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# TORTURED BY ROBBERS

## Blakeslees Would Not Yield Up Their Money.

## ROBBERS ROASTED THEIR FEET.

**Five Thousand Dollars Were Finally Discovered and the Thieves Decamped, Leaving Their Victims Bound and Gagged—No Clue to Their Identity.**

TOLEDO, O., April 19.—Ten masked men broke into the house of Mrs. Rebecca Blakeslee, situated in Hancock county. They were armed with clubs and torches, such as are used on the railroads by car inspectors, and, after inflicting what may be fatal wounds to John Blakeslee, a son, and torturing the other members of the family, got away with between $5,000 and $6,000 in cash.

Mrs. Blakeslee and her family are considered eccentric. They live on 400 acres of oil land quite a ways removed from any village. Recently Mrs. Blakeslee refused $10,000 spot cash in gold for an oil lease on the farm. They kept all their money in the house. In the family were Mrs. Blakeslee, her daughter Eliza, and her two sons, Smith and John.

All were aroused by the breaking in of the door by the masked men. John was struck down and nearly killed by a blow from a heavy club. Another man gave Smith a blow on the head, which felled him to the floor. The women were overcome and bound. Things were used to fasten the arms and feet of the men lest they should give trouble. Then a search of the house was made for money.

Not finding any money, the bandits returned to their captives and demanded to be told where the money was concealed. It was denied that there was money in the house. Then the men proceeded to torture their victims. The torches were applied to the feet of Mrs. Blakeslee, her daughter and Smith. The feet were burned to a blister, yet the Blakeslees refused to admit of money being in the house. Mrs. Blakeslee lost consciousness, as did her daughter.

Finally the robbers ceased their torture and began another search of the premises and in one of the bureau drawers between $5,000 and $6,000 were found and carried away.

The house was in a terrible plight. About an hour after the men had gone, Eliza managed to work her hands loose, release the others and go for aid.

The county commissioners have offered $100 a head for the capture of the robbers.

Where the gang came from or whither they went is a mystery, but it was one of the boldest pieces of work ever done in Northwestern Ohio.

### Allen Will Recover.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., April 21.—A special from Sackett's Harbor says that Allen, the soldier, who was one of the persons shot in the horrible double murder and whose death has been momentarily expected, will recover. Tuesday he called for and was given food and drink. The grand jury sits May 8, and it is hardly possible that Allen will be able to testify before it, but his statement will probably be read. Crouch, the accused man, was interviewed in his cell. He is somewhat unnerved, but is still confident that he will soon be free.

### Two Young Men Killed.

UTICA, April 19.—John Dresher and George Keller, young men of Fort Herkimer, were killed by a Central engine at Herkimer. They waited for a freight train to pass and then stepped in front of the engine. Benjamin Doxtater was driving across the tracks at the same time. His wagon was smashed and he was thrown out, striking on his head, but was not severely injured.

### Newark's New Buildings.

NEW YORK, April 19.—Work on the construction of five new public buildings in Newark, N. J., will soon be started. They will cost $1,480,000, and include a $300,000 city hospital, a $300,000 high school, a $300,000 free library, a $300,000 armory and a $380,000 courthouse. Bonds to cover the cost will be issued.

### New Pastor For St. Bridget's Church.

ALBION, N. Y., April 21.—Rev. John Biden, rector of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Albion, has received and accepted a call to the pastorate of St. Bridget's church in Buffalo, lately occupied by the newly appointed Bishop Quigley.

### Wheat Sells For Over $1.

ST. LOUIS, April 20.—For the first time since 1891 cash wheat passed the $1 mark. One car load, extra high grade, sold for [illegible] and two car loads of No. 2 red winter wheat at $1.02½.

### Everyone Asked to Decorate.

NEW YORK, April 20.—Mayor Strong issued an address appealing to citizens to have buildings properly decorated with the American flag on Grant day.

