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The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietors.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

THE DAILY BEE.

Sworn Statement of Circulation.

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas. } s.s.

Geo. B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing company, does solemnly swear that the actual circulation of the Daily Bee for the week ending Dec. 16, 1887, was as follows:

Saturday, Dec. 10	15,325
Sunday, Dec. 11	14,000
Monday, Dec. 12	15,375
Tuesday, Dec. 13	14,925
Wednesday, Dec. 14	15,250
Thursday, Dec. 15	15,000
Friday, Dec. 16	15,025
Average	15,064

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 17th day of December, A. D. 1887.

N. P. FEIL, Notary Public

(SEAL.)

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas. } s.s.

Geo. B. Tzschuck, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is secretary of The Bee Publishing company, that the actual average daily circulation of the Daily Bee for the month of December, 1886, 13,257 copies; for January, 1887, 13,256 copies; for February, 1887, 14,108 copies; for March, 1887, 14,400 copies; for April, 1887, 14,316 copies; for May, 1887, 14,227 copies; for June, 1887, 14,147 copies; for July, 1887, 14,033 copies; for August, 1887, 14,151 copies; for September, 1887, 14,349 copies; for October, 1887, 14,333; for November, 1887, 15,236 copies.

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 3d day of December, A. D. 1887.

N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

(SEAL.)

The Bee's Washington Bureau.

The "Bee's" news bureau at the national capital is now complete. Arrangements have been perfected by which our readers will secure the earliest, the fullest and most reliable information of public matters at Washington hot from the wires and gathered exclusively for patrons of this paper. There will be no double leading of press reports marked "special" to deceive the public by a show of sham enterprise, or padding of well-worn sensations forwarded by mail. The "Bee" has made its reputation as a newsgatherer by paying liberally for news wherever procurable, and it proposes to maintain its record. Patrons of the "Bee" and Nebraskans generally, together with all its friends west or east, are cordially invited to visit its Washington headquarters, 513 Fourteenth street North, where files of the paper are to be found and a warm welcome will be extended.

TEXAS wants more people. A convention for devising means to encourage immigration is now in session at Dallas.

MR. VANDERBILT and the sultan hobnobbed together the other day. They presumably spent a pleasant hour over a glass of sublime port.

THE Rochester explosions are suggestive. Too much precaution cannot be taken in the storage and distribution of illuminating oils and gases.

THERE is one problem with which the city council is not obliged to wrestle. They are not troubled with the question how to dispose of the surplus in the city treasury.

IT only takes five days now to make the trip from New York to San Francisco, but it took three days this week to transfer the Chicago and New York mails from Pacific Junction to Nebraska City.

SUNSET COX occasionally rises to such altitude above his party that he goes almost out of sight. He said recently that the question of revenue reduction should be considered without thought of its political bearings.

OMAHA has in the past had exceptional good luck in the matter of destructive fires, but there is no telling what may happen in the future. Our fire department should keep pace with the enlarged area of the city and be equipped for any emergency.

EIGHTY-SEVEN out of ninety-two republican employes in the Chicago custom house have disappeared by dismissal or resignation since the present democratic collector has been at the head of the service. This is civil service reform as democracy understands that term.

COMMISSIONER of agriculture, Norman J. Colman, asserts that the people of the United States use more silk than any other nation, and five years hence will use more than all the rest of the world combined. If Mr. Colman is correct the Jeffersonian simplicity of our people is lined with silk as it were.

EUGENE HIGGINS attracts a good deal of this nation's attention. Senator Gorman, of Maryland, is reported to be incensed at the treatment Higgins received at Cleveland's hands during the past fortnight and threatens to show the country the true relations which existed between those two great men. Higgins seems to be fitting himself for a dime museum career.

THE statement that the reports of the Pacific railroad commissioners have been in the hands of a New York stock broker for a week, and that he has made use of them in the speculations of himself and friends, should move congress to make a thorough investigation. If there is anything in the rumor it ought not to be very difficult to discover how the reports, supposed to have been in the sole keeping of the president, got to the broker.

SENATOR CHANDLER's proposition to appoint federal inspectors of election in several of the southern states where the republican vote has been notoriously suppressed, is in itself very commendable. With the appointing power in the hands of the democrats Mr. Chandler's bill creating federal inspectors and prescribing their duties, would be a dead letter. It would be very much like appointing Jay Gould to protect the Wall street lambs.

The Holiday Recess.

