

ASSASSINATION PLOTS

Gen Garfield's Peril in 1876

Washington Correspondence Cleveland Leader.

It is not generally known that President Garfield was once before, in 1876, in danger of death by assassination, but such is said to have been the case.

The electoral commission, which decided the vexed presidential question in 1876, was composed of five judges of the supreme court, five senators, and five members of the house of representatives, two of the latter being republicans, viz.: Hoar and Garfield. While the night sessions of the commission were being held at the Capitol, a rumor spread among the republicans that an attempt would be made to kill, kidnap, or disable one of the two republican representatives.

The commission stood seven democrats, seven republicans, and one doubtful. If Hoar or Garfield could be removed, the house being controlled by democrats, would not be likely to send another republican to fill the vacancy. Chief of Police Richards, of Washington, became acquainted with the plot, and ascertained that no democratic members of the house were concerned in it, but that the conspiracy had its origin in New York. He was unable to obtain sufficient evidence to warrant the arrest of any person, and any attempt to do so without strong proof would have been hooted at; but it was deemed prudent to have Messrs. Garfield and Hoar protected by a body guard of vigilant friends. This duty was undertaken by Representative Thorp, of Ashtabula county, Ohio, D. W. Wilson, assistant chief of the bureau of engraving and printing; and Charles S. Draper, late deputy sergeant-at-arms of the senate. Any of these gentlemen could verify these facts.

When the next evening session of the commission closed and Messrs. Garfield and Hoar approached their carriage at the north front of the capitol, a number of apparently idle spectators who were in the open space and in the colonnade front of the senate wing advanced toward the two gentlemen. Instantly the three trusty friends, each armed with two concealed revolvers, faced the party, who halted. Two of the escort entered the carriage with Garfield and Hoar, and the other mounted the box with the driver, all keeping a bright lookout on the way home, especially at Hoar's hotel at Garfield's house at Washington avenue and D street; but, though small groups of lookers-on appeared, no hostile demonstrations were made.

The next night another session was held, and again the two congressmen were guarded by the faithful friends, and the plot, if plot there was, fell to pieces. Draper was since discharged by Sergeant-at-Arms Bright, after eighteen years' service. At that time, through fear of ridicule, the facts were kept secret, but since the shooting of the president in a railroad depot, it is easily to realize that the desperate men who believe in "rule or ruin" would have had no scruples against the killing of both Garfield and Hoar, if necessary for the accomplishment of the purpose.

A Boer Marksman.

Buffalo River Cor. London Morning Post.

I had a long conversation to-day with a very intelligent specimen of a Boer, who forms in Newcastle one of the guard that accompanies the Boer leaders attending on the commission. He spent the afternoon in my camp, and gave me a rehearsal of the different modes of fighting among the Boers. First of all he began by trying his hand at shooting at bottles, distant 100 yards, with a fifteen Winchester repeater which I lent him for the purpose. With this weapon, however, he failed to accomplish any decided success, the bullets falling all round, but the bottles remained untouched.

"I can not shoot with your rifle," he observed, "but give me a Martini-Henry and I will pick off two bottles at 200 yards." I sent up to the camp for a Martini-Henry carbine, which the Boer laid hold of with a great deal more apparent confidence, and in the first two shots verified his boast, for the bottles were immediately shivered to atoms. He next proceeded to show me the Boer mode of shooting from behind rocks and stones. "The great mistake your soldiers make," he observed, "was to aim over the stone at the enemy, but we always fire round the corner." Throwing himself flat on the ground he proceeded to put this remark into practice, and dragging himself lightly along, peered cautiously round the right-hand corner of a low stone that only just concealed his form from sight of the supposed enemy. Removing his hat, he raised it slowly aloft on the top of his ramrod and manoeuvred it so as to cause it to have the appearance of a man's head cautiously taking note of the enemy. At this he an English soldier is supposed to have taken a pot shot, when the Boer suddenly let it fall, and, bringing his body round the corner, took steady aim and fired at a black bottle some 150 yards distant, which in another moment was smashed to atoms.

Another method of shooting on horseback he showed me in a brilliant and effective manner. Mounting his horse and uttering a loud cry he sent it galloping up a hill as hard as it could go. Suddenly, without a warning of the left foot was pressed to the stirrup, the right leg thrown backwards over the saddle, the man was on his feet and the horse stopped instantaneously if spellbound. Standing erect the Boer aimed carefully at a distant bottle and knocked it over, then springing into the saddle he executed the same maneuver in two opposite directions with signal and unerring aim and effect. This man was one of 180 who first stormed and took Majuba heights. He says that Joubert's only words were, "Follows, take that hill," and they hastened to obey. The reason why so few men advanced to the attack was because Joubert anticipated and made sure the English would endeavor simultaneously to take the Nek, as well as surprise them on their left, and he retained men to defend the position mentioned. Finding, however, his fears were groundless, he dispatched fresh men to the assistance of their comrades, but by the time they arrived the Majuba Hill had been taken. The ninety-second, he informed me,

were the first they encountered, and this regiment fought stoutly, but were driven back on the plateau towards the Fifty-eighth. Both bravely defended the position until Colley fell, when panic, he affirms, seized our men. The whole scene was, however, so enveloped in smoke that he could make no accurate note of anything and confusion prevailed everywhere. Sir George Colley he declares to have been shot while in the act of tying a white handkerchief to a ramrod. The Boers did not know at the time that this personage was Sir George. This is one of the few Boer versions of the Majuba fight that I have heard from men who actually took part in the fight, and I am inclined to think it is truthfully told.

