## A Strange Tale.

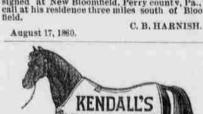
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One of the most remarkable stories ever told in a newspaper is that of Miss Mary Hammell, a young woman 21 years of age, who is a grand-daughter of Philip L. Freneau, the well-known American writer. Miss Hammell is one of two sisters, the eldest being a widow, who owns a small property and resides at Winfield, L. I. A year and a-half ago they rented a portion of their dwelling to a Mrs. Caroline C. Allen, a woman about 55 years old, who came to them highly recommended with letters representing her to be engaged in philanthropic labors, and who pretended to have a son, the Rev. Mr. Charles Allen, in this city. Mrs. Allen soon came to be the ruling spirit in the establishment, and at once assumed a complete control over the younger sister, Miss Hammell. A quarrel with the elder sister led to Mrs. Allen's expulsion from the house, and her arrest and sentence on conviction to jail for six weeks for assault. At the end of this time she made her appearance again, however, asserted her old influence over Miss Hammell, and compelled the latter to go away with her, notwithstanding the protests of the elder sister. This was the last heard of Miss Hammell until last Friday, when she was discovered confined in a little room which had been nailed up, six by ten feet, in an old mansion at Flushing, L. 1. Her sister had made every effort to find her, but in vain. When found she was barefooted, had on only three filthy garments, and was so weak from hunger that she could scarcely stand. She had been imprisoned in this place without a spark of fire and with only a loaf of bread for food furnished every three days since the middle of November. Her story was that after leaving her sister's home she had been persistently maltreated by Mrs. Allen, who during all that time had kept her a prisoner, who had compelled her to surrender to her a bank-book representing a deposit of \$400, and who had even foreed her to sign a paper conveying to her (Mrs. Allen) the property which she (Miss Hammell) owned jointly with her widowed sister. The indignities and outrages to which she had been subjected make a startling tale, but the most surprising part of it is the meekness with which the young woman submitted to her wrongs, and suggests the fact, which is borne out by her own story, that she is weak-minded, if not actually an imbecile. Two years ago, however, before she had fallen into the power of Mrs. Allen, she is said to have been more than ordinarily intelligent. Altogether the story is one of the strangest true tales ever told in a newspaper, and newspapers tell many strange true tales .- N. Y. Sun.

## Valuable Cattle Burned.

Possibly the most horrible and wholesale destruction of valuable thoroughbred cattle ever occurring in Pennsyvania took place in the burning of the barn on the Elizabeth farms, Lancaster co., on Friday night a week. The barn was destroyed by the hand of an incendiary between twelve and one o' clock. With it fifty-two head of thoroughbred Jersey cattle, seventy-five game chickens, five thoroughbred hunting dogs, fifty tons of hay and thirty tons of straw, were destroyed. These farms, belonging to the G. Dawson Coleman estate, and managed by Colin Cameron, have a widespread reputation for producing fine cattle which have carried off prize after prize at the state fairs. The farms are three in number, all managed by Mr. Cameron, who resides in the mansion on farm No. 1. On this, the mansion farm, as it is called, were kept all the registered cattle, which were placed in the immense barn. Shortly after twelve o'clock Friday night this barn was discovered to be on fire, and in a short time it was totally destroyed, with all its contents. Mr. Cameron's brother and others who were first on the ground, found that the flames had already gained possession of the building and they could hear the cries of the poor brutes which were being slowly roasted. All efforts to save any lives were utterly useless, and it was not long before the building was in ruins. One of the farm bands states that he was awakened by the bellowing of cattle, and when he looked out of the window he saw the barn in flames. The night was bitter cold and nobody seemed astir. Above the roar of the flames could be heard the awful groaning and bellowing of the poor cattle, chained to their stalls. When he reached the barnyard the heat was so great that he could hardly open the doors. He says he tried to open the doors but the fire had gained such rapid headway that he was too late. Through the window he could see the poor brutes being roasted alive. The loss is one of the saddest blows to the owners of stock over received in this state, as many of the animals were very valuable,





IT Among the first dutics the new justice of Almond, Alleghany county, N. Y., was called upon to perform was to appiy a matrimonial noose. It was only after the ceremony that he discovered that he had lassoed two men. One of whom was artistically banged and petticoated for the occasion and the canard.



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From Rev. N. P. Granger. Presiding Elder of the St. Albans District.

St. Albans, Vt., Jan. 20th, 1880.

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