

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1908.

Quinn and Humorous Accidents

By Samuel W. Hippler



The Dog who Saved the Soldiers Life

The most peculiar accident that ever came to my notice happened to a commercial traveler in Massachusetts. He had been out late, and in returning to his hotel, wandered beyond the town limits, and before he realized it was growing through stubble fields in inky darkness. Of a sudden he plunged over a bank, and just managed to throw his body around sufficiently to catch the edge of the earth with his fingers. For hours it seemed hanging there. At last he could endure it no longer and let go. He dashed down—down about six inches and then stopped. He had been hanging all the time with his feet almost touching the ground. In the morning they pulled him out of an unfinished well. He was crying like a baby, and his hair, that had been raven black the night before, was white as snow. In this, as in many other accidents, the funny and the tragic were closely blended. There was an old fellow, for instance, who crawled into an empty spirit hogshead to clean it and was overcome by the fumes. Because of his fondness for alcoholic stimulants his friends said that he died a happy death. And then there was the fat, jolly woman who laughed so heartily at a joke that she broke her stays. A piece of steel pierced her side and caused death. A broken trolley wire in Buffalo fell into a load of hay, and in less time than it takes to tell there was a merry blaze right in the centre of a business street.

The conflagration called out the members of a nearby fire company and a large crowd. Several ice cutters were at work on frozen Lake Erie making an attempt to harvest a last crop before the spring breakup occurred when there was a loud bang and a sheet of ice a quarter of a mile square broke from its natural moorings and floated down Niagara River. Three men were carried on this strange vessel rapidly toward the falls, and were going to certain death when rescued by the crew of a steam launch that put out from the American shore. The little dog shown in the arms of the soldier in the accompanying picture was the mascot that went with an American regiment to the Philippines. He followed the company in an engagement one hot summer's day, and was picked up by one of the boys who was carrying him out of harm's way when a bullet shot him dead without touching the soldier. Had the soldier boy not been carrying the dog the bullet would have found a human mark. A tiny tombstone marks the dog's grave on the island of Luzon.

A cat accident that had a disastrous finale recently occurred in Ohio. A Buckeye State farmer was moving, when in some way he ran over the family cat, cutting off its hind legs. He started for the house to get his shotgun to put the poor beast out of its misery. In returning he stumbled and the gun went off, blowing the top of his head to pieces and

the brakes and bringing the train to a full stop. At another time, somewhere in Nebraska, an engine is said to have jumped the track and landed in a bed of quicksand. It disappeared from view entirely within three days and was never recovered. Both collars and neckties have been known to save human life. The collar comes in at this juncture. The necktie story has nothing to do with railroads, but presumably belongs here because collars and neckties go together. The man who was saved by the collar is Edward P. Connelly. He was run down by a Lehigh Valley locomotive and fell directly in front of the engine. In some way, not explained by the news stories, a projecting bolt on the cow-catcher caught in his collar and dragged

him 300 feet. This is a pretty good advertisement for the durability of the particular brand of collar, because if the linen had given way his death would have been certain. The man who owes his life to a necktie—a red necktie at that—is a Kentuckian. He is tall and stately with flowing gray locks and a benevolent expression. What is more to the point, he is the exact counterpart of the sole surviving member of a family of feudists. It seems that one day he was going down the street, all unconscious of trouble, with a shirt-sleeved, lurching in the upper window of a saloon and lying in wait for his prototype, had him carefully covered with a mountain's long rifle and was only waiting to make his aim more certain before pulling the trigger. His finger had already begun to press upon it, when one of the conspirators

whispered: "For God's sake, don't shoot; our man never wears a red necktie." Of course the Kentuckian was later told of his miraculous escape, and in talking it over afterward he said: "The most peculiar part of it all is that I had never worn a red necktie in my life before. I seldom wear any at all around the house, but this day I had arisen early to catch the morning train for town and dressed in the dark. In my hurry and the gloom I never noticed that I had on one of my son's red neckties until after all the excitement was over, and so I feel that I owe my life to an accident."

It is related that a Pennsylvania eleriff once fell down the gallows steps while hanging a murderer and broke two ribs, and a Cincinnati paper recently printed a story about an automobilist who, while fixing his electric auto, made a short circuit with his gold ring, and had a finger nearly burned off. In this connection it might perhaps be well to call attention to the fact that Harry Hamlin, the son of the most famous horsebreeder that America has ever produced, was killed in an automobile accident. The wheel came off a grain wagon on the streets of Chicago one day and several hundred bushels were hurled on top of the driver, who was completely buried. He was almost dead when rescued. That is almost as bad as the story of the sprinkling cart driver who fell into his own water wagon and was nearly drowned. It was a Philadelphia man who thought that it was rabbits instead of lobsters which should be cooked alive. He tried it. Bunny in its struggles upset the pail of boiling water, and he was laid up with scalds on his hands and feet for weeks. This story is almost as hard to believe as that of the man who tried to have his wife press his pants without taking them off. It is claimed that wife laid on the damp cloth and applied the iron. Hubby was in the hospital for some time. The other day a brick fell from a chimney on a quiet street in an Eastern city. The street was nearly a mile long, and by actual observation there was only one person on its entire length—a lad of about 10 years. And yet that brick, falling straight as a die, landed squarely on the top of his head and killed him. It was fate.

FENIANS ONCE PLANNED CAPTURE OF WINNIPEG

A Hitherto Unpublished Revelation of a Plot Hatched in Buffalo in 1868.

