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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE
IN SIX CHAPTERS

The action as we have stated, having been commenced in this Court was carried through in favor of South Carolina, but the church within the time prescribed by the Court have taken an appeal to the Supreme Court of Platonia, the judgment was indignantly reversed, on the ground that the church was a thing in rose and not in posse and that the action ought to have been commenced by a writ de lunatico inquirendo instead of by a writ of prohibition [illegible] The reversal of this judgment not only seriously affected South Carolina, but caused great consternation among the New York and New Jersey descendants of Anoke, and many dark hints were thrown out that the Supreme Court of Platonia had been bought up by the church and that it was a Court without God and without hope in the world!

Shortly after the judgment of the Supreme Court [illegible] Massachusetts, where we know all the drivel [illegible] settle these [illegible] Carolina. [illegible] church [illegible] and having [illegible] fish, beans, rice and trap rock, the chief articles of export of that state, thereby allowing none of them to enter a port of South Carolina, and to celebrate the joyous event of independence by unmuzzled throwing up sky rockets, chasers and Roman candles in Charleston Harbor, some of the stocks of which struck into the grandchildren of Fort Sumter behind which several Boston troops were regaling themselves with pork and beans at the time, and who came within an inch of being all impaled upon the stick of a Charleston rocket.

This act, which was construed into one of the grant aggression on the part of South Carolina, so incensed the state of Massachusetts against her and all the other Southern States that it was decided that through her agency and [illegible] Massachusetts should be [illegible] the Supreme Court of Platonia. [illegible] Massachusetts [illegible] Hampshire [illegible] Massachusetts [illegible] Massachusetts [illegible] Massachusetts

The National Democrat.

(FORMERLY RAHWAY REPUBLICAN.)

RAHWAY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1867.

A STRANGE STORY.

A letter from Plattsburg to the Albany *Evening Journal*, written by a reporter for Circuits of the Supreme Court of New York, gives particulars of a supposed murder, which are very remarkable. They relate to the case of a man supposed to have been murdered in 1856, a dead body found and identified as his and the arrest and virtual conviction of his supposed murderer. We extract the following particulars:

In the latter part of June 1856, Captain John G. Weatherwax, attended by his cousin Andrew Weatherwax, sailed in a lake boat from Plattsburg for a Canadian port. Having discharged his cargo, he came with his boat to Pike river, a stream or estuary that empties into or connects with lake Champlain, just beyond the Canada line, and upon the east side of the lake. At Pike River there was a settlement of considerable extent, and a wharf at which the boat was conveniently moored. Here Captain Weatherwax was to obtain a lading of wood, with which to freight his boat and return to Plattsburg.

During the day the two had a violent quarrel, which was witnessed by a man employed on the boat. It was at its height about sunset, both persons threatening each other. At length there came through the darkness to the ear of the listener the sound of a dull heavy thud, as of a powerful blow with some heavy weapon crushing through the skull, and then all was still. Soon after this the captain came aft without his cousin." Next morning, the hat of Andrew, and blood near it, was found on the forward deck of the vessel. The captain was moody and taciturn, and did not speak of his cousin. The captain of another boat, a little distance away, also heard the altercation, the threats and the blows.

After his return to Plattsburg, Captain Weatherwax gave no satisfactory answer to the inquiries for the missing man. On the very spot at Pike river where his boat had been moored the dead body of a man, recently killed, was taken from the water. The man had evidently come to his death by violence, for his skull was crushed as if a fearful blow from a murderous weapon in the hands of a vigorous assailant. The body was identified. The men recognized it as being, beyond a question or a doubt, the man who had been missing from the boat, as Andrew, the cousin of Captain Weatherwax.

The captain was arrested on the 8th of July. The preliminary examination brought out the most conclusive evidence of his guilt. There was no doubt of his conviction. His ingenious counsel bethought themselves of the resources of international law and treaties. They succeeded in establishing themselves in the position, that inasmuch as this affair had taken place in Canada, neither the authorities of Plattsburg nor of the State of New York had anything whatever to do with the matter.

One of them, Mr. McMasters, then recommended his client to flee from his native country, to change his name and appearance, to go to the end of some unfrequented road, and there out of the world, his identity concealed, to lead a new and different life. But the captain would not accept this advice. In the face of his accusers and of all the world, he steadily and persistently declared his entire innocence, and refused to budge a single inch from his accustomed round of business.

The matter acquired wide notoriety, and the British authorities made a requisition upon the government of the United States for his surrender. William L. Marcy was then Secretary of State, and upon his warrant, dated December 9, 1856, Captain Weatherwax was again arrested. He was at once taken to Montreal and there closely confined in jail.

Captain Weatherwax remained in prison at Montreal about a year. He was tried twice; the jury failed to agree the first time, and the next one acquitted him under direction of judge, who ruled the proof insufficient. The Captain returned home to Plattsburg, branded with the imputation of murder. His relatives shunned him and repeatedly accused him of the crime. Nevertheless, he continued for ten long years to assert his innocence.

Early in the present month intelligence was brought to his counsel, Mr. McMasters, that Andrew Weatherwax, the man supposed to have been murdered, had returned to Plattsburg. He refused to credit the story till, on the 7th instant, the man came into the village and showed himself alive.

He gave the following account of himself: He left the boat that night in a state of partial intoxication, and in a very irritable mood. Going to a rum shop he soon became embroiled in a quarrel, was arrested, brought before a magistrate and fined. Not having the money to pay the fine, he was about being placed in close confinement when a man stepped forward and offered to take him as a seaman, giving an advance of wages to pay the fine. Andrew accepted, and was speedily shipped on an English vessel. He went as a common sailor to China, to Australia, and to various parts of the world in different vessels. He returns now and learns for the first time of his supposed death by violence.

ROMANTIC CHANGE OF FORTUNE.—A few years back a certain noble Englishman, a grandee of the first water, and an eccentrician of the wildest school, honored New York with his presence and his money. He lived strictly *incognito*, and his sole amusement consisted in wandering through the streets after nightfall, and relieving those of his fellow creatures who had experienced the pains of poverty or the penalties of dissipation. While upon one of these humane excursions he encountered a young female, who tenderly solicited alms. Inquiring her history, he found her to be an orphan, of surpassing beauty, with an intelligent mind, and of excellent education, reduced to abject destitution by the death of her father, shot in the Mexican war. The titled Howard, wearied at his own bachelor's existence, and won by the romance of the beggar girl's history, tendered to her his heart, his coronet, and his hand. The sequel is that, at a recent ball given by the Russian Emperor, a duchess, radiant with beauty, and sparkling with diamonds, won the heart of all observers. That distinguished lady was the former indigent member of the New York streets.

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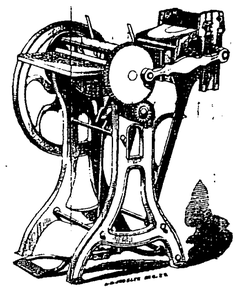

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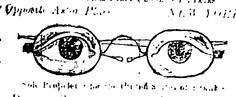

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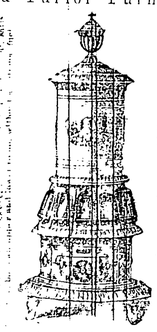

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