A GHOST'S RAT-TAT-TAT.

HE BEATS IT LUSTILY IN A BOARDING HOUSE.

The Shade of a Departed Drummer-Boy Who Murdered His Sweetheart Makes It Very Lively for a Washington Landlady and Her Badly-Startled Boarders.

[Washington Cor. Cincinnati Commercial.]

At about daybreak yesterday morning some spooks began to make serious and directly overt demonstrations in a well-known Washington boarding-house. The house is a semi-hotel called the Canandaigua, 809 E-street, Northwest, in a respectable location. Mrs. A. P. Kretchmar is the proprietress of the house. The first demonstration of a peculiar nature occurred about 5 o'clock yesterday, when Miss Minnie Vernon, who was passing through the dining-room, was greatly startled by having a roll of oilcloth drop on her head, apparently from the ceiling. She cried out, and Mrs. Kretchmar and her servants appeared and recognized the oilcloth as a piece which had previously disappeared several weeks before. There was no opening in the ceiling or wall where the oilcloth could have been secreted, and its sudden appearance was at once pronounced the work of spirit hands.

Later in the morning Mrs. Kretchmar had occasion to go into the kitchen for some eggs she had left there the night before. She found over half the eggs missing, only seven being left. After scolding the servants about the loss of the eggs she took the seven and carried them into the dining-room with the remark, "I will lock these up, anyway." The dining-room was deserted at the time, and there was no nook or corner where a human being could conceal himself. She felt for the closet keys and remembered she had left them in the front room. While quickly proceeding toward the intervening doorway there was a "smash" on her back, as an egg struck her between the shoulders, scattering the contents over her garments.

She turned quickly and retraced her steps to the table where she had left the seven eggs. Only six remained and the room was vacant. Again Mrs. Kretchmar started, when slash went again another egg, but this time against the wall. Nor did the ghostly thrower desist until the remaining five eggs had been disposed of in a similar manner.

Upon going to the front room, finally, a strange sight greeted the lady's eyes.

In the centre of the floor, standing on a piece of newspaper, was what appeared to be a bag standing upright with another piece of paper on its crest. Upon examination it was found not to be a bag at all, but a large piece of cloth tied in a peculiar manner at the top and containing about a peck of apples. Mrs. Kretchmar keeps her apples at the bottom of a large chest, and upon examining this discovered that about one peck was missing. She left them there and called in some of her guests to witness this uncanny work.

Shortly after she had replaced the apples in the chest and while she was in another part of the house she was again struck, but this time by an apple.

Further along in the day Mrs. Kretchmar had occasion to look for a pound cake which had been presented to her. She had put it away under lock and key. To her surprise she found the cake missing and an unavailing search was made for it. Later in the forenoon, while the chambermaid was arranging the beds, she discovered the missing cake between the sheets of a bed on the third floor, where it had appeared while the door was securely locked. She returned it to the proprietress, who placed it in a place of concealment, but in less than an hour it was gone again, and has not as yet materialized.

Another mysterious happening occurred in the chamber of Miss Minnie Vernon. She had been called to breakfast, but concluded to turn over and take an early morning nap, and while in a doze she received a rather violent thump on the forehead, which quickly brought her to her feet.

The room was devoid of human presence and the door locked, and Miss Vernon quickly dressed and went to the dining-room to relate her experience and to hear that of Mrs. Kretchmar and a lady guest, who had also been awakened from their slumbers by a ghostly slap. These are a few of the uncanny happenings which occurred within the walls of the Canandaigua House yesterday and for some time past.

Mrs. Kretchmar informed the reporter this afternoon that several weeks ago she had received a weird message from spiritland through a medium who resides in her house informing her that a conflagration would soon occur on her premises. She says she heeded the warning, and at once had her furniture insured. Three days later flames burst forth on the top floor of the Canandaigua House, where she had a large quantity of furniture stored, and before they were extinguished by the fire department much of her furniture had been destroyed. But she had heeded the message from spiritland, and her loss was consequently inconsiderable.

On one occasion a guest at the table was greatly surprised to find upon only turning her head that a piece of raw beefsteak had been placed under her plate. As the proprietress had had no beefsteak in the house that day the mystery was more mysterious. Another day a large dinner bell was taken to the top of the house by a mysterious agency, and that evening it rang loudly. Upon going to the floor where the bell had been taken it was found to be deserted.

Thomas Johnson, the colored waiter at the Canandaigua, says he has frequently heard weird voices through the house, and has heard other things which has converted him to spiritualism. He was formerly a good, old-time North Carolina Methodist.

"How do you account for these ghostly occurrences?" was asked Mrs. Kretchmar.

"It is all the work of Jim, the medium tells me," and then she explained who Jim was.

