

TERRIBLY FATAL MISTAKE

An Omaha Man Mistakes His Wife for a Burglar.

And Fires a Shot Which Results in Her Instant Death.

The Verdict of the Coroner's Jury.

Special to the Lincoln Journal: The sound of a shot, followed after a minute or two by the agonizing cry of a man, proceeding from the residence of John W. Lauer, at 2619 Douglas street, at an early hour this morning, aroused the residents of that locality and brought them to the house. Messrs. John A. McShane and Ben Gallagher, who live in the block, were the first to enter and found Mr. Lauer wringing his hands over the body of his wife who lay in her night robe across the threshold of their bedroom.

When the coroner's inquest began, Lauer was the first person to testify. He shed no tears but occasionally wept and moved as if in great mental anguish. He stood at the head of the body of his dead wife and talked freely, but the expression that rested on his face was more of an unconcerned air than that of a heart-broken husband. His testimony was as follows: I am married, at the night work, have been there three and a half years, this is my wife (pointing to the corpse); I returned home about 9 o'clock last night; about 2 o'clock I woke up suddenly; I heard some one speak in the other room, and as soon as I saw the head of a person approach the foot of the bed I fired, and then looked for some one to fall; I immediately placed my hand over to where my wife should have been and found her gone; I immediately jumped from bed and discovered I had killed her. I think I was lying down when I shot; I don't think I heard her fall, though I heard her in the room; there was a base-burner, that's all.

After examining a number of other witnesses the jury returned the following verdict: We, the jury, find that the deceased, Mrs. John W. Lauer, came to her death from a gunshot wound fired by the husband, John W. Lauer, and while the evidence adduced does not indicate any malicious intent on the part of said Lauer, we recommend that he be bound over to await a fuller investigation by the district court.

Geo. L. Baxton, foreman, W. P. HANLON, C. S. GOODRICH, PHILIP ANDRES, GEO. MELROCK, FRANK J. BURKEY.

Mrs. Lauer was a young lady of singular beauty, with regular features, fair complexion, light brown hair and a perfect figure and these qualities united to a character of exceeding purity and sweetness made her very popular in the social and church circles in which she moved.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

The Serbian division marching on Widdin, gave battle to the Bulgarians near Widdin, and inflicted on them a crushing defeat. The loss was heavy on both sides. The Serbians captured 10,000 prisoners. Parnell has consented to test the Irish district in Liverpool for a seat in parliament at the coming elections. The national committee has elected for the next Irish leader to conduct the campaign. Parnell and Thomas Power O'Connor, member of parliament for Galway, will canvass Liverpool shortly.

The Journal de St. Petersburg, in an editorial, says: Serbia has no reason to continue the campaign now that Prince Alexander has announced that he will evacuate Eastern Roumelia. If King Milan persists in going to Sofia it will cost him more than he foresees. The powers, as the speech of Emperor William at the opening of the Reichstag indicated, have a right to secure respect for the treaties relating to the Balkan states.

Serbia has decided to annex the Bulgarian area of the international railway route, which will enable Serbia to complete her line of railway; also the Widdin district, so that she can construct a railway to the lower Danube by Chupria, Zaitelan and Widdin to meet the projected Roumanian railway from Krajova to Kalafat. Travelers report that the Bulgarians are hopelessly depressed by the next the Serbians to enter Sofia forthwith. There are only two battalions of Bulgarian infantry at Widdin.

Parnell presided at a conference of sixty nationalist candidates for parliament, held at Dublin. It was decided to adopt uniform electoral tactics. With a view of avoiding liability under the stringent corrupt practices act, nationalists will employ a few lawyers to advise them, but will rely chiefly on volunteer counsel. They will also issue placards explaining the chief provisions of the corrupt practices act so that those shall not be given for positions to set aside elections on the ground of intimidation. Parnell announced the receipt of an additional sum of \$75,000 for the parliamentary fund.

NATIONAL CAPITAL NOTES.

The state department officials positively deny that the president has made any request for papers in regard to the condition of our naturalized citizens in Austria and Germany, or that there is any truth whatever in the Washington special to a New York paper.

