

The Manning Times.

VOL. II.

MANNING, CLARENDON COUNTY, S. C., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1886.

NO. 36.

JOHNSON'S ISLAND.

A PEN PICTURE OF THE GREAT NORTH-ERN PRISON.

The Pirate of Lake Erie—The Solitary of a Lake Steamer by a Band of Confederate Sympathizers—The Failure of Their Plans—The Chief of the Crew, Etc.

(From the Atlantic Constitution.)

Johnson's Island, now an historic spot, lies four miles from the city of Sandusky, Ohio, in the midst of a beautiful sheet of water as can be found on the lakes. Seen across the blue waves, its green slopes relieved by the piles of white limestone, it presents a lovely picture. The highest is perhaps fifty feet above the water level, and is near the center of the island, which is one mile long, a half wide, and contains 300 acres. In the days long since departed, it was covered with a magnificent growth of oak and maple, and was a favorite resort of the Indians, who then thronged all the lake shore. The waters which wash its shores were alive with black bass, pickerel and perch, and continue so to this day.

The soil is full of Indian relics, and in one corner is an old Indian burying ground. Many weird legends of Indian ghosts are still extant, and would bear telling. For years the island was owned by one Bull, and it was called after him. The first custom-house for this port was located on the island at one time, and the foundations are still to be seen. In 1852, F. B. Johnson bought the property, and still owns it. In 1861 a depot for Confederate prisoners was wanted, and the government leased the island, which at once sprang into notoriety as Johnson's Island. At that time but little of it was under cultivation, and the improvements were of the most primitive character. W. T. West, of this city, was awarded the contract for building quarters for prisoners and guards, and from that time, until the close of the war, it was the scene of constant activity. January 1, 1862, Company A, of Hoffman's Battalion, took possession for the government; later Companies B, C and D, same battalion, were added, and in 1863 six miscellaneous companies, the whole was crested into one hundred and twenty-eight O. V. I., in the latter part of 1863.

The first post commander was Major W. S. Person, afterward brevet brigadier general. Colonel Giles, W. Hill, General Farry and Major Lee were successively his successors. The troops on the island were enlisted specially for this particular service, and some of them moved their families to the prison, and soon a school-house and church were erected.

April 9, 1862, the first installment of prisoners arrived. These men were nearly all private, but as the great security of the prison became known, only officers were sent to the island. From the first arrival until the close of the war there was a constantly varying number of Confederates on the island. Sometimes as high as 3,000 were under guard, the total number confined aggregating 15,000. Many died, and soon a little cemetery of some 400 graves was established in a beautiful grove on the eastern end of the island. Companies of the deceased whiled away days in carving elaborate wooden head boards for their dead comrades, and some of them, executed with ordinary pocket cutlery, still remain exquisite examples of amateur talent. For some reason, the defenders of a lost cause have never, with two or three exceptions, given the place any attention, and but for the kindness of the G. A. R. Post, the lonely burying spot would be lost in a mass of undergrowth.

As Canada filled up with Southern sympathizers, it was deemed best to bring additional troops to the island, and to erect strong fortifications, the ruins of which still remain in most perfect condition. Even the magazines of the forts are in such a state of preservation as to admit of minute exploration. From time to time rumors of an attack from the Canadian shore were heard. It was said that a strong force would come from Canada, release the prisoners, and seizing the ammunition and cannon of the forts, form an invading army to burn Toledo, Sandusky, Cleveland and the lake ports.

THE PIRATE OF LAKE ERIE.

That there was a good foundation for the various rumors, was subsequently proven by the capture and execution of John Beall, sometimes spelled Beale. He was born in Virginia, being a native of Jefferson county, which was in the famous Shenandoah Valley, Charlottesville, where John Brown was executed. He was a large land owner, and possessed of a classical education obtained at the University of Virginia. At the breaking out of the war he organized C Company, Second O. V., which later became a part of Stonewall Jackson's famous brigade.

