

South's Corner.

"THE ELEPHANT IS LOOSE."

The elephant is loose! The elephant is loose. Such was the cry that we heard from the boys in the street one day last week.

It appeared from what we heard, that the great Elephant Columbus had attacked his keeper; he so severely injured him that he has since died of his injuries.

But how many elephants are loose every day? How many roam about the streets destroying the souls as well as the lives of people;

There ought to be a cannon before that bookstore, for they sell books and prints that defile and ruin souls.

There ought to be a cannon before those theatres and that circus, for out of them comes an evil influence ten times worse than a whole menagerie of wild beasts set loose.

There ought to be a cannon before that billiard-room, for there is an elephant there that destroys hundreds every year.

Boys look out, the Elephant is loose! And let the Mayor stir about and have his cannons loaded, for he will need them.

The Phil. Ledger gives the following account of the occurrence with the elephant.—The affair occurred while the keeper was cleaning and preparing the animal for the afternoon exhibition.

The keeper called him, and as he did not stop when spoken to, used his goad, and so irritated the animal that he turned and made two passes at the unfortunate man, tossing him for some distance.

The cage fell upon Kelly, fracturing both of his legs; the right one being so severely crushed that amputation was subsequently found to be necessary.

After this the elephant returned toward the ring, but was driven back to his recess by the powerful dogs belonging to the establishment;

He then re-entered the ring, where he caused some damage to the railing. By dropping a noosed rope into the ring, from the dome of the building, his fore-feet became entangled in it, and thus crippled, the keepers succeeded in driving him into the small gangway, near the Western door on Walnut street, where his power for mischief was prevented, by fastening his tusks by a chain to his fore-feet, and the effectual use of the harpoon accomplished his submission.

The celebrated Herr Driesbach then took the matter in hand, and, at his command, the animal proceeded to the ring and gave proof of his good humour being restored by the most implicit obedience to all his requirements.

The fear that the enraged animal would demolish the cage of the lion or tigers, had previously induced the proprietors to have the means at hand for his destruction, in case that their efforts to overpower him should not succeed.

A cannon was therefore procured, charged with canister, and stationed in front of the building, on Walnut street, to be ready for any emergency, but fortunately his submission rendered such a recourse unnecessary, and this valuable animal took his customary part in the performances last evening.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER.

"The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." Luke xvi. 8.

There is generally in a Sunday-school class one or more of those who attend without feeling any real pleasure, or any wish to learn. A poor excuse is gladly embraced for remaining at home a Sunday or two.

have correction, and her proud looks are not to be feared; but could not the faithful, judicious, and tender Teacher, give the reproof at the child's home—keeping in mind the Scripture rule. (Matt. xviii. 15.) Her return to school is a mark of amendment, and should there be received with a smile of encouragement.

Now then for our motto: "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." Sinners, *cease*, and thus succeed. Let the children of light adopt their plan to obtain a very opposite end, doing so with pure motives, having the Lord for their strength.

Those who practically remember the enmity of the carnal mind, will endeavour to lead on wayward children gently, with Christian forbearance and love. We are not only to be harmless as doves, but wise as serpents.

A grand point with a Teacher should be, with every addition to her class, to gain first the affection of the new comers—convince them of her good-will, by any little personal kindness, interest with their friends at home, &c., and there are few who, with this persuasion, will not yield something of self-will, and may, indeed, be ruled by the law of love, and seek to please their instructress, whom they find also to be a true and kind friend.

This, attended with a blessing from on high, (for it is not by might, or power, but by the Holy Spirit,) may lead to their hearing and receiving the truth as it is in Jesus; and the bread thus cast upon the waters, will be found after many days.

"He that winneth souls is wise."

Teacher's Visitor.

BEST ROOT SUGAR IN GERMANY.—A letter received from Madgeburg, and dated the 30th ultimo, contains an account of the progress of the production of beet root sugar in Germany.—The price of beet root sugar, which kind has entirely superseded cane sugar in our district, slightly declines from week to week.

Good strong loaves manufactured from cane sugar by the refiners at Stettin and Berlin, cost \$18 per cwt., a quality in every respect equivalent, in colour as well as strength, and being of a pure taste, made here from beet root, sells at \$17, or from 5 to 6 per cent less; and with such a price, which leaves a clear profit of 20 per cent, our establishments here are found to answer exceedingly well.

THE VEHM-GERICHT OR SECRET TRIBUNAL IN GERMANY.

