THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED KURTZ, . . . Editor.

CENTRE HALL, PA., APRIL 25, 1885.

VICTIM OF A MURDER.

A Misterious Note Found Inside the Trunk.

St. Louis, April 14.—A sensation was caused in the Southern hotel to-day by the discovery of a horribly mutilated body of a man packed in a trunk, which was taken out of a room. The stench from the trunk caused the discovery. The hotel register shows that on March 30 a gentleman registered as Walter H. Lenox Maxwell, M. D., from London, and was assigned to that room. On opening the trunk it was found that the head of the man was severed from his body, and written on a paper inside the trunk were the words: "So perish all traitors to the cause." The trunk and its contents were taken to the morgue.

Maxwell is described as a very girlish looking blonde young man, wearing a dark woolly, cutaway suit of English stuff. He was seen in Camp Army frequently with a dark looking gentleman, about 5 feet, 10 inches in height. This gentleman registered as C. Arthur Preller, of London. A telegram had previously been received from Preller, asking whether Maxwell was a guest at the house. He answered in the affirmative, and he soon came on.

Both men occupied the same room. Maxwell left the hotel a week ago Sunday night, but he had paid his full week's board promptly, and it was supposed that he would return any day. No suspicion attached to his absence until the horrible smell called attention to his room and led to the opening of the trunk. A second trunk was found to contain numerous articles, among which were found Maxwell's London address as No. 14 Paper Building, Temple, London, and an envelope addressed in his hand writing to Rev. D. G. A. Lewis, B. A., curator of St. Paul's Morley, Leeds, Yorkshire, England.

He came over on the steamer Cephalonia, from England. Preller has a Russian passport, vized by the Russian ambassador in London in 1878, and a passpost in 1883 for Spain and Mexico, vized by the Spanish minister, and signed Granville. Seven trunks, four valises and a hat box were left behind at the hotel, and the contents, clothing, etc., are valued at hundreds of dollars. This is believed to make the theory of a hoax unteneble, and the belief is that the corpse is either that of Maxwell or Preller.

YOUNG LADY AT BOARDING SCHOOL.

At some of the French boarding schools in Paris, the girls are fed on weak soup, two or three degrees stronger than hot water; meat, from which nearly all the nourishment is extracted by boiling; coarse veal, watery carrots and gray, sour bread. The young lady who comes home after a few terms of this sort of diet may be very learned, but is pale and poor looking, lacking vigor and health. Give her Brown's Iron Bitters—the best tonic in the world for young ladies with impoverished blood—and bring the roses into her cheeks.

HYDROPHOBIA FROM EATING DOG MEAT.

Wilmington, Del., April 14.—Yesterday afternoon the police arrested a supposed crazy negro named Nathan Williams, who, with a knife in his hand was chasing another man through the street. After his arrest Williams tried to bite the policeman having him in charge. At the police station his malady was pronounced hydrophobia, and he was mancled and taken to the almshouse raving and crying, "Don't kill me." At the almshouse he announced that he was a good watch-dog, and through the night continued to yelp and indulged in prolonged howls. He continues in much the same condition. Williams is about sixty years old and has long been known as the "dog fat man," his occupation being the preparation of a nostrum from the boiled fat of dogs killed by the city dog catcher. He was accustomed to drink liberally of the oil obtained by him from the carcasses, and has been seen to take large pieces of dog flesh and eat them with evident relish.

"YOU KNOW HOW IT IS YOURSELF."

There is not a bit of doubt but you have this day a vivid recollection of the horrible, nauseating doses of worm-seed tea or syrup forced down your throat 20 years ago by an over solictious aunt or grandmother who pronounced your case worms. You will be able to appreciate a vermifuge like McDonald' Celebrated Worm Powders. The most effective and reliable worm destroyer of the age. So easy and pleasant to take the patient will never know a medicine is being administered. Money refunded to dissatisfied buyers. Sold by J. D. Murray.

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GARDNER'S TRIAL AT HUNTINGDON.

Huntingdon, Pa., April 15.—The trial of John Gardner for the murder of Geo. Warfield, his father-in-law, in January, by beating him with a heavy club, was begun here to day. At the time of Warfield's death, Gardner, by threats of violence, prevented the family from reporting the murder, and a statement was made that the old man had died from the effects of a fall on the ice. After the funeral, however, the aged widow of the deceased disregarded Gardner's threats, and reported the matter to a neighbor, and Gardner was taken into custody. Among the witnesses were the widow and daughter of the deceased. The family is astonishly ignorant, and their testimony was elicited from them with much difficulty.