The chief of the secret service division, in his annual report, recommends legislation prohibiting the making of dies or moulds for making fake similes for business purposes of United States coins, and another for legislation to extend the powers of the service so as to include authority to act in all cases of frauds against the government.

The president has appointed Bartlett Tripp, of Yankton, Dak., to be chief justice of the supreme court of the territory of Dakota; Win. A. Beach, of New York, to be collector of internal revenue for the Twenty-first district of New York; Elijah Gates, of St. Joe, Mo., to be marshal of the United States for the western district of Missouri;

GENERAL NEWS AND NOTES.

Patrick Johnson (colored) of Adrian, Mich., is charged with murdering his two new born children.

The fruit growers in session at Cairo, Ill., bound themselves to have nothing to do with bread trimmers.

The Pennsylvania miners and mine owners have settled their difficulties. Over 5,000 men were affected by it.

The sentence of John Slover, a Cherokee Indian condemned to death, has been commuted to eight years imprisonment.

The will of the late Thomas W. Pierce, the Massachusetts millionaire and nephew of President Pierce, will be contested.

There were only thirty deaths in the naval force afloat during the last year, less than the average for the last fifteen years.

In Pike county, Indiana, a lady teacher named Bolly whipped a child till it died. She was put in jail at Petersburg, the county seat.

The Ohio supreme court has rendered a decision holding the penitentiary parole law passed by the last legislature to be constitutional.

Rev. O. B. Thayer, formerly a Presbyterian minister of Clinton, Ill., has been found guilty of falsehood and dishonesty and dismissed from the ministry.

Major Alexander Sharp, paymaster, has been relieved from duty in the department of Dakota and ordered to report for duty in the department of Missouri.

Emmett Cunningham, colored, aged 26, was found fatally stabbed near his home in Cincinnati. He died soon after. The murder is a complete mystery.

During the trial of a case in the county court at Toronto, the fact was elicited that \$20,000 had been spent in fighting the Scott temperance act in Ontario.

A telegram from Cape Roy states that the bark "Red Cross," from Quebec for Glasgow, was wrecked near Bay St. George Newfoundland. The crew are safe.

Ludwell Grinnell, of Mansfield, Pa., is under arrest on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the United States by selling coupons issued from the patent office.

Millionaire Morosini denies that he has promised to forgive his daughter for marrying Hulskamp, his coachman, and says that she need never hope for reconciliation.

The pope has reorganized Spain's sovereignty over the Caroline islands, and advises Germany to accept the commercial concession contained in the Spanish note of September 10.

The negro, Noah Cherry who attempted a Jewish assault on a little girl, Alice Powell, and then murdered her, in Princess Anne county, Va., was hanged to a tree. He confessed the crime.

As John B. Brown, a prominent citizen of East St. Louis, was approaching home in the outskirts he was shot in the back of the head by unknown persons. He dropped dead. The affair is a mystery.

At St. Paul, Minn., unknown persons wrecked the fixtures in the Ninth Presbyterian church, from which the Rev. Dr. McLean has been debarred on charges of criminal intimacy with a young woman.

Superintendent Bell, of the foreign mail office, has requested Surgeon-General Hamilton, of the marine hospital service, to have all mail matter coming from Canada fumigated at the exchange points on the Canadian frontier.

Professor Asa Gray, of Harvard, the world renowned botanist, passed his 75th birthday last week. His professional friends presented him with a very valuable silver vase filled with flowers, named by him for or in him in embossed work.

The postal authorities arrested three men named Lavin, Dowdall and Clayton Wyandotte, Kas. They are suspected of several postoffice robberies in Kansas and Nebraska. When arrested the men were selling stamps at wholesale discount.

T. E. Brown, of Des Moines, Ia., the largest creditor of the old city of Memphis, has compromised his claim of \$350,000 to the satisfaction of President D. P. Madden and his colleagues of the funding board. This virtually winds up all outstanding claims of the old city of Memphis, which originally amounted to about six and one-half million dollars.

