions, including the Japanese troupe of acrobats and and jugglers, will be presented this evening.

AT THE MUSEUM, Ninth and Arch streets, a matinee performance of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* will be given to-day.

This evening, Mr. Robert McWade will personate "Rip Van Winkle."

Case of Rev. C. E. Cheney.

The following remarks upon Mr. Cheney's recent letter to the *Episcopalian* appear in the Chicago *Times* of April 27:—

The Rev. Charles Edward Cheney may be the most conscientous of all living divines; nevertheless, as an ecclesiastical lawyer, he is one of the worst possible description. His recent letter, defending his refusal to recognize the ecclesiastical authority of his own Church, is a model of the most barefaced sophistry that ever proceeded from one who insists upon squaring the government of the world to his own peculiar notions of what it ought to be. While professing scrupulous loyalty to the constitution, canons, rubrics, and all other laws of the Episcopal Church, Mr. Cheney assumes that, for himself, in his ministerial relation to the Church, he is the authorized interpreter and judge of the meaning and intent of those laws. His duty to abide by and obey the ecclesiastical authority of the Church goes no further than the decisions of that authority coincide with his own understanding of the law. This is the whole ground of his defense. This is his whole argument, reduced to a single point. Upon this ground alone he finds the "logical result" to be that the whole proceeding of the ecclesiastical tribunal which found him guilty of violating the ecclesiastical law "is null and void."

It is as if a defendant convicted in one of the civil courts for some violation of the statute law should say:—"That which the court decided to be the law, I do most conscientiously decide is not the law; what, then, inevitably follows but the logical result that the whole proceeding against me is null and void?"

The *Times* can hardly suppose that ecclesiastical institutions rest upon a basis so unsubstantial as Mr. Cheney's logic would imply. In that case, every minister of the Gospel would be the supreme head of his own church. Every deacon would be his own presbyter, and every presbyter his own bishop. And every layman, upon the same reasoning (or, rather unreasoning), would be his own ecclesiastical superior. Every member of a religious organization would be his own judge and court of final jurisdiction upon every question of ecclesiastical law that could arise; for the decision of any tribunal which should be averse to his own understanding of the law and evidence would, "as a logical result," be null and void.

The object of every court-ecclesiastical as well as civil—is twofold. It is, first, to declare what the law is; next, it is to render judgment upon the law as declared. If the power or the right to determine what the law is belonged to the party accused, it would be a self-evident absurdity to place the power of giving judgment elsewhere. The two are inseparable, in the nature of things. If Mr. Cheney is the competent authority to declare what the ecclesiastical law is, or is not, then Mr. Cheney is correct in assuming to decide that the proceeding of the ecclesiastical tribunal is null and void. But if the ecclesiastical tribunals of the Church are the authorized power to declare what the ecclesiastical law is (and the Supreme Court of the State has so decided), then Mr. Cheney stands clearly in the wrong, and the reasoning of his letter to the Philadelphia *Episcopalian* is sheer nonsense.

—The small-pox, which still ravages London, destroyed 25,061 lives from 1840 to 1870 in England.

—One of the old Boston geographies stated that the only brass mine in the United States was in Connecticut.

—"I thought you told me, doctor, that Smith's fever had gone off?" "Oh, yes; but it and Smith went off together."

—In Toronto all the restaurants, saloons, billiard-rooms, etc., are closed on Saturday night at 7 o'clock, by municipal orders.

—A Hibernian Senator, speaking of suicide, said:—"The only way to stop it is to make it a capital offense, punishable with death."

—A Chattanooga soda fountain is composed of a nail keg and a wooden faucet.

—The *Magnolia Flower* is an Arkansas newspaper which, its editor says, does not make a scent.

HELMBOLD'S COLUMN.

HELMBOLD'S

Catawba Grape Pill.

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