During the latter part of 1864 all the cities on Lake Erie were greatly agitated. The streets were patrolled, and every possible precaution taken against an invasion from the North. The whole border was convulsed. Ohio had sent thousands of soldiers more than her quota to the front, and none were left to guard her unprotected lake front. It seemed a practicable scheme to send an expedition from Canada to batter down the lake ports, and spread destruction throughout north Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. Jacob Thompson was in Canada, and to his fertile brain all sorts of plots were charged. The only vessel on the lakes was the Michigan, carrying eighteen guns. Her regular station and winter quarters have always been at the port of Erie. It was agreed that if she were captured a very small body of men could with but little difficulty ravage the frontier. In the early part of September, 1864, she was lying between Johnson's Island and Sandusky. The air was usually full of rumors at this time. The Knights of the Golden Circle, in Indiana, were reported to be in the plot to seize the island. Many citizens of Sandusky were suspected. Naturally the prison island was the center of all thought.

A steamer could cross from Canada in a few hours. In winter the ice formed

sufficiently strong to allow an army to march from Sandusky to the island. The early September days dragged slowly along, full of fear and trembling. The fall proved to be the day of fate. The Michigan, a passenger steamer plying between Sandusky and Detroit, stopping at Put-In-Bay, left Detroit early in the morning. The first stop on the Detroit river was at Sandusky, a small Canadian town. Here a quartet of men came on. At Malden, a short distance further down, a score more boarded the steamer. Several of the men carried large valises, but the most conspicuous piece of baggage was a great old-fashioned trunk, secured with ropes and seemingly very heavy. Still there was nothing at all suspicious about either the men or their traps. At other points down the river passengers were taken up until when the Parsons came to the dock at Kelly's Island, some fourteen miles from Sandusky and ten miles from the island, she had an unusually large passenger list. The clerk happened to be in charge of the boat, the captain being off for the day. When the boat had got clear of the island, and was fully on her way to Sandusky, four men stepped up to the clerk, and at the point of revolvers compelled his surrender. The trunk was burst open and relieved of its load of revolvers and bowie knives. The boat carried no armament, and had but a few hands to work her, and the task of securing possession was trifling.

Under the direction of the leader of the conspirators, they cruised about idly for some time, then put into Middle Bass Island. As she lay here the Island Queen, passenger packet, plying between the islands and Sandusky, ran alongside, and threw out a plank to discharge her passengers. Instantly she was seized by the plotters, who fired volley after volley, but did no damage. Captain Orr, of the Queen, attempted to cast off the rope, but was prevented. The engineer refused to obey the orders of the captors, and received a severe wound in the cheek, from a revolver fired by some unknown party. The passengers, including fifty one hundred day men, on their way to Toledo to be mustered out, were put in the hold. Captain Orr was closely questioned as to the situation in Sandusky, the numbers of strangers in the city, and the excitement existing, but he absolutely refused to talk. The number of people on board was too great, and it was decided to put the women and children ashore, together with the one hundred day men, who were paroled. The Queen was then taken several miles out to sea and sunk. From the unsettled conduct of the raiders it was evident to Captain Orr that some part of the plan had miscarried. The man in command was Beall. His appearance was such as to excite remark, more especially as his followers were a particularly mean-looking set. This was strikingly the case in the person of John Burley, who was second in command. The following programme is outlined from a document in the Confederate archives, prepared by Jacob Thompson.

Beall was to lead the water part of the scheme while a man named Cole had charge of the land end. Cole was to either overpower the officers of the Michigan, or to throw them off their guard. At a given signal Beall was to steam rapidly in and capture the ship. A cannon ball sent screaming across the island was to be the signal for the 3,000 prisoners to rise and overpower their guards. Sandusky was to be sacked and Toledo, Cleveland and Buffalo were to follow a like fate. The prisoners were to go to Cleveland and from that point, stealing horses wherever they could, dash across the State to Wheeling, W. Va. But Cole failed, and so did the plot to capture Johnson's Island. Beall at last saw the game was up and started for the island. The boat was urged forward at a terrific rate. She stopped long enough to land her captain and crew and then proceeded to the Canadian shore where she was sent to the bottom. Many of the islanders, fearful that the plot would succeed, had, during the day, destroyed much of their property. The excitement which next day followed the capture of the plot was wonderful, and for the time overtopped the Presidential campaign which was then at white heat. Three months later Beall was captured near the Suspension Bridge, at Niagara Falls, and locked up. It was discovered that an attempt was being made to bribe the turkey, \$8,000 having been offered him to release Beall. The prisoner was then placed in confinement at Fort Lafayette. One J. S. Brady appeared for Beall at his trial. The defendant was charged with being a spy; with attempting to wreck a Lake Shore train, for the purpose of robbery, and with the felonious seizure of vessels. Beall's defense was weak, he admitting very much that was charged against him. One of the features of the case was a manifesto from Jefferson Davis, declaring that the acts on the border were committed by his orders, and should be recognized as lawful acts of war. Beall was declared guilty, and General Dix approving the sentence, the prisoner was ordered to be executed on Governor's Island, the residence of Lincoln at the last moment granted a respite until February 24, when the prisoner was executed, without showing the slightest sign of fear.

