

FIRE AT FAIRMONT Big Business Building and Stock Destroyed. TOTAL LOSS OF \$25,000 ENTAILED

The Merchants Partly Protected by Insurance—A Buffalo County Farmer Meets a Violent Death—Other News of Important Nature.

Fire broke out last Thursday in the Ransom block, at Fairmont totally destroying the building and most of the drug stock of O. E. Miller & Co., the hardware store of E. G. Hall, and damaging the stock of Mrs. M. L. Garey and W. L. Stiles, Mr. Garey, J. W. Horner, dentist, and D. F. S. Ashby occupied the upper story, the former as a dwelling and the latter two as offices. They lost everything. The total loss will reach \$25,000, \$12,000 on building, which was insured for \$5,000; R. G. Hall, insurance, \$2,000; Mr. Garey, insurance \$500; Horner, \$1,600; insured; Miller & Co., \$4,500, insured. Dr. Ashby only carried about \$500. Mr. Stiles has ample insurance to cover his loss. Two buildings north of the brick block were torn down by the falling walls.

THROWN UNDER WHEELS

Farmer in Buffalo County Meets Violent Death.

Particulars have been received regarding the sudden death of Henry Hoff, a farmer living four and a half miles northwest of Pleasanton, Neb. Mr. Hoff had been to town with a load of hogs. It seems he had driven to the pasture on his return home and had got out to close the gate, first throwing the brake on the hind wheels and neglecting to throw it off was thrown from the wagon after going some distance and was caught by the hind wheels and dragged to death. Mr. Hoff was about fifty years old and leaves a wife and adopted daughter.

AGED COUPLE DIES TOGETHER

The funeral of Samuel Overcash and wife was held at Crete, Neb. They were both very old and had expressed the desire to die at the same time and their wish was fulfilled. Both died the same day from the infirmities of age and were buried in the same grave and coffin. They were the father and mother of S. F. Overcash of Crete, one of the founders of the Crete Democrat.

LIGHTNING STRIKES A FIRE

During a thunder storm at Western, Neb., lightning struck Ralph Bousall's barn and it burned to the ground with its contents, three tons of hay, over four hundred bushels of grain, a buggy, three sets of harness, and three or four valuable horses. There was no insurance. The loss is estimated at \$1,200.

STRUCK BY SNOWSLIDE

A terrible accident is just reported to have occurred on the Colorado & Northwestern road near Boulder, Col. Two big engines attached to a passenger train coming from Ward to Boulder were struck by a large snowslide and hurried into the chasm below. Four trainmen were killed.

FOREMEN SELL SITUATIONS

A strike was begun at the factory of the Hood Rubber company at East Watertown, Mass. Some of the employees say that nearly 1,000 went out. There was no trouble. The strike is alleged practice of foremen in selling situations, mostly to Armenians.

DISCOVERS BED OF IRON

A new manganese iron ore field has been found south of Little Grand, Utah, on the Rio Grande Western. The report is that E. T. Wolverton, a veteran prospector, while searching for copper stumbled upon an extinct crater from which had overflowed vast quantities of manganese iron.

CHILD FALLS ON THEARS

The fourteen-months-old child of George Rice, living southwest of Hildreth, Neb., fell with his face on the open points of a pair of scissors. The blades penetrated the brain, between the eyes, killing the child instantly. The accident occurred while the mother was at work at the sewing machine.

BARON FAVA OFFICIALLY RETIRED

King Victor Emmanuel has signed the royal decrees placing Baron Fava, late Italian ambassador to the United States, on the retired list and appointing Marquis Carbonara di Malaspina his successor at Washington.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The six-year-old son of Bert Brady of Belmont, Neb., fell from a horse and fractured a leg. J. K. Lamsley of Lowell, O., drowned himself in the waters of the Muskingum river near Zanesville. It is reported he was short in his accounts. The five largest stationery engine manufacturing companies in the United States are to be consolidated into one big combine with a capital of \$25,000,000. Andrew Miller, a rich farmer living near Minerva, O., was shot from behind while climbing the stairs to the hayloft in his barn. His assailant is unknown. At Chicago Charles Sweeney, local agent for the Worth tobacco company of Lexington, Ky., killed his wife and then took his own life. The couple had been separated for some time.

