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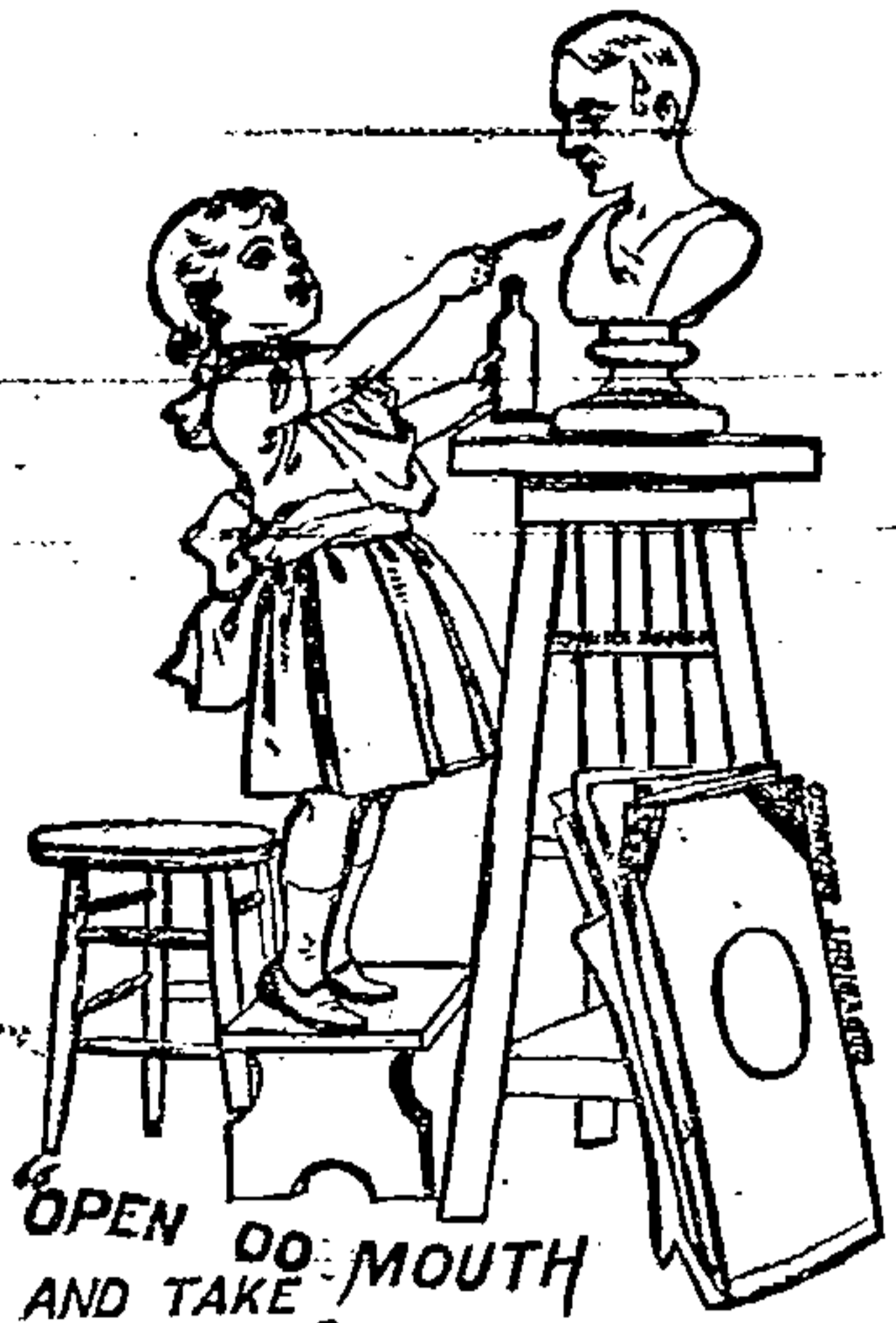
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THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

LARGE ATTENDANCE AND IN-
TERESTING SESSIONS.
Matters Discussed Which are of
Great Interest to the Farmers
of this Section.