### Congressman Millikin Dead.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Seth L. Millikin, representing in the house of representatives in the Third district of Maine, died Sunday night at 9:30.

### Iowa Is a Fast Boat.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—The report of the naval trial board upon the official speed trial of the battleship Iowa has just been submitted to the secretary of the navy. It shows that the ship made a speed, with all allowances made for tides and other interfering conditions, of just 17.871 knots. As the contract requires a speed of 16 knots, and provides for a bonus at the rate of $200,000 per knot above that figure, the Cramps will receive a premium of $374,200.

### Removal of Grant's Remains.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The body of the late General Grant has been removed from the tomb which has sheltered it for nearly 12 years, and now lies in the imposing mausoleum which is designed to be its permanent resting place. There were no elaborate ceremonies. The removal was under the directions of Colonel Fred Grant and members of U. S. Grant Post No. 337, Grand Army of the Republic. The coffin was found to be in an excellent state of preservation.

### Colored Murderer to Hang.

NEW YORK, April 20.—Hadley Sutherland was sentenced to death by Judge Aspinwall in the county court, Brooklyn. He will be executed at Sing Sing during the week beginning June 7. Sutherland is a colored boy, not yet 19 years old, who last week was convicted of murdering Mrs. Sarah Wren on March 29 last at their home in Brooklyn.

# LOSS BY FLOODS.

**Treasury Department Makes an Estimate of the Damage Done.**

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The bureau of statistics of the treasury department in another report of the damage caused agricultural interests by the Mississippi river flood says:

The total area submerged at this date is over 30,000 square miles. It contained at the last census 45,996 farms, with a total area of 4,904,466 acres, nearly one-half of which was improved, and a total population, agricultural and others of 462,041.

If to the value of its farms, farm buildings and farm machinery, according to the census of 1890, there be added the value of its live stock on Jan. 1 last, ($9,174,636) and of its products of last season, still on hand on March 1 last ($4,595,179), the total of $90,176,177 will represent the approximate value of the agricultural property of the submerged region.

Among the products of this region last year were 493,056 bales of cotton, worth $16,612,060; 12,595,645 bushels of corn, worth $3,995,278, and 9,063,878 pounds of sugar worth $371,016, the total production including minor crops representing a value of $31,178,218 on the plantation.

# WATER SLOWLY FALLING.

**Flood Situation Becoming Somewhat Better—Natchez Levee Strong.**

MEMPHIS, April 21.—The river at Vicksburg, Helena, Natchez and from St. Joseph, La., to Bayou Sara is reported either stationary or falling.

This condition is the result of the vast amount of water passing through the crevasse at Higgs' and Reeds' levees above Natchez and at Glasscocks below.

The levee in the immediate vicinity of Natchez continues to hold under the great strain, but this is of no little interest to planters in Concordia, Texas and Madison parishes, as the water backed up from the breaks above and below will soon flood the rich lands of these parishes, and the result will be almost as destructive as if other breaks should occur.

The Red and Tensas rivers are now swelling and almost running over their banks and soon they will begin to spread over a section of 30 miles into the interior.

Work continues on the levees, however, and everything possible is being done to hold the remainder in place.

# CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

**Items of Interest From Both Houses of Congress.**

Mr Vest introduced his resolution declaring illegal the recent order of the secretary of the treasury relative to imports arriving after April 1. The senator gave notice of pressing the resolution, and it may afford another test on the tariff.

It was decided to vote on the arbitration treaty May 5 at 4 p. m. There was no particular opposition to fixing this time for the vote, although Senator Davis urged an earlier date. His first suggestion was for May 3, and when objection was made, proposed the 4th, and then the 5th, which met with no opposition.

It is understood that the opponents expect to have all their strength in the senate on that date.

