

KATIE FISCHER'S SAD DEATH.

PITIFUL STORY OF A TRUSTING GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY.

Her Mother, Her Promised Husband and the Midwife Arrested on Suspicion of Having Caused Her Death—Justice Murray Sees No Evidence of Crime in the Case and Paroles the Prisoners.

Katie Fischer, a fair-haired girl, twenty years of age, lay dead to-day in the rooms of Mrs. Bertha Schroeder, at 904 First avenue.

Veronica Fischer, the girl's mother, Emil Weber, her promised husband, and Mrs. Schroeder, were arrested on suspicion of causing the girl's death.

The prisoners were taken before Justice Murray, at the Yorkville Court, where a sad story was told.

Katie was the daughter of Amos Fischer, a wagon-maker, of 457 West Forty-fourth street.

Two or three years ago she met Weber, a musician, now twenty-one years old. He lives at 607 West One Hundred and Thirtieth street.

The couple were engaged to be married, which arrangement had the confidence which his sweetheart reposed in him.

When the girl discovered her condition she told her lover, and after a consultation, they decided to ask the advice of Mrs. Fischer.

Katie, with tears and sobs, made her confession and entreated her mother to keep the secret from her father, whom she loved so dearly that she could not endure the thought of his learning of her disgrace.

The mother promised. Weber was willing to marry Katie at once, and Nov. 15 was fixed for the wedding.

The humble trousseau was provided, and Weber began looking for rooms. One day Katie surprised her mother and lover by flitting refusing to be married until her father was born.

She said that a friend had told her that if a woman married under these circumstances, both mother and child would die.

The arguments and entreaties of Mrs. Fischer and Weber were powerless to turn Katie from her resolution.

Later in November she was taken to Mrs. Schroeder's house. A specious excuse to account for her absence was given to her father.

Weber visited his betrothed as often as his engagements would permit, and Mrs. Fischer risked exciting her husband's suspicions in order to be with her daughter.

Katie got along nicely, and after a few days a fine boy, was born last Sunday. The young mother improved until Thursday, when in some unaccountable manner she took cold.

Yesterday afternoon, at 2 P. M., Katie, second street, was called in. He found Katie sinking rapidly, and advised her friends to send her to a hospital.

At St. Luke's and the Roosevelt Mrs. Fischer applied for an ambulance, but it was refused. A doctor, who came to night Bellevue responded to the call, and Dr. Collins went with an ambulance to the midwife's house.

Dr. Collins said that it would be useless to remove her. At about 2 o'clock she died in her mother's arms.

Weber was present. The surgeon notified the police, and Detectives Kniff and Kane, of the first district, were called. (Note by Fischer, Mrs. Schroeder and Weber. The midwife showed her diploma to Justice Murray.)

There was no evidence of crime and paroled the prisoners to give the police a chance to find some basis for their suspicions.

The magistrate seemed disposed to regard the arrest of Mrs. Fischer as quite uncalled for.

WIDOW BIEDENFELD TESTIFIES. A Scene in the Coroner's Court Because a Woman Insulted Her.

Annie Pfaff continued her testimony to-day in the inquest in the case of Thelberg Biedenfeld, the jealous Second avenue druggist.

She is young, pretty, sharp and piquant, and her answers frequently made the widow smile. She said:

Mr. Biedenfeld was jealous of every good-looking young man he met. (Smiles by the widow.)

He was not so jealous of me. (Smiles by the widow.)

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BEN-ON'S ASTOUNDING NERVE.

He Coolly Proposes to Marcus Mayer to Call Things Square.

Inspector Byrnes received a despatch this morning from Gen. Ceballos, President of the State of Mexico, saying that the law officers had advised him that Harry Benson, alias Bourton, who swindled the Mexican out of \$20,000 on a sale of bogus seats for a Patti concert, could be extradited under the treaty with the United States, and that the papers were being prepared.

Juan N. Navarro, the Mexican Consul-General, called upon the Inspector to say that he had received a similar despatch, with instructions to see that Benson is held to await the arrival of a Mexican officer to take him back for trial.

Marcus Mayer, a partner of Henry E. Abbey, was sent for, and a course of action was agreed upon. Benson was taken before Justice Smith and discharged, and accompanied by Detective Sergeants Adams and Handley with Consul-General Navarro and Mr. Mayer as witnesses, he was sent to the United States Commissioners.

