

DIARY OF A KUKLUX MAN.

Story of the Organization Written by a Member in Prison.

From Georgia comes the report that the survivors of the Kuklux Klan are quietly arranging a reunion to be held in Atlanta in August, and as it is now more than a quarter of a century since this most formidable of secret societies dominated the South, it is probable that a reassembling of the Klan might occur without much bitterness. One of the four notorious leaders of the order in Georgia is alive and serves as a deputy sheriff in the western part of Texas. The others died violent deaths. There are many distinguished survivors of the Klan in the South to-day who would not hesitate to attend openly a convention of the early members of the order, but who would shun association with the men who perpetrated such outrages in the name of Kuklux that the North and the South join hands to wipe it out.

It has been maintained by the original members of the Klan that the deeds of bloodshed which in 1867 and 1868 made the name Kuklux the synonym for the most brutal lawlessness were committed by unworthy new recruits or by men in no way connected with the order, but who found its name a convenient shield. There never was another period in our history when such an order could have flourished. The war left the South in a chaotic condition. It was filled with men of military training and no means of support. The negroes, who had been slaves, tried in many places to become masters. From these anomalous and peculiar conditions was developed a band of regulators such as this country had never before seen. Many of these men were of high character, but although the Kuklux Klan was organized on innocent lines it had become an engine of power which made it a veritable Frankenstein before the originators realized it. Although it numbered thousands of men all through the South the oaths which bound its members to the order were of such a character that to this day no authoritative account of the Kuklux Klan has ever been published. A history of the Klan which was printed in one of the magazines of this city fifteen years ago was made up of facts which any outsider might gather in the States where the Klan operated. The joint select committee of Congress which reported in 1872 on the condition of a fair in the late insurrectionary States contained a mass of disreputable history. It established the fact that outrages without number had been committed in the Southern States and frequently in the name of Kuklux. Much of the evidence was contradictory. It would not have been much safer for any member of the Klan to reveal its history and secrets at that time.

When Louis D. Pilsbury, afterwards Warden of the Blackwell's Island Penitentiary was connected with the Albany Penitentiary he became well acquainted with Randolph Shotwell, then serving a six years term for a Kuklux assault in North Carolina. Many Kuklux prisoners were sent North to serve out their sentences. Shotwell was a Captain of the Klan and a man of education and marked ability. His trial and conviction were of national interest. There were other Kuklux prisoners in the penitentiary, but none of them was of the reputation and ability of Shotwell. During his imprisonment he spent part of his time in preparing a history of the Kuklux, which naturally was in the nature of an apology for it, and for obvious reasons he did not want made public until his death. This history is written with a pencil in a large blank book, and in its introduction the author explains that he uses the colloquial style that he may better elucidate the points of general interest. Mr. Pilsbury gave this diary to the writer several years ago, and as an interesting contribution to this history of the Kuklux Klan some portions of it are printed below. Shotwell was a well qualified as any man in the South to write about this secret society. So far as is known, Shotwell's history of the Klan is the only authoritative one by an officer of the organization. It has not been published before for obvious reasons.

Shotwell's diary refers to the Klan as he knew it in his own State. A recently published history of secret societies gives this account of the organization: "The Kuklux Klan was a former secret society of regulators organized at Pulaski, Giles county, Tenn in June, 1866, formally designed for the diversion of the young men of the town to relieve the dullness of a period immediately following the close of the civil war. The origin of the title of the organization is interesting. At the second meeting of the founders one suggested calling it 'Kuklot,' from the Greek word kuklos, meaning a band or circle, when somebody else cried out, 'Call it Kuklux,' when the word Klan immediately suggested itself, and was added to com-

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plete the alliteration. The writers of the article in the magazine named suggest that there was a weird potency in the very name Kuklux Klan, which impressed not only the general public, but exercised an influence over members themselves which was responsible for the excessive solemn and mysterious, even sepulchral character of the ritual, ceremonies and appearances of the society. Accordingly, the presiding officer became, the Grand Cyclops; the Vice-President, a Grand Magi; the marshal, a Grand Turk, and outer and inner guards of the Den, as the place of meeting was called, Lictors. Members were sworn to profound secrecy respecting the Klan and everything pertaining to it. They were not permitted to tell who belonged to it or to solicit people to join. They wore white masks with holes through which to see and breathe; tall, fantastic cardboard headpieces and grotesque or hideous gowns. The ceremony of initiation was burrowed from some of the features of the introduction of candidates of the long defunct Sons of Malta and other like societies, and was calculated to and did provoke much amusement for the most of those, it not all who were present. The Den was established in the L. of a particular ruined dwelling at the outskirts of the town, about which was storn torn, limbless trunks of trees. The founders were among the representative business and professional young men of the town. The nature of the society soon attracted much attention and applications to join were numerous. When a desire to unite with the Klan was expressed in the presence of a number, he would take the applicant aside when unobserved and say that he thought he knew how to get in and suggest that they meet at some particular time and place and join together.

"It was not until after the boisterous and gaily sounds of mirth and mystification had ceased in the Den—sounds which soon led the colored people and gentle townfolk to avoid the locality after dark that the newly initiated member discovered, it even then, that he had been introduced through a member rather than by an applicant like himself. During July and August the Kuklux Klan was the talk of Pulaski and the surrounding region. Its growth was rapid and young men from the country found their way to the town and ultimately into the recesses of the Den."

