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Table of Retailers of Foreign and Domestic Merchandise for 1874, listing various towns and their respective retailers.

STATEMENT OF AUDITORS' SETTLEMENT with the Supervisors of Carroll Township, 1874. Lists financial details and amounts.

STATEMENT OF SETTLEMENT with the Treasurer and Collector of Carroll Township, 1874. Lists financial details and amounts.

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES of the Borough of Ebensburg for the year ending 28th February, 1874. Lists income and expenses.

ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the Borough of Ebensburg, 16th day of March, 1874. Lists assets and liabilities.

ORPHANS' COURT SALE. Lists details of property sales and court proceedings.

STATEMENT OF SETTLEMENT with the Supervisors of Croyle Township for the year 1873. Lists financial details and amounts.

LAND for SALE. 52 Acres Timber Land, JEREMIAH MOSHER TRACT, and other land sale notices.

Winsome Maggie. When winsome little Maggie Comes dancing down the street, The people smile upon her, And praise, and kindly greet;

When winsome little Maggie, With basket on her arm, In which her father's luncheon Is wrapped so nice and warm—

STRANGE BUT TRUE. Among the terrible phenomena connected with the vice of intemperance the one most to be dreaded is that spoken of by temperance advocates; I allude to the delirium of the unhappy victim of this vice.

Admitting this to be the case, it would be a singular study to trace out how many poor wretches have suffered at the stake for imaginary crimes connected with sobriety, which after all were merely the effects of habitual drunkenness bringing on this peculiar phase of insanity.

The particular phenomenon I allude to as common in the middle ages as well as in the present day is that of the victim of drunkenness imagines that a phantom appears to him whenever he attempts to recede from his bargain with the evil one, or, according to our modern ideas, to return to the paths of sobriety, and, pertinaciously following him, drives the unhappy wretch to continue his labor till it forces him into the grave.

With all Smith's good qualities he had one besetting fault, which went far to neutralize his many virtues; or, to tell the strict truth, he was a confirmed drunkard. He had acquired the habit in England, and in Italy, where he was under little subjection to his family, it increased in intensity.

high-spirited, he felt keenly the tacit refusal of the better class of Italians to associate with him. So keenly, indeed, did he feel this aversion that he made several attempts to break himself of his habit, and at last so far succeeded that he would frequently keep sober for a fortnight or three weeks together.

He possessed another noteworthy feature frequently to be detected in these occasional drunkards, that when sober a more amiable or gentlemanly man it would have been difficult to meet with, or a greater ruffian and blackguard when in a drunken fit.

Although the city of X— was my headquarters in Italy, I was frequently obliged to leave it on matters of business for several weeks to a month at a time. On my return after one of these absences Smith paid me a visit. He appeared in much better health than usual, and in good spirits. Moreover, there was a remarkable change in his dress, which, although it could hardly have been called slovenly, had generally in it an affected air of carelessness, as if he were totally indifferent to what others thought of his appearance.

"I have at last determined to break myself of my unfortunate habit, and have no doubt I shall succeed." "I am glad to hear you have come to that conclusion," I replied. "You may depend upon it it will contribute greatly to your happiness; but it is no use having come to the conclusion if you do not resolutely abide by it. You must remember how often you have already come to the same decision on the subject and never had the constancy to keep it."

"My dear fellow," he said, "the present case is quite different. I have now a stimulus which I never had before. To make a long story short, I have fallen desperately in love, and am going to be married. I am sure you will admit that, whatever my failings may have been during my bachelorhood, things will be very different with me as a married man."

"I congratulate you on your determination, and sincerely hope you will keep it," I said. "And now tell me who is the young lady?" Smith told me she was of a highly respectable family, the daughter of a widow, and that she was a very pretty and amiable girl, very intelligent, and would no doubt make him an excellent wife.

The next day Smith introduced me to his future bride, who was about as fine a specimen of Italian beauty, of the Leonardo da Vinci school, as I ever saw. I must say that as I gazed on the poor girl I did not look on her future prospects without some misgivings. The marriage had been concocted no doubt by her friends from the worldly advantages a union with so wealthy a man would bring with it, rather than out of any consideration for the poor girl's happiness.

"Oh, it's all over with him," he replied. "He believed very well for the first few weeks, when his old habit broke out again, and he committed more than one terrible assault on his wife. Her family were at last obliged to interfere, and they were separated. She has returned to her mother and they are now living in Turin; and Smith has been informed by the police that if in any manner he attempts to interfere with her or annoy her he will be arrested."

