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# ne Evening Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 16, 1888.

All Letters for publication, and Letters containing any communications should be addressed to W. J. HERDER, Proprietor and Publisher, Gregory's Lane. St. John's, Newfoundland, or to A. A. PARSONS.

First Execution for Desertion From the Army in Indianapolis in 1863.

An Indiana paper to-day tells the story of the first execution for desertion from the Union army during the war which took place in this city. The place of execution was Camp Burnside, just south of Camp Morton, now and previously the State fair-grounds, but at that time one of the chief prison camps of the North. Camp Burnside was one of the best arranged and built camps in the State. It was a neat little town of white shanties, kept sedulously clean by the Seventy-first Regiment (Sixth Cavalry), Col. James Biddle commander, who built it and made it quite a favorite resort of the citizens who liked to see dress-parade and military display. Subsequently it was occupied by the Veteran Reserve Corps, and was under charge of Gen. Hovey at the time the Sons of Liberty were held at peril of their necks. The site was as level as a floor. Here the military executions of this State during the war occurred-the first, of a deserter and spy in 1863; the second, of three "bounty-jumpers' in 1864.

The first was the only one that elicited much sympathy, and that was partly the effect of the offender's intelligence, of his persistent denial of a guilty purpose, and of the general lack of appreciation of the heinousness of the offense. Encouragement of desertion and protection of deserters were openly practiced by a very large portion of the Copperheads, and so effective in reducing Indiana's contingent in the army that more that 2,000 desertions occurred in the single month of December, 1862. Detachments of troops sent to arrest deserters were repeatedly fired upon and foiled by companies of Democratic neighbors. It took a long time to efface the notion that a soldier's engagement with the Government was greatly different from his contract with an ordinary employer, and that he could break it when he pleased by giving up his claim to wages.

The offender in this case was Robert Gay, enlisted from the southwestern part of the State. He had been a school-teacher, and was certainly a man of good intelligence and more than average acquirements. He was arrested at or near his residence and tried by a courtmartial here as a deserter and spy. Incriminating papers, it was said, were sewed in his pantaloons. He denied all guilty intent, but the evidence was strong, and the troops were getting thoroughly imbued with the feeling of true soldiers against desertlon, and he was found guilty and sentenced to be shot. The execution took place early in the afternoon and was attended by a large crowd of people. The Seventy-first Regiment, to which the unpleasant duty was intrusted, formed a square, with the open side to the east open. The spectators were gathered all about the troops two or three deep. Reporters, with a few particular friends of the commandant, were admitted inside the square.

The lines had been formed but a few minutes when a close carriage drove into the open end of the square and two or three men-one or two ministers of city churches-and the desertergot out and walked slowly to near the centre of the open space. The coffin, a rough black box, was brought in at the same time and put down a little in the rear of the central group. Here the attendants drew off to one side and left Gay while his arms were being bound. There was no trepidation in his look or tone. He was dressed in the blue blouse and pantaloons of the army, and but for the coffin and his tied hands might have been taken for a military preacher addressing his comrades. The commandant asked him if he had anything to say. He spoke for probably three minutes, clearly, coherently, and in good language. Two of his remarks must have impressed all who heard him. "I say in the presence of that God before whom I am so soon to appear that I never intended the offense for which I am so soon to suffer." His last words were addressed to the firing party, which had moved out in front of him, some twenty or thirty feet away, when his arms were tied. "I have only one favor to ask of you, my comrades: Fire tion.

stright. Don't let me suffer. Hold here!" laying his right hand on his heart. He moved back a step, his eyes were blindfolded, and sat down on his coffin. At a motion of the officer the firing party cocked their rifles, and Gay heard the sound. "O, that I could see my death!" came low but audibly to all near him. The sound had hardly died on his lips when the fall of the officer's white handkerchief was followed instantly by the roar of the guns as one report. Gay, for a moment, seemed to straighten up a little, and then fell over on his back. Surgeon Spottswood and the sergeant of the firing party, with the reporters, went up to the corpse, the sergeant carrying a carbine to give a final shot if it should be needed to end the man's suffering. But he was dead. Two or three motions of the breast were all that was seen. Not a drop of blood was visible, but the cloth of the blouse showed that all the bullets had struck the breast over the heart in a space hardly larger than one's hand, except one in the collar bone. There were ten in the firing party, and one of the rifles had no ball. The party took them as chance offered, and no one ever knew whether he had the innocent gun or not. When the corpse was lifted up it uncovered a great pool of blood that had poured through the gaping shots in the back.

### OLD GOLDEN" IS CONE.

Slaughter of a Monster Deer Known to all Hunters in Northern Michigan.

CADILLAC, Mich., Dec. 18 .- " Old Golden, the famous buck killed by a party of hunters near Grayling last week, was as well known to hunters and settlers of the region where he ranged as a noted trotting horse to devotees of the track. Formerly he ranged through the northern portion of Kalkaska County. Driven out from time to time by persistent hounding, he always returned to his old haunts when hostilities ceased, until within the last two or three years he took up his quarters in the locality where he was slaughtered. Almost incredible stories were told six years ago at Kalkaska regarding his wonderful size, endurance and speed. He seemed to take delight in leading a pack of hounds a chase in which they were always worsted, for never did a hound "give tongue" on his trail that was swift enough or that had bottom enough to jade him, let alone pulling him down. Scores of Nimrods have gone out well prepared and fully determined to down old golden, but came back unsuccessful after two or more days' chase. A number of hunters have "camped on his trail," worn out and chopfallen, their only consolation being an occasional glimpse of his magnificent form as he bounded away out of reach of the deadly rifle. He had been shot at many times without any apparent effect.

With his keen senses ever on the alert, and with an intelligence almost human, the wily animal kept out of reach of the longest range rifles for years. It seems like sacrilege that this old monarch should have his head laid low at last by his life-long enemy, man, whom he had so long intelligently baffled. Perhaps old age had blunted his keen senses and stiffened his once fleet limbs. Though simply a wild deer of the forest, Old Golden will continue to be the theme of admiring story for years to come in the region where he once roamed.

### WOMEN WHO BELIEVE IN DREAMS

Band of Fanatics in Texas, Called Sanctificationists, Make Trouble.

Belton, Tex., Dec. 18.—Martha McWhirter is the head of a remarkable sect called Sanctificationists, whose beliefs have recently become known. About twelve years ago Martha became "sanctified," and during that time has succeeded in winning over many proselytes. Money and property are shared in common by this band. They regard it a sin to be joined to a husband who does not agree with their belief, and for this reason a number of women have abandored their homes. Mrs. McWhirter has full control, and all the work is done under her management. Some time ago a sensation was caused here when they sat up a laundry in the parlors of one of our leading men, whose wife forsook him to become sanctified." The band, mostly women, are accustomed to meet at private houses, where they relate to each other revelations and dreams supposed to come direct from God. They then decide what is meant by these so-called revelations, and follow them out in domestic and business relations. Mrs. Mc-Whirter's dreams are especially heeded, and what she may order is obeyed without ques-

On Sale by Clift, Wood & Co.'y, **Boston KEROSENE Oil.** 

## Freight from Boston.

Brigantine 'PLYMOUTH. Now due at Boston, will load there for St. John's, about latter part of this month.

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APPLES, consisting of Spys, Seeks, Emperors, Baldwins, Russetts, &c. 50 cases Silverpeel Onions, Turkeys, Geese, and Ducks. Ex s.s. "Peruvian."

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### Christmas Numbers & Annuals

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FOR SALE, 1 Dining Room Suite, 1 Bed Room Suite.

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