

A COFFIN SIDEBOARD.

GHASTLY REVEALS IN A NEW YORK SALOON.

Like the Paris "Cafe of Death" The Musty Cellar Where "Gnomes" and "Chickens" Make Merry Among the Skeletons and Skulls.

A SCORE of rollicking, noisy fellows, young and old, gathered about a musty, worm-eaten bier deep down in a musty old cellar, eating bread and beefsteaks; a coffin for a sideboard, holding foaming flagons and bottles of ale; a great jar of tobacco and dozens of long-stemmed church warden pipes; all this walled in with tans and hogheads of wine, casks and barrels of brandy and whisky, flasks of rare old cordials, and over all the dust of decades and gleaming skulls peering down from odd places through the dusk, which the flickering candle light only served to make more ghastly, says the New York World.

This is not a picture from degenerate Paris, but an actual scene in old New York. It is one of the monthly meetings of the Gnomes—a drinking club of old Ninth warders, and held in the sub-cellar of a famous-time drinking place at the corner of Fourth and Charles streets.

It is not a new institution—this gathering of sub-surface revelers, with their ghoulish tastes. For upward of fifty years the Ahrens, father and son, have kept a drinking place in the little old Dutch red brick building, and during that time it has been a favorite resort for the politicians and men-about-town of the old Ninth ward and old Greenwich village.

This place is now kept by Henry Ahrens—"Handsome Harry," they call him. It consists of a large barroom, with a sitting-room in the rear. The barroom is itself unique. It is a low-ceilinged room with oaken floor, which is kept as clean as scrubbing-brushes can make it. Half a dozen handsome rugs cover the floor. A quaintly carved old English settee and three or four comfortable rocking-chairs and a Turkish stool add to the unclean-like aspect of the place.

Two groups of life-sized statuary—ono a Faith, Hope and Charity, and the other a Venus—occupy prominent places in the room. They are surrounded by potted plants and tropical evergreens.

The inside room is a museum of curious, incongruous, yet artistic treasures, some of them rarely interesting.

The chief interest in the place, however, lies in the old cobwebby cellar, or rather in the banquet room of the cellar. This is a little room, not more than fourteen feet square, walled in with barrels and casks grimy with dust and cobwebs. Thick, black webs hang from the weather-stained rafters, and where the spiders have failed to string their nets artificial webs have been made of pack thread to which paper-mache spiders as big and ugly as horned toads cling and wink their glass bead eyes with looks of devilish ferocity. Two bats live in the cellar and occasionally stir up the dust with their skinny wings, and skulls grin everywhere.

One thing that is always pointed out to a visitor is a cask of Madeira wine which it is claimed is forty years old. It is so old, or rather the cask is, that the hoops look as if they were falling off. The cask is never tapped except on the occasion of a marriage or birth in the family, and upon the occasion of the five-year unions which the old Roosters hold. Another old cask of liquor is Otard Dapuy brandy, which has been in stock since 1860. This is never touched except for medicinal purposes, and upon a physician's prescription.

An enormous coffin, in which is a paper mache skeleton, and the worm-eaten bier are the principal articles of furniture. The coffin is the sideboard of the club.

A similar apartment—but little more than a niche in the walls of barrels and casks and hogheads, holds the ancient and rusty cook stove where the banquets of the midnight revelers are prepared. There are no chairs or stools. The guests sit around on beer kegs and rough planks. The first thing to meet the eye of the visitor, when his eyesight gets used to the dark, is a huge blackboard, reaching from ceiling to floor, upon which is a hideously drawn skeleton.

A Prestidigitateur's Trick.

A prestidigitateur, in the course of an exhibition in New York recently, had one of the audience select one card from a pack and then handed a sheet of paper to another spectator, a timid-looking blonde man. The professor, who did not see the card, announced that after it had been returned to the pack the description of it would be found written on the paper. The card was the eight of hearts. It was taken out by the professor. "Is that it—the eight of hearts?" asked the professor. "That's all right," answered the timid-looking man. But he was a very conscientious man, and later he insisted on telling the audience that the professor had written on the paper, "Please say 'That's all right.'"