The postoffice inspectors made 539 arrests during the last year and obtained 203 convictions. Two hundred and thirty-two persons were seized. Four hundred and fifty-nine postoffices were robbed. Missing funds to the amount of \$15,263 was recovered and \$13,000 was restored to the owners. Delinquent postmasters were compelled to disgorge \$58,352.

The National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry chose the usual complement of officers in their Boston convention. Among the resolutions passed were those favoring biennial state elections recognizing the equality of the sexes, urging farmers to unite for election purposes and favoring the elevation of the office of commissioner of agriculture to a cabinet position.

A party of four young people coming from Millard to Batavia, Ohio, in a wagon were thrown over an abutment near Stone Lock, into the Millard canal. Miss M. T. Bennett, 18, Milton Bennett, aged 12, and Joseph Buckley, aged 26, were drowned. Charles Page, son of H. H. Page, of the Ohio & Mississippi railroad, and Miss Ella Yager were saved. The bridge burned two or three years ago and no provision was made to keep horses from running into the stream.

A terrible tragedy was enacted in Edgely field county, South Carolina. A white man named Robert Jones, occupied some land rented from his relatives, Charles and Edward Presley. They notified him that as he could no longer pay rent, he must vacate. Jones went to the field where Edward Presley, aged 80, and his sons Charles and Edward were ploughing and shot Charles dead. Edward started in pursuit, and Jones stabbed him mortally, with a knife. Jones then reloaded his gun, and killed the father, old Mr. Presley, who is the grandfather of Jones' wife. Jones then went to the court house and surrendered, remarking that he had killed three of the best men in the county.

Lime a Preservative From Rust. All steel articles can be perfectly preserved from rust by putting a lump of freshly burnt lime in the drawer or case in which they are kept. If things are to be moved as a gun in its case, for instance, the interior of the case should be lined with thoroughly pulverized slacked lime. Before using them rub well with a wooden cloth.

The wife of Minister Phelps is one of the most highly esteemed and admired ladies in English society. Her husband is equally as popular.

GEN. HAZEN'S BOOK.

Narrative of Military Service—His Own Experiences Followed by Valuable Military Suggestions—Equipment and Movement of Armies.

Gen. W. B. Hazen has been the subject of so much controversy that a book from his pen on the main events of his career might be expected to exhibit some warmth of feeling and expression. But one would search long for a more even-tempered book than the large one that has just appeared with the title "A Narrative of Military Service." General Hazen undertakes in this volume to describe the war-operations in which he was an actor, and to summarize his views as an officer of long experience in regard to the best equipment and movement of our armies when next called to the field. This object is fully accomplished, and with unusual ability. The tone of the narrative is pleasant and moderate throughout, and, historically, it is an important contribution.

After graduating in 1855 at West Point, to which he was appointed from Northern Ohio, General Hazen served against the Indians in the west and was promoted for gallantry in Texas skirmishes in 1859. Early in 1861 he was still suffering from a wound received in Indian warfare. When the war began he was assistant instructor of infantry tactics at West Point. In September, 1861, he was commissioned Colonel of the Forty-first Ohio, organized at Cleveland, with J. A. Garfield as Lieutenant Colonel. Before Hazen took command Garfield was made Colonel of the Forty-second Ohio. Colonel Hazen was with the Forty-first Ohio long enough to make his mark upon its discipline. It was in most of the great battles of the West, and he says it was never surprised or assailed at a disadvantage, nor failed to repay fully any punishment received. It was easily maneuvered, and its steady volley firing was heard above the din of battle. General Hazen lays great stress upon the advantages of fire by volleys instead of the ordinary desultory fire of infantry.

