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West Side News, June 22, 1889

Wilbur Wright

Orville Wright

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Stolen Melons.

The saying that "honesty is the best policy" is sometimes unjustly condemned, because it seems to place the reason for right actions upon too low a plane. Nevertheless, it contains inexpressible truth. The way of the transgressor is inevitably hard. "I never committed a wrong without being punished for it," says a well known jurist of Arkansas. "When I was a boy, my father had one of the finest watermelon patches in the region. One day, when a particularly juicy crop was at the perfect ripeness, he called Black Bill and me to him.

"If one of my melons is stolen," said he, "I am going to measure the tracks that I find in the patch, and then measure feet, and the owner of the feet that correspond with the tracks shall get a whipping that he will never forget.

"The next day after this proclamation the melons began to disappear. If there is anything that can make a Southern boy forget honor, it is a watermelon. I looked and longed, but an awful vision of the switch rose up before me. At length an idea occurred to me. I put on Bill's enormous shoes, and by dint of stuffing them with grass, managed to walk to the melon-patch in them.

"I stole a fine specimen of the fruit, ate as much of it as I possibly could, and, after concealing the remains of the feast in a thicket, replaced Bill's tell-tale shoes.

"That afternoon, while Bill and I were playing together, my father approached us, carrying a small stick. His face wore an unusual stern expression.

"I don't think that much measuring is needed on this occasion," said he, glancing at the stick. "Bill, where are your shoes?"

"In the cabin, sir."

"Bring them here."

"He brought the shoes. The old gentleman applied the measure, and said, 'Fresh dirt on them, I see.'

"Bill's face became ashy. 'Doan know how it come on dar, mas'ter. Ain't wore 'em since Saturday.'"

"No more questions were asked, but the switch was brought into active service, and Bill began to dance. Conscience-stricken as I was, I could not help chuckling over the performance; but although Bill looked at me reproachfully, he did not accuse me of delivering him over to vengeance.

"The next day he and I were again in the yard, when my father entered the gate, carrying another suggestive switch.

"'John,' said he, as he approached, 'where are your shoes?'

"'In the house, sir."

"'Bring them here.'

"'I brought your shoes. There was fresh soil on them! My father knew of the switch rose up."

"'John,' said he, as he approached the boy, 'how did you use my shoes?'

"'How did yer war mine?'

"'Put grass in 'em.'"

"'Wall, I tuck 'er par' er short sticks, an' put yer shoes on de ends o' um. Rocken we's about even now.'--Sel.

Stingy.

The genuine miser usually devotes more energy to keeping his money than would suffice to make several fortunes. It can not be that the expenditure of force is balanced by the personal satisfaction derived from success. Many stories are in circulation illustrating the stinginess of a certain farmer.

He one day went into a store to buy six feet of rope, and the dealer, knowing his peculiar love of money, told him that he might have it for ten cents.

"I'll give you five."

"I can't sell for that. Why, man, you've got plenty of money, and ought not to grumble!"

"Yes, but times are powerful hard. Can't stand that price."

He went away, and after remaining about two hours, came back to ask, 'That rope fell any?'

"Good by."

The next day he entered the store and said, 'I hear rope has fallen all over the country.'

"That so?"

"Yess, hear that over at Cotton-town ye can get ten feet for a nickel."

"Why don't you go over there?"

"Don't want to wear out my shoes. Say, has it fallen any here?"

"Not a bit."

"Wall, good-by."

Two days later he came back.

"Say," he said, "ain't you got any old rope you can sell cheap?"

"No, old rope."

"Now rope ain't fell say?"

The dealer worn out by the seige, offered him the required quantity for five cents. The old man carefully measured it, and said, with a disappointed air, "It's three inches short. Can't you knock off something?"

"No; give me four cents."

"Say three."

"Well, three."

The purchaser laid out three somewhat dirty postage stamps upon the counter, and hurried away, to leave the shopman no time for repentance.

Had to Stand.

On one of his visits to New Haven to deliver the Yale lectures, Mr. Beecher went into a barber shop near the chapel, to be shaved. The barber, seeing that he was a minister, but not recognizing him as the great Brooklyn preacher, said, "Goin' to the lecture?"

"Who speaks?" asked Beecher, in Yankee fashion.

"Why, Henry Ward Beecher."

"Yes, I think I will go."

"Have you got a ticket?"

The barber went on, "If not, you'll have to stand."

"There I tell!" said Mr. Beecher, "it seems as if I always did have to stand when I hear that man speak."

His Last Words.

A negro orator thus concludes an account of the death of a colored brother:

"De las' word he was heard to say, de las' word he was heard to speak, de las' word he eber pronounced, de las' syllable he eber spoke, de las idea he eber ejaculated—yes, my brother, de las' word he eber known to breave forth, sound or articulate, was 'Glory.'"
WEST SIDE NEWS.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

Wilbur Wright . . . . . . Editor
Orrille Wright . . . . . . Publisher

THIRD QUARTER, OF YEAR, TWENTY CENT WOO, FIVE CENTS.

