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NEWS AND COMMENT.

THE WEATHER.

The indications for to-day, April 4, for Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana, are increasing cloudiness, probable showers, warmer, winds shifting to southeast.

A remarkable story of crime has been revealed by the arrest of a negro for the murder of the colored woman whose mutilated body was found in New York last Sunday. The murder was committed after a quarrel. The body remained a day in the room where the couple had lived, then the murderer chopped it to pieces, rolled the fragments in a carpet and coolly rode down town on a horse car with his ghastly burden.

Maj. A. G. Hamilton was shot and killed at Morgantown, Ky., yesterday morning and Sam Spencer and Alfred Belcher are under arrest for the crime. Belcher has confessed. Maj. Hamilton was a Federal soldier and was one of the leaders in the famous tunnel escape from Libby prison in 1864.

An inquest into the death of Mrs. Mary Cornes, of Lewis county, who was supposed to have died of heart disease, resulted in the discovery of a brutal murder. The woman's husband and his mother are under arrest, and the community is in an ugly frame of mind over the crime.

There was a State election in Rhode Island yesterday. Apparently few Democrats voted, but they made a gain of 50 per cent. in their representation in the State Senate. That is to say, they will have three members in each house of the next Legislature.

The Pittsburgh-Cincinnati packet Iron Queen was destroyed by fire while lying against the bank at Antiquity, O., yesterday morning. The loss is about $100,000. One woman, a colored chambermaid, jumped into the river and was drowned.

The human vultures thronged the Old Bailey courtroom in London yesterday, attracted by the prospect of something unusually indecent in the trial of the Marquis of Queensberry on Oscar Wilde's charge of criminal libel.

An ordinance will be favorably reported by the Board of Councilmen directing the Board of Public Works to put up the names of the streets at all street intersections, at a cost of not exceeding $4,000.

A. M. Green and his five sons have been brought to St. Louis for safekeeping. They are charged with the murder and cremation of David Hildebrand and they narrowly escaped a mob.

It sounds too good to be true, but it is said that the Water Company has really found a plan which they think may be practicable for filtering the water supplied to the people of Louisville.

Gov. Matthews was a witness before the grand jury at Indianapolis yesterday in the investigation of the riot at the State House. It is not believed that any indictments will be returned.

The family of Prof. Bruner, whose charred remains were found in the burned woods in Hancock county, believe that he was murdered and robbed, will attempt an investigation.

Hon. W. J. Stone says that recent publications to the effect that he was about to announce himself a candidate for Governor were unauthorized, and that he is not a candidate.

Rev. J. E. McNellie, of Scottsburg, Ind., has filed a damage suit against several members of his congregation, whom he accuses of resorting to fraud in order to oust him.

T. W. Griffin, assistant cashier of the Northwestern National Bank of Chicago, has confessed a defalcation of $50,000. Speculation and high living did it.

The Rev. William Cleveland, a brother of the President, has been asked by his congregation at Chaumont, N. Y., to resign his pastorate.

Public exercises were held in Music Hall at Boston yesterday in honor of Rev. Samuel F. Smith, author of "America."

Mrs. Paran Stevens, one of New York's society leaders, died there yesterday afternoon of pneumonia.

A case of small-pox has developed at Carrollton, Ky., in a negro deckhand, who left his boat at that place.

Great Britain is believed to have given Minister Bayard a gentle hint that its trouble with Venezuela is its own affair.

California is trying the shipment of cut flowers to Chicago. The first carload left Los Angeles yesterday.

A resolution was adopted by the Tennessee Senate suspending all work on the new penitentiary.

The only Republican candidate for Councilman in St. Louis who was defeated was a negro.

The new owners of Latonia took charge of the track yesterday, selecting new officers.

Secretary Carlisle has returned to Washington after a brief visit to Covington.

Hon. William L. Wilson was sworn in as Postmaster General yesterday.

The widow of the late Alexander [illegible] is dead.

A VETERAN

Murdered In Cold Blood By Drunken Youths.

MAJ. A. G. HAMILTON'S FATE

Shot By Samuel Spencer Near Morgantown.

AN ACCOMPLICE CONFESSES

One of the Prisoners Who Tunneled Out of Libby.