The country will be nearly unanimous in approval of the position taken by Senator Plumb on Wednesday relative to the congressional holiday recess. The custom of taking two weeks out of the first month of the session on the pretense of enabling congressmen to spend the holiday season at their homes, has nothing to justify it except age. As Senator Plumb said, as a matter of fact the majority of congressmen remain in Washington throughout the recess, and some of those who go away do not go to their homes. But if this were not so, and every one of them passed the recess at home, it is a privilege they give themselves that is not just to the people. It is due to the country that its legislators when in session should lose as little time as possible, and as a matter of example to all the other servants of the people should devote themselves to the work they have to do with the utmost care, industry and zeal. They are paid for this service, and they are faithless to duty when, having entered upon it, they vote themselves a long period of idleness, thereby frequently putting off urgent legislation and unnecessarily prolonging the first session of every new congress.

All that can be said in disapproval of this custom on general principles becomes intensified by the existing circumstances. There is urgent necessity for legislation relative to the surplus, so that the secretary of the treasury may be enabled to give prompt and effective assistance to the money market whenever a demand shall come for such assistance. It should be well understood by congressmen that the president and secretary do not regard the treasury as justified, while congress is in session, in taking any action under existing laws for disposing of any part of the surplus. The president stated very plainly in his message that he did not think anything further could be done by the secretary of the treasury to lessen the hoard in the treasury vaults, which is steadily growing at the rate of ten millions a month, and this should have prompted congress to take some action on the subject before it allowed itself the privilege of a long season of idleness. It is no answer to its failure to do this to say that there is no present reason for alarm. The fact is that the enterprise and prosperity of the country are suffering by reason of the accumulating hoard in the treasury. Every business man who must borrow money is compelled to pay more for it than he would if a sufficient amount of this government surplus were released to ease the money market, and close and high money is of necessity a drawback to every form of enterprise. If it can not be said there is anything alarming in this situation, it certainly is true that it operates to check business and is an injury to the whole people. The failure of the representatives of the people to promptly remedy such a state of affairs is consequently a very grave dereliction, for which there can be no satisfactory excuse.

The constitution provides that congress shall meet on the first Monday in December, but authorizes that body to appoint a different day. An effort was made to do this in the last congress and it is understood will be renewed at the present session. It is very probable that so long as congress continues to meet in December the holiday recess custom will be observed, for the average congressman is never likely to have such an awakening of conscience as will enable him to see that throwing away two weeks of the time for which the people pay him is a wrong, quite as unwarrantable in his case as it would be in that of any other servant of the people, and under such circumstances as now exist a good deal more harmful. On the senate recess resolution nineteen senators voted against it, and it is gratifying to note that the two Nebraska senators were among them.

Western Farm Mortgages.

A great deal has been published during the past two or three months in eastern journals depreciatory of western farm mortgages. Very much of this has been bald misrepresentation, the motive for which it is not easy to understand. It is not questionable that money has been lost by eastern lenders on western farm mortgages, but that such losses have been at all general, as these depreciatory writers would have it appear, or that the returns on such loans have not very greatly exceeded the losses, no reasonable and candid man will contend.

A citizen of Pawnee county, Nebraska, where he has lived for more than a quarter of a century, writes in the *American Banker* of his experience and knowledge regarding farm mortgages in that county, which there is every reason to believe is not exceptional in Nebraska. The farmers of Pawnee county started poor, and this writer states that he does not know of a dozen owners of farms who are now unable to meet all debts, and still have ample means left to keep themselves. He states that he knows of "a score or more farmers who could easily clear up twenty thousand dollars; a few who are estimated at thirty to fifty thousand dollars, and hundreds who are worth from six to twelve thousand dollars; and few, indeed, not worth from two thousand to five thousand dollars. Those who are in the best circumstances are those who have made their money here; who came here with small means, and have made their money by farming and raising stock. The force of these statements can be apprehended when it is added that few, indeed, are the farmers in this county who are not thriving, making money from year to year." He says further that for the last ten years he doubts whether there have been as many as a dozen mortgage foreclosures, and during that period not three foreclosures for borrowed money. Taking Pawnee county as a fair sample of Nebraska counties, and Nebraska as a fair example of the agricultural and stock-raising west, it is evident that there is no just ground for the sweeping depreciation of western farm mortgages which has been made by the ill-informed and reckless writers in the eastern press.

It is claimed for Kansas farmers that they have not been less careful than those of Nebraska in maintaining their credit by the prompt payment of their obligations, and the records of default in interest on mortgages and foreclosures in Kansas for the past ten years appear to justify this claim. In view of such facts, easily accessible to all deserving this information, the effort to alarm eastern lenders on western farm mortgages is to the last degree reprehensible, since if successful its effect would be to render future borrowing difficult and create a distrust of existing contracts that might cause many honest farmers a good deal of trouble. It is of a piece with those equally false statements published in the eastern press which characterize all western booms as having no substantial foundation, and as certain sooner or later to collapse and bring ruin to thousands. So far as Nebraska is concerned there are no safer investments than her farm mortgages, and well-informed eastern capitalists know this.

