

WHOLESALE SLAUGHTERERS.

The Jordan Boys Vowed Death to Deserters and Kept Their Vow.

Near New Holland, Ga., there is a little swamp near the road. At its edge stands a large white-oak tree. Years ago this spot was often pointed out as the scene of the murder of twelve men, and the place bore the reputation of being haunted. It was said the rattling of chains and groans and prayers for mercy could be distinctly heard by passersby. No one ever stopped to investigate, as we can testify from personal experience, says a writer in the New York Dispatch, having heard the groans some fourteen years ago, and having also done some of the most distinguished traveling in all our eventful career.

But to the story: Howard Thompson was a witness to the killing, which occurred in 1863, he being about 10 years old at the time. The killing was done by Bob and Ben Jordan of Pickens county, and the murdered men were deserters who had been arrested in Gilmer county.

While the Jordan boys were in the confederate army a crowd of deserters visited the house of their father, assaulted their sister and the wife of Bob Jordan, and carried their father, who was about 70 years old, through the mountains a distance of sixty miles, and subjected him to many shocking cruelties. Then the Jordan boys returned home and began their record of killing. Every man known to be a deserter or a skulker became a victim of their unerring rifles. Bob kept a list of the names and dates in a small book. He was pursued one day, and in crossing a river lost his book. It contained 125 names. After that he kept no record. This was before the killing near Gainesville.

Bob and Ben Jordan became recruiting officers and arrested twenty-six men in Gilmer county and started with them to the front. On the way two escaped and twenty-four were lodged in Gainesville jail. Next morning the Jordans picked out twelve whom they had the best reason to believe had been implicated in the outrages upon their family and chained them together and marched them to this white-oak tree on the New Holland road. They stood them up in a row and Bob Jordan marched slowly along the line with a large army pistol and shot them with his own hand one at a time. Some fell on their knees and prayed, while others looked their slayer straight in the face and died with an oath on their lips. Among the number was a fragile boy about 15 who was chained to a very large man.

The boy was shot first and the man supported him in a standing posture until he himself was shot, when they fell to the ground together.

Those twelve men were hastily buried in a trench, dug upon the spot, but after the war they were exhumed by the federal authorities and removed to the national cemetery at Chattanooga.

After the war Bob Jordan was shot to death in Florida by a weak, sickly young man upon whom he was imposing. Ben was stabbed to death in a barroom in Texas.

The spot where the killing occurred is now in cultivation, but the old tree still remains. The land is part of the tract which Tom Daniels bought about two years ago for \$1,800 and sold a few days ago for \$6,000.

Blood From a Tree.

Throckmorton county, Texas, possesses a peach tree which, when cut in any part, exudes a sap almost the exact color and consistency of fresh blood. Botanists have confessed themselves at a loss to account for the peculiarity, which they are unanimous, however, in ascribing to some coloring matter absorbed from the soil in which it grows and which is, in all probability, the correct way of accounting for it, as cuttings from the tree planted

elsewhere invariably fail to develop the same peculiarity. The people at large, however, are disposed to look upon the tree as something uncanny, and as many as a dozen stories, all more or less blood-curdling, are poured into any visitor's ears concerning it.

It is said that no negro will pass within half a mile of it at night for any sum that can be offered. The tree is a splendid specimen, and has obtained a greater size than is usual in its species. It belongs to J. R. Love, a farmer of the vicinity, who has been obliged to surround it with a high fence to protect it from injury at the hands of curiosity-seekers, who have hacked it for the sake of obtaining a sight of the sap.

Our First Army.

In 1783 the armies of the Revolution were all disbanded, except "eighty privates and a due proportion of officers, none to exceed the rank of captain," to garrison West Point and Fort Pitt. In June, 1784, the congress of the thirteen states provided for two companies of artillery and eight of infantry, not to exceed thirty-seven officers and 700 enlisted men. In 1786 it increased the number to forty-six officers and 804 men. At that date these troops garrisoned the frontier posts, viz.: Fort Harmar, now Marietta, Ohio; Vincennes, Ind.; and Venango, N. Y., in addition to West Point, Fort Mifflin and Springfield, Mass.

ABOUT FINGER NAILS.

What White Marks and Various Shapes Are Supposed to Signify.

A white mark on the nail bespeaks misfortune.

Pale or lead-colored nails indicate melancholy people.

Broad nails indicate a gentle, timid and bashful nature.

Lovers of knowledge and liberal sentiment have round nails.

People with narrow nails are ambitious and quarrelsome.

Small nails indicate littleness of mind, obstinacy and conceit.

Choleric, martial men, delighting in war, have red and spotted nails.

Nails growing into the flesh at the points and sides indicate luxurious tastes.

People with very pale nails are subject to much infirmity of the flesh, and persecution by neighbors and friends.

The Best of Advice.

An autograph letter of Abraham Lincoln to a friend is said to contain the following: "Do not worry. Eat three square meals a day. Say your prayers. Think of your wife. Be courteous to your creditors. Keep your digestion good. Steer clear of billiousness. Exercise. Go slow and go easy. May be there are other things that your especial case requires to make you happy, but, my friend, these I reckon, will give you a good lift."

Snake and Cat.