The Farmers' Institute under the aus-
pices of the State Agricultural Society,
was held at Prest's opera house Monday
and Tuesday of this week. Mr. George
T. Powell, Director of Institutes, pre-
sided and had associated with him a
full corps of lecturers of the regular
state force. There were also several
local speakers present. Mr. Powell call-
ed the first session at 10:30, Monday a.
m., and stated the reasons for holding
the Institutes throughout the State and
enumerated some of the good results
which have been the outgrowth of them.
He then introduced Mr. M. A. Tuttle,
of Hornellsville, who made an address,
the subject being

"THE SILO AND ENSILAGE."

Before beginning his address he asked
for a show of hands of all those present
who were using a silo. Four responded.
The speaker then exhibited a model of
a silo, such as can be built in the bay of
any barn, or outside, and the work be
done by any ordinary workman. It was
fully explained and its value stated.
He also gave some directions for put-
ting in the silage, and said there was
but one object to be sought, the entire
exclusion of air, and it should be frost
proof and no water allowed to accumu-
late in the bottom. Such a silo as he
described and which will hold 100 tons,
can be built for \$100. He recommend-
ed corn as best for silage; had seen it
made from oats, clover, German millet
and mixed hay, but corn is preferable.
Plant the variety that will produce most
and best and properly mature in your
neighborhood, and make the production
of the greatest number of ears possible
the main object. Plant from 8 to 10
quarts of seed to the acre, and use the
smoothing harrow as soon as the plants
are nicely up. Do not be afraid of har-
rowing up the corn. Any of you who
have ever tried to harrow up a piece of
corn for the purpose of sowing buck-
wheat, will no doubt remember what
success you had. Harrow thoroughly;
kill the weeds; do not allow those to
grow, they are too costly. Cultivate
shallow and do it often. The speaker
then gave some suggestions about cut-
ting corn in the field and at the silo.

When he had concluded, the usual
number of questions which such ad-
dresses bring out, were asked and an-
swered. He said he was in favor of
"shocking" corn in the field and allow-
ing at least 50 per cent. of the moisture
to dry out before cutting and putting
it into the silo. It is a wonder, he said,
that when we come to consider the hun-
dreds of tons of worthless stuff that has
been put into the silo when it was
first adopted, and misnamed silage, that
either silo or its contents have survived.
The first silage was absolutely worth-
less; that now made is the cheapest
made and most profitable food the
farmer can use for winter food. The
speaker also exhibited four samples of
corn silage from different silos. One
being made from 8 rowed yellow corn,
the owner of which is feeding it to his
stock and on which, ten steers, in the
month of January, gained 1,100 pounds.
Sample No. 4 was from 8 rowed corn,
one bushel of the ensilage and 1½ lb.
of cotton seed meal night and morning
being fed to his dairy of 12 cows; the
milk of which goes to the Hornellsville
creamery, and which netted him over
\$8.00 per cow during the month of Janu-
ary. The figures and results given by
Mr. Tuttle were very valuable.

Mr. A. R. Eastman, of Waterville,
made the next address, his text being
THE SILO; ITS VALUE IN PRESENT
FARMING.

His address was a continuance in
part of that of Mr. Tuttle. He said that
corn is valuable because of the large
amount that can be grown on an acre.
Mr. Eastman said the farmer should
not make the mistake of supposing
there will be no loss in corn put into a
silo; there is a loss of from 10 to 20 per
cent.; while the loss in saving it by the
old method is from 20 to 60 per cent.
The silo does not add to the value of
the crop—it preserves the same in the
best possible form for winter use:
There is something in ensilage that
the laboratory of the chemist does not
disclose; it is succulence, which is an
important factor. There is a mystery

