

THE BAD BOY.

"I am thy father's ghost," said a sheeted form in the doorway of the grocery, one evening, and the grocery man got behind the cheese box, while the ghost continued in a sepulchral voice, "doomed for a certain time to walk the night," and, waving a chair round, the ghost strode up to the grocery man, and with the other ghostly hand reached into a box of figs.

"No you ain't no ghost," said the grocery man, recognizing the bad boy. "Ghosts do not go prowling around groceries stealing wormy figs. What do you mean by this sinful masquerade business? My father never had no ghost."

"Oh, we have struck it now," said the bad boy as he pulled off his mask and rolled up the sheet he had worn around him. We are going to have amateur theatricals to raise money to have the church carpeted, and I am going to boss the job."

"You don't say," answered the grocery man, as he thought how much he could sell to the church people for a strawberry and ice-cream festival, and how little he could sell for amateur theatricals. "Who is going into it, and what you going to play?"

"Pa and ma, and me, and the minister, and three choir singers, and my chum, and the minister's wife, and two deacons, and an old maid are rehearsing, but we have not decided what to play yet. They all want to play a different play, and I am fixing it so they can all be satisfied. The minister wants to play Hamlet, pa wants to play Rip Van Winkle, ma wants to play Mary Anderson, the old maid wants to play a boarding-school play, and the choir singers want in opera, and the minister's wife wants to play Lady Macbeth, and my chum and me want to play a double song and dance, and I am going to give them all a show. We had a rehearsal last night, and I am the only one able to be around to-day. You see they have all been studying different plays, and they all wanted to take a piece. Well, the minister said in first. We had on a pair of his white blackstockings, and a marmalade of a linen buggy lap blanket, and he wore a mason's square knife such as these fellows with pole bonnets and white feathers wear when they get an invitation to a funeral or an execution. Well, you never saw Hamlet murdered, the way he did it. The interpretation of the character was that Hamlet was a duke that talked through his nose, and while he was repeating Hamlet's soliloquy, pa, who had come in with an old hunting suit on, as Rip Van Winkle, went to sleep, and he didn't wake up till Lady Macbeth came in. She couldn't find a knife, so I took a slice of watermelon and sharpened it for her, and she made a mistake in the one she was going to stab, and she stabbed Hamlet in the neck with a slice of watermelon, and the core of the melon fell on pa's face, as he lay asleep as Rip, and when Lady Macbeth said, 'O, damned spot,' pa woke up and felt the gob of watermelon on his face and he thought he had been murdered, and ma came in on a hop, skip and jump, as 'Parthenia,' and threw her arms around a deacon who was going to play the grave digger, and began to call him pet names, and pa was mad, and the choir singers they began to sing, 'In the North Sea Lived a Whale,' and then they quit acting. You'd a dide to see Hamlet. The piece of watermelon went down his neck, and Lady Macbeth went off and left it in the wound under his collar, and ma had to pull it out, and Hamlet said the seeds and the juice was running down inside his shirt, and he said he wouldn't play if he was going to be stabbed with a slice of melon, so while his wife was getting the melon seeds out of his neck, and drying the juice on his shirt, I sharpened a cucumber for Lady Macbeth to use for a dagger, but Hamlet kicked on cucumbers, too, and I had more trouble than any stage manager ever had. Then pa wanted to rehearse the drunken scene in 'Rip Van Winkle,' where he hugs Gretchen and drinks out of a flask behind her back, and he got one of the choir singers to act as Gretchen, and I guess he would have been hugging her till this time, and have swallowed the flask if ma had not took him by the ear, and said a little of that would go a good ways in an entertainment for the church. Pa said he didn't know as it was any worse than her prancing up to a grave-digger and hugging him till the filling came out of his teeth, and then the minister decided that we wouldn't have any hugging at all in the play, and the choir girls said they wouldn't play, and the old maid's struck, and the play came to a standstill."