Mr. Mayer was firm in the belief that Benson could be prosecuted here for bringing stolen money into the United States, and he felt morally certain that he could gather sufficient evidence to give him a long term in State prison. He is willing, however, to give the preference in prosecution to the Mexican authorities, who, if they get him, will put him away for a term that will end his career of crime.

Benson was very cool and defiant. He said to Mr. Mayer: "What the use of making a fuss over this matter. You cannot do anything with me for it and you know it full well. Let's call it square."

Benson's picture will adorn Inspector Byrnes's Rogues's Gallery.

Benson was arraigned before United States Commissioner Shields early this afternoon. Peter Mitchell was there to oppose all attempts at extraditing him. As Commissioner Shields was busy with other cases Benson was turned over to Commissioner Lynam, who said that he would look into the matter late this afternoon.

TWENTY-THREE DAYS OUT. The Unlucky Steamship Britannia Overdue with 850 Steerage Passengers.

The French steamer Britannia, from Mediterranean ports, which left Gibraltar on Dec. 22, is now long overdue at this port, and some apprehension is felt as to her safety.

The vessel carries a full cargo of Italian and Spanish merchandise and 850 steerage passengers.

The general passenger agent of the vessel here says that it is quite likely that the Britannia is disabled at sea and is proceeding to this port under sail.

She is brig rigged and does not carry much sail. He fears she encountered some logs of the broken timber raft, and may have lost or broken her propeller.

The steamer Venice, which arrived from Gibraltar the other day, passed through thirty miles of these logs, and it is very possible, he thinks, that the Britannia, too, fell in with them.

The Britannia is considered an unlucky ship by shipping men. Three months ago she was detained at quarantine on account of fears of cholera.

THE OIL-MARKET COLLAPSES. Western Speculators Unload and Prices Drop Seven Cents.

This was a field day for the bears in the oil market. The bull speculation has looked groggy for several days, and some of the shrewd traders realized so freely when the price struck 96 1/2 yesterday, that closing sales were made at 94.

This was the opening figure this morning, and as selling orders came pouring in from the West the oil pit became greatly excited and the bears jumped on the market with all fours.

The quotation broke to 88 1/2 with scarcely a rally, and a panic would have ensued but for the support offered by the Standard people, who are compelled to maintain prices in order to keep the individual producers, who agreed to curtail production, in good humor.

Edward F. Fairbank, secretary of the Standard Oil Company, said that the market was 92 1/2, but a reaction to 90 1/2 ensued.

Final sales were at 91 1/2 and confidence was in a measure restored.

GOULD MAY TAKE HIS OWN TIME. The President Not Expected to Take Steps to Bring Him Back.

W. H. Delancey, attorney for the foreign bondholders of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, who says that the non-existence of extradition treaties covering Mr. Gould's alleged crime.

Assistant District-Attorney Parker said this morning that the idea was absurd, as no steps had been taken which place Mr. Gould in the light of a criminal. There is no parallel between Gould's case and that of Tweed, for a latter was an escaped convicted criminal—a fugitive from justice.

The next story in the Police Captain's series will be printed in Monday's EVENING WORLD. It will be furnished by Capt. Anthony Alaire, for years of the Eldridge street station, and now of the Broadway Squad.

An Actor on a Sundry Salary. Elmer Short, of 14 First street, appeared at Essex Market Court with a month-old baby in her arms this morning as complainant in a charge of abandonment against her husband, Andrew, who is seventeen and he is twenty-one years of age.

"What do you work at?" asked Justice Patterson.

"I'm an actor, sir," replied the husband.

"Yes, but what kind of an actor," said his wife indignantly. "All he does is to make a show of himself on the Bowery, in \$2.50 a week."

Justice Patterson laughed at her, and he went home with his wife.

A Floor-Walker's Disappearance. Charles McCallan, of 94 Blocker street, Newark, called at Police Headquarters this morning and had the authorities send out a general alarm for Alonzo Smith, a floor-walker in Peter's dry-goods store in Twenty-third street.

Stanley McKenna Sees Rose Coghlan. Stanley McKenna has brought suit against Rose Coghlan for the return of a manuscript published in "Hittin' Darke," which he gave her to read in 1885.

The Best Frencher in the West. The best teacher in time, the best book in the world, the best recipe in the world is WOLFE'S PALE PAINT, Oil druggists.

Three Detroit Firemen Injured at a Fire. DETROIT, JAN. 14.—At midnight last night fire broke out in the building adjoining that occupied by the Free Press, on Larned street. The losses are estimated at \$40,000, partially insured. Three firemen were seriously injured by the engine striking a telegraph pole.

