

WAS HANGED IN NEGLIGENCE

Birchall Dons a White Flannel Shirt for the Ceremony of Hanging.

He Showed no Mercy to His Helpless Victim in the Lonely Swamp.

Well Endowed by Nature, Fiendish by Choice—Painful Scenes at the Jail and Scaffold.

WOODSTOCK, Ont., Nov. 14.—At 8:29 this morning Reginald Birchall was launched into eternity for the murder of his fellow-countryman, F. C. Benwell. He partook sprightly of breakfast at six o'clock and then began to prepare for the final ordeal. He put on a white flannel shirt with coat and vest, but asked the turnkey to see that this was replaced after the execution by an ordinary white shirt with a starched collar and tie. He would not wear the starched collar at the execution, he said, because it might interfere with the placing of the rope around his neck. At 6:30 and from then on the crowd began to collect in front of the jail, chiefly newspaper men from all over Canada and the United States. At 7:30 the doors were all opened and the crowd was admitted and passed through to the yard in which the scaffold was erected. About one hundred and fifty persons were admitted. The executioner appeared on the scene at 7:35 with rope in hand and began to put things in order. The scaffold was made of three pieces of timber, six inches square—two uprights sunk in the ground and the third timber crossed over the top. The rope ran over pulleys. In the cross beam a canister weighted with 500 pounds of iron was attached to the opposite end of the rope and held up by a cord to a staple. Cutting this cord loosened the weight, which fell and jerks the condemned upward four feet. At 8:15 the hangman, having completed his preparations outside, came in wearing a long Prince Albert's coat and relieving Night Guard Midgley, who had a hard look about his mouth, but a tell-tale moistness about the eyes, climbed up the stairs and stood on the gallery behind Birchall's corridor door. The scaffold stood gloomy and sorrowful until the sad procession passed out and down the spiral steps. At 8:20 the executioner was beckoned to go up. He had been walking around the scaffold in his hands the straps with which to tie Birchall's arms, waiting for the signal. He put behind his back and partly under the skirts of his coat, the russet colored straps, and went up stairs. In a minute or two he strapped to the prisoner's arms behind his back and then the awful march to death began at 8:25. First came rural Dean Wade, in a surplice, and reading the church of England service for the dead. Behind him was Dr. Chamberlain, followed by Dr. Stewart and Deputy Sheriff Perry. The prisoner came next, deathly pale but resolute, and his jaws locked with the fixity of death. His step was steady and his jet black hair and moustache made the pallor of his face look like marble. He was dressed in dark colored tweed clothes, white flannel shirt, with bow at the collar, and light patent leather shoes. He looked so young and there was such an expression of unshakable resolution and undimmed courage on his face that the men who saw him, and knew him worthy of death in the eye of the law, forgot that he had shot his friend in the back in a lonely swamp. The faces of the men who were to die with him were as white as that of the doomed man. At the foot of the spiral stairs, the procession formed and his friend Westman walked on one side of him, with Deputy Sheriff Perry on the other. Jailer Cameron followed them, and after the hangman the aged sheriff, supported to the door of the corridor overlooking the west yard. The march was slow along the corridor and out into the yard. Westman walked close and held one hand of Birchall's in both of his with all the assurance of friendship by a hearty clasp. Here the actors in the tragedy stopped with their charge fifteen feet from the gallows and the solemnity of the August 1st service filled every one with a horror that hardly let them realize the tremendous importance of that in which they were taking part. They felt an overpowering pity for the black hood by which the executioner stood on the threshold of eternity. His eyes had not a trace of that frivolity that lightened his imprisonment. As he stood listening to the low-toned priest they were fixed on the blue sky over to the north. There was not a haunted look, nor was there any fear in his eyes, but a fixed purpose that seemed to consume his reason. It is not possible to imagine the expression of his face. He was a lifetime in that hour, and there was no one there but would have shared the strain of his terrible ordeal. It was not of despair, but he had strung his whole being up to die game. At the words "kiss to die," Birchall stepped forward and took his place under the scaffold with his face to the south, and turned up slightly. He took Westman's hand in his, and the friends kissed under the gallows. The executioner put the strap around the prisoner's legs just above the knees, when the clergyman took Birchall's hand and kissed him. The witnesses were sure the end was near, and the suspense was terrible. No human knowledge can say how terrible it was to the man standing alone there on the green sward. As the priest entered upon the Lord's prayer the executioner put the black cap over the head of the doomed man and adjusted the noose about his neck. Birchall had declared that he would say nothing at the scaffold, and the witnesses did not expect he would. His silence seemed by the intensity of his purpose to be silence concentrated a hundred times. He did not say a word after leaving the cell except it might have been to mutter a word to Westman or Wade when he bade them good-bye with a kiss. At 8:27, six minutes after the procession started from the corridor, the words, "Deliver us from evil" gave the signal and a quick pull on the small rope by the executioner, who stood behind the victim, released the immense weight. It dropped with the rapidity of thought and sank six or eight inches in the ground by the force of its weight. Birchall had been placed close to one of the uprights, and the jerk of the noose drew his body first obliquely and then up. The body jerked into the air about five feet, fell until the feet were within two feet of the ground. Convulsions commenced half a minute later, but were not at all violent, more resembling the heavy breathings with a slight twitching of the hands and legs. At 8:30 1/2 the convulsions ceased. At 8:35 Dr. Chamberlain declared life extinct. He said the neck was broken. Mrs. Birchall remained in the cell with her husband till one o'clock this morning, when she was led away weeping. Birchall slept very little, but his demeanor during the night remained unchanged. He had the impression that some one would publish a false confession with him so he prepared a final statement.

plies to my story in the Mail in which I have made no such confession or partial confession. (Signed) REGINALD BIRCHALL. The post mortem examination showed that death was caused by strangulation. The body will be buried in the jail yard.