I now called on Smith in his new abode and found him at home. His appearance was very different from what it had been at the time I left him. He was then in good health and spirits; but now, on the contrary, he appeared low-spirited and miserable. Pretending I had heard nothing, I inquired after his wife. For some moments he made no reply, and then, the tears starting to his eyes, he said to me: "My dear fellow it's no use my concealing matters from you. My wife has left me."

must, however, get you to play the part of peacemaker between us. I know she has a great respect for you, and if any one can do it you can." "Candidly, Smith," I said, "I don't like interfering, and that for both your sakes. In one of your drunken fits you might either kill her or inflict on her some serious injury. You must be perfectly well aware you are not master of your actions on those occasions, and strong as your determination at the present time to remain sober may be it is no guarantee that you will keep so, and I would rather not interfere in the matter."

"Do not give me a positive refusal," he said, "but try what you can do. If peace is not made between us it will break my heart, or what is still more probable, induce me to commit self-destruction, for I cannot live without her."

"But consider the consequences," I said. "There is no fear this time," he replied. "I give you my word of honor that the first fortnight I have not touched one drop of wine or spirits."

"But you have often kept sober for as long as that before, and had not the courage to continue it," I remarked. "It is different with me in the present instance," he said. "Nothing shall ever induce me to take to the habit again."

Poor Smith pleaded so earnestly with me to be peacemaker between him and his wife that at last I made a conditional promise I told him was about to leave X—, for Switzerland, and should be absent about a month, and that if on my return I found he had kept his promise—and I would accept his word as proof without further inquiry—I would try to make peace between him and his wife. He willingly accepted these conditions, and the following day I started on my journey to Switzerland.

On my return to X— at the time specified I called on Smith. He certainly looked in better health and more cheerful than when I left. He told me he had scrupulously kept his word, and that it was more than six weeks since he had tasted either wine or spirits, and he now called on me to fulfill my promise.

"I unhesitatingly agreed to do so, but on inquiry found that his wife would return to X— in about a fortnight's time, and thinking I could better intercede with her by a personal interview than by letter, to which she might reply under control of her friends, I proposed to wait till she arrived, and this I did the more readily as it would give Smith another ten days or so to practice his sobriety. To this proposition he agreed, and we said no more on the subject."

"And now I want to speak to you," he said, "on another matter. You are acquainted with the head of the police, and I wish you would call on him and implore him to take away a spy he has placed over me, watching my every movement. I suppose they are afraid I should quit X—, and crossing the frontiers, visit my wife in Turin, where I should be from under their control. You may assure them I have no intention of doing anything of the sort, and it would be an act of kindness to relieve me from this intolerable surveillance."

During the next week I called daily to see Smith and received from him a most minute account of the progress he was making. He told me that instead of diminishing it positively increased, and that even in the night he could frequently see the fellow's eyes peering through the interstices of the wooden window-blinds.

Here was another proof to me that the whole was a delusion, but before determining what course to take to prove it to be one, I resolved to make one more effort to ascertain whether there was the shadow of truth in his statement. Knowing one of the aids-de-camp of General R—, I asked him as a favor to allow the sentinels to watch during the whole of one night the windows of Smith's range of apartments, which he promised should be done. The next morning he informed me that no person such as described had made his appearance; in fact, not an individual had attempted to come near the house. I then questioned Smith, who told me that several times during the night he had risen from his bed and seen the spy lurking about outside the house, and that he had watched him the day before so pertinaciously it had almost driven him out of his senses.

It wanted but three days to the time for Mrs. Smith's return to X—, when the servants in the house were in the night aroused by violent cries from their master. On going to his assistance they found he had quitted his bed-room and entered another, where, armed with a sword, he was stabbing the bed-clothes through and through. On inquiring the cause, he replied: "The fellow is here, and I have caught him at last. He shall not escape me this time;" and he again commenced stabbing through the bed-clothes till he was so exhausted that he fainted.

The servants, now terribly alarmed, sent for a doctor in the neighborhood, who, finding Smith in a fainting fit, attempted to revive him by pouring brandy down his throat, and in a little time he succeeded in restoring animation. Smith, on recovering his senses, gazed in a terrified manner round the room, and then exclaimed, "Thank heaven, the wretch has gone at last!" He was then conveyed to his own bed, where he slept soundly till the following day.

I was now fairly puzzled what steps to take. To have informed his wife's family of the man Smith was laboring under, would be to preclude all possibility of a reconciliation; and yet to keep it a secret would scarcely have been justifiable on my part. As Mrs. Smith was expected to arrive on the following day, I resolved at last to call on her husband, and argue the matter coolly with him. I found him in good spirits. He told me he had now discovered I was correct in my conclusion that he was laboring under a delusion, and that the spy was only a phantom of his own creation.

"The doctor," he continued, "advised me, whenever it appeared to me, just to take a little drop of brandy, and no doubt it would vanish. I have twice tried the experiment, and in both instances it succeeded. The nearest taste of brandy, I find, is sufficient, so you need not be afraid of my falling into my old habit again."

