TRUCK LOAD OF LOOT

Thief Steals Church Furniture by Wagonload.

THE DARING OF HIS ENTERPRISE

Drove a Van to Two East Side Churches and Removed Most of Their Contents.

In broad daylight, observed by dozens of law-abiding citizens, by the exercise of the most colossal nerve, John Harrison, of New Orleans, despoiled two churches, filled two trucks full of loot and made away with it unmolested, and sold it at second-hand stores. Now he is resting quietly in the City Jail, having been captured by an honest second-hand dealer, Meier Kutner. The first church robbed was the East Side Hassalo-Street Congregational, on Thursday morning, and the second yesterday afternoon, the Westminster Presbyterian, corner Tenth and Weidler streets. From both places Harrison gathered in booty amounting in value to several hundred dollars. The sudden disappearance of this property created a mystery of no small proportions.

Harrison's method of operation was simple. Dressed in black, ministerial-looking clothes, with the semblance of undoubted probity, and having a sanctimonious air that was deceptive in the extreme, he represented himself as the chairman of committees of the churches, appointed to superintend some needed renovations. He hired trucks, drove boldly over to the churches, secured access by means of a pass key, and leisurely directed the men in loading the stuff and hauling it away for sale—because, as he said, "we are going to buy new."

About 10 o'clock Thursday morning a large furniture wagon, and three men, one of them Harrison, drove to the rear of the Hassalo-Street Congregational Church, opened the door of the lecture-room, or church parlor, and moved out the organ, chairs, benches, pews, a cast-iron heating stove, a large Rochester lamp, a sewing machine, and a cook-stove from the church kitchen. The members of the church were duly grateful for the articles not taken, a handsome oak center-table, in the church parlor, and a new granite teakettle in the kitchen, which were overlooked in the haste. Another organ in the church was not taken, probably because there was no room for it on the wagon. Several ladies of the church witnessed the proceeding, and also A. J. Hamilton, a church member, who lives near by. They all concluded that the trustees had loaned the furniture to another church for an entertainment, and gave the matter no further consideration. They all noticed what a handsome, ministerial-looking gentleman was bossing the job.

Thursday evening the congregation gathered for prayer. Some one tried to light a fire in the stove. It was gone. Then it was noticed what a bare and absent look the room itself had, with about all the furniture gone, and no chairs, benches or pews for the brethren to sit down on. First it was supposed that the property had been taken away or stored in the basement as a keen Halloween joke by some of the larking boys of the neighborhood, but nothing of the kind happened. The furniture had disappeared completely. Then it was found that the goods had been hauled away. The trustees declared they had not given any one permission to borrow the furniture. The janitor had left the door locked as usual, and had found it locked in the evening. The church congregation was mystified.

Then the theory was evolved that the expressmen had made a mistake and moved out the furniture from the wrong church. The other churches of the neighborhood were called upon, but no trace of the missing articles found. Finally, yesterday morning the police department was notified and detectives sent out to hunt up the parties suspected of setting up a new church by helping themselves to the paraphernalia of a richer congregation.

The chief was caught because he fell from grace, and betrayed his churchly position by inviting Second-Hand Dealer Kutner to a glass of beer. Thus his suspicions of Harrison's character were aroused and he nabbed the oily rascal and took him to the police station, with the aid of Special Officer Roberts. Kutner also tells the following story of the robbery in Westminster Church:

"That man Harrison came to my place Thursday and told me he was on a committee to sell some chairs from a church on East Tenth and Weidler. He wanted $2 a dozen for them. I went over with him, and the church was locked. He said the other members of the committee had the key. This morning he came back again and in the afternoon we sent over an express wagon to get the chairs. I gave him $3 for eight dozen chairs, worth $7 a dozen. We drove over ourselves in a horse and buggy. As he was the only member of the committee present, I was afraid of receiving stolen goods, and when we got over on this side again, I asked him to drive me over to one of the ladies he said was on the committee, to see if everything was all right. He agreed, and then stopped in front of a saloon and asked me to have a drink. I was surprised. I didn't expect a church member to ask me to have a drink. I said to myself, 'This man is a thief and a scoundrel.' So I got out, and we went into the saloon. Then he tried to give me the slip by going to the back part of the saloon, crawling upstairs and coming down through a Japanese restaurant. I was waiting for him. I grabbed him by the arm, and said, 'You can't shake me,' and took him to my store, took my $23 away from him, and said, 'Now, you rascal, come with me to the police station. I am an honest man, and don't buy no stolen property.'"

