

The Dreaded Alabama In Battle.

On Jan. 11, 1865, the Alabama was her first honors in battle with a United States ship of war. Commander Sommes had laid his course for Galveston in the expectation of destroying a fleet of Union transports rumored to lie there, but instead his lookout reported a vessel of war lying off the harbor. They were enforcing the blockade, as Sommes soon discovered, and not caring to fight under the circumstances he hauled away, pursued by the Hatteras, an ironclad ramboat constructed from a river steamer. The Alabama apparently ran from her antagonist a distance of 20 miles. Meanwhile, night closed in, with no other vessel in sight. Sommes beat to quarters, prepared for action and wheeled to meet his pursuer.

Captain Blake of the Hatteras was first to hail. Receiving the answer that the stranger was the British steamer Petrel, he at the same time announced his own vessel, stating that he would send off a boat. Suddenly a speaking trumpet was heard on board the alleged British frigate crying out, "This is the Confederate steamer Alabama!" The Alabama was followed by the Hatteras, side from the cruiser, but miscalculated it, it found the Hatteras ready, her ports open and the men at the guns. The vessels were sailing in the same direction, about half a mile apart. Returning the Alabama's fire, the Hatteras steamed ahead, a movement imitated by the enemy, so that the two continued on a parallel course, pouring full volley into each other.

Captain Blake knew that his ship was the weaker of the two in iron plating and the fight by boarding the cruiser. He got within 50 yards of her, where pistol and musket shots were exchanged between those stationed on the tops, but the Alabama sheered off, planting at the same time two shells in the hold of the Hatteras and setting her on fire in two places. Another shell soon pierced the steam cylinder of the Hatteras and disabled her steering gear and pumps. The walking beam had been shot away and her iron plating torn off at the waterline, causing a bad leak. "Notwithstanding his plight, Captain Blake continued to fight until the Alabama stood off the bow of the Hatteras, out of reach of her guns. Finding that the vessel was rapidly sinking, he fired a signal of distress and ordered the magazine flooded to prevent an explosion. The crew then cut off in boats and two minutes later the Hatteras went down.

The Alabama was the superior vessel both in guns and speed. She was also built for war, as the Hatteras was not, and all her machinery lay below water line. The only casualty on board of her was one man wounded. On the Hatteras two seamen were killed and five wounded.

GEORGE L. KILMER.

THE PATHOLOGICAL NOVEL.

A Medical View of the Latest Specialty in Modern Fiction.

Among physicians "The Heavenly Twins" is looked upon as a literary venture to be judged by artistic standards, but as a readable representation of symptoms which suggest definite pathological conditions.

"Sins That Lie Under Night" is admirable as a pulmonary record, and "The Yellow Aster" affords an insight into the psychic phenomena resulting from neglect of natural instincts and desires, which, surviving the appropriate period of life, subsequently assert themselves in the form of belated maternal instincts and facts pathogenetically.

As to Miss Farraden's book, while we find it useful in the profession for its glimpse into refined sickness conversation and pulmonary persiflage, we regret, from a medical point of view, that after giving such a careful history of the heroine's case the author permitted her to be killed by an omnibus. It is humiliating to after following attentively the progress of the disease and the method of treatment, to be told that an omnibus was the cause of death and to be dismissed without hearing the results of the autopsy. Moreover, we found her style so delightful that we would have gladly followed the hero to the last hemorrhage, but that, too, was denied us.

Sarah Grand's cases are open to the same objection of incompleteness. She starts out enticingly with such a character, for instance, as Edith's husband, but leaves the latter and more interesting phrases of his pathological history untold. As a general rule, however, she comes up to the requirement of modern fiction; the cases of most of her characters can be diagnosed, and with a little more clinical experience we have no doubt that her future novels will be above reproach.

There is danger lest in the first stages of the medical movement in literature young writers will attempt to cover too wide a pathological area in their novels and forget the inexorable law of specialism that obtains in the medical profession itself.