The Two Graves in Poker Valley.

"It was the curiosest thing that ever happened in the diggings," said the old man, as he slowly filled his pipe. "Nigh onto twenty years ago was about the date, an' a hundred or so of us miners had squatted in Poker Valley. It wasn't much of a valley, an' thar' wasn't any too much poker, an' I know I put in six months' hard work in thar' ere holes an' didn't clear fifty cents a day. Howsomer, that hain't nuthin' to do with the story I sot out to tell, though it serves to explain why we were all out o' temper one afternoon, when a stranger entered Poker Valley by the west trail an' brought his skinnny an' foot-sole mule to a halt in the center of our town. It wa' airly in the fall, an' the weather was downright mean. It had bin drizzling all day long, an' we had cussed an' loafed around till every man was ready to answer a word with blow."

"The mint that stranger rode up we all rushed out to see who he was and what he wanted. He was a light-weight chap, muffled up to the ears to keep dry, and we couldn't say what he could do with a pick-axe or how he'd back a friend in a fight. He didn't offer to git down from his mule but began to inquire arter a chap who we called old William. This William was a candy sort o' man. He seemed a bit pious, had a soft voice, never cussed nor drank whisky, an' we didn't s'actly mate with him. Ten days afore this stranger rode up Sweet William got out o' his blankets at midnight, either asleep or in trouble, an' the poor cuss took a walk over a bit o' cliff about fifty feet high, with a lot o' jagged rocks to light on down below.

We didn't take on very much, as he had no razor an' wasn't one o' us, as I mentioned afore, but we git him a decent burial an' sold his traps on the squar' to the highest bidder. "Waal, now, that stranger was goin' on to ax about William, an' I was a sayin' to myself that he had the softest voice of any man in the diggings, when suthin' happened. Ole Kentucky Bill and Deakon Joe had bin growlin' at each other fur an hour or so, kinder achin' fur a row, an' at length they went at it. Ole Kentucky gin Joe a licker on the jaw, an' Joe he cut with his popper an' f'aded Kentucky to kingdom come. No, he didn't either. The bullet cut away a lock of hair and did its bloody work beyond. The stranger on the mule got it plump through the heart an' he was dead afore he fell into my arms. He? No, stranger—'twas a woman! Sure's your born it was a woman not over 25 years old, and with a face as pretty as a thousand dollar nugget. She was dressed sort o' man fashion, an' she was bravin' injuns, bars, storms and everything else for an object. What was it? Waal, I dunno. Was Sweet William her lover or her husband? Had he run away from her, or had he cum thar' to make a stake? Must have bin some powerful motive to have sent that gal on such a trip, an' we talked it over an' kinder concluded it was love an' nuthin' else.

"'Twas a terrible deal anyhow, an' I never think of it without feelin' my heart grow big an' my throat choke up. When we discovered that she was a woman we sot around thar' like pegs for about half an hour. Then we riz up an' kicked them two fighters outer camp an' dug a grave 'longside o' Sweet William's fur the poor dead gal, an' they sleep thar' to this day. Rough and cussed as we was in Poker Valley, we had tears in our eyes as we put that poor gal away, an' I seed more'n one old grizzly drop his chin when the Alabama elder stood at the head of the graves an' said: "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. May they be jined together in Heaven."

Fruit Canning.

Time for canning fruit is at hand. Hints upon this important household operation are therefore seasonable. Good canned fruit is a stranger to tables of thousands of farmers when it might as easily be used. Fruit is often left to spoil, though a slight expenditure would preserve it for winter. If they can be had, berries are among the nicest of canned fruits. Peaches, apples, plums, apricots, and, indeed, all eatable fruits, are worth canning. Dried fruits can never wholly take the place of canned fruits for family use. Glass jars are preferred by most persons, and are cheapest in the end. With care they can be used many years, though new rubber bands must be procured when needed. In canning, sugar should certainly be used, and it should be of the granulated white grades, as poor sugar hurts the flavor of the fruit. The rule is to put one quarter of a pound of sugar with one pound of fruit, but this quantity may be doubled if the fruit be unusually acid. Some persons think that fruit is good when canned without sugar, but in that case it loses color and firmness. The fruit used for canning is to be of the best quality, and as freshly picked as possible. Well ripened fruit, not, however, dead ripe and soft, is in every way preferable. In fact, a canner should really be located near the orchards, for there is a manifest deterioration in the quality of the fruit between the time it is picked and the time it is ready for the cans. Coarse-grained market varieties seldom can so well as the more highly flavored kinds. When the fruit has been peeled and pitted, place it in the preserving kettle and properly cook; but if it is still boiling hot the cans are to be filled, to be the very brim, and elastic put on, the jar wiped, and the top screwed down at once, and tightened several times afterwards. As a writer on the subject said recently: "Good