The plot pertaining to the shore was entrusted to Major C. H. Cole, who, the better to conceal his purpose, was figuring as a Titusville, Pa., oil merchant. His first step was to obtain an introduction to the officers of the Michigan. This done, the rest was an easy matter, as he was furnished with plenty of money by Thompson, and the officers were always willing to spend a pleasant evening after tedious daily life on the steamer. Night after night they gathered in the parlors of the West House, where they enjoyed, at Cole's expense, the most elegant suppers, the choicest wines and cigars, and no guests were ever more joyfully entertained.

For a time everything went smoothly until Cole, thinking his plans were so perfectly made and so near success, grew careless and in a short time the suspicion of Sandusky people was aroused and his movements were closely watched. When the 19th of September arrived, the officers were once more invited to supper and everything was prepared for

them. The wine had been drugged and when by this means they had been rendered helpless, a signal had been arranged to notify Beall that the time for the attack had come and everything was ready. But in the meantime Cole's actions and movements had been so closely watched that suspicion had grown into a certainty, and in the very moment of success he was arrested by order of the commander of the Michigan, Captain Carter.

Among Cole's accomplices in Sandusky was a woman named "Annie Davis," who was a "most captivating creature." In order that he might make good his escape at his examination, Cole implicated some of the most prominent citizens of Sandusky.

For some time Cole was held as a prisoner on board the Michigan. He was then removed to the island, where after petitioning a number of times for pardon, he was transferred to Fort Lafayette. In September, 1865, he was granted a release, and is now supposed to be resident in Texas.

ALL ABOUT THE CROPS.

The Crops in the State, the Cotton Crop, and the Crops in the United States.

The State Department of Agriculture has received 257 special reports, covering every county in the State, on the condition of the crops, and furnishes the following summary of these reports:

The unfavorable seasons in June and July retarded the growth of cotton. The excessive rains caused vigorous growth of grass, and the crop was greatly injured in removing it. The reports of August 1st show that the plant is small and poorly fruited. A slight improvement is noticed on some of the red clay lands over condition on July 1st, but on light, gray sandy soils the condition is reported lower than for the previous month. In some localities the crop has suffered from rain. The reports, with few exceptions, are unfavorable.

The correspondents generally concur in the opinion that a larger yield than is now anticipated will be realized if the fall is late.

The condition on the 1st of August is: In upper Carolina, 62; middle Carolina, 66; lower Carolina, 73. Average for the State, 67.

CORN.

Upland corn, where it has been well worked and fertilized, is reported in fine condition, but in some sections the crop on sandy lands has been injured by excessive rains.

In many places the crop on bottoms was totally destroyed by the spring floods, and only a part of these lands was replanted.

The condition is reported in upper Carolina at 65; middle Carolina, 74; lower Carolina, 83. Average for the State, 74.

RICE.

The reports on the condition of rice are generally favorable, except where it has been injured by the frosts. In Georgetown county, one of the correspondents estimates that one-half of the crop has been destroyed. The condition is reported at 84.

OTHER CROPS.

The condition of the other crops is reported as follows: Sorghum, 85; sugar cane, 89; peas, 80; Irish potatoes, 91, and sweet potatoes, 91.

THE CONFEDERATE TREASURE.

An Interesting Event That Followed the Fall of Richmond.

(From an Article by Gen. Duke in August Bivouac on the Fall of Richmond.)

