

## ARDLAMONT MYSTERY.

Monson on Trial for Murder.

Story of the Supposed Crime.

In the High Court of Justice at Edinburgh, Alfred John Monson was called upon to plead to the indictment charging him with causing the death of Ardlamont, on Aug. 10 last, of Lieut. Hambrough. The case is known as the Ardlamont mystery and has excited keen interest in all parts of the United Kingdom owing to the prominence of the prisoner and his alleged victim. Monson pleaded not guilty. His alleged accomplice, Edward Sweeney, alias Davis, alias Scott, has not yet been found by the police and, in accordance with the rule that obtains in the Scotch courts, he was pronounced to be an outlaw.

Away up in the Kyles of Bute, in Scotland, on a promontory which juts out into Loch Fyne, is situated the Ardlamont estate. It comprises 11,000 acres. For centuries it belonged to the family of the Lamonts of Cowal. The death not long ago of Col. Lamont brought the property into the market and the upset price was fixed at £80,000. An arrangement was entered into with Alfred John Monson, a Yorkshire gentleman, who took the shootings and the mansion house until the necessary preliminaries had been effected with a view to the total transfer of the property. Mr. Monson has a moderate 'entourage' of keepers, servants and other dependents, and about a month after his arrival was joined by Lieut. Windsor Dudley Cecil Hambrough, a young gentleman excellently connected, who would have attained his majority next year had he lived. Lieut. Hambrough's father (a man of substance and a justice of the peace for Hants) had confided his son to Monson's care in the hope that certain youthful irregularities might be subordinated to a system of hard study that should qualify the young man for the military career for which he had been designed.

Young Hambrough, on arrival at Ardlamont, immediately arranged to become a part proprietor of the estate which Monson was then about to purchase, the solicitors were urged to hurry on the preparation of the title deeds, and they were doing so when an interruption arrived in the form of Lieut. Hambrough's death.

The Ardlamont estate slopes for a considerable distance gently down to the waters of Loch Fyne and the fishing here is excellent. On the morning of Thursday, Aug. 10, Monson and Hambrough were out fishing at the hour of one o'clock.

Occupied in this way they continued for some time, when suddenly the boat capsize and sprang a leak, and the two men were thrown into the water. Only the elder knew how to swim, but Hambrough was able to clutch a rock and hold on to it while Monson swam to the shore, procured another boat and returned in it to the rescue. It was about six o'clock when the two men arrived at the mansion house, and notwithstanding the early hour, Monson and his friends concluded to go rabbit shooting in a neighboring covert. Each man carried a gun. For company they had an engineer named Scott, who arrived at Ardlamont the previous day to take charge of a steam launch which Lieut. Hambrough had just purchased.

Scott was evidently on familiar terms with his employer, not merely from the fact that he accompanied him on his shooting expeditions, but judging also from his presence at meals with Mr. Monson and the Lieutenant. In one part of the covert is a ditch, flanked by a stone turf-covered wall, about three feet high. The shooting took place in a neighborhood of this wall. After one rabbit had been shot, Hambrough got separated from his companions. These two were moving in the direction of the house when a shot was heard. Monson halted and called out, "What have you got?"

No reply coming, he hurried in the direction whence the report had proceeded and found Hambrough lying in the ditch with a gaping gunshot wound in his head, two or three inches behind the left ear. They sent for a doctor, whose services were of no avail, and returned to the mansion house silently and sorrowfully. That is the story of Monson and Scott.

An inquest was held and after it had been explained that the probabilities were in favour of the assumption that Hambrough had been walking along the wall and had fallen, and that the gun which was at full cock had been accidentally discharged behind him, this accounting for the location of the wound, it was decided that the case was one of accidental death. The body was buried but fresh facts came to light which led to its speedy exhumation.

Monson has a young and pretty wife whose name had not before had any connection with the story. But at this point she is introduced. When Hambrough had conceived the idea of sharing in the purchase of Ardlamont he had done so with a view to having sufficient funds in hand to complete his part in the transaction. In these circumstances he came to Mr. Monson, who, being possessed of it is stated, of considerable means of her own, agreed to advance twenty thousand pounds each, to be effected with the Mutual Life Insurance of New York.

The insurance, it would seem, were actually effected from a statement from a representative of the company and the policies assigned to Mrs. Monson. Whether or not at the date of his death Hambrough had received the promised consideration from Mrs. Monson, is one of those hazy points which the trial was probably clear up. It was the fact that these policies were in existence and had been dealt with in the manner indicated that led to re-opening of the case and the arrest of Monson on a charge of murder.