"Well that beats anything I ever heard tell of. It's a shame for people outside the profession to do play-acting, and I won't go to the entertainment unless I get a pass," said the grocery man. "Did you rehearse any more?"

"Yes, the minister wanted to try the ghost scene," said the boy, "and he wanted me to be the ghost. Well, they have two Markeses and two Topsis in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' and I thought two ghosts in 'Hamlet' would about fill the bill for amateurs, so I got my chum to act as one ghost. We broke them all up. I wanted to have something new in ghosts, so my chum and me got two pairs of ma's long stockings, one pair red and one pair blue, and I put on a red one and a blue one, and my chum did the same. Then we got some ruffled clothes belonging to ma, with flounces and things on, and put them on so they came most down to our knees, and we put sheets over us that came clear to our feet, and when Hamlet got to yearning for his father's ghost, I came in out of the bath-room with the sheet over me and said I was the huckleberry he was looking for, and my chum followed me out, and said he was a twin ghost, also, and then Hamlet got on his ear and said he wouldn't play with two ghosts, and he went off pouting, and then my chum and me pulled off the sheets and danced a clog-dance. Well, when the rest of the troupe saw our make-up it nearly killed them. Most of them had seen ballet-dancers, but they never saw them with different colored socks. The minister said this benefit was rapidly

becoming 'a farce,' and before we had danced half a minute ma she recognized her socks, and she came for me with a hot box, and made me take them off, and pa was mad and said the dancing was the only thing that was worth the price of admission, and he scolded ma, and the choir girls sided with pa, and just then my chum caught his toe in the carpet and fell down, and that loosened the plaster overhead and about a bushel fell on the crowd. Pa thought lightning had struck the house, the minister thought it was a judgment on them all for play-acting, and he began to shed his hamlet costume with one hand and pick the plaster out of his hair with the other. The women screamed and tried to get the plaster out of their necks, and while pa was brushing off the choir singers ma said the rehearsal was adjourned, and they all went home, but we are going to rehearse again on Friday night. The play cannot be considered a success, but we will bring it out all right by the time the entertainment is to come off."

"By gum," said the grocery man, "I would like to have seen that minister as Hamlet. Didn't he look funny?"

"Funny! Well, I should remark. He seemed to predominate. That is, he was too fresh, too numerous, as it were. But at the next rehearsal I am going to work in an act from 'Richard the Third,' and my chum is going to play the Chinaman of the 'Danites,' and I guess we will take the cake. Say, I want to work in an idiot somewhere. How would you like to play the part? You wouldn't have to rehearse the part or anything."

"At this point the bad boy was seen to go out of the grocery real sly, followed by a box of wooden clothes-pins that the grocery man had thrown after him."

—*Peck's Sun.*

Fortunes in Stock.

But few persons, says the *Texas State Register*, estimate the rapid increase of a herd of cattle, and consequently are at a loss to know why such fine fortunes are made on the farm or ranch by cattle breeding or feeding. A man starts out with 100 good cows, with ample range for them. Let us see what he may reasonably expect in return for his capital and care in ten years. The cows, say, cost \$50 a head, or \$5,000. If the cows and their female progeny are kept for breeding, it is reasonable to estimate 40 per cent. increase in female calves yearly, as well as the same increase in male calves. The increase in the female line will be as follows:

100 cows in first year drop.....	40
100 cows in second year drop.....	40
100 cows in third year drop.....	56
180 cows in fourth year drop.....	72
268 cows in fifth year drop.....	88
356 cows in sixth year drop.....	123
444 cows in seventh year drop.....	151
532 cows in eighth year drop.....	210
620 cows in ninth year drop.....	274
708 cows in tenth year drop.....	358

Total, ten years.....428
There will be an equal number of male calves, which will come into market at 3 years of age, as follows:

Pat steers at end of third year.....	40
Pat steers at end of fourth year.....	40
Pat steers at end of fifth year.....	56
Pat steers at end of sixth year.....	72
Pat steers at end of seventh year.....	88
Pat steers at end of eighth year.....	123
Pat steers at end of ninth year.....	151
Pat steers at end of tenth year.....	210

Total for seven years.....798
These at \$60 per head will amount to \$47,760, which had been received during the last seven years of the ten to refund capital and pay expenses.

