

LAST DAYS OF THE TOMBS.

Its Grim and Gloomy Record of Nearly Sixty Years.

Approaching Demolition of the Historic Prison—Notable Criminals Who Have Been Kept There.

Many New Yorkers will watch with interest the work of tearing down and removing the old Tombs in Center street. The building has been one of the show places of the city ever since it was built in 1828. Its age makes it interesting to some New Yorkers who think that too many old landmarks are being destroyed in the march of modern improvements, but interest in the old building is due largely to the fact that it has been regarded as one of the finest examples of Egyptian architecture in this country. Artists, architects and travelers have been most favorably impressed with the beauty of the build-

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SHOES. MOST RELIABLE AND prevent your having corns. Try a pair with rubber heels. You would not be without them. A Caselli, 337 K.

ing, somber and grim as it is, and many have declared that it would be a great pity to destroy the portico at the entrance in Center street, which is the most striking and impressive part of the building.

All that portion of the building that fronts on Center street is to be removed immediately, and the preliminary work has been begun by the contractors, but it may not be too late to save for the city the portico, which is a fine example of Egyptian architecture and might be preserved and set up as an entrance gate to one of the parks. Such an arrangement would be regarded with high favor by the public, if the city officials would agree to it, and the cost of erecting the old portico at one of the park entrances. It is considered, would be small. A fine example of Egyptian architecture would be preserved for future generations to look at, and at the same time there would be retained the most striking relic of the Tombs, which has been mentioned so frequently in the history of the city for sixty years.

The Tombs was built on the site of the old Colton Pond, which has been filled up generations before the erection of a prison there was thought of. Five years before the building was put up its plan was adopted by officials who had read "Stevens' Travels," a popular book of the time, and had been impressed by one of the illustrations in the book, a picture of an Egyptian tomb. Their idea was to have the city prison so forbidding in appearance that nobody would care to become an inmate of it. Its destination, the Tombs, was selected on account of the form of the building.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CUPOLA.

At the time of its completion in 1828 the Tombs had a cupola, but the cupola was destroyed by fire in November, 1842, and was never rebuilt. Connected with that fire was a mystery which kept the city in a ferment for many months. The fire broke out at the moment when John C. Colt was to be hanged for the murder of Samuel Adams and there are New Yorkers living to-day who believe that the torch was applied to the cupola of the prison to prevent the execution of Colt, and that he escaped from the Tombs at the time of the excitement. The case of Colt had been hanging over the public for over a year, and had caused widespread excitement. John C. Colt was a brother of the manufacturer of Colt's revolvers, and he had published a book, of which Samuel Adams was the printer. On September 17, 1841, Adams went into Colt's office at Broadway and Chambers street to protect against what he had declared was an effort of Colt to cheat him out of his money, and he never left the office alive. His mutilated body was found later packed in salt in a box which Colt had shipped on the schooner Kalamazoo, at Maiden Lane and the East River, and the walls of Colt's office were found to be splattered with blood. An effort had been made to conceal blood stains. The watch which Adams had carried was found in the possession of Caroline Henshaw, a young woman who had lived with Colt. Adams was tried and convicted, he had so many influential friends that the public did not believe he would be hanged, and the day set for his execution there was a multitude of people in Center street.

Four hours before Colt was to be hanged he was married to Caroline Henshaw in the Tombs. The hanging was announced to take place at 4 p. m., and at that time the firemen were called to the Tombs to fight the fire which had started in the cupola. Some of the firemen declared later that they saw Colt get into a hearse that was in the courtyard of the prison, and that the hearse was driven away rapidly. The excitement of the fire was at its height. The firemen said that a keeper had gone to Colt's cell and had found Colt dead with a dirk sticking in his heart. A body, which was declared to be that of Colt, was buried later in St. Mark's Churchyard, but there was a prevailing belief that Colt had escaped from the prison alive, and that this was the first escape from the Tombs.

