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### From the Home Journal. TALES OF THE SOUTH. BY A SOUTHERN MAN.

#### A True Adventure in a Lunatic Asylum.

I have a decided passion for the study of insanity. In all its forms and in every degree-from the crepuscular gleam of receding or returning reason to the total eclipse or the restoration of the faculties-it presents a subject of thrilling and startling interest. The phenomena of mind in normal state, grand and wonderful as they are, lo-e like the glories of the vissible creation, much of their impressiveness by familiarity. In ourselves and in others, we see its activities and capabilities di-played, and immagine that we comprehend its mysteries. This empirical philosophy, superficial and meagre though it be, blunts the appetite in most persons for speculation upon the same exhibitions of intellect. They behold the form and hear the voice of the mystic Memnon, but care not to inquire by what mechanism its marvellous utterances are produced.

But the mind in ruins, as it is a less frequent so also is it a far more impress-

cellent superintendent ?"

tion," I replied. "I have fortunately, tremor through my frame, which I did Stopping there only long enough to inform grily starting up, paced the userow space and straining her gaze afar upon the waneither friend nor relative here; but have not care to prolong or revive, by a repe- an attendant that I had left a lunatic up- about them with flushed and scowling ter in search of the lo-t one. The concome simply as you say, to see the curi- tition to the view. osities of the asylum."

motive which prompts your visst. The loud, prolonged peal of laughter, clap- The next day I returned to the asylum, ible in the silent tears that fell thick and noiselessly pushing and puffing along the calamity next to bring an inmate of an ping his hands together, at the same time, for the purpose of unravelling the myste- fast, while she encircled her unconscious river, and leaving far behind the broken asylum one's self, is to have a dear friend repeatedly and with violent concussion. ry of my adventure. This was easily children more closely in her arms. She group that had been despoiled of their or relation immured within its walls. As I turned suddenly around, and was start- done. The gentleman whom I had taken remembered the many days and nights treasure. Quiet was again restored ayou have come to see permit me to become tled at the change which had come over for my cicerone the day before, had been of weary toil she had endured to gather mong the passengers, and each returned your electrone for a short time. I am at him during the few moments we had been for many years an inmate of the asylum. a portion of the little sum that was to to his dreams, or his waking thoughts of leisure, and love to point out the localities standing upon the tower. His person He was intellectual, accomplished, and convey her away from the scenes of her the unhappy midnight scene-some to and to explan the economy of the institu- was drawn up to its utmost height, his possessed of a most winning address .--- sufferings, and with which they were to symyathize-some to censure-all soon tion to inqui-itive strangers. For many face was flushed, his eyes glistening with Being mild and inoffensive in disposition, secure an humble home farther West .--- to forget, in the busy whirl of life, the sad years I have been a priviledged visitor a strange lustre, his bosom heaved, and aud subject only, at long intervals, to an But now all was gone. The bright an- lesson, that however may err, woman is n all the departments of the asylum, and he seemed subject to, or strugling to mas- access of his mental disorder, he was per- ticipations of a home, of their home, in the greatest sufferer thereby, and a few. I know the bistory and peculiar halluci- ter some mighty emotion. He was appa- mitted to go at large and unattended some quiet spot, hid long been her if any, to profit by the warning of the nations of well nigh all the inmates." rently gazing at some object in the land- through the buildings and grounds of the strength, and many an hour of sorrow had gambler's misfortunes. Struck with the intelligent conversation scape before him. The motion of my institution. His great passion and chief been lightened with the thought that one and won by the affable address of the body, in turning, attracted his attention, employment was to accompany and ex- day they should till their own land, that stranger, I readily accepted his proposi- and his look fell upon me. Our eyes plain to visitors who came to the asylum, she should see the bright grain waving tion to be my guide on the present occa- met. We stood a moment to gaze-I the history and hallucination of its in- and the prairie flowers springing luxurision. We passed on slowly from cell to mute with surprise, and he sceningly mates. With all these he was minutely ously around their dwelling; and her cell, and from room to room-he relating struggling for utterance. and I listening with pleased attention to "Ha! ba!" he at length broke forth, his information from every available she saw her children bounding upon the his relations of the names, hallucinations "isn't it fixel isa't it, indeed, glorious." source-being as indefatigable in the green sward, and breaching the fresh, and present conditions of the inmates .- "The landscape you mean, of course," search, as he was quick sighted in the de- pure air, that had thus far been denied His descriptions of the more remarkable said I. "It is indeed, glorious." cases were grapic and eloquent in a high "No! no !" he replied, in a tone of im- upon the subject matter of his inquiries. see her husband freed from the indegree. It is hard to decide whether I patience; "you misunderstand. I don't To him the arrival of a new inmate for fluences that drew him and his hard earnwas most interested in myselt or in the mean the landscape, but the leap-the the asylum, was an event full of both in- ings to the gaming tables with such magsmitten ones whose history he so touch- leap, that's fine-the leap, that's glori- terest and excitement. He commenced netic witchery, despite all his resolutions ingly and so beautifully related. Occa- ous, too." sionally we passed an official of the insti- "Of what leap do you speak, sir," I from his inquiries, until he had learn- ation had traveled too fast, and her haptation, between whom and my cicerone a bastily inquired. few words, but more frequent a nod or "Why, man," he abruptly interposed, the mental malady, and the present con- word of reproach escaped her lips, though

