

MURDERED AS A WITCH.
Talk of a Delirious Woman Causes the Death.

An affair has recently developed near Stonewall, in the Chickasaw nation, which recalls the stories of witchcraft, witches and spells of the time of Cotton Mather. While the "witch" in this case was not burned alive, she was murdered, her body given to the flames and all her belongings destroyed.

Near Stonewall lived a quarter-breed Indian, with a grown son and daughter. The daughter was a widow and kept house for the father and son. The father's name is Joe Gilchrest, the son is known as Young Joe and the daughter was Mrs. Sophia Loder.

Gilchrest is the owner of quite a tract of land, and until recently the owner of a large herd of cattle and a considerable number of hogs and sheep. The Texas fever killed off the cattle in such numbers as to astonish him, and, to add to his troubles, cholera got into his hogs and the murrain into his sheep, so that they numbered not a score all together.

At this juncture, coming into the house one day in February, completely discouraged, he said to his daughter, bitterly:

"I believe some one has put a 'spell' on me and caused the death of the stock."

The woman brooded over the remark to such a degree that in a few days she, too, took sick and was soon delirious. In the midst of her delirium she would cry out:

"Yes, yes! There's the 'witch!' She's glaring at me! Oh, keep her off! There she goes on a broomstick! Don't let her come back! It's Lucy Mackin and I know she's after my blood!"

Now, Lucy Mackin was a poor, offensive old woman, who lived a short distance from Gilchrest, in a little old log hut, surrounded by an acre of ground, with a cow and a pig and a few articles of furniture. She did not bear the best of reputation in the country, but nothing was positively known against her.

Mrs. Loder died in her delirium, with her last breath calling upon her father and brother to "keep Lucy off." As soon as she was dead, the father and son mounted their horses, armed with Winchesters, and rode rapidly to Mrs. Mackin's house. They found the old lady in her hut, attending to her duties, and, regardless of her protestations of innocence and cries for mercy, shot her down in her room. Then they killed the cow and pig, tore up the shackles and the fence, dragging them all into the hut, set fire to it and watched it burn until everything was completely destroyed—until not a vestige remained—fearing that the least atom might breed disease and death throughout the country.

As soon as the outrage became known there was great indignation among the better class; but, strange to say, the Gilchrests had many supporters among the ignorant half-breeds and Indians, who declared they had done just right. The murderers were arrested and taken before the Indian court, but discharged without even a reprimand, thus putting the seal of the approval of that court upon their devilish action.

Mrs. Loder's funeral was a very large one, and the rites at the grave were of the ancient character, with the idea of keeping away ghouls and witches. Incantations, drum-beating and harangues by the medicine men were the principal features.

St. Louis Republic.

A Monk's Prophecy.

It is now 20 years since a poor Franciscan monk prophesied that Leo XIII., who was then only just made pope, would reign for 20 years. As Leo XIII. was at that time an extremely fragile and delicate man, it was not expected that he would live as long as 20 years; but he has, and it is said that those about him are very fearful now lest the prophecy should be fulfilled. The story goes, by the way, that ten years ago an attempt was made to shake the faith of the Franciscan monk in his own prediction. A telegram was brought into the monastery, where he and his brethren were seated, announcing the pope's death. All present except this man fell into bitter distress. He alone remained unmoved, declaring that the news could not be true, for the pope had still ten years to live.

Why New Chimneys Smoke.

Why do new chimneys smoke? New chimneys smoke because the brick and mortar, being damp, form good conductors of heat, and take it from the rising current of warm air. This, then, condenses and obstructs the ascent. When the chimney becomes dry and is covered with non-conducting soot, this source of trouble is removed.

Size and Weight of Jupiter.

The diameter of Jupiter is about 85,000 miles, or nearly 11 times that of the earth. Its volume is 1,233 times that of the earth; but owing to its being of less density, its mass of weight is but 300 times the earth's.

HANDLED HARSHLY BY FATE.

J. W. Morel a Pauper After Owning 35,000 Acres of Land in Mexico.

A man who helped to conquer Mexico under Gen. Taylor, who was largely instrumental in the overthrow of Emperor Maximilian, who owned hundreds of thousands of acres and herds of cattle and bands of horses, who for many years lived like a prince, has been sent a pauper and a menacing maniac to the Highland asylum at Los Angeles, Cal. His name is James W. Morel, and his 74 years have been full of adventure and incident.

When the Mexican war broke out he was a lusty youth, and he enlisted in Hayes' Texas rangers. He fought well and won several commissions, and when peace was declared he declined to become a citizen of the country he had helped to conquer, and settled on the coast of the Gulf of California. He married an heiress, who brought him a ranch of 38,000 acres, and he acquired more, until he became one of the largest rancheros of the republic.

Then Maximilian landed. Morel brought out his old saber, gathered his peons and ranch hands into a regiment and presented it to Gen. Ramon Corona, together with a well-filled military chest. He also aided in outfitting Gen. Moreno, and is credited with organizing and commanding for a time the famous Aztec brigade.