To introduce a parietic or staxio patient in a dermatological novel would not only destroy the nitty of the story, but would justify the author to a suspicion of a want of thoroughness. If the writer has determined upon appendicitis as his plot, he should not waste his energies upon irrelevant diseases in his minor characters. He should gain variety by introducing other forms of enteric disorders, but should never exceed the limits of the abdominal region. Until he has had a thorough medical training we think the course of a single disease should supply him with all the medical literary material that he can handle in an intelligent manner. A blow on the head supplied the author of "God's Plan" with all the plot that he needed. The "Ghosts" is simply the dramatization of an inherited brain disease, and many unsuccessful short stories based upon a case of simple mania with delusions.—American Medical-Surgical Bulletin.

NEWS OF NEW YORK.

RECENT DEATHS PUT GOTHAM SOCIETY IN MOODING.

"Birdie" Fair's \$15,000,000—New York Editors Entertain—Helen Keller—The War for Cheap Bread—The Theatrical World.

New York, Jan. 9.—(Special.)—Gotham society is in mourning on account of the recent deaths in the ranks. These have come so closely bunched together that it almost seems as if some malicious fate was desirous of spoiling the season by putting several of the leading families into mourning, just when they and their hospitably are most essential to society's pleasure. The passing away of his Dr. Deimold sends into retirement his son and his two daughters, Mrs. Eugene Lenthion and Mrs. Benjamin Komate. Then the Hermann Oelrichs and Miss Fair will be in deep mourning for the recent death of their father, and all that they might have contributed to the general enjoyment is lost. Their period of mourning will probably extend through the summer too, but when they do emerge from it what royal entertaining may be expected from the heirs to over forty million dollars. Little Miss Fair will be in the first rank of matrimonial prizes, like the Misses Gould and Miss Vanderbilt. The Bradley-Marsins, as everyone knows, were prepared to generously reciprocate all attentions received, and the fashionable set were justified in expecting something out of the common at their hands. But they, too, are shrouded in wraps, and have canceled all engagements.

By the will of her father, the late Senator Fair, Miss Virginia Fair, better known as Miss "Birdie" Fair, will come into a modest fortune of something like \$15,000,000. Miss Fair is a delightful girl, bright, vivacious and pretty, and with a little will of her own, which is credited with the determination of not letting her marry except her heart bids her do so. Last season rumor had it that Mr. H. Mallard Kersey might be the fortunate man to win her, and later it was suggested that young John W. Conway, Jr., was a likely candidate for her hand. He and Miss Fair had known each other since childhood, and his father is her guardian. Rumor is now at sea.

New York editors are getting along splendidly in society. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wood give a ball on Monday night, January 21st, which will be as handsome an affair as its predecessors. The first in 1893, was at Delmonico's and a coming-out for their daughter, Miss Emma Wood. The dancing will be informal before the supper, and will be followed by a cotillon, during which many pretty favors will be distributed. Miss Wood, who is the only child of her parents, is a very attractive and accomplished young girl and a great heiress. She is also an excellent whip, which counts for much these days, and her taste of prize horses was much observed on the ocean drive at Newport during the past season. Mr. Wood is the editor and one of the proprietors of the Daily News.

Helen Keller, the pretty and remarkably intelligent blind, deaf and dumb girl of Boston, has come to New York to spend some time completing her education, and she has brought with her her kitten, of which she is very fond. It is a very nice kitten, too, and its name is Topsy, a pseudonym bestowed by a poet godfather, and no less a person than Edmund Clarence Steadman. The name of one very small cat might not seem to be a matter of great moment, but this name has been the subject of considerable discussion, and its importance has grown with the number of words be-


stowed upon the bearer. Everyone may not know that bright little Helen Keller is, and will be for some time to come, a resident of New York. Her cheery words, sweet thoughts, and great enjoyment of life under conditions—the loss of sight, hearing, and still recently, the power of speech—which would seem to many persons unbearable, have made her known all over the world. She is now at the Wright-Humason school, 42 West Seventy-sixth street, with Miss Sullivan, her teacher and friend, who has translated the world to her since she was a wee, small child. She is continuing her education and learning, particularly, pronunciation and voice modulation.

