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**SIMS & CADWELL,**  
**Attorneys-at-Law,**  
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**COUNCIL BLUFFS.**  
**ADDITIONAL LOCAL NEWS.**  
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than 1,000 were in attendance; 250 were counted in church at one time. The class this year fully sustained the reputation of previous years. There were on exhibition 125 pictures, paintings, and drawings by pupils in the art department.  
 As usual, the homes of labor were freely opened for the reception of guests. During the intermission picnic parties from Glenwood, Malvern, Plum Hollow and the country about could be seen in groves upon the college camp. The past year has been one of real progress. The number of students has been larger than before, 238 for the year from nine states and 45 places in Iowa. In all departments the results have been very satisfactory.  
 The receipts from tuition last year were \$4,000; from rents and interest, \$3,700; from donations, \$8,074. Total for the year, \$15,774.  
 The entire property of the college is now estimated at \$100,000.  
 The senior class for next year is the largest in the history of the college, numbering more than twenty.  
 The trustees voted to raise \$25,000 for a new building and gave force to their vote by generous subscriptions. M.

**PICKING SLATE AT SEA WEEK.**  
 The Awful Slaughter of Childhood That Is Going on at the Coal Mines.  
 "There are many melancholy features connected with the life of a coal miner," said Morgan Jones, formerly a mine boss in the Schuylkill coal region, but now a resident in New York city, to a representative of the New York Sun, "but the most painful is the employment of boys in and about collieries. A colliery boy is never a child. He has no games. He seldom speaks. He knows nothing of the world beyond the line of bleak hills that environ the grimy locality where he begins to earn his living almost as soon as he is large enough to be put into trousers.  
 "I have in my mind now a colliery where for years I was one of the delverers. It is one of the oldest and one of the richest mines in the region. I passed up and down its shaft every day when it was not idle for more than twenty-five years. I have helped carry from its depths the mangled body of many a poor fellow-workman, crushed beneath some fall of coal, or mutilated by fire-damp explosions. I have witnessed the agony of wives and mothers and sisters, as victims after victims to the perils that constantly threaten the miner has been raised from the deadly depths, and my heart has ached for them in their grief. The poignant agony of that feeling never fades from my mind, but the spectacle of a score or more of boys aged before their time, bent and stunted, and worn, working their lives away in the black, dusty breaker, sweating and sulcating in the summer and chilled to the bone in the winter, was something that brought perpetual memories. Sport was, of course, unable to pay his fine yesterday, and was put back into the jail.  
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**DRAWING LOTS.**  
 A party of miners, four in number, were seated around their camp fire at the close of an autumn day, at Pike's Peak. They were resting after a hard day's labor, each one smoking his pipe.  
 "Let's have a story," said Phil Smith.  
 "Well, suppose you tell it," spoke Harry Mason.  
 "Not I. Come, Dick, trim up your ideas a little."  
 "Kind, ain't you! I say, Joe, you can tell the best yarn, I know."  
 "Ha, ha! That's a good joke!"  
 "I tell you what we'll do," said Phil; "let's draw lots."  
 "Agreed!" cried all, with the exception of Joe Dixon, whose unburned face turned pale; but he did not speak.  
 So Phil reached into his hand and plucked four blades of grass from behind him—one shorter than the rest—and placed within his closed hand.  
 "Now, boys, draw."  
 Harry drew first, then Phil. Both drew long blades.  
 Next in order came Joe. With a trembling hand he drew. It was the shortest one.  
 When he saw that it was the shortest one he had drawn a shudder ran through him.  
 "What's the matter, Joe. You look as pale as if you had seen a ghost," called out Harry.  
 "I'm not afraid of the light of the fire," said Joe. "Well I am the unluckiest one that may as well begin at once; so here goes."  
 "Ten years ago a party of four, like ourselves, started from Iowa to seek the Platte river, and took what is called the Smoky Hill route. They had provided themselves with ample provisions as they thought, and was in the best possible spirits, whiling away the time with many a jest and song as they journeyed along.  
 "They traveled by day and rested by night around their camp fire, telling stories in the evening, each trying to see which could tell the biggest yarn."  
 "Things went along smoothly for a few days. There was no lack of fun while their provisions lasted. But in taking this route they were obliged to cross what is called the Great American Desert, and as there was, of course, no game and no water, they had to depend upon their dried venison and other provisions with which they had provided themselves on starting.  
 "Being longer on the way than they expected, they were started to find that their stock had grown very low—so low in fact that there was but one day's ration left. This was something they had not looked for. Hardships they had expected to encounter, but not in the shape of starvation.  
 "Yes, it was too true; starvation stared them in the face. They had yet many a day's journey before them, and how were they to accomplish it without provisions?  
 "As they gathered around their fire to partake of the last portion left them, not a word was spoken. There was no merriment nor merry song that night; each man took this position in bitter silence, and then stretched himself upon the ground to get what rest he could find with no hope of getting more.  
 "Still in almost utter silence, they again started on their way by daylight; no breakfast that morning, nor dinner nor supper that night. Despair began to creep into their hearts, murmurs began to rise, their clothes were beginning to grow ragged, their shoes to break, and fatigue began to tell upon them, in consequence of lack of food.  
 "Among the party were two brothers. They walked together side by side during the day, and slept the same during the night. Many a wistful look did they cast upon the winter, and many a way they had left, but through all their despair they clung to each other. The other two members of the party soon noticed how these two brothers kept to themselves, as it were, and many an angry scowl did they cast upon them both.  