on by the judicious treatment of our ex- ed a certain and speedy descent to the the ladder, flew from story of forgot for the moment the consequences stricken wife, and the half-drowned Anna. earth of anybody falling upon it from a- the asylum, and paused not in my rapid which his gratified passion had already Poor Mary sat mouning upon the river "You are correct in your first supposi- bove. A single glance downwards shot descent, until I reached the entrance door. brought upon his belpless family, and an- bank, clasping her only remaining child, on the summit of the tower, I hurried to face. Directing my eyes steadily to the sur- my lodgings, and overcome with fatigue Poor Mary had received the tidings of nearest cottage for relief, while the skiff

your exemption, and upon the laudable in the contemplation broke out into a supperless to my room.

Published by Theodore Schoch. tive, brought here to be restored to reas- the roof, which, by its steep slant, insur- he could recover himself, I sprang down In giving vent to his excitement, he they left the moneyless gambler, his

"I congratulate you," said be, "upon rounding landscape, I was soon absorbed and mental exhaustion, retired early and her new misfortune with a suppressed pushed from the shore, and returned to groan, but now her emotion was only vis- | the steamboat, which, in a little time was and thoroughly conversant. He collected heart beat with joy, as, in imagination, like those here, are divided into comparttection of facts and statistics, bearing them; and, above all, she would his investigations at once, and ceased not and promises. But poor Mary's imagined the name, the personal antecedents, py dreams were all crushed now. No ware of the hand, were exchanged in to- "the leap, the glorious leap down there" dition of the new comer. In this way he she shuddered as she listened to the wind, dered air. Suddenly restoring to a ruse, ken of friendly recognition. -pointing at the same time, with his fin- kept himself thoroughly "posted" in the and thought how soon they should be to avoid ridicule, he pretended not to un-Having visited all the spartments upon ger to the roof of the house below us. personal statistics of without shelter. Her uncomplaining sor- derstand German, and transacted his busone floor, we ascended to the next, and "That would indeed, be a leap," said the inmates of the institution. He was, row touched the heart of the gambler, table of reference, for visitors, and bore the old chest, and burying his face in his tarily expected from the captain. There was no mistaking my position brought on a violent paryoxism of abera- ter another dropped away in slumber .--At length we reached the last cell upon any longer. I STOOD FACE TO FACE WITH tion, in which he became combative, im- The beavy rumbling sound of the machine- find him?" patient of control, and very dangerous, in ry fell painfully upon the nervous ear of To grapple with and overpower him, if consequence of his great agility and the gambler, as he listened to the ap-"I have now an architectural curiosity I could, and thus effect my escape, was strength. Hence it was the fixed rule of proach of every footfall, till suddenly the my desent, had carried the superintend- boat. By the dim light of the lamp she They met my quondam guide, slowly de- precious burden, and with anxious fear scending the ladder. A copious hemor- saw them lifted to the boat's edge. She free to say, that this young man has beauhage of blood from the nose, produced by reached forward to secure them, but Anna tiful eyes." his fall had reduced his paroxyism and tottered, and in a moment was plunged left him rational enough to provide for into the rolling waters. A shrill shrick his safety by an immediate descent from rent the air and rang through the boat with such wild agony as awoke every speak German. He would chat with us." "My child! My Annal" cried the frantic mother, as she gazed vainly in the dark waters that had closed over her loved ones, "Save them!" save them!" she still shricked while she struggled to throw berself after them, though firmly held by one of the oarsmen. The other plunged into the river, while half a dozen lights flung a broad gleam upon the water, and enabled him to discern any object that ap-The father peered into the distance with a keen quick gaze, and then gave a loud shout as a dark mass rose to the surface. With a few expert strokes the swimmer reached Anna as she was sinking beneath the waves again, and with a strong hold he grasped and bore her safely to the arms of the distracted mother, who folded the dripping, exhausted child to her bosom. Still she shrieked-"My child! my babe is gone! ob, save him too!" And with wild gestures she entreated them to find it.