It was determined that we should resume our march that night for Washington, Ga., one or two days' march distant, and orders were issued by General Breckinridge that we move at midnight. About 10 o'clock I received a message from General Breckinridge that he desired to see me immediately. I went to his quarters, and he informed me that the treasure which had been brought from Richmond was at the railroad station, and that it was necessary to provide for its removal and transportation. He instructed me to procure a sufficient number of wagons to remove it, and to detail a guard of fifty men under a field officer for its protection. He further informed me that there was between \$500,000 and \$600,000 in specie—he did not know the exact amount—the greater part gold. I must, he said, personally superintend its transfer from the cars to the wagons. This was not a very agreeable duty. I represented that if no one knew just what sum of money was there, it would be rather an unpleasant responsibility to impose on the party who was to take charge of it. I would have no opportunity to count it, nor possible means of ascertaining whether the entire amount was turned over to me. He responded that all that had been considered, and bade me proceed to obey the order. I detailed fifty picked men as guard, and put them under command of Colonel Theophilus Steele and four of my best subalterns. I obtained six wagons, and, proceeding to the station, began at once the task of removing the treasure.

It was in charge of some of the former Treasury clerks, and was packed in money belts, stock bags, a few small iron chests, and all sorts of boxes, some of them of the finest description. In this shape I found it loaded in open box cars. I stationed sentries at the doors, and, running through the cars by the faint light of a few tallow candles, gathered up all that was shown me, or all that I could find. Rather more than an hour was consumed in making the transfer from the cars to the wagons, and after the latter had been started off and had gotten half a mile away, Lieut. John B. Cole, one of the officers of the guard, rode up to me with a pine box, which may have held \$2,000 or \$3,000 in gold, on the pommel of his saddle. He had remained after the others had left, and, fermenting about in a car which we thought we had thoroughly searched, had discovered this box stuck in a corner and closely covered up with a piece of sack-cloth. On the next day, General Breckinridge directed me to increase the guard to 200 men and take charge of it in person. I suggested that instead of composing it entirely of men from my brigade, it should be constituted of details from all five. I thought this the best plan to allay any little feeling of jealousy that might arise, and insure a more perfect vigilance, as I felt persuaded that these details would all carefully watch each other. My suggestion was adopted. Nearly the entire guard was kept constantly on duty, day and night, and a majority of the whole escort was generally about the wagons at every halt, closely inspecting the guard.

At the Savannah River, Mr. Davis ordered that the silver coin, amounting to one hundred and eight or ten thousand dollars, be paid to the troops in partial discharge of the arrears of pay due them. The Quartermasters of the several brigades were engaged during the entire night in counting out the money, and a throng of soldiers surrounded the little cabin where they were dividing "the pile" into their respective quotas until early dawn. The sight of so much money seemed to banish sleep. My brigade received \$32 per capita, officers and men sharing alike. General Breckinridge was paid that sum, and, for the purpose, was borne on the roll of the brigade. On the next day, at Washington, I turned over the residue of the treasure to Mr. M. H. Clarke, acting Treasurer of the Confederate States, and experienced a feeling of great relief.

St. Nicholas tells of a dog that can count. But it can't equal a cat in running up a column.—Texas Siftings. And many people have seen a snake that is an adder.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MR. TILDEN.

Why He Was Not Popular in South Carolina—Some Facts About the Campaign of 'Seventy-Six.

(F. W. D. in The Sunday News.)

The "Sage of Grammarcy Park" was not a favorite in South Carolina. Indeed, so far as there was any feeling on the subject, it was one of distrust and aversion. This was due to the manner in which South Carolina was treated by Mr. Tilden in the campaign of 1876. Mr. Tilden had no expectation whatever that this State could be carried by the Democrats, and was averse to the straight vote movement. There were several votes enough in sight, he thought, to make him President, without any help from South Carolina, and there is good authority for saying that Mr. Tilden had no doubt of the result, "if South Carolina would only keep quiet." But South Carolina determined to make a heroic effort to throw off the political yoke, and what in the beginning seemed impossible was, in a short time, well within the bounds of probability. It should have been evident to every dispassionate observer that nothing was beyond the reach of the white people of South Carolina, united as they were, and animated with one purpose and one hope. Nevertheless, Mr. Tilden gave the South Carolina Democracy the cold shoulder. This caused considerable irritation in the State, and engendered the idea of voting for Hayes and Hampton. By this plan a considerable number of colored votes was obtained for General Hampton, the Democratic candidate for Governor, in exchange for white votes for the Republican candidate for President. The Democracy of the State felt that they were deserted by the leaders of the National Democracy, and made the best bargain they could on their own account.

