

The Democratic Watchman.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

A Showman on the Woodchuck

Reported verbatim from a showman's speech at a menagerie in England. It was particularly edifying to the auditors and may be to our readers:

"This, ladies and gentlemen, is the distinguished animal which is known as the American Woodchuck, first discovered by General Christopher Columbus, in his voyage to the woods of Hameriky. Christopher saw him quietly seated upon a bank of clover, viewing the setting sun, and wondered who would become of it. This 'ere is one of the descendants of that same woodchuck, as may be easily seen by his general appearance, which is beautiful and striking. He is a solitary creature, and is called woodchuck because he lives in the woods, and the boys chuck stones at him. He has hair upon his back, and his tail is such the same. His eyes are at the opposite ends of his body, and assist him in the amusing occupation of seeing, which he can see in the dark as well as in the light, but he wouldn't live in 'oles hunter ground. Like most hantinated things, he is fond of enjoying himself, which he does in a very interesting and amusing way. He 'obles along the ground, and nobody is looking, watches the birds in the trees, and tries to sing like them, which he never succeeds in doing, but this is not his fault, because he hasn't got any feathers. The woodchuck lives a good life, bowing to the past life which the woodchuck enjoys. I've sometimes vi-hed I was woodchuck myself. But there is not excitement enough in it for a showman, though I can say, as Helovander remarked to Dickens, 'If I weren't a showman, I could be a woodchuck.'"

A Peace for Brigham Young.

The Mormons would do well to emigrate to Java, if we may credit the following account of the Javanese customs, given by one of the French princes, who has recently visited that island.

"In the interior of Java are several small native rulers or sultans; and these personages, really under the control of the Dutch, inasmuch that their letters are carried to the residence for examination before being delivered at the palace, kept up all the externals of the most profuse oriental luxury. The courts are a blended confusion of rich colors, notably rose color, scarlet and blue, and of sandal wood, gold and diamonds. Sultan Soudouddin IX, is only twenty-eight years old, he is of elegant figure, his complexion a pale green, his eyes large and round, with great painted eyebrows. He is a young man, whose petticoats and breeches look like a tropical island, surrounded by three hundred brothers and nephews, and four hundred courtiers and officers, on all sides. He had been married at twelve years of age, and his thirty-third son, a darling baby of a day old, was brought in to be shown to the French visitors. This in fact, was the child of the Grand sultana, and was destined to pass over to the head of his thirty-two brothers, and to inherit his father's throne. As to the little sisters, they were forty-eight in number, and dressed in diamonds."

Sultan Brigham I, would pale his intellectual fires besides this brilliant but these rules.

The Russian Emperor's Hypocricy. Alexander of Russia has gone some from Ems, where his very strange actions excited universal criticism. The rumors as to the gradual determining of his health and his intellect, which date much further back than the attempted assassination at Paris, are evidently founded on fact. Not only is the royal Russian a fearful *malade imaginaire*, but he sees spirits (you remember the medium Home went to see him at Ems), and has visions which are not comfortable or mortal men. He arises in the middle of the night and goes wandering about the country where he is, to espate the utmost vigilance of his attendants. He has every appearance of a haunted man, his eyes are hollow and burn with an unhealthy lustre, his walking actions are singular, and his sleep is always distressed. It is rumored that he thinks, in his sober moments, of abdication, but it is not probable that he will leave the throne until some of Mr. Home's ghostly visitants frighten him from it. On leaving Ems, which is one of his most favorite resorts, he is said to have promised that he should never visit it again, and he doubted his usual "largesses" to the poor. The Russian priests deny that he is suffering, but some very well informed French journals do not hesitate to say that he is insane. One of his curious freaks of fancy is that he is constantly attended by the "spirits of a brace of dead friends."

An article concerning the longevity of the rose, accidentally met our eye the other day, which we record as noteworthy. There is, or was, until lately, a rose bush flourishing near Bristol, Pa., known to be over a hundred years old. In the year 1742, there was a kitchen built which encroached on the corner of the garden, and the men who had the corner stone with great care, saying, "It would be a great pity to destroy so pretty a bush." Since then it has never failed to produce a profusion of roses, shedding around the most delicious of perfumes. Sometimes it has climbed for years over the second story windows, and then by degrees declined to the ordinary height. The fifth generation now enjoys its fragrance and its beauty. Not far from this venerable bush stands a button-wood tree measuring thirty-three feet in circumference.

