EDWIN BOOTH AND LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION.

VERY few persons are aware of the fact that after John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln Edwin Booth was practically taken into custody by agents of the Government. He was released as soon as an examination showed that he knew nothing of the conspiracy. This story of the affair is related by Ivory M. Blood:

"At the time Mr. Booth resided in East Fourteenth street, near Broadway. I was in the United States secret service of the War Department and had been detailed by Chief Baker to take Mr. Booth into custody. It was after the assassination of President Lincoln, and Mr. Booth's brother, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin, had been apprehended by Baker's men and mortally wounded by Sergeant Boston Corbett, in Mr. Garrett's barn in Virginia.

"Secretary of War Stanton and Judge Advocate General Holt, under whose instructions I acted, wished to question Mr. Booth in regard to his knowledge, if any, of the movements and conversations of his brother, John Wilkes Booth. Upon my going to Mr. Booth's residence the door bell was answered by a colored servant. I told him that I wished to see Mr. Booth. He went up stairs and upon returning said that Mr. Booth wished to know if I would not tell him the nature of my business.

"'No,' I replied, 'I must see him in person,' and I sent up my card.

"The servant returned to Mr. Booth's room and shortly afterward that gentleman came down and invited me into the parlor. I shall never forget his appearance. He was pale and haggard, greatly agitated and trembling from head to foot. He had apparently an intuition that something serious was to happen to him. When seated I opened the conversation by saying to Mr. Booth:

"'You see by my card that I am in the secret service, and am obliged to take you to Washington, D. C. If you wish to see any other authority I have my papers in my pocket.'

HE FELT THAT SOMETHING WAS TO HAPPEN TO HIM.

"With a tremulous voice he replied: 'No, I do not care about seeing them.' Several times during our conversation he said: 'It is an awful thing.' 'It has distressed me greatly.' 'I feel as if I was going to die.' 'I cannot understand why my brother did the terrible deed.'

"Mr. Booth wished to know if he would give bonds, and I replied in the negative. Then he asked if he could consult counsel, and I told him he could under the following conditions: That he must not leave my presence; that he should not have any conversation with any person, including his counsel, except in my hearing, and that all such conversation would be strictly confidential on my part, giving him as a reason that the habeas corpus act was then suspended and that the Government did not allow any conversation where parties were under arrest.

"Mr. Booth at the time had on his dressing gown. He returned to his room and came down wearing a black suit and silk hat, and said he was ready to accompany me to his lawyer in Wall street, whose name I do not at present recollect. Before leaving the house I told to him that I would not, as was customary, put the handcuffs on him, and that no one on the street would know that he was under arrest, adding: 'You cannot get away from me, because I am armed.'

"'I pledge myself as a gentleman,' replied Mr. Booth, 'that I will not try to get away.'

"I asked him if he had a pistol, and he answered:

"'I have not.'

"The servant was dispatched for a carriage, and upon its arrival we were driven to the office of Mr. Booth's counsel in Wall street. Mr. Booth asked me if there was much excitement in Washington, what I thought they would do with him, and if any one thought that he had any connection whatever with the tragedy.

"'I would rather die than go to Washington,' he said.

"I replied that I knew of no one who had intimated in the least that he had been in any way connected with the affair.

"On introducing me to his counsel he said to him:

"'Mr. Blood will tell you his business with me.'

"I told the lawyer that I was going to take Mr. Booth to Washington by order of the Washington authorities.

"The lawyer declared that I had no right to take Mr. Booth from the city, and if there were any charges against him he ought to be tried by the United States court here.

"'The Government has authority,' I replied, 'to send any person to Washington, and Mr. Booth is not the first person I have taken there.'

"'I don't care what you have done with other people,' the lawyer exclaimed in an angry tone, punctured with an occasional oath. 'I am here to defend the rights of Mr. Booth.'

"'No one objects to your doing that,' I responded, 'but I shall obey the orders of the Government.'

"'I want,' continued the lawyer, 'to see Mr. Booth alone.'

"'You cannot do it,' was my answer.

"'What are the charges against, and what does the Government want with him?' asked the lawyer.

"'To examine him as to when he saw his brother last, and if his brother had ever intimated to him anything about the assassination. The Government is not going to spare any pains or expense to get at the bottom facts of the affair.'

"'If I should set forth Mr. Booth's rights as a citizen under the constitution you could not take him to Washington,' said the lawyer, with much asperity of language and a show of impudence in his manner.

"I replied that I would take Mr. Booth and the lawyer, too, if he interfered with the orders of the Government, if it took all the soldiers at Governor's Island to do it.

"'Well, Mr. Booth,' said the irate counsel, turning to him as he sat in a chair in the office, without taking part whatever in the foregoing dialogue, 'you had better go with this man to Washington and if you need my services you can telegraph me.'