science-stricken father hastened to the

## Novel Courtship.

Three months since, a young Parisian was traveling per railroad in Germany from Aughurg to Berlin. The curs. upments, like the inside of a coach, the passengers sitting facing each other. In the compartment he selected were four other persons, two mammas and two daughters. The two mothers were face to face in one corner, the young man took the opposite, and found himself face to face with the young ladies. He soon after fell into a brown study, during which the conductor repeatedly demanded his ticket without success, and the young ladies were secretly laughing at his bewil-

ive spectacle. The barriers of conven tionalism and policy, which hedge in the sane intellect, and obscure its manifestations, are removed by insanity, and we are permitted to study the primitive elements of our intellectual and emotional nature in a state, so to speak, of comparstive nucity. The deductions of this morbid analysis must, of course, be corrected by inductions from the phenomeua of sound mind, to be either valuable or reliable.

Hence with some taste for metaphysical studies, I resort to lunatic asylums, as the physician does to ho-pital-, to learn from the irregularities of diseased intellect the laws and conditions of intellectual health. In this way I have collected some curious statistics in relation to insanity, and have occasionally met with strange adventures.

In the summer of 185- I visited a lunatic asylum located in one of our Southern States. As it was founded and patronized by the State, it was on a large scale both as to accommodations and the number of its inmates. The policy of the institution not being restrictive, the neighboring States contributed their full quota of unfortunates to fill its cells. Every stage and almost every type of insanity were to be found among the inmates .--The fierce madman uttering black in-anities, and ready to read alike himself or his keepers; the mild monomonize, siternately under the dominion of hallucina tion and of reason; the phrensied lover brightening or darkening beneath the imaginary suiles or frowns of his mistress; the bewildered miser, heaping up bits of paper and rags, and gloating over them as jiles of gold; the hazy martinet, marshalling his phantom squadrons upon the field of his prison floor; the victims of every vice, the betrayed of every virtue, were there in sufficient numbers to exhibit the varying shades in the ascending or dercending line of their respective abber-Lations.

The main building of the asylum was immen-ely large, aud was crowned at the summit with a sort of tower or a place of look-out, which rose to a considerable beight above the central apex of the mas-Five structure. In other respects, there Follow me." was nothing worthy of special remark in the style or plan of the edifice.

who tenanted its cells, whom I had not before seen, came up and ly manner. He was fashionably, even elegently dressed, of large size, and posessed a sinewy development of nerve towards me, he said :

esque description on his part, and of at- bones could never survive it." out the stimulus of questions. It was a a fierce audacity of tone which bespoke of all his associates in misfortune. thrilling monologue, with an avity for its a resolution to attempt what his tongue The peculiar characteristic of his in- There they sat till midnight approachments

the highest floor. Ile paused a momont, A RAVING MADMAN !! thoughtfully, and then added :

