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EDITORS' AND-PROPRIETORS.

ALTOONA, PA., SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1865.

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Choice Loetry.

THE BAYONET CHARGE

Not a sound, not a breath. All as still as death. As we stand on the steep in our bayonet's shrine All is tumult below-Surging friend, surging foe; not a hair's breadth moves our adamant line Waiting so grimly.

The battle-smoke lifts From the valley, and drifts and the hill where we stand, like a pall for the

And a glimpse now and then Shows the billows of men. In whose black boiling surge we are soon to Redly and dimly.

There's the word! Ready all! See the serried points fail-The grim horizontal so bright and so bare! Then the other word-Ha! We'are moving! Huzza! We snuff the burnt powder, we plunge in the glare, Rushing to glory!

Down the hill, up the glen. O'er the bodies of men, Then on, with a cheer, to the roaring redoubt Why stumble so, Ned? No answer-He's dead And there's Dutch Peter down, with his life leaping out.

Crimson and gory ! On! On! Do not think Of the falling, but drink Of the mad, living cataract-torrent of war! On! On! let them feel

The cold vengeance of steel ! Catch the Captain-he's hit! 'Tis a scratchnothing more! Forward forever!

Huzza! Here's the trench! In and out of it! Wrench From the jaws of the cannon the guerdon of Fame Charge! charge! with a yell, Like the shrick of a shell-O'er the abattis, on through the curtain of flame

Back again? Never!

The rampart! Tis crossed-It is ours! It is lost! No-another dash now and the glacis is won Huzza! What a dust! Hew them down! Cut and thrust! A T-i-g-a-r! brave lads, for the red work is done-

Victory! victory! There's a full in the fight, In the glad morning light, I stand on the works, looking back there with pain Where the death-dew of war Stains the daisy's white star, And God's broken images scatter the plain, Hush! Do not speak to me!

Miscellany.

THE SILENT WITNESS. FROM A LAWYER'S DIARY.

I had spent some years in the west was Fred. Elliott, and I arranged to heart as well. visit him as soon as I could. Fred. and I had grown up together as boys; we had entered college together, and graduated together; and when commenced the practice of law, he entered his uncle's store in the capacity of book-keeping, with a good promise ahead. And there was another between us—a near and dear one to us, who were both orphans, and who had few relatives living. Fred. had married my own cousin, sweet Hattie Keene. He married her since I went away, though the event had been upon the docket a long time before. And thus I was to meet two of my dearest | must have gone wrong."

It was just before dusk when the gone wrong In tact," he added, cloud at first, but it proved a fearful not break through it. carriage eft me at the house which as a shudder erept over his frame, one. John Staffer has returned.— An old man named Jackson, who eye rested upon it he started. He in Altoona and elsewhere.

occupied by my friend, and which is to ruin me.' summons was answered by a light, asked him if he could tell me his claims the whole of it! was five years older than when I might possibly assist him. ted with, softened by, and blended but when I served him one year as olden times, she caught me by the about sixty thousand dollars. hand, and in a moment more her "There was no will left, or, at soft, white arms were around my least such was supposed to be the neck. She was a sister to me in case: and it all came to me, as I was heart and soul, and with a sister's the only blood relative living.—

love she greeted me. an astral lamp was already burning young, but his wife died without is heads together. In a little while whispered:upon the centre table, and where a sue. His sister married a man Staffer came and laid claim to my fire was reflecting a genial warmth named Isaac Staffer, who had one uncle's property; and when asked from a polished grate—for it was | child by a former wife, but he never | what he meant, he produced a paper autumn and the evenings were quite had any children by my aunt. He which appeared to be the last will cool. Upon a chair, near by the died at the end of two years, leaving and testament of Mr. Timothy Ellitable, sat a little boy of some three her no means, and she found a home ott. And Stephen Akers swears years, playing with the richly orna- with a brother, taking her step-son that this is the same will which my mented bridle of a rocking horse; with her. In time she died, and uncle made many years ago, and while upon the carpet was a glee- the boy was left in my uncle's that it has been in his charge ever some child, not yet able to walk charge until he was twenty-one. - since. He says that when he went with satety, engaged in tumbling a | So much for the sister. The brother | away to the western country he overlarge marten muff. And these were married, and had one child, and that looked it among his papers, and took neither sister nor brother, so I was tative of Uncle Timothy's blood."

been doing? How had I been? "Yes," he replied, "and it was a fraudulent one." any in return. By-and-by Fred. came in. There was a cloud upon I saw it very plainly; but his wife to disturb all this?" hurried to his side, kissed him, and and patted me upon the shoulder, a serious falling out." he appeared the same warm and genial spirit as of the olden time.

my fortunes in the distant home I boys then. such prospects would suit him.

one like him, with an independent that, don't you?" subject of conversation.

and joke as in the days of our youth; any promise of a valuable life.
and as a last resort, endeavored to "And," continued Fred, "you came first on my list of friendship, there was a heavy load upon her was warm and generous.