THE MURDERERS UNDER ARREST

Morgantown, Ky. (via Bowling Green), April 3.—(Special.)—Maj. A. G. Hamilton, of Libby prison fame, was assassinated near this place at about 2 o'clock this morning by Sam Spencer and Alfred Belcher. His body was found lying on the side of the Bowling Green road, about 200 yards from the town limits, about 6 o'clock, by Dr. Cherry. An investigation was at once commenced, and by 10 o'clock the authorities had secured sufficient evidence to cause the arrest of Spencer and Belcher. Spencer denied the charge, but Belcher confessed, and told the following:

"Spencer and I were together last night most of the night. We were here attending court as witnesses, and live in Warren county. At about 12 o'clock last night we left the barber-shop and went to our boarding-house and went to bed. In an hour or so Spencer and I got up and started to the 'booze pen.' Before we started Spencer took a pistol from Frank Easley's pocket, a 32-caliber Smith & Wesson. I had Frank Smith's 38-caliber Smith & Wesson. We left for the whisky house just outside the town.

"We saw two men sitting near the roadside. One of them asked us where we were going. We replied that it was none of his —— business. The man started toward us, and I told him to stop. The second man raised up and called to his companion to come back. He did not do so, but came on to me, and I knocked him down.

"As I knocked him down Spencer fired at the other man, who fell on his face. Spencer ran. I followed and brought him back. Spencer and I, assisted by the friend of the wounded man, helped the wounded man up, but he could not stand and could not speak. We laid him down and left. The man we found with him was drunk and did not give his name. He said the wounded man was Maj. Hamilton. I did not know that Spencer was going to shoot. The pistol found there was the one I had. We were drunk. I am twenty-two years old. Spencer is twenty-one."

The post-mortem examination developed that Hamilton was killed by a pistol shot of 32-caliber, and Spencer was known to have had such a pistol. The shot took effect between the second and third ribs in the left breast, and ranged downward and backward, breaking the ninth rib near the spine on the right side.

There is great indignation, but no fear of a mob. The accused are in jail. Hamilton's body will be buried by the O. P. Johnson G. A. R. post tomorrow afternoon at Reedyville. The fourth man has not been found.

HOW HAMILTON BECAME FAMOUS.

Story of the Escape From Libby Prison Planned By He and Col. Rose.

Maj. Hamilton became famous by his escape from the Libby Prison through Col. Rose's tunnel. The story is impressed upon the minds of the people by Frank E. Moran's interesting narrative in the Century for March, 1888. It was on the night of February 9, 1864. In all 109 Union officers made their escape, and of these forty-eight were retaken. Thomas E. Rose, Colonel of the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, was the engineer and leader throughout. He discovered that water often flooded the cellar of Libby, and also that a sewer just outside connected with the canal close by the James river. In going into the cellar one day on an inspection with a view to escape, Col. Rose suddenly encountered a fellow-prisoner, Maj. A. G. Hamilton, of the Twelfth Kentucky Cavalry. A confiding friendship followed, and the two entered at once upon the plan of regaining their liberty. They agreed that the most feasible scheme was to tunnel from "Rat Hill," as the cellar was known. Without further ado they secured a broken shovel and two case-knives and begun operations.

That portion of the cellar was later closed up by the Confederates, and a change of tactics was rendered necessary. Col. Rose set about studying another plan, and one very dark night during a howling storm again unexpectedly met Hamilton in a place where no prisoner could be reasonably looked for at such an hour. In the darkness each thought the other an enemy, and were about ready to spring at each other's throats, when a flash of lightning revealed their identity. Rose now spoke of an entrance from the south side of the street to the middle cellar, having frequently noticed the exit and entrance of workmen from that point and expressed his belief that if an entrance to this cellar could be effected it would afford them the only chance of slipping past the sentinels. With a wedge whittled out of a piece of pine wood the floor in a dark, vacant kitchen directly over this cellar was pried up for a space large enough to admit a man's body, Rose descended, leaving Hamilton to keep watch. The cellar was thoroughly explored.

Next day a piece of rope was secured. It came about several bales of clothing. It was 100 feet long and an inch thick. Next night Rose and Hamilton descended to the kitchen, and when all was quiet both men used the rope to slide into the cellar. This was repeated for several nights, only to find sentinels ever watchful just outside the cellar wall. During one of these trips to the cellar a box of tools, including a broadax, a saw, two chisels, several files and a carpenter's square were found. On one of these nights the guard on the outside was aroused, and a search of the cellar followed, but Rose and Hamilton had gotten safely into the kitchen and replaced the flooring.

Hamilton and Rose had almost made up their minds that the only means of escape was by force, and had planned to overpower the two sentinels outside the cellar. It was decided to arrange an escaping party. Col. Rose, the recognized leader, swore them to secrecy, and the party consisted of about seventy-five men. This was later increased to 420 at the suggestion of Hamilton, the nightly movements having given rise to suspicions and anxiety by the other prisoners. After several fruitless attempts, all made without creating any alarm, the project of escape by force was abandoned and talk of it died out.