At the end of ten years there will be on hand 1,428 cows and heifers, and 274 2-year-old steers, and 358 1-year-old. It will be observed in all these calculations of either heifers or steers we have allowed for 20 per cent. per year for failure of calves and for deaths and accidents afterward. The steers which have been marketed pay the first investment of \$5,000, and leave \$4,200 per year for expenses. The stock on hand at the end of ten years is worth \$80,000. This is how money is made on large stock farms or on ranches on the plains.

How Some People Look Upon Smuggling.

Many people have a notion that there is no moral wrong in smuggling. A few years ago a dealer in laces in Leonard street, New York, was found to have been extensively engaged in smuggling. He had made himself liable to pay a penalty of \$10,000. I took him to the District Attorney's office, where he expressed his willingness to pay the cash. He said: "I suppose you think I have committed some moral wrong. I do not think so. I have merely violated a legal restriction of the United States, but committed no moral offense. Your Government levies a duty of 60 per cent. to-day and tomorrow takes it off. Morality is not made and unmade in that way." He paid the \$10,000 and that ended it. He represents a large class of people claiming to be honest who do not hesitate to defraud the Custom House. Very respectable people have been caught smuggling clothing, and I found one merchant who regularly bought his clothes from a London tailor without paying duty. —*Customs Officer in New York Sun.*

Probably Safe.

A New Hampshire farmer who heard of a New Yorker stopping at one of the mountain hotels, drove thirteen miles one day last summer to ask him if he thought the prospective shortage of crops would bring about another financial panic. He waited around the hotel for several hours, and finally ascertained that the man he wanted to see was absent, and would be gone all day.

"Where has he gone?"

"Over to Silver creek."

"What for?"

"To fish."

"Gone fishin', and calkerlatin' to be gone all day?"

"Yes."

"Took a bottle of brandy and a lanch and a silver-plated fish-pole, and went off kinder onconcerned, did he?"

"Yes."

"Well, then, I guess I'll jog back hum and finish them 'aters," continued the old man, with a sigh of relief. "It kinder seems to me that if this kentry was in danger of a kerfummux them chaps from New York wouldn't come here to fool their time away snokin' in mornin' fogs and scrapin' the crooks for fish-bones!" —*Wall Street News.*

STANLEY MATTHEWS.

Some History Worth Reading, and Statements Worth Hearing.
[From the New York Sun.]

Responsible Republican newspapers and Republican leaders have repeatedly charged that Gen. Garfield appointed Stanley Matthews to a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court in fulfillment of an agreement by which Mr. Jay Gould contributed a large sum of money to aid in electing Garfield as President in 1880.

This charge the *Sun* believes to be true, from the different forms of testimony supporting it and from certain internal evidence which carries with it moral conviction.

The latest contribution on this matter was derived from Mr. Dorsey, reported in the *Sun* of the 16th inst., as follows:

"When this was repeated to Garfield he said that Mr. Gould ought to know that he entertained the same view that Mr. Gould did respecting the interests of these corporations, and he wanted Mr. Gould to be assured that if elected President, and if it should fall to his lot to nominate a member of the Supreme Bench he would take care to appoint a man whose views in that regard were the same as his own.

"This was taken to Mr. Gould. He announced himself as entirely satisfied with it, but he made the gentle suggestion that it be put in the form of a pledge and in writing. This was done, and it is alleged that the pledge can be produced, as it is understood to have been committed to the keeping of a gentleman who holds it subject to the order of both parties.

"Then Mr. Gould warmed up to the Republican party. Himself and another subscribed \$450,000, as is expected to be shown before the investigating committee. Garfield subsequently nominated the man to whom this agreement had reference, Stanley Matthews, to the Supreme Bench, and Gould telegraphed Senator Plumb, urging him to secure Matthews' confirmation. Matthews was confirmed by one majority."