to show you, and then we must part. I the first thought that flashed into my his keepers never to permit him to ascend sound ceased, and only the rushing wawish to point out to you the cunning con- mind. In a moment I saw the utter fu- the tower of the asylum-the trap door of ters and the dismal whistling of the wind I do not love dark." trivance by which the pre-sure of the tility and danger of the attempt. The which was always kept securely locked broke the stillness. Presently the capweight of the bigh tower which surmounts maniae was greatly my superior in size, down, and only opened by an officer of tain, accompanied by a man bearthe main building of the asylum is diffus- and doubtless, also, in strength. He was the institution, to admit visitors to the ing a lantern, appeared, and ored over a large era of support, and thus under the fierce stimulus of madness .- the summit and closed immediately after dered the unwelcome passengers forward. prevented from depressing any portion of The delirium of a fearful intent intensi- both their ascent and descent from the They arose, and without a word obeyed the roof or injuring any part of the edifice. fied his physical powers, and added ten. tower. On the day of my adventure the summons. Saying this, he ascended, and I follow- fold vigor to his nerves. I should be as through some unexplained oversight, the The boat was lowered, and two men ed him up a short flight of steps which a babe in his herculean grasp. To close door had been left open, and the means at the cars awaited orders. Mary prebrought us to the floor from which the with him, therefore, and attempt to over. of egress to the top of the tower thus af- pared to descend, and placing the babe tower sprang perpendicularly upward to power men, would be to make sure of in- forded, accidently discovered by my com- in her young daughter's arms, with a word a considerable height. As soon as we stantaneous destruction. He would seize companion, on our visit to that part of of caution, turned from them, and in a set foot upon the floor, I saw a long stout me and make the fearful leap which he the building. The alarm I had given on moment more was safely seated in the Frederick." adder, with one end resting near the spot meditated, with me in his arms. where we stood, and the other fastened My next impulse was to call for help, ent and several assistants to the tower .- watched the coming of Anna with her with iron rings to grapples driven secure- and bring the officers of the asylum to ly into the flat roof of the tower. The my rescue. This plan upon a moments topmost round was in close proximity to reflection, I abandoned as equally imthe place of exit to the summit of the tow- practicable and equally bezardous with er, which was a trap-door, now wide open the former. A strong wind blowing at and admitting a column of light into the the time, the height of the tower and dismal looking room in which we were thick interposing wall and doors, made it the tower. standing. My companion, catching a extremely doubtful whether my voice sight of the ladder almost as quickly as I had, uttered a sharp, quick ery, expres-sive of both surprise and delight, and ly certain that the madman made appresprang forward as if for the purpose of bensive, by the outery, of losing his vicascending it at once. But, as if arrested tim, would anticipate a rescue and bring by some sudden thought, he paused with one foot upon the first round, and his I decided to stand upon the defensive, continually ply up and down the Missishands prasping another higher up, ture- and take whatever chance for rescue or sippi, was a family group whose dejected ed his face towards me, and exclaimed escape there might be for me in the lot- appearance attracted general attention .in quickened tones :

