CAPITAL CITY COURIER, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1890



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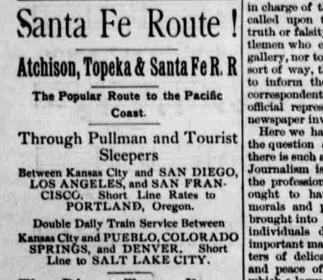
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CODE OF THE PROFESSION. Is Unwritten, but Every Self Respect-

Good and Bad Journalism.

[Special Correspondence.]

of the proceedings of the senate in executive session, and they had an investidistinguished statesman. Perhaps noth- get his interviews clandestinely. ing would have been thought or said of

in the senate chamber. house, staggered into the chamber, fell While the committee of newspaper men in charge of the press gallery do not feel called upon to pass judgment on the truth or falsity of news sent out by gentlemen who enjoy the privileges of the

gallery, nor to act as press censors in any sort of way, they have felt it their duty to inform the public that the corps of correspondents, of whom they are the official representatives, do not indorse newspaper invasion of private life.

Here we have the best of answers to ought to have its unwritten code of morals and practice. Its members are brought into intimate relationship with | if the man does not watch out. individuals daily in connection with important matters, and often with matters of delicacy as affecting reputation and peace of mind. The relationship mate or important than that which a journalist bears to the man whom he interviews or of whom he writes. If there

press deals forbearingly with them. Had it been more lenient with Riddleberger he might have met a more happy fate. But he was picturesque. The press seized upon his first escapade, painted it in lurid colors, gave him a reputation which at that time he did not deserve, and he fell under the weight of obloquy thus ing Experienced Newspaper Man Knows thrust upon him. Deing given the name It and Follows It-Some Instances of he went in for the game and finally died of chagrin and a broken heart. Newspaper men at Washington, as

elsewhere, must keep confidences. This WASHINGTON, May 15 .- Is there such is one of the unwritten laws which is a thing as newspaper ethics? This is a well understood and almost universally question which a series of events have respected. Public men are not afraid brought to the front in Washington. to trust the writers. For instance, I First, a number of the ancient and called one recent evening on the speaker proper senators thought the newspaper men had no right to send out accounts dentally about some public men and measures, and the speaker talked very frankly, as • is his wont. He criticised men of his own party in his characterisgation which cost a good deal of money tic savage fashion and without reserve. and resulted in a fine old farce. Then He made no request that this conversathere came up the Cleveland-Dana tion be considered a private one-he in-episode in New York, which all the stinctively knew that it was private and ewspaper men and public men of Wash- would not be printed or repeated. I ington took the keenest sort of interest could have created a mild sort of sensain. Finally, the press gallery commit-tee, composed of newspaper men and but of course I did not. This brings us elected by newspaper men, concluded to to another phase of modern newspaper discipline a young correspondent who ethics. A man must know that he is had made the mistake of sending out a being interviewed for publication. The brutal dispatch about the habits of a gentleman of the modern press does not

All conversations not understood from this incident but for the peculiar cir- the circumstances or by express agreecumstances surrounding it. The scene ment to be for type are private. It is in was laid at the funeral of Senator Beck applying this rule that one of the chief sources of trouble arises. The newspaper According to the dispatch the states- man is often puzzled to know what was man in question, who was a member of intended for publication and what was the funeral committee on the part of the not. That was the bone of contention in the Cleveland article in New York city. into a seat, sat there in a dazed condi- It is often the bone of contention in less tion, staggered out of the chamber when | celebrated cases. I am proud to say for the ceremonies were concluded, fell in the correspondents of Washington that passing down the steps, and fell again at the railway station in attempting to board the train. This would have been brutal even if true, but it was false. but he exercises fine discretion in winnowing the proper and printable from the private.

Eavesdropping is also tabooed. The self respecting journalist of these times will not hide himself away in closets, or glue his ear to keyholes. Rare stories are told of the manner in which big news has been obtained by these means. but most of these tales are of the old days. The good senators thought the Washington correspondents must have the question and conclusive proof that some such means of securing executive there is such a thing as newspaper ethics. session secrets, but they were egregious-Journalism is a distinct profession, as is ly mistaken. The modern journalist will the profession of law or medicine. It not eavesdrop, but he will deceive. He will not open another man's letter, but he will play a trick upon the other man