The Question of Parks.

The season for public improvements has practically closed. Another year has passed and Omaha finds herself as far from possessing a system of parks and boulevards as she did when it began. As a matter of fact she is farther removed. Property which a year ago could readily have been secured by gift, condemnation and purchase for such a public purpose, had the charter given our people the power, is now covered over with dwellings and gridironed with streets and alleys. The oil room wreckers of the last legislature who lobbied through the defeat of the best charter ever offered by Omaha are solely responsible for the misfortune which is now generally admitted. No general park and boulevard system can be formulated until ample powers are conferred upon the city government to acquire the needed land. For this another session of the legislature must be awaited. Meantime our people need to be thoroughly aroused to the urgency of retaining intact the few breathing places Omaha already has, as against every scheme for their absorbtion for public buildings or otherwise and such overwhelming sentimunt ought to be created by a united press in favor of a metropolitan park system that no legislature, however besieged by private interests, will dare to override it. It is safe to say that a chain of parks connected by boulevards encircling this city would add $10,000,000 to the value of its real estate outside of any presumed or pretended damage to property by their construction or extension.

THE controller of the currency is still receiving suggestions of plans for continuing the national bank system, but there is very little in any of them that is essentially new, and all are subject to some of the objections which he presented in his annual report to those plans submitted up to that time. It is evident that it is going to be no simple task to devise a just and popular plan for perpetuating the national banks, and if it were not for the fact that there is still ample time in which to do this, bonds for securing circulation being available for twenty years yet, there would be reason for apprehension regarding the fate of the national system. The matter is one of such large and important concern, however, that congress may very properly give it attention at the present session, at least to the extent of discussing the several plans that have been suggested, and of indicating what the sentiment is regarding the continuance of the system. It will not be surprising if it shall be found that there is a very considerable feeling unfavorable to its perpetuation.

BY its new rule sending private bills to the clerk, who will refer them to the appropriate committees, the house of representatives will free itself of what has been a source of very considerable annoyance and waste of time. The formal introduction of this class of bills consumed many hours during a session, and the process was as well an exceedingly tedious one. Under the new rule private bills can be handed to the clerk at any time, and the house will know nothing of them until they are brought before it by the committees having them in charge. It is a sensible rule that will undoubtedly be appreciated by all, except, perhaps, the clerk of the house.

KANSAS CITY has reaped great benefit from her manufacturers' bureau during the past year and active efforts are being made by her leading property owners and business men to extend the influence of the bureau during the coming year. The work of this bureau has been to disseminate information about the resources of Kansas City; to find out what capital is looking for new localities; to direct investors to sites and land owners to investors; to improve facilities of transportation and promote industrial enterprise. Such a bureau in Omaha could not fail to prove of incalculable advantage.

IT is to be hoped Congressman McShane will find time enough during the holiday recess to thoroughly investigate the condition of postal affairs in Omaha, and go back to Washington equipped with facts and figures to convince the department that the wretched mail service in this city demands increased facilities for handling and distribution, and addition railway postal clerks on the trunk railroad lines.

IT is not likely that the *Congressional Record* will be abandoned so long as there is a majority of congressmen whose constituents would never hear of them except through its pages. It is a most convenient receptacle for the wisdom of those members who can never get a quorum of their colleagues to listen to them, and to whom "leave to print" is all that saves them from complete obscurity.

IT may be rather late in the season to proffer advice about choosing Christmas gifts. We venture, however, to recall the story of the young lady in the hospital during the war, who presented to the poor soldier, who had lost both legs, a tract on the sin of dancing. Givers of Christmas presents put too little thought into their gifts.

THE unsightly and dangerous forest of pole lines in our principal thoroughfares has become a public nuisance which should be speedily abated. Telegraph, telephone and electric light wires are being placed under ground in nearly all the large eastern cities.

STATE AND TERRITORY.

State Jottings.

The clergy of Fremont are planning a spiritual boom for the early days of the new year—the season of swear-offs and high resolves.

The family of Mr. Dennom, of Minden, was doubled up Saturday by cramps produced by poisoned pressed beef. The doctors straightened them out in a few hours.

The Greeley county seat war has broken out again, and from now till election day, January 17, the praises of competing towns will carve the prairie air and ear.