"Jim Stump was a drummer boy in the Continental army. He was a native of Alexandria, Va., and followed the varying fortunes of General Washington's army at the head of a Virginia regiment. Upon the cessation of hostilities he returned to his native state and became enamored of one of the fairest daughters of the Old Dominion.

"She spurned his offer and in a fit of jealousy he murdered her. For this he was hanged, and the mediums say he has ever since been haunting the earth. Lately he has selected Mrs. Kretchmar as his particular friend. She addresses him familiarly as 'Jim,' and he plays many harmless pranks in her house."

The medium at the Canandaigua House has a drum, and it is said that often in the still hours of the night Drummer Jim can be heard faintly beating the old Continental tatoo or reveille.

The statements made above are vouched for by the guests and servants in Mrs. Kretchmar's house, and the manifestations are already attracting much attention, and especially among Spiritualists.

California or Mexico.

The Wabash Railway have now on sale round trip tickets at very low rates to southern points, including Old Mexico and California. The only line that can take tourists via Detroit through St. Louis and Kansas City and return then via Chicago and (vice versa) finest equipped trains on earth, passing through six states of the Union. Spend a winter in Mexico, the land of the Aztecs and Toltecs, finest climate and scenery in the world and older than Egypt. Time tables and all information about side trip at new ticket office, northeast corner King and Yonge-streets. J. A. Richardson, Canadian Passenger Agent, Toronto. ed

A UNIQUE COLLECTION.

Seals and Seal-Proofs Which Rival British Museum Curios.

[Baltimore World.]

To those interested in Government and other seals, the collection of seal-proofs in the possession of Edward Stabler of Baltimore will be found quite an interesting study, for it is undoubtedly the largest in the world. These proofs were left to the possessor by his father, the late Edward Stabler, sr., of Sandy Springs, Montgomery County.

At the age of 38 years the elder Stabler was compelled, by reason of failing health, to move from Baltimore to his birthplace in Montgomery County, and there, in addition to carrying on farming on a scientific basis, he began the work, self-taught, of seal engraving and "die sinking." He soon developed great talent for the work and in a short time orders for seals and dies, with presses for the same, were being received from all parts of the United States.

The presses for these seals were made by Mr. Stabler in the shop at his own home. In addition to meeting success in this industry, he was the recipient of a number of prizes for essays on agriculture. So expert did he become in the seal and press manufacture that he was engaged by the Government to make those used in various offices and departments at Washington, and in 1831 began for Uncle Sam by making the seal of the House of Representatives. The designer of this seal is unknown, but the present device consists of a circular seal, upon the face of which stands a cut of the old National Capitol, and it was to this, as well as to all the others, that the caster added the improvement—his own invention—of a counter seal.

Among the proofs in the son's possession are many impressions which were made without the counter seal, and the difference in clearness of outline and general distinctness of the impressions is very marked. The counter seal invented by him was made by filling in the base of the press with some soft metal, which would receive the impression of the seal proper.

With other noticeable specimens of his work that made for the Department of the Interior in 1890, which, by the way, was the original, is particularly distinct and well executed. It consists of the "spread eagle," such as is seen on the backs of silver quarters of to-day, and just within the margin are the words: "Department of the Interior." It is made of steel. The post-office seal dates back to early times and depicts a mail-carrier on horseback with the pouches strapped behind the saddle. This was Benjamin Franklin's old wood cut, and in 1849 Mr. Stabler made the seal now in use, which is but slightly different.

The seals of the War and Navy Departments are almost identically alike, and consist of a lot of military trophies, surmounted by a Phrygian cap with coiled serpent, the whole being flanked by a musket and spear. These are also of steel and bear the inscription, "Board of War and Ordnance."

In addition to the seals of the Government Edward Stabler, sr., made many for different railroad companies and corporations. The steel dies for making the gold, silver and bronze medals, which were distributed at the annual mechanics' fairs, formerly held at the Maryland Institute, were also devised by him. The seal of the Smithsonian Institute was made in '49 of cast-steel, and consists of the profile of James Smithson, the founder.

That of the Peabody Institute of this city comprises a profile of George Peabody. This was made of bell metal, and was finished about '54 or '55. In fact, so great did the popularity of Mr. Stabler, for this class of work, become, that from various states, counties, courts, banks and private corporations came orders for seals, which continued until 1863, when he retired from business. Having kept copies of the various impressions, the collection of samples of his handiwork was then well up in the hundreds. But the son kept picking up odd specimens here and there, until now the curios number 600, and outside of the British museum, it is said, this local exhibit is far ahead of any other known.

MINERS' FRIENDS.

Wasps That Drive Away a Miserable Pestilence.

[From The Golden Days.]