Electrical Patents.

During 1894 3,315 patents relating to electricity were granted in Great Britain, the United States and Germany. Of these 1,130 were British, being one-twentieth of all British patents, 1,704 were American and 481 were German.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Ancient Works Unearthed on the Banks of Russian Rivers.

(From the Baltimore Sun.)

By order of the Russian imperial archaeological committee an examination was made during the past summer along the banks of the rivers Dnieper and Bug—known to the ancient Greeks, respectively, as the Borysthenes and Hypanis—with the object of exploring the ruins of the city of Olbia, of which Herodotus gives a description. Olbia, according to the father of history, was surrounded by a wall with many towers and was distinguished for its extensive trade and the civilization of its inhabitants. The ramparts and inner structures of this ancient city are still, it is found, well preserved. The ruins of the dwellings of its people are still filled with the debris of their building materials, terra cotta figures, pottery, coin, etc. Villagers living near are continually discovering objects of great value. Not long since the peasants unearthed a splendid ancient Greek statue, but, being ignorant of its value, destroyed it. Some persons of means in the vicinity have formed large numismatic collections of the Scythian and later periods.

In a tumulus near the Borysthenes was found a vault-like chamber containing a skeleton of a chief, supposed to be of the Scythian period. It lay on a stone slab with extended arms. About the neck were four finely worked gold and amber necklaces and about the wrist a bracelet of pure gold. At the hip bone was a knife or sword. Near the skull was found a bow case, with thirty bone arrows in a quiver. Many ancient sites were discovered, their number and extent indicating that this region was at one time a populous and flourishing one and intimately connected commercially with the Greek world. These sites of old cities have this in common—that they are all on the steep bank of the river, which forms a natural defense against surprise attacks on one side and on the other three sides are surrounded by ramparts in a good state of preservation. Various ages are represented. In some cases the ruins belong to a period already ancient in Herodotus' day. Others are of the time of the Greek emperors, who had Constantinople for their capital, and others still belong to the period when the Genoese had flourishing colonies on the shores of the Black Sea. In the coming year, the Russian government will, it is said, have the various ancient sites in the provinces of Kherson and Taurida more fully examined, and it is hoped that some solid facts will be obtained in respect to a favorite mythland of the Greek writers.

The Anatomy of Speed Skating.

The typical speed skater has a short body, capacious, round chest, with well developed back; his thighs are strong and very long, as are also his legs. His feet are large and flat. His weak points are his calves, due to the long flat skate to which his flattened foot is so closely bound. The large muscles of his chest are not exercised and his arms, held rigidly along his back, are unused except in an occasional spurt, when they are brought down and swung straight from the shoulder. They say that they catch less wind that way and that the position is restful to the tense extensors of the back. This is, no doubt, true, but the result is disastrous to symmetrical development.

This type of figure is seen at its best in such skaters as the Donahues, McCormick, the old-time professional, who still skates a fast race, although now 40 years of age, and in Wilson Breen, a professional, who has been a winner of much gold and glory by means of his long legs and powerful thighs.

The conclusion that speed skating alone is not good exercise to develop a well-built, symmetrical man will be patent to anyone who reviews the facts. If indulged in it should be done as by McCulloch, in conjunction with other forms of athletics which bring into action the muscles of the arm, calf, shoulders and chest.—Popular Science Monthly.

SAID OF WOMAN.

There is only one real tragedy in a woman's life; the fact that her past is always her lover, and her future invariably her husband.

In the case of a woman who dyes her hair, sex is a challenge, not a defense.

I think anything better than high intellectual pressure. It makes the noses of young girls so very large.

Women who have common sense are so curiously plain; they always look like second-hand dictionaries.

One should not give a charming woman anything she cannot wear in the evening.

