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16.6	Ulysses,	9:55	64
86	Stapleburst,	10:12	-53
**	Seward,	10:30	144
44	Ruby,	10:46	
169	Milford.	11:00	**
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164	Emerald,	11:37	
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VOL. XI.--NO. 36.

COLUMBUS, NEB., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1881.

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one; yet it was difficult to proceed One door north of Post-office, against them legally, and the party

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I. NIEMOLLER'S.

Platte Centre, Neb.

kitchen, with bars and hasps. In

his house, nor give them a cent to When Wilts came to be twenty-one

pressed it. who, it was said, was as like him as tiate them. been an understood thing, that when | The warm stove was very comforta-Wilts went West, Mandy Bachelder ble. They shut the door and sat thing for me to do." would go with him as Mrs. Murch. down.

In a certain rural town down east where the narrator tormerly resided, there was at one time a clique of bration' that night. rough young fellows who made it 'What do you mean by 'celebra-

tion?' Wilts asked him.

wedded couples. 'Serenading' was what they were pleased to call it; but it was far from being either a musical or a complimentary performance. In fact it was a terrible bug-bear for all prospective brides and bridegrooms. On the evening of the marriage, this serenade-party, numbering fifteen or twenty members, was sure to make its unwelcome appearance in the yard, liberally provided with fish-

their business to serenade all newly

every other possible instrument of din and racket. These rude fellows came disguised in masks and old clothes; and the first lint of their approach was usually a discharge of guns, a racket of stones on the roof, blended with a horrible blare of horns and imita-

tions of Indian war-whoops. If the newly-made husband did not wish that sort of music continued all night, he must arise, open his doors and invite in these unwelcome

guests. Once in the house, they would make themselves very much at home and expected to be 'treated' to a good supper, or else to be furnished with a handsome sum of money with which to go away and provide a supper for themselves.

This was not the worst. For the boors usually demanded that the room, and often insisted--disguised and masked as they were-on saluting her with a kiss.

If admittance was refused them, they kept up their terrific din, hour after hour, and sometimes they had broken into houses. Often they got on the roof to continue their deafening fanfarade; indeed, there was no end of their pranks; and if not treated with so much liberality as they thought due them, they would come again night after night.

Occasionally they met with a head and shut the window. rough reception in the shape of hot water, jets of kerosene oil from squirt-guns, and shots had even been That they were an abominable nuisance and an outrage on all rights and decency, was admitted by every

was powerful enough to make itself feared as well as hated. Otherwise, it would have been promptly broken up by an indignant community. I have tried to learn the origin of such serenading, and I think the custom came to us from among the French Canadians of the Lower Provinces. For these people have a trick which they call 'charavari,' where a party, fantastically dressed and equipped, with cracked fiddles, horns and kettle-drums, sometimes go to 'wake' a wedding when there is some circumstance about it which when the bride is many years older

than the bridegroom, or if, on the other hand, an old gray-beard were to take a very young wife. Such were the serenaders, and uch was the state of affairs at the time of the marriage of a young man

named Willis Murch, a friend and neighbor of the writer. Willis, or Wilts, as we called him, was a quick-witted young man and possessed a great deal of good sense and sturdy independence. I had often heard him say, whenever we would hear of a serenade, that he would never let that company into

his parents wanted him to live at home on their farm and take care of them. It was no very desirable offer. There was a heavy mortgage on the farm, and there were two helpless, bed-ridden members of the family. Willis, too, had been planning to go West as soon as he came up his plans for the sake of the old people, and settled down at home. like the good son he was, to pay off trying the lower windows discoverthe debts on the place and 'see his ed that the kitchen door under the folks through,' as the neighbors ex- piazza was not fastened. They threw

There was a wedding that fall, on

ners, a fellow named Gallison, sup- en door on the outside. posed to be connected with the 'serenade-gang,' hinted to Wilts that he hoped he (Willis) was 'laying in a stock of good things' for the 'cele-

'Oh, you'll find out soon enough,' said Gallison, laughing, and with a you! wink to the others.

'You mean the serenading-gang?'

'Like enough,' replied Gallison. Shouldn't wonder a mite.' 'You expect me to open my house and furnish supper for the 'roughs' of the town? Then let me tell you, once for all, that I shall do nothing of the sort; and if you care to take horns, old tin pans, guns and almost my advice, you will keep away and mind your own business and leave me to mind mine. I've no money to spend in entertainments of any kind." 'Perhaps you mean to shoot us,'

sneered Gallison. 'We've seen guns 'No matter what I mean to do,'

said Wilts. 'I warn you to keep wav. This warning on Wilts' part only stimulated these unprincipled fellows to do their worst. They turned gun, fairly stove off one of the plank out in full custom; and at exactly ten o'clock that evening, they opened the fracas with a discharge of guns, tooting of horns and drum-

ming, accompanied by a shower of brick-bats on the roof. We heard it all over the neighborhood, and wondered, not without some misgivings, what. Wilts

fastened up the doors and windows

would do.