229 WEST THIRD STREET.

DAYTON, OHIO.

"The Joker jolted" would be a good heading for an account of the excitement in regard to a change in the management of the U. B. Publishing House. The men who started the story soon found that the joke was on themselves. About half the people accepted the story in good faith, thus causing the jokers considerable embarrassment.

Improvement Association.

The West Side Improvement Association held a called meeting in the Republican Club Room last Tuesday evening, to take action on the reports of the committees appointed, at the last meeting, to consider the proper location of the new school house, and to look up the best route for laying out Home Avenue from Williams to Mound streets.

Before proceeding to the consideration of their reports, a number of new members were received into the Association, on payment of the usual fees.

The committee on location of the new school house reported that the majority of the school board were strongly in favor of erecting the new building on the old grounds, thus rendering it possible to heat both buildings by steam. They thought that it would be useless to make any attempt to have the location changed.

The committee on Home Avenue made a report recommending that the street be made to run from Exami Avenue at Williams street to Home Avenue at Mound street. It seems that, owing to bad management, the street was so laid out that if it were continued straight east, it would not connect with the same street at Mound.

Four propositions for laying out the street have been suggested and petitioned for. The first is to continue the street east along the third alley south of Williams street. This would connect all right at Williams, but would come out at Mound south of the stockyards, nearly a square south of Home Avenue as already laid out. The second proposes to follow the second alley south of Fifth street. This route will not connect by about three hundred feet at either end. The third proposes the first alley south of Fifth. This would make the connection at Mound street all right, but at Williams street it would miss by about three hundred feet. The fourth route is straight across lots, making a direct connection at both ends. The principal objection to it is its greater cost, and the fact that it cuts up lots to some extent. However, this seemed of less importance to the committee than the advantage of having an unbroken street from the Fifth street bridge to Soldiers Home.

A number of the property owners interested in the matter were present and took part in the discussion on the report of the committee. Colonel Puterbaugh, E. M. Brown, Mr. Waffle, and Mr. Shiply had all signed petitions for other routes but after thinking the matter over carefully they gave the street its preference.

The estimated cost of this route is about fifteen thousand dollars. This is, however, too a rough guess; it may fall below, or it may run much above this amount.

After discussing the question carefully the Association unanimously endorsed the street cut and appointed Mr. Color to inform our councilmen of their action.

LOCAL NEWS.

J. Allen Gilbert has returned from Westerville.

School is out. No more whipplings this year.

Bishop Hott is writing a series of articles on the Pacific Slope for the Telescope.

J. W. Booth has changed his residence to Mound Street.

Mr. Puterbaugh is putting up a large frame building at the south east of Williams street.

A nice store room and residence is going up on the corner of Home Avenue and Broadway.

Miss Edna R. Hott, of the Lebanon Valley College, has returned to her home in this city.

A number of West Side people will go up to Lewisburg next week to attend the Lewisburg camping meeting.

This is good weather for the boys who cut grass. The sun and rain makes the grass grow like a pumpkin vine.

Mr. George Hoffman is building a residence on Home Avenue for Summit. When it is finished he expects to move in from the country and occupy it.

Mr. A. J. Cromer and his daughter Nellie and Mrs. of Winchester, Indiana, and Miss Maggie Lambert of Union City are visiting at Mr. T. C. Warren's on West Second street.

J. A. Gilbert, A. B. will start next Monday on a bicycling tour through the south western part of the country. He will visit Ger­ many, and a number of other towns in the Missouri Valley.

The barn of Mr. J. R. Halder on Harbart Lane was struck by lightning last Sunday afternoon. A few shingles were knocked off and one or two boards along the side were loosened, but nothing caught fire, so the loss was very small.

Mr. J. W. Booth is about to tear down the building on Third street, in which he has been residing, and erect in its stead a nice business block. On the first floor will be two large store rooms sixty feet deep, for the accommodation of parties wishing to open stores on the West Side. Upstairs will there be one large office room, and a nice set of rooms for domestic purposes.

Mr. R. A. Rollins has recently taken up his residence with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Boyd on the corner of Third and Broadway. It is reported that his father's health is beginning to assume a more youthful appearance already.

Pres. I. L. Kephart, who was elected editor of the Religious Telescope by the Liberal branch of the United Brethren General Conference, has arrived in this city.

Miss Winnie Billehimer, of Xen­ ia, spent Sunday in this city, the guest of the Misses Stokes of South Williams street. She expects to leave Monday for Birm­ ingham, Alabama, where she will spend the summer at the home of her parents.

Winder's delivery wagon suffered a slight catastrophe last Saturday. The little Texas pony attached to it did not like the appearance of things down on HPrince street, so it whirled around and upset the wagon, breaking one wheel and tearing out the side of the covered top. Mr. Will Spier the driver had his ankles severely sprained, but was otherwise uninjured.

Mr. Hall and daughter, Miss Jane and Mrs. Jennie Timmerman of Springfield, Ohio, have been spending the week with Mrs. Murphy of South Hawthorne street.