This was Rose's opportunity. He sought Hamilton and told him the plan to escape by a tunnel through Rat Hell must be revived. There was, however, but one way in which Rat Hell could be reached without detection, and the conception of this and its successful execution was due to Hamilton. It was to cut a hole in the back of the kitchen fireplace. This must be in the shape of the letter S, and must not break the wall on the hospital side above the floor nor the carpenter-shop side below it. Work was only possible between 10 p. m. and 4 a. m. A jack-knife and a chisel were the implements used. Hamilton did the work, cutting the bricks out whole. Rose stood guard outside the fireplace. Night after night these two men worked, and every morning at 4 o'clock the dislodged brick were put back and covered with soot. After many nights an entrance to Rat Hell was affected.

Then the work on the tunnel was begun. A wooden spitton, a piece of clothes line, several bits of candle and two chisels were taken into the cellar. The two worked alone for many nights. The air was so vitiated in the tunnel the light would go out. Thirteen men were carefully selected. Among these were Capt. John Sterling, Thirtieth Indiana; Capt. John Lucas, Fifth Kentucky cavalry, and Capt. Isaah Johnson, Sixth Kentucky cavalry. The men were formed in squads of five, giving them two nights off duty and one night on. Hamilton had no equal for ingenious mechanical skill in contriving helpful little devices to overcome or lessen the difficulties that beset almost every step of the progress.

Water of the canal finally broke into the tunnel, but this was after much labor obviated. Reverses again came and hope was abandoned by all save Rose and Hamilton, and for nights these two worked alone. Up to this time thirty-nine nights had been spent on the work of excavation. The first tunnel was abandoned, as the oak boards of the sewer could not be penetrated. The new tunnel was through the east wall of the cellar. No longer harassed by water and timbers the work was renewed with more energy. Five men now worked, day and night. Their absence was concealed at roll call by a device of "repeating," some of the men stepping farther down the line. On the night of February 8 the tunnel was completed to a point inside the enclosure of a neighboring warehouse. At 7 o'clock the next evening the break was quietly made. Rose led, followed by Hamilton. As the sentinel who passed by the entrance of the warehouse went by, one man stepped out and walked briskly away in an opposite direction. The rest followed at intervals.

During the World's Fair Maj. Hamilton visited Chicago and went to Libby Prison museum. He told the Superintendent that he was the second man to escape from it and had not seen it since. He at once became a hero of the day at the museum and made a trip through the fireplace and into Rat Hell.

This was on September 17, 1893. The Chicago papers made a feature of it, and next day the hero of Libby Prison was lionized.

ANOTHER ANALYSIS.

Death Under Peculiar Circumstances At Washington, Ind., and Dr. Kastenbine Called Upon.

Washington Ind., April 3.—(Special.)—A few days since James M. McBride, who resided at Plainville, this county, died very suddenly under peculiar circumstances. At the Coroner's inquest it developed that Mrs. McBride, the wife, was in the habit of using arsenic for heart disease, and, as McBride and his wife lived a very quarrelsome life, the Coroner felt justified in having the stomach analyzed at Louisville before rendering a verdict.

Dr. Kastenbine will probably be the physician who is to analyze the stomach. He received a letter some days ago from Washington asking if he would be willing to conduct the analysis. He answered that he would, and is now awaiting the arrival of the stomach.

Beginning next Sunday there will be issued every Sunday an early edition of the Courier-Journal for points in Tennessee and Alabama. Arrangements have been made to deliver this edition of the paper at most of the important points in Tennessee and Alabama in the early forenoon of the day of publication, and all accessible points at some hour on that day. Reaching Nashville at 6:57 a. m. it will make close connection for such important towns in Middle Tennessee as Murfreesboro, Tullahoma, Shelbyville, Winchester, Fayetteville, Lewisburg, Columbia, Franklin, Pulaski, Lebanon, Springfield and others, and such places in Northern and West Tennessee as Gallatin, Memphis, Union City, Humboldt, Paris, Waverly, McKenzie and, indeed, all points of any consequence in that section. At a later hour in the day, all Alabama towns of considerable magnitude, like Decatur, Birmingham, Montgomery, Huntsville, Stevenson and others will be supplied.

Advertisers desiring to reach that particular territory will find this special edition pre-eminently adapted to their requirements. Advertising copy must be in the office not later than Friday night at 8 o'clock to insure insertion.

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