### Prominent Citizens Dead.

CORNING, N. Y., April 20.—Charles L. Haskins, one of the most prominent citizens of Seneca county, died, aged 97 years. He had held many county offices of trust. Jacob B. Decker, one of the oldest lawyers in Wayne county, died at his home in Red Creek, aged 78 years. He was at one time district attorney of the county.

### Fruit Buds Injured by Cold Snap.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., April 21.—The weather is intensely cold in this section, the mercury sinking to 21 in the city and 17 in the county. Ice over an inch thick was formed in the county. Currents were injured and probably other fruit buds.

### Another Deserted Child.

TORONTO, April 16.—Another deserted infant was found on a door step. This makes 85 found in the city in a similar manner during the last three months.

### Wants the Convention.

LONDON, Ont., April 21.—London will invite the international convention of the Young Men's Christian association to meet here in 1899.

### Niagara Falls Suicide Identified.

NIAGARA FALLS, April 20.—Ernest F. Markham of Boston was the man who jumped from the suspension bridge last Saturday. Chief of Police Dinan received a photograph of Markham and showed it to the bridge tender, Hackman Nickerson and others who saw the suicide. They positively identified it as that of the man who jumped from the bridge. Chief Dinan put the picture in a bunch with others and none of those who had seen Markham hesitated in picking it out.

### Archbishop Keane.

Archbishop Keane, ex-rector of the Catholic university of Washington, completed recently a course of most eloquent sermons, delivered in the Church of St. Silvestro in Capite at Rome, always thronged to its utmost capacity. His grace has now assumed possession of his canonry in the patriarchal archbasilica of St. John Lateran, he having previously made the customary visit to all the members of that chapter, as required by Roman ecclesiastical etiquette.

### Church Notes.

Among the distinguished individuals who are to visit this country this year is the superior general of the Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes, who is coming here on a visit to the American houses of his order.

The Rev. John A. Perry, who was lately ordained in Rome for the Brooklyn diocese by Cardinal Parrochi, has returned to America.

It is estimated that the new Catholic church to be erected in Taunton, Mass., will cost $50,000.

Bishop Harkins of Providence, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his episcopal consecration, after Easter time, will be presented with a bust of himself.

The Rev. Charles E. Burke of North Adams, Mass., will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination in May.

The Rev. Father Marengo, canon of the Church of St. John Lateran, Rome, and vicar general of Athens, has been a guest of the Franciscan fathers in Ohio.


Ripans Tabules cure dyspepsia.
Ripans Tabules cure nausea.
Ripans Tabules: gentle cathartic.


# DIONYSIUS' EAR.

BY J. H. CONNELLY.

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General Oleg Gedeonoff was a huge old man. His body was immense, his limbs were tremendous, and his head—with its hirsute wealth of grayish hair, big beard and great mustache—seemed simply vast. He was so large that, even at a distance, people felt a sensation of being jostled if he was in sight. When he conversed, the windows rattled; when he sneezed, people afar off exclaimed "God bless us!" and when he snored remote neighbors who knew not the cause of that awful sound loaded guns and sat up all night. In short, nature had evidently made him to be a governor, and the czar, in recognition of his long and gallant service in the army, appointed him to rule over the province of Kabarda. He was styled general because that was his last rank in the army, and indeed he looked as if he never had been anything else, as if he had been born a general.

Few if any persons ventured to affirm that Kabarda was not dull. But General Gedeonoff did not complain of it. He cared nothing for social life, had distractions of his own and probably would have been contented in any place where he could be governor. And he was a pretty good governor, since he never went out of the way to do any mischief knowingly in his official capacity, and was really kind hearted. His only fault was that he confided too implicitly in a sort of factotum named Boris Razin and delegated to him at times too much authority. That, however, is one of those things which right themselves eventually, as they did in this instance very finely.

"IS HE AFRAID?"