E. R. Eisgarber, a moderate lunatic from Haigler, is in jail in Denver. He was supposed to have $4,000 in his possession, together with some diamonds. The stones were found but no money.

The pewter bowels of the Lincoln Democrat have been stirred to the lowest depths by the fear that some daring Omaha man will raid the capital to-day and vote against the Red Oak railroad bonds. The fears are groundless. Lincoln is welcome to an Iowa connection and Red Oak is just about her size.

The festive coal oil can spread a lurid mantle over Mary Klipke, a Grand Island domestic, Wednesday morning. The girl was expediting the morning fire with the fluid and succeeded in filling the kitchen with flaming oil. She was severely, perhaps fatally, burnt. The house was saved from destruction by hard work.

Judge Field had scarcely warmed his seat on the bench of the Second district before he settled a case in favor of his old railroad clients. The Plattsmouth Journal thus speaks of it: "The indignation of the people at the course of Judge Field in taking both questions of law and fact from a jury and compelling a jury, against its conviction, to sign a verdict, will not down, and there is a growing sentiment among the solid and substantial, the intelligent and influential citizens that it wouldn't take much inciting to work into violence. The public is willing to grant that a judge may take questions of law into his own hands and decide them—that is within his jurisdiction—but when it comes to questions of fact, including the amount of the judgment, it is going a little too far."

Iowa Items.

The Milford mine at Boonsboro is on fire.

Electric motors are to be used on the street railways of Des Moines.

Savannah offers a bonus of $25,000 for the removal of the Milwaukee railroad shops from Dubuque.

The supervisors of Woodbury county are likely to issue permits for the breweries of Sioux City to continue business and dispose of their products as standard medicines. The news will thrill the arid throats of the residents who have suffered for lo these many days.

Dakota.

Bismarck's water system is in running order.

Iron Hill stock is down to 80 cents in Deadwood.

Deadwood is talking of raising the liquor license to $1,000 a year.

The coal famine at Aberdeen was raised in time for the late blizzard.

Mrs Kate Noel, the handsomest woman in Fargo, has been divorced from her husband.

Whitewood, the new railroad town between Rapid City and Deadwood, will have a bank next month.

The United States grand jury at Fargo has indicted Superintendent Graham, of the Northern Pacific, under the inter-state law, for refusing to furnish cars to Hawk, of Buffalo.

Colorado.

There are forty flowing artesian wells in Denver.

Denver is anxious to secure the extension of the Rock Island road, and is discussing ways and means.

Desperado Vorces' pictures are going the rounds of the state press. The artists significantly draw the line of grace and beauty at the neck.

The wonderful climate of versatility of wind and howling healthfulness kept the natives in their holes hugging hot stoves the last three days. It was quite cool out there, and Manitoba's frigid blasts dwindle into a chinook in comparison. The mercury ranged from 10 to 51 degrees below zero.

The big tunnel at Badger station on the Denver & Rio Grande road has been completed. It is 550 feet long, cut through red granite to a height and width sufficient for broad gauge cars. The tunnel will straighten the track and do away with the sharp curve where a fatal accident occurred some time ago by a sleeper going off the rails and killing an actress.

Monmouth College Alumni.

There was a large representation of the Omaha Alumni of Monmouth college at the Millard last evening to meet Rev. G. W. Hamilton, the college representative, and to discuss the merry college days. Those present were Dr. S. K. Spaulding, Rev. E. B. Graham, Rev. J. N. Boyd and wife, Rev. J. A. Henderson and wife, Judge McCulloch and wife, W. T. Graham and wife, Bruce McCulloch, G. G. Wallace, R. B. Wallace, E. E. Clippenger, Charles Westerfield, Misses Belle and Mame McCulloch.

An interesting address was made by Mr. Hamilton, setting forth the present prosperous condition of the college and the work being done. Following this were toasts and responses. The first was "Co-education; it is not good for man to be alone, nor girls either." Bruce McCulloch made the response in his humorous and unlimitable style. Judge McCulloch made a brief response to "The Faculty—the Lion Not so Fierce as Painted."

An effort is being made by the alumni of the college to raise a fund of $25,000 to endow a chair. This effort called for the following toast, "To the dollars, of the dads add the dollars of the lads." Response by G. G. Wallace. "The Omaha association—the more the merrier," was the toast given Rev. J. N. Boyd, after which came the social meeting and the pledging of some money to the endowment fund.

Borrowed or Stolen.