fruit, put boiling hot into the perfect cans, filled full, and sealed up at once, will be fresh and pure when opened, though years later." Simply pouring boiling water over fruit does not expel the air. Partly filled fruit jars will spoil. Canned berries are to be put in a preserving kettle, with layers of sugar, and boiled from five to fifteen minutes. The syrup can be bottled up, some of it, for other uses. Some persons prefer to cook berries in the jars in which they are to be canned. In this case the jars, filled up with fruit, are set in a wash boiler, on wooden slate, so as not to touch the bottom. Cold water is poured in until it comes close to the rims of the jars, and heated until the fruit is well cooked, when the fruit in one jar is used to fill up the others, and they are sealed and put away. We may add that glass jars of fruit should be put in a dry, dark, and cool place, where the temperature is equable throughout the season.

The Great Wheat Fields

People traveling to the north-west, will be gratified at learning that the "Great Rock Island Route" opens a new line from Chicago to Minneapolis and St. Paul, July 17th, running two through daily trains, leaving Chicago at 12:05 and 9:30 p. m. This new line is to be known as the "Albert Lea Route," and passes through the very best sections of the States of Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, affording travelers a view of the great harvest fields of our country, and a section peopled by the most progressive and prosperous of our northwestern inhabitants.

We understand that round trip excursion tickets to points in the great wheat region of the Red River of the north, and Missouri River valleys, will be immediately put on sale, good for 40 days from date of issue. This will enable eastern farmers to visit the greatest wheat country on the globe, and see harvesting done on the most gigantic scale.

Surely, no one that really desires to see the west will forego this opportunity to do so, by ticketing over any other than the "Albert Lea Route," via West Liberty. The Great Rock Island depot is the most central of any in Chicago, being in the very heart of the city, close to the great hotels, post-office, and leading mercantile houses.

Died of an Eighteen-Years-Old Wound.

Wilmington (Del.) Every Evening.

July 22.—The battle of Chancellorsville, one of the fiercest engagements of the war, lasted from May 1 to May 5, 1863. Among those who were wounded in the conflict was Charles B. Parry, of this city, a member of the First Delaware regiment. The ball, from a Minnie rifle, entered the pelvis and has never been found, though numerous operations for that purpose have been performed. The consequence was a wound that never healed, and caused the death of the victim at 8:30 o'clock last evening.

Mr. Parry was of English descent, but a native of this city, and son of Robert H. Parry. He served with honor and was noted for his bravery, in the First Delaware, from its creation to the time of receiving his wound. For the past two years he has been crier of the United States district court, having been appointed to that position upon the death of John Curry. He is spoken of in terms of the very highest praise by all the officers of the court. Mr. Parry has been an almost constant sufferer from the time the wound was received. After the war he visited England, where two unsuccessful operations were performed. Operations attended with like results were also performed in New York and at the University of Pennsylvania. While the wound could be kept open Mr. Parry would suffer but little, but when the charge closed his condition became serious. Mr. Parry was a widower, and about forty years of age. He was a member of Du Pont Post, No. 2, G. A. R., which has decided to attend his funeral in a body on Sunday next.

Agonies, New and Sweet.

New Haven Register. It was the idea for a young lady to drive about town in a "rillge cart," a natural wood finish, with rubber tires to match. This signifies, "Young man, I'll hold the ribbon," and is not only utter, but awful—for the young man to contemplate. It is quite the idea for a young lady to wear a very broad brimmed shade hat, lined with black velvet and trimmed with a white feather. This signifies, "There is a dark and a bright side to life, but the light is uppermost." How deep, how very sweet. It is quite the idea for a young gentleman to gently swing the hammock in which his "best girl" is enjoying her siesta. This signifies, "Rocks ahead" and presages matrimonial felicity. This isn't "quite," but it is quite interesting. It is quite the idea for a young lady to have a very small, thin, an' just why the expression "too too" was invented. It will bring a No. 7 mouth down to a No. 2 size instantly. Try it, girls.

Deaf as a Post.

Mrs. W. J. Lang, Bethany, Ont., states that for fifteen months she was troubled with a disease in the ear, causing entire deafness. In ten minutes after using THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL she found relief, and in a short time she was entirely cured and her hearing restored. 124-1/2

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