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☞ All communications to insure attention should be *post paid.*

POETRY.

From the New-York Mirror.

HE CAME TOO LATE.

BY MISS E. BOGART.

He came too late!—Neglect had tried
Her constancy too long;
Her love had yielded to her pride,
And the deep sense of wrong.
She scorned the offering of a heart
Which lingered on its way,
Till it could no delight impart,
Nor spread one cheering ray.

He came too late!—At once he felt
That all his power was o'er!
Indifference in her calm smile dwelt;
She thought of him no more;
Anger and grief had passed away,
Her heart and thoughts were free;
She met him and her words were gay,
No spell had memory.

He came too late!—The subtle cords,
Of love were all unbound,
Not by offence of spoken words,
But by the slights that wound,
She knew that life held nothing now
That could the past repay,
Yet she disdained his tardy vow,
And coldly turned away.

He came too late!—her countless dreams
Of hope had long since flown,
No charm dwelt in his chosen themes
Nor in his whispered tone.
And when, with word and smile he tried,
Affection still to prove,
She nerved her heart with woman's pride,
And spurned his fickle love.

From the New York Evening Star.

CROCKETT.

Tho' sad was his fate, and mournful the story,
The deeds of the hero shall never decay—
He fell in a cause dear to freedom and glory,
And he fought to the last, like a lion at bay.

When rang the loud call from a nation oppress'd,
And her valleys, with slaughter of brave men, were red;
'Twas the pride of poor Crockett to help the distress'd,
And the watchword in *Texas* was heard, *Go ahead.*

His death-dealing rifle no longer shall shower
Its unerring balls on the proud, haughty foe,
Cut down in the spring-time of life's budding flower—
His tombstone, alas! are thy walls, *Alamo.*

Then may we not hope, since valour has crown'd him,
And o'er him bright fame her mantle has spread,
In the soul's parting hour good angles were round him,
Bid his spirit arise to the skies," Go ahead?"

INCREASE OF THE ARMY.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, relative to the number and situation of the Indians on the frontiers of the United States, and a plan for an increase of the army.

WAR DEPARTMENT, March 8, 1836.

SIR:—In conformity with a resolution of the Senate of the 2d ultimo, I have the honour herewith to transmit a tabular statement, giving the information called for respecting the number and situation of the Indians upon the frontiers of the United States, so far as this Department can furnish it, and a report from Major General Macomb, containing a plan for an increase of the numerical strength of the army accompanied by tables showing the positions now occupied by it, the number to which it is proposed to increase it, its distribution, should such an increase take place; and the additional expense which will attend the measure.

It is of course impracticable to furnish any thing like accurate information concerning the number of the Indians. All that can be expected, is such an approximation towards the truth as our means of communication with them will permit. The population of those tribes which are in contact with our settlements and more particularly of those to whom annuities are paid, may be estimated with considerable probability; but all computations of this nature, respecting the remote and wandering tribes, must be received with much doubt.

It appears, as a general result, from this statement that about thirty one thousand Indians have been removed from the eastern to the western side of the Mississippi river, and that about seventy two thousand yet remain to be removed. With a majority of the latter, treaty stipulations already exist for their removal, or for such arrangements as will necessarily lead to it; and there is little doubt but that nearly all of them will, within a few years, quit their present residences and withdraw to the country west of Missouri and Arkansas. I would remark here, that this statement shows an increase of about ten thousand over the tables heretofore prepared at this Department upon this subject. This increase has been occasioned by a census, recently taken, of the eastern Cherokees, and which shows the population of those Indians to be about eighteen thousand. It is estimated that the indigenous tribes of the region between the Mississippi and the Rocky mountains amount to about one hundred and fifty thousand. These, added to the emigrants already removed, will make upwards of one hundred and eighty one thousand; and when all the tribes are removed, there will be an aggregate Indian population in that country of more than two hundred and fifty thousand. This, it will be observed, is independent of the Indians upon the peninsula of Michigan, upon the shores of Lake Huron and Lake Superior, upon the Northern coast of Lake Michigan, and of the various bands of the great Chippewa family, occupying the regions south of Lake Superior, and upon the heads of the Mississippi. Much of his country is of such a character, that we cannot look forward to any reasonable time within which all these Indians will be required to emigrate. Those, however, in the peninsula of Michigan, will no doubt remove within a few years, and will still further increase the aggregate of the Indian population in the west.