This matter of newspaper ethics is sometimes very intricate and difficult to understand. The public may not be able to understand why a journalist, who which a lawyer bears to his client, or a would condemn listening at the key hole doctor to his patient, is no more inti- of a committee room door, could hire an employe of the government printing offfce to steal a copy of the president's message for him, but I can understand are codes of ethics for the lawyer and that, though I am not going to try to exdoctor, there should be similar codes for plain it. I would not listen at a key the journalist. The journalist should hole, but I would bribe a printer to steal mow the morals of his profession, the a me e for me, providing the mes amenities of his business, should always was worth it and the printer did not come feel his responsibility and appreciate the too high. Journalists have gone out of the business of stealing president's mesdignity of his position in the social sages, but they are still eager for tariff fabric. There is such a code in journalbills. The public is already familiar ism, an unwritten code as all laws of professional ethics must necessarily be, with the manner in which the McKinley but as yet it is indefinite and not well tariff bill found its way prematurely to enough understood. the press Here in Washington, however, where journalism is at its highest state of devel-A Pacific coast correspondent borrowed the copy of a member of the ways and opment in America, and that means in the means committee to write a paragraph from, and copied the whole bill with a world, I am happy to say that the ethics of the profession, this unwritten law, is conforce of six typewriters. That, in my stantly becoming better understood, and my judgment, was fair journalism. So year after year is better respected. It is was the scheme set up by a couple of bright correspondents to get an advance not enough that a Washington journalist must be agentleman, as journalists every-where should be-he must have a sense copy of the Mills tariff bill when the public mind was filled with curiosity concerning that measure. They knew Mr. Mills had a copy of the bill from the printing office, and that therefore the of honor that is keen and vigilant, not simply as a matter of policy, but of tem-perament and training. The days of bushwhacking journalism, of "fake" bill was in type. Their plan was to telejournalism, of extreme partisan and per-sonal journalism, and above all of menphone the foreman of the printing office about 5 o'clock in the afternoon by the dacious 'journalism, are at an end in Capitol telephone that Mr. Mills wanted the Capital City. And being at an end bere means simply that they are rapidly coming to an end the country over, for a dozen more copies of the bill sent to his house at 8 o'clock that evening. When the messenger arrived at Mr. Mills' residence with the package of Washington journalism is a reflex of the journalism of the nation. It draws its bills one of the conspirators was to be in inspiration and its men from the provhiding near the door. He was to have a inces, and needs, moreover, constant resmall package in his hand. The connewal of the energy that comes from the spirators thought that when the mesrural press and the men that press has senger rang the door bell and the servant graduated into the wider field. came and opened the door there would Journalism as seen at Washington has be a fine opportunity to do business. The its ethics, but I do not feel competent to man in waiting was to rush up just as tell what that code of ethics is. Prob-ably no two working newspaper men and when the servant came to the door would describe it alike. But there are the second time, no doubt with the packcertain cardinal features of it known to us all, and of these we may speak. One hold out his little package and exclaim: of these was violated by the young man "I have left you the wrong package who is just now feeling the discipline of This is the one that belongs to Mr. Mills," "I have left you the wrong package. his fellows. The private lives of men and grabbing the bundle from the ser-and women are tabooed subjects in the vant's hands beat a hasty retreat, as if newspaper practice of the capital. If trying to overtake the wagon, which by this were not so, and we all felt our- this time would be rolling down the selves licensed as free lances, thousands of hearts would ache. Probably there is street. In the package which the conspirator was to leave in exchange for the more precious one was to be some bills no place in the country where the private lives of well known persons offer and reports, which Mr. Mills, even if he such shining marks for criticism and exwere in the house and looked them over, position as here. I can count at a mowould not be suspicious of, as, of course, he had not expected any copics of the ment's notice at least a score of members tariff bill and would not be suspicious of of congress who live in a certain sense double lives-men who have both wives trickery. The printing office would be satisfied that it had done its duty, and and mistresses. If we were to tell what we know and next morning two enterprising journals make it a business to find out the things would contain the Mills tariff bill in full, which we now only suspect, plenty of gray heads now held high would be hum-bled. Even women of the fairest fame telegraphed by their agile correspondents. The scheme did not work, for the would suffer. Luckily these are not lesimple reason that the printing office gitimate subjects of newspaper writing. could not print the bills, and hence could The press is constantly growing more just and more generous. It knows how not deliver them into the hands of the unsuspecting servant girl. It was a to shut its eyes as well as to keep them open. I doubt if in our time another pretty plan, and I am sorry it did not work, for it was good journalism. The true journalist will not look in another public man meet the fate of poor Riddleberger. That senator was anything but man's desk for the biggest piece of news a drunkard. He was simply a drinking man who occasionally lost his head. When intoxicated he was ugly and willin the world, any more than a military commander will violate a flag of truce. but your good journalist will lead his enemy into ambush when he can. ful. There are a dozen men in congress today who have the same fault, but the WALTER WELLMAN.

AN INFANT IN CUSTODY.

Why Pretty Little Nellie Rudd is a Prisoner.

Nellie Rudd is 3 years old, and a pretty, innocent little child, yet she is an inmate of the Will county jail, at Joliet, Ills., and must remain in custody of the sheriff for some time to come. A trial is pending for her possession between her mother, Kate Nelson, and her foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rudd. Nellie was born in the poor house. Three months after that event Miss Nelson signed the baby over to Mr. Van



NELLIE RUDD.

foundlings' home. He in turn transferred his charge to the Rudds, who have raised it thus far and have grown much attached to the winsome little thing. Nellie's father recently died and left \$1,500 to the mother for the benefit of the child. Miss Nelson's first move was to abduct Nellie.

