

The Democrat

Bill Nye's Last

The Democrat has never published anything of Bill Nye, but he is dead now, and we let the last thing he ever wrote for the public speak for itself.

Many years ago there lived in New Haven a very bad boy. He was born 145 years ago, and as he is now dead, I feel at liberty to write his biography.

Sometimes it is perfectly tiresome waiting for a man to die, so that you will feel safe in saying what you think of him, but if he happens to be a large, robust man, it certainly pays to do so.

This boy was known far and wide as the meanest, most notorious, hopelessly bad boy in Connecticut. No other boys had any claims whatever when he was around, and for years he carried the title. He knew all the little, sneaky tricks of meanness and cruelty at the age of 12 years that it generally takes a lifetime to acquire.

His wonderful genius as a successful bad boy was remarked by those who did not know him at all. He was a prodigy of wickedness, a miracle of meanness.

He loved to get little boys into his hands and then duck them or otherwise scare them out of their senses. He succeeded in crippling several little schoolmates and blew out the teacher's eyes one day with a common firecracker.

He was a great lover of fun, and in one evening, with a skull covered with phosphorus and worked by machinery, he so scared three little girls that they hid all the rest of their lives.

He knew of more ways to produce a laugh and frighten a child into spending than any boy of his age in Connecticut, and you must remember that this happened over 100 years ago, when boys didn't have the advantages they have now.

Everybody said that this boy would certainly come to some bad end. No boy could be so lawless and disagreeable and still amount to anything. There were thousands of straitlaced, partisan-looking fellows who would have been glad to nothing whatever or land in the penitentiary.

He said, however, that he was just sowing his wild oats, and that when he got his mark in he proposed to reform and make his mark.

Year after year he lived on just as full of the "Old Scratch" as ever. Now and then he would burn a barn just to see cattle scatter and watch the farmer hustle out in his shirt with a pair of water.

He observed how the prophecies of his neighbors failed.

It ought to encourage every bad boy in the United States today whose relatives and friends speak harshly of him. This lad had just grown to a man and was known all over the civilized world.

His name is familiar to everyone, and in the history of our great land you will find a long account of him. Still, he had the reputation of pulling frogs to pieces while they were alive, of leaving mud turtles on the track for the passenger train, so that he could hear them pop, and of putting the kittens on the kitchen stove to see them dance.

Bad boys do not get discouraged. Hope on, for there may be a future for you. Do not lose hope when your parents talk back at you. You have just as good a chance to be known all over the world as the boy of whom I have just told you.

He was poor, too. He had to sew his wild oats first, as you say, but he steadily worked his way on until at the end of his life he was known wherever the English tongue was spoken as Benedict Arnold, and even today his name is mentioned with very much indeed. Even the Sheriff, who wouldn't recognize him at all when a boy, walked for miles and miles to find him and converse with him. When he got there Mr. Arnold was not at home. He had thought of something in England that he wanted to go and get.

Salena Camp, No. 118, Woodmen of the World, have received notice that they are entitled to the beautiful silk banner offered by State Deputy Head Council F. J. McHenry, of Portland, to the lodge in his district making the greatest increase of membership during 1895.

Mr. McHenry's jurisdiction comprises Oregon and Northern California. The gain of members by the local camp during that time was 150, which gives them a first claim to the title of "Banner" lodge. The prize is to be delivered about April 1st and will be valued at \$75.—Statenman.

Several days ago the Democrat published the ten orders of the Albany ordinance that has been in force several years. It was done as a reminder. Several state papers have referred to it as if something new. The Budget gets the following: Albany, Or., is overrun with birds and nooses. There are no numerous and noisy that night in a hideous and their early crowing. There have been a number of kicks sent to the council and that body has passed an ordinance which reads: (Here appears the ordinance.) The next order of business will be the cat ordinance.

There must be money in the life insurance business as conducted by some of the old companies. The New York Life Insurance Company was a successful bidder at 111 for \$5,000,000 of bonds on the new United States government loan. The Mutual Life was an unsuccessful bidder at a lower figure for a like amount. The Equitable Life also bid for \$2,000,000 worth of the bonds, but its bid was under the limit that was favorably considered. This ought to be suggestive to people getting insured.

It took several valley republican papers a good many years to get on about Binger Hermann. This Democrat several years ago had the same opinion, and the same papers would get hot because they were given. How has Mr. Hermann changed any. In fact he has improved, for he believes in free silver now.

For the best Dress Gown, Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder, World's Fair Highest Award.

If there is any republican who does not want office let him hold up his hand at an early date. The proper thing for it to do. All it will have done will be to pass the appropriation bill without regard to economy.

The people at Dallas want to know why the Cascade Locks were not opened on March 1st as promised.

Susan B. Anthony is on her way to California to make a strike out of the constitution. She has a big job on hand.

John F. Caples would like to have the nomination on the republican ticket for congressman from the second district. Horrors!

It is now said congress will adjourn at an early date. The proper thing for it to do. All it will have done will be to pass the appropriation bill without regard to economy.

The war cloud between the U. S. and Spain is darkening and ominous. Spain has been trying for a year to whip a handful of Cubans. This suggests that it will be a very foolish move to attack the United States.

The Portland Oregonian has just awarded a prize of \$150 for the best definition of a baby. The Heppner lady who won the prize sent in this answer: "A tiny feather from the wing of love, dropped into the sacred lap of matrimony."

Members of the Central Labor Union and sympathizers of organized labor of N. Y. City held the large hall of Cooper Union Sunday to protest against the proposed expenditure of \$100,000 for the construction of a new bridge over the East River.

While we were shivering in Albany with the thermometer at 20 degrees above zero in Montana the mercury got lost at 45 degrees below zero. If there is anything in comparison Albany people should be happy.

The last republican state legislature sent \$23,000 for clerks alone. A good business man could take the contract for performing the actual work required for \$1500 for the term and make money. No bigger swindle was ever perpetrated on the people than this clerical business.

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Speaking of his appointment yesterday, the bishop said that he considered it a peculiar honor, and that it meant a peculiar banishment. "I go," he said, "to take charge of the missions there. The greater portion of my time will be spent in the interior, where I shall go among the miners."—Oregonian.

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Considerable discussion has been had as to the size of Cuba, and wild guesses have been made. It is 750 miles long, and ranges in width up to 727 miles, the average width being about 50 miles. Its population is about 2,000,000.

People should begin now to think about whether they want the railroad commission and several other useless commissions that the public had an object lesson on what an election promises amounted to in the matter.

The directors of the Eugene schools gave a two and a half column report of the workings of the school system under the heads: Attendance, health, teachers, discipline, school furniture, law, taxation, recreation, inscriptions, lessons of charity, and the clerk, in a manner to indicate that they have taken a very active personal interest in the schools of that city.

The Chinese are now blooming in the city of Williamsport. Independence, writing to Good West, who is an authority on flower culture in that section, says: "The garden and the bulbs will multiply, and two years from now the new bulbs will bloom. Thus our flower-beds, lawns, and walks will be without buying them."

The officials of the O. P. R. E. were over the road a few days ago. They will retire the old road and construct a new road across the mountains which would mean the lumber trade and that would give employment to many men.—Minto Cor. Salem Journal.

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