Phil King, an expressman, was arrested yesterday on the charge of stealing a wagon from W. S. Palmquist. King was brought before Judge Berka, where he asserted that he had merely borrowed the wagon, and Palmquist had him arrested through spite, as King was rather slow in returning the borrowed property. The case was given a continuance until December 27 at 2 p. m.

Military Leave Salt Lake.

Company E, Sixth infantry, which has been stationed at Salt Lake City for about two years, has been ordered to return to Fort Douglas. This company was stationed at Salt Lake during the fears of a Mormon uprising.

THERE'LL BE NO COAL FAMINE.

Plenty of the Dusky Diamonds in Stock and En Route.

Some of the Omaha coal merchants say that the stories afloat to the effect that the city is on the verge of a coal famine are erroneous, and have their origin in the fact that two weeks ago there was such a small stock on hand that a famine was feared. At that time there was a scarcity of soft and hard coal, owing to the shiftlessness of the railroads. The coal merchants, anticipating the approach of the late cold snap and an over pressure of orders, presented a bold front and compelled the roads to exercise a little more activity in forwarding the stuff along, with the result that when the blizzard struck the city on Sunday coal bins and cellars were well supplied and the yards sufficiently stocked to meet a month's demands. A BEE reporter was informed at the coal office of Jeff Bedford yesterday afternoon that there were no fears to be anticipated from a coal famine, as the dusky diamonds were being received daily in large quantities.

The cold snap had its effect on solicitations for fuel and food from the county commissioners by the poor of the city. While the demand was not as great as at this time last year, it was, however, sufficiently large to impress the commissioners with the amount of poverty prevalent. The greatest of precaution is exercised in establishing the worthiness of applicants, and but few impositions are practiced upon Commissioner O'Keefe and his co-workers.

During the last few days the good ladies connected with the Women's Christian association have not been idle, and have done a great deal in relieving the wants of the poor people.

AMUSEMENTS.

The Bostonians Delight Another Fine Audience at Boyd's.

A more delighted audience never assembled in an Omaha auditorium than the one which gathered at Boyd's last evening to listen to Offenbach's airy opera comique, "The Poachers." It was a signal success from the very rise of the curtain. "The Poachers" has never been given in Omaha before, nor in America, for that matter, by any company save the Bostonians. It is redundant with those merry melodies which characterize all of the gifted composer's productions, and the libretto fairly scintillates with felicitous and jocund persiflage. The plot is simply a concatenation of the most amusing misunderstandings, without being so intricate as to require any great mental strain to keep track and trace of their unraveling. In short the opera is as bright and airy as a sunny summer morning, and will stand frequent repetition. The cast last night embraced the piquant Marie Stone, as Bibletto-Bibletta, whose dual role as an insuppressible poacher and a winsome lass was the nucleus of the whole entrancing story. Her singing was inimitably sweet and her acting at once captivated the audience. Marcasson, a mule driver, was the character in which the old favorite, H. C. Barnabee, won new admirers by the score. His vexatious misadventures after his marriage to Genetta, Miss Juliette Corden, kept the audience in convulsive laughter. J. A. Montgomery as Count de Compistrous, F. W. Miller, as Theodore, his son; George Frothingham as Bibes, Bibletoo's "guardian angel," and Miss Mina Cleary as Barades, all deserve unstinted praise. Each one seemed to have a peculiar fitness for the very best representation of the characters assigned them. It would be remiss not to say more than a word of Miss Corden. She is a most engaging little actress and possesses a voice, a mezzo-soprano, of really extraordinary range and feasibility, and is destined to take place with the older favorites. The chorus was splendid and the work of the orchestra under Director Shidley's able handling was first-class.

ASSAULTED BY TOUGHS.

Officer White Pluckily Prevents the Rescue of a Prisoner.

The sandbag seems to be coming into favor again among the thugs. Last evening Thomas Hunt was arrested by Officer White for disturbing the services of the Salvation army. While White was on his way to the police station with his prisoner he was stopped by a gang of toughs who demanded the release of Hunt. The officer refused, whereupon they jumped upon him, commenced to beat him, and one of them, named John Smith, knocked the officer down with a sandbag. In the scrimmage Hunt escaped, but the plucky officer jumped to his feet, grasped Smith and his brother Jim, and told them if they dared to show any resistance he would bore them full of bullets. At this the gang quieted and the officer took the Smiths to the lock-up. Still later Hunt was re-arrested by officers Cormack and Haze.

Knights of Pythias on Farnam.