Big Fire in Indianapolis. INDIANAPOLIS, JAN. 14.—Early this morning fire destroyed the dry-goods store of H. P. Irwin & Co., at the intersection of Madison and Second streets. The loss is estimated at \$1,000,000.

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Brooklyn News. Policemen (umpings) of the Eleventh Precinct police, Brooklyn, while patrolling this post this morning, came across the body of a dead male infant, about four days old, in the gutter in Van Brunt near Carroll street.

Thomas Brierly Sent to Jail. Charles W. James, alias Thomas Brierly, who claimed to have been arrested and robbed of \$1,500 in Jersey City, was sent to jail for ninety days this morning, as his watch was found at Rensselaer's, 209 Broadway, and Second street. It contained dirty clothes instead of \$1,500.

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LADIES ROUT THE COLONEL.

A ROW BETWEEN WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS AND LONG-HAIRED SOCIALISTS.

R. J. Hinton's Friends Balked in an Attempt to Oust Miss Johnson and Mrs. Cynthia Leonard from the Workingmen's Free Library—The Staff Taken Away and the Shelves Packed Down.

Some stray members of the controversy between Henry George and his former Socialist allies, which had smoldered in secret ever since last autumn's campaign, burst into a fierce flame in the Civil Justice's Court at Jefferson Market this morning.

It was a faction fight between the George and the anti-George elements of the Socialist Labor party, American section, and the long-haired and wild-eyed element forsook their daily struggle for bread and crowded into Justice Deane's court-room.

Anonymous postal cards, attributed to Col. Richard J. Hinton and inviting the Socialists to "attend the circus and see the George people and woman suffragists laid out," were widely distributed and pretty generally responded to.

The cause of this rallying of the factions was an insignificant little dispossession suit brought by Fenelon & McManus, landlords of 16 Clinton place, against Mrs. Cynthia Leonard and Miss Anna P. Johnson, who for two years have had charge of the Workingmen's Free Library and Reading-Room at that address.

Miss Johnson looks intelligent, self-reliant and perhaps thirty years old. Mrs. Leonard is the mother of Lillian Russell and is a prominent freethinker and woman suffragist.

The ladies founded the library themselves, and being enthusiastic in the Socialist cause procured the favor at the disposal of the American Section and allowed the latter to meet in the rooms hired by them. Mrs. Leonard, Miss Johnson and Henry Nichols, the Nassau street broker, constituted the Library Committee.

Everything went quietly until the Socialists were forced out of the library party. The ladies sympathized with Mr. George, while Col. Hinton, Charles Solter, the American Bardollo, Louis Weise and others abused him and his lieutenant at every meeting.

Two months ago Col. Hinton raised the cry that the Library Committee, composed of the Socialist cause, and wanted the members to resign. Failing to get them to resign, the Hinton crowd packed a meeting with fifty boys and managers from the West.

As Miss Johnson put it—and elected a new committee, consisting of Mrs. Hinton, Julius Bardollo and Louis Weise.

Then the committee ordered the landlords to get the library moved on Jan. 1, and tried to force the ladies to quit by taking away the stove and pulling down the library shelves.

Miss Johnson offered to pay the rent for January, but the landlords, being over-persuaded by Col. Hinton and his colleagues, refused the money.

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WAITING FOR THE STRIKE SIGNAL.

Cigar-Makers Ready to Go Out in Support of Their Demands.

Secretary Dampf, of Cigar-makers' Union No. 141, is hourly expecting a telegram from President Strasser ordering strikes in all the factories where notices have been given of a reduction of prices.

A few men are at work in Kimball & Crouse's factory, but they will be called out unless an early answer is received from the firm regarding the fifty men put out.

Some light under the fact that McGow has put his men out from time to time, and they are still idle. The Strike Committee of the Internationals will inquire into the cause.

All Efforts to Bring About Peace Fail. (SPECIAL TO THE WORLD.)

READING, JAN. 14.—All the efforts that have been made this week to bring the officials of the Reading Railroad Company and the striking employees together have proved of no avail. It is feared that the settlement of the strike is as far as ever.

A conference was to have taken place in Philadelphia this morning between President Corbin and the Reading Railroad Company, but the officials have declared themselves opposed to arbitration. Mayor Kenney telegraphed Mr. Corbin this morning that he would be glad to see him and definitely postponed their visit and that his views would be presented in writing.

More Hours for the Clothing Cutters. The Clothing Manufacturers' Association have given their cutters notice that they will return to the ten-hour system on Feb. 1, and that wages will be reduced from \$3 to \$4 a week.

