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THIS MURDER NOT A CRIME

Husband Freed for Killing the De- spoiler of His Home.

NOT LAW, BUT JUSTICE

"Death Merciful," Says the Young Judge,
"to the Pitiless Cruelty of Him Who Cor-
rupts a Mother's Heart."

During the past week much comment has been aroused over the acquittal of a murderer, in Lexington, Ky., and the peculiar circumstances surrounding the case.

Public opinion in Lexington in almost solidly sustains Judge D. Gray Falconer in his acquittal of Jacob Harris for killing his wife's lover, Thomas H. Merritt.

THE APPLAUSE OF THE PEOPLE.

Many lawyers think the young judge did wrong in releasing Harris, and all agree that no Kentucky jury would find Harris guilty on final trial. Not a few leading lawyers side with Judge Falconer.

Judge Falconer is but 28 years old and married, and by his remarkable decision, has bounded into prominence in a day.

Jacob S. Harris, 35 years old, was the husband of Effie Harris, a pretty woman, aged 25. They had two children, boy and girl. Merritt was an acquaintance of the family, and formed an illicit relationship with Mrs. Harris. This resulted in Merritt employing Mrs. Harris as a copyist in his office. On Friday, July 9, Harris found Merritt and Mrs. Harris hugging and kissing on a bench in Gratz Park. He shot Merritt dead.

In his decision Judge Falconer says: "The Commonwealth insists that Harris should have warned Merritt to cease his attentions, and that when he discovered Merritt and his wife he should have sought the relief afforded by the divorce laws, or by an action for damages.

MARRIAGE A SUFFICIENT WARNING.

"The relation of man and wife to our civil society is notice to all the world that no third parties shall interfere, and that the advances of him or her who seeks or attempts to wean the wife or husband from the love of the other are advances made at the peril of him or her who makes them. The duty to warn before acting is incumbent upon one of those occupying these relations."

Regarding the divorce contentions, he says: "The saddest of all cases that come before the Courts for trial are those which are the common result of interference with the relations of husband and wife in our civil society. Human law in its declared portions has decreed no adequate punishment for the violator of the home.

"In cases where the relation of husband and wife has produced no offspring it may possibly be easier for the husband to bring himself to seek dissolution by divorce or damages. No wife yields herself to the charms of the despoiler of homes till he has weaned away from her husband that love which is the foundation of the marriage relation and without which its permanence, so essential to human happiness, cannot be secured.

"When, however, the shadow of infidelity to marriage vows comes between the parent and child it casts over both a gloom darker than the grave. How can a father name a lost mother to his child? And how can a daughter hear that mother's name without a blush?"

THE PUNISHMENT OF A HOME WRECKER.
"Death is merciful to the pitiless cruelty of him who stains the fair brow of innocent childhood by corrupting the heart of the mother—whose example must stain the daughter's life and make the son ashamed to utter the word mother.

"It is in these cases that resort is commonly had by the injured husband and father of disgraced and dishonored children to destruction quick and terrible of the destroyer of his peace and home—the active cause of his children's blighted lives.

"The killing of man by man is always terrible, no matter for what reason, but there comes a time when the killing of man by man is only justice. In recognition of the unwritten law which excuses the crime of those who act as the defendant has in this case, the defendant is dismissed."

There is much sound sense in this ruling. Were it to become universal and accepted, it would spread terror to the hearts of those licentious, tenuous hounds who infest almost every community and bring sorrow, shame and remorse into many an innocent life. Home is the most sacred institution on earth, if necessary, he who stealthfully invades the same should suffer the direst penalty. These sentiments may not be in harmony with our legal code, but are sanctioned by human instinct, by the experience of the past, as it comes nearest to justice.

BOUNTIFUL CROPS

With an assured wheat crop of not less than 500,000,000 of bushels, with corn nearly up to the average, oats above the average and most other crops in proportion, and what is better than all, so far as the American farmer is concerned, a foreign demand that is likely to absorb our surplus crops of exportable cereals, the conditions are so good for a business revival that business is reviving, especially in the West, where the commercial impulse usually furnished by an excellent crop yield is first felt. Nearly all the great lines of railway west of the Mississippi report increased business and earnings due to the bountiful crops.

