

# THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

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RED CLOUD, - - NEBRASKA.

## TRANSLATIONS FROM THE CHINESE.

TINY HILL.

"Over green fields and meadows a tiny hill  
(The little precious creature)  
she was pretty like a dove, and thus early be-  
gan  
Her flirting with all that she met,  
"Her favors on both sides she'd graciously  
shower,  
Regardless of whom they might be;  
One moment she'd kiss the sweet lips of a  
flower,  
The next she'd leap from a tree,  
"She would leap from one rock to another in  
play,  
Tumble down on her pebbly bed,  
Like a child, let the laughing sun-smitten  
spray  
Fall in prismatic gems round her head.  
"Sometimes she would laugh herself into rage,  
And rush roaring and scolding along;  
Till a bit of smooth ground would have spongy  
assuage,  
When she'd loudly murmur a song."

CHANG LIN'S PLUTE.

"'Twas night, the tired soldiers were peace-  
fully sleeping,  
The low hum of voices was hushed in re-  
pose,  
When a low note on the night air came steal-  
ing,  
So soothingly over the senses it fell,  
The night breeze,  
Like the musical notes of an aerial bell,  
"Now rising, now falling, now fuller, now  
clearer,  
Now lightly soft, now a low wailing cry,  
Now the cadences seem floating nearer and  
nearer,  
Now flying away in a whispering sigh,  
"Where came those sweet sounds? Who the  
unknown musician?  
That breathes out his soul which floats on  
the night breeze,  
In melodious sighs, in strains so Elysian,  
As to soften the hearts of rude soldiers like  
these?"

—Macmillan's Magazine.

## SLACK A LITTLE.

Slack a little! Slack a little,  
Daring wife!  
Why such breathless haste and hurry  
All the while?  
Slack the view of thy striving;  
Slack the pace;  
Tell those motes of Labor,  
Just to wait.

Slack a little! Slack a little,  
Busy hand!  
Slack thy rubbing and thy scrubbing;  
Drop the sand,  
Minister thy blessings devoutly,  
To the poor,  
Hind lover's thousand precious tendrils  
All the stronger.

Slack a little! Slack a little,  
Wary feet!  
Slack a thy roving and thy treading,  
Death to thee,  
Slack your quick and fearless stepping,  
Secure your strength,  
Ye the golden threads of life,  
Shall tread at length.

Slack a little! Slack a little,  
Precious heart!  
Slack the fever of thy throbbing,  
Lest we part,  
Thril not too with every sorrow,  
And the joy,  
Trembling like an angel lyre,  
Forever.

Slack a little! Slack a little,  
Sack thy those rapturous measure,  
Heaven may take thy those rapturous measure,  
Perhaps to-morrow.

Slack a little! Time—how fleeting—  
Slack the time,  
To my dear, long cherished treasure  
Let me cling,  
Go to my dear, long cherished treasure  
Let me cling,  
To my dear, long cherished treasure  
Let me cling.

Slack a little! Slack a little,  
Be of cheer,  
Vain thy strife and panting haste,  
All out of breath,  
See the fens of thy approaching,  
Thou hast no rest,  
Clasp her to thy breast,  
She will sing.

Slack, oh dear! How sure thy loss!  
Thou wast conquered on the cross.  
—Christian Union.

## WHO KILLED THE JUDGE?

One morning in March the janitor of the Court-house of B— entered the Judge's private room for the purpose of making a fire, and was frightened almost out of his wits at finding his honorable dignitary lying motionless on the floor. The janitor was about to retreat and raise the alarm when the Court-house bell, which he thought himself that the Judge might have a fit, and that he could render him the needed assistance. Therefore he hastened forward and tried to lift the prostrate man, who lay on the floor with one hand partially hidden in his bosom, while the other, lying near his head, held his pen-holder, the gold pen of which had its nib broken. But as the Judge was a large man, given over to some extent to obesity, and the janitor a cadaverous fellow who had been denominated "Bones" by the teachers of the Court-house, he found his attempt useless, and soon gave it up as futile.

At that time an unusually interesting court was in session at B—, and presided over by Judge Blakely. A large number of criminal cases had been disposed of, and but few remained which were of more than passing importance. The session just drawing to a close had attracted many people from the rural districts, and the several hotels were nightly taxed to their utmost capacity. Attorneys from a distance were in attendance, and many friends of the prisoner still remained in the Court-house, the wild ringing of the Court-house bell, fully three hours before the opening of the court, startled every body who heard it. There was catastrophe in its unwonted tones, and while Jabez Throck, the janitor, still held the rope, he heard the peal of the bell, and rushed to the stone corridor below. Releasing the rope, he planted himself at the top of the stairs and forbade the crowd surging up, saying that the Judge was dead, and that the coroner was needed.