## GEMS OF THOUGHT.

A sneer is the stiletto of conversation. Kind words are the music of the world.

Great minds have wills; feeble ones have wishes.

The manner of giving shows the character of the giver more than the gift itself.

Sincerity, deep, great, genuine sincerity, is the first characteristic of all men in any way heroic.

Idleness is the mother of many wretched children. They that do nothing are in the ready way to do worse than nothing.

Let fortune do her worst, whatever she makes us lose, so long as she never makes us lose our honesty and our independence.

He that does not know those things that are of use and need to him, is but an ignorant man, whatever he may know beside.

A secret is like silence; you can talk about it and keep it. It is not money; when once you know there is any concealed it is hard to cover.

If you have your eyes you will contract such a vicious habit of mind as by degrees will break out upon those who are your friends, or those who are indifferent to you.

A wise and good man will turn examples of all sorts to his advantage. The good he will make his patterns, and strive to equal or excel them. The bad he will by all means avoid.

When you have found your talent, do not despise it or be disappointed in it or yourself because you have not some other; but honor it, respect it, make the best of it even if it is not much of a gift.

Prefer what is good of a lower or inferior work or material to what is bad of a higher work or material; for this is the way to improve every kind of work, and to put every kind of material to better use.

From a worldly point of view, young people would do well to remember that whatever keeps the family together in faithful allegiance adds to the position, and influence and consideration of each member individually.

Holy in the German language—hell, also means healthy; our English word whole—all of one piece without any joint in it—is the same word. You could not get any better definition of what is really is than reality. Mens sana in corpore sano.

The aspect of this life is stern, very stern. It is a very superficial account of which slurs over its grand mystery and refuses to hear its low, deep undertone of anguish. But there is, enough, hour to hour of bright, sunny happiness to remind us that the Creator's name is love.

## ELECTRIC SPARKS.

Generated by the Current Electrical Review.

St. Louis is building an electric ambulance.

A Portland merchant is manufacturing sausages by electricity.

Greenwich Observatory is to be electric-lighted.

Vermont's first electric railway has gone into operation at Burlington.

The historic Yale campus has been illuminated by arc-lamps.

Electrician Freese is making experiments on telegraphing without wires.

Louis Marks has invented a new incandescent arc-lamp.

## To Escape Debt.

During medieval times a woman who had nothing when she married escaped responsibility for her debts. Women were then often married in a single garment to relieve themselves of indebtedness. A young and noble German lady of the sixteenth century, to make assurance doubly sure, had the marriage ceremony performed while she was standing in a closet entirely divested of clothing. She put out her hand through the crack of the door, and was thus married. As soon as the ceremony was performed, the groom, clergyman and witnesses left the room, she came out, arrayed herself in clothes provided by her husband, and took her place at the marriage feast.—Philadelphia Record.

## Transparent Leather.

This method of making leather transparent is given by a French journal: The hide, after the hair has been removed is stretched upon a frame, and treated with a mixture of 1000 parts of glycerine, 25 parts of salicylic acid, 25 parts of boric acid, and two parts of picric acid. Before being dried, the hide is taken to a dark room and saturated with a solution of bichromate of potash; and when it is very dry, an alcoholic solution of tortoise shell is applied. The transparent leather is very flexible. It is useful for toilet articles, and might even be made into shoes, which would doubtless prove an attractive novelty.

## Another Arctic Expedition.

A Pittsburg mariner, Captain Kingston, has just finished three small sail boats of thirty-four, twenty-six and twenty-three feet length, respectively, on a new principle to prevent their capsizing, and with these he started on an expedition to the Arctic Sea. He will sail down the Mississippi to the Gulf, thence around Cape Horn, and proposes to reach Herrell Island, 300 miles north of where the Jeannette was lost. The captain has ten people in his expedition, including his wife and his brother-in-law's wife. At New Orleans the two smaller boats will be abandoned and the trip made in the largest one.

## Many Species of Insects.

An English scientist is quoted as authority for the statement that there are five times as many species of insects as there are species of all other living things put together. The oak tree alone supports 450 species of insects, and 200 kinds make their home in the pine. Forty years ago Humboldt estimated that the number of species preserved in collections was between 150,000 and 170,000, but scientific men now say that there must be more than 750,000, without taking into consideration the parasitic creatures. Of the 35,000 species in Europe, however, not more than 3,500 are obnoxious or destructive. There are more than 100,000 kinds of beetles.

## The Size of Rain Drops.

A member of the Royal Meteorological Society has experimented on the size of rain drops, which vary from a speck so small as to be almost invisible up to a diameter of two inches. Drops of the same size do not always contain the same amount of water. Some of the largest drops are hollow.