With these words he sprang up the steadily and as impressively as I could, of unspoken grief. A young babe slept ladder with the agility and speed of a cat. into the glaring eyes of the maniac. He quictly in her arms. She looked loving-Having satisfactory letters of introdus- soon stepped out on the summit of the neither quailed nor seemed affected in ly upon it; and well she might, for it was tion to the superintendent, I was received tower, and I, following with more leisure- any way by the steadiness of my look, very beautiful. One little dimpled hand and treated with much civility and kind- ly and cautious steps joined him in a mo- but returned it with a gaze so fixed, rested upon her soft check, and the halfness during the whole of my visit. He ment afterwards. He stood erect and so deadly in its malignant stare parted lips and closely-shut eye-lids showgave me every facility for personal ob- motionless as a statue, only a foot or two that I lost all hope, and felt that my final ed how gently it slumbered. Now and servation, and imparted much informa- from the edge of the trap door through moment had indeed come, and that life then a little girl, sitting close beside her tion as to the history and peculiarities of which we had emerged, I passed on to with me would soon be over. the more remarkable cases. During my the front of him, and took my stand in a The maniac, eyeing me with the un- shawl that covered the child's face, lookrambles over the grounds, or through the position favorable for observation, and winking gaze with which the snake views ing smilingly up to her mother, and again apartments of the institution, I was ac- with my back turned to my companion. its victim, began to approach me, shriek- nestled closer to her side, till, as the evencompanied most usually by the superin- The view, as he had promised, was, in- ing as he advanced, the fearful words, ing advanced, weariness made her own tendent himself, and occasionally by oth- deed, surpassingly fine. The landscape "The LEAP-THE GLORIOUS lids droop, and she nodded herself into as Without another word the generous er officers of the asylum. After a week's lay, like a gorgeous panorama unrolled LEAP; we will take it now." His face sound asleep as the little dreamer in her boatman plunged into the water again, incessant visiting, I became almost domes- beneath us, stretching far away over bill waxed almost livid, his eyes were fear. mother's lap. The father sat nearly op- and glided here and there in search of ticated, and was permitted to pursue my and plain, until it melted, by soft gradu- fully dilated, and his expression was more posite the group, upon an old chest that the lost. In vain the lights flashed hithobservations and perambulations compar- ations, into the blue haze of the distant diabolical than it is possible to describe. contained their all. He looked haggard, er and thither, throwing a long streak of atively alone. It was indeed, to be alone, horizon. The various objects which di- His hot breath reached me, and fluttered pale and distressed. He had a long time brightness to the shore. Nothing was to stroll unaccompanied through the versify the summer scenery of the South the hair of my head. Leaning his per. sat with his head bowed upon his hand, in visible, and hope sank in the hearts of chambers of the mighty edifice, and lis- were distinctly vissible at seemingly great son forward, and stretching out his arms abstract, moody silence, now and then the lookers on who had gathered upon ten to the bablings of the darkened beings distances. It was a prospect full of the to their utmost length, as if to prevent looking toward his young wife as though deck, and even the harsh captain pitied lights and shades, the tints and touching my escape, he was already within a few he had something upon his lips to say, the mother, as he heard her agonized One day, soon after my entrance upon beauties, which the great artist-Nature feet of me when I exclaimed in a loud yet dared not utter. At length, in a sobs, when the search was abandoned, and the main floor of the asylum, a gentleman, -spreads with such prodigal bounty over voice, "The superintendent !"-pointing quick, harsh tone, in which there was the boatmen returned, chilled and wearher immortal canvass, and was worth of at the same time to the trap-door behind more of desperation than unkindness, he ied, from his fruitless efforts. No one accosted me in a familiar and most friend- reproduction beneath the creating pencil him. He hastily turned his head to look said: but without drawing in his arms or chan- "Mary, the captain says he shall put watched the ruffled waters. Amid the of Claude Lorraine himself. Downward, and immediately beneath ging the leaning po-ture of his body .- us on shore!" us, the view, if not so inviting as the more With the rapidity almost of lightning, I "What for?" was her astonished won- bereaved mother, the boat glided slowly and muscle, which indicated great activ- distant surrounding landscape, was, at darted between his legs, which, like his dering reply. ity and strength. His eyes were full and least, far more bewildering and unsettling arms, he had stretched outwardly, but "I've no money, Mary. After I bro't lustrous, and his features decidedly in- to the nerves. The summit of the tower not so tensely, and managed as I passed, you on board, I went back to G--- 's to tellectual in both contour and expression. upon which we stood was a square plat- to give each one a smart push with my try my luck once more, and the scoun-Making a polite inclination of his head form, of no very great dimensions, sur- arms. The stratagem was completely drels won every dollar. The knavesrounded by a low balustrade, apparently successful. The maniac, upset by the un- they've cheated me! If I could only have "A stranger, I presume, come to see much endangered by exposure to the expected assault upon his legs, fell for- had time to try my luck again, I'd soon the euriosities of the asylum, or, perhaps, weather. From the frail perimeter, there ward upon his face, and at full length have shown them that I could win as to visit some unfortunate friend or rela- was a perpendicular fall of many feet to upon the platform of the tower. Before roundly as they."

could be made to reach the ears of the matters to an immediate and fatal issue.

went through a similar round of pictur- I, "and a fearful one too. Flesh and in a word, a sort of index repertorium, or and again he threw himself down upon tentive li-tening on mine. He talked with- "Suppose we try it," he retorted, with in his memory the unwritten biographies hands, awaited the summons he momen-

theme, and the mournful aberrations of the propose ;- "try it-yes! I will and you sanity was a propensity to seek high al- ed. Quiet had taken the place of the wrecked u.ind for its gloomy embellish shall; yea, you shall make it with me." titudes, which when attained, always noisy confusion of the evening, as one af-

Since that adventure I have accepted sleeper.

no casual cicerones in lunatic asylums. J. W. T.