There have been few escapes from the Tombs, but there have been many suicides in the gloomy building, and several men who have been in the shadow of the gallows. The gallows were hanged by poison, knife or pistol. One of the earliest and most remarkable of the escapes from the prison was that effected by Bridget Mack, an Irish girl, only 12 years old, who had been imprisoned for theft. She got up in the night, when everybody else in the women's prison was asleep, tore up the bricks out of a fireplace and climbed up through a chimney flue to the roof of the prison. Then she jumped off the roof to the ground, a distance of thirty feet and got away safely.

An escape from the Tombs which caused a sensation in the city was made by William J. Sharkey, who murdered Robert T. Dunn, in 1873. Maggie Jordan, Sharkey's sweetheart, was allowed to visit him in the prison. One day, after she had been in his cell and had passed out again, the wife of Wesley Allen went to visit her husband and said she had lost her pass card. When the search for the card was in progress Sharkey's cell was seen to be empty, and it was remembered that a person who appeared to be a tall, veiled woman had gone out with Mrs. Allen's pass card. Sharkey escaped to Cuba and later went to Spain. He never came back to this city.

THE LAST ESCAPE.

The last escape from the Tombs was made by John Roberts, a burglar, in June, 1853. He dug a hole through the wall of the old prison from his cell on the upper tier, squeezed his body through the hole on a dark night and let himself down with a rope of bed-clothes to the ground on the Elm-street side of the courtyard. Then he climbed to the roof of the women's prison, went over the roof of the Warden's quarters on the Leonard-street side and let himself down outside the wall. He got away safely, but was caught again some weeks later and sent to prison.

For more than half a century the hanging of murderers in the Tombs attracted much public attention. Those executions have been divided into two periods. In the first period, from the time of the completion of the Tombs until 1858, twenty years, seventeen men were put to death by the rope in the courtyard of the prison. No fewer than thirty-eight men had been sentenced to die in the Tombs in that period, but fourteen of them had their sentences commuted to imprisonment for life, one committed suicide, one was pardoned outright, and the rest got new trials. The second period, from the hanging of Edward Coleman, a negro, was the first man to be hanged in the Tombs, and his execution was on January 12, 1839. His wife had been a well-known figure in the city, and was called the "Hot Corn Girl of Bay." She reported her husband unfaithful to her, and she was so angry that she killed him, and then he killed her.

THE SECOND PERIOD OF TOMBS EXECUTIONS.

James Stevens was the murderer, was the first man to pay the death penalty with Atkinson's aid in the Tombs, and the last was Henry Carleton, "Handsome Harry," who murdered a policeman, James Brennan, in 1888. Carleton was the last man to be hanged in this State. No woman was ever put to death in the Tombs. The first woman executed was that of Mrs. Hull by Chastine Cox, and of Louis Hanler by McCloin, murders which caused more than ordinary excitement in the city. For many years the Police Court in the center of the Tombs, the Court of the Court of Special Sessions, and the same building, were crowded every day, and in those dreary old rooms, which are to be destroyed soon, were brought in review almost daily the most shocking of the crimes of a great city. With the erection of the Criminal Courts building, at Center and Franklin streets, the old courtyards in the Tombs were abandoned, and they have been of no use to the city since then.

The building of a new prison on the Tombs site has been made a necessity by the overcrowding of the old prison. In recent years it has been necessary to pack three or four prisoners in a cell intended for the occupancy of only one person, and the Board of Health has protested several times against such overcrowding, while Grand Juries have made presentations against such a crying evil. It is simply because of fire-proof modern prisons that there will be an improvement demanded by common humanity.—New York Tribune.

tion extended from 1858 to 1880, when death by electricity in the State Prison was substituted for death by hanging as the penalty for murder. During the whole of the second period of executions "Joe" Atkinson was the official hangman, and his work with rope and gibbet was so perfect that the authorities decided he must have a period of executions all to himself. "Hangman Joe" believed in doing his work with such skill as to avoid all harrowing and cruel scenes. He spoke of men he had assisted to leave life as those he had "relieved." The noise which he adjusted about a neck never slipped out of place, and when he sprung the fatal trap death was sudden and painless. He used the same galloos year after year, and for ever-steady he "relieved" he cut a notch in the crossbeam. There were thirty-three notches in the beam when he put the galloos away for the last time.