This is a precise and positive statement, made by one who was closer in Garfield's confidence than the editor of the *Commercial Gazette*, and who may be said to have been the pivot upon which the management of the Presidential campaign turned. How is it met? The *Commercial Gazette* says:

"The statement to the effect that there was an agreement between Gould and Garfield that the latter should appoint Judge Matthews to the Supreme Court is necessarily false, for the reason that it was not known, and there was no reason to suppose, until the 4th of March, 1881, that Garfield would be called upon to fill the vacancy occasioned by Swayne's resignation."

Technically, this is true, but it does not reveal the whole truth. The statement is really an evasion of the truth. The intention of Judge Swayne to resign his seat on the bench was well known after Garfield's nomination. In point of fact, that purpose had been declared to his friends at the preceding term of the court. No time had been named for the resignation, because Judge Swayne had kept the final act undecided in his own mind, for personal reasons.

Judge Clifford was at that time in firm health, far advanced in years, and with a very precarious hold on life. He died in October, 1881. Here, then, were two vacancies on the Bench ready certain to occur within a short time, and both of which were likely to happen at the beginning of Garfield's term.

Mr. Gould was largely interested in knowing these probabilities, and he probably had more exact information on the subject than any other person. Garfield understood the situation perfectly when he assured Gould that "if it should fall to his lot to nominate a member of the Supreme Court he would take care to appoint a man whose views in that regard were the same as his own." And when the agreement was put in writing Mr. Gould had a lien on the prospective President from which there was no escape if the contingency named in the instrument should come to pass. They both expected it would come to pass, as in the order of events it did.

Judge Swayne resigned his seat in the winter of 1880-81, and the fraudulent President nominated Stanley Matthews for the vacancy. Matthews had been one of the visiting statesmen at New Orleans, he was the confidential counsel of Hayes before the Electoral Commission, and he, with John Sherman and Charles Foster, negotiated the bargain at the Wormley conference, by which opposition to the count was arrested in the House of Representatives.

Matthews in the Senate was the most conspicuous opponent of the Thurman act. He appeared virtually as the attorney of the Pacific corporations on the floor. He was seen in conference with Gould, Huntington, and their satellites, who had assembled at Washington with a most formidable lobby, and with the appliances to conquer prejudice, in the hope and in the full expectation of defeating the bill. But, with a promised majority, the corporations were finally beaten.

Although it is usual to confirm the nomination of a Senator or a former Senator without opposition, except for special cause, the appointment of Matthews was resisted strongly from the outset and until the end of the session, when it died with the Congress.

Now Garfield's turn came. The written agreement was there to confront him. He had of his own accord, at Mentor, told a distinguished Stalwart that he did not intend to appoint Matthews. Nevertheless, one of his first acts was to nominate Matthews for the vacancy. The opposition to his confirmation was revived, and was vigorously conducted. Finally he got through by one vote, procured by barefaced deception on two false plays.

JOHN S. BARBOUR, said to be the finest organizer in Virginia, has been placed at the head of the Democratic State Central Committee, with the intention of making a systematic and vigorous campaign.

JUDGE BLACK.

Death of the Eminent Lawyer and Statesman.

A Sketch of His Long and Eventful Career.

Judge Jeremiah S. Black died at his home in York, Pa., after a week's illness, on the 19th of August. His death was as calm and peaceful as the setting of a summer's sun. His two sons, Chauncey F. and Henry, his daughter, Mrs. Hornsby, his son-in-law, Mr. Hornsby, and A. B. Farquhar were present when he died. Just before his death he spoke with confidence of the future, saying to his son Chauncey that he had no fear of crossing the dark river, adding: "I would have been in the country about what I leave behind in this world." He spoke of business and private matters to his son, and in the midst of it would stop and refer to his faith in Christ. On one occasion he said: "I would not think of my death moment that I fear to cross this river. I have taken care to arrange for my future over there, and therefore death has no terrors for me."

