

PUNISHMENT FOR PROFANITY

Further Information About the Man Turned to Stone.

STORY PARTLY CONFIRMED

Cursed God Because Rain Destroyed his Oats and Attempts to Shoot Towards the Heavens—Instantly Became Paralyzed and Rigid—A most Remarkable Occurrence at Instanter, Pa.

One of the most sensational stories seen in print for a long time is that of a man having been turned to stone near Instanter, Pa. The story was to the effect that a farmer, living near that town, became enraged because the continual rainfall was ruining his oats crop. In his anger he took his gun and went to the orchard and pointing the weapon towards the sky he uttered profane oaths and declared he would shoot God. Before he could discharge the weapon he became rigid and remained in the same position with the gun to his shoulder and since then his body was gradually being turned into stone and could not be removed from the spot. Some of the neighbors noticing him in the field and realizing his condition built a shed over him, to protect the accursed man from the elements.

As the age of miracles seems to have passed away, the remarkable story was branded by many, at first, as a piece of newspaper sensation. Next came the report through various papers that the story was fictitious and gotten up for a Sunday newspaper story. It caused much comment and during the past week nearly all the papers in this section branded the story as a fraud.

On Thursday evening Dr. O. W. McEntire, physician and druggist at Howard, Pa., this county, called at our office and handed us two letters for publication relative to the stone-man story.

The Dr. had heard of the strange affair and his curiosity was aroused sufficiently to write to a personal friend at Instanter, Pa., in regard to the affair and in reply received two communications, copies of which he furnished for publication. They read as follows:

LETTER NO. 1.

INSTANTER, PA., Sept. 21, 1897.
O. W. McENTIRE, M. D.,

Howard, Pa.,
Dear Sir:—Your letter of the 18th inst., inquiring as to the truth of the several different reports running through the newspapers of your section of the state concerning a farmer being turned into stone, I will say in reply that a man by the name of Decker, living near here, is reported to have had an experience of that kind, but was in town yesterday looking very pale and scarcely able to walk. He denies the allegation but there are different people here who positively claim to have seen him, when he was in the position as reported by the papers. These people say that on account of some mysterious influence, they were unable to get close enough to make identification complete, but they are positive he was the man. On the contrary, Decker is very quiet on the subject, and absolutely refuses to discuss it. One thing is very apparent, that before this was supposed to have happened, he was a very profane man, but now he is altogether changed, so much so, that anyone having known him before, would not now recognize him at all.

Trusting this explanation will gratify your curiosity, I remain,

Very respectfully,
A. C. QUIGLEY,
Ass't P. M.

LETTER NO. 2.

INSTANTER, PA., Sept. 22, '97.
O. W. McENTIRE, M. D.

Howard, Pa.
Dear Doctor:—As you have received my answer to your letter of the 18th inst. I have since learned more concerning the matter you wrote about. Decker has finally admitted that part of the matter said of him is true: in respect to making the threat and getting his gun and going into his orchard and pointing to the Heavens. He says when he had the gun in position, a feeling came over him that would be impossible to describe. The muscles of his body seemed to be paralyzed. He could not change his position. He tried to call for some one to help him, but could make no sound. There was but one person at the house, that being but a small boy, and he noticing his position, went toward him, but could not get within at least one hundred feet of him. In regard to anyone trying to build a shed over him, he says that no attempt was made. He was in the position two nights and one day. He says that as long as he lives he will never utter another oath, but will try to serve his Maker to the best of his ability, from this time on. He says it was a direct warning from the other world.

You can give this publicity in your papers, Doctor, as it will be an accommodation to us; our mail is literally overrun with inquiries.

Very truly yours,
A. C. QUIGLEY,
Ass't P. M.

The above were handed to the editor personally by Dr. McEntire, and there is no reason to believe but that they are true copies and authentic from Mr. Quigley, at Instanter, Pa. The story is so remarkable, and coming from apparently reliable source, that it can not fail but to cause the most incredulous persons

to stop and think. Whether true or not, there is a timely warning taught by it to the profane, wicked and ungodly.

Is this an age of miracles? It almost seems so.

The facts set forth in the above are all that we know of this strange circumstance, but a further effort will be made to obtain further information from other reliable parties living in that community.

A Sensible View.