The war for cheap bread continues unabated. The retail grocers have long insisted that the bread barons should lower their prices or at least increase the size of their five-cent loaves, but their appeals have so far been in vain. Many of the grocers are now selling not only the bread of the barons, but of the smaller independent bakeries as well. The big loaves of the smaller bakers are running the bread street ones of the barons out of the business. An amusing feature of the situation in the city now being waged for cheaper bread, is the fact that many of the customers are asking the grocers and others to weigh the bread. These customers refuse to take the loaves unless they are larger than the bread sold by the bread barons. They have apparently taken the standard of weight recently published in the columns of the Tribune, and refuse to pay over four cents for eighteen ounces of bread. Eighteen ounces is the weight of the small loaves of the bread trust, which they insist shall be sold for five cents retail. The majority of the people who buy bread daily refuse longer to pay this outrageous price, and are consequently patronizing the bakeries of the independent bakers and bread grocers who refuse to keep the bread baron's bread. There is no excuse for people now to pay a higher rate for bread than four cents for eighteen ounces. Most of the five-cent loaves of the independent bakers, and their shops are legion and can be found on every business avenue in the city, weighing from twenty-two to thirty ounces.

An interesting theatrical production will be made at the Berkeley Lyceum on Thursday evening, January 17th, when Courtney Thorne, assisted by Miss Decks and a specially selected professional cast, will present for the first time on any stage a psychological drama by Charles Haddon, provisionally called "The Opium Eater." Mr. Haddon with William Barrett wrote "Our Pleasant Sin," a drama which produced by the latter in Chicago was highly praised by the critics of the city. A one-act play by him, called "A Fragment," was recently presented by young Henry Irving in Glasgow with much success. "The Opium Eater" was submitted some time ago to William Aronet, the distinguished English critic, who praised it highly for the strength of its story and the simplicity and force of its dialogue. Mr. Haddon's play was completed long before "The Opium Eater" was produced. Some changes in the original version have been made by Mr. Thorne, whose powerful impersonation of the victim of hardy in Ibsen's "Ghosts" would seem to particularly fit him for his role.

A local theatrical success is a melodrama called "The Fatal Card." In this play the evil agent is portrayed as plotting a robbery of the father of the man who has saved his life, and who is the lover of his daughter. All this while the villain is ignorant of the identity of the man whose ruin he nearly accomplishes, for the innocent is, by a series of well contrived expedients, placed under irremissible suspicion of the murder of his father. The circumstances of the crime were concealed with uncommon skill, and in that the chief excellence of the drama resides. There is a conventional preparation for the central scene, but when the climax is reached the effect is extraordinary. In general melodrama is burdened with details, and is made tedious with impossibilities. In this melodrama, aside from a few forced coincidences, the story is natural and coherent; and, however lurid its atmosphere may sometimes become, the piece is in pleasing contrast to the many morbid and ghastly melodramas with which the stage has of late been well nigh overwhelmed.

Wm. M. GARDNER.



Rev. C. W. Clegham

A highly esteemed clergyman of the M. E. Church, pastor of the Church Creek church in Dorchester Co., Maryland, writes: "I feel it my duty to send this certificate. I saw in a Philadelphia paper a letter from a man who had suffered from Muscular Rheumatism. He had been restored by the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla. I had the grip in the winter of '91 and '92 so severely that it deprived me of the use of my arms, and that my wife had to dress and undress me, and when I was better some I had to sleep in my clothes. I tried five doctors and not one accomplished anything. Then I saw the letter alluded to and determined to try Hood's Sarsaparilla. Before I had taken one bottle I had the use of my arms, thank God. These are facts and can be readily verified by any person here. J. M. Colston, Church Creek, supplied me with Hood's Sarsaparilla. The M. E. Church here, at Church Creek, Maryland." Hood's Pills are prompt and efficient, get your medicine. Sold by all druggists.

THE CURRENT BILL.

It will Pass Both Houses Amended—Wall Street Bankers Fighting Secretary Carlisle.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—(Special.)—One of the most important factors in uniting the Democrats of the House in support of the Carlisle Currency Reform bill, was the unprincipled fight which a clique of Wall street bankers have been making upon Secretary Carlisle, using this bill as an excuse, because he would not allow them to use him. Secretary Carlisle is deservedly popular with Democrats in Congress—and out of Congress, too, for that matter—and many of them determined to stand by him—and his bill, although there are things in the bill that some of them do not approve.