ENGINES CRASH TOGETHER

Head-End Collision on the Florence & Cripple Creek Road.

A head-end collision between a passenger train and a light engine occurred on the Florence & Cripple Creek road near Florence, Col. Six persons were injured. They are: Hugh Conway, fireman on passenger, left foot crushed. James McLaren, engineer on passenger, severely cut about head, neck and shoulders. Engineer Mason, cut about face. John Brown, conductor of passenger train, back badly wrenched. F. W. Perry, Denver, chest crushed. Charles L. Sprague, newspaper man, Atlanta, Ga., nose broken and cut about head.

FAVORS A NEW ROAD.

Omaha Gives Encouragement to Proposed Emporia Air Line.

At a mass meeting of the citizens of Omaha, Neb., the proposition of the Kansas Southern officials for an Omaha-Emporia Air Line was accepted. The promoters made the desired concessions that the name Omaha be placed first in the title of the road, and that the shops and headquarters be located in Omaha. In return it is advised by the citizens to vote \$250,000 in bonds to be delivered when the road is completed. William Allen White and other speakers pointed out that in connecting with the Santa Fe and Missouri, Kansas & Texas at Emporia a new gateway to the gulf would be opened.

HEAVY SNOW IN KENTUCKY

Follows Rain of Two Days and Consequent Freshets.

A Middlesboro, Ky., dispatch says: A heavy snow storm visited eastern Kentucky on the 19th. Two days of heavy rain preceded the snow storm and brought on freshets in Powell's valley which rendered twenty families homeless in that section. The peach crop probably will be killed.

WANT PRESIDENT TO COME

Desiring Grand Army Encampment Extends Invitation.

The committee on invitation and Senator Allison and Speaker Henderson have asked President McKinley to visit the Grand Army of the Republic encampment the first week in June. It is believed he will accept.

TORNADO STRIKES HAMLET

Several Houses Demolished and One Man Fatally Injured.

The hamlet of Biscayne, Fla., was struck by a tornado and several houses were demolished. John Peters was fatally injured and William Cook seriously hurt. Peters' house was completely demolished.

FEATHER TALK OF PEACE

The London Sun, confirming the report that the peace negotiations between Lord Kitchener and the Boer general have been renewed, suggests that something is likely to be effected during Sir Alfred Milner's absence. The paper also says that the government is divided as to who will fill Sir Alfred's place. Both are again acting as go-betweens.

CONCEDES ALL DEMANDS

The Chicago Great Western railroad has conceded all the demands made by the International machinists' association, thus ending the possibility of a strike. The demands included a 9 hour day, a minimum wage scale of 29 cents an hour and several concessions in connection with apprentice regulations. Under the old system the minimum scale varies from 26 to 27 cents.

ONE GRIEVANCE REMOVED

At a meeting of the Irish cattle traders' association in Dublin the secretary announced that he had ascertained on good authority that the war office had decided that in future troops stationed in Ireland should be supplied with Irish meat only, instead of foreign, thus removing a substantial Irish grievance.

COAL COMPANY BUYS LAND

The deal by which the Empire Coal Mining company comes into possession of 80,000 acres of coal land in Belmont county, O., was consummated at Wheeling, W. V. The aggregate sum paid is given as \$1,250,000.

KILLING FOLLOWS OLD FEUD

Owen Bradley, a prominent trainer and owner of famous race horses, was shot and killed by William Nicholas at Lexington, Ky. Both are of prominent families. The cause was an old feud.

KILLED IN A SNOWSLIDE

At Telluride, Cal., a snowslide carried away the bunk and boarding house of the Alta mine. Richard Prendergast, the cook, lost his life.

