

The Story of Morgan.

It is many years since the excitement over the mysterious disappearance of Morgan died out, but there are some still living who remember the case. To such the following statement by the venerable Thurlow Weed, will be interesting.

Mr. Weed was an editor in Rochester, and took a prominent part in all the proceedings in reference to Morgan, being a strong Anri-Mason. His connection with the case began from the first, as Morgan wanted him to print his book, which he refused.

"I was sorry to hear of the trouble Judge Gillis is having in his old age," said Mr. Weed; "I knew him very well, and he was a very worthy man, as were all those engaged in the persecution of Morgan. You can have no idea of the excitement that case caused for at least a decade- It became a political issue without any intention on the part of the Anti-Masons, and the latter became a strong party. Judge Gillis was not tried for the murder, but for abducting Morgan. The facts in the case are about these: Morgan was a drunken stone-mason and a member of the order of Free Masons. With the help of a country printer he printed an expose of the first three degrees of Masonry and was about exposing the Royal Arch degree when the Masons determined to put a stop to it. Morgan had come to me (I was in the newspaper business in Rochester at the time) to print his book, but he wanted me to take an oath of secrecy before I began the work, and I would not do so. The Masons had Morgan arrested on a trumped-up charge of petit larceny and lodged in jail. They then made arrangements to carry him off. A party of them, including Gillis, Nicholas G. Cheseborough, whose daughter called on me not more than half an hour ago, and James Whitney and others, went to the jail and after considerable parleying with the jailor's wife they prevailed on her to give Morgan up. This was about 9 o'clock in the evening, and the party drove off at once. The idea of the Masons was simply to get Morgan away from the bad company he was in, in which case the Masons believed he would give up his design of exposing the secrets of the Order. They proposed to buy him a farm in Canada and turn him from his evil ways generally. When the party left the jail they drove hurriedly to Mendum, when they changed horses, then to Rochester, Clarkston and Lewiston, driving rapidly and changing horses several times. Finally Morgan was lodged in the magazine in Fort Niagara. The plan was now changed to provide for Morgan by sending him away from civilization in the employ of the Northwestern Fur Company. There were several meetings of the Lodge and Chapter at Niagara on the subject, but many Masons refused to have anything to do with the scheme. Then the matter became imperative; something had to be done, and at once."

THE FATE OF MORGAN.

It was found to be dangerous to release or go on. After Morgan had been a prisoner in the magazine for three or four days there was a large meeting of Masons to install an Encampment in a Canadian town near by. Prominent men were present, including members of the New York Legislature, and the evening ended with a grand supper, at which excited speeches were made by several prominent members of the Order in the case of Morgan. At last the Chaplain was called on for a toast, and he gave the following: "The enemies of our Order; May they find a grave six feet deep, six feet long and six feet due east and west." This contained a hidden significance, and Colonel King, who was at the table, called four gentlemen outside, and a carriage being called, they were driven to Fort Niagara, where they arrived at 4 o'clock in the morning. Morgan was called up and was told that they had made arrangements for his welfare,

bought him a farm, etc. He went with them and they took a boat and rowed out four miles into Lake Ontario. Here they wound a rope loaded with sinkers around Morgan and threw him overboard. A man at the fort, whom I afterward looked up in Vermont, saw the boat leave with six men and return with but five. Of course, all these facts were denied, and the world said the committee that investigated the matter were politicians and were moved by interests other than those of discovering the truth."

"Have you any evidence to establish those facts?" was asked.

"I was just getting to that," said Mr. Weed. "Just as I was leaving Chicago at the close of the proceedings of the Convention which nominated Mr. Lincoln (I was mortified and even much disgusted at the defeat of Mr. Seward and was sending my baggage to the depot) Colonel John Whitney, one of the five men who took Morgan out in the boat, came to me and said, 'I want to swear to what I have told you about the Morgan matter, and if you survive me I want you to publish it.' I promised to write out the statement which contained substantially the facts I have given you, and intended to do so, but the campaign came on, the war broke out, and I was sent to Europe by Mr. Lincoln and I neglected it. While in London I wrote to Whitney asking him to go to E. B. Williams and let him write the statement. When I got back home that letter was returned to me from the dead-letter office, and Whitney had died a week before it should have reached him. I was always sorry that I did not write out the statement in Chicago."

TRAVELLER'S GUIDE.

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Trains on the Pa. & N. Y. R. R. pass this place as follows:
Moving South.
No. 3, at 5:02 a. m., for New York and way sta.
No. 7, at 10:10 a. m., mail train for New York, Philadelphia and intermediate points.
No. 9, at 2:41 p. m.—Express for Philadelphia.
No. 15, at 10:55, p. m.—Fast express for Philadelphia and New York.
No. 31,—Local Passenger Train, between Elmira and Wyalusing, 7:05 p. m.
Moving North.
No. 8, at 3:58 a. m.—Fast express from New York and Philadelphia.
No. 30, at 10:55 a. m., Wilkes-Barre accommodation.
No. 2, at 4:41 p. m.—Mail train from Philadelphia and New York.
No. 6, at 11:02, p. m., from New York.
No. 32, at 6:53 a. m.—Wyalusing and Elmira local.
STATE LINE AND SULLIVAN R. R.
Leave.
3:00 o'clock p. m. for Bernice and intermediate sta.
Arrive.
9:30 a. m., from Bernice.
BARCLAY R. R.
Leave.
7:30 a. m., for Barclay and all stations, and 3:00 p. m.
Arrive.
10:15 a. m., from Barclay and intermediate stations, and 6:20 p. m.
CANTON STAGE.
Leaves at 9 o'clock, a. m. Arrives at 5 o'clock p. m.
TROY STAGE.
Leaves at 10:30 a. m. Arrives at 1 p. m.
SHESEQUIN STAGE.
Arrives at 11 o'clock a. m. Departs at 12 m.
LERAYSVILLE STAGE.
Arrives at 12 m. Leaves at 2 p. m.
TERRYTOWN STAGE.
Arrives Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 12 m. Departs same days at 1 p. m.
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CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH—(Universalist) Rev. William Taylor, Pastor. Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m. Prayer and Conference Meeting Thursday evening at 7:30. Sunday School—L. F. Gardner, Superintendent—at 12 m.
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