I want a husband as a background. I do not mind bad husbands. I have had two; they amused me immensely.

Do you really think that it is weak to yield to temptation? I tell you that there are terrible temptations that it requires strength and courage to yield to.

I never read a blue book. I prefer books with yellow covers; they're more accurate.

Secrets from other people's wives are a necessary luxury in modern life, but no man should have a secret from his own wife. She invariably finds it out. They can discover everything except the obvious.

A woman who can keep a man's love and love him in return has done all we want of women.

Morality is simply the attitude we adopt toward people whom we personally dislike.

It is tragic how much our husbands trust us.

She wore too much rouge the other night, and not quite enough clothes. That is always a sign of despair in a woman.

SOCIETY BATHING.

SWISS WOMEN IN THE WATER HALF THE TIME.

Queer Scenes Witnessed, Hanging from Courtship to a Tea Party—The Bath the Town's Salvation—It Was Famous as a Cure.

IN LENKENBAD, one of the most beautiful bathing resorts of Southern Switzerland, most of the bathing establishments are closely connected with the village inn.

A scene may be witnessed here on almost any afternoon resembling much the ancient voluptuous indulgence of the Romans during the days of the ancient empire. There is this difference, however—that in the case of the ancients the practice was prompted by sensuality and indolence, while in Lenkenbad the bathers are driven to it by sheer ennui and by order of their physician. The baths are divided into individual, family and society rooms.

In accordance with the ailments of the patients, the doctors order short, hour or half day baths. Most of the visitors for whom the latter are prescribed take advantage of the society baths, in which every possible contrivance has been introduced to insure the comfort and pleasure of the guests.

Women and men utilize these moderately heated rooms in common. The bathers are dressed in loose woolen gowns and mantles, and usually spend from three to four hours in the water every afternoon. The conversation is lively, and conducted in French or the



HOW SWISS LADIES ENJOY THEIR BATHS.

Swiss patois, as most of the guests hail from France, Switzerland and the Tyrol.

In one corner may be seen a trio of sedate matrons knitting or embroidering; in another a pleasant tete-a-tete of a young couple who seem to be in the water more for amusement than for a "cure." Here and there a game of cards, checkers or chess is played. Men floating on their backs and smoking cigars or cigarettes is not an uncommon sight, while the women prefer to indulge in a kaffeeklatsch (coffee party), where the gossip of the day is retailed. Waiters are always at the call of the guests.

Lenkenbad has at least twenty hot springs. They are of special benefit to sufferers from rheumatism and liver troubles. It is a most charming place, picturesquely ensconced within a group of mighty mountains of rock, about three thousand feet above the sea level, yet thoroughly protected from the biting winter storms. Toward the south only is there an exit from the overhanging circle of promontories and peaks, whose tops appear to touch the sky. Here a narrow stream called the Dala leads to the larger rivers of Northern Italy.

This resort was famous as far back as the tenth century, and now there are seldom less than eight hundred patients in the place. In fact, the little town would be bankrupted if the hot water gave out.

There are any number of brawny women in the town, who are supposed to have had a thorough course of instruction in massage methods, whose duty it is to massage the rheumatics for a small fee, somewhat after the methods followed in Aixles-Bains. The resort is within easy reach of the principal Southern European railroads.

Potatoes in England.

In England and Wales the average yield of potatoes per acre is estimated at about six and one-fourth tons; the average yield in Scotland is rather less than six tons per acre, but in Ireland the estimate shows an average yield per acre of less than four tons, against more than six tons in Great Britain.

WHAT A DOG CAN ENDURE.

One Went Twenty-Two Days Without Food.

