

FOR CHEAPER FUNERALS.
An Iowa Clergyman Points Out the Necessity for Reform.

Rev. W. W. Gist, of Marion, Ia., in an article in the Western Advance on "Reforms in Funerals," says:

The time has certainly come when there should be a radical reform in conducting funerals. Nearly every one admits the fact, but only a few have the courage to break away from conventionalities of the day.

In most places there should be a reform in the matter of funeral expenses. These are often a burden. Too frequently the undertaker is exorbitant in his charges. The blame can not always be laid at his door, however. Sometimes friends almost forget their duty to the living in their desire to do homage to the dead. They have upon themselves a burden that they are not able to bear. A laboring man went to purchase a casket for his dead boy. The undertaker showed him one costing \$35. The man was not satisfied and selected one that cost \$100, though he had no means to pay for it except as he earned it by day's labor.

In an Eastern city an undertaker presented a bill of \$47.25 against the estate of a servant girl. Payment was refused and suit was instituted. The court decided that such a bill might be proper against a wealthy man, but not against one in moderate circumstances. The claimant pleaded that he furnished only what was ordered. The court held that it was his duty to acquaint himself with the financial condition of the one he was serving. This evil has become so great that in some cities funeral reform associations have been organized for the purpose of reducing expenses. The members of the association pledge themselves not to purchase a casket costing more than \$25. There should be far less display even of flowers, though they are most appropriate for such occasions.

No one should feel that custom requires the wearing of mourning. In many instances the reclothing of a whole family in black involves a labor and an expense out of all proportion to what the family can well afford.

And then, if we are Christians, why should we clothe ourselves in black, as though we had not risen from the dead and glorified in the grave?

No custom should prevail that in any manner encourages the lives of others. This is recognized when one dies from a contagious disease and public funerals are prohibited. The dead are not dishonored by this custom. Perhaps more serious is the custom of exposing the dead to public view. Those who have died from contagious diseases. What is the general custom? The relatives and near friends feel that they must go to the cemetery in order to pay respect to the loved ones. Many times they are old, feeble and frail in health. The weather is stormy or so cold that one can be out of doors with comfort, and yet the friends in most places endure the exposure because it was the custom. Years ago it was the custom in many rural communities for the friends to wait until they saw the grave filled up. Customarily this custom has passed away, but the dead are just as truly honored as before. When the weather is stormy or unbearable the male members of the family should go to the cemetery, and only such of those as are well and rugged.

Again, custom should not require the pall-bearers, undertakers, ministers or any one else to uncover their head at the grave when the weather is such as to make it unsafe. Sometimes the pall-bearers are all men from sixty to seventy years old. Some of them are frail. The weather is exceedingly cold, and yet they stand with uncovered heads at the grave during the closing exercises, so as to endanger their lives.

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IN A SHARK'S JAWS.

Why Samuel Jennings Left a Part of His Body in Carlin's Bay.

This account of how a man felt and acted when in a shark's jaws is told in the Boston Commercial Advertiser. Samuel Jennings was a native of Cape Cod. When he was nineteen years of age he was impressed on board the British frigate Milford in Carlin's Bay, and was so badly used that he was ever on the lookout for a chance to desert. Flogging, starving and semi-starvation were the usual treatment received by the forlorn men. His description of what he endured was a repetition of the scenes sketched by Dr. Bennett in "Koster's Kestons." Richness received no sympathy even from the surgeons. It seemed the settled policy of her captain that when men were sick, the sooner they were consigned to the deep the better for the service. Jennings, in a letter, says in substance:

"On the 26th day of March I made up my mind to desert, regardless of consequences. The frigate was at anchor in Barbadoes, had sentries forward and aft, and an armed guard-boat which was revealed around her during the night. At one o'clock in the morning, when the guard boat was ahead, in my shirt and trousers I slipped out of a port on the gun deck, and swam seaward before the wind as I was by and by the circuit of the guard boat, and then made for the shore and began to feel that I was safe. In swimming along the shore I felt in with one of Captain Bland's boys, which marked the ship's command, where I rested about ten minutes.

"A brigantine belonging to Boston, Mass., was at anchor in the vicinity, and when I saw the buoy I went for her, but I had not made much progress before a shark seized me by the left hand and dragged me under water. I had left my knife on board and was entirely defenceless. I kicked him, but he would not go. I then set my right foot against his snout, determined to land my hand away or land it off, and then he ceased his snout and ceased part of my foot and held both hand and foot firmly in his jaws. I did not leave off striving to land myself. I punched him with my right hand, and a little further on, and had almost driven my fist through his snout. I was under water and nearly drowned, when he let go and I rose to the surface breathing, more dead than alive.