In dealing with public affairs we should be neither pessimists nor optimists, says the National Bimetallist: In order to prove that bimetallism should be restored it is not necessary to claim that the country is in any worse condition than it is in. Neither should we be blindly optimistic and jump at the conclusion that we have a grand area of prosperity before us merely because wheat has gone up and some factories have resumed work. We should look at the situation exactly as it is. Wheat has risen because crops are short in other countries. Factories have resumed partially to replenish stocks exhausted by a long period of idleness and partially in anticipation of a demand which may or may not be realized. But there is nothing in the situation to prove that the gold standard is a good thing or that bimetallism is a bad one.

In Memory of the Bank Collapse.

Black mourning bands, black crepe flags and other tokens were exhibited in front of the stores and residences in Hollidaysburg on last Friday in commemoration of the failure of Gardner, Morrow & Co.'s bank, one year ago. Among the significant inscriptions displayed on the black flags were the following: "Chinese and Mohammedan Missionaries Wanted in the United States." "First Anniversary of the Greatest Robbery in America." "Thieves Who Fare Sumptuously on the Substance of the Poor Shall Not Enter the Kingdom of Heaven." A flame-colored notice posted on the bank's front door reads: "This Institution Will Pay 100 Cents on the Dollar—Nit."

Expelled for Hazing.

Two students have been expelled from the college this week for hazing. Last year a strenuous effort was made to abolish the disgraceful practice, and the freshman class joined with the faculty. Resolutions were passed, setting forth that as long as they were in college the class of 1900 would do what they could to abolish hazing. To this end a committee was appointed to work with faculty. Last week two students were caught in the act of initiating a new man, and on being reported to the faculty, were at once expelled.

Irvin Shaw Honored.

W. Irvin Shaw, of Houtzdale, who has been Clearfield county's most efficient Republican chairman, has been appointed United States consul at Barranquilla, Columbia, S. A. The position is responsible and lucrative, the emoluments amounting to about \$3500 per year and the office affording opportunity for doing active service to our country in promoting our already important commerce with our South American neighbors.

Mr. Shaw is a bright young lawyer, who was made county chairman in 1893.

A Curiosity.

Clearfield county has a curiosity in the shape of a township, within whose borders there is not a church, school, store, saloon, minister, justice, school teacher, doctor, lawyer, carpenter, blacksmith shop, postoffice or a two-story house. None of the inhabitants of the township has ever held office, sat on a jury or been in a criminal action. The people of that township, if any live there, are certainly not of this earth.

Graduates in Dentistry.

Under the provisions of the act of assembly approved July 9, 1897, on and after October 1, 1897, all graduates in dentistry must exhibit to the prothonotary of the county in which they expect to practice their profession, a license granted them by the state board of dental examiners and must also be duly registered by the prothonotary.

Tool Works to Resume.

The manager of the Tool Company, at Howard, is making preparations for resuming operations and is putting the works in order. Twenty men are employed in making repairs to the plant and getting houses in shape for occupancy by the workmen.

Died of Typhoid Fever.

Stanley Wilkinson, baggage master and extra conductor on the Bald Eagle valley railroad, and a gentleman well known, died at his home at Kermoor of typhoid fever Monday. He was about 35 years old.

Married.

At Mill Hall, on Thursday evening, September 23, by Rev. J. C. Wilhelm, William C. Deitz and Miss Clare Gerberich, of Howard, Pa.

INTERESTING REMINISCENCE

Gov. Curtin's Famous Interview With Napoleon

A RUSSIAN SPY WAS PRESENT

Complimented for his Diplomacy—Napoleon's Hope for Assistance Vanished After That—An Interesting Story.

The following appeared in the Philadelphia Times Friday and will be of interest to many of our readers:

A few weeks ago you read of Dr. Evans, the American dentist, who has become a millionaire many times over in Paris, bringing to this country the body of his wife for interment. Not only to this country but to this city; the centre, to-day, in the scientific world of surgical, medical and dental knowledge. His presence here brings to mind a rather remarkable story of American diplomacy, in which he figures. It chiefly concerns that great and lovable man, Andrew Gregg Curtin, the War Governor of Pennsylvania.

After Mr. Curtin had left the gubernatorial chair he spent five years in St. Petersburg as United States Minister to Russia, and during that time he gained his prodigious knowledge of statecraft. The experience in statesmanship that he then and there gained exceeded that which he had obtained in the Executive office at Harrisburg, because his mission abroad was during the troublous period of the Franco-Prussian war. He cut a prominent figure in St. Petersburg society, expending each year \$12,000 more than his salary. By this display of diplomacy he won the regard of Gortschakoff, the great Chancellor, who for fifty years ruled the destinies of the Russian people. After Napoleon III.'s capitulation at Sedan and his retirement as an exile to Chiselhurst, England, Minister Curtin determined upon a flying trip to London by way of recreation. The day before leaving St. Petersburg, while in conversation with Gortschakoff, the latter incidentally said to him: "The return of a Napoleon to the throne of France would menace the peace of all Europe and be most lamentable."

