

SKULLS THAT GRIN

Look Down on a Jolly Party of Chicago Bohemians ORGANIZED INTO A CLUB

Named After the Favorite Haunt of Jack the Ripper.

GREWSOME RELICS ON THE WALLS

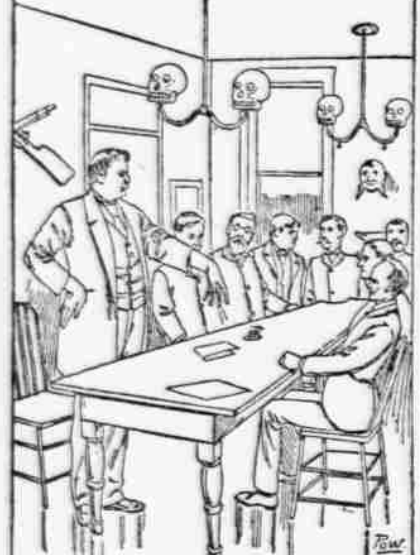
(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.)

HICAGO, April 19.

It was during the time of the mysterious and macabre murders, vaguely known as "Jack the Ripper," that the club of Bohemians was organized in this city.

There was a prominent newspaper man at one end of the table and facing him was a famous lawyer. Between these two men were two other men. One was a doctor; the other an artist.

A miserable woman had been slaughtered



An Anarchist Story by Opie Regard.

In London by the Ripper. Regard newsboys who ran through the alley which stretches like a black aisle through the heart of the city and which is dark and dreary beside the windows where the Bohemians sat, bawled about the White-chapel murder. The roar was deafening.

The tragedy was sensational news. From the cry came the name of the remarkable club in the United States. The organization which had been formed while the newspaper presses were printing the fragmentary news of the latest butchery was christened the Whitechapel Club.

EARLY DAYS OF THE CLUB.

The four professional men who had organized the club met nearly every night in a little room in the resort. The artist made rough crayon pictures and hung them upon the wall. The lawyer asked questions of the doctor and the newspaper man told stories over their beer until the night grew beyond the club, now scarcely known beyond its own den, and until the professional men sought membership. A charter was received from the Secretary of State.

The club's membership was limited to 25.

To become a member of the organization one had to be a man who had won his spurs in his profession and who was a Bohemian



The Anarchist Panel.

By birth, a gentleman by instinct and a good fellow at all times and in all places. The rigid observance of this rule made many enemies for the club, because scores of applicants for membership were rejected for the reason that they were lacking in one or in all of the essential points. But the determination of the members to uphold this rule has doubtless protected the salvation of the club, for if a bar had been let down it would have been a matter of a short time when the club would have foundered.

BALLOTING ON APPLICANTS.

The method of election is novel. The candidate's name is posted for three days. If, in that time, no objection is filed with the directory against the applicant his name comes to a ballot. The lights in the skull chandeliers are turned off and the members who are known by numbers sit in long lines at the club's table. A single black ball rejects the applicant for all time. The ballots are matches. As each member votes available for the candidate the head of the match is broken off and the white stick cast into an urn. If a black ball is used the personage head of the match is cast.

The steady growth of the Whitechapel Club in the face of tremendous, and at times malignant opposition, soon became the talk of Chicago. Its applicants, who numbered men included Congressmen, jurists and men of all professions. The little club room, with its rude decorations, was abandoned and a large room secured. Observing the true spirit of Bohemianism, the members began to hang the walls with the most ghoulish relics. They wanted no carpets; no portiers; no good looking women; no flowers; no dust of a dozen years had settled, were good enough for them. Skulls of train robbers, of snickers and of persons who died suddenly were nailed upon the walls. There came the nasty bones of Hottentots and of Indians, with dead men's eyes here and there, some of them bespattered with blood, to relieve the stare of so many vacant eyes.

EMBLEMS OF WAR AND RIT.

A cavalrman's shoe filled with the foot bones of a gallant trooper in General Custer's command was placed in a niche beside a fluted rifle bullet that had also been picked up on that famous battlefield. Bombs, guns and daggers, some of them wrested from anarchists during the riots of 1886 and others used to kill and maim, hang like a glittering fan upon one wall.

PEEPS AT BOUDOIRS.

Bowers of Beauty in the Fashionable Homes of Washington.

MISS LEITER'S LOVE FOR OLD GOLD.

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.)

WASHINGTON, April 19.

"A BOWER of beauty," "A bedroom for a Princess!" "A home for a goddess!"

So spoke one of the ladies of the diplomatic circle as she stood in the boudoir of the daughter of a wealthy Western Senator last night.

There is no truth in the sneering fling of the English writer that Americans put all their money on their persons and their parlors; that everything is for show and nothing for comfort.

The upper part of the noted homes of Washington are as well furnished as their dining rooms, and the bedrooms of many of our belles have all the luxuries of modern invention shaped into curious forms by the ingenuity of the American designer.

The room above spoken of is a sample. It is an irregular room with a deep fireplace and two or three arches in the wall for comfort.

The man next to me opened the pot for \$1,000, the next man and myself saw him, and then we drew. Each of the others took one card, but contented myself with one.

When it came to my turn there was \$2,000 to put up, and without lifting my hand, I raised the last better \$2,000,000.

This drove the man next to me out and left me alone.

He deliberated for a long time, counted over his pile—which contained just a little more than the amount of the bet—and then he threw up his hands.

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TWO MILLION ON DEUCES.

One of the Heaviest Games of Poker on Record, With Confederate Bills.

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.)

HICAGO, April 19.

"We were in winter quarters in 1862 at White Oak Church," said an old veteran sitting in a game of draw at the other evening, "when my captor captured a paymaster's wagon containing I cannot say many millions in bills and bonds. It gave my company the opportunity for playing the heaviest game of poker ever heard of. The ante was \$100 and there was no limit.

"In the forty something like \$5,000,000 of the bill came into the possession of myself and my three best mates, and as soon as we got back to camp we started the game. I had fairly good luck at the start, but after a while the pastebars went back on me, and I rarely got a pair bigger than deuces.

"This went on until my pile had been brought down to about \$2,000,000. There was a \$1,000 'jackpot,' and when I picked up my hand I found the invaluable deuces. The man next to me opened the pot for \$1,000, the next man and myself saw him, and then we drew. Each of the others took one card, but contented myself with one.

When it came to my turn there was \$2,000 to put up, and without lifting my hand, I raised the last better \$2,000,000.

This drove the man next to me out and left me alone.

He deliberated for a long time, counted over his pile—which contained just a little more than the amount of the bet—and then he threw up his hands.

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