During the middle ages, when the administration of the laws in Germany, especially in criminal cases, had become scandalously inefficient, the Vehm-Gericht by secret proceedings assumed functions which it was the public duty of the courts of law to have exercised. It took its rise, and had its principal seat, in Westphalia; and though the time of its origin is not clearly made out, it is found to have exerted its most frightful power in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The meetings of the Vehm-Gericht were either open or secret. The former were held by day, in the open air, the latter by night in woods or else in unknown places underground. There was a difference between the two also as regards the causes taken cognizance of by the one and the other, and the mode of proceeding adopted in conducting them. This tribunal arrogated to itself cognizance of cases of Heresy, Sorcery, Theft, Highway-Robbery, and Murder.

surrender himself, the ban was pronounced upon him, that is, he was given over to the Free-Judges for execution. The very first of them that met the condemned, hanged him on a tree, not on a gallows—to signify that the deed was an execution by the Free-Judge. If resistance was made, the condemned was stabbed at once with a knife which was in that case deposited by the side of the corpse, so as to indicate that the deceased had not been murdered, but executed by virtue of a sentence of the Secret Tribunal.

It is easy to conclude that this institution led to judicial murders, caused by revenge, covetousness, or malice, and how easily a timid person, who really was neither accused nor condemned, might be driven into voluntary exile in those days, to suit the purpose of interested persons, by working upon his fears. A more detestable monster of tribunal never existed among any civilized people.

The present state of things in Ireland has called up recollections of the German Vehm-Gericht. The above account, drawn from German sources, may enable the reader to discover those points in which the coincidence holds good, as well as the measures which may be most likely to correct the evil.

HORRORS ARISING FROM THE SLAVE TRADE.

From a letter dated Sierra Leone, Oct. 6, 1847.

On the 22nd of July last her Majesty's ship *Waterwitch* with her Majesty's ship *Rapid* in company, captured the Brazilian brigantine *Romeo Primo*, which was subsequently given in charge to Lieut. W. Mansfield, R. N., and four seamen, to be conveyed to St. Helena for adjudication. Owing to adverse winds, and the unmanageable qualities of the prize, the officer in command found it necessary to alter his destination, and to bear up for this place.

On the 1st of September, the *Romeo Primo*, the scene of this bloody encounter, entered our port. Lieutenant Mansfield, who since the day of conflict had scarcely been able to stir hand or foot, was promptly conveyed to sick quarters, and for many days his life was entirely despaired of by his medical attendants.

The gallant little crew, all wounded, were also looked after in the best manner, which skill and sympathy could suggest; but alas! two of them were soon removed beyond the reach of human succour, one dying of the direct consequences of his wounds, and the second of fever induced by them. After a fortnight of extreme danger on shore, Lieutenant Mansfield's pow-

erful constitution showed symptoms of triumphing over his injuries, and he is now so far convalescent as to justify sanguine hopes of his complete restoration. Yesterday, the Brazilian prisoners were brought to trial before the Chief Justice, his Honour, Justice Pine, and assistant judges, Heddle and Lemon, on charges of piracy, and attempt to murder Lieut. W. G. Mansfield, R. N., and others. On the indictment being read several preliminary objections were taken on the part of the Spanish Consul, as the only representative of a foreign country in the colony.

CONFIDENCE IN A PRIEST'S ABSOLUTION.

A Correspondent sends us the following story.—Some thirty years since there lay a regiment in Malta, formed chiefly of Irish. Repeated cases of assassination had occurred; at last there was one in which the culprit was taken with "red hands." He was put under arrest, with positive orders that no person should be allowed to visit him.

HUMMING BIRDS IN BRAZIL.

Wherever a creeping vine opens its fragrant clusters, or wherever a tree-flower blooms, may these little things be seen. In the garden or in the woods, over the water, everywhere they are darting about; of all sizes, from one that might easily be mistaken for a different variety of bird, to the tiny *Hermit*, *Trochilus rufigaster*, whose body is not half the size of the bees buzzing about the same sweets.

SUGGESTION OF AN IRISH NATIONAL ANTHEM, BY THE LATE REV. SYDNEY SMITH.

What trash to be bawling in the streets about the Green Isle, the Isle of the Ocean! the bold anthem *Erin go bragh!* A far better anthem would be *Erin go bread and cheese, Erin go cabins* that will keep out the rain, *Erin go pantaloons* without holes in them!

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