

A FLUCKY WOMAN.

A Negro Breaks into a Lady's Sleeping Apartment—The Woman Instantly Shoots Him.

FORT DAVIS, TEXAS, Nov. 21.

Four times within as many months efforts have been made by some black hearted rascals at this post to effect an entrance into the sleeping apartments of the families of the officers of the garrison during the absence of the officers on their several duties.

A diabolical attempt, was but a few nights ago made upon the family of one of the civilian employees of the Government at the post. A feeling of dread apprehension and insecurity has for some time prevailed among the officers and their families, except a few who poolpooned and said that it was all imagination, but by the heroism of Mrs. Kendall, wife of First Lieutenant Kendall, Twenty-fifth Infantry, one of the devils at last has learned that there is a God in Israel, and the doubters are silenced.

About two o'clock this morning, Mrs. Kendall, whose husband is temporarily absent on duty, was awakened by a noise and some one breaking in the sash of a window opening from her sleeping apartment upon the porch in the rear. She promptly awoke her companion, a young lady, and daughter of one of the officers of the garrison, and asked in a loud voice "Who is there?" Receiving no reply, the plucky little lady took her revolver and listened.

Bits of broken glass continued falling on the floor, convincing her that the fiend was persisting in his efforts to enter the room; and then, with the consciousness that on her depended the safety of herself and companion from a fate worse than death, and, doubtless, their lives and those of her three little children, she called several times "Who's there?" and receiving no reply she stepped to the window and aiming over the bed occupied by her little ones, at a head being thrust through the broken sash, fired. She heard instantly after the fall of a heavy body on the porch, and a stifled groan.

Being awakened by the shot, I, in company with others, hurried to the spot and soon a squad of the guard were on hand with preparations for removing the carcass. An examination proved him to be Corporal Taliferro, a hideous negro, belonging to Company I, Ninth United States Cavalry, one of the companies composing this garrison.

The bullet had penetrated the skull and must have killed him instantly.

E. J. S., First Lieutenant, Twenty-fifth U. S. Infantry.

THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES.

How Certain Politicians Dislike them.

A Washington letter to the Cincinnati Commercial says: The Civil Service Reform that we heard so much about during the campaign is not so popular practically as it was theoretically. Among many of the Western members of Congress, particularly, it meets with violent opposition. They have friends to reward for the summer's work, and therefore stands in the way. After a man has toiled through a hard fought campaign distributing speeches, whisky and sweat at every cross-roads and corner grocery in his district, giving his nights and his days to his country, sitting up in the small hours of morning over quires of foolscap contradicting the infamous lies of the enemy, and at the polls working like a well horse in epizoot times—after doing all this, I say, to be told when he applies for his reward that he can't even get the poorest order of Patent office clerkship without standing an examination in geology, astronomy, arithmetic, philosophy and other branches of the arts and sciences, is grievously hard. But that is not all. A man can not get a clerkship without a vacancy occurs, and until all the fellows who have applications ahead of him are examined. If there is a vacancy, which there seldom is, and if all having applications in before are examined and can't come up to the scratch, why, then, your battle-scarred patriot of the late campaign comes in for a chance. If he answers all the questions, like a good boy, he is rewarded with the position. The enemies of the measure say that while one man is in the field working for his party, another may remain in the quietude of his chamber and post up on school books, thus standing a better chance for a clerkship than the patriot who neglects his geography for the good of his candidate. Then they find fault with the style of the examination, alleging that questions are asked having no bearing on the duties to be performed, and which the President himself could not answer.

The clerks who have passed the examination and are now engaged in, think that it is a good thing, while those who are out because they can't get in, think that it is a bad thing. It has been observed a few times in the history of the world that circumstances alter cases, and if evidence is needed of its truth it can be found right here.

To those who contemplate applying for clerkships, it will be encouraging to know that there are about seven hundred applications on file now, and no vacancies. Before a man can get in, all these applicants must be examined in order of their applications, and given places (if they stand the examination,) provided, always, there are vacancies. These are the chances. Sensible young men, take the advice of this venerable correspondent and don't contemplate a Government clerk-

ship. Get into some business that is more independent and more easily gotten into, for the chances are that if you try for a clerkship you will fail.

CUMULATIVE VOTING.

