

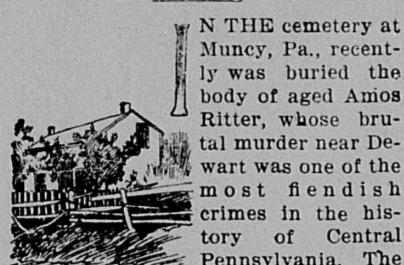
## CONFIDENCE!

### MURDERED FOR MONEY

#### ACED MAN FOUND DEAD IN A POTATO PATCH.

#### THE OLD MAN HAD EVIDENTLY PURSUED THE ROBBERS.

His Head Was Horribly Hacked—Then to Make the Foul Deed Complete the Assassin Sends a Bullet Through His Victim's Heart.



In THE cemetery at Muncy, Pa., recently was buried the body of aged Amos Ritter, whose brutal murder near Dewart was one of the most fiendish crimes in the history of Central Pennsylvania. The murderer, whose

motive was evidently robbery, first battered his aged victim over the head with a hatchet and then shot him through the heart, holding the pistol so close to the prostrate man that the clothing and skin were powder-marked. Ritter's body was found about 6 o'clock in the morning by Jacob Betz, a neighbor. The corpse lay in Mr. Betz's potato patch, just over the fence which separates Mr. Betz's land from that of the murdered man. The body lay on its back, with two large cheap bandana handkerchiefs drawn over the face, these surmounted by a black slouch hat. The shoes of the dead man had been removed—evidently for the purpose of searching them for money, which Ritter was supposed to have—and were standing together between his feet. Blood from the half dozen horrible wounds in the head was spattered over the ground, and evidences of a fierce struggle were apparent in the soft soil that comprises the potato patch. But the shrewdness of the assassin was shown by the fact that he had covered his footprints by scraping the soft soil over them. All tracks about the corpse were thus obliterated and the footprints made by the murderer when he left the scene were also successfully covered in the same manner. He had evidently gone from the patch backward, covering each successive footprint by scraping ground over it. The marks of his fingers were distinctly seen.

A reporter visited Dewart, where the body of the murdered man was in charge of Undertaker Charles Romig. The corpse was a ghastly sight. There were seven gashes on the face and head. One had separated the left ear, and another, just in front of the left ear, laid the cheek open. There was another deep cut, evidently delivered as the aged victim was falling, or as he lay on his face, on the back of the head. The other gashes were scattered over the top of the head, and ran from right to left, showing that the assassin had stood over his victim and chopped him as he lay. The murderer must be a human fiend, judging from the butchery of his victim, or else the old man fought long and hard for his life. What a scene the pale moon must have looked upon that night, when the murderer of this gray-haired, inoffensive farmer chopped and battered the prostrate form as though it was some horrible monster. Any one of the wounds would probably have been sufficient to stun an ordinary man, but it is said of old man Ritter that he was more sturdy than the usual run of men—that he was a powerful fellow in his day. He lived alone in the little story and a half house for several years, his wife and he having become estranged a half

year ago. Their children are all adults, with homes of their own, consequently the aged father lived the life of a recluse, farming his five-acre plot and residing in the weather-beaten frame house by the roadside. There is an air of abandon about the place, and the inside of the house is a jumble of domestic disarrangement, which shows the long absence of woman's tidiness. The house is hemmed in by a growth of pear and apple trees. In the rear there are quite a number of fruit trees, the limbs of which scrape and grind over the moss-covered shingles at every breath of wind that sighs through their boughs. These trees stand on the edge of the clover field through which the old man chased the robber, and almost hide the house from view when one stands in the potato patch where the body was found.

There is a strange thing about this murderer. Hardly a mile from the spot where old man Ritter was brutally murdered, in the corner of a field on the Everett farm, is the unmarked grave of Nelson E. Wade, the murderer of the aged McBrides, near Linden, twenty-five years ago. These old people, too, were murdered for their gold, and it was the free use of his ghastly

acquired treasure that placed Wade under the ban of suspicion and led to his arrest. Wade was hanged in the jail yard at Williamsport, and although a grave had been dug for him in "murderers' row" in the Williamsport cemetery, relatives of the condemned man appeared at the last moment and claimed the body. It was taken to Dewart, and thence into the country to the farm then owned by a relative of the murderer, and there buried.

Perhaps history may repeat itself, and the ill-gotten money of Ritter's murderer may yet rise up to accuse him. The authorities of Northumberland county will leave nothing undone to unravel the mystery surrounding the brutal crime and bring the perpetrator to justice.

#### SHOT IN A DUEL.

Wounded by Dr. Wolff, the German Nationalist Leader.

A pistol duel was fought the other morning between Count Badeni, the Austrian premier, and Dr. Wolff, the German nationalist leader, arising from insults addressed by the latter to the premier during a session of the Unterhaus, at Vienna. Count Badeni was wounded in the right hand. Dr. Wolff fought a duel with swords on May 8 last with Herr Hories, a Czech member of the Unterhaus. This encounter grew out of the violent scenes which occurred in the house between the Germans and Czechs, in which personalities were freely indulged in. Count Badeni was formerly governor of Galicia, is a young and able Pole and was very little known even in Austria until he was unexpectedly called upon to form a cabinet in September, 1896, when he assumed the duties of president of the council of ministers and minister of the interior. His nobility only dates back to his father. His mother's brother, a Count Mier, married the famous German actress,

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COUNT BADENI.  
Anna Wierer, who eventually left her large fortune to her two nephews, Count Casimir Badeni, the present premier of Austria, and to his younger brother.