## NAKED IN AN OPEN BOAT.

The Terrible Experience of Three Sailors of a Wrecked Spanish Bark.

Naked, famishing for food and water, and almost roasted by the tropical sun, three Spanish sailors were on Oct. 15 rescued from a small boat in mid-ocean and landed recently at this port from the schooner Henry Lipitt. Their story reads in horror the most thrilling chapter of the dime novel writer, and that they were saved at all is considered by many as little short of a miracle.

The men are Pedro Nolasco, Antonio Cramer and Locio Peres, and they formed part of the crew of the Spanish bark, Juan J. Murg, which on Sept. 1, sailed from Mobile with a cargo of slaves for Seville, Spain.

The men were picked up on an island 30.25, longitude 76.65, the small boat in which they were struggling helplessly having been sighted by the nearest steamer. The schooner Henry Lipitt was bound for this port from Turk's Island, and the tiny boat was at first supposed to be a bit of wreckage. The lookout, however, thought he saw signs of life, and the vessel was put about and soon came alongside of the open boat. Then it was seen to contain three occupants. All were lying face downward in the bottom. They were entirely naked, and great sun blisters covered their backs.

Tenderly they were lifted to the schooner's deck, and though they could speak no English their cries for food and water were pitiful in the extreme. They were delicious, and when they realized that they were safe began to dance and hug and kiss the brawny sailors who had rescued them.

They were nursed like babies until out of danger, and it was several days before they recovered from the awful experience they had endured.

Finally they were able to tell that they had sailed from Mobile under Capt. Linares, in time to catch the early October hurricane. Their vessel was soon thrown on her beam ends and became a hopeless wreck. All hands took to the boats, having time only to secure a scant supply of food and water. The sea was running high, the sun hot, and they could hardly live through the storm.

All removed their clothing in order to swim for the wreckage of the bark should the sea capsize. The three men rescued were once compelled to swim while they reached the boat, and they managed to live until the Lipitt came in sight.

Jan J. Murg had a crew of nineteen men. Four were picked up by the steamer Lampasas and landed at Galveston. They were all naked and famishing. Nothing has been heard of the other twelve, and they are probably lost. The three landed here will be cared for by the Spanish Consul and sent home as soon as possible. Recently they joined in a card of thanks to Capt. Ripley, of the schooner, that rescued them. Both captain and crew were warmly praised for their kind and humane treatment of the men who passed through such an awful experience.—Philadelphia Record.

## PEANUTS AND THEIR USES.

The Annual Crop Worth Millions of Dollars and the Demand Increasing.

The "goober" in industry of Norfolk is unique. Here a little city in Virginia has become the greatest distributing center of peanuts in the world. A peanut is a pretty small item, but an annual crop of something like 5,000,000 bushels, worth millions of dollars, makes a pretty big item. The demand for goobers has doubled within the last five years, and the supply does not fill the growing demand.