Some very long survivals are on record, but none, perhaps, more interesting or remarkable than a well-authenticated case which comes from France, says Public Opinion. Mr. Gely, a superintendent at Dampierre, in the department of the upper Saone, has a dog named Rigolet, which, although past ten years old and almost toothless, has never abated the activity of his warfare against all the animals of the warfare especially against foxes. A short time ago, as Mr. Gely, with his dog, was passing the mouth of a fox-burrow, Rigolet made a sudden and furious descent on the burrow, showing plainly that it was inhabited. It had so spacious an opening that the dog forced himself into it quite out of sight. Presently the master heard the tumult of a combat within. The dog was barking fiercely. Then there came a sound of a cavity-in and the noise ceased. Either Rigolet had been silenced by the fox or he had been engulfed by the collapse of the gallery in which the fight was taking place. Mr. Gely set about digging him out, but found the ground so stony that he was obliged to give it up and the old dog was left to his fate.

Gely went home, and after mooting the dog a few days, thought of him no more. Twenty-one days went by. It happened that the miller of the neighborhood, passing the fox-burrow with a friend, said: "There's the place where poor old Rigolet was buried alive." Just then he heard a feeble whining which seemed to come from underground. He called and listened and the whining was repeated louder than before. There was certainly a dog within the fox-burrow. The miller ran to apprise Gely, who this time brought picks and shovels and a sufficient number of hands to open the burrow. After

five hours of active digging the old dog was unearthed at a considerable depth. As soon as he was brought to the open air Rigolet fell to the ground, apparently dead. But his master succeeded in reviving him with doses of beef tea and milk and the old dog was seemingly as good as ever. It became a question whether he had fasted in the burrow for the twenty-two days or whether he had subsisted on the fox, which he certainly found. It was assumed by his master that he was too nearly toothless to have been able to devour a fox, and those who dug him out declared that there was no sign that he had had anything to eat.

Chinatown's Glory Has Departed.

The decay of "Chinatown" is one of the most remarkable features of San Francisco life. Five years ago Chinatown had 25,000 inhabitants and trade was lively, many of the large merchants doing an extensive business. Rents were higher in Chinatown than in other parts of the city. Now rents have fallen more than one-half in this quarter, real estate is unsalable and the population has shrunk to 15,000. The last China steamer carried 700 Chinamen back to their homes, the greater part of whom will not return. At the present rate Chinatown in six months will not have 10,000 inhabitants.

Makes Burglars' Tools.

It is said that all the burglars' jimnicks in London are made by one old man, who is well known to the police, but cannot be arrested, as his work is not contrary to law. Besides it is very convenient to be able to trace his customers.

Education in Russia.

There is a movement on foot for the establishment of industrial schools for the training and education of the Russian convicts' children in the penal settlements of Siberia.

An Anachronism.

In Raphael's picture of the nativity the curious anachronism is presented of an Italian shepherd playing on the bagpipes to entertain the holy family.

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE

SENATE VOTES ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY

Six Members Out of Seventy Oppose the Resolution, Which Accords to the Insurgents the Rights of Belligerents—Many Speeches Made.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—The Senate this afternoon adopted the Cuban resolution as amended by Mr. Cameron. The vote was 61 yeas to 6 nays.

The resolution in full is as follows: "Resolved, by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the opinion of Congress a condition of public war exists between the government of Spain and the government proclaimed and for some time maintained by force of arms by the people of Cuba; and that the United States of America should maintain a strict neutrality between the contending powers, according to each all the rights of belligerents in the ports and territory of the United States.

"Resolved, That the friendly offices of the United States shall be offered by the President to the Spanish government for the recognition of the independence of Cuba."

The vote on the committee and the American resolutions resulted—61 yeas to 6 nays.

The Senators who voted in the negative were: Caffery, Clifton, George, Hale, Merrill, Wetmore.

The announcement of the result was greeted with great applause in the galleries.

The Senate galleries were well filled at the opening of the session in anticipation of the culmination of the Cuban debate and the final vote.