In the same line is the report of decreasing indebtedness and increasing bank deposits in several of the Western States in which the calamity howl a year ago was fairly deafening. Kansas has decreased its mortgage indebtedness during the year many millions, Nebraska has more money on deposit in its banks than ever in its former history, Iowa, which felt the pinch of the hard times less than any State west of the Mississippi, is still adding dollars to its cash reserve and increased value to its farms and factories, and the story of Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa can be duplicated by a dozen other States in the West and South.

What is the significance of these bountiful crops, brisk home and foreign demand and the generally improving financial condition of the great agricultural sections? Simply this, that the folly of Congress and the incursions of an army of demagogues cannot keep a rich and fertile country like the United States in a condition of financial and business depression for any great length of time. The farmers will plow and plant and the rain and sunshine will bring the crops to maturity. The wheat and corn and cotton bring money and furnish work for the railways. The money will buy manufactured goods and keep the wheels of industry moving no matter whether the tariff is a reasonable one or mountain high.

So it has come to pass that a bountiful Providence and an industrious people have given the lie to the lugubrious prophecy that the country is on the verge of bankruptcy and starvation, and while wise action on the part of Congress on the tariff and currency questions would quicken the pulse of prosperity by increasing business confidence, business confidence is reviving on its own account and regardless of what Congress may or may not do. Five hundred million bushels of new wheat, with corn and cotton to match, furnish a basis for business confidence that can't be seriously undermined by any probable Congressional folly.

The unprecedented credit balance resulting from our foreign commerce last year is likely to be duplicated this year, for the simple reason that foreign crops are poor while ours are good. In view of these well-known conditions the American business interests should throw fear to the winds and engage in business for the balance of the year with the confident assurance that business is going to be brisk and profitable. The bountiful crops must be moved and marketed, and this means a brisk business revival in all branches of productive industry.—Times.

Aid for State Fishery Commission.

A movement is on foot to assemble the friends of the state fishery commission in state convention for the purpose of devising some plan by which funds can be procured to enable the commissioners to carry on a very important portion of their work. Unless this can be accomplished serious injury to the fish propagation interests of the state will inevitably result. It will be remembered that the sum of \$40,000 intended by the legislature for the use of the commission was inadvertently omitted to be placed in the appropriation bill.

Coming.

Our collector, Mr. Wm. H. Zeigler, of Wolf's Store, will make a trip through Miles, Haines and Penn townships next week. Parties in that section who are in arrears on subscription will be duly notified and it is hoped that all will respond accordingly when he calls on you.

Give him a hearty and substantial welcome, which will be duly appreciated by us.

Secured Positions.

Mr. John Meyer, of Centre Hall, a recent graduate of Franklin & Marshall college, was elected principal of the Alexandria, Huntingdon county, schools. Edward Kerlin, of Centre Hall, secured a position as instructor in the schools of Cambria county.

Will Picnic August 14.

The Sunday Schools of Mill Hill will hold their annual union picnic at Hecla Park on August 14, the date having been fixed last Sunday. The picnics will be accompanied by the Salona band.

BOLD ROBBERS AT FLEMINGTON

A Family Bound And Gagged Friday Night

SECURED FIFTY DOLLARS

Experience of Toll-Gate-keeper Geo. W. Smith—They Bid The Terrified Family a Kindly Good-Night and Depart—Description of The Men.

The toll gate on the Bald Eagle and Nittany Valley turnpike, just south of Flemington, was the scene of a bold robbery last Friday night.

Between 1 and 2 o'clock Mr. Geo. W. Smith was awakened by three masked men breaking open the door of the bedroom in which he and his wife and child were sleeping, and in an instant he was pushed back into bed and commanded, at the point of a revolver, to keep quiet. Mrs. Smith, who slept in another bed in the same room, raised the window and attempted to make an alarm, but was throttled and forced back into her bed before she could make their nearest neighbors, who live several rods away, hear her calls.

The men were undoubtedly acquainted with the surroundings, as one of them walked at once to the drawer containing part of the money in Mr. Smith's possession, which he took and at once made his escape. The remaining two men with daring coolness pulled down the blinds, lighted a lamp, and with rope and pieces of a sheet, proceeded to bind and gag Mr. and Mrs. Smith and their little daughter. After making them secure the house was thoroughly ransacked and a box containing the remainder of the turnpike company's money was found and emptied into the pockets of the robbers. The burglars secured between \$45 and \$50 belonging to the turnpike company and \$1.37 belonging to the little girl.