The foster parents with officers followed the woman to Chicago, thence to Mokena and Utica and back to the poor house, where the child was recovered. The claim-ants then sought the courts. Nellie lay asleep in Mrs. Rudd's arms when the court ordered her into the possession of the sheriff pending the trial. When a deputy sheriff took the child in his arms to carry it to the jail residence both women burst into tears. The foster parents failed to get an order of court when they adopted the child, relying on the papers signed by both the real mother and Superintendent Van Arsdale.

Bables "Hoodooed" by Reporters.

"Hoodoo" is a word that is generally thought to have its origin in the African term "voudoo." At any rate, no matter what its genesis, the expression implies the possession of malefic powers. A hoodoo is like one endowed with the evil eye-whatever attracts his attention meets disaster. The latest phase of the hoodoo business has to do with newspaper reporters, more particularly those pencil experts living in Cincinnati. The superintendent of the zoological garden at that place, Mr. Stephen by name, recently asserted in un-ambiguous language that the reporters killed babics. He recovered his listeners from their shock of surprise and horror by the supplemental statement that the babies were not human, and that the journalistic method was one of indirection.

Then he continued: As soon as any of our young animals get writ-ten up they die. Look at our giraffe. And when the grizzly bears were born we said not a word about them in public. One we left with his mother and the other I took and began to raise on a bott on a bottle.

One day one of the newspaper men came out and saw the grizzly baby getting its bottle. He wrote it up at length and the little thing couldn't stand it. It died at once. And so when we have more bables out here we will keep them under cover until they get big enough to stand the hoo-doo of newspaper publicity.

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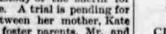
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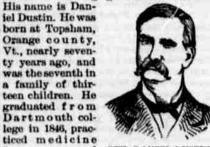
J. E. R. MILLAR, R. P. R. MILLAR, City Ticket Agt. Gen'l Agent Cor. O and 12th Street.

A Physician's Estimate of Ouinine Dr. William B. Clarke, of Indianapolis, Ind., well known as an alienist and authority on all matters relative to insanity, recently prepared a paper which he entitled "A Study of Suicide." One paragraph in the article cannot fail to be of general interest. It is this:

terest. It is this: I feel confident that a frequent cause of suicide has been generally, if not entirely, overlooked, and so am impelled to utter a word of warning regarding it, viz., the reckless use of quinine, especially its use unauthorized by a physician. Any one who knows the pathogenetic ability of quinine, or rather its ability to cause symptoms or perturbations in the well or nearly well person, especially brain and nerve symptoms, cannot deny that it possesses the power to produce a con-dition nearly allied to insanity. In large doess it is a depressant, instead of a stimulant, contrary to the popular belief, and it is the most popular and uriversal every day amateur remedy. Everybody assume to take it, and for any and every aliment. It is reasonably easy of proof that many insanities, suicides and murders can be traced directly to the ill advised and inordi-nate use of quinine. nate use of quining.

Chicago's New Sub-Treasurer. Uncle Sam is to have a new sub-treasures

at Chicago to look after the piles of money stored in the big government building. His name is Dan-



four years, and GEN. DANIEL DUSTIN. then went to California, where he divided his time between doctoring, mining and politics until 1858, when he became a resident of Sycamore, Ills. He entered the civil war as a captain of volunteers, and when the contest ended held the rank of brigadier general. He has been an office-holder in DeKalb county, Ills., continuously since 1865.

Military Training of Dogs.

The French have found a new use for their dogs. They are being trained to act as sentinels. Two soldiers lead a dog to a place a mile from the starting point. Then one of the men turns back, and the canine is taught to track him. In scouting they are also expected to prove useful, for they search the fields and thickets indefatigably -soldiers in foreign uniforms being hidden as decoys during the lesson-and on finding an enemy at once run to their keepers, showing every sign of agitation. When the dogs are on drill they are objects of wonder and interest to all the vagrant curs of the neighborhood.

A Change in Floral Fashion.

Old fashioned flowers are coming into favor again with the residents of the big cities. Orchids and rare roses now have rivals in the daisy, "bachelors' buttons," "hen and chickens," the columbine, lark-spur and hollyhock. It seems quite appro-priate for society leaders to welcome back the flowers of their childhood and give them the place they so well deserve.

"Morally imbecile" is now said to be the correct phrase for describing men and women who are criminal or vicious.

"There the huge sirloin reeked, hard by Plum pudding stood, andChristmas ple Nor failed old Scotland to produce At such high tide, her savory goose."

Come, friends, Let's have a social smoke."

the acme of perfection is reached in our latest And with thy sweet deceiving, lock me in delight awhile "Pullman sleepers, whose seats of seal brown slik plush, oriental draperies in exquisite shades rare woods, and carpets of Royal Wilton, combine in the highest degree, the artistic with the beautiful "We sigh to think our wondrous journey done."

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