"On being driven back to Mr. Booth's residence luncheon was served to us, after which he changed his costume and had some things put into a satchel. We went in the carriage direct to Desbrosses street ferry and took a train for Washington.

"Upon arriving in Washington early the next morning I turned Mr. Booth over to Col. Baker, after we had breakfasted at an all-night restaurant and after we had waited several hours at Willard's Hotel. He was put through a course of examination by Col. Baker and afterward taken before the Judge Advocate General. There were no discrepancies in his two statements. After he had been examined by the Judge Advocate General he was discharged. There was nothing whatever in his statements to show that he knew anything at all about his brother's terrible act before it had been perpetrated."—New York Sun.

Argentina Wants Settlers.

It is proposed to encourage the opening up of the extreme southern stretches of Argentine territory by the creation of a regular line of steamers between Buenos Ayres and the southern ports, that is to say, Bahia, Blanca, Port Madryn, Santa Cruz, Puerto Gallegos and San Blas.

Many an American who boasts of liberty is a slave, and can hear his chains every time he steps.

GOETHE'S FORESIGHT.

United States to Control Nicaragua Canal and Britain Suez Canal.

It is not generally known that Goethe foresaw not only the construction of the Suez Canal, but of the Nicaragua Canal as well, and foresaw also that the former would have to become the possession of England and the latter the possession of the United States. A writer in the London Spectator translates from Eckermann the following report of Goethe's conversation at a dinner in his house:

"'Humboldt,' said Goethe, 'has indicated, with great local knowledge, several points where, by making use of some rivers flowing into the Gulf of Mexico, one might, perhaps, attain the object in view, even more advantageously than at Panama. The decision of all this is reserved to the future, and to a grand spirit of enterprise. So much is certain, that if a cutting be possible of such a character as would allow ships with any kind of cargo and of every, even the greatest, size to pass through such a canal from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean there would result for the whole of the civilized world, also for the not civilized part of mankind, the most incalculable advantages. I should, however, be astonished if the United States were to let slip the opportunity of getting such a work into their own hands. One may foresee that that youthful country, with its pronounced tendency toward the West, will have seized upon and peopled, within thirty or forty years, even the wide stretches of land beyond the Rocky Mountains. One may also foresee that along all this coast of the Pacific, where nature has already created the most spacious and most secure harbors, there will gradually arise very important commercial towns, which will become the intermediaries of a great intercourse between China and the East Indies on the one side and the United States on the other. But in that case it will be not only desirable, but almost a matter of necessity, that merchant vessels as well as men-of-war shall maintain a more rapid communication than has so far been possible by the wearisome, disagreeable and costly navigation round Cape Horn. I repeat, then, that it is absolutely imperative for the United States to effect a cutting from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. And I am certain that they will achieve that aim. I should like to live to see it. But that is not possible in my case. Secondly, I should like to live to see effected a joining of the Rhine with the Danube. But that were another gigantic undertaking, and I doubt its being carried out, more especially when I contemplate the smallness of the means that Germany can dispose of. And, thirdly, I should like the English to be in possession of a canal of Suez. These three things I should like to live to see, and it would be really worth while to hold out here, for their sake, another fifty years.'"—Literary Digest.

Not Used to Luxuries.

The peculiar sorrows of a Pennsylvania colored man are thus set forth by the Record of Philadelphia:

A tall and heavy-footed colored man limped painfully into a large shoe store in Phoenixville one day recently, and began to complain to the proprietor that he had been swindled. "Dese hyar shoes," he said, "suhtinly is de wu'st I ebah see. Dey jes' natchelly got me all tied up in knots."

"What seems to be the trouble?" inquired the proprietor.

The colored man scratched his pate for a minute, and said, "Fo' de Lawd, I doan' know. Hit sho'ly seem laik somebody done cast a spell on dem. Fust dey feels all right, an' den de nex' day dey hu'ts mos' drefful."

The dealer took a look at one of the shoes; then he began laughing. "You're not used to wearing shoes, are you?" he asked.

"Well, boss," was the reply, "I doan' weah dem much, da's a fack."

"Well, the trouble is, you've got them on the wrong feet."

"No, sah! No, sah!" cried the negro, "dey ain' nuffin' wrong wif mah feet."

The dealer explained the difference between right and left, and the customer went away happy.

Knots Tied by Machinery.

If inventions continue to multiply at the present rate, the day may speedily come when man will have to sit with folded arms while his work and even his pleasures are turned out for him. Science has lately given us a marvel in the shape of a card-counting machine. Two of these most interesting automata now working are used for counting and tying postal cards into small bundles. Two of the machines are capable of counting 500,000 cards in ten hours and wrapping and tying the same in packages of twenty-five each. In this operation the paper is pulled off a drum by two long "fingers" which come up from below, and another finger dips in a vat of gum and applies itself to the wrapping paper in exactly the right spot. Other parts of the machine twine the paper around the pack of cards and then a "thumb" presses over the spot where the gum is, and the package, tied with the paper slip, is thrown upon a carry belt ready for delivery.—Popular Science News.

