

AS IT LOOKS TO A BOY THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Copyright, 1913, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York World).



stared at the documents as if they expected to catch a glimpse of her. Among the documents found in the inner room, of which for three years out of fifteen the Branch woman had been an absolute prisoner, were some copies of verses she had written to while away the solitary hours she passed there. Two of them were given to an Evening World reporter by Under Sheriff Hall. One reads as follows:

"ALONE."
Like a prisoner of hope,
On an isle of despair,
I am sitting and watching
The happy and fair.
As they pass in the street
How often they seem to me
Of the woman who's sitting
And watching them here.
But a captive of love,
In a willing bond slave,
And her happiness lies
In the touch of a hand,
As the ocean retires
And sings in its waves
When the surge ceases
The soft, yielding sand.
The other poem given out is called:

"IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN."
Youth, hopes have fled;
And life has become a parade to me.
Sad, withered leaves fall,
I muse at evening-tide upon
The sorrow of it all.
It might have been, yes, might have been,
The life I held in thrall
Was cast away one summer's day,
My heart is in its fall.

WOMAN SLAVE SENT WREATH TO LAWYER'S GRAVE.
When ex-judge of the Peace, Smith, whose wife Branch's relatives have retained as her counsel, told her that her brother Herbert was coming to take her away if she could control herself, the woman glared at him in a dull animal-like way.

"Herbert, Herbert!" she mumbled rambly, "why, that's my brother."
"Yes, aren't you glad he is coming to see you?" asked Mrs. Bunn, the nurse.
"I don't know. I'm tired, so tired," wailed the woman. "I want to be with Melvin, but he is alone out there under the snow. Last Christmas we were so happy, Melvin and I. I cooked our meal back in that little room the papers call my prison, but it was a paradise to me. He gave me this little necklace and I gave him a set of Shakespeare."

Couch's grave with the floral remembrances placed on it yesterday afternoon is covered deeply with drifted snow to-day, but on the top of the white mound is a wreath of evergreen and holly. It was fastened yesterday by Miss Branch out of her scanty funds and sent to the grave in a public hack by Florist J. J. Whitaker, who returned to Miss Branch the money a messenger had brought him for it.

TRIED TO KILL HERSELF IN PRISON CELL.
After a desperate but futile attempt at suicide early to-day, Adelaide M. Branch was placed under close guard by Under Sheriff Hall, who now has sole charge of her case.

The woman, who was resting on the verge of a nervous collapse all night, Mrs. Andrew Dunn and the wife of Sheriff Kimbey, who has displayed much interest in the case, remained with her from early evening. Soon after 11 o'clock she rose from her cot—where she is quarantined in the hospital cell, but it was hysterically her name calling for "Mel," her pet name for Couch.

She was visited after Dr. Cauthers, the jail doctor, had administered a sedative.
Five hours later she suddenly leaped from the cot and shrieked, "They have stolen you from me, Mel! They have stolen you, and I never saw your dear, dear face."

When Mrs. Dunn, who was doing, could interfere, the woman had seized hold of the steel bars of the window and was frantically banging her head against them. Mrs. Dunn yelled for assistance and Under Sheriff Hall ran up from the office, where, on a cot, he was sleeping a few winks of sleep, after almost forty-eight hours of continuous duty. He found Mrs. Dunn dragging at the frenzied woman, and with his assistance she was forced back to her cot.

Dr. Cauthers was summoned, and hastened to the prison in his car, and after some effort quieted her.
DOCTOR SAYS SHE'S UNFIT FOR LIBERTY.

When he had concluded his attention on the excited woman the doctor said to an Evening World reporter that he did not believe that she would be fit to be allowed at large for several days. "I would describe her not as insane, but fighty," he said.

"Even though the criminal charge has been dismissed, I have advised Under Sheriff Hall, who has charge of the case, against allowing her to leave the jail until she is normal and quiet. There is a possibility that she may have to be committed to the Middletown State Hospital for the insane."
"Long, close confinement and the nerve wrecking shock of the public discovery of her life with Mr. Couch may have shattered her mental faculties completely, and beyond hope of recovery."
"Incidentally, at one time, Miss Branch was a clever, brilliant woman, but the extraordinary life she led with my brother-in-law has temporarily wrecked her mind. She declared to me to-day that all she wanted was 'to die on Mel's grave.' That is another reason why the family does not want her free. She is out of funds and desperate, and I believe is perfectly serious in her declaration that she will end her life if she can."