Morel found the republic ungrateful. His possessions were continually raided by the guerrillas of both sides, his relatives were dispersed, and about fifteen years ago he found himself penniless and came to California. When the soldiers' home was opened he became an inmate, but of late his mind has given way. He has imagined that he was again the powerful land baron of former years, and with his old lordly ways tried to rule about him. When opposed he grew violent and wished to settle his host took him home. The incident caused quite a sensation.

AFRAID TO FACE AN AUDIENCE.

Guerrilla Mosby Seized with Stage Fright and Disappoints a Crowd.

Col. John S. Mosby, the guerrilla chief in the confederate service, had a case of stage fright at Richmond, Va., and caused great disappointment to the members of the Commonwealth club by his failure to make an address at the club's smoker, after he had accepted an invitation to do so and had come to the beautiful home of the social organization on West Franklin street. Its monthly smokers are delightful occasions in club life, and it is considered an honor to be chosen speaker. Col. Mosby, who is visiting at Richmond, was asked to give some of his reminiscences, and the announcement of his acceptance drew a very large crowd. Many of Mosby's men live here and these were especially anxious to hear their beloved and daring commander recount his thrilling experiences. It was also expected that Col. Mosby would discuss his recent letter defending his course in supporting Gen. Grant for president in 1872.

Col. Mosby went to the clubhouse at the appointed time, but he could not be induced to make his address, or even to enter the room where the waiting audience was assembled. When an hour had been spent in trying to coax him to respond the exercises opened, and Joseph Bryan, who is entertaining Col. Mosby, made the most graceful excuse possible for the stage fright of his guest.

When Mr. Bryan concluded there were loud calls for Mosby, who was in an anteroom, and he was finally taken by friends and pulled into the assembly hall. He hid his face in his hands, and as soon as the grasp of his friends was released the fearless fighter of 35 years ago dashed out of the door without explanation and proceeded to another part of the building, where he remained until his host took him home. The incident caused quite a sensation.

"OWNEY" ALIVE.

The Dog Traveler Was Not Killed in Cleveland.

"Owney," the dog traveler, is not dead at all. It was reported that he was shot in Cleveland April 10 and long sketches of his eventful life were published. Capt. White, superintendent of the railway mail service at Washington, sent an official inquiry to the division superintendent at Cleveland asking if the report was true and if the dog's body was in a condition to be stuffed for exhibition in the postal museum in Washington. His letter came back with this endorsement by George W. Pepper, Jr.:

"Respectfully forwarded to the general superintendent railway mail service, Washington, with the information that the dog mentioned in this clipping was not 'Owney.' A policeman killed an everyday, ordinary cur at the Union station and a reporter did the rest. The last heard of 'Owney' was that he had gone to Cincinnati to meet the new superintendent, from which point he was routed to the exposition at Nashville."

Superintendent White also received a letter from J. H. Melven, a postal clerk living in St. Louis, stating that "Owney" was alive and well, excepting an attack of the mange, from which he was convalescent. Mr. Melven said, however, that "Owney" was getting cross in his old age and thought he ought to cease his travels, offering to make a home for him, and see that his remains were buried in the same strain.

Capt. Coombs was much surprised, as he had no recollection of ever having seen the speaker. He asked his name, and when told that the man he was taking into port was Henry Fancy, his sister's son, he was overjoyed. He had not seen Capt. Fancy since the latter was a little boy.

THIRTEEN PROVES A HOODOO. Young Man of Brooklyn a Living Exponent of Alleged Fatalism.

There is in Brooklyn, N. Y., a living exponent of the alleged fatalism of the No. 13. His name is Victor G. L. Bedford. He was born on Friday at 13 minutes after 13 o'clock (according to the new code of time), or one o'clock a. m., 13 years ago last Friday at daylight. Thirteen young chickens which had been born in his mother's back yard the day before were found frozen to death.

As soon as the outrage became known there was great indignation among the better class; but, strange to say, the Gilchrests had many supporters among the ignorant half-breeds and Indians, who declared they had done just right. The murderers were arrested and taken before the Indian court, but discharged without even a reprimand, thus putting the seal of the approval of that court upon their devilish action.

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Sweden Fireworks.

The little town of Nasro, in Sweden, has a feminine department, 150 strong, in its fire brigade. The water supply of the village consists simply of four great tubs, and it is the duty of the women "fremen" to keep these full in case of fire. They stand in two continuous lines from the tubs to the lake, about three streets away, one line passing the full buckets and the other sending them back.

A Big Rifle Factory.

The recent death of M. Martini, the famous Swiss gunmaker (who invented the breech action which, in combination with the Henri barrel, forms the celebrated Martini-Henri rifle, now in use by the British army), lends new interest to the great rifle factory, where 1,500 hands are employed in making the celebrated arms with which the name is inseparably connected. Each gun costs the government about twelve dollars.

How Pagans Viewed Snakes.

In pagan art the serpent was an emblem of deity. Plutarch says: "It feeds upon its own body, even so all things spring from God, and will be resolved into deity again."

The President's Salary.

The salary of the president for one year, if paid in gold, would weigh exactly 200 pounds.

England's Wealth.

England has 35 per cent. of the wealth of the United Kingdom.

L'Orchestre Mexicain.

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