At length the children were abed, and the mother soon followed them. I plainly heard her sob as she left

nuick step on the liall floor; and trouble. Of course he would tell when the door was opened I recog- me. He was anxious to tell me, for stopped to take breath. dearly remembered cousin. She friends, but I was a lawyer and the old lawyer?" said Fred.

holiest of characters—that of a made me come and live in this house; for he proved himself a villian." mother. The beauty, the life, the he put the whole establishment into animation, the smiles of other years our hands, and he then boarded with had not gone; but they were eleva- us. I had no money-not a dollar,

into, that noble character. At first book-keeper, he gave me a good he used to do business here, and my directly, that such was the fact. In moned, and when they examined she did not know me, but when I share in the business. Three years uncle employed him some. called her Hattie, as I used to in the ago he died, leaving me an estate of

Uncle Timothy had one brother and here about six months ago, and ere

Where had I been? What had I the whole property fell to you."

his face when he entered the room. paused again, "what has happened morrow. For myself, Enoch,—if I —not so large as the point of a fin-

whispered in his ear, and in a mo- ing from a moody reverie into which energies anew; but for my wife and of the past. ment he brightened up; and when he had fallen. "You know that my children, oh! it is hard! he greeted me, and held my hand father and Uncle Timothy once had

recollection of it; but that was a tioned him as I saw fit. Another At the tea table he asked after great many years ago. We were witness to the will besides Stephen him close by me. I asked that Steven

had succeeded beyond my most san- ago," said Fred; but I remember it now produced was the one to which I was excited, and he trembled a litguine expectations, and that material very well, for I recollect how badly he put his name. In short, the case | the when he started to answer to the wealth was fast accumulating for it made mother feel. The estrange- looked dark enough, and I dared call, though he was firm enough me, he was not only pleasant, but ment lasted for some years; and not give my friend much hope. Yet when he had gained the stand. intimated that such business and during that time the bitterness was I promised to think of the matter, such prospects would suit him.

Very strong. My uncle declared and be present with him at the trial. myself as I po that he would have nothing more to On the following morning I got made this will." sidered the absurdity of this last do with his brother; and under the away as soon as possible, for I could idea. It would do very well, I told influence of this feeling he made a not bear to hear Hattie's grief; but plied; "I merely wrote it down for him, for a poor fellow, with only will conveying the great bulk of his I promised to come back again, and him as he dictated." his two hands to help him, to get property to Staffer, the son of his as I held her hand at the door, told

"Yes," I said. And I did rememsuch a thing was ridiculous. He ber it very well, for it made consid- in town on business, and I went to smiled as I spoke, and turned the erable talk at the time; and more Within an hour after we adjourn- ried Timothy Elliott's sister, had erty. I found him at the hotel, and identical instrument?" so, because Staffer, who had mared to the parlor, I was sure some not been considered much of a man, thing had gone wrong with my and it was not generally supposed friend. He tried to be cheerful, to that the boy, whom he had left upon talk of our old pranks, and to laugh the care of his wife's relatives, gave

arouse himself by caressing his sweet probably recollect when my father could. He had been well acquaintchildren. But it would not do-I was very sick, Uncle Timothy came in the practice of my profession, had seen too much. Hattie succeed- to him and the quarrel was thrown and was on a visit to my friends in ed much better than he did; yet as away, and from that time, while my New England. Among those who the evening wore on, I could see father lived, their brotherly love

> "Yes, I know all that." "Well, at that time my uncle

a dark hour, however, a storm has no getting around his testimony—it you tell me, will you tell the jury, rheumatism, but is now nearly well. "You are right. Something has burst upon me. It seemed only a was plain and direct, and we could when that paper was made?"

I at once recognized as the former | He spoke this so solemuly and so would not give him a home any the instrument now before him was home of old Timothy Elliott, the steadily that I knew there must be longer—and has now come and has the one to which he had put his uncle of whom I have spoken. My some deep meaning in it; and I laid claim on my property. He hand. He could say that this was

nized the fair, fond features of my I was not only one of his dearest . "You remember Stephen Akers,

saw her last, and grown to be a lit- "You know," said he, "that I very well. He has been out west any amount of impressions and opin- - a little oval impression, with the tle more womanly, and a little more went into business with my uncle and done some business there; but ions in our favor. It had been the name "A Forbes" embossed in it. sedate. In fact, she had put on the Timothy. When I was married he he can't do more where he is known, impression of all Timothy Elliott's It was defaced and soiled, but not

"Ha! do you know it?" with you now?" "I'll tell you. In the first place,

"I remember that."