Shortly after the United States Minister had been installed in his apartments in London he was waited upon by the Chevalier Wyckoff, who, some will remember, went to school in Philadelphia and whose chatty book, "The Reminiscences of an Idler," deals quite liberally with Quaker City people. The main purpose of the Chevalier's visit was to suggest to Mr. Curtin that he should travel to Chiselhurst to see the deposed Emperor of the French. The Minister protested that he was away from his post, on a simple holiday trip, without leave of absence, and that he did not desire to attract public attention to his movements. The Chevalier then intimated that the distinguished American would in all likelihood be formally invited to call upon Napoleon. "That," said Mr. Curtin, "would be an entirely different matter."

The following day Prince Murat, cousin of Napoleon, called upon American Minister and formally invited him to Chiselhurst and to the honor of a private audience with Napoleon. Mr. Curtin made the trip in the company of Chevalier Wyckoff, and was very graciously received by the late sovereign of the French. After a brief conversation Napoleon requested the Chevalier to withdraw, as he wished to confer with Mr. Curtin in private.

Wyckoff left the apartment and the American Minister found himself alone, apparently, with the deposed monarch. Then ensued a most interesting conversation that was prolonged for two hours. While it was in progress Napoleon referred to his residence in this country when he was transported here as the "Pretender" in 1836. He spoke feelingly of what he claimed he had accomplished for the French people and the ingratitude they had displayed towards him. The failure of his contest-at-arms with Germany he ascribed to the fact that while apparently he had an immense army, it was largely upon paper. Mr. Curtin, however, found that the ex-Emperor's conversation, no matter in what direction it drifted, invariably returned to an attempted discussion of the probability of his receiving the support of Russia, if he should again attempt to mount the throne of France. He evidently knew of the American Minister's intimacy with Gortschakoff, and, to use a homely American phrase, was endeavoring to "pump" him. But Mr. Curtin was proof against such guile and skillfully avoided direct replies to Napoleon's remarks except in two instances, when the nephew of the great Bonaparte put such

direct questions to him that he was forced to reply: Your Majesty will, I am sure, pardon me for declining to answer your question when you consider that my relations to my government and through it with the Russian Government are of an entirely confidential character? Upon both occasions, when replies of that sort were made to him, Napoleon bowed courteously in assent and diverted the channel of conversation only to return again to the subject upon which his mind was evidently dwelling. Finally at the conclusion of the interview, the late Emperor said to Mr. Curtin: "Will you answer me one question? If you can't conscientiously do so I will feel under just as much obligation to you for your courtesy in paying me this visit. You are on intimate terms with Prince Gortschakoff. Has he ever said anything to you concerning my return to France?"

Minister Curtin, having in mind his conversation with the Russian Chancellor, was visibly embarrassed by this inquiry. Finally he said with some hesitation: Your Majesty, I saw Prince Gortschakoff the day before I left St. Petersburg, but I beg of you not to ask me what it was he said to me concerning yourself."

Quick as a flash Napoleon took in his meaning. A shade of sadness passed over his face. Then, with a courteous bow, he said simply: "I understand you, sir, and I thank you."

That ended the interview, and with it ended the hopes of restoration to power that ever vexed the mind of that ceaselessly ambitious spirit.

Shortly after this Mr. Curtin was in Paris. One evening he was late in joining a dinner party to which he had been invited. When he arrived Dr. Evans was speaking to the company of the fact that Minister Curtin had been to Chiselhurst. The famous dentist, it should be borne in mind, is the man who aided the Empress Eugenie to escape to England with the infant Prince Imperial. But for that intervention there is no doubt that the infuriated French populace would have cut the throat of the beautiful Spanish Countess, who had set the fashion in dress for all the fair ones of France, and through them for the women of the greater part of the civilized world. At the time of this occurrence Dr. Evans was making frequent trips from Paris to Chiselhurst and back again. When Mr. Curtin discovered him at the dinner table conversing about the fact that the former had been honored with an interview with Napoleon, he said to him: "Doctor, for heaven's sake, don't make that affair a matter of common gossip. You do not understand the present temper of the French people, and, if you take my advice, sir, you will do less traveling between Paris and Chiselhurst." Then turning to the company, he said: Gentlemen, I pray you, let this matter be dropped between us." Of course, that ended all discussion of the subject. Up to this time Mr. Curtin had confided to no one the nature of the conversation between himself and Louis Napoleon.