It is difficult, from the mode of life, and consequent dispersed condition of the Indians, to state their positions accurately, with relation to the inland frontier of the United States, extending from Arkansas to Maine. Beginning however, at Red river, it will be found that almost all this force is in contact, or may be in communication with the western and north-western frontiers of the United States. The Indians are very sparely scattered along the shore of Lake Superior, and towards the sources of the Mississippi. The Chippewas and Sioux, extensive families, and separated into many bands, divide those regions among them. These Indians are brought into contact upon the Mississippi, about the falls of St. Anthony; and as feudes have existed between them for ages, they frequently send war parties against each other; and, by this means outrages have been committed upon our citizens. This state of things renders Fort Snelling, at the mouth of the St. Peter's, an important point.

It will be seen, by the tabular statement, that the Indians in the State of New York are supposed to be about four thousand. But this Department has not the means of ascertaining with any precision, the number upon the north-eastern frontier, in the State of Maine. They have generally been computed, in the statistical tables, at about one thousand.

The statements herewith furnish, embrace all the tribes who now occupy, or who it is supposed will occupy, the country west of the Mississippi and extending to the Rocky Mountains. It may be safely estimated that this amount of Indian population can furnish fifteen thousand warriors, who may be considered so nearly in contact with our settlements, as to render them at all times dangerous neighbors, unless kept in check by a proper disposition of our military force; and it is probable that double that number could be supplied, if any circumstances should occasion a general war in that region, in which the Indians could be brought to unite. Such a result, however, is altogether improbable, as many of these tribes are hereditary enemies, and are in a constant state of hostilities with one another; and, from the dispersed condition of the Indians, as well as from their habits and the nature of the institutions, a general coalition is not to be anticipated, nor, indeed, if it existed, could such a force be collected and brought to act together. Still, however, it is obvious that even now, there is upon our Western frontiers a large force, which has been augmented and is yet augmenting, by the action of the Government and upon whose peaceable or friendly disposition, no reliance can be placed. And the scenes which are now going on in Florida, and those which have frequently taken place elsewhere, show that the Indians are totally ignorant of their own relative strength, and that of the United States, or that, in a moment of impulse they are totally indifferent to it. A just regard to the tranquility of an important section of the Union requires that measures should be permanently adopted for preventing a renewal of those predatory incursions which have occasioned so much loss of lives and property.

In further obedience to the resolution of the Senate I have the honor to report, that I consider the "present military force of the United States" insufficient "to garrison the fortifications of the seaboard, and at the same time give protection to the inhabitants residing in the States and Territories bordering on the Indian frontier."

The aggregate number of the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of the army, according to the existing laws, is 6,301. This is exclusive of the men engaged in the ordnance service, who are principally artificers, and are employed in duties relating to the custody, preservation, repairs, &c., of the public arms.—Owing, however, to sickness, to occasional absence, and to the time lost in recruiting and in marching to join their respective corps, as well as to other causes the actual disposable strength does not average more than 5,260. This is now organized into one regiment of dragoons, four regiments of artillery, and seven regiments of infantry occupying fifty-three stations, extending along the whole frontier of the United States, inland and atlantic. If equally divided, the force actually in service would allow to each post a little less than one hundred effective men.

Extensive and permanent fortifications have been constructed upon the seaboard, and it seems to be generally conceded, that our most important points of communication with the ocean should be gradually rendered secure by similar works against the advance of an enemy. These forts as they are finished, should be occupied by troops, not only to prevent such insults and injuries as large commercial places are exposed to, whose approaches are not sufficiently guarded, but also to keep the works in a proper state of preservation! These duties, it is believed, will require the artillery force proposed to be maintained. Experience has shown that we are perpetually liable to occurrences which demand the concentration and movement of the troops. Whenever these happen, the positions occupied must remain defenceless, unless a greater force is raised This is now the state of things along almost all our Atlantic border.