That feeling of mental dullness, the troublesome bilious headache, fastidiousness as to food, and weary aching pain in the small of the back, can all be gotten rid of by using one box of McDonald's Improved Liver Pills. Money refunded to dissatisfied buyers.

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WHY SEALSKIN IS EXPENSIVE.

There are only four fur seal grounds of any importance in the world—the islands of St. George and St. Paul in Behring's Sea, which belong to the territory of Alaska, and the other two are the Commander Islands, lying 700 miles west of these in the Czar's dominions. The first two islands produce the greatest number of seals. During the months of May and June they come to the islands in flocks of thousands. Then the great slaughter takes place to supply the fashionable world with sealskin sacques. The Alaska Seal Fur Company kill about 100,000 seals annually. They pay the natives forty cents for each seal they kill and skin. No firearms are used, as it would drive the animals away and spoil the islands as a seal resort. They are killed with a single blow of a club on the head. Then the skins are quickly removed, partially cured and prepared for shipment to England, where they are dressed and dyed.

It takes a great deal of care and work to bring the fur to the rich and glossy perfection it shows when wrapped around the form of a fashionable lady. First, all the coarse hairs are removed and then the fur is dyed the shade required. But it takes experts to do this, and in London only the art seems to be well understood. Now, the value of sealskins depends entirely upon their successful treatment and the color and smoothness of a permanent nature attained. It takes three of the sealskins to make a full-sized cloak. They should last the wearer seven years without losing their rich color, and at the same time retain their perfect appearance. The best cloaks are worth over $400 apiece. The finest fur comes from young seals, between the ages of 2 and 3 years. When they get beyond the age of 4 the fur becomes stiff somewhat. At 6 years of age they are utterly worthless. Now, the great question is how long will these seals last? and if they take a notion to desert these four islands, where will they go? The United States, it is true, has restricted the number to be killed annually at 100,000, yet at this rate will they not finally become extinct? Some think they increase so fast that this number is scarcely missed. Well, that may be true. But the great danger is that they may take a notion to emigrate to unknown parts of the world. In that case the sealskin sacque that figures so prominently as an article of dress and fashion now will become obsolete and added to the history of the dodos.

WEATHER SIGNS.

A writer in the "Southern Planter" talks at length about the weather, and says of signs: If one could read the signs, each day fortells the next; to-day is the progenitor of to-morrow. When the atmosphere is telescopic and distant objects stand out unusually clear and distinct, a storm is near. We are on the crest of the wave, and the depression follows quick. It sometimes happens that clouds are not so indicative of a storm as their total absence. In this state of the atmosphere the stars are unusually numerous and bright at night, which is also a bad omen. It appears that the transparency of the air is prodigiously increased when a certain quantity of water is uniformly diffused through it. Mountaineers predict a change of weather when, the air being calm, the Alps, covered with perpetual snow, seem on a sudden to be nearer the observer, and their outlines are marked with great distinctness on the azure sky. The same condition of the atmosphere renders distant sounds more audible.

There is one redness of the east in the morning that means storm; another that indicates wind. The first is broad, deep and angry; the clouds look like an immense bed of burning coals; the second is softer and more vapory. At the point where the sun is going to rise, and in a few minutes in advance of his coming, there rises straight upward a rosy column, like a shaft of dyed vapor, blending with and yet partly separated from the clouds, and the base of which presently comes to glow like the sun himself. The day that follows is pretty sure to be windy.

It is uncertain to what extent birds and animals can foretell the weather. When swallows are seen hawking very high it is a good indication, because the insects upon which they feed venture up there only in the most suspicious weather. People live in the country all their lives without making one accurate observation about nature. The good observer of nature holds his eye long and firmly to the point, and finally gets the fact, not only because he has patience, but because his eye is sharp and his inference swift.

A STRANGE PLANT.

A plant known as *Hias taatom chem* is to be found in China. The name means that, during summer, it is a vegetable, but that in winter it becomes a worm. If it is observed at the latter end of September, nothing simulates better to the eye a yellow worm about four inches in length. The apparent transformation takes place; and one can see head, eyes, body, etc., in course of formation. It is said to furnish a capital strengthening medicine.

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