 "At last fatigue, exposure and want of food forbade them moving any further, and one glorious night they gave up all hope, and one of them declared he was completely done out.  
 "The moon shone down upon those wild, despairing faces, in all her beauty, as if to mock them in their utter helplessness. Not an eye was closed that night, each fearful thought was possessed in the minds of all, yet no one dared to express it aloud. The night wore on slowly, indeed to these wretched men. At last the gray light in the eastern sky began to streak with red, and as the sun peeped through, each man rose to a sitting posture.  
 "A fearful gleam shone in the eyes of the four men as they gazed upon each other.  
 "All friendly feeling was gone; they could think of nothing but that they were starving to death.  
 "No word was spoken, not a breath heard, until that awful silence was broken by a low hoarse voice, which sounded more like the growl of a wild beast than anything human.  
 "Let us draw lots!"  
 "At last that fearful thought was expressed! Yes it had come to that: one of them must die or all perish! They dared not look in each other's faces, so great was their own horror.  
 "He who had spoken rose from his ragged jacket four strips of cloth, and one of them being short, he who drew that one was left the victim; or if the short one was left who held it was to be the one.  
 "That gaunt hand was outstretched upon its fearful errand; the two brothers were to draw last, one after the other, and no one was to look at his strip until all had been drawn, and then it was to be done simultaneously. The signal was to be the dropping of a pebble.  
 "All had drawn.  
 "In breathless silence they awaited the signal.  
 "A tiny sound broke the stillness! The pebble had fallen, each hand was unclosed, the youngest of the two brothers drew the shortest strip of cloth.  
 "With a wild yell the two men grasped their knives and sprang towards their victim.  
 "Not so the eldest brother; he planted himself before the younger one to protect him, weak though he was.  
 "What was his feeble strength against the other two? They were weak also, it is true, but two to one were the odds.  
 "He was all alone, for his brother had fallen back insensible, and, therefore, was alike unconscious of his own fearful position and his brother's danger.  
 "For one instant those three men glared at each other, before commencing their deadly strife; that one moment was their salvation.  
 "A faint shout was heard in the dis-

**DRAWING LOTS.**  
 A party of miners, four in number, were seated around their camp fire at the close of an autumn day, at Pike's Peak. They were resting after a hard day's labor, each one smoking his pipe.  
 "Let's have a story," said Phil Smith.  
 "Well, suppose you tell it," spoke Harry Mason.  
 "Not I. Come, Dick, trim up your ideas a little."  
 "Kind, ain't you! I say, Joe, you can tell the best yarn, I know."  
 "Ha, ha! That's a good joke!"  
 "I tell you what we'll do," said Phil; "let's draw lots."  
 "Agreed!" cried all, with the exception of Joe Dixon, whose unburned face turned pale; but he did not speak.  
 So Phil reached into his hand and plucked four blades of grass from behind him—one shorter than the rest—and placed within his closed hand.  
 "Now, boys, draw."  
 Harry drew first, then Phil. Both drew long blades.  
 Next in order came Joe. With a trembling hand he drew. It was the shortest one.  
 When he saw that it was the shortest one he had drawn a shudder ran through him.  
 "What's the matter, Joe. You look as pale as if you had seen a ghost," called out Harry.  
 "I'm not afraid of the light of the fire," said Joe. "Well I am the unluckiest one that may as well begin at once; so here goes."  
 "Ten years ago a party of four, like ourselves, started from Iowa to seek the Platte river, and took what is called the Smoky Hill route. They had provided themselves with ample provisions as they thought, and was in the best possible spirits, whiling away the time with many a jest and song as they journeyed along.  
 "They traveled by day and rested by night around their camp fire, telling stories in the evening, each trying to see which could tell the biggest yarn."  
 "Things went along smoothly for a few days. There was no lack of fun while their provisions lasted. But in taking this route they were obliged to cross what is called the Great American Desert, and as there was, of course, no game and no water, they had to depend upon their dried venison and other provisions with which they had provided themselves on starting.  
 "Being longer on the way than they expected, they were started to find that their stock had grown very low—so low in fact that there was but one day's ration left. This was something they had not looked for. Hardships they had expected to encounter, but not in the shape of starvation.  
 "Yes, it was too true; starvation stared them in the face. They had yet many a day's journey before them, and how were they to accomplish it without provisions?  
 "As they gathered around their fire to partake of the last portion left them, not a word was spoken. There was no merriment nor merry song that night; each man took this position in bitter silence, and then stretched himself upon the ground to get what rest he could find with no hope of getting more.  
 "Still in almost utter silence, they again started on their way by daylight; no breakfast that morning, nor dinner nor supper that night. Despair began to creep into their hearts, murmurs began to rise, their clothes were beginning to grow ragged, their shoes to break, and fatigue began to tell upon them, in consequence of lack of food.  
 "Among the party were two brothers. They walked together side by side during the day, and slept the same during the night. Many a wistful look did they cast upon the winter, and many a way they had left, but through all their despair they clung to each other. The other two members of the party soon noticed how these two brothers kept to themselves, as it were, and many an angry scowl did they cast upon them both.  
 "At last fatigue, exposure and want of food forbade them moving any further, and one glorious night they gave up all hope, and one of them declared he was completely done out.  
 "The moon shone down upon those wild, despairing faces, in all her beauty, as if to mock them in their utter helplessness. Not an eye was closed that night, each fearful thought was possessed in the minds of all, yet no one dared to express it aloud. The night wore on slowly, indeed to these wretched men. At last the gray light in the eastern sky began to streak with red, and as the sun peeped through, each man rose to a sitting posture.  
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