With respect to the inland frontier circumstances of a still more imperative character require an augmentation of the army. Events have shown that our force in that quarter is not sufficient to keep the Indians in check. Disturbances are continually occuring at comparatively short intervals, some of which terminate merely by alarming and agitating the country, while others lead to hostilities more or less extensive. On these occasions, the regular troops are collected from great distances, and a militia force is usually called out. Heavy expenditures are the necessary consequences, besides the loss of property and derangement of business in the section of country where these troubles exist. Instead of having a force at all times imbodied sufficient to overawe the Indians, or if they commence hostilities, immediately to subdue them, much time is lost in the necessary arrangements, while the spirit of disaffection is spreading, and the hostile force becomes thus greatly increased.

Within the last nine years we have had four difficulties of this nature: one with the Winnebagoes, two with the Sacks and Foxes, and one with the Florida Indians, which, altogether, have occasioned great loss of property, great derangement of business, a heavy expenditure of money, and much inconvenience in those portions of country affected by these troubles, and which furnished the militia whose services were required to aid the regular troops in their operations. An augmentation of the army to a reasonable extent, if it did not prevent these occurrences altogether, would certainly render them less frequent, as well as less injurious and extensive. And this policy is not less humane than useful. It is far better by the display of force, to render its actual employment unnecessary, than it is to be compelled to resort to it, with all the usual accompaniments of an Indian campaign.

The army is so constituted, that a very considerable addition may be made to its rank and file, with but little increase in the expense of the officers. It is proposed to augment its numercial strength to 9,955; to leave the regiment of dragoons as it now is, and so to distribute the additional force as to make five regiments instead of four of artillery, and nine regiments instead of seven of infantry. A regiment of artillery now contains 497 non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, divided into nine companies, and a regiment of infantry 514 non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, divided into ten companies. The plan submitted proposes to add 2,032 men to the artillery, and 1,622 to the infantry, and to divide the regiment of both arms into eight companies each, giving to each regiment of the former 804 non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, and to each regiment of the latter 580 non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates.

This organization into companies will have the advantage of uniformity, and, it is believed, will be found more advantageous to the service than the existing one. The whole artillery force now authorized by law, is 1,988, and that of the infantry 3,598, which, with the addition proposed, will make the whole artillery force, 4,020, and the whole infantry force 5,935, thus raising the legal establishment of the army to 9,955. These numbers, it will be observed, are exclusive of the commissioned officers. By authorizing the President to require one of these regiments to do duty as riflemen, and one as light infantry, our military establishment would be rendered more, complete, and in some situations more efficient, and this might be done without any addition to the expense of maintaining the troops.

The proposed augmentation of the non commissioned officers, privates, and musicians, may be so distributed as not to require any change in the number of the regiments, or in the grades of the officers, by simply adding a given number to each company. The only advantage, however, of this plan over the proposed one is, that it may be carried into effect and little less expense. This consideration is always important, and when not counterbalanced by other circumstances, should be decisive. But I think that, in this case, the difference in the expenditure is not sufficient to outweigh the other advantages which are presented by the *project* herewith submitted.

It is proposed to reduce the number of second lieutenants from 142 to 112, making a diminution in that grade of thirty; and at the same time, to add twenty-five other officers, making an actual reduction of five in the existing establishment. But, as those who are added will be of higher grades, this arrangement will occasion an increase in the annual expense of $8,573, as is shown by one of the accompanying tables. But it will give more efficiency, by the increased rank, authority, and experience of the officers, while, at the same time, it will probably be found that the number of men proposed to be added to each regiment will be sufficiently great for the attention of all the officers. It will also prevent, in some degree, that dispersion of the regiments, which is very injurious to our service, as it materially impairs the personal superintendence of the field officers. These advantages will be greater as the sphere of command is removed to the more remote frontiers, where circumstances necessarily require higher responsibility, and more experience.

All the information necessary to a full knowledge of the increased expense which will attend the addition herein proposed to the numercial strength of the army, will be found in the accompanying tables.

I beg leave to remark that the plan of organization above proposed, proceeds upon the assumption that the whole force of the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of the army, will be about ten thousand.—That is the smallest number which, under present circumstances, the public interest will, in my judgement, allow. Should Congress, think it proper to add to that number, then I would recommend that the infantry companies be placed upon the same establishment as the companies of artillery. This would render the organization uniform in all respects, and from the casualties of the service, would not, probably, give more than two thirds of the number for active field officers.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
LEWIS CASS.