Dr. Wolff's charge of rascality was the cause of the duel. Smooth bore pistols were used, and three shots were to be fired simultaneously at twenty-five paces. Count Badeni was wounded at the first fire. The wound does not prevent him from transacting business. The emperor telegraphed expressions of warmest sympathy, and requested hourly information concerning the condition of the wounded man.

Macneile for Sealing Envelopes.  
The treasury department is giving a trial to a new machine for sealing envelopes. The treasurer's office to-day had 27,000 interest checks to send out and it was in the sealing of the envelopes for these that the machine was given a trial. If the machine proves a success it may be put into regular use throughout the department. The machine is not complicated. It works something like a printing press. The envelopes are fed into rollers, one of which is moistened from a small trough of water through which it revolves. A small folder then closes the envelope, which then passes through two other rollers and is pressed, falling into a receptacle. The machine is run by a small dynamo, or by a pedal, like a sewing-machine. It is claimed that the machine will seal 250 envelopes a minute when the operator becomes expert. — Washington Correspondence Philadelphia Ledger.

The Color of Arctic Animals.  
Nature is a very considerate and provident protector to her children. In winter many of the Arctic animals become perfectly white and can move over the vast snow fields with safety, when if they retained their summer color they would be an easy mark for beasts and birds of prey, or the hunter's rifle. The fox, squirrel, ermine and other creatures of their class have dark fur during the summer to correspond with the rocks among which they live.

Three Thousand Squirrels in a Drove.  
A novel sight of squirrels migrating was witnessed near Cumberland, Md. A drove which an eye witness estimated to contain at least 3,000 swam across the Potomac river. About 300 of them were killed by men and boys ere they got into the woods.

The Poet Gray.  
Gray was, in every sense, real and poetical, a cold, fastidious old bachelor, at once proud, sensitive and selfish. In his letters, memoirs and poems no intimation can be found that he was ever under the influence of woman. He might well moralize on his bachelorship and call himself a "solitary fly."

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## THE NAME HONORED.

### COMMODORE VANDERBILT IN MARBLE AT NASHVILLE.

A Statue of the Founder of Vanderbilt University in the Metropolis of Tennessee—An Artist Wins Distinction as a Result.

HE directors of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition set apart October 11, which date was fittingly observed as Vanderbilt Day. Exercises were held in honor of the memory of Cornelius Vanderbilt, the founder of Vanderbilt University, at Nashville. On that day there was presented to the University by citizens of Nashville an heroic statue of the old Commodore. It is the work of G. Moretti, sculptor, of New York, and has been on exhibition in Nashville ever since the opening of the Exposition in the spring. It stands just within the main entrance to the Art Building. After the close of the Exposition it will be placed before the main building in the grounds of Vanderbilt University.

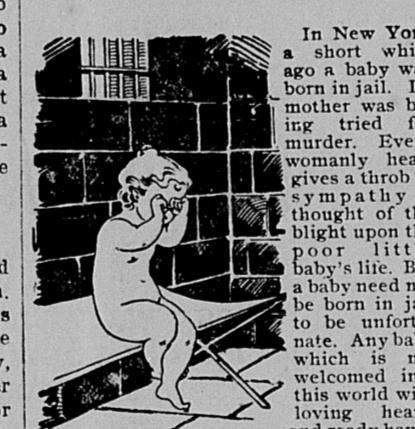
Mr. Moretti was commissioned over a year ago by the Nashville authorities to execute the statue, and it was finished only a few days before the Exposition opened. It is of bronze,



COUNT BADENI.  
Anna Wierer, who eventually left her large fortune to her two nephews, Count Casimir Badeni, the present premier of Austria, and to his younger brother.

VANDERBILT STATUE.  
nearly ten feet high, and stands upon a granite pedestal of the same height. It was made from a photograph of the late Commodore, which was considered the best of the few portraits which exist of him. The sculptor received much assistance, in the way of suggestion and reminiscence, from some members of the Vanderbilt family and from Mr. Walker, now a very old man, who was formerly Cornelius Vanderbilt's private secretary. In the short interval between the completion of the statue and its removal to Nashville several of the Vanderbilts and Chauncy M. Depew paid visits to the studio, and were highly satisfied with the work. Mr. Depew delivered the oration at the presentation on October 11 at Nashville.

Mr. Moretti is an Italian, who studied his art chiefly in Florence, afterward spending some time in Vienna. He has been in this country about twelve years, and is a naturalized citizen. Several other specimens of his work, in bronze and marble, are to be seen at the Tennessee Exposition.



In New York a short while ago a baby was born in jail. Its mother was being tried for murder. Every womanly heart gives a throb of sympathy at thought of the blight upon the poor little baby's life. But a baby need not be born in jail to be unfortunate. Any baby which is not welcomed into this world with loving hearts and ready hands is unfortunate.

Any mother who

is physically weak and incapable of bestowing a healthy constitution upon her baby may darken its future with weakness and disease.

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