"And it was he who made that will for my uncle."

"Yes, I recollect it now."
"Well," continued Fred, "this old villain of a lawyer came back forced to be an uncle to her children. "Certainly," I said, "and of course | brought to light in case of need."

He buried his face in his hands, and wept aloud; but in a little while "Yes," I told him, "I have some he became calm again, and I ques- and looked around the court room.

Akers was living, and he had testihad sought; and when I told him I "Ay—it was near twenty years fied that he believed the instrument stand again. The wretch saw that Henry Meux & Co., the eminent

Forbes, a brother of my mother, was | month. see him. He was a paper manufac- is just when it was made." turer, and worth a handsome prop-I was his pet in boyhood, and it was by his generous bounty that I went through college. I told him about the trial which was to come off, and he said he meant to be present if he which Elliott had ever made had actually shook beneath him.

been destroyed. When the hour of trial arrived it was announced that I should assist might be called to the stand. in the case. I took my seat with the counsel already engaged. As the my uncle was also anxious to know and he has never felt even drowsy spoke of the world destroy, it, and I trial went on it certainly did look why he was called upon, for he was since that time. He has been two believe he did. I know it as well dark enough for my friend. Steph- well known, and stood as high as which could not escape me, burst as I know anything which I did not en Akers, a dark browed, foxy look- the judge himself. from her husband's bosom. Fred see with my own eyes. Before my ing man, with hair of grizzled red, poked up the coals, and took two or uncle died he told me that he should which stood out like a hedgehog's three turns across the floor, after make no will, for there was no need quills upon his head—swore that this which he returned and sat down of it. He said I was the only lawful will was the will which he, as Timmear me.

"Enoch," he said, his face all wrapped in gloom, "perhaps you think I act strangely."

"It is said I was the only lawful heir, and that was enough. My uncle died and I came into possession ever since, joyed it, and have tried to do good with it and I have tried to do good with it and I have and I have added and I came in his possession ever since, joyed it, and have tried to do good with it and I have added and I came in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and that it had been in his possession ever since, and the latest strangely." with it; and I have added some office. And he also swore to the

-went away because my uncle old will, testified that he believed his own signature. He was an hon-"But how?" I asked, as my friend est old fellow, and admitted that he had always supposed the will had

been destroyed. intimate friends that the will which obliterated. he had made had been destroyed .-And yet no one of them could swear the deputy brought him back.
that they had ever heard him say, Two wholesale dealers were sumthat they had ever heard him say.

tain us in the decision. any more testimony to produce? We went into the parlor, where one sister. He mairied when quite long he and John Staffer had their like an aspen, upon my arm, and verdict.

"Oh, my soul! I am lost!" stood, I could have no hope. Whathave been but one opinion upon the little ones were still blessed. law and fact.

lant ready to rest the case?

Hattie's children—two as bright and child was myself. My father died it along with him. He furthermore lieved it to be a forgery. I believed a dozen reams of that paper when beautiful beings as ever made music | when I was a mere child, and my declares that he received many let- the only will which Timothy Elliott he commenced making it, and I had in an earthly home. She told them mother died before I was graduated. ters from Mr. Elliott, in which he ever made had been destroyed, and been using it ever since, so that that I was Uncle Enoch. She had So you see, I was the only represent requested him to be careful of the that Akers, in consideration of a the stamp was very familiar to me. will, and keep it so that it could be share in the spoils, had, from the old The forger had selected for his draft in his hands, forged this in- wicked purpose a sheet of respecta-"Of course," said I, "this must be strument, counterfeiting even Jack- ble age; but it had not proved quite Was I'married? Did I ever mean given to me, and I took possession, to be? and a hundred more ques- and opened a flourishing business. Fred. "And yet it has been admit- I was about to give the instrument Master John Staffer got off to sea tions of like character were showered upon me before I had time to ask
any in return. By-and-by Fred.

and opened a nourishing business.

ted to probate, and the judge has accepted it. I have appealed, and when a dim mark in one corner of the steephen Akers found his accepted it. I have appealed, and the sheet caught my eye. It was a term of years, he was forcibly re-"Well," said I, as my friend moreover, the trial comes off to stamp—an impression on the paper strained from cheating his fellow were alone in the world,—I would ger's end, but I bent my head for a "I'll tell you," he returned, start- care little, for I could put forth my moment to call to mind something

had noticed my emotion. I told him to wait, and then arose Was my uncle there? Yes, I saw

myself as I possibly could, "you

"Timothy Elliott made it," he re-

"This will is dated," said I, look-

"Certainly," replied Akers, "that "And you swear that this is the

"And you swear that Timothy Elliott set his hand and seal upon this paper at the time herein mentioned?"