The Knights of Pythias have at length decided to erect their new and beautiful castle hall, costing nearly $200,000, on the southwest corner of Farnam and Nineteenth street. The structure will positively be one of the most beautiful buildings in the city. The plans have already been made and accepted and comprise a building of stone, five stories in height, and containing stores on the first floor, office rooms on the second, with drill and lodge rooms on the third and fourth stories respectively. The design has been made by Architects Mendelssohn & Lowrie and have already been warmly commended by all who have seen them. The new building has been hailed with pride by the residents in the western part of the city as well as by the members of the order throughout the city. When the proposed mammoth hotel is added to it upper Farnam street, including the BEE office, the New York Life Insurance company's building, the Paxton building, the Merchants hotel and the Barker building, including the new city hall and the court house, the fact will be incontestably proved that that part of the city is more than realizing the expectations of its most ardent admirers.

Pete Kinney Locked Up.

Pete Kinney went home last night in an uproarious condition, stimulated by an over-indulgence in the flowing bowl, and proceeded to make it very exciting for his wife and family. He in some manner became possessed with the hallucination that the house was only large enough for himself to dwell in, and he therefore vigorously invited his family to spend the night on the highway. To this they objected in tones sufficiently loud to attract the attention of Officer John Brady, and he silenced Pete by putting him behind the bars at Central station.

Scholastic Recreation.

Dr. Harsha, of Bellevue college, was in town yesterday, and says that the institution closed for the holidays Wednesday and will not reopen till the 4th of next month. The attendadce was fifty students, a greater number of whom were in more advanced studies than was ever had by the college before.

Creighton college classes commenced to enjoy the Christmas vacation Wednesday afternoon. They will resume their studies on the 3d of January.

The public schools close to-day and will reopen January 3.

Fell From a Building.

Yesterday afternoon while T. Peterson was working on the new Barker building, corner of Fifteenth and Farnam, he fell through the cellar, striking his head against a brick. He was picked up senseless and carried to Dr. Rebert's office, where his wounds were dressed. His head sustained an ugly cut three inches long, but it was discovered that the skull was not fractured. He was also otherwise bruised and hurt, but not fatally.

Licensed to Wed.

The following licenses to marry were issued yesterday by Judge McCullough:

Name and residence.	Age.
Herbert B. Ellingwood, South Omaha	28
Jennie Blakeley, Glenwood, Ia	33
Walter Bell, Omaha	28
Jessie Davis, Omaha	19
John M. Brooks, Omaha	23
Addie Miller, Omaha	27
Charles A. Meyers, Omaha	23
Olive Little, Omaha	18

Return the Cap.

Chief Galligan, of the fire department, wishes that the man who finds the brass cap lost by the big extension ladder in going to the Bohemian hall fire will return it to him immediately

CASES WHERE NERVE FAILS.

When Men Who Know Not Fear Are Frightened.

SEVERAL INSTANCES IN POINT.

The Hunter Thrown Into the Water With Crocodiles—A Man With a Snake on His Breast—Other Trying Situations.

New York Sun: You often hear it said of a man that he doesn't seem to know what fear is. He may not, so far as standing up before other men, or facing ordinary dangers, but there are two dangers which no living man can face and hold his nerve very long. I assert this, because it has been my fortune to meet some of the most courageous men of this generation, and I have had opportunities to see their nerve under fire.

There is probably no place in the world where the man-eating shark grows to larger proportions and fiercer disposition than in the Gulf of Bengal. And in the bays and harbors along the coast the crocodile attains his full size and his temper fully ripens. While I was in the employ of the English mail service in India one of the ideas worked out was speedier transportation. New routes were selected to save distance, and wherever it was possible the rivers were made use of. On one occasion I was descending the Little Rangoon river with three natives and the mail bags, when we were hailed from shore by an English hunter, who had been camping out among the fierce wild animals and poisonous serpents for seventy days. He was entirely alone, and he had killed five leopards, three tigers, six or eight large serpents, and much other game. He had several fresh scars to prove a hand-to-hand conflict with a wounded tiger, and the bare fact of his being alone in that country, exposed to almost every danger one could dream of, was proof that he was a brave man. He had a raft at the bank and was about to cross the stream. After a visit of a quarter of an hour we took him in tow and dropped down about a mile. We had just headed for the other bank when I saw a large crocodile rise to the surface just behind the hunter's raft. The man had not entered the boat with us, but was sitting on his traps on the raft. I called to him to shoot the reptile, and he rose and made as pretty a shot as one ever saw, striking the saurian in the eye and killing him at once. We were applauding the shot when a dozen of the monsters broke water all about the raft. We had a tow rope about forty feet long, and were its full length ahead of the raft. None of the reptiles paid the least attention to the boat, but all seemed determined to make a closer acquaintance with the raft.

