

GOOD BYE, THE BEND

NEW YORK'S WORST SLUM SOON TO BE DEMOLISHED.

Mulberry Bend's History of Bloodshed. The Unsavory Record of Bandits' Roost. Its Latest and Most Horrible Crime—A Park Will Take Its Place.

The days of the old Mulberry bend are numbered at last. The Mulberry park will take its place shortly.

The bend is not now what it was, say, 15 years ago. So much has been said about it that something has at last been done to make it passable to the eye at least. The street is clean, and one may venture into any one of the numberless alleys in the block without need of holding his nose.

The foul packs of men and women tramps that used to herd the cats at night and sit in filthy double rows in the halls and all the way up the stairs of the tenements have been dispersed to the workhouse and the jail so often that they have at last sought quieter quarters, and the majority of the stink-bearers have followed them out, some across Broadway to the old Africa, others to slums better hidden. But the old houses remain.

Beneath the shadow of an old tree, the last of the once famous Mulberry grove, Cornelius Scantlon was smashed on the head 18 years ago, on April 9, 1877, in one of the many bloody fights that helped the bend to its bad name. His enemy left him there dead. That was, as the name of the dead man indicates, before the Italians took the bend.

The alley went by the name of Moloney's alley in those days, taking its name from the old janitor who ran it as long as he lived. Since he died, one of the very small remnants of his people left there, ten years ago, it has never been known as anything else than 41 Mulberry street.

The banker across the way, Mr. Barber, owned it since, along with the city, and sold the property to the city.

In those old days there was perhaps more murder done in the bend—that is, recorded murder—than nowadays, but it is certain that there is more bloodletting now, and a very great deal of it is not official. The Italians have a way of settling their own scores, of filing them away for reference, that was unknown to their predecessors.

They go on the principle of "fix it myself," and unless the victim dies the police are likely never to hear of it. Even if they do it is the rarest thing that they have a hand in the final fixing. They hear by and by that another Italian has been stabbed, and then they know that the thing has been fixed and the slate wiped clean with blood.

The stiletto is their favorite tool, but not always. In this alley, that widens some distance in from the street a passage barely admitting one to a gap of six feet or more, a man was found lying dead one morning at daybreak with his skull crushed in.

There were reasons to believe that he was thrown down by an injured husband or chased off the roof into the daylight. In the darkness, so much the police guessed, on the basis of what they learned, but they never got any further. The mystery, like many another of the bloody bend, remains unsolved to this day.

The intensity or dramatic action of the intrigues and tragedies of the slum is in nowise lessened by the fact that it is woven around matters so unimportant as the pseudo households of these near barracks, where drunkenness and vice in their coarsest, most brutal form are at home. Rather the reverse is the case.

Here in this tenement, 65 Mulberry street, Tobias Leary, an old man, was killed to death by his ex-mistress, the woman he had betrayed, while her new lover, a 6 foot Italian, held him down. That happened on Oct. 3, 1892, not yet a year after the long remembered Christmas in the block around the corner at 47 Baxter street.

Vincenzo Riverto had come there, enticed by the girl he had deserted when he remembered his wife in the old country and went back to get her. Rosa got herself a new man, but she never forgot or forgave the slight put upon her. She kept the unsuspecting Vincenzo at the Christening with a smile upon her lips and a revolver under her apron and secretly guided her lover to avenge her injury until he did the murder when she pushed the weapon into his hand.

As news at 59 is Bandits' Roost, so named in all seriousness after the Neapolitan bandit mountaineers who found refuge there when driven across the sea. They are gone now. The last one died in his boots, like most of his comrades. No particular record was ever kept of their deaths.

David O'Brien was beheaded there with a paving stone by Belle Goloz in the days of what might be called the border wars between the two races. Goloz was acquitted on the plea of self-defense. That was in 1876. In the following year the reputation of the bend was further reduced by two, when Michael Moriarty was knifed by Thomas Ryan and died. Into every place vacant by an Irishman moved an Italian and a tramp, and when the transformer was completed the bend held two or three times as many tenants as before.

appears, and kicking the goat into the tenement restores order.

Around in Bayard street the scene changes abruptly. Every store there is kept by a Hebrew, and some of the rooms up stairs are filled with them also, or were until recently. Now many of them are empty. These people, more numerous than the Italians, have already found other quarters. In one of these houses the police found once on their midnight inspection rounds 13 persons sleeping in a room big enough for two.

Some of them were lodgers—always an important element in a population where rents are so outrageous as in these rookeries—and slept there for "5 cents a pot." Of beds there was no pretense. The floor and a bag of straw were all the 5 cents fetched.