When the American Minister returned to St. Petersburg he, as in duty bound, paid his respects to the Russian Chancellor. Gortschakoff received him very graciously, and at the conclusion of a long and pleasant conversation, said: "I must congratulate you, sir."

"Upon what?" inquired Mr. Curtin.

"Upon the discretion you displayed," replied Gortschakoff, "in your conversation with the late Emperor of the French."

How the crafty Muscovite diplomat ever learned the particulars of that interview Mr. Curtin could never discover, and it always remained a mystery to him. True, Chevalier Wyckoff was notoriously in the pay of the Russian Government, but he had been excluded from the room. Mr. Curtin was positive that he was alone with the Emperor, and was equally sure that he had never whispered a word to a human being of what took place. Gortschakoff's remarks simply amazed him. It is a well-known fact that the Russian system of spying permeates every court of Europe, but how it could have penetrated the privacy of Napoleon's apartments was ever beyond the comprehension of the American Minister, and he talked of it in tones of wonder.

What authority has the narrator for this story? It fell upon his ears, from the lips of Andrew G. Curtin.

MEOARGEE.

A Compliment.

A gentleman well acquainted with the schools of Pennsylvania recently told Gov. Hastings that Wm. E. Irwin, Secretary of the School Board of Philadelphia, and David F. Fortney, of Belleville, ought to be pensioned for the balance of their lives for what they have done for the schools in their respective towns.

BELLEVILLE'S INDUSTRIES

The Situation is Promising at Present.

IRON FURNACES, GLASSWORKS

The Two Furnaces May be Started Soon—Important Meeting To-day—Glassworks in Operation—Railroad Rumors for the Extension of Central Railroad of Penna.

There are many rumors afloat in this section in regard to the starting of the iron furnaces, at this place. Several glowing dispatches have been sent out to the daily papers in regard to the situation, and people are more or less anxious as to developments that may be in store. The following is the situation:

The Valentine Furnace is still idle. The affairs of the concern were in a rather uncertain shape after it closed down. The recent advance in the iron market has encouraged the stockholders very much and they are anxious to have the plant resume soon as possible. To accomplish this an extension of all the creditors has been secured to January 1st, '98. This Thursday a number of the interested parties will be in Belleville to confer with the local management, and they will determine as to whether the plant shall resume operations or not.

The negotiations for the sale of the Belleville Furnace plant have not been completed, but a satisfactory price has been agreed upon by both parties, and it is practically considered a sale. The proprietors of the Belleville Central Railroad are said to be the principal parties who are about to secure the property. President Prazier, of the Belleville Central Railroad, is the head of the movement. If this plant can be operated by any party to an advantage the railroad company would be the best fitted to accomplish same, as the oar and limestone must be carried by their line. The general impression is that both plants will be in operation in the course of a few weeks. At present the outlook is favorable, and it is to be hoped that our expectations will be realized.

GLASS WORKS START.

On Wednesday afternoon the Belleville Co-operative Glass Company practically started their factory. For over a week the fires were started in the furnaces. A difference then arose between the workmen as to the wage rate, among the different branches of the business. For many years all the window glass workers belonged to the "Window Glass Workers Association of America." This year a large portion of the cutters and flatteners withdrew from this association and formed one of their own. The object was to force a higher scale of wages than the old association allowed them. When the factory was about to resume, at this place, the flatteners and cutters at this place refused to go to work except under the advanced rate, adopted by their new association; it was refused. The result was that the Belleville factory was the first place where the two associations should clash and a contest ensued. Prominent officials of the two associations were on the ground and there was lively discussion among glassmen.

The old association finally won out here by the Co-operate Glass Company adopting the wage scale of the "Window Glass Workers' Association" who provided new flatteners and cutters to operate the factory.

This season the factory starts with eight pots, while last season they only had four. It also will give employment to more workmen throughout the plant. The price of glass has been advancing and everything looks favorable for a profitable season.

In addition to the above, it can be said that there are reasons to believe that some active steps are being taken towards the extension of the Central R. R. of Pa. to Watsonstown. Surveyors have been at work for some time on the eastern part and have located a more desirable route and with fewer bridges, a great saving on the former survey. The purpose would be to extend the road on to Phillipsburg and Clearfield.

