

HARDER THAN HIS HEAD.

A Negro's Futile Attempt to Butt Jail Down.

ARCHIE, Mo., Oct. 11.—Ever since this town has been in existence it has been terrorized by a negro named William Verder, who has been a typical tough and whose actions have been such that the whole population has stood in fear of him.

He did not rob but he was known as a desperado of the worst type, and when he entered a store and asked for credit, he always got it, although the storekeeper knew that he would never get paid for his goods.

The negro was never molested by the officers of the law for they were chosen more for the purpose of keeping stray cows out of yards than for caring for criminals or law violators.

Some time ago the town built a calaboose. Verder defied the officers and told them he would butt the first man who offered to arrest him to death.

About a month ago the house of Verder's father took fire and the desperado rushed out, but found that he had left his watch hanging on the wall and returned to get it. While inside the spread of the flames cut off his way to the front door and he groped his way to the rear but the door was locked, and he deliberately made a run and butted the door from its hinges, coming out of the burning house without being injured.

He was much elated over his feat, and said that if ever he was placed in jail he would get out the same way. He seemed determined to get there and was arrested, and to the surprise of every one made no resistance, but went laughing to the calaboose.

BURNED TO DEATH.

Last night the town was aroused by a fire and found the jail burning. Verder had obtained matches and set it on fire, but he made a miscalculation, for he was unable to butt the door down, and perished in the flames before he could be gotten out. He smothered in the close room, and the charred remains were all that were found of him. The people are of the opinion that the jail was well lost.

A Millionaire's Coffin.

The casket in which Hon. Wm. L. Scott was buried was made in

Philadelphia. In its construction there were used seventy-six pounds of solid silver, forty yards of broadcloth, about thirty yards of silk and ten pounds of eiderdown. Along the entire length of each side extend heavy bars of solid oxidized silver. Each one of the bars contains 28 1/2 pounds of pure coin silver. At each end are shorter bars of the same material and design, each one weighing 9 1/2 pounds. The plate on top is also of solid silver. The casket is lined throughout with cream white Bengaline silk. This material is draped with what is known to the professional undertaker as "artistical carelessness." The filling to all the upholstery is eiderdown. The pillow, which is fluted about the edges, is covered with Bengaline silk and is stuffed with eiderdown.

They Fought a Duel at Church.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Oct. 8.—A. S. Dorning one of the leading farmers of Irwin county, died at his home to day, the result of an impromptu duel fought on Sunday. For some time ill feeling had existed between Mr. W. B. Fussell and Mr. A. S. Dorning, which grew out of the recent murder by masked men, of the deputy sheriff of Irwin county. Dorning had charged that Fussell was one of the assassins.

On Sunday Fussell was in attendance at the neighborhood Methodist church, of which he is a class leader. In the midst of the service Dorning drove up in his buggy. Fussell went out to meet him. The two men talked for about five minutes, when simultaneously shooting began, breaking up the congregation.

Fussell was shot in the arm and side. Dorning received a bullet under the right eye, this bullet going almost entirely through his head, resulting in his death to-day. Fussell's wound is also believed to be fatal.

NAPA, Cal., Oct. 12.—The heaviest earthquake ever felt here occurred at 10:34 last night. People rushed into the streets in night robes in great excitement. Chimneys toppled over. Several buildings were wrecked. Drug store fixtures suffered greatly, bottles being thrown from the shelves to the floor, and other damage was done. The Masonic Temple, a fine building, was shattered. At the State Insane Asylum the patients were almost uncontrollable. It is reported that the building cracked and that other damage was done.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 12.—A severe earthquake shock occurred here at 10:27 last night. It lasted fully half a minute, and was the most severe for a long time. As far as known no serious damage was done.

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