"I do." I looked the witness in the eye.— He must have read in that look ed with Timothy Elliott, and he was something of my thoughts, for his firmly convinced that the only will countenance changed and his knees

What did I want with him? And "Mr. Forbes," said I, "you are a

manufacturer of paper?" He said he was.

"How long have you been engaged in the business? replied, "I entered the business in days and nights without detecting a

"I think something is the matter thing to the original fortune, for I with you," I returned. "Something have been careful and prudent. In ding him keep it safe. There was the instrument which I have been careful and prudent. In ding him keep it safe. There was the instrument which I have been careful and prudent. In ding him keep it safe. There was the instrument which I have been careful and prudent. In ding him keep it safe. There was the instrument which I have been ill with the instrument which I have been careful and prudent. In ding him keep it safe.

had been pointed out as the one "a storm has burst upon me which He went away about ten years ago had been one of the witnesses of the gazed upon the corner, and then, in a bursting, amazed tone, he cried-"I made it myself!"

> "When?" I demanded. "It could not have been overnine years ago, for here is my markmy name—upon it, as I alone have

stamped paper in this country!" He then showed to the court and For our client we had nothing of to the jury the mark which he had "Ay," I replied, "I know him clear, plain facts to help us. We detected. It was plain enough now

Stephen Akers was trying to make "Yes; but what has that to do He had talked to them in that way. his way from the court-room, but

short, though the belief in the des- the paper they at once recognized it truction of that will was so general as Ansel Forbes's manufacture. and so firm, yet we could not pre They knew it there could be no sent to the jury a single fact to sus- question,

And thus, almost miraculously, Had the counsel for the appellant was the whole current of the affair changed. We gave the case in, and Fred placed his hand, trembling in a very few minutes we had the

That evening Hattie hung about my neck, and blessed and thanked He was pale as death, and his suf- me until I fairly cried. And Fred, ferings intense. As the case now when he tried to speak of what had passed, at once broke down under ever may have been the opinion of the weight of joy and gratitude that the court and jury upon the right was upon him. He was safe, his and justice of the thing, there could fortune was safe; and his wife and

Some asked me how I happened Were the counsel for the appel- to detect that silent witness away up in the corner of that paper. I held the will in my hand. I be answered that my uncle gave me half son's signature so nicely that the old enough to answer the date he

men.

PRACTICAL JOKES PLAYED BY Horse.—Tho' many curious tricks "What is it?" asked Fred, who and mischievous but harmless capers have been played by horses within our knowledge, yet it is hard to give credence to the following anecdote from an English paper:

"There was, some years ago, a phen Akres might be called to the very fine horse in the possession of brewers. It was used as a dray horse, but was so tractable that it was left sometimes without restraint, to walk about the yard and return to the sta-"Mr. Akers," said I, controlling ble, according to its fancy. In the yard there were also a few pigs of a peculiar breed, fed on grain, and to these pigs the horse had evidently an insuperable objection. There was a deep trough in the yard holding water for the horses, where this his two hands to help him, to get property to Scale, the solution off into the western wilds; but for sister's husband. You remember her to keep up a good heart.

An uncle of mine, named Ansel third, eighteen years ago this very full near it on the ground, and when horse went often, taking his mouth the young swine approached it (for the old ones kept aloof,) he would seize one of them by the tail, pop him into the trough, and then caper about the yard, seemingly delighted with the frolic. The noise of the pig soon brought the men to his assistance, who knew from experience what was the matter, while the horse indulged in all sorts of antics to show his glee, and then returned quietly to his stable.

> A REMARKABLE CASE.—A Very remarkable case is that of a soldier m I told him I had done with him. Then I asked that Ansel Forbes said, has not slept a moment for overlight be called to the stand. fourteen years. He says that sleep forsook him in the summer of 1850, years in our army, holding the position of Orderly Sergeant, and has seen hard service, and taken part in. several raids, without affecting his remarkable wakefulness. On one occasion a number of scientific gentlemen investigated his case, and He thought a moment, and then watched him constantly for forty-two eighteen hundred and thirty-one; single doze, or discovering the came so I have been in it just ten years. of the phenomenon. The man goes.

He took it, and the moment his Raging again the oil fever