Hon. M. Van Buren, Pres't of the Senate.

OPOSSUM TAILS.

The Salt River Journal says:—"An old hunter mentioned to us the fact, that owing to the severity of last winter, there is scarcely a *Possum* in the woods but what has lost its tail, or the principal part of it. Of some thirty or forty, which he has seen, all were thus, *tail-less*" O! for such a frost in this part of the country—that some of our old grannies may cease to be *tale-bearers.*

THE EXCELLENCY OF THE FEMALE CHARACTER.

In Gisborne's Enquiry into the Duties of the Female Sex, that writer says: "Were we called upon to produce examples of the most amiable tendencies and affections implanted in human nature—of modesty, of delicacy, of sympathizing sensibility, of prompt and active benevolence, of warmth and tenderness of attachment, whither should we at once turn our eyes? To the sister, to the daughter, to the wife. These endowments from the glory of the female sex. They shine amidst the darkness of uncivilized barbarism; they give to civilized society its brightest and most attractive lustre." Mr. Ledyard also remarks, that he always found the females of all nations in which he travelled, uniformly kind and compassionate. "If," says he, "I was hungry, thirsty, cold, wet, or sick, the women have uniformly been friendly to me. And to add to this virtue so worthy the appellation of benevolence, these actions have been performed in so free and kind a manner, that if I was thirsty, it rank the sweetest draught, and if hungry, I ate the coarsest morseal with a double relish."

The affection cherished by a mother toward her offspring is indeed another valuable trait in the female character.—With what watchful and soul-stirring anxiety does she observe the movements of her children, as they advance from infancy to maturity, "along life's rugged road." In the hour of sickness and adversity she clings to them with the most zealous care, and seizes with anxiety every opportunity which presents itself to enable her to alleviate their afflictions! But this parental fondness does not extend to females of every nation; there are mothers in whose bosom not one spark of that affection ever finds a resting place, and who would barter away their children with the greatest unconcern "and for articles of trifling value;" for example, will here introduce from "Lander's Records," a touching scene of this description, of which he was witness: "A travelling slave dealer," says he, "passing through this place; (Fullendushfe, in the Bouchee nation) had purchased several children of both sexes from the inhabitants, and, among others, a middle aged woman had only one daughter, whom she parted with for a necklace of beads. The unhappy girl, who might have been 13 or 14 years of age, on being dragged away from the threshhold of her parent's hut, clung distractedly, like a shipwrecked mariner to a floating mast, around the knees of her unfeeling mother, and, looking up wishfully in her face, burst forth a flood of tears, exclaiming, with vehemence and passion, "O mother, do not sell me! What will become of yourself in your old age, if you suffer me to desert you? Who will feed you corn and milk? Who will pity you when you groan? Have I been unkind to you? O, mother, do not sell your only daughter! I will hold you in my arms when you're feeble, and carry you under the shade of trees. As a hen watches over her chickens, so will I watch over you, dear mother.—When you are weary, I will fan you to sleep; and while you are sleeping, I will drive away the flies. O, mother, my dear mother, do not push me away from you, do not sell me to be the slave of a stranger." Useless tears! vain remonstrances! The unnatural, relentless parent, shaking the beads in the face of her child, thrust her from her embraces, and the slave dealer drove the agonized girl from the place of her nativity which she was to behold no more!"—Thanks to the blessings of civilization, and the virtue of our females, we are preserved from witnessing such affection as this.

"STOP MY PAPER."

Of all the silly, short-sighted, ridiculous American phrases, this as it is frequently used is the most vile and unmeaning. We are called an infant nation, and truly we conduct ourselves like children. We have a certain class of subscribers who take the Mirror, and profess to like its contents, till by-and-by, an opinion meets their views with which they do not agree. What do they, then, in their sagacity? Turn to their nearest companion with a passing comment upon the error they think they have detected; or direct a brief communication to the editor begging to dissent therefrom, in the same pages where the article which displeased them has appeared? No: get into a passion, and for all we know, stamp and swear, and instantly, before the foam, has time to cool on their lips, write a letter, commencing wit—Stop my paper!