Towards the end of the canvass Mr. Tilden seemed to realize that he had made a mistake, and promised to contribute the enormous sum of \$5,000 to the Democratic campaign fund. A draft for this amount was accordingly made, and was discounted by one of the Charleston banks. Mr. Tilden, however, failed to provide for the draft, and it was ultimately paid out of money raised in South Carolina. This story concerning the draft and its fate comes to me from an unimpeachable source.

It will be remembered that General Hampton was elected by a majority of 1,134, while Colonel Simpson, the candidate for Lieutenant-Governor, had a majority of only 139. The majority for the Republican electors in this State was 964. It is very evident from these figures that the electoral vote of South Carolina could have been secured by Mr. Tilden, if he had sustained the Democracy of the State in their efforts, and had given them, in the canvass, the assistance they desired, and to which they were entitled. But he did not realize this fact until too late.

After the election it was proposed to buy one of the Republican electors. The whole history of the negotiations will probably never be known, but it seems to be reasonably certain that one of the lot offered to cast his vote for Tilden and Hendricks for the sum of \$50,000. One of Mr. Tilden's agents came to South Carolina to look over the field and ascertain that this could be accomplished, but the money was not forthcoming. Mr. Tilden relied upon the Republicans heard, in some way, of the negotiations which were in progress and were considerably alarmed. It is said that, when the Electoral College met, one of the Republican electors took a pistol from his pocket and announced, with an oath, that he would blow out the brains of any elector who ventured to vote for any other persons than Hayes and Wheeler. C. C. Bowen was credited with this exploit. At all events, the electoral votes of South Carolina were given to the Republican candidates.

Mr. Tilden, as I have shown, literally threw away the election. South Carolina's electoral votes would have given him a majority, without the vote of Louisiana and Florida of which he was robbed by the Returning Boards. Besides this, he earned the ill-will and dislike of the people of South Carolina by his attitude towards them at the time of their successful struggle for deliverance from Radical misrule. The feeling of the people was well expressed, four years later, by Gen. James Connor, who was in the thick of the political battle of 1876. When the effort was made to foist Tilden upon the Democracy in 1880, General Connor said openly that it was better to be beaten with Bayard than to win with Tilden.

There was never any doubt of Mr. Tilden's ability, especially in money-making, but in South Carolina he had but few enthusiastic admirers, for the reasons I have given. There was always an idea that Tilden lacked nerve in a political crisis. It is to be supposed for a moment that Hancock would have allowed himself to be defrauded of the Presidency as Mr. Tilden was? Not a bit of it. General Hancock would have opposed any compromise of any sort, and would have appealed, if necessary, to the people of the country to place him in the office to which he had been elected. It was the conviction that Mr. Tilden lacked courage that made Southern members of Congress willing to acquiesce in the Eight-to-Seven Electoral Commission Bill.

There was hope for South Carolina and Louisiana upon the installation of Mr. Hayes, and the two States made the most of the situation. Much, too, as Mr. Hayes has been abused, it should be remembered that it was during his term of office that the Southern States began earnestly their recovery from the ills and losses of the civil war. "There was little room for improvement during the Grant era. When King Stork gave place to King Log there was assurance of peace and order, and the Southern States moved forward with a rapidity which was surprising to even their own people.

Remarkable Mortality.

Within 10 months all the Democratic electors for the Presidency since the war, with the exception of Cleveland, have died. Gen. McClellan died Oct. 29, 1885. Gen. Hancock died Feb. 10, 1886. Hon. Seymour died Feb. 12, 1886. Samuel Jones Tilden died Aug. 4, 1886. And T. A. Hendricks died Nov. 25, 1885. There are two Democrats living who have been candidates for the Vice-Presidency—Pendleton and English.

Game Law.

It is unlawful for any person in this State between the first day of April and the first day of November to catch, kill or injure or pursue with such intent, or to sell or expose for sale any wild turkey, partridge, dove, woodcock or pheasant. Fine or imprisonment for violation.

The deer season opens on the first of September.

WHAT CHEWING GUM DOES.

Doctors Declare that It Causes Serious Bronchial and Other Troubles.

(From the New York Star.)