Cutters now receive \$30 per week each for fifty-six hours work a week. They have three local associations, including 1,300 members, 900 of whom only are in good standing. There is an open union, which the Knights declare is in full sympathy with the local unions.

Sixty out-casted cutters are members of the Society Co-operative Company and work for themselves independently of the bosses in the clothing trade.

Full River Spinners Dismissed. (SPECIAL TO THE WORLD.)

FALL RIVER, JAN. 14.—The action of the manufacturers yesterday was not satisfactory to the spinners, because the committee appointed to represent the mills has not definite powers to make an agreement on the wage question. Secretary Howard today sent out a meeting of spinners for Monday night to take decisive action.

Flint Glass Workers Determined. The striking Flint glass workers are gathered in full force at Scholtes and Leonard streets, in Williamsburg, to-day. One leader said: "Let the bosses draw their fire; they will be the sufferers by so doing."

The men say they will not weaken, and the talk of the bosses that the fire will be drawn, etc., is all bluff.

49th Coming Election. District Assembly No. 49 will begin its session at 10 o'clock to-day morning, in Pythagoras Hall, in order to vote on the time to elect officers before Monday morning. Matthew McGrath, of Brooklyn, will oppose Mr. Kunze for the secretaryship, and the election of a new Executive Committee will be a very exciting one, and will take all day.

Co-operated to Avoid Strikes. (SPECIAL TO THE WORLD.)

ALBANY, JAN. 14.—Bathbone, Sarg & Co., have made a proposition to their stove manufacturing employees to work on a co-operative plan for one year, it being their intention to discontinue the same. The employees will take the matter under consideration.

Talk Among Workmen. Bakers' Union No. 1 will give a mask ball at Webster Hall on Feb. 2.

The Urania Labor Club of waiters announces a reception and ball at Webster Hall on Feb. 15.

The Central Labor Union will hold its regular meeting to-morrow afternoon in Carleton Hall.

Delegates appointed to form a State Branch of the American Federation of Labor will meet at the Central Labor Union to-day.

The men of the building trades are jubilant over a report from Matthew Barr that the Bricklayers' Union at Boston has decided to co-operate with the men of the other building trades.

Progressive Painters' Union No. 4 reports that the men of the building trades have transferred their work from the so-called "scab" firm of Gentles & Bradley to the union firm of Britton & Hing.

District Assembly No. 49 will give an entertainment in Pythagoras Hall to-morrow night, for the purpose of raising funds to aid in the payment for the purchase of a new hall, and in which the 11 is located.

The Building Trades Section has appointed a committee to charge the building trades to represent the cabinet-makers about work performed by the cabinet-makers which is unproductive.

The Steam Pipe and Boiler Fitters' Union having requested the Building Trades section to report on non-union boiler-fitters found at work where union men or other trades are employed, the secretary of the section has notified the union men to quit work on jobs where "scabs" are engaged.

Following are the names of the delegates appointed to represent the building trades in the Central Labor Union: John Holloway and Theodore Schwartz, of Progressive Painters' Union No. 4; John H. Hing, of Bricklayers' Union No. 11; and William Kretschmer, of the German Fresco Painters' Union.

Delegates from Progressive Painters' Union No. 4, Lumber-Handlers and Lumber-Drivers' Association, German Fresco-Painters' Union, Theatrical Progressive Union, United Order of American Carpenters and Joiners, and the Havana Labor Club of "The-Layers' Helpers" were admitted last night to the Building Trades Section.

Three Detroit Firemen Injured at a Fire. (SPECIAL TO THE WORLD.)

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FIGHT FOR A CORPSE.

A Funeral Delayed by an Undertakers' Quarrel.

Undertaker Whelan Got the Permit to Bury Luigi Barbieri—Seized Possession of the Corpse—The Case Taken to the Tombs—Whelan Persistently Sticks to His Permit—A Remarkable Row Over the Funeral Arrangements of the Dead Italian.

Lawyer John Stacom applied to Justice Solon B. Smith, at the Tombs Police Court to-day, for a summons against James F. Whelan, an undertaker, who holds the permit for the burial of Luigi Barbieri.

The lawyer was accompanied by Undertaker G. Fusari, who stated to the Court that the body was at his establishment, 95 Park street, waiting to be taken to the cemetery.

The funeral was to have taken place at 9 o'clock this morning, and the carriages were then waiting in front of his place with the friends of the dead man.