The above comes as a rumor, from parties who claim to be in a position to know what is going on.

Another Daily.

The following is from the Phillipsburg Journal: The Daily Record, with R. A. Kinsloe as editor and John Rumberger as local editor and solicitor, will make its appearance at Phillipsburg on Tuesday, October 5th.

Church Dedication.

Sunday, October 10th, the Union church at Hecla will be dedicated. Services will be held at 2 p. m.

Two Good Things.

"77" for Grip and Colds; No. 10 for Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Weak Stomach; 25c. each; at all druggists.

TWO ARRESTS FOLLOW.

Sequel to the Death of Miss Annie Houser, of Jersey Shore.

Early Friday morning Sheriff R. D. Peck and District Attorney H. T. Hall drove to Jersey Shore and arrested P. Eckler. They returned with Eckler who was taken before Alderman J. W. Harris, where he entered bail for a hearing on October 5th, at 2 p. m., Philip Guntlach, of Pine Creek township, being his bondsman. Eckler was arrested on a warrant sworn out by District Attorney Hall and his arrest is a sequel to the death of Miss Annie Houser, of Jersey Shore, whose death occurred at Loganton, at the house of Aaron Bartsge, on Wednesday, September 15th.

Chief of Police Keller and liverman Frank Felmlee left Friday morning and drove over to Loganton where Aaron Bartsge was arrested. That afternoon Bartsge was taken before Alderman Harris.

October 5th was fixed as the date of a hearing for Bartsge and bail in \$1,500 was asked for his appearance at that time. As bail was not furnished Bartsge was committed to the county jail for a hearing on the date named.

Eckler and Bartsge are charged in the warrant sworn to by District Attorney Hall, with unlawfully conspiring and combining; using and attempting to use drugs, medicines and instruments, by reason of which Annie Houser came to her death.—L. H. Express.

NEW POSTOFFICE ORDER.

It Prohibits Employes From Soliciting Gifts in Various Forms.

The Postmaster general has issued an order forbidding clerks and other employes to solicit contributions of money, gifts or presents or to issue addresses, complimentary cards, prints, publications or any substitute intended to induce the public to make them gifts or presents, to sell tickets for theaters, concerts, balls, fairs, picnics, excursions or places of amusement or entertainment of any kind, or to borrow money or contract debts which they have no reasonable prospect of being able to pay.

The Army of Tramps.

It is stated by railroad men that the army of tramps now prowling through this section are rapidly gaining in point of numbers. The information comes from freight and coal train employes, who have quite an experience with these knights of the road. One prominent conductor said that they represent every shade, character and profession in life, almost all of them being men of education and refinement, which is too frequently obscured by their exterior. They intelligently discuss the labor problem and everything of national importance. No class of professional men have a higher regard for the daily newspapers than tramps. It is a rare thing to see one of them without a daily or weekly dangling from a tattered and dust stained coat pocket.—Jersey Shore Vidette.

Wagon Run on Rails.

In accordance with the desire of the secretary of agriculture to promote more extended experiments in the use of steel trackways on wagon roads, the office of road inquiry has made arrangements with the Cambria Iron works, of Johnstown, Pa., for rolling special rails for this purpose, these arrangements to go into effect as soon as definite orders from responsible parties amounting to one mile of track are received.

The director of road inquiry and the engineers of the iron company, after much discussion, have agreed upon a plan of track which promises to meet all requirements. It uses no wood in construction and no cross-ties for support, but consists of a simple inverted trough or channel of steel for each wheel, with a slightly raised bed on the inside to guide the wheels, each channel resting in a bed of gravel and the two tied together occasionally to prevent spreading.

The first order for track has been given by the New York state agricultural experiment station.

Supposed Silver Mine.

There is excitement in Sweden valley, Potter county, over the discovery of what is believed to be a silver mine. Mrs. A. T. Herrington, of Bradford, returned a few days ago from a visit to relatives at that place, and brought with her several specimens of the quartz obtained. A fifteen foot shaft has been sunk on the John Dodd farm and a considerable quantity of the supposed metal bearing rock has been removed. Specimens of it have been sent to Buffalo and Elmira to be assayed, and a Buffalo gentleman is now at Sweden valley interesting himself in the discovery.

Increased Attendance.

Prosperity has struck Centre Hall. This winter they had to add another school to accommodate the increased attendance. They now have four graded schools at that place.