Negro War in Kentucky--The State Militia called out--Riot and Bloodshed.

Shut your eyes, "Republicans!" Don't read this or if you do, go to bed for the negro, as usual.

The agent of the American Press Association telegraphs the following. CINCINNATI, July 31.--The negroes of Lexington, Kentucky, whilst parading the streets of that city last night manifested a turbulent spirit by shouting and firing pistols promiscuously into the air and at houses, creating so much alarm and excitement that the fire bells were rung and the State militia called out. The formation of the militia and the citizens with arms aroused their riotous disposition to a higher pitch, and a charge was made to disperse them. Shots were freely exchanged and three whites and four or five negroes were wounded. One policeman was shot through the head and died in the morning. The engagement was short, and the negroes quickly broke and fled in all directions. From their retreats, however, a fire was continued upon all whites who appeared in many cases the latter were driven into their homes or other shelter.

Great excitement existed throughout this morning and another riot was apprehended in the afternoon. The negroes lie hidden in alleys and corners, have barricaded the doors of their houses and supplied themselves with various weapons in addition to the fire arms they possess. Assistance has been sent for and before to-morrow, the time of election, a force of militia will probably be here sufficient to quell the negroes.

The Radical papers dare not publish any account of such riots. To do so would be to show their readers the working of the Fifteenth Amendment, and to prove that Negro Suffrage is a curse to both whites and blacks. The negroes parade at Lexington, which resulted in violence and bloodshed, was a demonstration of the newly enfranchised blacks with a view of showing their strength at the election which occurred on Monday. Their riotous conduct was tended to terrify their political opponents so as to keep them away from the election. The Radicals desire very much to conceal such occurrences from the people. But they will be found out in spite of them. --Bellevue Gazette.

A German Dead House.

To prevent burying people alive, the laws of Bavaria compel the city authorities to take possession of and watch the bodies of all persons who die, for forty eight hours before burial. One day, visiting the cemetery at Munich, we looked in at the windows of the dead house, where any one can obtain a full view of the collection of corpses.

It may require more nerve than some persons possess to venture a glance, but looking upon the death of the body as the birth and transition of the soul to the happy shores of another life, prepared by a loving father, the inanimate body is no more to be mourned over or dreaded than a piece of marble statuary.

What a contrast to the scenes of the busy world, is here presented. All classes and ages of both sexes are represented, often by numerous decorations from palace, cottage, and hut.

Long rows of baby faces wearing the peaceful expression of innocent sleep. Budding souls sent prematurely into eternity to increase the labor of the angels.

There were young faces whose bright beauty told sad stories of thoughtless exposure and wasted strength, of nights spent in the mazes of the waltzing dance until the blood was heated from excitement and exercise and then of exposing the bare head and dimpled shoulders but half protected by graceful mantles of delicate texture, to the damps of the night air, thus sowing fruitful seeds of consumption.

There were young men, stricken down in the zenith of their struggle for fortune or fame, with the anxious longing to live still lingering on their faces.

Old men and old women, with their hands folded peacefully to rest after the turmoil and fatigue of a long journey, all resting side by side awaiting the hour of return to their native element.

Looking in at the windows of death, how leveled are all earthly distinctions, no matter whether the blood is now frozen in the veins, warm with life, or blue and red, royal or peasant, flesh and blood have no place in Heaven. No matter if wealth surrounded the body here, there are no pockets in shrouds in which to carry silver and gold to an eternal home!

Baron, count, and prince lying side by side with those of lowly birth and estate, bestowing the last smiles which radiated their dying faces alike upon prince and beggar.

One prim looking, placid faced little old lady wore a white cap, black bonnet and veil, and, in a half sitting posture, seemed to consider herself out of place among all those men, women, and children, and thus kept herself in readiness to depart at a moment's notice.

The eloquence of silence prevails in this house of the dead, and thrills the living more than might be supposed. One glance into that temple of death impresses the scene, however hastily witnessed, so deeply on the mind that it remains while memory lasts.

A wealthy lady, who stays in town, complains of the people who retire to the country and leave their domestic cat to rusticate upon the rear fences and forage upon friendly neighbors.

A Sioux who wished to compliment the Quakers, has named himself after William Penn, which he translates Bill Quill.

The street mountains are the only watering-places that not a fox of our population have the means of resorting to.

Complicated Villany.