Two of the men are described as being large, well-built men, and the other a small man. They carried dark lanterns and were masked with handkerchiefs tied over their faces. They were very talkative while in the house, and chatted freely while binding Mr. and Mrs. Smith. They inquired when the gate-keeper was required to make his report to the company, and when ready to leave bade them a kindly "good-night."

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were both tied hand and foot to the four posts of the beds in which they slept. The daughter was also tied fast to the bed posts. It did not take Mr. Smith long to unloose his bonds and he immediately liberated his wife and daughter. About the time he had finished untying the knots a farmer came by on his way to market and Mr. Smith called him to see the condition they were in.

Good Crop.

Lock Haven Express, says: The prospects for a great peach crop in Clinton county were never better than at present and the luscious fruit will likely be sold this year at reasonable prices, on account of the crop being so large. Peach growers in Nittany valley estimate the crop in that section of the county alone at 5,000 bushels, and there are some who even put their figures as high as 10,000 bushels. It is estimated that the orchards of Dr. Dumm, Brownlee, and on the Hayes farm will each yield 1,000 bushels.

Must Make Oath.

The new mercantile tax law, now in the hands of the Governor, requires every merchant to make oath to the amount of business he does in a year. This, it is believed, in many instances, will result in greatly increasing taxes, as well as revenues, which largely reverts to the counties. Strange to say, years ago a special act was passed for Northumberland county, making the tax \$9 without regard to the amount of business done, and the County Treasurer retains a \$2 fee out of each license.

Death of Mrs. Annie P. Arnold.

Mrs. Annie P. Arnold, wife of Congressman Wm. C. Arnold, of this district, died Wednesday morning 14 at her home in DuBois, aged 47 years. She was taken ill Tuesday morning and was unconscious from then until her death. Mr. Arnold was in Washington and did not arrive home until Tuesday evening. Bright's disease is supposed to have been the cause of death. Mrs. Arnold was a daughter of Col. E. A. Irvin, of Curwensville.

Outlived Eight Doctors.

A Lewistown woman died the other day who was told 26 years ago by numerous physicians that she could live but a short time. Eight of these doctors died before she died.

THE NEW GAME LAW.

For the information of the sportsmen in this section we publish the following synopsis of the game law enacted at the recent session of the Legislature. If you are interested you had better cut this article out and keep it for reference about such matters.

Sec. 1. No hunting or shooting on Sunday. Penalty \$25 for each offense, or imprisonment one day for each dollar's fine.

Sec. 2. No one shall at any time kill any song bird, or destroy their nests or eggs except under conditions that in no way applies to this section. English sparrows, hawks, owls and herons are excepted. Penalty \$10 for each bird or imprisonment as in section one.

Sec. 3. Game birds may be shot from October 15 to December 15, except Mongolian, English or Chinese pheasant which cannot be taken for five years from June 4, 1897. Woodcock may be also shot during July. Penalty \$25 for each bird shot out of season.

Sec. 4. Deer may be shot during November only, and never while in the water. Dog hunting is illegal, and the dogs so hunting may be killed by anybody without recourse. Penalty \$100 for each offense.

Sec. 5. Makes trap hunting of any kind illegal, and no person may purchase game or birds so killed. Penalty for deer, etc., \$100 for each animal; for birds \$25 each.

Sec. 6. No person or transportation company shall have in possession any game whose killing is prohibited. One person can kill in one day only 10 pheasants, or 15 quail, or 10 woodcock, or 2 wild turkeys, or 2 deer in one season. Penalty, from \$50 to \$100 for each offense.

Sec. 7. Rabbits may be killed from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15 inclusive, and no person may even have any such in his possession out of season. Penalty \$10 for each rabbit or squirrel.

Sec. 8. Prohibits the use of ferrets in hunting rabbits and a person having a ferret in his possession will be deemed guilty. Penalty \$25 for each rabbit so killed.

Sec. 9. Killing birds or game with anything but a gun is prohibited and no trap, blind or light may be used. Penalty \$50 for each offense.

Sec. 10. Breaking or destroying nests or eggs of birds makes a penalty of \$50 for each nest or egg so destroyed.

Sec. 11. Makes possession of any game, fresh skin, birds or eggs prima facie evidence of guilt.

Sec. 12 provides that action under this law must be begun within a year of the time of the alleged violation. One half of fine goes to the informer and the other half to the State.

In every case the fine may be served by imprisonment—one day for each dollar.

Cloud Burst.