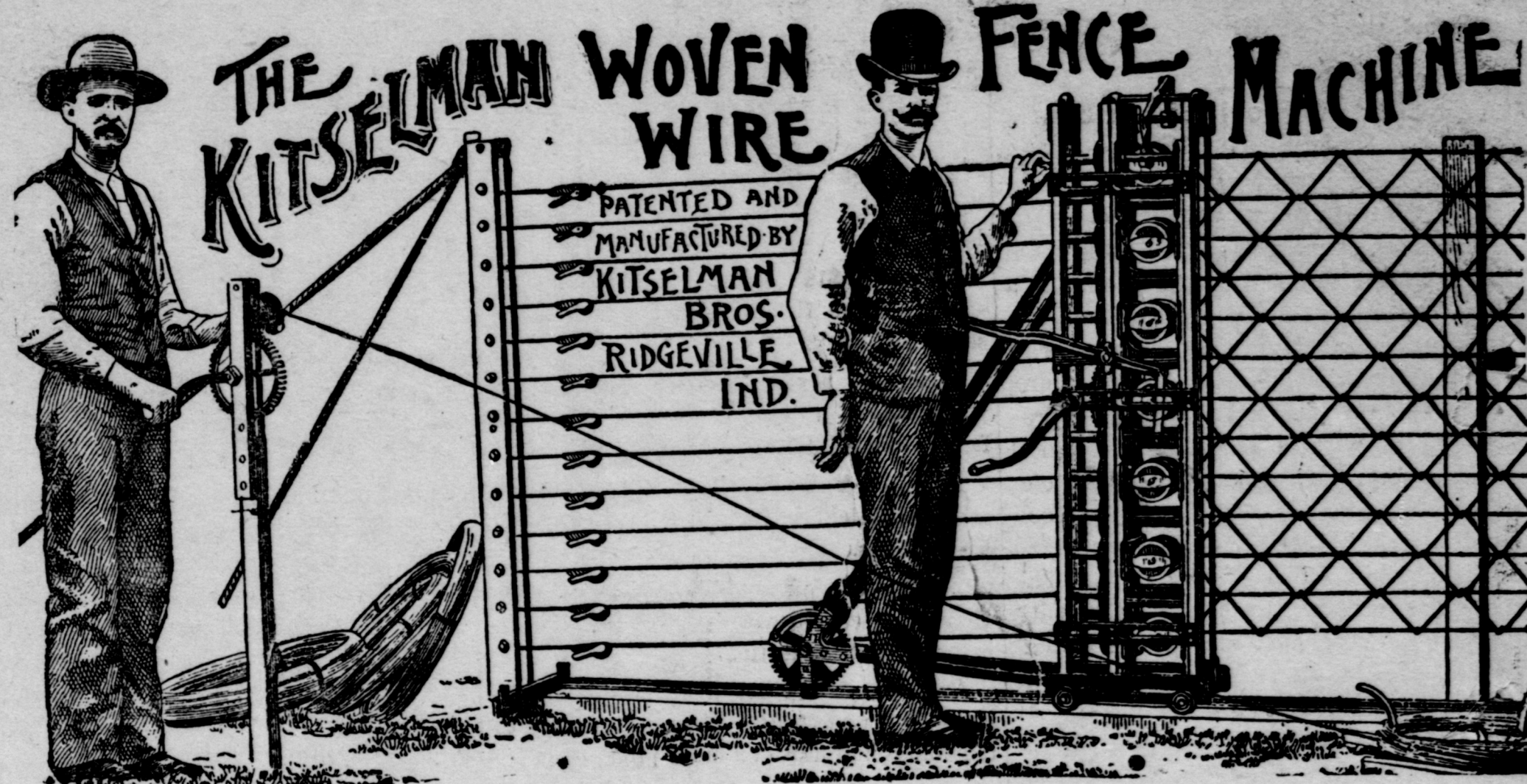
Few people know the curious uses to which the goober has been put in trade of late years. No other single plant raised in this country is used to so many different ways. The Chinese say that the cocoon palm has as many useful properties as there are days in the year. The goober is not so universal as that; but it has as many valuable qualities as there are days in the week. The solid part of the nut is particularly nutritive, and supplies fruit and food for many a family. The vines make fine fodder, some say as good as clover hay, while hogs fatten on what is left in the fields after the crop has been gathered.

If you grind the nut you get a sweet quality of flour, with which the housewife makes delicious biscuit. If you squeeze it you will obtain a valuable oil, resembling olive oil, and used for similar purposes. This oil enters largely into the manufacture of the better grades of soap. The kernels are roasted for coffee. The roasted kernels are also used in the manufacture of some kinds of chocolate. The confectioner helps to ruin our digestion in boyhood days with peanut candy; the Georgia cook alone knows how to make rich pastry of pounded peanuts. The artist, with paint brush, silk, and satin, creates novel and beautiful peanut ornaments, so that peanut dolls and other curios may now be seen in the shop windows of New York, especially around holidays. These are some of the ways in which the leguminous nut is useful to us.—New York Independent.

## Prince and Station Master.

The death of Mr. Henry Farnham, who was for many years station master at Takely, one of the village stations on the Great Eastern Railway Company's Witham, Braintree and Bishop's Stortford branch line, recalls an amusing incident in which the Prince of Wales played a leading part. A few years ago the Prince and a party of distinguished guests visited Takely, for the purpose of visiting Lord and Lady Brooke, at Easton Lodge, Essex. By some means the Prince of Wales became detached from the rest of the party, and did not reach the barrier until a few minutes after the others had passed. Mr. Farnham was doing duty as ticket collector, and not then knowing the Prince he promptly accosted him with "Ticket, please." The Prince mentioned that he was one of Lord Brooke's party. The station-master was not, however, satisfied with the statement, and he firmly refused to allow his Royal Highness to pass unless he produced a ticket or furnished his name and address. Satisfactory explanations were eventually forthcoming, and the Prince was permitted to rejoin the party. Though somewhat embarrassed when he learned the Prince's identity, the station-master was not greatly perturbed; indeed, he received the intelligence with the philosophical question, "why didn't he tell me that he was the Prince of Wales?" His Royal Highness heartily enjoyed the incident. His Royal Highness was doing duty as ticket collector, and he included jocularly of his attempt to ride without a ticket.—Westminster Gazette.