Shortly after the session opened Representative Hitt, chairman of the House committee on Foreign Affairs, joined Mr. Sherman, chairman of the Senate committee on Foreign Relations, in a whispered conference at Sherman's desk. The Ohio senator announced that the Cuban question would be taken up without waiting for the usual expiration of the morning hour at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Allen of Nebraska asked to withdraw the resolution for the appointment of Mr. Lloyd as a Senate official. This brought on another discussion as to adding a Populist official to the rolls. Mr. Allen finally withdrew the resolution.

Mr. Sherman then moved that the Cuban resolutions be taken up, and this prevailed without objection. Chairman Hitt remained alongside Mr. Sherman as the debate proceeded. Baron Von Kettler of the German embassy occupied a seat in the diplomatic gallery.

Mr. Lindsay of Kentucky then addressed the Senate on the Cuban resolutions. He said the conflict in Cuba was at our very doors and was being waged with such desperation that only one of two results could come—either the complete independence of Cuba, on the one hand, or the utter annihilation of the Cuban people on the other. The senator said he approached the subject from the standpoint of humanity rather than law. Declarations of sympathy would avail nothing to the Cubans. Declarations that they had progressed to the stage of belligerents would avail nothing.

ACTIVE INTERVENTION JUSTIFIED.

"If the United States intends taking any steps that will avail these struggling Cubans, that step should be in the direction of the ultimate independence of Cuba," declared Mr. Lindsay in stentorian tones. In the past the United States had not hesitated to take the position of recognizing independence under circumstances similar to those now existing in Cuba.

Quoting from international authorities, the Senator maintained that a condition now existed in Cuba justifying the United States in considering a proposition for active intervention to restore public order and in behalf of humanity. But, said Mr. Lindsay, the resolution did not contemplate active intervention. It extended good offices to Spain with a view to securing the ultimate independence of Cuba.

"And such independence," added Mr. Lindsay, "is the only basis which will bring lasting peace to Cuba, judged from the experience of seventy years. The United States could not relieve itself from the responsibility of seeing that Spain showed this island some kind of justice. Could we say to the world that unless Cuba secured her independence by her own unaided efforts she might remain under the abject subjection of Spain? Should we not say to Spain that some sort of protection, some sort of justice and liberty consistent with an enlightened age must be shown to these people?"

"Spain now contemplated the annihilation of all the able bodied men of Cuba in order to crush this uprising. Spain owed to Cuba as much as Turkey owes to Armenia, or as the United States to Venezuela, a duty of protection, and if this protection was not given, then the point had been reached when the United States should move for the severance of Cuba from Spain."

THE REBELS WELL ORGANIZED.

At 1:15 p. m., Mr. Sherman began his speech, closing the debate. He spoke of the keen sensitiveness of the Spanish people and their tendency to quickly resent any act they regarded as injurious to them. But, he felt that the time had come when the United States must intervene to put an end to crime almost beyond description. The Senator said he would not re-enter on the legal arguments so fully covered by Mr. Morgan, but he referred to several pamphlets presented by Mr. Estrada Palma, the agent and representative of the Cubans in this country. Mr. Sherman said those statements bore the stamp of authenticity. They overcame the misapprehension that the Cubans were scattered, unorganized bands. They showed the organization of a legislature, and of an army, and the President was a man of high character. The provisional government was as complete as the United States had during the revolutionary war.

Mr. Sherman said he did not favor

Cuba's annexation to the United States, but strongly favored its annexation to Mexico, a kindred people.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS REJECTED.

The line of action was determined at a special meeting of the Senate committee on foreign relations today for the purpose of considering the form in which the Cuban question should finally be disposed of. After a very thorough discussion it was decided to adhere to the committee's resolution for the recognition of belligerency and to amend it by adding Senator Cameron's substitute, requesting the President to exercise his friendly offices with Spain to secure the independence of Cuba. The House resolutions were discussed upon the suggestion that it would be advisable to accept them as a substitute for the Senate declaration, but the plan was discarded as inadvisable. The committee also decided to adhere to the present form of the resolution, leaving it concurrent instead of joint. It was arranged that Senator Cameron should offer his resolution as an amendment and that it should be accepted by Senator Sherman on behalf of the committee.