Blow and whoop they did, but Wilts gave no sign that he heard About midnight, however, old Mr. Murch, Willis' father, nearly crazed by the noise, opened a window, and very civilly asked the party to go away and let him get a little sleep. They answered this request with such a deafening noise that the old

gentleman was glad to draw in his

They did not quite dare to break into the house with axes; they knew Wilts' courage too well. Davlight dispersed them. But they promised loudly, ere departing, to come back next night. During the day, Wilts called on

two of his neighbors, young men

like himself, and asked them to come over to his place that afternoon, and stay over night in the house. 'Our 'friends' of last night's hullabaloo have promised to come back,' said he, 'and you may see some fun if things work right.

Just at dusk, two young fellowswhose names need not be givenaccepted the invitation, and went to the house. The kitchen there was a large low room, and the outside door opened into it from off the piazza. Wilts had just put two very strong staples and hasps on this door for fastening offends public taste; as, for example, it on the outside. It was a very strong oak door. On the outside, too, he had put up two strong plank shutters on the kitchen windows. Two other doors, leading one into the wood-house, and the other into the sitting-room, were ready for tastening on the outside from the

> short. Wilts had made of the kitchen a cage strong enough for a prison During the evening, he set out on the kitchen table a large basketful of good eating apples and a jug of new cider, with glasses. A candle was left burning here; and in the large Canadian stove a good fire of hardwood logs was shut up, burning slowly. To his two young friends, who had been taken into the stratagem, Willis showed an auger-hole bored in the ceiling, directly over

the stove. The evening passed pleasantly. It was cloudy and pretty dark. The serenaders gathered about the house very quietly. But promptly at ten of age; and he was just the man to o'clock, the noise of the night before make his way in the West and do was repeated. Guns, horns, drums, well. But he conscientiously gave stones on the roof, and heavy blows against the side of the house. At length, some of them who were

it open, and seeing the apples and There was another, too, concerned cider, all walked in and began to in this sacrifice of Wilts' plans .- help themselves. Perhaps they fan-Amanda Bachelder, a schoolmate cied that these refreshments had and very dear friend of Wilts', and been set out on purpose to propitwo people could be. It had long It was a rather chilly evening out.

Meantime, Wilts and his two Thanksgiving day morning-Wilts friends had been looking through insist on wearing the hair of another and Mandy. They moved home, the auger-hole; and one of them now woman upon your head?" Alphonse That day, at the store at the cor- the piazza, quietly hasped the kitch- upon your feet?" She had him.

WHOLE NO. 556.

They were not long drinking up the cider. Then they began shouting for Willis and Mandy. 'Don't think you'll get off with mess of apples and cider! You

Ten dollars for drinks, Wilts! We must have something more out of 'Well,' said Wilts, through the auger-hole, 'you shall have something more." and with that, he blew a

haven't seen the last of us so easy

whole paper of cayenne pepper through a piece of lead pipe down upon that hot stove! In an instant, the whole kitchen was full of the firey, pungent dust! There came up an enraged shout, followed by a rush for the door. The

intruders found the door hard and It is quite useless to try fully to depict what followed. The invaders screeched, pounded and sneezed. Some begged and screamed; some threw themselves flat on the floor with their faces down, to get air.

They could neither see nor breathe in that fiery atmosphere. At last, one of the serenaders, by dint of pounding with the butt of a shutters from the front window, and the whole party tumbled out, nearly blinded, and sneezing as if their heads would burst. They were so badly punished that they hurried off at once, and we heard that several uations.

of them were sick a week. The story flew through the town. and the serenaders were joked and jeered at by the people. They had He did nothing. He had securely to confess themselves beaten. 'Huhgish-oo!" was the joke which they below, and he remained quietly heard on all sides. That was the last charavari they ever attempted .-Youth's Companion.

Out of Fashion.

Even our sins go out of fashion.

If ancient novels are to be believed,

people of the old days seemed to take exquisite pleasure in revenging themselves for any injury, real or fancied. They made revenge their life's object. Now what civilized being at the present day really thinks it worth while to take any trouble to revenge himself? If any one has injured his vanity, has treated him in public places with contempt, or exposed his folly, he is rather glad than otherwise to pay off his adversary when the occasion comes; but to make vengeance any very seriouobject of thought, much more to devote a life to it after the melodramatic fashion, is so rare as to be almost an evidence of insanity. In old days, the case would naturally be different. A feudal Baron, in the intense dullness of his country life, would very likely have nothing else to think of than the injury done to him by some brutal likeness of himself; the one great excitement of his life being a fight, he would be always employing his imagination at odd times in taking his enemy at a disadvantage, getting him down, and casting him into a loathsome dungeon. He might broad over this for hours, when his modern counterpart would be reading the daily papers. It would doubtless be gratifying to him if he could achieve his smiable object, and vary the monotony of life by torturing his defenseless enemy. But, fortunately, in our day, both revenge and dungeon have gone out of fashion, and the days of "R-r-evenge is sweet!" have passed forever. Even the modern sensa-

If our coming legislature have any desire to be held in grateful remembrance by the people whom they represent, a long step in this direction can be taken by abolishing the present extortionate system of railroad tariffs under which Nebraska in the pockets of the railroad kings, times" arises when crops are light. While no one is disposed to questo her, as a guardian of her interests, to see that this as well as all other drawbacks be removed .- Central City Courier.

tional novel cannot revive them.