connected with this word succulence.
Take a mower and clip the rich, fresh
grass on your lawn next June and feed
it to your cow. She will eat from 50 to
75 pounds of it per day and will return
you 20 to 25 lbs. of good milk. Allow
the sun to dry out the moisture from
that grass and you have twelve pounds
of dry matter left. Feed that to your
cow and note results: if she is given no
other food there will simply be, first, a
stoppage of the milk flow; second, starva-
tion. What has produced this great
change? The moisture which nature
incorporated into the grass, and a little
aroma, has been taken out by the sun,
but that moisture and aroma were what
made that grass valuable. So much for
succulence. It is this factor that makes
ensiled corn so much more valuable
than when saved and dried in the old
way.

Mr. Eastman concluded by recom-
mending the growing of more corn,
and utilizing it as silage for all farm
stock. He said there had just been per-
fect in Oneida county a machine cost-
ing not more than \$45, which can be at-
tached to any wagon, and which will
cut and load corn onto a wagon and do
the work perfectly, thus doing away
with much of the hard labor in gather-
ing and ensiling the crop. He also
said the corn should be cut at about the
glazing period to be most valuable. He
showed by a chart the value of corn cut
at different periods, on the same land
and treated precisely alike, at the State
Experiment Farm, Geneva.

MONDAY AFTERNOON'S
Session opened with questions from the
question box, and discussions. The
more important are noted.

"How should the bottom of a silo be
constructed?"

Mr. Tuttle: "I have tried two plans.
Grout either with or without stone in
the bottom. Ordinarily this is the best.
Any one can make it; break up some
stone finely, add sand and cement; that's
all. On the common clay bottom there
will be more or less mouldy silage."

"Is ensilage good for horses?"

Mr. Powell: "I have fed horses silage
eleven years. We are now feeding half
a bushel a day to colts and breeding
mares and are well pleased with results.
If the ensilage is rich in corn take out
some of it, and feed wheat bran in con-
nection with the silage. Too much corn
in the silage will cause the colts to grow
too fat. Feed one peck a day to colts
and add a pint of linseed meal. There
is too much 'stuffing' of horses practiced
by allowing them to stand and eat hay
all day. Feed three times a day. I
would not put clover in the silo; cure it
and feed it in connection with the silage.
It is highly nitrogenous, while the
corn is carbonaceous. One balances the
other. Have put clover in silo once or
twice, but have abandoned it for corn.
"Should cows eating ensilage, be turned
out at all?"

Mr. VanAlstyne: "My cows go out
every day to drink and their main feed
is ensilage. I do not leave them out ex-
cept on warm sunny days, and then
only for two or three hours. Ensilage
is warm and succulent, therefore cattle
eating it should not be allowed to stand
out in very cold weather. I believe that
all cows that are breeding, should be
turned out for a few hours every day
when the weather is warm. If we are
going to work the cows for all we can
get of milk, without regard to progeny,
keep them in the barn all the time dur-
ing the winter.

"Is there not as much feeding value
in dry corn stalks as in in ensilage?"

Mr. Powell: "Yes and no. The chem-
ists say yes; the cow says no, because
she can get more feeding value from the
silage."

"Is it desirable to dehorn our cattle?"

Mr. Tuttle: "There has been or is to
be, a bill introduced into the Legisla-
ture making it a misdemeanor to de-
horn cattle. I think this Institute
should take some action to prevent
this bill from becoming a law, and
I would like to have the subject
fully discussed."

Mr. Clarke: "Send somebody down
there and have those members of the
legislature supplied with a ration of
peanuts, and they will kill the bill."
[Laughter.]

Mrs. Rumpff: "There have been 1,000
cattle dehorned in the vicinity of Hins-
dale, Cuba and elsewhere thereabout.
So far I know of no evil results."

