

A Strange Story.

AN UNFORTUNATE LAD WHO FURNISHED MATERIAL FOR FOUR FAMOUS NOVELISTS—STRANGER THAN FICTION.

A writer in the Lancaster Inquirer says that in the first jail of that county, built in Columbia by Richard Barber, there was confined about the year 1730 an Irish lad by the name of James Annesley. Thereby hangs a tale; in fact several of them; for material parts of four famous works of fiction—Sir Walter Scott's "Guy Mannering," Charles Reade's "The Wandering Heir," Smollet's "Peregrine Pickle," and "Florence McCarthy,"—are based on the romantic adventures of this unfortunate heir to the title and estates of an Irish barony.

Born the child and heir of Lord and Lady Altham, James was yet an infant when his mother, shamefully neglected by her husband, was reduced by abuse, disease and poverty to a state of extreme mental and physical imbecility, and the boy himself when six or seven years of age became a "houseless vagabond" wandering through the streets of Dublin town. Finally this besotted father did the only good thing recorded of him. He died.

Then Captain Annesley, a brother of the dead man, and a chip of the same worthless block, had the poor boy, who "half naked, bareheaded and barefooted wept over his father's grave," kidnapped by hired ruffians, transported to America, and himself succeeded as next of kin to the title and estates of Lord Altham.

The young lord reached America in his thirteenth year, and in the course of time was appreciated as a plantation hand to parties who lived in Lancaster county. He ran away from his master, was captured and imprisoned at the county jail at Columbia.

Finally two Irishmen, John and William Brodus, from the place of James' nativity, while traveling along the Lancaster road, were compelled to seek the hospitality of his master, and after conversing with the lad they became convinced that he was the lost Altham heir. They assisted the boy to Jamaica and there he found a good friend in the person of Admiral Vernon, who carried him back to the Emerald Isle after an absence of a dozen years.

The trial that ensued was a memorable one. It lasted for thirteen days. The jury found for the young plaintiff. But a power greater than court or jury interfered for the usurping uncle. The "wandering heir" suddenly died.

He was a great singer and it is stated that while he was confined in the log prison at Columbia neighbors from far and near would gather to hear the melodies he sang. That was a century and a half ago. To-day we read of Henry B-tram, the hero of "Guy Mannering," or follow the graphic and fascinating account of Charles Reade's "Wandering Heir," or picture the wonderful adventures of "Peregrine Pickle," as told by Tobias George Smollett, with an interest redoubled by these local associations.

Mrs. Quinn's Triplets.

How Nicotown's Population is Augmented Philadelphia Record.

Charles Quinn, a workman employed at the Midvale steel works, Nicotown station, was on Thursday last made the father of a trio of babes—two girls and a boy. Mr. Quinn lives with his wife and (up to this time) three daughters, aged 6, 4 and 2 years in a neat little brick house on the Old Plank road, between Waynd junction and Nicotown. Mrs. Quinn first gave birth to a girl weighing about four pounds, and an hour later the first baby was provided with a sister of her own weight; while scarcely had the two young ladies given their opening concert before they were followed into the world by a baby brother weighing six pounds. The birth of the boy involved a very difficult operation, known to the medical profession as "version by the feet," it being necessary to administer ether to the exhausted mother. The scene of the wholesale addition to the population was visited yesterday afternoon by a Record reporter. A friend of Mrs. Quinn was in charge of the house, and was ably supported in taking care of the triplets by half-a-dozen motherly women, all of whom vied with each other in lavishing unstinted praise upon the three little bits of dimpled humanity, which were being exhibited wrapped in little blankets to some neighbors.

"The dear little things; ain't they just perfect," said one, and the others chorused: "See what lovely eyes they have," "and such cute little heads," "and such lots of silky hair," "and just look at their pretty little ears," until every possible attraction had been pointed out and commented upon. The youngsters are, indeed, pretty little babies, being well formed and apparently perfectly sound and healthy. So far they have been raised on the bottle. The mother is also doing well. Soon after the birth of the babies their astonished father sent for Father Powers, the rector of St. Stephen's Roman Catholic church, Nicotown, who christened them on the spot, the eldest girl being named Annie, the second Marcella and the boy John.

Miss Marcella, when seen by the reporter, was decorated with a piece of

blue ribbon to prevent her being mixed up with her elder sister, Miss Annie, to whom she bore so close a resemblance that even her mother could hardly tell which was which without some such mark. The other little Quinns, before mentioned, were delighted with their new sisters and brother and took as much interest in them as did their elders.

Said the eldest of them: "There's just one apiece for us, and when these a little bigger wese going to have them for doll babies."

An Ohio Romance

There is a little town near here named North Lima, which has a kind of romantic historical affair which has furnished the neighbors and villagers food for talk. The hero, if such he could be called, was a queer old man named Jacob Augustine. He lately died. He was a strange, good hearted little man, who had never slept a single night away from his home, and the longest journey he ever made was to come to this city, a distance of but a few miles. And yet this stranger to the world at large, whose life was almost that of a child, through all its years had a romance, the secret of which he carried to the grave. When he was a sturdy young man he became betrothed to a bright, vivacious little German girl, Gottlieb Wealandt. She smiled upon his suit, but her father broke the match. From this moment Jacob Augustine led the life of a bachelor.