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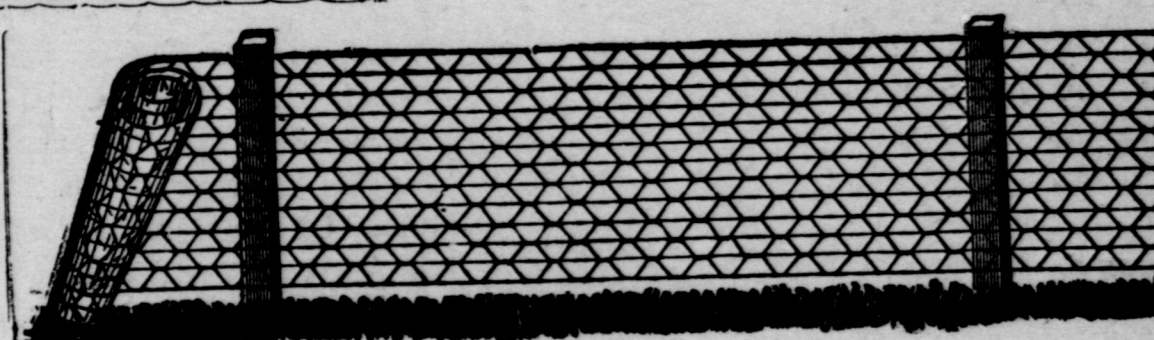
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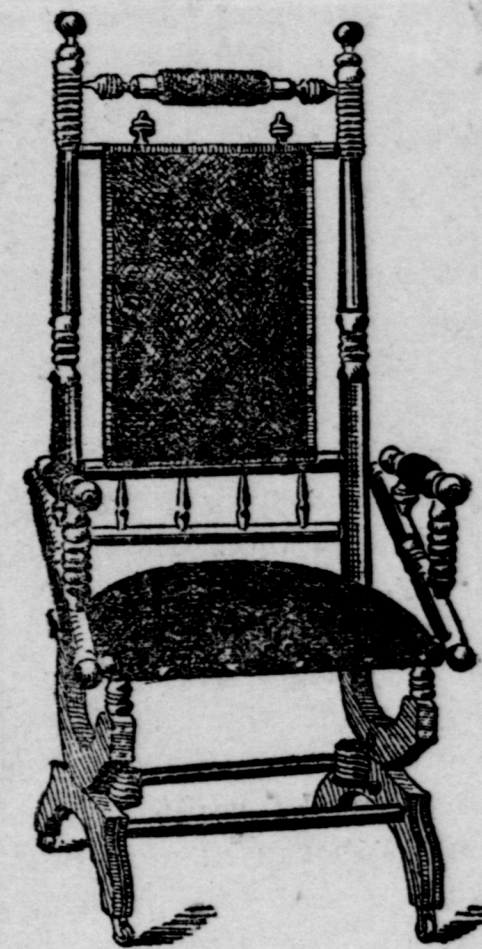
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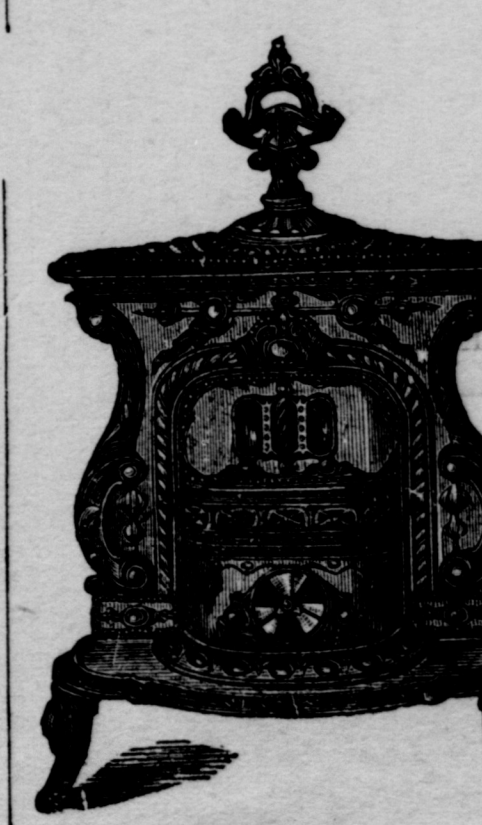
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