Senator Sherman declared Weyler's talk of "exterminating the Cubans" showed him to be "a demon rather than a general."

The galleries broke into loud applause as the Senator added: "If this continues no earthly power can prevent the people of the United States from going to that island, sweeping over it from end to end and driving out those barbarians."

Mr. Gallinger followed Senator Sherman with a strong appeal for the recognition of Cuban independence.

Mr. Lodge announced that the committee on Foreign Relations would accept an amendment declaring for Cuban independence, and he considered this the proper step.

Mr. Frye made an earnest speech announcing sympathy with the Cuban cause. He was, he said, weary and heart sick at seeing this republic doing police duty for the most wicked monarch on the earth. He would, he said, do, say or vote anything that would promote the cause of the Cuban patriots.

CAFFERY ALONE OPENLY DISSENTS.

Mr. Caffery took square ground against any recognition of Cuban belligerency, declaring the Cuban insurgents had accomplished nothing to justify us in this question. He expressed the opinion that the cruelty accompanying the war was not confined to the Spanish army.

Mr. Allen followed Mr. Caffery, offering the resolution of which he had given notice previously. Then he spoke in support of it, urging Congress to act independently of the president in recognizing belligerency. He declared Spain an outlaw nation and not entitled to the respect and consideration of other civilized nations. The time, he said, must speedily come when the bloody hand of Spain must be wringed from Cuba's throat. He declared himself favorable to Cuban independence and would, if need be, support this action with the American arms.

BREAKING UP OF PARTIES.

Free Silver Threatens Political Reorganization of Parties.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—The remarkable speech of Mr. Carter in the Senate, taken in connection with that of Secretary Carlisle at the Manhattan club in New York a few days ago, has started a good deal of talk about a reorganization of the old political parties and a division of the people upon new lines. Both the Republicans and the Democrats seem almost hopelessly divided upon the same issue, and that the most important before the American people to-day. The parties are united upon every other. More than half the Democrats in Congress declare that they will not support the candidate to be nominated at Chicago unless he pledges himself to free coinage. A considerable portion of the Republicans say the same concerning the candidate to be nominated at St. Louis. Then why, it is asked, cannot those in both parties who think alike get together and name men who agree with them? A great many people believe that if discussion and division continues much longer that will happen. Secretary Morton suggested such an expectation upon his part in a newspaper interview not long ago, and there are those who claim to have heard the President predict a general break up and reorganization before the end of this administration, but it is not likely that there will be any bolting from either party until after the national conventions are held and the platforms are adopted.

The Republican leaders do not expect any bolt. Both Mr. Teller and Mr. Carter, who announced the terms of the silver Senators, declare that they will not leave the Republican party, and that they cannot be driven out no matter who is nominated.

"I am a Republican and I always expect to be a Republican," said Mr. Teller. "I am just as good a Republican as John Sherman or George F. Hoar, and there is just as much probability of their leaving the party as there is of my leaving it. I have said that I will not support the Republican candidate for the presidency unless we can make some satisfactory agreement on the silver question. I think that agreement can be made, but if it is found impossible, I will still continue to be a Republican. I do not intend to vote the Democratic ticket, no matter who is nominated on either side."

Senator Carter says: "We are going to get together before the St. Louis convention. The silver men in the West are not going to bolt the Republican party. There are many other issues upon which we all agree, and they would hold us together, no matter how much we might differ on the money question. Nevertheless, we Western fellows intend to have something to say about the management and the policy of the party. We don't propose to let New England and New York lead us around by the nose."

O'Donnell Knocks Out Dwyer.

New York, Feb. 29.—At the new Manhattan Athletic Club last night Steve O'Donnell knocked out Jim Dwyer in seven rounds. Paddy Purcell of Kansas City, fought Joe Harman of New York, six rounds to a draw.