In the thousand and one shops sprinkled through the narrow streets of this city, where youngsters buy lollipops, where boys invest their savings in base balls and cigarettes at a penny apiece, and where the young ladies of the tenements purchase the latest yellow-bound literature, there is always for sale a substance known as black chewing gum. Whether it is done up in spangled tinfoil, or resplendent in gaudy tissue paper, or decorated with parti-colored ribbon, it is still black chewing gum. It is made generally out of refuse gum arabic—stuff that cannot be used in the apothecary shops, and is flavored variously with the cheapest of cheap extracts, licorice, wintergreen, peppermint, or, more usually, one of those poisonous flavorings that are compounded from acids. The manufacturers cut a huge slab of the gum into quadrangular pieces about the size of a domino. In cool weather the bits are friable and break easily; when it is warm, they have the consistency of a piece of india rubber.

It is surprising how much of this black chewing gum is used. A little girl gets hold of a penny somehow, and she cannot get to a shop quick enough to buy some of it. She chews and chews and chews on it, her jaws working as regularly and vigorously as those of a Fourth of July orator. If she has a wish to show particular favor to her five-year-old sweetheart, she gives him a model. The young ladies who do devour the yellow-bound novels devour gum, too. They place a fragment of it between the hindmost of their pearly teeth, and while their souls go out to Elvira in her prison, or their hearts flutter in sympathy with Edgar de Montmorency in his attempt to carry off the heiress, they don't forget to chew that gum. Young beaus, the leaders in tenement house society, chew it, too; for the men who make it advertise that it perfumes the breath and lends the mouth the odor of a new-mown field, also that it aids digestion and clears the voice and is a harmless and beautiful substitute for tobacco; that it is, in fact, a penny bit of ambrosial food for the gods.

Isn't the physicians of Amsterdam, N. Y., have just declared in solemn conclusion that the practice of chewing this black gum is most harmful and pernicious. They have traced directly to it innumerable cases of sore mouth and sore throat that they have treated of late. Their brethren of the medical profession in New York agree with them, and not only condemn black chewing gum, but all chewing gum of whatever color.

The physician who has charge of the throat dispensary in one of the largest hospitals in New York said a few days ago: "Day after day patients, nearly all grown between 8 and 18 years of age, come in here and complain that it hurts them when they swallow, or else that their mouths sting when they drink anything warm. On examining their throats I find the delicate mucous membrane marked here and there with little inflamed patches. In nine cases out of ten it is caused by chewing gum."

In a Chewing-Gum Factory.

A day or two ago my wayward feet carried my body into the suburbs and to a chewing-gum factory. There I got some idea of an industry that thrives on penny sales and the remorseless energy of American jaws. In the place I saw half a dozen huge blocks of marly gum, or petroleum wax. Each weighed about one hundred pounds, and was almost like pure pentecostal stone, dear to the old sculptor's eye and hand. And it was absolutely clean and odorless. A few weeks ago the stuff lay in one of the huge tanks near the oil wells of Pennsylvania, a dirty, greenish brown fluid with the consistency of bad mud and the smell of a glue-factory. Then it was crude oil, but since that it had been in a turmoi and through "stirring times" and chemical processes. From it had been extracted a lot of kerosene, almost as much naphtha, not a little benzine, plenty of tar and a lot of valuable, but technically named, affairs that are out of reach. Anyway, the gum was left, and it was that I saw, clean as an ideal farmer's bed-chamber, and as odorless as a civil reformer's record. Before it became the chewing-gum of our friends it had to be melted, flavored, sweetened and "put up" in fanciful array. Then the one hundred pound block would appear in five thousand penny cakes, and I am told that five hundred of these one hundred pound blocks are used in each week of the history of Columbia, "the gem of the ocean," etc. It's tough—the fact, not the gum.—Cleveland Plaindealer.

No "Classes" in Cremations.

Another thing they manage better in France. Any one so fortunate, or unfortunate, as the case may be—to die at the end of August, can direct his cast-off coil to be disposed of by the simple and natural method in one of four crematoriums costing \$50,000. Price, 12s., with absolute quietness, as is most fitting in the accompaniments of death. There are to be no "classes" in cremation, at any rate. Already artists and goldsmiths and bronze casters are preparing to surround the new method with the old picturesque and beautiful associations, and the Parisians are thankful, as they well may be, for the boon that is offered them.—Pall Mall Gazette.

The Most Serious Drawback We Know of is a Ily Blister between the Shoulders.

Never spread an ill report about your neighbor until you know positively it is true; and don't do it even if he is a great deal bigger than you are.