If we say rents are exorbitantly high, and landlords should be too generous to take advantage of an accidental circumstance—round comes a broad hat and gold-headed cane, with Sir, stop my paper! Does an actor receive a bit of advice? The green-room is too hot to hold him till relieved by those revengeful words, "Stop my paper!" If we ever praise one, some envious rival steals gloomily in—with—"Sir, if you please, stop my paper!" We dare not hope to navigate the ocean with steamboats, but our paper is "stopped" by a ship-captain. Our doctor nearly left us to die the other day, because a correspondent had praised an enemy of our college, and we expect a *fieri facias* in the office presently, on account of something which we understand somebody has said against some lawsuit in, we do not remember, what court. But all these affairs were outdone yesterday by the following:

We were sitting in our elbow-chair ruminating on the decided advantage of virtue over vice, when a little withered Frenchman, with a cowhide as long as himself, and twice as heavy, rushed into our presence.

"Sair" and he stopped to breathe.

"Wel, sir."

"Monsieur!" he stopped again to take breath.

"Diable, Monsieur!" and he flourished his instrument about his head.

Really, my friend, said we, smiling for he was not an object to be frightened about, when you have perfectly finished amusing yourself with that weapon, we should like to be the master of our own leisure.

"No sair; I have come to horsewhip you wid dis cowhide!"

We took a pistol from a drawer, cocked it, and aimed it at his head.

"Paron, sair," said the Frenchman, "I will first give you some explanation. Monsieur, if you have write dis article?"

We looked it over and acknowledged ourself the author. It was a few lines referring to the great improvements in rail roads, and intimating that this mode of travelling would one day supercede every other.

"You have write dat in your papair?"

"Yes, sir."

Well, den, sair stop you dem paiper. I have live *quarante neuf ans.* I have devote all my life to ride de balloon!—*c'est ma grand passion Bien, Monsieur.* I shall look to find every one wis his littel balloon—to ride horseback in de air—to go round de world in one summair, and make me rich like Monsieur Astair, wis de big hotel. Well, Monsieur, now you put piece in you dem paiper to say dat de rail road, Monsieur, de littel rail road, supercede—vio la supercede—Dat is what you say—supercede every thing else.—Monsieur, begar I have de honnair to inform you dat the rail road nevair supercede de balloon—and also, Monsieur *ventre blue* stop you dem papeir! *N. Y. Mirror.*

A PORTRAIT OF ELLEN JEWETT,

As she appeared after death, has been published in New York. Unluckily for the publisher, however, the romantic feeling about this girl has been somewhat diminished. It appears from the statements of a Boston paper that the New York stories about her beauty, her surpassing accomplishments as of linguist, and a musician, and all that sort of, thing are mere fudge She is not even the daughter of a militia Major General in Maine, nor was she treacherously seduced and enticed away from her boarding school by the cashier of a Bank. Every thing heretofore said about her, appears to be a downright invention on the part of the journalists, who pretended to know most on the subject.

The real name of the unfortunate woman was DORCAS DAWEN. Her parents, who are very poor, reside near Augusta, (Me.) In early life, she was bound as a servant to Judge Weston, of Augusta, and resided for a number of years with his family. She received a common school education, and manifested some talent, but her moral perceptions were so obtuse that it was found impossible to correct her evil tendencies. From childhood upwards she was a theif, and was frequently heard to declare that when free from her indentures, she would immediately commence that course of life which has brought her to a premature grave. In person, she was short and stout, her figure being defective in grace and beauty; her countenance, however, is said to have been rather prepossessing.

Such was Ellen Jewett, *alias* Dorcas Dawen, an every day character, notwithstanding the fancy sketches of our cotemporaries, and far from being the refined, cultivated, intellectual female, that she was represented. She was however, as artful as she was depraved, and ran a mischievous career in the cities of Portland and Boston, under the name of Helen Mar, which she obtained from the "Scottish Chiefs," before taking up her residence in New York. The melancholy tale of her seduction is of a piece with the rest of the romance. She was one who fell of her own free will, and the force of her own vicious inclinations.