NEWS IN BRIEF

John Pruyn of Grand Rapids, Mich., who lost \$40,000 in the Niles bank failure has become insane. David H. Creech, a Jackson, Mich., capitalist, aged seventy years, shot his wife on the street, firing four bullets into her head, neck and mouth. Mrs. Creech was forty years old and was married to Creech about twelve years ago. Previously she had been his housekeeper. They had lived unhappily. The shooting was the result of divorce secured by Mrs. Creech.

Mildred & Grevanion BY THE DUCHESS.

CHAPTER VIII.—(Continued.)

Just then the door opened and Mildred entered. She came in swiftly, and advanced so rapidly toward the chimney-piece that, until she was within a foot of him, she was not aware of his presence there, and acknowledged her surprise by a sudden start and exclamation of alarm. "I beg your pardon," he said; "I did not mean to frighten you."

Even as he spoke a wild determination to know the worst from her own lips without loss of time seized upon him. "I came for a book," explained Mildred, hurriedly. "Ah, here it is! In confusion I hardly remembered where I had left it."

"Can you spare me a few minutes?" asked Denzil, without giving himself liberty to think further. "Certainly," answered Mildred, in a tone of marked surprise. "But do you not think that another time would be more convenient? You see"—glancing at the clock—"how late it is? The ball will commence in less than half an hour, and we shall not be ready."

They formed a curious picture, standing there in the old-fashioned dresses they had not had time to remove; Denzil in white satin breeches and rich ruffles and carefully-powdered hair, Miss Trevanion as "La Valliere," with her trailing embroidered satin robe, her fair hair also thinly powdered, and her soft white arms half bared.

Encouraged by her speechlessness, Denzil spoke again—"I love you," he said, simply. "I am only telling you what you have known all along—am I not? And yet, even to myself, when put into language, it seems quite different—the words sound so poor and cold. Is it altogether hopeless, Mildred? Is there any chance for me?"

"Give me my answer," he said again. "What answer can I give?" she asked, with a slight impatient movement of the hand near him. "Better would it be to ask for none. I warned you before. Be satisfied now, and leave me."

"Give me my answer," he said for the third time, sternly. "I will take it from your own lips now." "Then, as you will have it," she cried, losing all moderation, "take from my own lips 'No.'"

There was a long pause. Denzil's face was as white as death. Miss Trevanion's scarcely less so; while the hand that lay upon the table appeared bloodless from the intensity with which she leaned upon it. "Do you say that because my father earned his money by trade?" asked Denzil, slowly.

"It cannot matter now," she answered, coldly. "Yes, it does," he went on, excitedly; "and I believe, from my heart, that that is the reason. I believe that, loving you as I do, I could in time have made you return my love had not your wretched pride stepped in to prevent it. Or can it be true what I have heard said—that you would at any risk, willingly sell yourself to gain a title? If I could bring myself to think that of you—if that were possible—Tell me, Mildred—is it the truth?"

"I do not understand you," said Mildred, haughtily. "I will listen to no more of your questioning, sir. Let me pass." "It is true, then!" he exclaimed, passionately, seizing her hand to detain her. "You do not deny it! And you will sacrifice yourself to obtain possession of a mere position? I imagined you incapable of such a thing; but see how mistaken we all are in the idols we set up! I am thankful I was disillusioned in time. I am glad—yes, glad—you have refused me; as a woman who could so barter away her heart is not worthy to be the wife of any honest man."

longer, in consideration of a hunt declared to be coming off within that period at some particularly affected "meet."

It had come off, and it was now indeed Denzil's last night at King's Abbott for some time to come. He had been shooting steadily all the morning, with the vigorous intention of warding off all cares and vexations that might arise to harass and disturb his mind; but as the night drew on, and the hour of departure approached more closely, his self-imposed sternness gave way, and he began painfully to understand how bitterly he should miss the sight of the cold, exquisite face of Mildred Trevanion during the two months that must elapse before he could avail himself of the pressing invitation he had received from Sir George and Lady Caroline, to come and stay with them again as soon as ever Christmas should be over their heads.