About 5:30 into the police station came Kutner and his captive, very quiet and docile beside his much larger captor. To the Chief of Police, Harrison confessed to both robberies, said he came from New Orleans, and had been here only a week. Asked what he meant by stealing this church property, he asked: "What does a man always do when he's crazy?"

Harrison has been putting up at the Salvation Army barracks. All the stolen property has been located by the detectives and will be returned to the churches today.

NOT A GHOST OF A SHOW.

New York Regards Bryan's Defeat as Certain Beyond Doubt.

David R. Strauss, for many years with Fleischner, Mayer & Co., and a Democrat of the deepest dye, writes from New York under date of October 26 to Max Fleischner as follows:

"I don't know that my opinion on the election is worth very much, but if McKinley is beaten I don't think I will ever offer another opinion. New York State is beyond question in the Republican column; it is only a question of how much majority. Some overly conservative concede 60,000; some betting men are betting on 100,000. I would not be astonished if the majority would reach nearer 200,000. Greater New York will give a Democratic majority, in my opinion. However, there have been wagers made to the contrary.

"Regarding the general result throughout the Union, I don't think there is a doubt but that Bryan will get a worse beating than he got four years ago. Wall street has discounted the election, as very near all stocks have advanced within the last 10 days. Business in our line is not slack, either, which is another indication. I am told that during previous Presidential campaigns business suffered more or less until the agony was over, but everybody seems to take it as a foregone conclusion that McKinley will be elected, and everything else is going on as if nothing is going to happen.

"In this I see the greatest danger, as 'dead things crawl,' and the Republicans don't seem to think that the usual hard work is necessary this year. I sincerely hope they are right, and that McKinley will have an easy victory. Bryan has lost lots of votes in New York City by the speech he made here. It was the most radical opposition speech ever made. I think if he knew exactly how many meals McKinley eats daily, he would no doubt oppose that particular number of meals, and see some danger for the Government in that particular number. He don't seem to have any particular ideas of his own (silver excepted), and thinks it is necessary for him to oppose everything ever done by any previous President."

CAUGHT IN A TIDE-RIP.

How the Lighthouse Men Lost Their Lives in the Straits of Fuca.

Nothing has been seen or heard of the two men who left the Cape Flattery light in an open boat for Neah Bay about a week ago, and they are about given up for lost. Captain Day, Lighthouse Inspector, has been endeavoring to get the lighthouse tender Manzanita started around to the cape to search for them, but, owing to the continued stormy weather, she has been delayed at Astoria. They had only about six miles to go, but when about a mile and a half out it was seen that the boat had been caught in a tide-rip and it is supposed that they were upset and drowned, as, if they had succeeded in getting ashore, they would have managed to reach Neah Bay or some other point on the coast before this time.

These tide-rips are formed by two currents running in different directions coming together. The conflict between the two currents causes whirlpools to form, often 40 feet or more in depth, and more dangerous than the traditional maelstrom off the coast of Norway. They are not uncommon about the mouth of the Straits of Fuca and along the west shore of Vancouver Island. Within the memory of the present generation three steamboats have been carried down by them with all on board. The last of these was the steamer Estelle, which went down off the shore of Vancouver Island, and all on board were lost. The accident was witnessed from the shore by a number of terror-stricken spectators.

The men employed in lighthouses become reckless in regard to the dangers of the ocean. It is only a short time since two of the men employed in the Tillamook Rock light started for the shore in an open boat, and, instead of making for the beach at Seaside, undertook to land near Tillamook Head, so as to have a shorter distance to row. They were upset in the breakers and had a narrow escape for their lives, one of them being seriously injured.