Now that the passage of the currency bill by the House is regarded as good as accomplished, its fate in the Senate is being discussed. Few Democrats are confident that it will even be allowed to reach a vote in the Senate, owing to the short time remaining of the session, but Senator Hill, who seldom expressed an opinion without having good reasons therefor, thinks that the Senate will pass the bill if it is amended to provide for the coinage of the silver dollar, as that would abate the fears of the Republican and Populist silver Senators to get the bill through. It has been stated, although I can not vouch for it, that President Cleveland and Secretary Carlisle would not object to such an amendment to the bill, and it is certain that many Democrats in both House and Senate would be greatly pleased to see the bill become a law so amended. C.

CANAL IMPROVEMENT.

Some Suggestions Concerning the scheme—danger of Urgent haste.

ALBANY, Jan. 8.—Some of the canal men here are expressing doubts as to the opportuneness of the time of submitting to the people a proposition to expend \$9,000,000 upon the State canal in November, 1895, be selected at that time, as suggested by the delegates representing the canal companies held in New York city on Friday last. One would not like to see such a proposition defeated; for it would give a setback to the movement for the improvement of the canals of the State which might last a quarter of a century.

It must be considered, say those canal men who are feeling that the canal improvement scheme may be defeated if submitted at the polls next November, that apparently the State tax will be largely increased by the present Legislature, no matter how economical the lawmakers may be. The indirect taxes have fallen off \$16,000,000, there are claims against the State amounting to \$650,000 which must be met, and New York and Brooklyn intend to have the State hereafter support their insane and thus save themselves an expense of \$1,200,000. Added to this Governor Morron has recommended that a special fund of \$1,300,000 be raised to meet the State Care Act appropriations as soon as they are due. The State Treasury thus has extraordinary demands upon it amounting to \$4,150,000.

If the State tax rate is largely increased owing to these unusual demands upon the Treasury the canal men fear that the voters will defeat at the polls the proposition to authorize the issue of \$9,000,000. It ought to be said that the canal men who are thus apprehensive are not hostile to the canal improvement plan. Upon the contrary they earnestly favor it. But they would not have their friends present it for the sanction of the people at an unlucky moment; when the times are hard and the taxpayers are looking keenly at every bill they receive from the county or State authorities. Great public works of course can be executed with economy when the times are hard and labor cheap. This ought therefore to be an argument with the voters in favor of making canal improvement now when thousands of laborers are out of work rather than to wait for boom times when labor is scarce and dear.

JACKSON'S DAY.

Senator Hill Writes a Patriotic Letter—Wall Street Bankers Fighting Secretary Carlisle.

New York, Jan. 9.—The Business Men's Democratic Association held its Jackson day banquet at the Plaza Hotel last night.

Senator Hill sent a letter, in which he said: "I rejoice that the association has not seen fit this year to omit its customary banquet, but recognizes the propriety of honoring the name and principles of Jackson in the year of our adversity as well as in those of our prosperity. This is the time above all others when the Democracy should get together; a time for faithful adherence to Democratic doctrines; a time for courage for zeal, for the revival of party spirit, for the elevation of official standards, for reform within party lines wherever it is needed, for unity of action and faith in the ultimate ascendancy of our principles."

Lightning Strikes Twice in the Same Place.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Jan. 9.—T. C. Argline, the stock raiser, is in hard luck. Several of his animals have been shot and seriously injured during the past few months by unknown persons. Last Summer a Wilkes Boy yearling was killed by lightning and Sunday night three of his best brood mares were killed by lightning in the same paddock where the yearling lost his life.

A Student Disappears.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Jan. 9.—There is much alarm at St. Stephen's College, Annandale, over the mysterious disappearance of F. Edda, a Japanese student, who has been attending that institution for three years past. He was suddenly taken ill at the college last Saturday and became violent and delirious and refused to allow physicians near him. He imagined he was fighting the battles of his country and putting to flight hosts of China-men. Monday, at midnight, he was carried out into the storm of sleet and snow. Nothing has been seen of him since. It is believed he has perished in the woods and parties of students are searching in all directions for some trace of him.

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