Wishing to pay his triend a compliment, a gentleman remarked: "I hear you have a very industrious wife." "Yes," replied the friend, with a melancholy smile, "she is never idle. She always fluds some-

"Eugenie, Eugenie, will you still

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Business and professional cards ten lines or less space, per annum, ten dol-lars. Legal advertisements at statute rates. "Editorial local notices" fifteen cents a line each insertion, "Local notices" five cents a line each insertion. Advertisments classified as "Special notices" five cents a line first insertion, three cents a line each subsequent

The United States Senatorship.

The matter of the selection of a man to represent Nebrasks in the U. S. Senate for the next six years following the expiration of Senator Paddock's present term has been pretty generally discussed throughout the State. The result of this discussion, as near as it can be summed up, is an almost unanimous verdict, as far as the press is concerned, in favor of returning Mr. Paddock to the Senate, of making him his own successor. It may be safely set down as a rule that the voice of the press in any particular matter is the voice of the people. If the rule holds good in this instance there can be no doubt of a success-

ful issue to Mr. Paddock's campaign. And why should he not be successful? Looking the field over it is difficult to find any substantial, outspoken opposition to him. It is true that there are a few person and a few newspapers who claim that he will not be re-elected; but they give no reasons, offer no arguments to show that he should not be. A few say that he is incompetent; but the assertion is a mere generalization, for none are able to show-or at least have so far failed to show-wherein his incompetency lies. This is a campaign wherein something is expected beside glittering generalities and vague insin-

The selection of a United States

Senator is a very important matter to the people of this State, and they have a right to demand of their representatives who are to make that lection for them that they shall bear in mind the necessary qualifications-first of ability, second of integrity, third of industry. Any person to show a valid claim, must have these qualifications vouched for in some manner. The Express has nothing to say, specifically, derogatory to any candidate for the office. Some have ability, and lack the other qualifications; others have the integrity and are industrious, but lack the ability. Others, as far as their public records go, have proven themselves honest, able and industrious in the political positions where they have been placed by the people. Not the least of this latter number is Senator Paddock, who seeks a re-election; and he is not only not the least, but by all odds the most prominent when expediency and ability are additionally con-

It cannot be charged that he is dishonest; it cannot be that industrious; and if the proof of ability lies in a comparison of his record with that of his colleague, Mr. Saunders, or of his former colleague, Mr. Hitchcock, or with the record of any member of the Senate or House that has ever been sent from Nebraska, then his ability is fully proven. All this being trueand it is true-Mr. Paddock has the decided advantage, because he can present more claims for recognition than any other candidate, claims that cannot be ignored by a body of honest and intelligent men such as has been chosen to represent an

honest and intelligent people.

The reason given by a few that

he cannot be re-elected because no other Senator has ever been given a second term, is the flimsiest kind of bosh, and will not stand for a moment against the breath of public opinion against this everlasting folly of changing men in office without cause, of turning them out at the very moment when they have become the most useful, of constantly refusing to let well enough slone. The people of Nebraska have discovered their error as regards their past Senators, and the sentiment in groans. As long as the profits of all | this canvass is quite universal in her years of abundance are with a favor of continuing a man in the careful nicety shaved off and placed | Senate who has proven acceptable to them in every regard, and who it is no wonder that the cry of "hard | can represent the State better, after having had an experience of six years, than any new man could postion the advantages of railroad con- sibly do who might be chosen. This nections throughout the state, never- is exactly the state of public opinion theless their extortions are one of in Nebraska to-day on the Senatohe most serious drawbacks to the rial question. Considered in conpopulation of our young state, and nection with the fact that there is it is a duty our representatives owe general satisfaction with Mr. Paddock's work, and there is no organized opposition to him among those having a first preference for other candidates, it is not too much to predict that his re-election will be easy and certain-as it should be .-Beatrice Express.

Even the best natured men can't stand everything. A Nashua man endured having a neighbor kick him over three fences, run him across a stumpy field into a barn-yard, throw him down and jam an old stocking into his mouth and didn't get mad. that is to say, to Wilts' home, that slipped down the back stairs into Alphouse, do you still insist upon But when the neighbor went and the woodhouse, and going round on wearing the skin of another calf told of the affair, it riled the victim