

An Attempt at Arson

It is not often that we are called upon to chronicle the commission of a criminal act of the destruction of property so dastardly and infamous in its character as that committed in this city on last Thursday night.

Nearly a year ago an old landmark about the Monte Cristo hotel passed away. True, it was only a dog, and yet he possessed qualities of heart and mind, of intelligence and affection which were almost human and endeared him to all who knew him. His friends were legion and no man or woman has ever lived and died in the city whose memory is more fresh and green in the hearts of this community or of the thousands of guests of the Monte Cristo hotel within the past ten years as this noble and faithful old dog "Duke."

Mr. C. F. Catlin, manager of the Monte Cristo, has recently erected a handsome and quite expensive tomb over the grave. It is a wooden structure of pleasing design and has been much admired. It is situated on the summit of "Duke's hill" and has been visited by townsfolk and strangers in numbers that would surprise those not in a position to know.

On Thursday evening about 9 o'clock the tomb was discovered to be on fire. Some persons, who have not yet been fully identified, had saturated an old coat with coal oil and placed it against the tomb and set it on fire. Fortunately the structure, being of heavy material and filled inside with rock, was not consumed, although one side was badly smoked and defaced, which will be repaired at once.

It is indeed difficult to realize that living in our midst there are people so low in the scale of humanity, so depraved, so contemptibly mean, as to commit so dastardly an act, or bribe others to do it, without apparently any motive or purpose other than pure malice.

The act of setting fire to this structure constitutes the crime of arson, as much as though they had applied the torch to the Monte Cristo hotel and is, therefore, a penitentiary offense. Mr. Catlin has placed the matter in the hands of detectives and will prosecute the criminals to the full extent of the law.

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