

THE EVENING GAZETTE.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE IN NORWALK AS A NEWSPAPER.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1896.

Honest vs. Fake Journalism.

The New York Herald was among other papers to publish the faked murder yarn, referred to in the GAZETTE of Monday as purporting to have occurred at Easton. The story was discredited by us at the time as it bore all the spurious earmarks of the professional Connecticut newspaper fakir. The Herald means to serve its patrons with honest news and so bold was the sensational yarn from Easton, that it set itself to work to discover if there was any grounds whatever, for the atrocious lie and with the following result, which it gives in its yesterday's edition:

ALLEGED MURDER DISPROVED.

[By Telegraph To The Herald.]

I have made every effort to verify a story sent to several New York newspapers, including the Herald, last night from this city regarding an alleged murder in a deserted house near Easton, but have been unable to do so.

It is possible that the story grew out of an orgy in a vacant house near Bridgeport, in which several tramps and a disreputable woman were concerned. The persons mentioned as having found a dying woman in a house near Easton are not known in that village, nor as any one there heard of the alleged crime.

The story referred to in the above despatch was sent to the Herald by its correspondent, L. W. Wilson, who has hitherto proved reliable. He is no longer connected with the Herald. The story was also sent to other New York newspapers and printed by them, as it was by the Herald. The result of a thorough investigation is given in the despatch received last night.

This morning's Herald supplements the above with the following editorial on the subject:

IMPOSITION ON NEWSPAPERS.

The unfounded story of a strange murder sent from Bridgeport, Conn., and printed in several papers of this city Monday morning suggests the need of a stern law for the punishment of every perpetrator of such impositions on the press and public.

However careful a journal may be in the selection of its correspondents and in the efforts to verify its telegraphic news, it cannot claim infallibility in this respect any more than a well managed bank or business house can boast absolute exemption from imposition by an unfaithful employee or a dishonest outsider. But while a bank which becomes the victim of forgery or a business house of fraudulent practices may reach the culprit by the arm of the criminal law, the only remedy in the hands of a newspaper when imposed upon by the author of a false report is promptly to dismiss the offender in its employ.

There is in this state a law for the punishment of any person who knowingly and wilfully sends to a paper for publication a false report which is libelous. This is not enough. There should be a law in every state to reach every culprit who deliberately sends false and mischievous reports to the press, whether they be libelous or not. The punishment of such offenders would be in the public interest as well as for the protection of reputable journals.

This should prove a warning to the youthful fakirs here in Norwalk who fill the New York Sunday and other papers with sensational creations made from whole cloth and frequently grossly libelous as to individuals. Such work is a disgrace to decent journals and journalism. The writers of them here in Norwalk are known and it is to be hoped the same fate of summary dismissal will await them unless they stop their abominable practices. Such correspondents are a curse and a disgrace to our town and to the New York papers publishing their lying, fake, contributions. Decent New York newspapers should put an end to the disreputable business as promptly as has the Herald.

Ex-Secretary Bristow.

The death of Benjamin H. Bristow recalls to the public mind one of the heroic figures of our political history of twenty years ago. Though he was but a short time prominent in public life, and on his retirement ceased entirely to take any active part in politics, he exerted, during his official career, an influence of so far-reaching a character that his brief service as Secretary of the Treasury may well be called eventful.

He was a sound lawyer and a bravely honest man, who had discharged his duties as one of the law officers of the government with modest efficiency, but was little known to the public when General Grant appointed him Secretary of the Treasury. He was well fitted for the responsibilities of this great office, which was then as now an exacting one, and he was peculiarly fitted for a responsibility such as latter Secretaries have not had to meet, the detection and suppression, the exposure and punishment, of the frauds that had grown up and had become securely entrenched in the internal revenue service.

Even those younger readers to whom General Bristow's name is not familiar have heard of, if they do not remember, the great Whisky Ring, the scandal that was raised by the prosecutions and the tremendous political influence that was brought to bear upon the Secretary to induce him to "let up." But Bristow had enlisted for the war, and though he was unable finally to prevail against the forces opposed to him, he did break the power of the Whisky Ring and destroy its political control.

It was his courageous administration in the Treasury that made Bristow the candidate for President of those Republicans who were opposed both to the administration wing of the party, whose candidate was Oliver H. Morton, and to the contending element represented by Blaine.

They stood by Bristow through six ballots in the convention, till Morton's strength had gone to Blaine, and then they went to Governor Hayes, of Ohio, and brought about his nomination. This was practically the end of the old regime, and though Bristow himself took no part in the nomination, the result was largely due to his courageous personality.