When a beloved wife knelt by his bedside, comforting him with her sympathy and love, he gave utterance to the following prayer:

"Oh, Thou beloved and most merciful Father from whom I am, and in whom I have ever trusted, grant, if it be Thy will, that I no longer suffer this agony, and that I be speedily called home to Thee. And Oh, my God, bless and comfort this my family."

Jeremiah Sullivan Black was descended from a mixed ancestry, composed of the German and Scotch-Irish elements. He was born in the Glades, Somerset county, Pa., June 11, 1811. His father, Henry Black, was a man of prominence in Southern Pennsylvania, and was a member of Congress at the time of his death. Young Black finished his "schooling" at 17, after having gained a fair knowledge of the classics, mathematics, and above all most precious to him, a thorough grounding in the knowledge of English classic literature. When his school days ended he went home to work on the farm, but his studies were not neglected, for by the light of the morning fire he copied his Horace and Virgil, committing to memory each day a certain number of lines. Before he entered upon his profession he had to be or, but he was not a lawyer by the whole of these books by heart.

Under Chauncey Forward he studied law, and in 1831 was admitted to the bar. He was the first of his family to be married, his wife being Mary Porter in 1834. About this time he joined the sect known as the Campbellites or Disciples of Christ, with whom he remained in fraternal relations the remainder of his life. In 1836 he was appointed his pre-reading Judge of the Franklin, Bedford and Somerset districts, and though a party fight was made on the appointment, the unanimous approval of the members of the district, the matter was settled. This office he held with great credit for nine years. When the position was made elective he was chosen for the short term, and filled the Chief Judgeship most ably for three years.

Judge Black was re-elected for fifteen years, but was compelled to resign after serving two, President Buchanan calling him to the Cabinet as Attorney-General, where he remained until 1860. His most conspicuous service while holding this office was the protection of the claims made by Americans against the fraudulent pretensions of the Spanish in regard to lands in California. When Black resigned from the Cabinet he resumed the practice of law, and few men have enjoyed so large a practice in the Supreme Court of the land as he. His manner was characterized by eminent legal ability, and he was talked to the court deliberately, without notes, and cited authorities from memory. The most important cases in which he was engaged were: The Milken case, the Vanderbilt will case, the McGurrah case, the Belknap impeachment, and the electoral contest. In no case where public interests were involved, as in the Milken case, did he take a fee for services rendered.

Judge Black was elected a member of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention in 1873, and was urgent in pressing the needs of the legislative reform. He served without pay. Not only as a jurist, learned, exact and shrewd, but he made himself known to the people of the whole nation, but as a writer of political and theological articles he has won a place among the classic writers of the age. His answer to the question, "Christianity by Col. Ingelsoll," given in the pages of one of the principal magazines in the land, provoked much criticism and praise. For a time it was the topic of conversation and of leading newspaper articles, and its circulation passed the boundaries of the United States into Canada and England, where it was unequivocally commended. His last noted political paper was on "Moral Reform in Europe or America," which he wrote in strong views, and was backed by keen logic and biting words, and was rapturously applauded by his sympathizers as they were condemned by those opposed to its views.

Personally Judge Black was imposing in his stature and manners. Nearly six feet tall, with shaggy eyebrows that in repose gave him a stern aspect, his strong bodily frame and erect carriage made him a remarkable figure in any assembly. Though noted for the radical views he held in politics, he was a great social favorite, and Garfield, Carpenter, Ingelsoll and Blaine always sought him out when in Washington. Even the St. Stevens defended him once in the House, when attacked by some one on the Democratic side.

Lawyer as he was, statesman and scholar of high repute, deeply read in literature, Judge Black devoted more time to the study and perusal of the Bible than persons would think possible. His ideas of right and wrong gained in the strict old school of Presbyterians remained with him throughout his life, and made his character shine with a brightness that more culture or even genius could never produce. He was an American in every sense of the term, the peculiar product of a community whom, for rugged strength and grand ambitions, the world has never seen excelled.