IDLE MEN MORE NUMEROUS

But They Will Be Needed This Month Here and Hereabout.

Idle men are becoming more numerous around city employment offices as cold weather settles down over the great region now being developed in the North. Transient laborers are a good deal like birds, and flit southward as the days get shorter and the frosty nights cause the leaves to fall. More men will make their headquarters in Portland this year than last, because railroad work has largely shut down in California, as a result of C. P. Huntington's death. Last year, at this time, men were being passed southyard over the road by the score, as they were wanted on the many lines forming the Southern Pacific system in California, New Mexico and Arizona.

There is considerable Winter work for laborers in this latitude, however, and there is no need of men being idle for any length of time. In addition to the farms, and quarries, close by, requiring men, a large number are being employed on the main line of the O. R. & N., where the track is being straightened along the Columbia River, at great expense to the company. Idaho is calling on Portland for laboring men to help build the road up the Weiser. Wyoming contractors also have orders with Portland employment agencies, for men to assist in improving and straightening the main line of the Union Pacific near Green River.

Considerable work is mapped out in Eastern and Southern Oregon, but everything in those regions seems to depend on the result of the Presidential election. If McKinley should be indorsed by the country next Tuesday, new enterprises are expected to start up with a rush. The extension of railroads and construction of vast irrigating schemes in the eastern part of the state will employ a big lot of men at fair wages, once the projectors decide to go on.

MATINEE TODAY.

"The Fast Mail" Will Be Presented at Cordray's.

The stirring melodrama, "The Fast Mail," with all its wonderful scenery, will be the matinee attraction at Cordray's Theater this afternoon. "The Fast Mail" represents the height of realism in the drama, the steamboat scene, the mail and freight trains rushing across the stage, and the beautiful Niagara Falls scene, all being marvels of mechanical and artistic skill. The story of the play is a deeply interesting one, and it is in the hands of a company fully capable of doing it justice. "The Fast Mail" will be presented for the last time tonight.

Youthful Burglars at Roseburg.

ROSEBURG, Or., Nov. 2.—Last evening, L. A. Sanctuary's residence was entered, and jewelry and other articles stolen. Two boys, giving their names as William Snyder and Warren Henry, of Tacoma, were arrested today, and the missing articles found in their possession.

EAST SIDE AFFAIRS.

More Halloween Pranks Come to Light—Other Matters.

Halloween complaints continue to pile up from all portions of the East Side. Owing to the wide expanse of territory, including the suburbs, the depredations were considerable, and the amount of damage done is estimated at above $2000. The depredations range from $2 50 to $50, and in the aggregate amount to a large sum. A gentleman suggests that hereafter the Chief of Police issue an order commanding all boys to be indoors on Halloween after 8 o'clock. A resident who made close observation on the East Side yesterday writes:

"Women and children were terrified till midnight. Any ride of three or four miles on the suburban car lines will show you where gates were broken (not taken) off, where fences were broken down, where outhouses were torn down, and in other places where gates could not be taken or broken off, they were damaged as far as it was possible. In no city in the East is it possible to find a night devoted to hoodlums and where the residents would permit such general destruction of property. Rich and poor suffer yearly the destruction of their property, and, like fools, take no steps to correct such practices, which would not be tolerated anywhere. Your Halloween and mine was a night of fun for old and young, not a night devoted to destroying property of neighbors, not a night where children vied with each other in vulgarity on the public highway; not a night set apart to insult the aged, both men and women.

"If this has been the teachings of parents, let the public stop it, and stop it now. If parents know no better and encourage their children to be hoodlums, for the sake of the poor, for the sake of decency, for the good name of Portland, let the respectable element of the community put a stop to this nuisance."

District Meeting November 10.

