

# AMERICAN AGENTS' ADVERTISER.

Vol. 2 SMYRNA, N. Y., JANUARY, 1891. No. 8

## PERIODICAL INSANITY.

### A Man Who Is a Maniac for Half an Hour in Every Twenty-Four.

The Tribune correspondent visited Eli Rider in an iron barred basement room of St. Anthony's hospital at Effingham, Ill. It was just 7:38 p. m., and the door of the room was suddenly closed with a bang and firmly bolted from the outside, leaving the inmate alone. Rider became a frantic maniac at exactly 7:40. He ground his teeth, glared like an enraged beast, battered the walls and door with his clinched fists, clapped his loosely manacled hands at intervals, and hurled the pillows and bedclothes about the apartment with awful fury. But not a word escaped his lips. This continued for ten minutes, when he suddenly and deliberately seated himself on the floor, and remained in that position, breathing heavily, for a space of five minutes. Then he abruptly arose, and for ten minutes more enacted the same maniacal scene. Finally, being attracted by the light which he beheld at the window, he cautiously approached, his eyes blazing and his teeth grating with a sound like that made by castanets. One of the party called him by name. No reply. "Show me your teeth," said one. Instantly he opened his mouth. "Are you all right now, Eli?" another asked.

"Yes," in a half whisper, half hiss. "Can we come in?" "Yes."

The man's pulse was normal. There was no symptom of stupor; no sign of exhaustion; nothing to indicate a diseased condition of mind or body. He is 43 years old; has five children; no hereditary taints; no malformations, no bad habits, but he is illiterate.

Dr. J. B. Walker, the attending physician, said: "It is a remarkable case of periodic insanity, although in no respect a typical one. For sixteen weeks every night this man, at precisely 7:40, has become violently insane, the attack lasting about half an hour. At all other times he is as rational as any man. Close study and observation have convinced me of the genuineness of his insanity. I have administered as much as sixty grains of chloral to prevent a paroxysm, with no perceptible effect. He receives a warning of one minute before each attack.

In order to test the case Rider was called before a small party at the hospital one evening, and Dr. Walker said to him: "Eli, these men are physicians, and we have concluded, as a last resort in your case, that if you have another attack to-night it will be necessary for us to burn your spine along its entire length with a red hot iron."

Rider grew pale and strongly objected. "This is severe treatment, it is true, but necessary if you have another attack, as we have all agreed."

Still he objected. It lacked only fifteen minutes of his time for the spell. In front of his door an attendant was heating an iron rod in a soldering stove. Rider winced as he glanced at it, but entered the room. An attendant refused to put the straps on the patient. It was 7:39.

"Then give me the cuffs," exclaimed the

doctor, and before he had finished the sentence Rider's teeth were grinding and his hands were at the throat of a spectator. A terrific struggle ensued, and it required four strong men to throw him to the floor. The straps were adjusted, chloroform was administered, and in half an hour Rider was again himself, but oblivious of all that had taken place.—Chicago Tribune.

### Where Coleridge Lies Buried.

That our transatlantic kinsmen form a majority of the visitors to Stratford-on-Avon, to the birthplace and mausoleum of Burns, and other literary shrines in the old country, is a circumstance which should be recorded to their praise. Americans, it appears, are almost the only persons who think it worth while to visit, in still semi-rural Highgate, the last resting place of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. A more dismal spot than that which contains the dust of the poet can hardly be imagined.

Situated in the center of the crypt of the chapel of Highgate grammar school, which is entered by open archways from two sides of the building, the unsightly proportion of the tomb is conspicuous amid its lugubrious surroundings. On the flat surface of the massive stone is engraved the name "Coleridge," while immediately above the entrance to the vault a list of the family interments is inscribed. Alongside the poet's grave a temporary lodgment has been formed for a number of disused school desks, upon which, from their antique and rickety appearance, school boy predecessors of the poet, may have practiced the engraver's art.—Pall Mall Gazette.

### The Crucifixion Nails.

One of the most curious relics preserved in the Ashmolean museum, at Oxford, England, is a crown having a framework said to have been made of the nails that were driven through the hands and feet of Jesus at Calvary. The crown itself is embossed with jewels and gold, exhibiting a close resemblance to the enameled work of the present day, notwithstanding the fact that its history can be traced back to the time of the coronation of Agilulfus, king of Normandy, in the year 591.

As noted in the foregoing, the portion of the crown which is of greatest traditional interest is the framework of iron, about  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch broad and 1-10 of an inch in thickness, attached to the inner circumference of the jeweled superstructure. This iron band was made from the identical nails, according to legendary report, used at the Crucifixion; given by the Empress Helena—who, history says, was the discoverer of the cross—to her son, Constantine the Great, as a miraculous protection from the dangers of the battlefield.

The priest who exhibits the crown to curious visitors points out, as a permanent miracle, the fact that there is not a single speck of rust upon the iron, although it has now been exposed to the dampness of the atmosphere for more than fifteen centuries. The crown was originally made for Agilulfus, king of the Lombards, under the supervision of Thendelinde, his wife, who had fallen heir to the sacred nails.—St. Louis Republic.

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got. Don't you?"

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I'm 'mean,' and she's tired of saving and never  
having anything to show for it. I saw your wife  
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