The report of the Judge's death soon spread like wild fire, and the Court-house was speedily surrounded by the most exciting crowd ever seen in B—. After some delay, caused in a great measure by the extraordinary excitement, the coroner, a slow, but precise man, accompanied by his jury, proceeded to the Judge's room, the door of which was locked behind them in order to keep intermeddlers out.

Judge Blakely was found in the manner in which the janitor had left him, and the examination was begun.

The surgeons, who had come beforehand to the conclusion that apoplexy had taken the Judge off, were forced to abandon such ideas; for a brief examination told them that an assassin had been at work. The crushed skull over the left ear and four dagger stabs in the region of the heart were the proofs of the murder. Lying in its accustomed place by the coal-stove was seen one of the instruments of death—a short iron poker. But the dagger was missing.

The assassin who was, had first struck the Judge from behind with the poker while he sat in his great arm

chair at his desk, as the position of the chair and bed indicated, and then dealt the blows with the dagger.

In bearing of the sharp instrument of death, it was at first believed that the murderer had left no clew behind, but after the surgical examination a discovery was made that startled every one present—the blood-stains on the bed.

Lying upon the desk, and almost entirely concealed beneath a mass of legal documents, was a piece of legal paper, upon which was traced, in a spasmodic hand, these words:

Jason Bowers did this!

For some time past he had been an inmate of the County Jail, held there on a charge of forgery. On the day prior to the night of the Judge's murder this man Bowers had been acquitted by the jury selected to try him, and at the moment of the commission of the crime he was a free man. He had never been heard of since the trial, and the Judge, more than to remark that he thought that in the charge to the jury (the Judge) had favored conviction. At home the young man had not borne an irreproachable character, having engaged in affairs of questionable honor; but the trial for forgery was his first appearance before a criminal court.

Upon the evidence of the writing on the paper, which was pronounced by all to be in the late Judge's chirography, and beyond doubt the last work of his life, the sheriff resolved to take Jason Bowers into custody if he could still be found, as he was in the crowd below, and on the charge of malicious murder he was forthwith arrested and lodged in jail.

We now come to the most mysterious part of our narrative.

At the coroner's inquest but little light was thrown upon the crime. Jabez Throck, the janitor, said that he found the outer doors of the Court-house locked from the inside; and that he had been obliged to enter through the coal-cellar, of which he alone carried the key. It was not an uncommon thing for the deceased to remain in his room till 12 o'clock at night during a session of court, and upon such occasions he locked the Court-house when he left for home. Upon the janitor's testimony the theory that the murderer had been concealed in the building was started, but this was injured by the various county officers, who swore that they had locked the iron doors leading into their offices immediately after the adjournment of court, which gave the murderer no place for concealment but the stone corridors.

The Court-house was on the second story, and was reached by the river, and one of the town sewers connected with the stream. There was a bare possibility that a small man might have obtained ingress to the building by this sewer, but an examination of its mouth dispelled this theory. The Court-room was situated on the second floor. The murderer, it is thought, had the Judge's apartment, was compelled to cross the court-room, which, when wrapped in darkness, as it was when the murder was committed, was no easy task for one unacquainted with the arrangement of the furniture, etc. If the assassin had traversed the room as described, he had failed to displace a single chair, several having been placed in the aisles, and the manner of his exit were also left in the dark.

There was nothing to point to the evil-doer save the piece of paper already twice mentioned, and by the major part of B— inhabitants it was regarded as conclusive. Jason Bowers was accused to confess, but to the surprise of all he protested his innocence, and declared that at the proper time he would prove an alibi.

A law judge took Blakely's place, and the session was resumed. A new Grand Jury was summoned, which indicted Jason Bowers with willful murder, and after the disposal of several grand larcenies the young man was put upon trial for his life.

The District Attorney, a man who had won many eulogiums for his rigorous prosecution of criminal cases, was summoned to B— to look after the interest of the State. After an investigation of the case he declared that the jury would deliver a verdict of "guilty" without leaving their boxes, and the trial commenced.

It is called to-day "the great trial" at B—, though 15 years have passed away, and the old Court-house has given place to a new one.