Dr. Smead: "There will be no more
pain caused in dehorning a cow than in
extracting a man's tooth. If you are

going to take the horns off a cow, saw
them close to the skin or just below it.
Do the job well. The better way, how-
ever, is to breed them off. Begin with
the calf when very young; take a stick
of caustic potash the size of a lead pen-
cil, shave the hair off over the little
knob or germ of the horn, then rub the
caustic potash on; the knobs will very
soon disappear. I believe that if the
practice of beginning with the calf as
indicated, is followed, in a few genera-
tions we shall have no horns.

On motion of Mr. Tuttle the following
preamble and resolution, pertinent to
the question was read and adopted:

WHEREAS: There has been a bill in-
troduced in our Legislature making the
dehorning of cattle a misdemeanor, be it
RESOLVED: That this Institute urge
upon our Legislature the desirability
of killing that bill, as we are in favor
of dehorning, and consider legislation
in that way objectionable.

Mr. Powell said the only objection
that can be offered against the practice
is: will it affect the prepotency of a
sire. It has not yet been decided wheth-
er any ill results will follow in that di-
rection.

Mr. Tuttle: "There is a man in Horn-
ellsville who is feeding 40 steers, which
have been dehorned. Two to four of
them eating out of one box, and they
are as docile as so many sheep. Instead
of being a barbarous practice, it is bar-
barous to leave the horns on and allow
cattle to run in the yards. The question
brought out a lengthy discussion, but
no one opposed the resolution as offered.

"POTATO RAISING"

Was the subject of an address by Mr.
S. S. Karr of Almond. Mr. Karr gave
his method and experience as practiced
several years with good results, begin-
ning on a well worn farm, several years
ago. He said the greatest drawback to
raising potatoes was a want of fertility
in the soil. There are many of his
neighbors who cannot profitably grow
potatoes on this account. If a hap-haz-
ard method is followed on worn-out
land, there is a much greater chance for
disease to creep in. Fertilize well and
give good tillage. The speaker rotated
in crops; sowed to clover, mowed and
pastured; plows in fall, cultivates thor-
oughly early in spring; plows under 20
to 25 tons of barn manure in dry ground.
Plow ten inches deep, he said, get off all
the stone. Plant only the best seed. He
has grown the Early Rose potato 20
years, and, during the last 14 years, has
selected the seed from his own stock.
Plants 5,280 hills to the acre.

The address was valuable to potato
raisers, and elicited many questions at
its close. Summed up, it was: Good
fertilization, good seed; don't bother
with new varieties except to experi-
ment; stick to the old, well-tried, valu-
able sorts.

Dr. C. D. Smead, of Logan, read a pa-
per on "Sheep Raising," which con-
sumed the balance of the session.

THE EVENING SESSION.

The question box. "Is a cow that is
not good for butter, profitable for the
cheese factory?"

Geo. A. Smith: "We found at the
Geneva station last fall that the fat in
milk is the controlling element; and
about all there is in it worth much.
Usually the fat and caseine are very
evenly balanced. In very rich milk the
caseine does not equal the fat, so that
if you have a cow that gives poor milk
for butter she will be found poor for
cheese. Where the fat runs below three
per cent, the caseine will over-balance
it, but it is seldom that the caseine goes
above five per cent, while the fat reaches
in some milk much above that figure."

"Which would you recommend, a
hand separator or creamer for a small
dairy?"

Mr. Smith: "If a man has a dairy of
ten good cows and must buy an outfit,
he should buy a separator, as it will
skim closer than will any gravity sys-
tem, all stages of lactation considered.
Besides, it saves ice and work, and gets
the butter into the package sooner than
by any other method."

"What is the best single food for
sheep?"

Mr. VanAlstyne: "No doubt the best
single food is oats, but they are too ex-
pensive. I would feed corn silage, tur-
nips, ground oats mixed, two parts of
oats one half a part of linseed meal and
one part of bran; such a ration is cheap-
er than oats and nearly as good; then,
too they have an advantage over a sin-
gle food, being a variety which sheep
like. The strap leaf turnip makes an

[Continued on Eighth page.]