SINGULAR ACCIDENTS.

A bolt of lightning killed twenty-seven hogs and two cows which were seeking shelter under a tree at Blue Springs, Tenn. A cow crawled into a mill at Lawrence, Mass., and went to sleep on a very wide belt. When the machinery started he was killed.

JOHN MCGURRAY, of Henrietta, Texas, while placing a pistol under his pillow, accidentally shot his wife through the head, killing her instantly.

EX-COUNTY CLERK ANDREW C. WARREN fell three feet from a hayrack foundation on his farm near Stan ord, N. Y., and broke his neck. He died instantly.

TWO GEORGIA boys were in swimming. One of them snatched a revolver under the water, and was greatly surprised when it was discharged and his young companion was killed.

AN ILLINOIS snake charmer gave a public exhibition with a copperhead. The charm didn't work, but the snake did, and weeks elapsed before the showman knew that he would recover.

C. G. REYNOLDS, of Marietta, Ga., had a scythe that ran over his shoulder and was riding a mule. The animal, frightened at a passing train, threw Reynolds to the ground, and the scythe took his head off.

JOHN HELMAN, of Lexington, Pa., stood in the hall clearing his ear with the bit-end of a small stick. A screen door was opened suddenly against him, which thrust the stick inside the ear, broke the drum, caused the most intense suffering and made Helman a maimed man.

PASSING EVENTS.

Preparing to Squeeze Monopoly—The Ischia Calamity.

Our Forests—The Cholera—Cheering Agricultural Prospects.

The completion of the Northern Pacific railway is fraught with vital interest to the people of the Pacific coast. Heretofore, in the opening of the new routes, the Central Pacific combination have been enabled, by geographical and other influences, to so maintain fare and freight-rates that the new routes afforded no relief to anybody. The completion of the Southern Pacific, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, the Denver and Rio Grande and the Atlantic and Pacific, has in no case resulted in a reduction of fares or freight-rates, for the reason that the Central Pacific, controlling, as it does on all sides, the Western outlet of these roads, refuses to make concessions. With the completion of the Northern Pacific a new era is at hand. That road is under obligation to nobody. It reaches tide-water with its own line, and the Pacific ocean is free to all. It can make its own rates without fear of reprisals in any direction. It can cut the fare to San Francisco to \$1.00, quite enough by the way—and force its rivals to follow suit or lose the business. It can make its own freight rates, make its own contracts with Pacific coast merchants—in other words, do exactly as it pleases, and the Central Pacific combination is powerless for either redress or vengeance.

The Ischia Calamity.

The mail accounts of the Ischia calamity bring it before the reader in still more vivid colors than those of the telegrams. At Casamicciola there was a resident population of 4,000, and the town was crowded with visitors. After a preliminary roaring the earth began to roll and surge like a pot of thick mud, and in an instant buildings began to crackle and crumble into heaps of rubbish. Great cracks opened in the earth into which many houses disappeared bodily. It was about 10 o'clock at night when the end came. A moment before, a large town by the way—and many were already in bed. A moment later, and not a single house was left standing, saving only a small church by the sea, and the roof was partly shaken off that. A few of the inhabitants escaped, but to be or, but he was not a lawyer by the whole of these books by heart. Under Chauncey Forward he studied law, and in 1831 was admitted to the bar. He was the first of his family to be married, his wife being Mary Porter in 1834. About this time he joined the sect known as the Campbellites or Disciples of Christ, with whom he remained in fraternal relations the remainder of his life. In 1836 he was appointed his pre-reading Judge of the Franklin, Bedford and Somerset districts, and though a party fight was made on the appointment, the unanimous approval of the members of the district, the matter was settled. This office he held with great credit for nine years. When the position was made elective he was chosen for the short term, and filled the Chief Judgeship most ably for three years.

Our Forests.

