THE PIANO DETECTIVE.

Work that Keeps a Sleuth Busy Most of the Time.

"Did you ever hear of a piano detective?"

The city hall detective scratched his head reflectively and then was compelled to admit that he had never heard of such an individual.

"Well, there are a dozen or more of them in Philadelphia, and they make good money, too.

"Their work is simple. You see, a great many piano firms sell instruments on the installment plan. That is, the purchaser pays say $50 down on a $500 or $600 instrument and agrees to make good the remainder at so much a month. By far the greater number of such purchasers are as honest as the day is long, but once in a while a man comes along whose little scheme is to move out the piano a day or two after it is delivered and sell it for a couple of hundred.

"It is the business of the piano detective to circumvent this sort of thing. As a rule, some suspicious movement on the part of the would-be defrauder of the piano dealer causes him to be placed under suspicion. The dealer can't step in and take his instrument away under the contract, and the only thing he can do is to watch it. Here is where the piano detective comes in. He hovers around the house in which the suspected purchaser lives, night and day, watching any attempt to make way with the piano. Usually three or four weeks are long enough to settle the question one way or another. If the piano buyer is crooked he is practically certain to make some sort of a move before the expiration of that time. If he doesn't it is pretty safe presumption that the suspicion is groundless and the piano detective is called off by his employer, with no one but himself and two or three others the wiser. But the precaution is a necessary one."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Royal Way.

King Alexander of Servia, when only 18 years old, summoned his regents to a dinner party, rose as if to propose a toast, drew a revolver from his pocket, proclaimed himself of age, and dismissed the regents, whom he locked up all night in the dining room, while he went round to assure himself of the fidelity of his guards.

Hint for Writers.

Don't moisten your new pen between your lips before you begin to write. Take your cheap steel pen, dip it in the ink, then hold it in the flame of a match for a few seconds, wipe it carefully, dip it into the ink again, and you have a pen that will make glad the heart within you. Try it once.—Nauvoo Rustler.

Real Greatness.

An exchange gives this story of a pompous member of Parliament who attended an agricultural show in Dublin. He arrived late, and found himself on the outskirts of a huge crowd.

Being anxious to obtain a good view for himself and a lady friend who accompanied him, and presuming that he was well known to the spectators, he tapped a burly coal-porter on the shoulder and peremptorily demanded, "Make way there."

"Garn, who are ye pushin'?" was the unexpected response.

"Do you know who I am, sir?" cried the indignant M. P. "I am a representative of the people."

"Yah," growled the porter, as he stood unmoved, "but we're the bloomin' people themselves."

Speaking from Experience.

Master—Tombs, this is an example in subtraction. Seven boys went down to apond to bathe, but two of them had been told not to go into the water. Now, can you tell me how many went in?"

Tombs—Yes, sir; seven.—Tit-Bits.

A Matter of Weight.

"This is the new tandem, is it?" said the fair maiden. "How much will it weigh, with the attachments all on?"

"With all the attachments on that it needs," he whispered in her ear, "it weighs about 115 pounds more than it does now."

Single Persons.

The largest proportion of single persons is found in Ireland and Scotland, and the smallest in the United States. In Ireland 67 per cent., in Scotland 65 per cent., but in the United States only 59 per cent. are in that condition.

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEWS OF THE WEEK IN A CONDENSED FORM.

Alvin Saunders, Ex-Governor of this State, Passes Away at His Home in Omaha—Was a Personal Friend of Abraham Lincoln.

Ex-Gov. Alvin Saunders died at 4 o'clock on the morning of Nov. 1 at his home on Sherman Avenue, Omaha, at the age of 85 years. He passed away easily and naturally and his death seemed to the members of the family gathered around the bedside as though he had merely gone from perfect consciousness into a gentle sleep. Gov. Saunders' end had been expected almost hourly for ten days. His strength first began failing about six months ago, when his heart showed signs of giving out, and the members of the family knew that his death could not be long delayed. Only once or twice since then has he been able to leave the house for a drive with his physician or a turn in a wheel chair. In spite of his extreme age and his physical infirmities he has had full possession of his mental faculties and continued so until within a few moments of his death. The governor's wife, his daughter, Mrs. Russell B. Harrison; his son, Charles L. Saunders, and his physician, Dr. Hanchett, were present when he passed away. He was perfectly rational until within a few moments of his death.

Alvin Saunders was a native of Fleming County, Kentucky, where he was born July 12, 1817. Governor Saunders' death removes one more of the few survivors whose lives connect with the early history of the middle west. He was largely instrumental in the nomination of Abraham Lincoln, his personal friend, as president and was closely associated with many other prominent men of the nation in his day. He was appointed territorial governor of Nebraska March 26, 1861, by President Lincoln. He served two terms of territorial governor. In 1867 the admission of Nebraska to the union terminated Gov. Saunders' gubernatorial office, but in 1868 he was elected a delegate to the national republican convention which nominated Grant and Colfax. In 1876 he was elected for the long term to represent Nebraska in the United States Senate.

Governor Saunders was one of the earliest and most enthusiastic advocates of a transcontinental railway and in his first message to the territorial legislature in 1861, he said: "A mere glance at the map of the country will convince every intelligent mind that the great Platte valley, which passes through the heart and runs nearly through the entire length of Nebraska, is to become the route of the great central railway that is to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific states and territories."