The Directors of the Woodstock District have called a meeting of the taxpayers and residents of that district to meet at the public hall at that place on the evening of November 10 to consider the offer made by the city in the way of tuition for pupils attending there. J. R. Gilstrap, from the outside, circulated a petition among the taxpayers of the Woodstock District to ascertain whether the terms offered, $8 for each pupil, were acceptable, and he secured the signatures of 34 taxpayers. He considers this sufficient evidence to indicate that the taxpayers are willing to accept the terms without further evidence, but the Directors desire a fuller expression from the whole district, and hence have called this meeting. They do not want to assume the responsibility of receding from the resolution they passed recently fixing the tuition at $15 and $18, according to the grades, and accepting the $8 offer as part pay on tuitions, unless they are instructed to do so by a majority of the voters. They say it costs the district $15 and $18 per year, and if they accept $8 for each of 10 pupils from the outside there will be a loss to the district. For this reason they desire the residents to understand the situation thoroughly, that they may vote intelligently.

Lack of Proper Drainage.

Grand avenue, south from East Clay street, since the storm has become a sea of mud and water. Crosswalks are covered almost to the Grand-avenue bridge across Stephens Slough. Passengers on the street cars must leave the cars either at East Clay or East Harrison street, or be compelled to wade ankle-deep to the sidewalk. The street is ground to pieces and only the street-car tracks are visible above the water. The cause of this condition is attributed to the want of drainage between East Clay and East Grant streets. For that distance Grand avenue is almost level, and the water stands all through the wet season. The street has been improved and repaired several times, and yet the improvement rapidly wears out. The travel over the street by slab wood and lumber wagons from the saw mill, of course, is very heavy, and would soon wear out any improvement, outside of Belgian blocks, but the accumulation of water helps along. The problem of keeping Grand avenue in a passable condition is not an easy one, but the next time it is improved provision should be made for proper drainage.

First Quarterly Conference.

The first quarterly conference of the Sunnyside Methodist Church was held Friday evening. Rev. L. E. Rockwell, presiding elder for Portland district, presided. Dr. Rockwell addressed the conference, and in the course of his remarks he expressed pleasure over the satisfactory condition in which he found the affairs of the church. He also congratulated the conference on the work accomplished and progress made. The reports submitted showed no debts on the property. The same financial plan as was used the past year was adopted for the current year, and the salary of the pastor, Rev. H. B. Elworthy, D. D., was placed at $800 per year, with a furnished manse, bringing the actual compensation of the pastor up to about $1000. The members of the conference are pleased with the encouragement received from Dr. Rockwell, the new presiding elder.

Completing Freight Depot.

The new freight depot on the dock at the east end of the Madison bridge for the freight department of the Oregon City Railway, will be completed this week. It is built close to the approach on the south side of Madison street, so there is but a step from the sidewalk into the depot. The office is a little room in one end, provided with a telephone and other conveniences. When the bridge is open once more to the public, freight cars will not obstruct the streets at the West Side entrance.

East Side Notes.

Whoever has lost a cart may find it in the Stephens ravine, at the south end of the East Eighth-street bridge, where it was tumbled Wednesday night.

Precinct No. 32, which was located at 222 Grand avenue, corner East Salmon street, has been changed to 101 Grand avenue, corner East Washington street, a more convenient place.

Rev. L. E. Rockwell, presiding elder for Portland district, who was announced to be at the Methodist Church at Gresham tomorrow, has changed his plans, and will not be able to visit the church at that place for several weeks. The demands on his time are insistent, but he is getting around among the churches in his district as rapidly as possible, and will meet all the congregations in due time.

Dr. Wise, room 614, The Dekum.

Negroes at Cornell.

Springfield Republican.

A Southern youth has just left Cornell University because there were two colored men in his class in the college of agriculture, and there is a little row about it because a member of the faculty warned him that he would not be allowed to use the fact of his entrance at Cornell as proof of his ability to enter another college. The youth bragged at Ithaca that his refusal to recite with "a nigger" would let him into any Southern college. Negroes have a right to come to Cornell, and will always have it. They are well received by their fellow white students. One of the negro freshmen is trying for the varsity football team, and has worked his way to the second eleven. There are two negro girls among the entering class, but they do not live at Sage Hall.