### SCENE IN A GAMBLE'S LIFE. BY IRENE.

Upon one of the crowded boats that tery of fate. My feelings at that moment The wife wore that melancholly expression "Come let's go up here, and I will show were awful beyond expression. I stood, of countenance that tells of a life-consumyou a glorious sight. The architectural beyond the reach of human help, upon ing heart sorrow which lies too deep to peared. curiosity can wait its solution until we the perilous edge of a high tower, a ra- be alleviated by sympathy. Her features come down. The view from the top of ving madman in front of me, escape in were sharpened by suffering, and her face, the tower is remarkably fine. It is not any direction from his merciless grasp, a which might once have been fair, had lost often we have so good a day to enjoy it. physical impossibility. Uttering a brief its round proportions, and the thin cheek ejaculatory prayer to Heaven, I looked and sunken, mournful eye revealed a tale on a low stool, peeped under the light

"What does she mean?" asked the astouished oursmen.

"Auna had the bate in her arms when I lifted her down to you," replied the excited and bewildered father. silence, save the half stifled grief of the ters that had embosomed the sleeping babe. On and on they softly moved, till the boats lights glimmered in the distance, and they could see the wavy lines of the shore, and the dark wood that bordered it.

iness with the conductor by signs. A moment after, the young ladies commenced conversation.

"This young man is a very handsome one." said one.

"flist, Bertha," said the other, with a sort of affright.

"Why, he doesn't know a word of German. We can talk freely. How do you

"Only ordinary."

"You are difficult. He has a charming figure and distinguished air."

"He is too pale, and besides, you know

"And you know I prefer dark to blonde. We have nothing but blonde in Germany. It is monotonous and commonplace."

"You forget that you are blonde." "Oh, for women it is different. He

has pretty moustaches." "Bertha, if your mother should hear you!'

"She is busy with her talk; besides, it is no hurt to talk of moustaches."

"I pefrer the blonde moustaches of

"I understand that Frederick is espoused to you; but I, who am without a lover, am free to exercise my opinions, and am

"They have no expression."

"You do not know. I am sure he has much spirit, and it is a pity he does not

"Would you marry a Frenchman?" "Why not, if he looks like this one, and was spirited, well born and amiable?----But I can hardly keep from laughing ----See, he doesn't mistrust what we are say-

The young traveler was endowed with a great power of self control. He look ed earefully at Bertha, and his resolution was taken. At a new station, the condoctor came again for the tickets. Our young man with extra elaboration, and in excellent German, said:

"Ab. you want my ticket. Very well -let me see; I believe it is in my portmonnaie. Oh, yes, here it is."

The effect was startling. Bertha nearly fainted away, but soon recovered under the polite apologies of the young Frenchman. They were pleased with each other, and in a few weeks Bertha ratified her good opinion of the young man, and her willingness to marry a Frenchman .--They live at Hamburg.

A Texan and an Illicois farmer word speaking of raising corn, &c., and the Illinois man was boasting of the superior yield of prairie land, and telling largo stories, as all Western men do, to which the Texan replied: "I'll tell you what stranger, they make large corn in your clearings, but it aint a circumstance to what we raise in the Colorado bottoms. Why the corn there averages thirty feat in height, with twelve ears to a stock, and a gourd fail of shelled corn on the top !"

There is an immense pigeon roost in Decaiur county, Ill., extending over a space of 28 by 14 miles, in which every tree has from ten to fifteen nests.

When you hear a young lady declare that she bates all men, that some some particular one has touched her fancy.

A man in Kentucky killed a cow a few days since, in whose stomach was found a large brass ring, a hair pin, a breast pio, and a quantity of hooks and eyes .---"Brindle" had probably swallowed the milkmaid.

We have heard of a fellow who was Close upon the shore stood a few ham- determined to commit suicide if he per-

lets; and bere in the midnight darkness, ished in the attempt.