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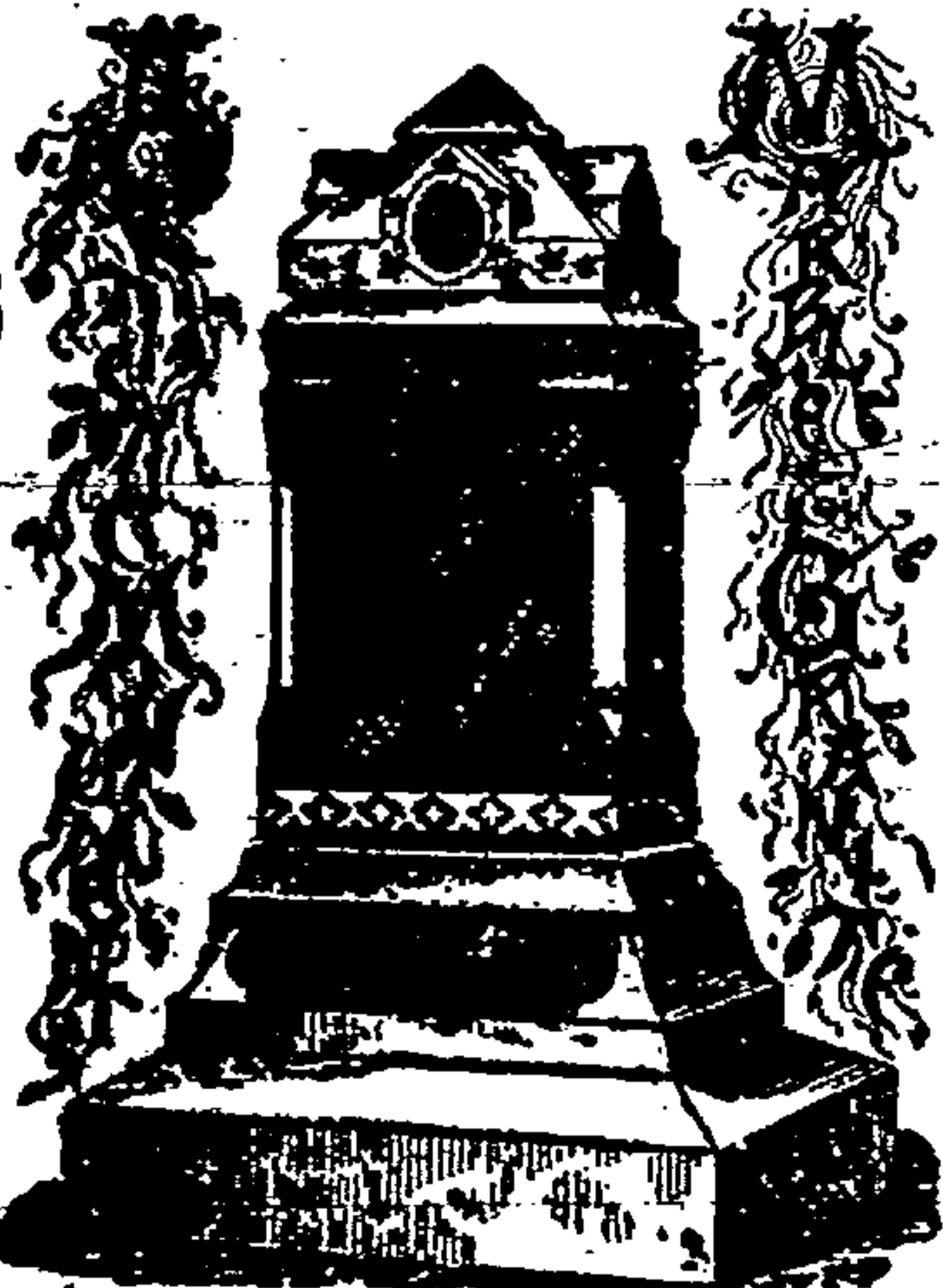
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