Buffalo, June 11.—The Courier says: Former Police Justice Thos. S. King, of this city is firm in the belief that had the Fenian leaders, after the failure of their descent upon Canada from Black Rock in 1868, acted upon the plan proposed to them two years later by the late William Wilkerson, at one time a prominent citizen of Buffalo, the Atlantic Ocean would have been the last barrier to the Fenian invasion of Manitoba, the whole Northwest territory and perhaps all of the Dominion from the Atlantic Ocean westward. Instead of accepting his advice, they made another invasion, this time from St. Albans, Vermont, and scored another ignominious failure. "But for the stubbornness of General John O'Neill, the Fenian leader, and the majority of his associates in the Fenian senate," declared Justice King the other day, "Manitoba would almost, beyond the possibility of a doubt, have become the realization of that Utopian dream, an Irish republic."

Justice King is probably the only man now living who knows the true inwardness of the Wilkerson plan, which provided for an invasion of Manitoba by Fenians concentrated in St. Paul and the co-operation of Louis Riel, the famous French-Canadian revolutionist, who was afterward executed for alleged treason. The story of the Wilkerson proposition as developed by Justice King is an interesting one. "Two a scheme which beats O'Neill's pet idea all hollow, and is sure to win," said Wilkerson to King, in 1868, "was then Associated Press correspondent in Buffalo. 'It is to assemble all the Fenians we can at St. Paul and from there march on to Winnipeg and take that place, and the capture of the rest of Manitoba will be easy. But before the Fenians are concentrated at St. Paul, I want you to go to Louis Riel, the revolutionist, who is itching for trouble, and give him \$10,000, which I will hand him. Have Riel promise his direct co-operation in the taking of Winnipeg, and when that is done to issue bonds in the name of the new Irish republic, as well as his own. Send the bonds to me and I will dispose of them to the end that the new republic will be well financed, so that it will have no difficulty in finding the necessary arms and munitions with which to defend itself."

"Wilkerson told me that he had selected me because of his friendship for me and the knowledge that I had gained through my life in California, on the plains, and with the Indians—a knowledge of human nature which ought to stand in good stead in dealing with a man of the type of Riel. I was alone."

"Saturated with the impression that everything interested in the success of the Fenian movement must look upon his project with eyes the same as his own, Wilkerson proceeded to the room where the Fenian senate was in session. He tapped lightly, Frank Gallagher answering the call. When the door was opened, O'Neill was seen at the head of the council table. Wilkerson took hold of Gallagher and pulled him out into the hall and into the corner where I stood. Then

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WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT ROOSEVELT'S SUCCESSOR

Character Sketch of Presidential Candidate Who Appears to Lead in Race for White House—Has Had Long Diplomatic Experience All Over World.

That William Howard Taft will be the next President of the United States is probably, indeed, his chances for filling that office compare with the chances of any other person who can be named as three to one. Therefore, his personality of general interest, and facts concerning his career have some claim to being considered of historical importance. At the moment, a host of scepticisms on the Republican side of politics are being advanced as to the probability of his being elected. It is necessary, for a just understanding of the man, to largely discount what is said about him from now until next November. He is not the colossal figure, the Republicans are busily carving, but he is the more figured character of the present.

One thing is pretty clear, and that is that William H. Taft is a man of disquieting and, in all the world, there is no man of prominence long before he was born; his father was President Grant's secretary, and later his attorney-general. He was minister to Austria, and as late as 1885 was American ambassador to Japan. It is probable that the only other American instance of cabinet members appearing in two successive generations is that of President Garfield, whose son is now a prominent figure in the Roosevelt administration. William Taft's father, Almon, was a man of disquieting and, in all the world, there is no man of prominence long before he was born; his father was President Grant's secretary, and later his attorney-general. He was minister to Austria, and as late as 1885 was American ambassador to Japan. It is probable that the only other American instance of cabinet members appearing in two successive generations is that of President Garfield, whose son is now a prominent figure in the Roosevelt administration.

Not in the career of William Taft, therefore, must we look for the background of log-cabin that seems so necessary to a Presidential position. William Taft did not have to split rails and teach school in order that he might buy his way to the White House. This is a disadvantage to a candidate, but at this point the father's career is dragged into the biography, and we learn that he was the son of poor but honest Yankee farmers, and had to work hard for his schooling. But by the time William was old enough to take any educational polish, the Tafts were in affluent circumstances and he was sent to Yale.

By the time he graduated his elder brother, Charles Phelps Taft, was the proprietor of the Cincinnati Times. By-the-way, this brother (or half-brother, for Almon Taft married twice) is a millionaire, and is understood to be ready to spend a million or so to help on little William's campaign. For the Cincinnati Times the young graduate went to work as law reporter, but presently he was offered a raise in salary by Murat Halstead, a noted American journalist, who was editor of another Cincinnati paper and so he left his brother and worked for Halstead for a year.

At the end of that time young Taft struck into politics, and was elected assistant prosecuting attorney. Next year—in 1892—he was made United States marshal for the district of Columbia, and held the post for a year and a half, and then resigned. He held no office for two whole years, but at that time he was a case assistant county solicitor. After two years he resigned and was appointed judge of the superior court. For three years he remained on the bench, but resigned in 1899 to be solicitor-general of the United States. He again resigned to become a judge of the United States court, for the remarkable period of eight years Judge Taft resigned himself to this position, only resigning to become president of the Philippine commission. On July 4, 1901, he was appointed the first secretary of the Philippine commission, a cabinet position, which he

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MORAL REFORM CANDIDATE NOMINATED IN KINGS, N. S.

Waterville, Kings Co., N. S., June 12. (Special.)—A large delegation of the leading Liberals and Conservatives of Kings county met here today and selected Councilor John Donaldson as Union Reform candidate to contest this county in the coming federal elections. Several names were presented, but Mr. Donaldson receiving the highest number of votes, his nomination was made unanimous. Preparations were made for a thorough organization of the county, and an active campaign in the interest of moral reform will begin.

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