From this origin came the Klans which spread all over the South. There was great disorder throughout portions of the South and it was not all on one side. The reorganized Kuklux Klan made its appearance and it became identified with midnight murder and political infamy. It held a convention in Nashville early in 1867, at which the territory covered by it was termed the 'Invisible Empire' and was divided into realms, dominions and provinces. The assaults and outrages committed after this convention are still vivid memories in the South.

CAN FISHES TALK?

Curious Sounds Uttered by Some of the Denizens of the Ocean.

Fish that utter sounds are by no means rare, but they are not often seen or heard by those not in the fishing business. Some years ago, in the Gulf of Mexico, a small, highly colored fish known as the hamion was hauled in. The moment it appeared above the surface it opened its mouth and began to grunt and groan so loudly that the attention of the entire party was attracted to it. The sounds could be heard from one end to the other of the sixty-ton schooner. One of the fishermen held the fish in amazement a few moments, and then was so convinced that it was talking and begging for liberty that it was tossed overboard. The gizzard shad utters a note that can be heard some distance, and the eel is said to make a noise that comes nearer to being musical than any other made by a fish. The loudest sound uttered by a fish came from a small dogfish, or shark, on the New England coast. The fishermen were hauling them in by the dozen, and as each fish came out of the water it uttered a loud croak, and kept it up as though in great agony, so that when several were on deck the air was full of barking, or croaking.

The drumfish is one of the few fishes whose sounds are heard while they are in the water. The late Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution made some interesting experiments with them, and in a report described the strange sounds that came up from the bottom. He had the impression that the fish were directly on the bottom of the vessel and were in some way striking it; but this was found to be a mistake. The fish were in a school some feet below the surface, and were in all probability making the sounds by striking

their pharyngeal teeth together. The sounds produced by these fish have often had a singular effect upon superstitious seamen, who saw omens in the weird noises.

Any one who has slept in a small boat with his ears a few inches from the water has heard strange crackling sounds sometimes. They appeared like a series of cracks or electric shocks, but what creatures produce the noise no one seems to know.

One of the most remarkable of all the sound-producing fishes is found in China seas, and an account of its actions has been given by Lieut. White of the British navy. He was engaged in some special work at the entrance of a river and came to anchor one night in shallow water. Presently strange sounds began to be heard coming up from the bottom. They were described as resembling the clanging of bells and the beating of drums. The men were demoralized and attributed the noises to spirits, it being said that a crew of pirates had gone

down there, but the officers were convinced that the noise was caused by some sea animals, and investigation showed that it came from a school of fish that made the sounds by clapping their teeth together.

The great Australian lung fish, so called because when under water it breathes by its gills and when out by its air bladder, utters sounds that have startled men. The fish, which attains a length of six or eight feet, has a singular habit of leaving the water at times and crawling over the marshy ground, at this time uttering a singular barking sound of such peculiar resonance that at night it can be heard a long distance, a sound very much like that of the California drumfish.

That whales utter sounds is asserted by many, and one is known as the cing whale from the sounds it makes. A certain village in France was once thrown into consternation by the cries which were heard from the sea at night; and when those who mustered up sufficient courage reached the water they found a school of whales had stranded and were uttering cries.

Whether the noises produced by fishes can be considered as a language is a subject for debate, but they may well be an expression of the emotions, and have some meaning, either as a call, one individual to another, or as a communication of some kind.

Drink Only Good Tea.

There's a reason for it. Cheap teas are not only flavorless, and require more tea to the cup to produce any taste, but moreover, are often artificially colored and flavored, and are sometimes most dangerous. A branded tea like Litley's Elephant Brand is safe, as its packers' business reputation is staked on its purity.

He Died in Poverty.

Charles Graham, the ballad writer, died at Bellevue hospital, New York, a fortnight ago, penniless, leaving a widow and five young children absolutely destitute. Graham was the author of "Two Little Girls in Blue," but, though the song was an immense success he received but \$10 for it, says Presto. His "Picture That is Turned Toward the Wall" was sung throughout the country, but his total income from the song was \$500 and that came in small sums. His publishers cleared \$25,000 on the composition. Graham was born in Boston, England, 1863, and came to America about 12 years ago. He had the gift of song and was a ready rhymester. "Two Little Girls in Blue" was the first song he composed. He did not think enough of it to try and sell it. It was so catchy though, that a policeman who heard him whistling it went away humming the tune. Finally Graham got hard up and tried to sell his song. He got \$10 for it. The song spread all over this country and England, and the publishers made thousands out of it. "My Dad's the Engineer" went all most as well, but the composer couldn't get enough out of it to keep starvation from his door.

Practice Economy; Avoid Extravagance.

Mr. D. K. Pearsons, millionaire, philanthropist and patron of colleges, says that the rules of life can be summed up as follows:

1 Practice steady economy. Do not spend until you have it to spend. Be strictly honest, and never take advantage of men. Avoid show and extravagance. Use your money to educate the poor.

2 Be your own executive. Trust no man to administer upon your estate. You cannot carry out of this world any amount with your dead hands. There is no use for money beyond the grave.

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