The human race is but a contest of dollars.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S SPORTS.

Townball and Catball Superseded by the Diamond and Gridiron.

Have you ever noticed how regularly school children revert year after year to certain games and pastimes? One morning there is not a marble to be seen on the streets, the next day every lad almost comes out and is ready for a game of "bunk up" or "bull ring." School children's games have their regular seasons. To introduce any of them out of their fixed dates is to doom

HOP SCOTCH.

them to ignoble failure. The boys will not take them up. Football is invariably taken up in the fall term. It reaches its climax at Thanksgiving. In the same manner baseball comes up in the spring time. Top spinning is never more popular than during the crisp, cool, bracing October weather, but marbles are played in the early spring months, beginning during the bright days of March, after the snows have disappeared, and lasting sometimes as late as early June. Even the girls follow this unwritten law. Hop scotch, the greatest of all favorite outdoor pastimes, is played in the spring, as is the rope jumping and hoop rolling, but jack stones are played in the fall. The old game of three-old-cat is to-day out of date. School children have almost given it up. In its place the regular baseball nine has been substituted.

Such are the games of the school children of to-day. There are few novelties because young America rather prefers to imitate his elders than to think out new pastimes. That is also the reason why youngsters have taken so readily to football in the fall and

MARBLES.

baseball in the spring. To have a match game with another school is productive of more real pleasure to them than an individual game of marbles. Their vanity, too, is touched, for to be in a football or baseball team is a greater honor to them than the winning of a pocketful of marbles, for they receive the plaudits of their fellows and not infrequently that of their elders.

Wanted to Be Flogged.

Gen. Osborn Wilkinson, of the British army, after describing his experience when as a schoolboy he was "birched" at Eton—and a decidedly painful experience he makes it out to have been—proceeds to tell a singular story of another Etonian, who sought the switch in vain.

This boy was sentenced to be flogged for some misdemeanor, but fortified by the knowledge that his father was greatly opposed to the system of corporal punishment, refused to submit. He was at once expelled, and went home and reported what had taken place.

"Well, well," said his father, "this is most unfortunate. I have just succeeded in securing for you a commission in the Guards, and now, being expelled from Eton, you will no longer be eligible to her majesty's service."

The boy was distracted. His whole heart was set upon a military career. Seeing his son's grief, the father advised him to hasten back to school and beg leave to be flogged and reinstated.

The young fellow set off at once; but alas! vacation had begun, and the master had gone to the continent. Not to be balked, the boy followed, and having overtaken him in Paris, explained the situation and begged a flogging.

"But I can't do it," said the master, "I'm sorry for you, but it would be too irregular, and beside I have nothing with which to do it."

The boy had provided for that emergency, and when he produced a birch rod the master, seeing his sincerity, declined to use the switch, but rescinded the sentence of expulsion, and the boy was able to accept the desired commission.

Mexican Burials.

The Mexicans have a queer way of burying the dead. The corpse is tightly wrapped in century plant matting, and placed in a coffin hired for about a shilling. One or two natives, as the case may be, place the coffin on their heads and go at a trot to the grave, where the body is interred, and the coffin is then returned. The wealthy class use the tram cars as hearses, and the friends follow beside the car on foot.

Track Testing.

In use on the electric street railway at Biddeford, Me., is a peculiar track tester, based upon an adaptation of the telephone. A man sits in a car and talks continuously into a mouthpiece which is connected electrically with a receiver held by a man in the power house. A break in the conversation shows where the track connections are faulty.

Progressive Civilization.

A lady recently took into her service a Chinaman, and began to Christianize him. Shortly afterward some silver spoons were missing. Then she taught him the Apostles' Creed, and it was discovered that a valuable piece of plate had been stolen. His benefactress, loath to suspect her new convert, started in to teach him the Ten Commandments. By the time he was able to repeat the First Commandment, the scamp stole her watch. Then the philanthropic lady's son rebelled. "Mother," he exclaimed, "for heaven's sake, don't teach that pig-tailed scalawag any more, or by the time you've got him to the Tenth Commandment he will have stolen the house and taken the cellar along with it!"

Chicago university has just received a gift of property worth $500,000 to be used for a new biological station.

Bricks of glass are now manufactured in Silesia. They are cheap and more durable than mud bricks.

A scheme is on foot to have a general census of the whole world taken to mark the end of the century.

N. F. N. U. No. 680.—S. F. N. U. No. 757