These facts are mentioned not as a palliation for her destroyer; the butchery of the wretched creature remains in all it original atrocity, whatever may be the facts developed in regard to him. But a false and mischievous coloring has been given to her and to her way of life, which should be brushed away, and the statement of the Boston Journal is calculated to do that effectually. We have seldom seen any productions in the public press of a more injurious tendency than there is in relation to Ellen Jewett. The revolting features of her wretched course of existence were softened down, while her beauty, her accomplishments, her elegance, and the golden harvest, which her abuse of these enabled her to reap, were brought out in brilliant relief. The papers labored on the point that she was in the habit of wearing garments which rarely belong to it, and then but for a time, as if to render the contrast of succeeding misery still more painful. It was a remark of Dr. Johnson's, in speaking of the character of Iago, that "there is always danger lest wickedness, conjoined with abilities, should steal upon esteem, though it misses of approbation;" and it may be added that there is much more danger of mischief from such portraits as that falsely painted of Ellen Jewett, than could ever result from contemplating a successful Iago. Even her melancholy end, having but few parallels, scarcely diminishes the temptation to follow her example in those females exposed to the arts of the seducer, unfortified by principle, and pressed by that poverty which makes almost any change a welcome relief.—Vade Mecum.

A TALE OF HORROR.

From the Connersville (Ind) Watchman of April 2d.

HELLER, THE MURDERER.

Our readers will recollect that we recently published a communication from the Post Master of Liberty, in Union County, giving an account of the murder of a whole family in that county, in the latter part of February last, by the husband and father. Isaac Heller, alias Isaac Young, the murderer, had his trial last week, in the Union Circuit Court, on an indictment for murdering his wife Elizabeth; was found guilty by a jury, and sentenced by the Court to be hung on Friday the 29th inst. between the hours of twelve, noon, and three, P. M. The grand jury likewise found indictments against him for the murder of his three children John Wesley, Sarah, and Mary.

The prisoner was prosecuted by Brown and Perry, and defended by Ray and Parker. The trial came on on Wednesday morning, and was not concluded until near one o'clock on the next morning. The jury were out about an hour, and brought in their verdict a little before three o'clock in the morning. On Thursday, after the court convened, an unsuccessful motion was made to arrest the judgment and procure a new trial—and on Friday morning the sentence of the court was pronounced by Judge Bigger. We say, without any qualification, at these murders and the attendant circumstances constitute the most extraordinary case that we have ever witnessed or heard of. We have not leisure to set down for our readers, at this time, the details of the case, with that minuteness which its magnitude and atrocity deserve. The defence of insanity was set up, and unmerous instances of insanity both in this state and Pennsylvania, were positively proven, both by physicians who had attended the prisoner and by other intelligent and respectable individuals. It was shown that he murdered a child in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, under the most apalling circumstances, and had been acquitted upon the ground of insanity. This fact was proven by a witness who was personally aware of it. The circumstances connected with that murder were detailed by another witness, as he had heard them from the prisoner himself, in a conversation had with him in October last. They were, in short these:

The prisoner was living in the family of a relative, in which family there was likewise living a little girl about ten years of age, that had been taken out of the poor-house. On a certain evening, Heller, who was then known by the name of Young, complained of being unwell, and expressed fears of going to his chamber to bed. The gentleman and lady of the house persuaded and importuned him much and until a late hour, before he would consent to retire. At length he consented to go. As he was passing up stairs, he heard footsteps following him on the stair way: he passed on however, took off his clothes and got into bed, in the same room where the little girl was sleeping.

Immediately upon getting into bed, the door he had entered, opened—a person entered—shut the door—turned round with his back against the door, and stood gazing at him. Heller was greatly alarmed—but he sprung from his bed and made at the person, exclaimed "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." He grasped at the apparition but it was gone. He then wheeled around, jumped upon the bed where the little girl lay, and commenced beating her in the most furious manner. The gentleman and lady below, hearing the exclaiming, ran up stairs and rescued the child! Heller ran down stairs, and whilst he was procuring an axe, the three others ran down and fastened themselves up in a lower room. Heller broke down the doors to find them; and whilst he was breaking down the door of the room in which they had taken refuge, the gentleman and lady escaped through a window. He entered the room and leaning down at the window to ascertain from the sound of their retreating footsteps which way they were fleeing, he heard soft breathing. And looking under the bed he found the little girl hid under it. He immediately went up stairs—took his pocket knife from his pantaloons—returned—pulled the little girl from her hiding place, and severed her head from her body with his knife.