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A day or two ago my wayward feet carried my body into the suburbs and to a chewing-gum factory. There I got some idea of an industry that thrives on penny sales and the remorseless energy of American jaws. In the place I saw half a dozen huge blocks of marly gum, or petroleum wax. Each weighed about one hundred pounds, and was almost like pure pentecostal stone, dear to the old sculptor's eye and hand. And it was absolutely clean and odorless. A few weeks ago the stuff lay in one of the huge tanks near the oil wells of Pennsylvania, a dirty, greenish brown fluid with the consistency of bad mud and the smell of a glue-factory. Then it was crude oil, but since that it had been in a turmoi and through "stirring times" and chemical processes. From it had been extracted a lot of kerosene, almost as much naphtha, not a little benzine, plenty of tar and a lot of valuable, but technically named, affairs that are out of reach. Anyway, the gum was left, and it was that I saw, clean as an ideal farmer's bed-chamber, and as odorless as a civil reformer's record. Before it became the chewing-gum of our friends it had to be melted, flavored, sweetened and "put up" in fanciful array. Then the one hundred pound block would appear in five thousand penny cakes, and I am told that five hundred of these one hundred pound blocks are used in each week of the history of Columbia, "the gem of the ocean," etc. It's tough—the fact, not the gum.—Cleveland Plaindealer.

No "Classes" in Cremations.

Another thing they manage better in France. Any one so fortunate, or unfortunate, as the case may be—to die at the end of August, can direct his cast-off coil to be disposed of by the simple and natural method in one of four crematoriums costing \$50,000. Price, 12s., with absolute quietness, as is most fitting in the accompaniments of death. There are to be no "classes" in cremation, at any rate. Already artists and goldsmiths and bronze casters are preparing to surround the new method with the old picturesque and beautiful associations, and the Parisians are thankful, as they well may be, for the boon that is offered them.—Pall Mall Gazette.

The Most Serious Drawback We Know of is a Ily Blister between the Shoulders.

Never spread an ill report about your neighbor until you know positively it is true; and don't do it even if he is a great deal bigger than you are.

WHAT CHEWING GUM DOES.

Doctors Declare that It Causes Serious Bronchial and Other Troubles.

(From the New York Star.)

In the thousand and one shops sprinkled through the narrow streets of this city, where youngsters buy lollipops, where boys invest their savings in base balls and cigarettes at a penny apiece, and where the young ladies of the tenements purchase the latest yellow-bound literature, there is always for sale a substance known as black chewing gum. Whether it is done up in spangled tinfoil, or resplendent in gaudy tissue paper, or decorated with parti-colored ribbon, it is still black chewing gum. It is made generally out of refuse gum arabic—stuff that cannot be used in the apothecary shops, and is flavored variously with the cheapest of cheap extracts, licorice, wintergreen, peppermint, or, more usually, one of those poisonous flavorings that are compounded from acids. The manufacturers cut a huge slab of the gum into quadrangular pieces about the size of a domino. In cool weather the bits are friable and break easily; when it is warm, they have the consistency of a piece of india rubber.

It is surprising how much of this black chewing gum is used. A little girl gets hold of a penny somehow, and she cannot get to a shop quick enough to buy some of it. She chews and chews and chews on it, her jaws working as regularly and vigorously as those of a Fourth of July orator. If she has a wish to show particular favor to her five-year-old sweetheart, she gives him a model. The young ladies who do devour the yellow-bound novels devour gum, too. They place a fragment of it between the hindmost of their pearly teeth, and while their souls go out to Elvira in her prison, or their hearts flutter in sympathy with Edgar de Montmorency in his attempt to carry off the heiress, they don't forget to chew that gum. Young beaus, the leaders in tenement house society, chew it, too; for the men who make it advertise that it perfumes the breath and lends the mouth the odor of a new-mown field, also that it aids digestion and clears the voice and is a harmless and beautiful substitute for tobacco; that it is, in fact, a penny bit of ambrosial food for the gods.

Isn't the physicians of Amsterdam, N. Y., have just declared in solemn conclusion that the practice of chewing this black gum is most harmful and pernicious. They have traced directly to it innumerable cases of sore mouth and sore throat that they have treated of late. Their brethren of the medical profession in New York agree with them, and not only condemn black chewing gum, but all chewing gum of whatever color.

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