It has been known of late that Jacob was an unimaging considerable wealth, although he made no exhibition of it, and when he died a search was at once instituted for the money and his will which he had made a year ago. The search through the attic of his house revealed in out-of-the-way corners many and various amounts of money, which was largely in Mexican and Spanish coins, but no trace of the missing will was found until a trunk was examined, and there, pinned securely in the sleeve of the old-fashioned swallow tail wedding coat, was the will and a bag containing nearly \$700 in gold. Yesterday all the personal effects left by the strange old man were sold at auction, and almost within hearing of the auctioneer's voice, a prisoner in her own house, was the once fair maiden, Gottlieb Wealandt, now and for the last fifty-eight years hopelessly insane because of the cruel fate that kept her from uniting her heart and life with her betrothed. She remains the last survivor of this sad romance of a half century ago.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

A Remarkable Suit.

Claimants for the Ground Upon Which the National Capital Stands.

PITTSBURGH, December 19.—Steps have been taken by reputable citizens of this city and elsewhere toward prosecuting a claim of immense value. The proper party involved is that upon which stands the United States Capitol, the White House, the Treasury and other Government and private buildings in Washington and Georgetown, covering 481 acres in the District of Columbia, besides 100 acres in Bladensburg, Md.; 300 acres in Washington county, Pa., and treasure in the Bank of England. The money value of this estate can hardly be estimated. It seems scarcely credible that such a claim could be made by sensible people; but it nevertheless is true. The claimants are the descendants of John Bidlenmore, a settler of colonial times. The late Mayor Bidlenmore, of this city, was, it is claimed, his great-grand son. After the Mayor's death, which occurred about eight years ago, the United States Court made an order in the Bidlenmore bankruptcy proceedings, giving an allowance to the assignee for the purpose of presenting the claim of the Bidlenmore heirs in the next estate. In accordance with this order, the assignee has been gathering information for the purpose of instituting legal proceedings. It is understood that he has a representative in Washington at the present time. Two Washington attorneys were here recently consulting the heirs about the estate. Other claimants in this vicinity are ex-Senator R. H. Patterson, Dr. Samuel Beitzhoefer, of "tonic bitters" fame, an old family of Mansfield, Pa. About forty of them met recently at Mansfield, contributed money and sent a representative to Washington. Besides this concerted action they are individually represented by counsel. The Pittsburgh attorneys interested are Thomas H. Marshall, C. F. McKenna and J. C. Woods. Some heirs in Baltimore are represented by the law firm of Richardson & Co.

The average statesman of the present day is only once in a while an average man.

MISSIONARIES in India are finding a new obstacle to the success of their teachings. It is drunkenness.

It is estimated that over one million orange trees in Orange county, Florida, will come into bearing this year.

MRS. MARY AUSTIN, of Washington, Ga., died recently. She had been the mother of forty-four children, including six sets of triplets.

The man who sued a Colorado paper for \$50,000 damages for libel and was awarded six cents, now believes in the "freedom of the press."

The Toledo girl who married the fellow to get rid of him has commenced a divorce suit for the same object.

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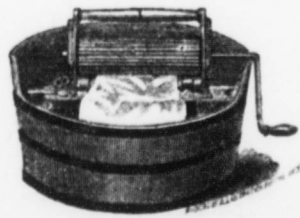
BUCKWHEAT.—Silver Hulled. William B. Eckley, of Benner township, purchased 28 pounds of this Buckwheat of us last year, from which he raised 30 bushels. We have equally good reports from other customers.

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HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES.—One of the necessary essentials to a well-regulated household is a first-class Sewing Machine. The Sewing Machine business at one time was the greatest monopoly on earth. Extortionate prices were demanded and obtained for Sewing Machines, without regard to their merits. Some of the companies try to keep up the old practice. Happily, the day when people have to yield to this extortion has passed. During the past two years we have successfully combated this old extortionate practice in Centre county and have brought about a new era in the Sewing Machine business. By attention to business and close inspection of the quality of machines, we heartily recommend the Remington as the best-made, lightest-running, most durable and most superbly-equipped Sewing Machine offered for sale in Centre county. We challenge competition in any particular, no matter what other manufacturers claim, and we sell at prices which, if those in want of Sewing Machines will consult their own interests, is the very best inducement why they should buy of us. The reason we can make this offer is that we buy for cash and sell at our store. It costs at least from \$12 to \$20 each to peddle a Sewing Machine through the country and sell it. A moment's reflection will teach that this extra cost comes off the purchaser. Those who buy of us at our store save this extraordinary expense. We give the very best warranty with all the machines we sell. We sell the finest quality of Needles for all Sewing Machines, at 25 cents to 30 cents per dozen, and best Machine Oil at 10 cents per bottle.

WASHING MACHINES.—The most desirable labor-saving machine in a house is a good Cloth Washing Machine. From our own experience and the testimonials we have of others, we offer the Walker Washer, and here make public in the following language: This Washer is simple in construction and so easy of operation that after a few moments of instruction a child ten years old can do the washing. It is compact—a child can carry it. It never gets out of order. No delay in fitting it to any sized tub. It works wholly on the principles of pressure; does not wear the clothes in the least. It will wash the finest laces or the heaviest blankets, bed quilts or carpets. If water boiling hot is used (which may be continually done, as you are not required to put your hands in the water), you need not boil the clothes to free them from stain, or bleach them. As an investment, there is nothing pertaining to domestic economy that will pay the purchaser so large a profit as this little Washer, both in saving of clothing and the drudgery of wash-day to our wives and daughters. We are continually in receipt of testimonials of the highest commendable character, without a single exception, from those who are using these machines, showing conclusively that the design of the inventor is a complete success, and his most sanguine ideas are being fully and practically realized. All we ask is an investigation and a fair trial of this machine, and we know your prejudices will melt away like frost under the morning sun.



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