The general's distractions, to which allusion has been made, were, as he persuaded himself, scientific. As everybody knows, the newspapers of Russia are permitted to publish almost anything except news, and one that came every week from St. Petersburg to the governor of Kabarda gave much of its space to scientific experiments. Under the head of "Electricity" it taught "how to make a battery with a shaving mug and a very little flowerpot;" under "Acoustics," "how to make an Æolian harp with threads in a window;" under "Chemistry," "how to make crystals of rock salt;" under "Natural Philosophy," "how to balance a fork on the edge of a wineglass;" under "Magic," "how to cook an omelet in a hat," and so on. And the old general amused himself by doing all those things. The one that pleased him most was "how to reproduce Dionysius' ear." It cost him a good many rubles to fix up a pretty little room so that he, at his desk in another apartment 50 feet away, would hear even a whisper in that reproduction of the fabled chamber of the Syracusan tyrant. Luckily he kept the knowledge of his triumph to himself and the one person who aided him, his charming adopted daughter Maria, the child of his friend Colonel Karatevnik, who, dying in his arms on the battlefield, bequeathed her to his care.

Only one thing troubled the good general—he vehemently suspected his nephew, Vladimir, and Maria of contemplating marriage, to which he would have offered no objection had they asked his permission before falling in love with each other, but which stirred all his antagonism when he deemed they had ignored him.

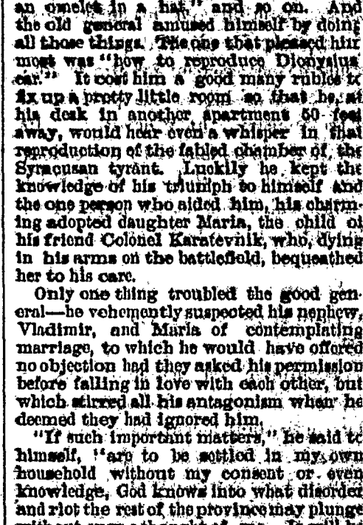
"If such important matters," he said to himself, "are to be settled in my own household without my consent or even knowledge, God knows into what disorder and riot the rest of the province may plunge without even a thought of me. It will be quite forgotten that I am governor."

And he grew exceedingly impatient, for the time was short for a certain programme he had outlined to himself.

"My dignity," he reflected, "will not permit me to ask questions. I must seem to discover the situation by accident. Then I shall be furious and punish them by a little wholesome terror—she of being sent to her agonizing cat of an aunt, he of being shipped off for a year's journey. But at our Easter Sunday feast I will forgive them and announce the betrothal. Yes, but it is Good Friday already, and I know nothing yet of the affair—officially."

Just then Maria poked her pretty head in at the door of his study, where he sat smoking, and said timidly and hesitatingly, "May I talk a little to you, dear father, of something private?"

"Aha," he thought, "the sweet child comes to confess. I shall be good to her. Now I will not even shake at her that grisly terror, Aunt Anastasia." And, so encourage her, he said in tender tones that could not have been heard farther than across the street:



"YOU NEED NOT FEAR A MAN WHO LOVES YOU."

"Come in, dear child. My heart always answers 'Yes' to your eyes before your tongue has time to ask."

"You are very good to me, dear father, but I have never before had to come to you with anything like this."

"No, I believe you," he replied, knowingly, "but some time it comes to every one."

She looked puzzled, but went on: "A certain poor little girl is very weak in love."

"Good! Good!" he responded in an satisfied tone. "That is as it should be. So I would have her. The more love the more happiness. But why did not the timid fellow come along with you? Is he afraid?" He had forgotten all about his programme.

Maria was bewildered. "He come along! Oh, she has not dared to say anything to him about it! He would break the rascal's head. Then what might happen to him?"

The governor's eyes grew very round and big. Deliberately he laid his big pipe on the table, scratched his chin, stared at her and rumbled, "Whose head would he break?"

"Boris', of course."

"Now, why the devil should Vladimir break Boris' head?"

"Vladimir! What has he to do with it?"

"Yes, that's what I want to know."