"So you are really about to leave us to-morrow?" said Frances Sylverton. "I can scarcely bring myself to believe it. You have made yourself so completely one of us that I do not know how we are to get on until we see you again."

"Is that from your heart?" asked Denzil, lightly, but with an understatement of extreme earnestness. "When I am far away I shall like to believe it was." Then, changing his tone to one somewhat lower, he added, "For myself I cannot bear to think of this time to-morrow evening; all will be so changed, so different."

"And so you have actually made up your mind to go by the early train, Mr. Younge?" called out Miss Deverill from an opposite sofa. "Yes," answered Denzil; "I must start early, whether I like it or not, as I have particular business to transact in London to-morrow, and have let it run to the very last day."

"Well, the best of such decisions is," went on Miss Deverill, "one gets over one's last speeches and adieux the night before, and so can commence the journey in the morning free and unfettered."

"I should call that the worst of it, not the best," said Miss Sylverton, softly. "I could not bear to leave a house with no one ready to bid me 'good-by,' or to wish me a pleasant journey."

"There are two sides to every question," answered Denzil, somewhat sadly. "Taking Miss Deverill's view of the matter, you see you escape bidding final adieux, that might perhaps in many cases wring the heart."

"But still, as final farewells must be said one time or the other, I think I should prefer them at the very last moment," said Frances. "Confess now, that you would always like some one to give you your breakfast, and say a kindly word to you before starting."

"Well, yes, I confess I should like it," responded Denzil; "but, when one chooses to get up at such an unreasonable hour as half-past six, one must suffer the attendant penalties."

"I will give you your breakfast to-morrow morning, Mr. Younge, if you wish it," broke in Mildred's voice, calm and sweet. Denzil started—an expression of intense doubting astonishment passed over his face. He raised his eyes, and gazed steadfastly at her.

Mildred herself appeared perfectly unmoved, her features being as composed as though no such unexpected words had fallen from her lips. Her fingers steadily unpicked the stitch that had somehow gone wrong in her woolwork, and did not even tremble in the act. Denzil tried hard to find some suitable words in which to clothe his appreciation of her unwonted graciousness, and to beg that, for his sake, she would not put herself to such an inconvenience—but in vain; his brain seamed in confusion, and he could only mutter "Thank you" in a hurried, unnatural manner, quite foreign to his usual courteous self. (To be continued.)

EATING AND BODILY HEALTH.

Two French Medical Investigators Believe We Eat to Die. Doubt as to whether we eat to live or eat to die has been dispelled by certain French medical investigators, who have proved to their own satisfaction that we eat to die. One of these scientists recently read a paper before the Academy of Medicine, in which he advanced the theory that appendicitis is often the result of intestinal poisoning caused by influenza. Another investigator in discussing the same subject declared that the disease is caused by worms or other parasites that are swallowed with raw fruits and vegetables and in impure water. Two other French investigators have discovered by test that rabbits which have been compelled to fast for a week are proof against the attacks of bacilli injected into their systems, while rabbits that have received their regular rations quickly succumb to disease. This is probably explained by the theory that the digestive agents of the body when not employed in the assimilation of nourishment from food will be in fighting trim for the task of "doing up" any microbes that may enter their ballistics. Prophylactic action in line with this theory would destroy the business of the butchers, grocers and bakers during times of epidemics, but it would also destroy the fasters in the course of time, and thus prove the converse of the dictum that we eat to die. There is no doubt as to the ill-effects of over-eating; an opinion is general that humanity is inclined to eat too much. The investigations of the French scientists have neither removed doubt as to the real cause of appendicitis nor made it clear that humanity can escape the omnipresent microbe by habitual fasting.—Milwaukee Wisconsin.