The hunter had a repeating rifle, and he stoodon his feet and banged away right and left as coolly as you please. I ordered the men to cease rowing and got out my rifle, but before I had fired a shot a monster crocodile climbed upon the side of the light bamboo raft and upset it. We backed water rapidly, and it was not over thirty seconds before boat and raft had bumped. At that same instant the hunter rose beside the boat, and one of the natives pulled him in. While he lay on the bottom of the boat we rowed about and picked up such of his traps as were afloat. It was very little we saved, I his fire arms had gone to the bottom and his skins ond pelts had been swiftly devoured by the crocodiles. When a came to offer the man some spirits his looks had changed, so that I could scarcely believe he was the same man. No one standing on the gallows trap could have been more broken up. He had scarcely swallowed the whisky when he began to cry, and he insisted that we cover him up in the bottom of the boat. It was a whole fortnight before the man recovered his composure, while his nerve was gone forever. He who had stood with drawn knife awaiting the rush of a tiger, and who carried marks to prove his bravery and his victory, had been totally broken up by an experience of less than two minutes in the water with a dozen crocodiles. It was the feeling that he was helpless which took his courage away. In the case of the tiger he felt that he had some little show. When he was flung into the water he realized that he none. I have seen several men hung who "died game," and who got the credit of being brave fellows. It is all nonsense to talk about bravery in the face of the hangman. "Dying game" is either the courage which comes from stimulants furnished by the jailor, or it is false enthusiasm due to the labors of the clergymen for many days past.

On one of my trips up this same river, and a hundred miles from the coast, I camped one night with a party of British officers who were out on a hunt. The leader of the party, and the best shot and the bravest man in it, was Major Curtiss, a man about forty years old. He had killed more wild animals than any white man in the province. Armed only with a revolver, he had entered a bungalow in which a murderer was concealed and taken him away from a crowd of his friends and delivered him over to justice. On a bet of £25 he had swam the river amid the alligators, and he would stand for the rush of a tiger or the spring of a panther with a laugh on his lips. They said of the major that he did not know what fear was. He, perhaps, thought so himself.

The camp was on the bank of the river, and only a temporary one, and no tents or covers were erected. We sat around the fires until a late hour, smoking and yarning, and when we rolled ourselves up for sleep the major and I were only about four feet apart, with nothing between us. The camp grew silent at once, and everybody was soon sound asleep. I was just dozing off when I thought I detected the crawl of a snake near me, but, after listening closely for a minute, I concluded that it was a lizard or insect. The air, the earth, the forests and the waters of India are full of animal life by day and by night. A camp no sooner grows quiet than wild rats and mice, lizards, great beetles, and three or four sorts of squirrels begin to prospect around, while night birds circle about and the wolf, fox, jackal, hyena, and other animals draw near. Snakes are always to be feared, but if one started up at every suspicious sound he would never get an hour's sleep.

Daylight was just coming when I opened my eyes. I was on my left side, turned toward the major, and I noticed that he was on his back. Close beside me was a revolver, which I had slipped out of its holster the night before that I might have it handy in case of need. Not another soul in camp was yet aroused, so far as I knew, and I lay listening to the noises in the surrounding forest while daylight continued to grow stronger. I was about to arise, when I suddenly saw the head of a serpent lift itself above the major's breast and wave to and fro. I shut my eyes for a few seconds and then opened them to see the same sight again. I even tried it again and again, fearful that I was dozing, and not wishing to believe what I plainly saw. It certainly was the head of a venemous serpent, a species closely resembling the American blacksnake, and as deadly as any serpant in India. It waved its head and darted its tongue for a moment, and then settle a back into its coil. As soon as the head went down I felt for my revolver and threw back the hammer. The click! click! alarmed the snake, as I knew it would, but by the time he had elevated his head again I had my arm outstretched and the muzzle of my revolver within two feet of him. it was a snap shot and had to be made on the instant, and it was by pure good luck that I sent a bullet through his ugly head. He was writhing and flopping about as I sprang up, and was dead as I bent over the Major.

The snake had crept out of the bushes and upon the Major's breast early in the night. It was not more than midnight when the latter awoke and found the serpent coiled up, and he knew that any movement on his part would result in certain death. For three hours and a half he had rested on the broad of his back, never moving a muscle, with his eyes wide open, and that serpent's head part of the time waving to and fro within six inches of his face. When I bent over him he was helpless. When we got him off the ground he sank down again and began to weep, and it was fully two hours before he would talk to us. The result of his experience was that he became a perfect physical coward, startled at the slightest noise, and was ready to run from even a house dog.

