

The Guillotine.

Never, in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, has the stolid old city of Chelsea been the scene of so intense an excitement as that which pervaded all circles yesterday afternoon and evening, when it was discovered that a most remarkable instance of suicide had occurred during the early hours of the morning.

The annals of crime in this country furnish but one other instance of self destruction by similar means—that of a young man in Ohio in June, 1876—and the, to the mass of citizens, novel means employed by the suicide, together with the terribly unerring manner in which the fatal deed was accomplished, invested the affair with an intensity of interest which will cause it to be the topic of conversation and speculation for weeks to come.

The victim was Stephen M. Pillsbury, of South Boston. Six or eight years ago the latter came from Newburyport, purchased two or three acres of land bordering on the marsh at the foot of Powder Horn Hill, and commenced the business of raising vegetables and poultry for the market.

His eldest son accompanied him and assisted him in carrying on the farm. During the summer the father and son slept in a barn on the premises; in winter they lived in South Boston, and visited the farm in Chelsea daily in order to tend their stock of cattle and poultry.

Last Saturday they passed the night in the barn. At 7 o'clock Sunday morning the father started for South Boston, leaving his son sleeping on a pile of hay in one corner of the loft. Before departing Mr. Pillsbury remarked to his son that he would return Monday morning, and advised him to come home during the day.

The son muttered something in reply, turned over and fell asleep, in which condition his father left him. Monday noon Mr. Pillsbury returned. Opening the door of the barn, he was horrified to see his son lifeless on the floor, the head completely severed from his body and lying in a pool of blood.

A hurried examination showed that decapitation had been accomplished by a novel method. The following letter was found on the dead man's person: CHESLEA, April 17, 1880. Dear Parents, Brothers and Sisters: I believe that the end of life is near at hand, and I write this to bid you all good-bye.

very ingenious, and, though never having learned a trade, was proficient in the use of carpenter's tools, and was able to do a very good piece of work in the line of repairs.

When Mr. Pillsbury arrived on the premises he found the barn door locked and the key in the usual hiding place. He says that when he left the barn on Sunday morning there was no indication of any such machine, excepting the uprights, which were left on the premises by a Mr. Carter.

The latter gentleman told him yesterday that some three months ago he missed the uprights from where he had left them. Mr. Pillsbury thinks that the deed was committed somewhere between 7 and 8 o'clock on Monday morning. He bases his theory upon the fact that his son had milked the cow, for to obtain the amount of milk found in the pail in the room they occupied he must have deferred milking until a late hour.

The body was clothed in the ordinary working apparel, consisting of a woollen shirt, cheap coat, pants and vest of a dark color, and coarse boots. The indications are that young Pillsbury spent the whole time when he was alone in making the arrangement for his exit from the world, as the cooking utensils in the room had not been used, nor had any fire been built in the stove.

This crime, in its preliminary details, differs from one in Ohio, previously alluded to, in that the fatal blade was loosened by the leaking and gradually lightening water-pot, instead of by a burning tallow candle, which, at a certain point, came in contact with, and severed a cord attached to the lever holding the knife in position over the victim's head.

Tornadoes and Emigration. The destruction of more than a hundred lives and of about \$1,000,000 of property at Marshfield, recently, by a tornado which swept through the central part of Missouri, is not a cheerful event for the contemplation of people who are thinking of a home in the West.

The frequent cyclones and tornadoes which terrify the inhabitants of several States, are undoubtedly a serious objection to the emigration of many, to choosing a residence within their limits. Even if the probability of wreck by tornado is remote, there are comparatively few neighborhoods in certain parts of the West, which wholly exempt injury from the prevalence of violent wind storms.

The wife of a skillful artisan named Schmidt of Samaria, Russia, was brought to bed of a child while her husband, who had spent all his wages for many previous weeks in liquor, was away from his home on a drunken frolic. Two days after her confinement Schmidt staggered in and began to shout, with horrible threats and curses for his dinner. There having been neither food nor money in the house since he had left it, the unfortunate woman had no nourishment for herself or her babe since its birth, and the latter had died of exhaustion but a few minutes before its father made his appearance.

The Corner in Sea Lions.

Captain J. Mallet, who quitted New York for Omaha on Friday says that he has captured every sea lion now exhibited anywhere in the world. He was for many years master of an English vessel in the guano trade, and it was while laying off the Chinese Islands of South America that he studied and became interested in the sea lion. Being told that this animal would be a valuable addition to the zoological gardens and traveling menageries, he gave up his occupation and engaged in the new venture, capturing the animals on the coast of California, the only other place where they are to be found, and the best place in point of proximity to the routes of travel.