The meeting of the American Forestry congress was held at St. Paul. The primary object of this association is the preservation of our forests. Dr. Loring, United States Commissioner of Agriculture, is its President, and delivered the opening address. Among other things he said that the consumption of pine lumber by fire and in the arts was very great, and suggested that the future supply might be obtained by allowing the lumberman resorts to unpopulated sections of the pine forest. His demands, New Hampshire and Vermont are exhausted of their pine supply, and their spruce will last but seven and four years respectively at the present rate of consumption. In Maine the pine will last but four and spruce fifteen years, while in South Carolina, at the present rate of cutting, the pine forests will last fifty years; California, 150 years; Arkansas, 300 years; Pennsylvania, 150 years; Georgia, 80 years; Louisiana, 100 years; North Carolina, 50 years; Wisconsin, 20 years; Michigan, 10 years; Minnesota, 10 years; Mississippi, 150 years; Alabama, 50 years; Florida, 10 years; Texas, 250 years. Exhausted forests can be restored in time, and to this end every means should be applied both by people and Government, each within its own jurisdiction.

The Cholera.

If it is true that the cholera, which has caused such dreadful ravages in Egypt, is the genuine Asiatic disease, there is, of course, every reason for believing that we have escaped a visitation from the plague. The physicians who were first sent over by France and England pronounced it Asiatic cholera of the most malignant type. The physicians sent from India into Egypt by the British Government say the disease is nothing like the plague with which they are familiar in India. There is a doubt, then, as to the character of the pestilence. If it is an endemic disease, there is no occasion for alarm. If it is Europe or America, it is an epidemic disease, it is certain to take the grand tour around the inhabitable earth.

Cheering Agricultural Prospects.

In the midst of a somewhat, say the least, doubtful financial and commercial outlook the prospect of a most bountiful harvest, and consequent plentiful breadstuff supply at moderate prices, is such as should inspire popular content and tranquillity. Indeed, the agricultural prospect is so hopeful as to constitute a silver lining to the somewhat darker than ordinary cloud that just now obscures the horizon of trade and commerce.

TRUE STORIES.

ELATH county, Texas, has an infant industry which needs protecting just now. It is little girl, 6 years old, who is an expert telegraph operator.

AS THE dog of Samuel King, a flagman at Elizabeth, N. J., was trotting along the road toward the low top it went into the dog's open mouth with such force that the dog narrowly escaped choking to death. The bird was finally taken out.

A MAN in East Dougherty, Ga., has a front tooth which he plugged with lead with his own hands over thirty years ago. He used an awl to bore a hole in the tooth, and packed the lead in with the same instrument, after he had got the tooth into its socket. The tooth is in a good state of preservation, and is likely to last as long as the man.

FOR several days Mrs. John Malsby had been keeping a nice pound-cake in her bureau, which she was saving for the first preserver who would drop it. Imagine her surprise, when she opened the drawer, to find a highland moccasin two feet long coiled up on her nice white cake. The cake was kept and the moccasin thrown away. How the snake got there is a mystery. —*Walton (Fla.) News.*

DR. J. K. BARNUM contributes to our museum a cucumber four feet in length and a perfect representation of a snake coiled up. It measures four and half inches around the body and gradually tapers to the slender end. The mouth and eyes are plainly marked, and when growing upon a vine in the garden, is a scary enough looking to frighten any one not acquainted with the rattlesnake variety of cucumbers. —*Lumpkin (Ga.) Independent.*

GEORGE J. ROMANES, of Manchester, Pa., has a cat called Tabby. The other day a thin, dilapidated, iron-trail-of-a-bone-looking cat came into the back-yard. Tabby went out, and they rubbed their noses together for a moment; then Tabby went into the kitchen and took some of her own meal to the wretched Scotch cat. The latter, hungry cat was not satisfied, Tabby went and brought out a new supply of meat, which the stranger seemed to accept with every evidence of gratitude.

INDIANA STATE NEWS.

Nine persons of Indianapolis narrowly escaped death a short time ago from eating poisoned beef.

THE Liquor Dealers' Protective Association, of Fort Wayne, are backing a movement for the prosecution of druggists for selling liquor by the glass. R. F. Beverford, a prominent druggist, was heavily fined the other day.