An Albany butcher upon arrival at his shop the other morning missed his favorite cat. While looking for it he glanced into a corner when he saw a huge rat snake and about half the cat. The other half occupied a portion of the snake. The reptile was killed by the police and measured eight feet. In a few moments more it would have succeeded in getting outside the cat without much difficulty.

He Announces It.

The reduction of postage between India and England is thus announced by a Kulu Branch postmaster: "Sir, Europe postage, she is degraded, she is two annas six pias, registration fee, she stands two annas, she intact."

Monkeys by the Lot.

In the great animal market at Hamburg, in Germany, giraffes sell at \$7,000 a pair, chimpanzees go at \$800 apiece and select lots of Sumatra monkeys at \$1,000.

THE CANON LAW.

1. The constitutions of princes are not superior, but subordinate to Ecclesiastical constitutions.

2. The laws of the emperors cannot dissolve the ecclesiastical or canon law.

3. It is not lawful for an emperor to exact anything opposed to the apostolic rules.

4. It is not lawful for kings to usurp the things that belong to priests.

5. No custom of any one can thwart the statutes of the popes.

6. Let no resistance be offered to the apostolic (canon) precepts, but let them be salutiferously fulfilled.

7. The yoke imposed by the holy see is to be borne, though it appear intolerable and insupportable.

8. The Pontiff can neither be loosed nor bound by the secular power.

9. That the Pontiff was called God by the pious Prince Constantine, and that as god he cannot be judged by man.

10. That as god he is far above the reach of all human law and judgement.

11. That all laws contrary to the canons and decrees of the Roman prelates are of no force.

12. That all of the ordinances of the pope are unhesitatingly to be obeyed.

13. We ought not even to speak to one whom the pope has excommunicated.

14. Priests are fathers and masters, even of princes.

15. The civil law is derived from man, but the ecclesiastical, or canon law is derived directly from God, by which the pontiff can, in connection with his prelates, make constitutions for the whole christian world, in matters spiritual, concerning the salvation of souls, and the right government of the church; and if necessary judge and dispose of all the temporal goods of all christians.

16. A heretic, holding or teaching false doctrine concerning the sacraments, is excommunicated and degraded, and handed over to the secular court.

17. Secular princes unwilling to swear to defend the church against heretics are excommunicated, and they are laid under an interdict.

18. The goods of heretics are to be confiscated, and applied to the church.

19. Advocates or notaries, favoring heretics, or their defenders, or pleading for them in law suits, or writing documents for them, are infamous, and suspended from office.

20. The secular powers, whether permanent or temporary, are bound to swear that they will exterminate, according to their power, all heretics condemned by the church; and a temporal lord not purging his land of heretics, is excommunicated.

21. Those signed with the cross for the extermination of heretics, rejoice in the privilege granted to the crusaders for the help of the Holy land.

22. They are absolved from all obligations who are in anywise bound to heretics.

23. Whoever dies in battle against the unbelieving, merits the kingdom of heaven.

24. We do not esteem those homicides, to whom it may have happened

in their zeal for their Mother Church against the excommunicated, to kill some of them.

25. That Catholic princes are bound, both by civil and canon law, not to receive or tolerate heretics, and much more are not to permit their rites, or other exercise of their religion, or rather, their false sect, but are most solemnly bound everywhere, to repel and expel them.

26. The following temporal punishments are to be enforced on heretics: 1st.—Infamy, and the consequent disqualifications for all civil acts. 2d.—Intestability, as well active and passive (that is, they can neither make will, nor inherit what is left to them by others). 3d. Loss of paternal power over children. 4th.—Loss of dowry, and other privileges granted to women. 5th.—Confiscation of all goods. 6th.—That vassals and slaves and others are set free from all, even sworn obligations due to their lord or another. 7th. Capital corporal punishments, especially death, and perpetual imprisonment.

27. The canon law forbids all toleration.

28. That Metropolitans and Bishops are to excommunicate him who grants liberty of conscience.

29. No oath is to be kept towards heretic princes, lords or others.

30. Heretics are to be deprived of all civil and paternal rights.

31. The Pope can absolve from all oaths.

32. Every bishop is ordinary judge in a cause of heresy. The reason is because the bishops can ex-officio, and ought to extirpate heretics, and inflict upon them the due punishments, and to this are bound on pain of deposition. Besides, are the inquisitors especially deputed by the Apostolic See. Every bishop in his diocese is thought to be, and in reality is, a natural inquisitor, (literally born inquisitor), so as to have the same power with those already mentioned in a cause of heresy.

33. In every promissory oath although absolutely taken, there are certain conditions tacitly understood, amongst which are: First, If I can; Second, To save the right and authority of a superior; Third, When the oath supposes the honor of the Apostolic See to be illicit."

34. That the Council of Trent, (the last and great authority of Rome), decrees and commands that the sacred canons and all general councils, also the other Apostolic enactments issued in favor of ecclesiastical persons of ecclesiastical liberty, and against its violators, all of which by this present decree it renews, and must be exactly observed by all.

Loyal Men

and all

AMERICAN

SOCIETIES

Can Get All Kinds of

JOB WORK

At THE AMERICAN Office