

"Me and my old woman has a shack an' a patch of garden truck near the store."

"Where's this store?"

"Down stream a-ways at the ferry landin'. 'At's the road you all air talkin' 'bout as passin' the boss's house. It goes ramblin' back to the county seat and the east end 'cross the river at the store."

"I know the place," spoke up the captain. "It's a hang-out for river thieves. For a time got so a steamboat wouldn't

dare drap off freight unless the owner were at the landin' with a shotgun."

"Al, you air a-yearnin' for somethin' active to do. Suppose you and a deputy—the sheriff broke off—"can you ride a hoss?"

"Sure," says Al.

"Well, you and Alec here ride inland a ways. Then cut the road and go to the ferry. See what you can find out there. Cook up a story but don't you dare start anythin'."

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK

Judgment Deferred

THE end of the world did not occur on April 23, 1832—as scheduled. And for this reason, a good many apprehensive New Yorkers found themselves in possession of a supply of white muslin for which they had no earthly use.

No earthly use: the phrase is employed advisedly. For a certain man named Miller chose the early spring of 1832 to warn his fellows that the conclusion of all mortal matters was at hand. He thoughtfully set the date—April 23—though he seems to have considered mention of the exact hour unnecessary.

There was, of course, tremendous activity in preparation—taking forms which varied with the assurance and business acumen of the individual. Some merchants gave their stocks away, believing forlornly that they would have no more profit from mundane goods. But there were also some pretty shrewd opportunists—as the W.P.A. research workers have taken occasion delightedly to point out.

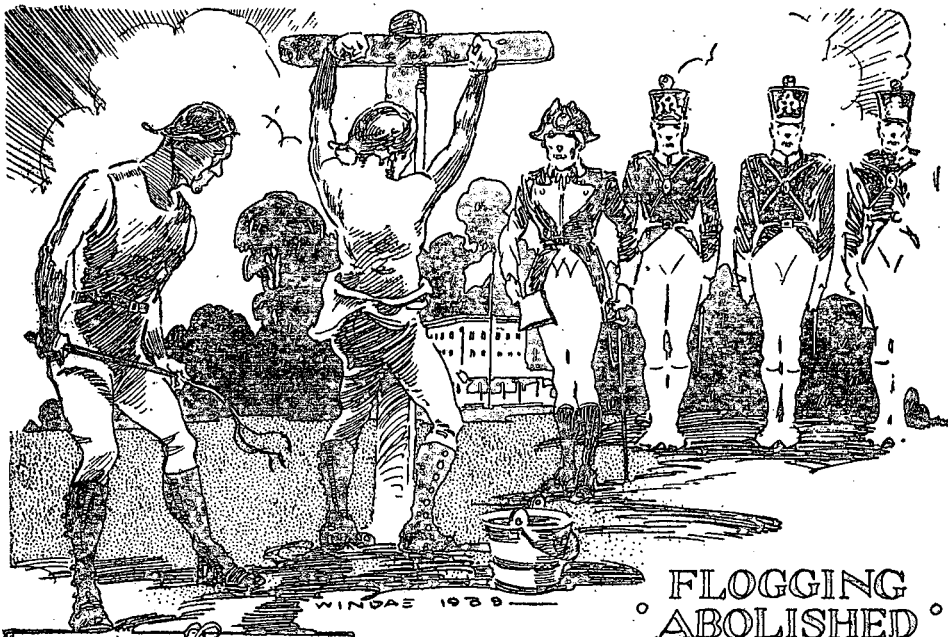
For surely one of the most alert merchandisers in nineteenth-century New York was the owner of a Bowery dry-goods store who gathered in repentant sinners with a special sale on white muslin for ascension robes. Did a rushing business, too. Thus girded for that hour when fire would rain from the sky, frightened citizens gathered in churches and halls and waited anxiously for the crack of doom.

But it seems to be a matter of record that the hour did not come. Miller tried to set the date ahead, but found no more takers.

—Dr. Charles Ticknor Tolson

LEGENDS OF THE LEGIONARIES

ORIGINS OF THE CUSTOMS AND SAYINGS OF THE FIGHTING-MEN : by W.A. WINDAS



• BAGPIPES •

The bagpipes of Scottish bands are a relic of the musical instruments of the Roman legions who, in turn, copied them from the Persians.



• HAND GUNS •

Hand guns, or hand cannon, were introduced into England in 1471, by King Edward IV. The guns were the first type of firearm that could be used by the individual soldier.

• FIRST CAVALRY •

Although Egyptians used horses in warfare (to pull chariots) the first to have regular cavalry were the ancient Assyrians, who found mounted troops superior to war-carts.