"Of this, however, I was by no means persuaded, and I determined not to call on Smith's wife for some days after her arrival, so as to ascertain clearly that there was no danger of her husband's returning to his old habits."

It was well I did so, for unfortunately it turned out that although for the first few days the small drop of brandy was sufficient to dispel the delusion, by degrees it required more, and so on till it terminated in a violent fit of intoxication. When the fit was over, Smith again begged of me to effect a reconciliation with his wife, assuring me he would not return to the habit again. I told him I should take a week before deciding anything in the matter, and during that time he made the most strenuous efforts to abstain from drinking; but so pertinaciously did the delusion pursue him that, in spite of all his good resolutions, he was obliged to have recourse again to his little drop of brandy. This was effectual for a short time, but after a little use it required a greater quantity to take effect, and it again culminated in a drunken fit.

A Trick With an Apple. Not long since I was walking away a pleasant evening with a number of young friends, and, as is so often the case, our conversation was gradually led into the subject of ledgerdom, or sleight-of-hand, and many very queer and puzzling experiments in that direction were displayed. It was a subject on which no one of our number seemed waiting for an example, as each in turn offered some amusing feat of the magician's art, occasionally sandwiched by some witty comment or pun, by way of variety. Our young people will easily understand why it was that no other subject crept in upon us during that whole evening, and how, when the late hours came, we were all loth to break up, and depart to our several homes. There is scarcely any other way in which young people seem to enjoy themselves more than in this, and it is always pleasant to have in one's mind a store of reminiscences of such experiences. Many are the long winter evenings that are rendered weary and tiresome only for the want, perhaps, of some such amusement.

On the evening referred to one thing and another led to the subject of magic, etc., and one individual, rather gifted in that direction, commenced by placing a penny in the hollow of my hand, and, although I was "positively certain" that I constantly felt it there, he seemingly withdrew it without my knowledge, and I afterward found it in my vest pocket, whereupon I was branded as a "felon and a thief," and my confusion created much merriment. This was followed by another and another equally strange, until a great part of the evening had slipped by, when there came a sudden lull in our enthusiasm, as the domestic entered the door bearing a silver dish containing a variety of delicious fruits and nuts. We had scarcely commenced at them before the subject was again revived.

"Do you see that apple?" said a friend sitting near me, as he took from the silver dish a brightly-colored "Baldwin." "Do you see that apple?" "Well," he continued, "I can cut that apple in halves, and I defy you to find a break in its skin after I have done it." "We were all on the watch, thinking that there might be some so-called 'sell' in his manner of expressing himself; but no. He assured us that he was literally in earnest, and we all gazed with close attention to see how the feat was to be done. Taking the apple between the tips of his fingers and thumb, he thus held it for a minute or so. He then placed it in the hollow of one hand, covering it with the other, and another minute elapsed.

"Why don't you cut it?" we all asked. "It is cut," he replied; "and a smart lot of fellows you have been not to have seen me do it." He now passed the apple around, and we all devoured it with our eyes as we searched for the knife-cut in the skin; but we were none of us successful. Having satisfied ourselves that the outside was unbroken, the apple was passed back to the original individual, who, after inspecting the stem of it a moment, broke it open, disclosing to our eyes two smoothly cut sections of equal size. The pulp bore the appearance of having been divided by a sharp knife, and it was evidently no accidental break. A slight discoloration was also visible, showing that the division had existed some little time. An examination of the halves gave us a clue as to the manner in which it had been done.

Another apple was taken from the dish, and we all witnessed a repetition of the operation, which was conducted as follows: It had been done with a fine needle and a piece of silk thread. Taking the apple, with the stem uppermost, the needle was inserted deep in the hollow, passed through the pulp, and brought out again at about half an inch from the place where it entered. A few inches of the silk having been drawn through, the needle was again inserted in the same aperture from which it had just emerged, passed along directly under the skin as before, and the same process continued until the needle was brought out directly in the mid-rib. The other side of the apple was now followed up in a similar manner, and the needle at last brought out at the stem end on the opposite side from where it first entered. The principal part of the trick was now finished, but what followed required just as much care. Our friend now took the apple between his knees, keeping it in such a position that the threads, following their own direction, would fall to his right and left. Next, the thread emerging from the left side of the apple was taken in his right hand, and the other in his left hand, letting them cross deep in the hollow of the stem. A little gentle sawing with one hand and the other soon brought the thread through the pulp, core and all, and out it came, leaving scarcely a mark behind.

It was a very pretty trick, and had been well carried out. The apple having been previously prepared, was brought in with the rest of the fruit. This, and the wonderful ease with which our friend seemed to perform the feat, while covering the apple with both hands, were all calculated to mystify us, as it certainly did. To avoid suspicion the trick should always be performed in this way. The apple may also be cut at right angles to the core, but the breaks in the skin are more observable in this method than in the other, as the stem-hollow and only the marks very occasionally.