Early in 1862 General Hazen was placed in command of a brigade, and he was in the first division of Buell's army that reached Shiloh. His enemies have said that he showed cowardice in the battle. The charge is not in keeping with General Hazen's conspicuous part in many battles, and might be dismissed as absurd, but he is at pains to record his movements at Shiloh circumstantially. His brigade made an impetuous charge upon the Confederate right center, pushing ahead so far that it captured a battery. The enemy sent a heavy force to retake the battery, and Hazen's brigade, the formation of which had been much confused by its charge over a mile of ground, was driven back through the dense forest and undergrowth. General Hazen on his way back was accompanied by Captain Emerson Opsydyck, of the Forty-first Ohio, afterwards one of the heroes of the battle of Franklin. The brigade did not get together again until the afternoon, and it was so scattered that its commander did not find its main body for several hours. The loss of the brigade was 399 men killed and wounded, one-fifth of the entire loss in Buell's army at Shiloh. The real charge to be brought against Hazen's brigade at Shiloh is a too disconnected rush upon the Confederates, causing an undue loss of life, and the breaking up of the brigade line into fragments that drifted apart when forced to retreat by the enemy's reinforcements. These wild rushes have proved so fatal to organized action in battle that the new tactics contemplate a constant regimental reserve on which retiring troops can join their colors instantly, and so again become effective without the loss of a moment. General Hazen's conduct at Shiloh showed more headlong courage than strategic caution, and the same can be said of most of the brigade and regimental commanders of that early stage of the struggle. Long after the war General Opsydyck wrote of Shiloh: "I saw Hazen on horseback riding along the line, encouraging his men by words and example during the whole of the fight and charge, and while retiring we were together in constant endeavor to rally the remnants of his command."

General Hazen's most brilliant work during the rebellion is popularly believed to be the storming of Fort McAllister, but he thinks otherwise, and gives good reasons for his opinion. "The best service rendered by my command during the war," he says, "was at the battle of Stone River." After the Confederates began to drive back the Union right wing Rosecrans withdrew troops from the left until Hazen's brigade held the extreme left of the Union army. It was the only Union brigade that kept its position throughout the day, and it achieved this by desperate fighting. Of course, if Rosecrans left had given way, as well as his right, the center would have been between two fires, and a rout must have ensued. Hazen's brigade sustained the first heavy assault unaided. Later some small reinforcements were sent to it, and at nightfall the brigade still maintained its vital position, though three brigades of the enemy had been sent against it. A monument is erected on that part of the field, inscribed "Hazen's brigade. To the memory of its soldiers who fell at Stone River, December 31, 1862. Their faces toward heaven, their feet to the foe."

General Hazen sees at Chickamauga several bad mistakes in the maneuvering of the army by Rosecrans and some of his subordinates. Bragg had fallen back from Chattanooga for strategic purposes only. Our army for four days, General Hazen asserts, was in a position so false that its disunited corps were at the mercy of Bragg; and Bragg's mistakes, therefore, were even greater than those of Rosecrans. Though rations were scarce while Bragg held Lookout Mountain, the

suffering among the men was not severe. During that time the election for Governor of Ohio took place. The town of Hiram had two voters in the army, both Brigadier Generals, Garfield and Hazen. They deposited their votes in a sign box, with a slip cut in the top. This was the first time General Hazen ever voted. His next vote was for Garfield for President. With Rosecrans, when he was relieved from command, went McCook and several other Generals. General Hazen writes: "After Shiloh, where his division fought splendidly, McCook seemed pursued by a strange fatality. He assumed a kind of boastful over-confidence that in war always presages failure, because it takes the place of the careful preparation that insures success. McCook possessed a peculiar open frankness of manner and bonhomie that made him many friends and he had many admirable traits of character." To Hazen was given the command of the twenty one hundred men who executed the daring and ingenious seizure of the hills at Brown's Ferry, near Chattanooga, which, with the advance of Hooker's corps, wrested from Bragg his embarrassing hold on the United line of supplies. No camp of the war was more brilliant or successful.

At the battle of Mission Ridge Hazen's brigade, according to his own account, was the first to reach the crest, to capture Confederate cannon, and turn them against their late possessors. General Sheridan claimed the honor and the guns for his division; and General Hazen devotes much space to a calm, methodical discussion of this controversy. It is certainly unlikely that Hazen's brigade would ever have got the guns if Sheridan's division had been the first to reach them. The guns were voluntarily brought to Hazen's headquarters by their captors, and he retained them in spite of Sheridan's imperious demand. Sheridan made a sarcastic allusion to the matter in one of his reports, but he was laboring under a misapprehension as General Hazen demonstrates by the official reports of both armies. "The splendid success of Mission Ridge," Hazen says, "was due to the men rather than to the Generals."