MILTON HAYNES, of Lafayette, has begun a suit, through his attorney, W. I. Roberts, against Moses Baker and Joseph Baker, two prominent physicians of Stockwell, for \$10,000 damages for ill treatment in setting, healing and treating his broken limb.

EX-GOV. CUMBACK, during his term as Collector of Internal Revenue, collected and deposited to the credit of the Secretary of the Treasury, \$33,500,000, without the loss of one cent to the Government. His office during the entire time has been graded as "A No. 1."

A STRANGE fight took place in Clarksburg between Ed Long and John Kelly. Both are good-looking fellows, and each has a young lady to whom he pays attentions. Long remarked, during a conversation with Kelly, that his girl was the better looking of the two. Kelly promptly replied that Long was a liar. It was then agreed to fight it out according to the rules of the prize-ring. After a long and bloody struggle Long's girl was pronounced the better looking, although the champion is so badly used up that he can not leave his bed.

AT Valparaiso, two young ladies from the Normal, went to see a lady friend off on the train at the Grand Trunk, and forgot to take her good-by until the train had started. Suddenly they were seen to wildly paw the air and screech so loudly that the conductor's attention was arrested, and thinking they wished to go somewhere, stopped the train, thereupon the ladies got on and exchanged the usual amount of kissing and good-bys, and then coolly got off. The conductor was too thunderstruck for utterance.

A LITTLE boy named Yaz, at Waleboro, while standing on a side-track recently, where some men were pushing a car, had his head caught between two bumpers, but the cars stopped just in time to prevent its being crushed. He was badly hurt, however, but the effect of the injury was most curious. His eyes, which were straight before, at once became crossed and so remain; all his right side appears to be perfectly pulseless, yet he has the use of his limbs. The physician in charge reports the case unprecedented in his practice.

JEREMIAH D. THOMAS was shot through the head and instantly killed by Jack May at Center Point, ten miles south of Brazil. May and his wife have been separated for some time, and she is making her home in the Thomas family. Meanwhile her petition for divorce is pending. Mrs. May and Thomas went into a buggy to Saline together, he on business and she to see her sister. They returned home about 10 o'clock. May was lying in wait for them, and when they arrived in front of the residence he went up to buggy, and, placing a revolver in Thomas' face, fired.

THE following patents have been issued to Indiana inventors: Harry Jones, Richmond, assignor of one-half to R. R. Rouse, Indianapolis, chain pump; Albert W. Marshall, Indianapolis, stereotype-plate holder; H. C. Pomeroy, South Bend, skate; Nicholas Schoutagh, Boonville, spark arrester; Charles Kirtledge, Indianapolis, stapling machine; James M. Jacobs, assignor to J. M. Jacobs and Son, Bluff Creek, medicine for dyspepsia; David E. Eastburn, South Bend, roaster; Joshua Hicks, Sanford, rat-proof building; A. C. Connor, assignor to Hoosier Drill Company, Richmond, grain drill; Benjamin F. Applegate, assignor to himself and B. F. Wangel, New Albany, threshing machine; Winfield O. Gunkel, assignor of two-thirds to H. C. McKee and J. D. Kefauz, Terre Haute, roller-creek mechanism; John Mellette, Winamac, ribbon roll; John Mellette, Winamac, ribbon holder; James F. Miller, Spring Station, finger bar for mowing and reaping machines; Samuel Stephens, assignor to Sinkler, Davis & Co., Indianapolis, rendering apparatus; Harmon H. Fulton and O. R. Osen, assignors to Indianapolis Machine and Bolt Works, Indianapolis, pulley; John Imier, Zionsville, combined rotary disc harrow and seed-sower; Edwin L. Parker and S. Peterson, Queensville, elevator; Theo. H. Pate, Greencastle, lightning-rod; Wm. H. Noll, Milton, atmospheric clothes pounder; John C. Oberchain, Logansport