On Saturday a terrific rain storm swept over the northern part of the county, in the vicinity of Curtin township, and along Marsh Creek much damage was done to the crops. It seemed that two rain storms met in that section and for a time drenched the earth with its downpour. The small streams became torrents washing away small bridges, destroying crops of all kinds. Mr. John McCloskey's barn, on Big Run, near Romola, was carried away at that place. Messrs Philip Confer and Jacob Beightol suffered considerable loss to their crops.

Opposed to Hazing.

With the opening of college last fall the freshmen class at State College, by a two-thirds vote, decided to resist hazing, and do what they could to abolish the practice. And now, in order to put the matter on record and the better to carry out their purpose during the coming college year, a set of resolutions have been drawn up by a special appointed committee for the adoption of college in September.

A North Carolina Story.

A damsel entered a store at Chapel Hill recently, carrying some live chickens with her feet tied, and she placed them on the counter. The clerk who waited on her is not always grammatical, and he smilingly asked, "Are you sure they will lay there?" "O, no, sir, they are all roosters," she stammered.—Winston Journal.

C. E. Convention.

Nashville has been chosen as the place of meeting of the National Christian Endeavor society in 1898. President Clark wants the convention in 1900 to be held in London to show the old world something of the strength of the organization.

Camp Meeting.

Brushvalley campmeeting will begin on July 27th, and continue for ten days. It will be held in E. Harter's grove, two miles west of Rebersburg. Boarding will be furnished at the rate of fifty cents per day.

GOLD CRAZE WORSE THAN '49

Large Quantities Mined and Many Fortunes Made.

ALASKA'S NEW GOLD FIELDS

The Miners Who Recently Returned Brought Millions of the Precious Metal With Them—Great Excitement Prevails Throughout the Country—Thousands Preparing to go to the New Gold Fields.

During the past two weeks wonderful stories have been published about the development of the gold fields in Alaska. At first they sounded like mere fairy tales from an adventurer. But the first reports are followed by reliable reports of the most startling nature. The steamer which recently returned from that region brought at least no less than \$3,000,000 of gold nuggets and precious dust. Individual miners returned from the now famous Klondyke district in the interior of the territory, realized immense fortunes for the winters work, ranging from \$5000 to \$200,000 each. This is a newly discovered territory and the deposits are beyond the dreams of old miners or anything else ever known in the history of gold mining.

The result of this wonderful find is that the entire country is affected with a gold craze. In every city, town and hamlet ambitious young men are preparing to go to Alaska in the hope of winning a fortune. The accommodations are inadequate for those who are anxious to set sail for the new fields. Transportation has all been engaged on the steamers from the Pacific coast and thousands more are anxious to follow.

So great is the desire to get into the goldfields with the rush that all sorts of tricks have been resorted to, such as drugging a man and stealing his tickets on the steamer Alki, whose berths were all sold 48 hours before she sailed.

P. B. Wear, vice president of the North American Trading company, to which the steamship Portland belongs, is receiving hundreds of letters asking for information regarding the goldfields. He said today:

"The boat which sails from Seattle this month is full—every passage taken. That means that any one who wants to go to the Klondyke must wait for the August boats.

A LONG JOURNEY.

"The journey is 7,000 miles. They will need a map to convince them that the country of the Yukon and its tributaries in Alaska and British America is as large as the whole United States east of the Mississippi, that it is longer than a trip to Europe before they reach the Bering sea and the mouth of the Yukon, that by the time they strike the Yukon the Alaskan arctic winter will be upon them.

"By Sept. 25 the weather settles and the Yukon river is frozen solid until the following May.

"The expense of getting from Chicago to Seattle is \$60, and from Seattle to the Bering sea is \$150.

C. B. McIntosh of the Northwest Territory, in which is included the Klondyke gold district, is in Seattle. He freely subscribes to the truthfulness of the stories sent out as to the richness of the new diggings. He estimates that the Klondyke and its tributaries yielded more than \$3,000,000 in gold last winter. Of this amount he says \$2,000,000 and upward came via the steamships Portland and Excelsior. More than \$1,000,000 in dust, he says, is now stored away in the cabins of miners along the creek.

A Sensational Hearing.

Paul Koitsch and John Cushman were given a hearing Friday 16th, at Lock Haven, on the charge of feloniously assaulting and murdering 5-year-old Edna Crider, whose mutilated remains were found near Haneyville last week. The hearing aroused great excitement in the vicinity. The Alderman's office and streets were crowded. The defendants were not represented by counsel. The testimony against Koitsch was circumstantial but damaging, and he was held for court. Cushman was held for a further hearing next Friday.