Rangoon Bay is infested with the largest man-eating sharks on the coast. One season I was out for two weeks in a small schooner with a party of engineers, hunters and fishers. We had with us a Captain Scott, an ex-officer of the army, and a man whose reputation for bravery extended over a large district. On one occasion he followed a native who had committed murder forty miles into the interior, and took him out of a village of excited people without a man to back him. He had thirty-four tiger skins of his own killing, and once when a band of five natives, each armed with a creese, attacked him, he drew his cavalry sabre and killed three, and drove the other two off with wounds to nurse. One day as we lay on the west side of the bay, swinging at our cable and being within a hundred feet of shore, I counted the snouts of four alligators between us and the bank. We were having an after-dinner smoke under the awning, and I called the attention of the crowd to the saurians. Captain Scott got up with a laugh, threw away his cigar, and, before any of us suspected what he had in his mind, he sprang upon the rail and went overboard and swam ashore. We ran for our rifles, hoping to frighten the monsters off, but he reached the bank in safety, rested for a couple of minutes, and then swam back. There wasn't another man of us who would have taken that swim for all the jewels of the nabobs.

Three or four days later, as we were beating across the bay, the schooner was capsized by a sudden squall. Two white men and three natives were drowned, and the rest of us managed to get on the schooner's bottom and hang to the keel. The squall soon passed, but a breeze from the north drove us down the bay and brought a lumpy sea. Pretty soon the sharks gathered. If there was one there were five hundred, and they had no fear of us. They took off a white man and another native, and some of the largest sprang out of water until they rested half their length on the bottom of the craft. Strangely enough, Captain Scott was the first to exhibit terror and to break down. Within half an hour after the accident happened to us we were compelled to seize hold of him to keep him with us, and such was his fear that he almost lost his mind. We were rescued in about an hour, but the captain was done for. He was almost a wreck. A boy, ten years of age, armed with a stick, could have put him to flight, and if a honey bee or wasp alighted near him he would scream like a child. The first man was brave because he had always fought with a weapon, and realized that he had the advantage. The second man lost his nerve when taken at a disadvantage. The third was a coward as soon as disarmed.

I was present several years ago at an execution in Havana. A Cuban patriot—they called 'em guerrillas—had been captured in the mountains after a long hunt. He had killed with his own hand over thirty men. He had fired dozens of plantation buildings, helped torture my planters, and he killed negroes so often that he did not cut a notch for their death. He had the characteristics of a tiger. He would kill where other men would spare.

He had had many hand-to-hand fights with the regular troops, and no ten of them would have dared attempt his capture. On one occasion he had put a squad of thirteen Spanish soldiers to flight, and on another he captured a squad of five who had been left to guard a path and cut the throat of every man. I visited him in jail in company with the British consul. Although he was loaded down with chains and kept behind bars which an elephant could not have wrenched away, everybody was afraid of him. He was reckless and defiant to the last, and delighted to call out the names of his victims and relate how he had disposed of each one.

I got permission to be present when the guerrilla was shot. He was taken from the prison in the gray of the morning by a large body of soldiery and conducted to the military target shoot, over a mile away. He was roaring defiance when he came into the open air, and he kept it up until the place of execution was reached. Then he suddenly grew calm, and had no sooner been placed in front of his coffin than he broke down and begged and pleaded in a way to touch the heart. He offered to betray his comrades, do anything on earth, to preserve his life, and he was groveling in the dirt when the bullets of the firing squad put an end to his life.

At Fort Donelson.

Detroit Free Press: It was an ex-confederate soldier at Sheffield, Ala., who was giving some of his experiences at the battle of Fort Donelson. He was an officer and had a young colored man for his cook. When the confederates, or the great bulk of them, decided, after a hot fight, to withdraw from the fort, the captain looked around for his servant, but the hegro was nowhere to be seen. The officer mounted a log and called out in loud tones for his servant, and pretty soon was answered, but in such faint tones that he could not for awhile locate the cook. Cæsar finally made it plain that he was in the log under the officer's feet, and was ordered to come out.

"Can't do it!" he shouted in reply.

"But you must. The fight is all over."

"But I can't—dar's fo' white men in dis log behind me!"

And when the officer investigated he found that such was the fact. They crawfished out, one after another, each having an excuse to urge, and finally the darky appeared. The officer was about to open on him, but Cæsar protested:

"Dean' say one word. Dis ar' de fust time I ever got ahead of a white man, an' it's gwine to be de werry last. De nex' fout we hev, I'ze gwine to let de white man hev de hull log to hisself, an' look fur a hole in de ground!"