

STORIES OF THE DAY.

Mahon's Ride—An Unfinished Law suit of the War Times.

I must tell a horse story of Lee's invasion of 1863 that ought to be historic, but that I believe has never appeared in print.

Mahon always had an eye to a good horse, and so it is not surprising that an animal belonging to an officer in Jenkins' cavalry brigade should have taken his particular fancy.

But somehow the town fathers of dear old Chambersburg imagined that the borough owned that horse, and as attorney for the town I was instructed to sue Mahon for the value of the animal.

I believe I will go back and try it. What a Rip Van Winkle proceeding it would be! I don't suppose I could win, for I never believed the old town had any more claim to that horse than I have to the moon.

What a picture in the notebook of the amateur Sherlock Holmes has developed this sign language to such a high degree of perfection shows considerable ingenuity.

As soon as possible I made my way to Mr. Cleveland and told him my name and business. I told him that I had no political influence, and that I only had four letters from old friends of my father, and one other from a friend of my own.

Three figures were found scrawled on the gateway of one house. The information thus pictorially conveyed was to the effect that the house was tenanted by a lady, one woman servant and a boy page.

Another picture in the notebook of the amateur Sherlock Holmes during his painstaking investigation of this subject showed accurate information, as was subsequently discovered, upon the part of the sign writer as to the interior of the house.

Frequently the burglars, says the amateur Sherlock Holmes, put these eight pictures on houses remote from those to which they refer, and in this case the identity of the latter is revealed by mysterious symbols.

Don't get frightened when you see chalk marks on your front stoop or area gateway. The probabilities are that they are merely the idiotic scrawls of boys.

A statue in bronze of a catamount is to be erected on a granite pedestal to mark the site of the old tavern at Bennington, Vt., in which were held the councils of military and state officers in Revolutionary days.

Wanted, to swap chances with some Philadelphia candidate. Address (in confidence) Mrs. J. O. Dominis, Honolulu, —Hawaii.

AMATEUR SHERLOCK.

LEAVES FROM HIS NOTEBOOK ON SIGN PICTURES OF BURGLARS.

What Chalk Marks on the Front Stoop or Gate May Mean—On the Other Hand, They May Be Only the Scrawls of Mischievous Boys Which Mean Nothing.

The amateur Sherlock Holmes has added another chapter to his notebook book which records the significance of trifles that are important clues to the doings of the criminal classes.

Now it appears, by what the amateur Sherlock Holmes has been revealing in a moment of confidence, that the dead walls of New York, stoops of houses, basements, entrances and area gateways are the signposts of the criminal classes, and that what look like the rude scrawlings of boys are in reality the secret symbols by which burglars communicate with each other.

Chalk marks under the edge of one of your front steps may mean that some house has been spotted and will be broken into on a certain date.

This man has a burglar alarm on his second story windows and keeps a revolver under his pillow, but the silverware in the butler's pantry on the first floor, and the house may be entered through the second basement window, where the latch is broken.

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HOPE FOR PATRIOTS.

The time is near at hand, alas, when orators glorio will stir our patriotic hearts from the convention floor.

CLEVELAND'S KINDNESS.

He Gives a Helping Hand to an Ambitious Youth.

A gentleman in Baltimore has received a letter from a friend, telling of a young man without political influence obtained an appointment as a naval cadet from the president.

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DID HOLMES USE IT? WHY HE SUCCEEDED.

THEORY THAT THE ALLEGED MURDERER USED NITROBENZINE.

Bodies Placed in This Deadly Chemical Are Completely Dissolved—Instances of Some Notorious Murderers Who Were Scientific Men.

The mystery which surrounds the disappearance of some of the alleged victims of Dr. H. H. Holmes has set a Buffalo chemist to thinking and theorizing, and he has produced a most novel theory regarding the method probably used by Holmes to make away with the bodies of some of his victims after all the little preliminaries in the way of collecting insurances money and the like had been concluded.

Holmes is a man of scientific ideas, a man who has kept abreast with the march of science in all its branches, and who has been apparently something of a pioneer in research himself.

This Buffalo chemist, who seems to have been devoting considerable time to the matter, has worked out a theory that Holmes may have used a preparation known as nitrobenzene for the removal of his victims after he had used them for whatever purpose he had in view.