Death of a Child.

The little son of James B. and Lilly Noll, of Milesburg, aged about 13 months, died Monday noon from scarlet rash, after a few days' illness. The remains were interred at Emerick's cemetery, near Unionville, Tuesday afternoon.

Want Waterworks.

The taxpayers of Millinburg will vote on Saturday, Aug. 7, for or against the construction of waterworks at the borough's expense. It is estimated that such a plant would cost about \$30,000.

Don't Forget.

Culveyhouse repairs trunk's locks, umbrellas, keys fitted, etc. Corner of Allegheny and Bishopstreet. Aug. 15.

CAPITOL CORNER STONE

A Big Black Bottle Found to Conceal the Curious Contents.

The cornerstone of the old capitol at Harrisburg was located Monday under the remaining foundation wall at the southwest corner of the original capitol structure. As soon as it was reported that the stone was found a crowd collected about the excavation.

At about 2 o'clock when the slab was showing signs of loosening under the blows of Austin Beach, who had worked assiduously to remove it, Governor Hastings, Secretary of State Reeder, Attorney General McCormick, Representative A. G. Seyfert of Lancaster, Major Levi McCauley, candidate for the Republican nomination for auditor-general, and others arrived and stood on the granolithic pavement elevation alongside which the capitol walls had stood and viewed the stone and those working at it until the slab was finally cut away.

Below this slab a wooden slab was securely sealed into the cornerstone, making another obstruction which gave way quickly and the contents of the stone were in sight. Captain Delaney reached into the crevice of the stone and withdrew a big black bottle. The crowd along the banks regarded this as extremely funny and everybody laughed.

Captain Delaney handed the bottle to the governor who in turn transferred it into the care of the secretary of state, after which they all gave it a curious and quizzical look and then Chief Clerk Gerhart, of the state department, was instructed to lock the bottle and its contents in a vault until the full board of public buildings met to open it.

The glass bottle was about the size of a two-quart pickle jar with large opening. This opening had been sealed with red wax with the seal of the state. The seal had become detached from the bottle, however, but was restored intact.

While Governor Hastings was watching Captain Delaney and the others struggling to remove the stone's contents he asked when the stone had been found. Captain Delaney replied "Shortly before noon. I am glad it is found," said he, "for this stone has been nearly every place and I was afraid some one would say that I had it up at my stable using it for a horse trough."

Whereupon the governor suggested that in this event an investigation would have been called for.

When the big black bottle was brought forth some wit in crowd yelled "That tells bad on our forefathers." And Captain Delaney replied: "You'd better not tell Dr Swallow about the finding of this bottle."

Great Grangers' Picnic for 1897.

The great Grangers' Picnic for 1897 will be held at Williams' Grove, Pa., August 23d to 28th. From inquiries and contracts received, the display of farm machinery and implements, also of horticultural and live stock, promises to exceed any exhibition yet held. The camp will be fully up to the standard. All the old as well as many new cottagers have already engaged quarters. On the platform prominent agriculturists and statesmen, as well as political stump speakers, will give their views of condition of affairs. The financial question will be ably discussed. In the evening illustrated lectures, the Cuban War, the Turko-Grecian War and noted countries of the world, also concerts by some of the best talent in the country will entertain those in attendance. Half rates on all railroads. For circulars giving fuller information, write to R. H. Thomas, General Manager, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Alien Tax Law Attacked.

The alien tax law, passed at the recent session of the legislature, has been attacked in the United States courts. A bill in equity has been filed in the United States circuit court in which it is claimed that the act is not only unconstitutional, but is a violation of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain. The plaintiff is John Frazer of Pittsburg, and the defendant is the McCoway & Torley company of Pittsburg, by whom Frazer is employed.

Barn Burned.

On Monday afternoon, during the heavy rain, a flash of lightning struck John Garman's barn, which is about one mile from Hunter's Park. It soon was aflame, Mrs. Garman and little daughter were the only ones at home, and they succeeded in getting out all the live stock, and most of the farm implements. The building was burned to the ground, in which was stored the summer crop of hay and grain. There was no insurance on the property.

Lutheran Reunion.

The seventh annual meeting of the Susquehanna Lutheran Reunion will be held at Island Park, between Sunbury and Northumberland, on July 22nd.