When the bill that authorized the organization of a company to build the road was passed by congress Governor Saunders was made one of the incorporators and his prophecy was realized when construction was actually begun, Dec. 2, 1863.

Nebraska Miner Dies at Sea.

Dr. R. D. McKean of Columbus has received intelligence that his cousin, Lemuel Casturline, died and was buried at sea July 16 when only two days out from St. Michaels. Casturline had been in the Klondike country two years and was returning with a few thousand dollars on his person. He became ill and died within a few hours and from all appearances it is believed that he was poisoned, as only about one-fourth of his money could be found when the matter was investigated by the captain of the vessel. He was waited on in his berth by a couple of companions, who decamped as soon as the boat touched at Seattle.

Farmers Need Men.

The first hard frost of the season visited the section surrounding West Point Nov. 1. Ice formed on ponds and vegetation is practically killed. Corn husking is progressing fairly well, the only difficulty the farmers experience being that it is impossible to procure sufficient men to move the crop. Laborers are receiving as high as 3½ and 4 cents a bushel and board. The crop is turning out much better than anticipated, averaging fifty-five bushels to the acre.

Three Men Thrown from Buggy.

A. Nitka, Frank Green of the Plattsmouth Journal, and Charles Searle were riding in a buggy Nov. 3, when the team turned too suddenly around a corner and they were all thrown to the sidewalk. Searle's head struck the hydrant and he was knocked senseless. He was taken to the Hotel Plattsmouth and a physican summoned, who found that no bones were broken.

St. Edward Roller Mill Burns.

Fire broke out in the St. Edward Roller Mill, owned by W. D. Warner, and the fire department gave prompt response, but their efforts to extinguish the flames were useless. Luckily the wind was in the north or the whole west portion of the town would have gone up in smoke. The loss is estimated at about $20,000, with small insurance.

Reception to Returned Volunteers

The Women's Relief Corps and Boomer Post, Grand Army of the Republic at Tekamah, gave a reception a few evenings since to the Burt County volunteers who participated in the Spanish-American war, their famities and all the Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps posts in the county. Over 400 guests were present.

Indians Stranded at Omaha.

A party of about 100 Indians, mostly from the North and South Dakota reservations, were stranded in Omaha this week, and Special Indian Agent Jenkins was ordered from Pine Ridge to secure their return to the agencies.

Diphtheria Closes Public Schools

Several cases of diphtheria have broken out suddenly in Crete. Several children of the public schools have been taken down with the disease. The school board met and the public schools have been closed until further orders.

Farmhand Takes a Fatal Leap.

William Cook, who was stealing a ride on a freight train, jumped off near the Beemer section house. He received severe cuts about the head, his arm was broken and he was hurt internally. His condition is so serious that he is not expected to live.

Wray's Assailant Held for Trial.

James H. Ross, who shot and wounded J. T. Wray at Culbertson on Oct. 30, was given his preliminary hearing before Justice White Nov. 3. Ross was bound over to the district court under a bond of $1,000.

Queer Advertisements.

Queer begging advertisements are often in the German newspapers. The Basler Nachrichten recently printed this: "A man on the road to religious conviction seeks for the money necessary to undertake a penitential and prayerful journey to the Holy Land. Offerings under heading Christian Love to be adressed to the office of this paper."

Had Pet Names.

Lady Poynter, the wife of the President of the Royal Academy, is one of the most beautiful women in London. She and her sister, Lady Burne-Jones, are the daughters of a cocoa manufacturer, and were in their girlhood nicknamed "Grateful" and "Comforting."

Winter in the South.

The season approaches when one's thoughts turn toward a place where the inconveniences of a Northern winter may be escaped. No section of this country offers such ideal spots as the Gulf Coast on the line of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad between Mobile and New Orleans. It possesses a mild climate, pure air, even temperature and facilities for hunting and fishing enjoyed by no other section. Accommodations for visitors are first-class and can be secured at moderate prices. The L. & N. R. R. is the only line by which it can be reached in through cars from Northern cities. Through car schedules to all points in Florida by this line are also perfect. Write for folders, etc., to GEO. B. HORNER, D. P. A., St. Louis, Mo.

Filipino Swimmers.

The courage shown by the Filipinos in battle with American as well as with Spanish troops long ago proved their natural bravery. An intelligent native observer, Ramon Reyes Lala, who has received a careful education both in Europe and America, writes thus concerning the daring of his countrymen in time of peace:

The natives are all excellent swimmers and are absolutely fearless in the water. I have seen groups of boys diving thirty or forty feet for pennies dropped into the sea by foreign naval officers. Many swim miles with the greatest ease, and it is no uncommon sight to see groups of naked men plunging with drawn daggers among a shoal of sharks, with whom they fight with a fierceness that always results in victory.

The Oldest Throne.

What is probably the most venerable piece of furniture in existence is now in the British Museum. It is the throne of Queen Hatsu, who reigned in the Nile Valley some 1,600 years before Christ.

His Little Scheme.

Meeks—My wife never pays any attention to what I say.

Weeks—Mine does—at times.

Meeks—How do you manage it?

Weeks—I talk in my sleep.

When Genius Gets a Show.

"Why is it the mind is brighter when a man is past 40?"

"After that age the man gets sense enough not to eat too much."

Over 1,000 varieties of the serpent have been described by naturalists, to say nothing of the thousands more which have been seen by sailors and along the coast of New Jersey.

Firefly Photography.

Experiments have been made in photographing by the light of fireflies.

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