"You did not let me tell you. It is about Natalia. Boris persecutes her, and she detests him. She loves Feodor Danilov, and Boris swears to send him to Siberia if Natalia does not give him up."

A dangerous light gleamed in the general's eyes, but he only said, with ominous gentleness, "So he will send somebody to Siberia?"

"Yes. And Feodor, who loves Natalia dearly, if he knew how Boris persecutes and frightens her, would kill him. Having constant access to the house on your service, Boris makes opportunities daily for threatening her. She wanted to beg your protection, but feared you would rout at her and favor Boris."

"Natalia is a very good girl, and I am fond of her, but she is foolish. She was a pet of my poor wife, who raised her from childhood and left her to my care. Is it likely I would give her to that ugly Tartar faced rascal? She should know me better. But I am curious to hear him. Tomorrow when he comes at the usual hour for orders, let him find her in Dionysius' ear. And she must draw him out. You at the same time come here to me. But have you nothing to say to me on your own account?"

"N-no," she stammered, blushing. "But I saw Vladimir at the door, and perhaps he has something to say."

She ran swiftly away, and the general was still chuckling when Vladimir entered.

* * * * * * *

Boris Razin glided stealthily along the corridor, listening at closed doors, peeping in at open ones, until he caught sight of Natalia sitting before a window sewing, in a small octagonal room. Softly he stepped inside and closed the door. She looked up, startled.

"Don't look so frightened," he said, grinning. "You need not fear a man who loves you as I do if you will only be sensible. I have been looking everywhere for you."

"I did not wish to see you."

"Very probably, but I chose to see you, which is more important. I saw fit to remind you once more of what will happen if you do not tomorrow give me the answer I expect."

"You will have no other answer from me than that I have already given you, neither tomorrow nor any other time."

"Listen to me, Natalia Iovaiski. You will meet me in the church before the altar when the candles are lighted and the priest blesses the cakes. Then and there in the holy presence you will promise to be my wife. If you do not, you know what I shall do."

"I do not."

"I shall send Feodor Danilov to Siberia."

"I do not believe you. You cannot. He is guilty of nothing. The governor will not condemn him without reason."

"The governor! I can wind him about my finger. Reason sufficient will be found."

"I shall go to the general and tell him all."

"It would do you no good. I shall simply whisper to him that Feodor is a nihilist and show some proof I have ready. Then, pfwit, our little brother Feodor will go to Siberia for life. And it will be you who have sent him there by refusing me."

The girl burst into tears, and he glided away, turning back at the door to hiss to her, "Remember, at Easter mass. You save or ruin Feodor." Presenting himself in the governor's study for orders, as was his daily duty, Boris found there his nephew and Maria, who frequently served as the general's confidential amanuensis. She was writing, and the general made him a sign to wait a moment. In a few moments she stopped and gave to the old man what she had written. He read it over, smiled, put it in an envelope, which he sealed by a great blob of wax stamped with his own seal, and then gave it to Boris, saying pleasantly, "Keep this carefully and bring it to me tomorrow after the Easter matin service."

* * * * * * *

The last glorious chords of the triumphal Easter matin music floated away over the heads of the congregation crowding the church. Worshipers exchanged the "kiss of peace" and the salutation, "Christ is risen!" Candles lighted at those upon the altar spread their flame to others until everywhere were the twinkling lights. The priest bestowed his blessing upon the cakes offered by the devout. The joyous excitement prevailed which distinguishes the observance of this the greatest festival of the Greek church.

Threading his way through the throng, cursing in his heart those who detained him at every step with their salutations, Boris Razin sought Natalia. At length he found her, not before the altar, but near the door, going that way.

"Christ is risen!" he proclaimed, giving the kiss of peace.

"He is risen indeed," she replied, shrinking with a shudder to his touch.

"Natalia, what is your answer?" he

"MERCY! HAVE MERCY!"

[illegible]