After detailing the above to the witness, who was his near neighbor, he went on to say that he had long had it in his mind to kill his own family—but says he I have not as yet quite brought my mind to do it—if I should, I think it very likely I should come right off and kill you and your family.

The above murder was perpetrated some five or six years ago. Heller then after his enlargement, came off to this country—to Union county Indiana. Nothing extraordinary appeared in his conduct for something like two years. In the mean time he had married a respectable young woman, by whom he had the three children he has murdered together with their mother. It is not known that the least difficulty had ever occurred between him and his family. The wife and children were fond of him, and he of them. His fondness for his oldest child, John Wesley, was peculiary noticed by the neighbors.

The first symptom of insanity noticed in this country was about three years ago, by a young man who was going home with him on a Sabbath Evening, from a meeting they had attended in Liberty. The young man noticed something very extraordinary in his manner—and was much affected. At length he asked him what was the matter. He replied in effect that a super-human influence or inspiration was upon him.—Soon after he became very much exercised on religious subjects—joined himself to the United Brethren—took a part in their meetings, and made frequent efforts to preach. He was soon left destitute of the most of the little property he brought with him to this country—neglected to provide for his family—but personally he was never known to treat them roughly.

Witnesses stated that for several days at a time, during the last two or three years, he would act like a wild man or a raving maniac—During that time he was twice taken into the care of the overseers of the poor and kept for some time as an insane person. On these occasions, the physicians pronounced him insane—but his malady soon yielded to their prescriptions and treatment. During the last six months he has almost entirely neglected to provide for his family, who were during the time, with him, taken care of by the charity of the neighbors.

He would chop a little wood and place it on the fire, and then sit by it for hours at a time by night and day, with his head down, apparently in a deep study. Thus sitting he was in the habit of picking his finger nails, and sometimes the flesh of his hands, until the blood would come. He sat thus apparently taking no notice of what was passing—with his head down, picking his fingers, during the whole time of his trial. He has frequently of late expressed to his wife and some neighbors, great horror of the poor house—stating that he would rather die than be separated from his family.

Although his conduct was thus singular during the last six months, it was not supposed that he was insane—He talked but little, yet that little seemed rational enough.—On the morning of the murder of his family a neighbor called in to see him, and found things looking much more cheerful than usual. Heller seemed much more free to talk, and did talk considerable about his feeling much better than he had for some time past, and about renting some land and going to work on it. The neighbor left in the family with whom was living a sister of the wife, a little girl about nine or ten years of age—After he had been gone, a man passed along the road by the house whom Heller watched carefully until he had gotten out of sight,—The wife and mother was sitting by the fire, with a sun bonnet on nursing her infant, about a month old. Heller took his axe from under the bed, went to the fire, turned round and commencing rubbing the fingers of one hand over the edge. His wife asked him what he was going to do—he replied he was going to chop some wood. About this time the woman told the children to get some apples out from under the bed. The two little ones immediately crawled under the bed and the little sister-in-law stood near the bed looking at Heller. She saw him raise the axe and strike his wife one full blow about the chin and neck—Seeing this she sprang to the door—threw it open and fled for the nearest nighbor's between a quarter and a half mile off crying murder as she ran. After she had fled some two hundred yards, she saw Heller come round the end of the house and look after her. Heller states that after he had despatched his wife he went out of the house and looked after the little girl—that he then went back into the house—his little boy came towards him, when he split him down and chopped his head off. He then dragged his little daughter Sarah out from under the bed—placed his foot upon her breast; she raised her hands for protection and at the first blow he cut off the fingers of one hand and nearly took off her head. He then went and rolled the mother off of the infant on which she had partly fallen, and cut its head off.

He then fled. There were several inches of snow on the ground. His first steps from the door where to one side in the untrodden snow, and were distinguished from their being made with bloody feet. The witnesses thought from the tracks through the snow that he must have retired from the house about as fast as he could run. After going about 150 yards he fell down

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