In the Atlanta campaign General Hazen commanded a division of the Army of the Tennessee, under General Logan. "There can be no propriety," he writes, "in comparing the Army of the Cumberland with that of the Tennessee, as far as the differences seem to me most noticeable. As to the native character of the men and their excellence in battle, there was no difference; they were alike, and both simply admirable. The general officers of the Army of the Tennessee were much younger in years and in commission, and were all acting under the spur of new zeal and in perfect harmony and good will; while in the Army of the Cumberland the officers had been denied the rapid advancement to which their services in battle seemed to entitle them. Such recognition is indispensable in actual war. The result was that jealousy, dislikes and dissensions were developing in the Army of the Cumberland, while they were nearly unknown in the Army of the Tennessee. As to discipline, instruction and administration, the Army of the Cumberland was so far the superior as scarcely to admit of comparison. From some cause there had been in the Army of the Tennessee a singular omission in these particulars. Yet in battle no troops fought better. It may then be asked, Why make discipline so important? I would add, that all who were there fought well; but a thorough administration and discipline enables a government to put sixty per cent. of the troops who are on the rolls and under pay in the front ranks with muskets in their hands—the prime object of every enlistment—and it would have enabled us to do so, while in fact from lack of it, we were able to put only about thirty per cent. of the troops in line of battle. Besides, it would have been a saving of half the cost of the war. Discipline is indispensable to economy of life and money."

General Hazen describes the assault and capture of Fort McAllister, and this account is the best and most accurate yet written. He also witnessed the burning of Columbia, the capital of South Carolina. He attributes it, not to the Generals of the Union army, but to the hatred of the State felt by many of the men in ranks. He has no doubt, from personal observation, that it was set on fire deliberately in more than a hundred places. "No one ordered it and no one could stop it. The officers of high rank would have saved the city if possible; but the army was deeply imbued with the feeling that as South Carolina had begun the war, she must suffer a stern retribution. The idea that South Carolina was in a special and peculiar sense the originator of rebellion is a very common but in my opinion a superficial and mistaken notion. It matters little where the first overt act was committed. The egg was laid by the importation of slavery. The age-doomed slavery and war was inevitable." The South Carolinians impressed him as a highly cultured people. Their farming and roads were the best he saw in the South, and it was the only part of the South where he found good maps. Speaking of the final grand review at Washington, the General says the men of the Western armies marched better than those of the East, the long tramps of the former having been a kind of drill. In passing the reviewing stand the soldiers of the Army of the Potomac cheered and swung hats, thereby losing the cadence and their military bearing. In the Army of the Tennessee "the cadence was perfect, while the robustness of the men and their even, swinging gait were very striking."

General Hazen gives a chapter to the lessons of the war. The importance of defensive works for infantry was understood long before the civil war ended. At Chickamauga the work of logs begun after daylight on the second day sufficed to defeat Polk's corps with comparatively little loss on the

Union side. "Security of person gives the soldiers composure and deliberation. He aims carefully, and fires at his mark; while without cover he is excited, seldom aims at all, and often fires high in the air." The increased range of rifles adds to the importance of the protection. In officering troops the Government must have a constant regard for capacity. Meritorious conduct in battle should override seniority in rank or any other consideration. General Hazen's convictions on this subject are thus expressed: "To be a good officer, one must first be a good man; and the same qualities that fit one for other vocations, such as intelligence, culture, mathematical training, and an acquaintance with affairs make the good officer. The old militia or parade officers, soldiers of the Mexican war and show brigadiers so much sought for at first, were, as a rule, utter failures, while the young men of mark in all departments of civil life nearly always succeeded as officers. Men accustomed to the exactness of the counting-room, and used to dealing with men in large concerns, like railroads, rolling mills and manufacturing concerns, could be counted on with most certainty. In short, the good, efficient man made a valuable and successful officer. When officers are at last obtained, a just bestowal of rewards and punishments is a vital element of success."