Mr. S. L. Harr bought a section of the sheds on the old pottery grounds and is tearing it down. He intends re-erecting it in the country on his farm.

Mrs. Peight of Hawthorne street accompanied by two of her sisters went up to Marengo, Friday, on a visit to her sisters.

Mr. William Wagner who was hurt by falling from the loft of his barn last week is beginning to get up again. Fortunately no bones were broken by the fall.

The Dunker church which is being built on College street belongs to the Conservative Brethren church, instead of the Progressive, as stated by us a few weeks ago.

There is no better place to buy Coats' furnishing goods in the city than at Bates & Rose's. They have the largest stock and at the lowest prices.

Quite a number of prominent Old Brethren have been here this week attending committee and board meetings. Among those present were Bishop Floyd, and Pres. Kiracide, the new treasurer of the Missionary Society.

A jam similar to the Johnstown jam occurred at the gutter crossing at the corner of Third and Williams streets during the recent rains. The wreckage from Dr. Walters' new building collected at the covered crossing under Will­ iams street and flooded the side walks. A band of workmen have been at work several days cleaning out the gutter under the covering.

Mr. Ed. I. Gilbert of this city several young men of Arcanum went up to St. Mary's college this week on a "fishing" this week. They in­ voluntarily anchored their boat on a snag, according to the usual custom, and then were torn about by the strong current and driven over the falls.

The Wallingford excursion has been decided upon by the local society, and the society will now consider organizing a railroad trip.

Of course meetings and socials are in order at our various churches this fall, and the women have already voted on the various courses of action.

Mrs. R. A. Rollins, in company with her daughter, has been visiting at the homes of Mrs. Hoffman's daughters, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. McNaught.
The man is happy; he has subscribed for the News.

The friends of Dr. Landis may hereafter address him as Prof. J. P. Landis, D. D., Ph. D. The last of those honorary degrees was conferred upon him last week by Wooster University.

Spooks, ghosts, and babolliars, too—so-so. The poor man whose spirit has been haunting the pottery building has been found. A lot of boys entered the building one day, and with a spade began digging in various places, till at last they unearthed all that was left of the poor unfortunate. His shirt and boots alone remained to show where his body had been concealed by the hand of his murderer. The reporter for the News visited the spot and was shown the open grave, the shirt, the boots, and the mass of iron with which the bloody deed had been performed. The mouldering bones alone were wanting to complete the chain of evidence. The representative of the Midget, with true reportorial enterprise, seized the opportunity to obtain a scrap from both the shirt and the boot. The reporter for the News contended himself with the reflection that if he had been compelled to pass the night in close proximity to those articles, he would have made a more unearnest noise than the ghost was accus- ed of making.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Berlin correspondent of the Times says: The Americans have undoubtedly emerged from the Samoan conference with flying colors. Germany has to content herself with much less political predominance in Samoa than she claimed at Washington two years ago.

Mr. Gladstone met with an adventure Thursday. While passing through the town of Wadbridge, in Cornwall, a missile, which is believed to have been a live cartridge, was thrown at his carriage. Mr. Gladstone was not hit, nor was he much disturbed by the incident, but the police think that it was an attempt upon his life, and are looking for the guilty man.

A flood and cyclone in Kansas caused a disaster in Uniontown. This place, about fifteen miles west of Fort Scott, on the Wichita & Western railway, was swept away, and two women and four children were drowned. The part of Fort Scott known as Belfont is entirely under water. This was caused by the overflow from Mar- maton river. Several bridges were washed out, and trains were stopped on both sides of Fort Scott. The Kansas, Nebraska & Dakota track is under water for about nine miles. The Memphis road is also badly damaged.

A twelvemile windstorm passed through Tuesday, leaving a desolated scene. Twisted trees and unclothing and wrecking fences in its path. The big-covered bridge across the Elkhart's river was blown down and is a total wreck. Hundreds of fine apple trees and fruit trees were destroyed. Several miraculous escapes from death are reported.

I only regret that I did not subscribe for the News before.

Faulty Geography.

Foreigners sometimes betray an amusing ignorance of the geography of the United States. In the following incident not only the geography but the prohibitory law in Maine, which certainly works pretty well, were a little mixed. During a recent foreign tour, the Rev. Mr. Howard was in a car with a party of gentlemen, when a discussion arose as to the comparative number of drinking saloons in London and Edinburgh.

A ministerial looking gentleman said that he had just come from America; had been in Maine, where they had prohibition, and he thought he had never seen liquor dispensed more openly. One could get it anywhere and in as many varieties and qualities as in England. He thought that prohibition was a delusion.

"I asked him," said the speaker, "in what city in Maine, or in what town in Maine had he been entertained, and he said, 'In Boston.'"

The pronunciation of some fashionable anglophile clergymen is getting to be very much like that of the English clergyman who in reading the passage "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear," gives it, "He that hath yaws to yawn, let him yawn."

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