THE FIRST AND THE LAST HANGING.

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No Work After Supper.

Another tramp. Early morning. Farmer engages him to work, and feeds him to start with. (This is ex-Congressman Lester's story). At the expiration of an hour he was still eating, which caused the farmer to remark, sarcastically: "You might as well eat your dinner while you're about it." Replied the tramp: "Well, I kin do that, too." After another hour he was still eating, and the farmer said: "I reckon you'd best get on an' get your supper now." The tramp: "Well, I kin do that, too." Super being over, he stretched his legs on a bench and lighted the stump of a cigar. This enraged the farmer, who threatened him with dire punishment if he did not get to work instantly, to time, but at the expense of leisure answered: "I never work after supper, pard. 'Scuse me!"—New York Press.

Not to be Caught.

A gentleman visiting Liverpool was being shown around by a citizen, who said: "Now, let's go and see the 'Widows' Home.'" The gentleman put his finger to the side of his nose, and winked, and said: "No, thanks; I saw a widow home once, and she sued me for breach of promise, and proved it on me. It cost me a matter of £120. No, sir; send the widows home to a cab."—Tit-Bits.

The Stomach Cannot be Freightened. With greater trash than a violent drastic purgative. True, such a medicine relieves constipation for the time, but at the expense of great injury to the intestinal canal, which it both irritates and weakens, thus unfitting it for the performance of its proper functions. Widely different is the action of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, a tonic aperient which produces effects prompt, indeed, but never violent and convulsive. It contains no irritating ingredients, its unobjectionable flavor, its general influence upon the mind, and the thoroughness of its remedial effects, all commend it to the afflicted. It cures constipation, liver complaint and dyspepsia, combine to render it a most desirable family specific. It increases both physical vigor and substance, tranquilizes and invigorates the system, and affords an unwonted relish for the food. A win-glass three times daily is about the average dose.

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MAISON'S JARS ARE CHEAP-PINTS, Quinine, and half pint, of pure, we sell the first cheap, top, to put in the jars. We claim superior excellence for our tea and coffees in all grades; we have a Purify tea at 35c lb which is excellent. Our 25c coffee, ground to order, is the best value in Sacramento; 3 cans condensed milk for 25c; pure fruit jams, 2c; for 25c; BEEHIVE & SON, The O-T-Date Store, 515 and 513 J street.

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HIRE'S ROOT BEER, CARBONATED, pint bottles, ready to drink, 1 dozen, at LYNN'S, corner Fourteenth and O st.

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Most people are familiar with the old saying. In fact it is not always easy to feed a cold. The patient turns from the best dinner saying that it does not taste good. The fault is his, not the cook's, and he will change his notions after a short acquaintance with

Duffy's Pure Malt Whisky,

Which sharpens the appetite, improves the digestion and gives a sense of general well being.

This pure medicinal stimulant is highly praised as a household remedy in cold weather.



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ELYS CREAM BALM. Opens and cleans the Nasal Passages, Allays Inflammation, Relieves Pain, Restores Mucous Membrane from Cold, Cures Catarrh of the Throat and Stomach. Is quickly absorbed. Gives relief at once. Spells at Druggists or by mail, samples free to mail. ELY BROTHERS, 50 Warren Street, New York.

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WANTED—AN ENERGETIC MAN with \$10 cash can find something to his advantage by calling at 220 J street, between 10 a. m. and 5 p. m. to-day.

WANTED—A MAN WITH \$1,000 CASH in one of the best paying wholesale businesses on this coast; must be willing to travel Northern California; business established fifteen years; profits \$300 per month. For particulars address L. J. this office. July 3-11.

MAN WANTED FOR BUSINESS. Southern part of State; expenses and \$9 monthly in this cash needed. Apply to A. B. ROBERTS, Western Hotel, to-day. 11.

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\$10 PER MONTH SALARY—WE OFFER the above salary energetic ladies and gentlemen to canvass, and give them an opportunity of earning considerable salary. Address: F. W. GALLAWAY, Healdsburg, Cal.

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