"The shark had left me, and after enduring my hour of water I swam for land. A boat was sent from a ship near by and I was taken on board, and from her was transferred to the hated Milford. De Carter, of Boston, and a surgeon from the shore took off my hand and then part of my foot. They proposed to the me to a plank to keep me steady while they operated upon me, but I begged they would not, and they let me have my own way, and after giving me a glass of wine, I retired to my quarters without words. After I had partly recovered, being no further ashore on board the frigate, I was sent ashore, where I received much kindness, and when well was forwarded to Cape Cod."

HEAR!

FROM SEA TO SEA!

THE GRANT COUNTY NEWS.

For The Year 1890.

will fall behind for truth, because the news wants to be a reliable exponent of facts, and nothing but facts, and to every new enterprise to be inaugurated during the year in Grant County, Miss. will be as extensively "killed" as our conscience and the development work upon them will admit, but in no case will falter behind for truth, because the news wants to be a reliable exponent of facts, and nothing but facts, and to every new enterprise to be inaugurated during the year in Grant County, Miss. will be as extensively "killed" as our conscience and the development work upon them will admit, but in no case

AN EXPENSIVE TOWN.

Hill Turley's Disagreeable Experience in a Chicago Restaurant.

Hill Turley, of Erwin Township, Ind., came to Chicago on business, writes Ed R. Pritchard in the Arkansas Traveler. Hill favored he knew it all, and a thing or two besides, so he swaggered around with his pants in his boots and his hat on one side of his head, except at the bus days, lunched over a couple of hotel runners at the Union depot, and "lowed Shicawago wuzent so dad-darned big" at he couldn't find anywhere he wanted to go, by jink's! He, with a rampant, go-to-hell look in his eyes and a rolling stand-back-here swag in his gait, he mowed his way along Canal street and past a long line of hackmen, who, seeing him up as "no bloody good," allowed him to go unscathed. He turned east on Madison street, crossed the bridge, and a few minutes later brought up at Clark; here he stopped, and for the first time, showed some signs of doubt and uneasiness. At length he stepped up to a policeman, and, in a low, confidential tone, I want to go to a tavern or some place where I kin git suttin' ter eat."

"Right across the street," answered the officer, pointing with his club to a large building on which the sign, "Restaurant—Breakfast Now" was conspicuously displayed. Our hoodler friend crossed over and entered. As he sat down to the table a waiter rushed up, poured out a glass of ice water, showed a bill of fare under his nose, and then, in a low, confidential tone, I want to go to a tavern or some place where I kin git suttin' ter eat."

"Well, sir, what will you have?" "Well," said Hill, slowly, "bring me some steak 'n' onions, ham and eggs, baked potatoes, and a glass of beer."

The waiter had him repeat the order, and then finding he had gotten it right, he sailed away to have it filled.

Twenty minutes later, during which time they had grown hot and angry and nervous, the waiter appeared with an enormous tray-load of eatables. First he deposited on the table a large sirloin steak on a huge platter, flanked by an odoriferous rim of fried onions; then he placed beside it a huge slice of ham and three fried eggs, then a dish of baked potatoes, and, lastly, a plate of toast, steaming hot.

Hill fell to work with an air of a man who meant business; while all unconscious to himself he was the target of not a few inquisitive eyes, he proceeded to dispatch that breakfast in about the time in which an ordinary man would have disposed of a ham sandwich and a tootiepie.

Having finished his meal he looked back from the table, picked up his hat from the floor, where he had deposited it beside his chair, and made his way to the cashier's desk. He threw down a quarter and was passing on when the waiter came up with a check-book in his sleeve, and said: "You've forgotten your check, sir; here it is; please pay the cashier."

"That's all right," said Hill, gruffly, "I've settled with the cashier. I gin him a quarter just now."

"What, my friend," expostulated the waiter, "your check is for two dollars. You don't expect to get a feed like that for a quarter, do you?"

"Two dollars!" echoed Turley in blank dismay. "I thought that two cents a meal was the price everywhere."

"Not much it isn't," returned the waiter. "You can just walk up and settle and save trouble."

Having he was in for it, so he walked up and paid like a man. But as he went out he remarked: "Two dollars for breakfast and two great shakes of a meal ticket. Well, I kin live on enese and crackers an' o'ers oysters till ter-morrow; but, Lord, won't I make the grub look sick when I get to Erwin!"

Bill got back home all right, but he wonders yet how people in Chicago manage to pay their board bills.

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J. M. LEE, Deputy Inspector.

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