He has several vessels employed in the trade. Finding what is called a rookery of sea lions on the rocks along the coast, his men approach stealthily, lasso the beasts, cage them, fasten lines to the cages, throw them into the surf, and float them to the vessels lying beyond the surf. Captain Mallet has captured two hundred sea lions. Their average price to showmen is \$1,000. He has provided the showmen, dealers and gardens of San Francisco, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, New York, England and Germany with specimens of this race of aquatic beasts.

At first the sea lion was transported in a special car containing a tank of water. When the water grew foul the animal died. Now it is not found necessary to use a tank if the milk body is occasionally moistened. The sea lion is ferocious at first, but is easily tamed, and becomes obedient. The captain says that no other animal, except the elephant, is so intelligent.

Four sea lions that were captured by Captain Mallet are now in the Central Park. It is said that wherever there is a sea lion more people congregate around its tank than around the other animals in the exhibition. The sea lion is of the seal species, having corner fur and retaining a large nose. While Captain Mallet was in New York he received a telegram from California notifying him of the capture by his men of two sea elephants, and of the fact that they were both feeding and in good condition. He says that the sea elephant has never before been seen by any living man. Wise men have discussed the existence of the animal, many of them declaring it fabulous, although what purpose it is to portions of the sea elephant's skeleton are exhibited in Europe.

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An Ocean Mystery. The Italian steamship City of Richmond, which arrived here on Monday, brought the unusually large number of 1,238 steerage passengers. When she left Queenstown there was one additional passenger on board, a young good-looking Irishman named Ellen Wynn, who disappeared in a very mysterious manner on Thursday afternoon last.

Miss Wynn boarded the vessel at Queenstown, unaccompanied by any friends save a youth whose name is unknown. Both were natives of the same town, and their object in coming to this country was to better their condition. During the voyage the conduct of the young woman was exemplary. She appeared to look forward to the termination of the voyage with a great deal of cheerfulness, and nothing in her demeanor attracted the particular attention of either her numerous fellow passengers or the officers of the steamship. The last time she was seen was at the dinner hour on Thursday, when she partook of her midday meal at her usual place. At tea-time she was reported missing. Information of her disappearance was conveyed by a passenger to Mr. Isabel Jones, the chief steward of the steamer, who at once began a search for her. Every part of the vessel which a human being could possibly visit was thoroughly examined. None of the steerage passengers had seen her on the deck during the afternoon, between noon and 5 P. M. Her youthful friend appeared as much in the dark as the others, as to her fate. About the time of her disappearance the City of Richmond was plowing the waters of the banks of Newfoundland; the weather was rough, but few, if any, heavy seas were shipped. Under the circumstances it did not seem probable that she could have been accidentally washed overboard, nor was there any evidence to sustain the theory of suicide. Mr. Jones was the only person on board the steamer yesterday, who could give any information touching the case. Having imparted the foregoing particulars to a Times reporter, he added that the officers of the City of Richmond had done everything in their power to solve the mystery without meeting with success. The case had been recorded in the log and a transcript sent to the office of the company. Mr. Jones also believed that a report had been sent to Castle Garden. The present whereabouts of the youth who accompanied Miss Wynn from her native place could not be ascertained. New York Times, April 14.

Educational Points.

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Superintendent Lucky, of Pittsburg in his annual report, makes some excellent suggestions as to the teacher's work. It is his opinion that the use of the daily paper as a text book in the hands of a teacher cannot be estimated. He advocates the teaching of spelling in connection with other branches, as a means of interesting the pupil in the orthography and pronunciation of every new word he sees. When studying geography, for instance, as in Pittsburg, the pupils are not satisfied with simply learning the name of a country, a river or a place, but they will carefully look after the spelling and pronunciation of the word.

The Prussian Minister of Education complains that the steady increase of crime and immorality in the great town of Germany during the last ten years, has had an effect upon the teachers of elementary schools; and that the tone of the class has degenerated in all the chief centers of industry, except Berlin. He thinks, moreover, that the teachers have been spoiled by too much attention, politicians having tied with each other in the attempt to win their support, and he attributes their demoralization also to the increased facilities for drinking which have been provided by recent legislation, and which has injuriously affected large sections of the community.

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