The great study of criminals when they have committed a murder is the disposal of the body of their victim, and strange as it may seem, the most educated men, the most scientific, the most staid thinkers as well as the uneducated and the heavy brained, all commit the fatal error of a too great eagerness.

There was the Parkman-Webster murder, one of the most celebrated in the history of killing in this country. Professor Webster, the demonstrator of anatomy at Harvard college, killed Parkman, the professor had handled hundreds of cadavers in his time and was thoroughly familiar with the disposal of the remains of bodies after they left the dissecting room.

Every one who reads the newspapers at all must remember the great career of the murderer of Unger, in New York, some years ago—the man who killed his friend, August Boller, and shipped his remains to the States in a trunk.

Holmes seems to have been more successful, for up to the present time there does not seem to be, judging from what has been published, very much direct evidence against him in any of the cases.

Some time ago in Manhattan, Alsace, there was an explosion in a chemical factory in a room where there was stored a quantity of what is known as nitrobenzene.

That set the chemists to thinking, and they experimented with the bodies of animals, with the result that it was found the stuff destroyed every particle of the body, blood, bones, flesh and teeth.

This appeared in John Bull of June 13, 1824 (page 198) and the apt word was obviously remarked that it was utilized before the word is again to be met in English books, and on March 14, 1829, Charles Greville noted in his diary that "Herries told Hyde Villiers that their (the Tories) policy was conservative, that of the Whigs subversive, and that they never could act together."

The word, employed by both Canning and Herries, was thus "in the air" before it was given in a statement made in the course of a correspondence on the "Etymology of the Word Conservative" which appeared in The Standard at the end of October, 1829, wherein it was said to have been first used in 1829, during the closing controversies upon Roman Catholic emancipation.—Notes and Queries.

When approaching your horses from the front, you must call out to them, else they will kick your thick skulls, and the end of the story will be that we have nothing but lame horses in the squadron.—Solitaire and Friends.

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HOW TO STOP THE CONTEST.

If Quay Really Desires Peace It Can Be Secured by His Withdrawal.

Senator Quay, who precipitated this fight in the party, is now seeking a compromise by all the means in his power. For him this present battle against the state administration has gone far enough. Defeat stares him in the face.

"My seat in the senate and all I have besides had root in a game of poker." Here the senator gazed benignantly about his small audience. He was in a reminiscent mood. He was a wise, deep sea little senator, as sapient as ever went into executive session.

"I was born and brought up in a town in Kentucky. It was a small town. You could throw a larriat about the whole outfit and drag it with a poxy. But it was a highly moral town. As a community it had a pet law. It made a specialty of enforcing the statutes against gambling. No games of chance could thrive in that community.

"They would admire to catch a judge or prosecuting attorney violating the law merely to demonstrate the Puritan fairness of local sentiment." "It was the June term of the circuit court. There was a crowd of lawyers in town. The judge himself was from down the Ohio river.

"The hotel would never do. A light in any room after 10 o'clock would have provoked the most able warden and investigation as well. The prosecuting attorney was one of the foremost in arranging the coming speculation. It was he who, in the fertility of his nature, suggested the flatboat.

"Every one who reads the newspapers at all must remember the great career of the murderer of Unger, in New York, some years ago—the man who killed his friend, August Boller, and shipped his remains to the States in a trunk.

"The water was 30 feet deep. The survivor all but drowned the colonel, however. At last he was fished out and laid across a barrel to await the Ohio river from his system. The whoops and yells of the voyagers at last brought a yelp little tug to their aid. They found themselves 17 miles below the town. For \$30 of Colonel Stebbins' gains the tug towed the party back.

"They arrived at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and found the town silently lining the levee waiting for them. They were one and all promptly indicted. In the frank enthusiasm of youth my friend and I relaxed how we had cast these poker games adrift on the Ohio. We made a grave mistake when we told this story. Publicly we were threatened with indictment; privately we were menaced with death by the gentlemen we had betrayed to the river.

"The method is sure to be adopted everywhere hereafter for the direction of great bodies of men moving in parades—Holland in Philadelphia. A rare work is as inevitably discovered by the facial expression as its opposite is sure to be clearly represented there. The human face is nature's tablet. The truth is certainly written there.—Lavater.

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