Jason Bowers exhibited no signs of guilt when placed on the prisoner's stand and confronted by the crowd in which his friends might have been numbered by pairs. It is known that he hoped to prove an alibi, though few believed his ability to do so.

"If, gentlemen," said the District Attorney to the jury, in opening the case, "we shall show that immediately after the acquittal of the charge of forgery the prisoner made threats against the deceased, that he was seen in the residue of the Court-house at the hour of 10 or thereabouts on the night of the murder; if at the time aforesaid he, standing on the steps, addressed one of the witnesses for the State in his own undisputed voice, so that the witness will swear positively concerning his identity, we shall present a case that will demand conviction. But, if we shall further show, gentlemen, that the prisoner carried in his washerman at daylight on the morning after the commission of the crime, a shirt, the right cuff and bosom of which contained blood stains; if, proceeding further, we shall show that when the prisoner was arrested there was found upon his person a dagger whose blade fitted the several wounds in the deceased's breast, and if we shall make known to the jury that the prisoner, after his acquittal, declared that he could traverse the court-room with ease after dark, and then if we offer in evidence the last words (written) of the deceased—words which he must have written after he had been left for dead by his murderer, we shall confidently expect a conviction, though we would wish to see the prisoner, if innocent, prove a satisfactory alibi."

The attorney's opening address created a profound impression; it seemed to seal the prisoner's doom. If the prosecution could prove what they said they could, from whence would the alibi come?

The defense relied mainly upon pro-

ving an alibi, as the prisoner's chief counsel stated in his response to the District Attorney. They stated that the blood-stains on the shirt, as well as the dagger on the prisoner's person would be accounted for. His supposed presence in the outer vestibule on the night of the crime would be swept away by the oath of the most reputable citizens of B—.

We will not enter upon the details of the trial. The prosecution introduced proof bearing upon the several heads of the District Attorney's address. The man who swore to the prisoner's presence on the Court-house steps was a person of undoubted veracity and well respected in B—. He had known Jason Bowers previous to his arraignment for forgery, and could not have been mistaken in the voice that addressed him on that night. The figure on the steps corresponded with the prisoner's, but the man, it is conceded, if purposely, by the slouching of the hat. This witness swore positively.

The prisoner's shirt, accompanied by his washerman's testimony, was exhibited in Court. It produced a profound impression, for on the bosom and cuffs and bosom.

The prosecution, ably and almost vindictively conducted, seemed to give the prisoner no chance for escape, and the defense was regarded as frivolous before its turn came.

The fact that the doors leading into the Court-house were found to be locked on the inside by Jabez Throck, the janitor, on the memorable morning, was commented upon with proof by the defense. It was furthermore proved that every window was found fastened, likewise on the inside, and the discovery of the Judge's dead body.

The defense admitted the prisoner's remark concerning his ability to traverse the Court-room with ease after dark, but said that he meant by it that his protracted trial had familiarized him with the room. The blood-stains on the shirt were accounted for by saying that the prisoner had cut his wrist on the night of the crime, and in fact, when he was arrested his wrist was found to be bandaged by bloody linen.

The alibi which the defense had proposed to prove did startle every one.

One of the most striking characters in B— testified that Jason Bowers had been continually in his store from 9 to 10:30 inclusive, on the night of the murder, and several credible witnesses deposed to having accompanied him from the grocery to the hotel, which was reached at one o'clock. The testimony of the witness who had sworn to having encountered Jason Bowers on the Court-house steps at 10 o'clock, or thereabouts.

On a cross-examination several of the prisoner's witnesses admitted that his manner was excited and strange, but the clerk of the hotel said that shortly after the prisoner's arrival he went up to his room. Did not see the bandage on wrist then; had loaned the prisoner the dagger shown in court; the prisoner had returned it just before retiring, but had got it again before breakfast on the morning of the trial. The witness, on cross-examination, said that the prisoner told her that he wished his shirt by noon, as he wanted to leave town at that hour; noticed bandage on his wrist.

The defense also brought forward witnesses to prove that shortly after the prisoner's arrival he went up to his room. Did not see the bandage on wrist then; had loaned the prisoner the dagger shown in court; the prisoner had returned it just before retiring, but had got it again before breakfast on the morning of the trial. The witness, on cross-examination, said that the prisoner told her that he wished his shirt by noon, as he wanted to leave town at that hour; noticed bandage on his wrist.

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