TRUE FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

At Last He Gets His Old Sweetheart and Five Children With Her.

At the home of the bride in Evansville, Ind., two weeks ago Mr. Eldridge Wall and Mrs. Medora Lockhead were married by Rev. J. H. Miller, and left for their future home in Tennessee. Twenty-six years ago Medora Hale was the reigning belle of Paducah, Kentucky, and Wall, of all her suitors, was the fortunate possessor of her love. Her parents, however, had other plans, and young Wall was forbidden the house. He went to Texas and in a few years drifted back to McKenzie, Tennessee, where he prospered and grew to wealth and prominence. His first love was his last and he has remained true to it during all the intervening years. Time, however, healed his sweetheart's grief, and she was married to a Union soldier, removing to Evansville. In 1880 her husband died, leaving her with five children to care for upon a small competence eked out by her own industry. About six months ago her old lover, who had been waiting patiently all these years, heard by chance of her bereavement, and took the first train north to again woo his win her, and the quiet, happy wedding this evening crowned the success of his mission.

SPARKS FROM THE WILES.

The third annual convention of American agricultural colleges and experimental stations is in session at Cambridge, Ill., with delegates from all over the country. Among other matters discussed Thursday was an outline of the exhibit of the work of state experiment stations at the World's fair.

ARMOUR WILL GO IT ALONE.

CHICAGO, Nov. 13.—Announcement was made to-day that Philip D. Armour and Michael Cuddey had dissolved partnership, Armour making over his interest in the Omaha house in exchange for Cuddey's interest in the Chicago house. The separation is entirely amicable and was indirectly the outcome of Cuddey's determination to retire from the active outside work of the firm.

The World Enriched.

The facilities of the present day for the production of everything that will conduce to the material welfare and comfort of mankind are almost unlimited and the Syrup of Figs was first produced in the world was enriched with the only perfect laxative known, as it is the only remedy which is truly pleasing and refreshing to the taste and prompt and effectual to cleanse the system gently in the springtime, or, in fact, at any time, and the better it is known the more popular it becomes.

SALT LAKE, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES EXCURSION RATES.

The Union Pacific Railway company will sell excursion tickets to San Francisco and Los Angeles on the 15th of EACH MONTH at the following named rates: To San Francisco, going via Ogden and return same, \$75. To San Francisco, going via Portland and return same, \$75. To San Francisco, going via Ogden and return via Portland, or vice versa, \$90. To Los Angeles, going via Ogden and Sacramento and return same, \$90. To Los Angeles, going via Ogden and Sacramento and return via San Francisco and Ogden, or vice versa, \$94. To Los Angeles, going via Ogden and San Francisco and return same, \$94. To Los Angeles going via Portland and return via Sacramento and Ogden, or vice versa, \$100. To Los Angeles going via Portland and return same, \$94. Passengers can have choice of two routes between Portland and San Francisco, either by the way of the all rail, the Mount Shasta route, or by steamer. The above tickets are good going sixty days from date of sale; extreme limit six months; stop-over privileges allowed going or returning at any point within the limit. The Union Pacific will also sell excursion tickets from Helena to Ogden, Salt Lake and Gardfield Bench, on the 15th of each month, at rate of \$30 for the round trip; good going ten days from date of sale; good returning ten days from date of sale; and written on back of ticket by agent at destination, extreme limit sixty days; stop-over privileges allowed going or returning at any point within the limit. A. E. VEAHLE, Pass. Agent.

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Helena National Bank

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Montana National Bank

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RAILWAY TIME TABLE. NORTHERN PACIFIC. No. 1 Pacific Mail, west bound, 1:35 p. m. No. 2 Atlantic Mail, east bound, 10:40 p. m. No. 3 Logan & Helena Local, connects at Logan with through train, No. 3, from the east, 1:30 a. m. No. 4 Helena, Missoula and Butte Ex., 12:30 p. m. No. 5 Marysville passenger, 11:10 a. m. No. 10, Marysville accommodation, 7:30 p. m. Missoula mixed, Mon., Wed. and Fri., 8:15 p. m. Wickers, Boulder and Elkhorn pass., 10:50 a. m. DEPART. No. 1, Pacific Mail, west bound, 1:35 p. m. No. 2, Atlantic Mail, east bound, 10:40 p. m. No. 3, Logan & Helena Local, connects at Logan with through train No. 4, for Butte, 1:30 a. m. No. 4, Helena, Missoula and Butte Ex., 12:30 p. m. No. 5, Marysville passenger, 11:10 a. m. No. 10, Marysville accommodation, 7:30 p. m. Wickers, Boulder and Elkhorn Pass., 10:50 a. m. MONTANA CENTRAL. No. 1, Helena and Butte express, 8:40 a. m. No. 2, Atlantic express, 11:30 a. m. No. 3, Pacific express, 1:30 p. m. ARRIVE. No. 4, Atlantic express, 11:50 a. m. No. 3, Helena and Butte express, 1:30 p. m. No. 2, Pacific express, 3:30 p. m. UNION PACIFIC. DEPART. For all points east, south and west via Montana Central and Butte, 8:30 a. m. For all points east, south and west via Montana Central and Butte, 1:30 p. m. For Northern Pacific and Garrison, 1:30 p. m. For Northern Pacific and Garrison, 1:30 p. m. ARRIVE. From all points east, south and west, via Butte and Montana Central, 10:30 a. m. From all points east, south and west, via Butte and Montana Central, 3:30 p. m. From Helena and Northern Pacific, 10:30 a. m. From Helena and Northern Pacific, 3:30 p. m.

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