The miners of Colorado, who have built cabins on the mountain sides, know what a pest the small brown wood spider proves to be. They throw their webs over your best clothes, cooking utensils and in every corner, where you can get them in your eyes and mouth. Not only that, but they will drop into the fryingpan, water bucket or upon the table where you are eating. But Nature furnished a remedy and a friend when she gave the spider hawk. The name is given by miners to a small, steel-blue wasp, almost three-fourths of an inch in length. He can easily be recognized by the quick, nervous strokes of his wings. They build a nest up among the rafters of your cabin, of wood pulp or furze from the outer coating of old dead trees.

Then they are ready for business. Every few minutes you can see your hawk climb up the rafters with a spider, sometimes carrying one four or five times its own weight. Sometimes they get a spider so heavy that they will fall many times before they succeed in reaching their nest. They never give up, but keep on trying until they succeed. When the spider is safely placed in the nest the female hawk deposits her eggs in the dead body. The hawks live only in pairs, as far as observation goes. They become rather tame, and seem to be obliged to you for building the spider trap for their benefit.

Don't Hesitate.

You know the old saying, "he who hesitates is lost." It certainly applies with great force, in some things.

When you know you are right, don't hesitate to say it; when you know what you want, don't hesitate to DEMAND IT.

When you go to buy a bottle of CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS, don't hesitate to say you want "C-A-R-T-E-R-'-S"—don't hesitate to see that you get "C-A-R-T-E-R-'-S, and don't hesitate to refuse anything offered to you as "same as" "C-A-R-T-E R-'-S," or "just as good" as "C-A-R-T-E-R-'-S." There is nothing so good as "C-A-R-T-E-R-'-S." THEY NEVER FAIL.

Don't hesitate to say so when imitations and frauds are offered to you.

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GENTLEMEN,—I have used Burdock Blood Bitters for biliousness and find it the best remedy for this complaint. I used several other remedies, but they all failed to do me any good. However, it required only two bottles of B.B.B. to cure me completely, and I can recommend it to all.

Yours truly,
WM. ROBINSON, Wallaceburg.

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A WATCH THAT TALKS.

It Is So Made That It Speaks the Hours Instead of Striking Them.

[Jewelers' Circular.]

It is said a watchmaker of Geneva, Switzerland, named Casimir Livau, has just completed a watch which, instead of striking the hours and quarters, announces them by speaking like a phonograph. The mechanism of the watch is based on phonographic conditions, the bottom of the case containing a phonographic sensitive plate which has received the impression of the human voice before being inserted in the watch.

The disk has 48 concentric grooves, of which 12 repeat the hours, 12 those of the hours and quarters, and 12 more those of the hours and second and third quarters. If the hand on the dial shows the time to be 12.15 o'clock one of the fine needle-points of the mechanism crosses the corresponding groove, and the disk, which turns simultaneously, calls out the time just as the phonographic cylinder. The lower lid of the case is provided with a tiny mouthpiece, and when the watch is held to the ear the sound is all the more plain.

The Williams Sewing Machine.

The Williams Sewing Machines have been before the public for many years and there never was a time when the popularity of these machines was as great as at the present, which plainly shows that this company has always made quality the leading feature of their goods. While they have been very zealous in keeping abreast of the times in the matter of improvements and finish, they have always kept the price in reach of everybody. The Williams Company consider this is a time when business should be done on the most economical plans, and prices made as low as possible, and while there is such a cry of business depression in the land the Williams Company will meet the public with an honest machine at a fair price. This course has proved a great success in the past and will be continued during 1893.

Under the present management the Williams' business in Toronto has increased most marvelously, and our sales of January of this year are 35 per cent. more than the same month in 1892, while our business for 1892 was in excess of 1891 by over 27 per cent., showing that by fair dealing with the public and honesty with our men we have risen to the first position in the sewing machine business in Toronto.

The New Williams is a Canadian production manufactured by Canadian capital and Canadian workmen. The people of Toronto are solicited to patronize a home company; by doing so you will help the prosperity of Canadian enterprise and also keep the profits among ourselves, instead of sending them to a foreign country. In other words, keep our factories running by purchasing home products. These machines can be seen at 58 King-street west, or at our various branch offices throughout the city.

Mr. Curry is Indignant.

Editor World: I have received notice that J. A. Mellwain will move at the meeting of this association next Monday night to have my name removed from the membership roll on the allegation that I am an office-holder in the Continental Union Organization of this city.

I challenge the right, not alone the expediency, of the Young Men's Liberal-Conservative Association of Toronto to offer any such resolution as the above. Sir John Thompson recently, in the House, stated the well-known doctrine that leaders of a political party cannot choose who will be their supporters; they announce their policy and let all who desire unite with them in adherence to that policy. I have always in the past had confidence in and voted for the policy of the Conservative party and still, under existing circumstances, have faith in the Conservative Administration.

I deny the authority of any political party to enquire beyond this. My views on moral, religious, social or economic questions are no bar to my political allegiance.

J. CURRY.

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