After this General Bristow engaged in the practice of his profession, where he achieved a very high position, taking some part, at times, in matters of public concern, but not of a political character. He was one of those men who do not seek preferment, but who meet the duty that comes to them with courage and devotion, and who occasionally have the opportunity of performing a great public service that secures their name a place in history.

WALKING EGYPT.

A Curious Semi-Religious Custom in Southern Georgia.

"You pretend to know enough to come to congress from Georgia," retorted the colonel, disgustingly, "and don't know what 'walking Egypt' is?" "Well, it's a grand Indian file procession to which the colored race gives way once a year in its churches. They lift up their voices in a horrible wail, the congregation does, and suddenly a negro jumps up in the aisle.

"Next a sister jumps up. She places her hands on his shoulders, and there they stand jumping up and down, stiff-kneed, like you've seen sheep when feeling festive.

"Usually these two are a misfit—he a small, runty little fellow, she a big strapping wench. "The singing moans on. Others get up until the whole congregation is in procession, hands forward resting on the shoulders in front, like a lot of penitentiary people going to dinner.

"Keeping a jerky time to the moaning, the procession, like a long, black centipede, jumps and jerks its way up one aisle, down another," says the Washington Post, "until their religious fervor has cooled.

"That's 'walking Egypt,' and I suppose the rite was imported from Guinea two hundred years ago."

ALVAREZ, the tenor, has been engaged by Sir Augustus Harris to sing for three years during the two months and a half of the London season. For the first year he will receive \$4,800, for the second \$6,000, and for the third \$7,000.

LISZT was one of the kindest of men. He was always ready to oblige young musical artists, and when they played before him frequently gave them valuable points in regard to the manner in which the composition should have been rendered.

SOME OF THE LATE INVENTIONS.

A FRENCHMAN has patented an apparatus to take off and put on a man's coat.

A CARRIAGE propelled by a little petroleum engine recently made the trip between London and Datchett, England, a distance of fifty-six miles, in five hours and a quarter.

FURS are now cut from the skin by machinery, special devices of wonderful ingenuity clipping the fur so close to the skin as practically to shave the exterior of the hide.

A FLYING MACHINE, operated with pedals attached to revolving fans, has been invented by a machinist of Rouen. It is something like a bicycle. The inventor's son, starting on it from an elevation of one hundred and twenty-five feet, made half a mile through the air in less than three minutes.

FIVE SHILLINGS fine was paid by the first man to use a tricycle cab in London, propelled by a man in front and another behind. A crowd collected, blocking the street, so the police arrested him and an alderman held that he was obstructing traffic, imposing a fine so low that he could not appeal.

THE EVENING GAZETTE CHECKER-BOARD BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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<p>GAZETTE ADS. BRING GOOD RESULTS</p>				<p>W. H. BYINGTON INSURANCE Room 3, Gazette Building.</p>
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<p>Frank T. Hyatt, DENTIST, 8 West Avenue.</p>		<p>I Can Save You Money IN LANDSCAPE GARDENING, TREES, SHRUBS, ETC. Edgar Buttery, 58 Belden Ave. 25 years foreman of Hoyts' Nurseries.</p>		
			<p>PARLOR BARBER-SHOP, H. S. LEOBOLD, 47 Main Street.</p>	
			<p>TRY WEED'S SODA WATER 38 Wall St.</p>	
		<p>ENTERPRISE Bottling Works, 7 Wall Street. FINE ALES AND LAGER EXPRESSLY FOR FAMILY USE. Mail orders receive prompt attention.</p>		
				<p>Job Printing OF EVERY DESCRIPTION EXECUTED AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE</p>

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For Norwalk

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5 P. M.

For New York

Leave South Norwalk Daily at 6 P. M.
Leave Norwalk Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 5 P. M.

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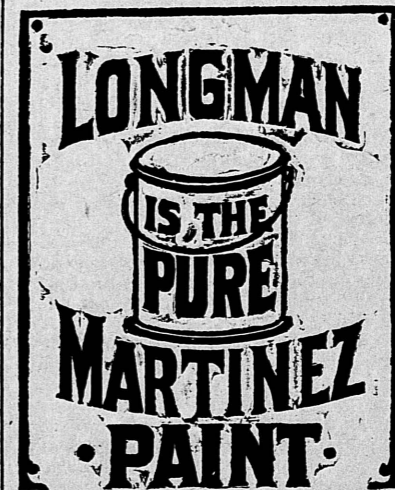
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