The Pittsburgh Mail, speaking of Mr. Buckle's pet scheme, very properly remarks: "As long as the Democrats had a majority of the votes, they recognized, as peculiarly sacred, the principle that the majority must rule, and the minority submit. They held then, and held rightly, that this principle lies at the root of every Republican government, and without it no such government is possible. But the radical change which threw them out of power and into a hopeless minority, overturned their belief in regard to this matter, compelled them to abandon the principle that the majority must govern, and sent them on a roving expedition to find something to take its place. What they actually hit upon to take its place is, that the Democratic party, notwithstanding it is in such a minority, must still govern; and, as it would not do to state it in that plain, straightforward way, they sugar-coated it, 'Proportional Representation.' But the thing is too thin. Its innate ugliness cannot be concealed by any such coating. No matter what garments it may be clothed in, the people will see in it the old, ugly, pro-slavery, aristocratic party, ravenous for place and power, and will treat it accordingly. Cumulative voting is a straw caught at by the drowning Democratic leaders to save themselves. But it will be in vain. The people have decreed that they shall go under, and no struggling or subterfuge that they can resort to will prevent the decree from being carried into effect."

Single districts for all Legislative offices, is the most reasonable and equitable reform. Let every officer be chosen, as far as practicable, in his own district—and be responsible to that district. There is direct choice, and direct accountability. As Congressmen are chosen—each in his own district—so let State legislators be chosen: The people in each district knows whom best to select, and can elect or re-elect as may suit them, instead of being overpowered by other districts. Still another better principle is that of restricting the votes to two where three officers are to be chosen, three where five are to be chosen, and so on. That gives two or more parties a chance, with more probability of discrimination. But to give any man any more than one vote for any other man, is wrong in principle, and tends only to give chances for skillful political gamblers to elect men who could not get in on a direct, square vote. No timpling rigging of this sort, gentlemen of the Convention, will go down with the honest masses, however it may suit your wire-working office gamblers.

Rules for the Prevention of Fires.

As this is the season when fires prevail to a large extent throughout the land, the fire department of one of the eastern cities, submit the following suggestions for the prevention of fires; and as they are worthy of consideration, we republish them for the benefit of our readers generally: Keep matches in metal boxes and out of the reach of children. Wax matches are particularly dangerous, and should be kept out of the way of rats and mice. Fill fluid or camphene lamps only by daylight, and never near a fire or light. Do not deposit coal or wood ashes in a wooden vessel, and be sure burning cinders are extinguished before depositing. Never place a light or ashes under a staircase. Never take light to examine a gas meter or gas pipes in a building. Be careful never to place gas or other lights near curtains. Never take light into a closet. Do not read in bed by candle or lamp light. Place glass shades over gas lights in show windows, and do not crowd goods near them. No smoking should be permitted in warehouses, particularly where goods are stacked or cotton stored. Where furnaces are used the principal register should be fastened open. Stove pipes should be at least four inches from board work and guarded by tin. All hatchways or openings in the floors of stores, factories or warehouses should be closed at night. All iron doors between stores should be closed at night or when not in use.

They tell a story about a man who put the saddle hind-part foremost upon his horse, while in a condition of dizziness superinduced by fire-water. Just as he was about to mount, a German friend came up and told him to hold on a minute, because the saddle was on wrong and wanted a refixing. The horseman gazed for a moment at the intruder, as if in deep thought, and then said: "You let that saddle alone. How in the thunder do you know which way I'm going?" And the gentlemen from Germany passed.

A Bad Error.

Typographical errors sometimes make sad havoc with the pathetic muse. A poet in Michigan undertook, a week ago, poetical dissertation upon "The Burial of Horace Greeley;" commencing it as follows: "Muffle the drums, the nation is

wreathing mournfully over the dead hero along," etc. There was a hurry in going to press, and the editor "guessed it was all right," with looking at the proof. Fancy the feeling of the poet when he received his package of papers containing the elegy, to find that, instead of the word "hero," the compositor had made it "hen." Whether the editor still lives the local papers do not say.

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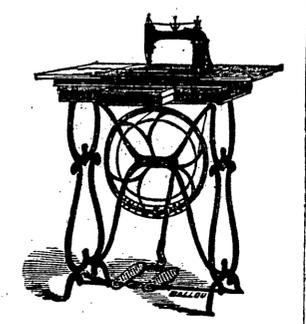
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