In equipment, General Hazen would have the soldier freed from every ounce of unnecessary weight. When in Louisville, in 1862, a new regiment, the Tenth Illinois, over a thousand strong, joined his brigade. It had "everything" in the way of equipment, including the old-fashioned knapsack. In less than three weeks six hundred of its men broke down on the marches, and few of them were ever able to return. The general would discard entirely the knapsack, cartridge box and bayonet. The cartridges should be carried in a looped belt, which distributes the weight evenly around the body. The overcoat or blanket and waterproof ponchos ought to be all the covering that is carried, in addition to the ordinary dress. The bayonet proved so useless in the late war that in the last year Gen. Hazen did not replace those that were lost in his command. Haversacks should be made of the best cotton duck, which can be often washed, and yet withstand rain. The present tin canteen, with flannel covering, is satisfactory. Each soldier should carry a light cup and girdle. Tents are not a necessity—not even the shelter tents, a poncho being sufficient. If a blanket is carried, the overcoat is superfluous. The trenching spade should be light and strongly made, to be slung to the belt with the canteen opposite the haversack by a spring hook at the handle to be finished on one edge as a cutting tool and on the other for driving. It should have no relation to the gun. In battle a great amount of ammunition can be saved and the execution increased by each Colonel having absolute control of the fire of his regiment. Firing by volleys General Hazen found to be remarkably effective on the enemy advancing at the charge. Details of fighting men for non-combatant duties should be stopped. The pioneer corps should be specially recruited, and not be a drain upon the best enlisted fighting material. General Hazen says our armies had too much light artillery, since casualties seldom occur from its use. He did not use artillery at Fort McAllister, as he did not wish to advertise his intentions by the usual canonade. The great range of the latest small arms places light artillery at a still greater disadvantage. "A solid shot at short range can only cut through its breath, and a musket ball does the same. No careful commander will expose his masses to either." General Hazen like the late English General Gordon, favors long firing with the rifle. A dropping fire of this kind cause a small but constant loss to the enemy. While in front of Atlanta General Hazen's pickets kept up a slow but regular fire at about twelve hundred yards range, with pieces elevated to carry into the Confederate camp. About five thousand bullets a day were thus fired for about three weeks. After the war General Hazen learned that each regiment of the enemy in his front lost from three to five men a day by rifle wound. About one shot in five hundred took effect. Field hospitals alone should be used. Gen. Hazen is totally opposed to the issue of a whisky ration. Three-fourths of the trouble in the service arose from the use of liquor. He would discard its use, both in and out of the army, except as a medicine. "Who does not remember some peculiarly happy period during the war," he asks, "when he was stationed where no whisky could be obtained?" General Hazen would not exclude from an army regularly accredited newspaper correspondents, but would attach them to the several headquarters under proper regulations. Finally, the U. S. Army needs a general staff, such as Germany's headed by Von Moltke and Blumenthal, to serve the whole army by turns as inspectors, to prepare plans and control the military archives.

The manly tone, strong good sense and historical and military value of General Hazen's book will be conceded by every reader. It is freely illustrated with portraits and special maps. "A Narrative of Military Service." By General W. B. Hazen, 450 pp. \$3. Ticknor & Co., Boston. Cincinnati, Robt. Clark & Co.

Malarial fever has become so prevalent in Greece that the government has not only removed the import duty from quinine, but has monopolized the sale of that drug, charging a price equal only to the cost at the place of sale. The result is that almost every Greek is using quinine.

There is a chinquapin tree in Americus, Ga., from which over 16,000 nuts have been gathered this season, and it is estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 remain on the tree. The chinquapin resembles an acorn in appearance and a chestnut in taste.

THE MARKETS.

Table with market prices for various commodities like Wheat, Corn, Flour, etc. in Omaha, Chicago, and St. Louis.