The clemency of a western governor has released from prison an American citizen who, in the circumstances causing his arrest for felony, ignominious trial, and shameful conviction, has suffered wrongs strangely inconsistent with even the cruelest conception of the most ordinary safeguards of civilization. Before the imputation of crime fell upon him he was rather obscure, but apparently worthy practitioner of medicine in St. Louis, with a wife much younger than himself and of peculiar beauty, and a friend whom he entertained and trusted as a brother. At the best of times he had hard work to earn a suitable livelihood, and often complained to his wife and friend; but the adversity of one season was peculiarly severe to his hopes, and during this period his ruin was accomplished. There came to him very privately a mysterious note of arch temptation, containing the assurance that for a very few dollars he might obtain thousands in "greenbacks" so skillfully executed that detection would be impossible. As his own pertinacious story goes, he wrote a positive refusal to his unknown tempter, and believed that he should hear no more of the supposed swindler; but the latter, to his great surprise, at once sent him a package of spurious national bank-notes by express. Thus, involuntarily, he received into his possession the perilsous stuff, and, while meditating its surrender to the authorities, was suddenly arrested by the police on the charge of having counterfeited money in his possession. An anonymous communication in writing intimated to the detective bureau that a certain amount of spurious currency could be found in the victim's house, and the officers, taking the bewildered accused into custody, had no difficulty in finding it. Astounded and indignant, the poor prisoner made frantic protestations of his innocence, and repeatedly explained the manner in which the felonious forger had been forced upon him, but he was without means to employ dextrous counsel, appearing as he did in poverty were against him, and he was tried as a felon, found guilty, and sentenced to the penitentiary for three years. His wife was all most beside herself at this misfortune, his friend bewailed him, and these two, in their common grief, were drawn into an intimacy of association like brother and sister. What it was that first aroused the lady's suspicions of the good faith of Damon towards Pythias is not known, but she certainly gained the idea that a heartless piece of treachery had been effected by some interested person, and set all her woman's wits at work to fathom it. Towards her husband a friend she began exhibiting a particularity of preference which he reciprocated with alacrity, and so rapidly did she lead the man on to unmask himself that he had no time to question her motive. Believing that she was really to become the creature of his will, and would thoroughly approve all that he had done to make her such, the mistakes boastfully confessed to her that he had supplied the counterfeit money by which her husband's ruin was achieved, and that his sole object in the audacious trick had been to remove from her path a man who stood between himself and the woman he loved. The wife heard this shameless confession with such appearance of calmness as she could command, but, on the same day, the prosecuting attorney was informed of it, and instantly took measures to have the false friend arrested. Unluckily for the cause of justice, the traitor gained news of his danger in time to fly from the state and thus escape capture, but, upon proper representation to the governor, the wrongly imprisoned man was at once pardoned and is now free in his home once more. History, it is quite curious, and in its most commonplace aspect, may be used as argument in favor of that instinct, or prejudice, or habit, or whatever you may please to call it, which prompts men at marriage to relinquish all close intimacies outside the immediate home circle, and especially retain no bosom friends of his former days. As a legal study, however, it illustrates the remarkable idea that the law's protection of citizens not rich enough to hire the brains of lawyers, is so imperfect as to make it impossible for such a primitive and almost clumsy plot as the above to place a brand of infamy upon a worthy man and procure his conviction by an intelligent jury, and ignominious sentence to prison by a just judge. It is in this aspect that the case is most instructive, for, in the darkest ages, personal spite could not wreck greater injustice upon its object through perversion of the first principles of law.

An Illinois Justice recently decided, in a suit by a surgeon against a man for professional services in operating upon the defendant's wife's eyes, that, under that provision of the law permitting a wife to testify where her husband is a party in a controversy about her separate property, the wife was competent witness, because her eyes were her own separate property, with much earnestness the justice inquired: "And then eyes here?"

John Mitchell advises the Irish at this time to do nothing to refrain from boasting and expressing rash sympathies which they may have to turn into antipathies before long.

It having been announced that Garibaldi will hereafter devote himself exclusively to literature, a contemporary says "that is what he will have to do if he wants to learn how to write."

A MAXIM by a matron--Many seek solace for their troubles in the gay French capital. They think the best plaster for their wounds is the plaster of Paris.

"I HAVE a great love for old hymns," said a pretty girl to her masculine friend. "I am much fonder," he replied, "of young hers."

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