Here is Bottle alley (at 49), concerning which years ago it was said that the newspapers kept this heading standing: "Bottle Alley Battered in Blood." It has reformed lately. Nothing worse than vile accumulations of rags and old paper, gaunt and rascally rascals, ready to tumble down if you look at them, are there now. What is to become of all those cats is a question that arises whenever one squints into one of those back yards.

Here is a door that leads downward and back to a kind of such formed by knocking out the ground story of the first rear tenement. There is another behind it. Up that flight of crooked, rickety stairs to the top floor went Vincenzo Nino, the barber, only a few short weeks ago to murder his handworking, long suffering wife in the sight of her helpless children. It was the latest and it was the most horrible deed of blood even the wicked bend had witnessed.

It rose in madness of anger and battered down the door behind which the murderer covered just as the police came in time to save his miserable life. They had to clear a way to the Tomb with their clubs through the angry crowd.

The house has been vacant since. It is haunted, the neighbors say. The great splashes of blood are yet on the floor and on the calcined walls of the room where the woman was slaughtered by the man who had sworn to cherish and protect her. The efforts made to wipe them out have been vain. They are there as plain as the day the murder was done, and so is the broken door, witness to the fury of the crowd and the narrow escape of the murderer.

In Bottle alley Antonio Ricano brained his wife with a flatiron, but he was crazy and imagined she was going to roast their children at the range. Michael Cattaio was stoned and killed in the alley by Antonio Ricano over a game of cards, and across the way a gambler killed his victim with a club. John Zaccarelli was shot in the stomach by a rival, but all those were human crimes compared to Nino's foul deed. Even the bend denounced him as a fiend incarnate.

Perhaps the fact that he did his murder on a weekday had something to do with it. By a sort of common consent such things are relegated to Sunday in the bend. It is the day of idleness, of card playing and consequently of fighting.

In a cross alley behind 45 Baxter street a ball game is in progress. The alley is too narrow to allow of the pretense of a "diamond" or bases, but the dozen young roughs who take a hand in the game get along somehow, even to sliding on their stomachs in the dirt. They do not mind it, and their clothes suffer no injury by it. They are long past that. At 61 a one-eyed tenant is discovered, with the claim of being the last Irishman in the block.

His name is Hugh Foley, and he has lived there 45 years, in the one house and the one room, he says. When he came there, all the tenants were Irish. Now he is alone. The last moved three weeks ago. Mr. Foley seems to think that he is entitled to some consideration as the original inhabitant. The suggestion that he might be made the keeper of the new park finds favor with him.

The bend has its humor, its love-making and its human ways generally, like other places. Even the slum is human, and that is the indictment against it, and the reason why the evil has to go. When it is gone, there will be no much more of a chance for the purely human qualities to expand, which the rottenness, the wickedness and the devilishness generally of the slum are now choking and smothering every hour.

That is to be the mission of the new Mulberry park that is to be light into the bend. If it is laid out with grass and asphalt in the proper proportions, it will furnish an unequalled playground for the children in the big new school on the opposite corner at Mulberry and Bayard streets, one of the finest in the city, and so it will have begun in the best of all ways to atone for some of the mischief done by the bend by setting an object lesson in practical missionary work to the children of the good for all generations.

It is quite safe to say that the \$1,500,000 of the Mulberry park has cost the city will prove to become of the very best investments it has ever made.—New York Sun.

city. "I suppose you are awfully cool when in action, major?" "Cool, my dear lady—shivering!"—Sketch. Why He Kept Quiet. Two traveling salesmen, more familiarly known to the world as "drummers," were "doing the town."

"Call the police! I've been robbed! I know the men. I can point 'em out!"

And the drummer rushed madly toward the doorway. The crowd expressed the greatest excitement, shouting and offering advice all in a breath.

Two officers were soon on the spot, and they took minute descriptions of the thieves, the names of everybody who knew anything about the affair and then gave the information, with wise shakes of their heads, that Finch Murphy and Bull Dooley, "way up men," had been seen hanging around the neighborhood for a week past.

The drummer assumed his loss bitterly, and his friend assured everybody that the ring wasn't worth a cent less than \$300.

After a time the two drummers were alone. "I told you it 'ud get nipped," said the one who had been wise enough to leave his jewelry at home.

"Oh, come off!" was the reply. "It was only paste. I paid a quarter for it." "What are you kicking up all this fuss for, then?" growled the other, angrily.

"Don't you see I wanted those fellows to know I wore paste diamonds?"—Chicago Record.

Railway No Place For Tramps Now. Tramps who wander into Railway, N. J., now make haste to retreat. They find confronting them on nearly every barn, post and tree the following ominous warning:

Notice is hereby given that all tramps found within the limits of the city of Railway will be arrested and compelled to work on the streets in a chain gang for a period of 24 hours.

The notice is signed by Mayor J. J. Daly and was resolved upon as a last desperate effort to rid the city of the hordes of

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