"Her father was a suicide and two other relatives, we are told, ended their lives by their own hands. This streak of insanity in the family accounts for much of her erratic actions. She declares she is Couch's soul mate, that they were made for each other, and that she does not care to live with half her self, as she expresses it, missing from her life."

WOMAN IS BARELY ABLE TO TALK.
By the good offices of Under Sheriff Hall Miss Branch was seen last night in the county jail. She had just finished listening to the account by Mrs. Andrew Dunn, a trained nurse retained to watch her, of the funeral of Couch. Her tongue was heavy with suppressed sobs, her face was wet from weeping and her whole form trembling with nervousness as she gazed the steel bars of the cell. She could not talk coherently at first, but little by little she

desired to die and be buried with Couch under the drifting snow that covers his new made grave. While wild driven sleet whipped and rattled at the window the woman drowned rather than spoke her story.

"Christmas Eve, to-morrow," she said, "and I shall be here while Mel is dead, dead, dead. I want to be with him. Oh, I loved him so that life means nothing to me without him. Death has no terrors for me. I would welcome it gladly. I have thought of suicide, but I cannot nerve myself to it. I wish I could."

WAS HAPPY WITH HIM AND NEVER JEALOUS.
"I don't want to embarrass Mrs. Couch. She was dear and sweet in all she did for me when we met for the first time. But, by all the laws of God, if not of man, Mel belongs to me. I was his real wife for all those years. Oh, I dressed him poor, crippled fool. I cooked for him and attended to every bit of his stenographic work. How often I have thought, as I transcribed my notes or took dictation at night, how amazed the regular tenants of the building would have been if they had known that only a few inches of lath and plaster concealed them from Mel's secret helpmate. What wife could have done more than I for her husband? If love is a faithful service, I gave it in full measure to Mel, and I reaped my reward in his faithful service to me."

"Jealous of his wife? Our life together was so perfect that such an idea never entered my head. I never thought of her. I was as happy as a queen in my little domain, and I never felt lonely. When I was not reading French or busy with needlework, I would sit at the window and gaze out through the curtains. Then, too, I could hear all that went on in the law office, and that kept me from getting lonesome. Mel was awfully good to me. He got me candy, flowers and little presents constantly. Now he is gone I don't care to live. He was all my world, and life means nothing to me apart from him."

The woman when talking has a subdued, nervous voice. Possibly from long years of immurement in her secret, silent room, which was about 12 by 8 feet in dimension, she has learned to pitch her voice low, for although the wood of the partition which hid her from Couch's clients was fairly sound-proof, still dictation machines have made her most cautious about raising her tones.

In order to provide funds against the time when she must face the world, if that time ever comes, Miss Branch today placed several mortgages she holds in the hands of ex-Judge George H. Smith, a local lawyer. Mr. Smith said he hoped to dispose of them for her shortly.

ODD OLD CRONEY LIVED IN BUILDING.
Not the least interesting figure brought to light by the circumstances of Couch's death is John H. Smith, his old friend, who lived alone on the same floor of the Masonic Temple, as did Couch. He and the dead, crippled lawyer were bosom friends, and used to spend many an evening together in Smith's room.

Smith, who has been married twice, has been a photographer, a printer and a well known evangelist. He is now, as he expresses it, "living on the interest of his debts." His room is a combination of kitchen, office and bedroom. A big coal coal stove is in one corner. On the wall are several pictures and Scripture pictures. The place of honor is assigned to an organ of the camp meeting variety and canaries, while rats and guinea pigs roam about at will.

Smith is famous in Monticello from the fact that he wears a light wig in summer to cover his bald dome and a heavy one in the winter. He is more than seventy, but declares he keeps hale and hearty by letting his beard grow and eating apples. He is the last man who saw Couch alive. The dead lawyer, as was his custom, dropped into Smith's office for a chat the Saturday night before he died.

The coroner talked of many things and she parted. The next Smith heard of Couch was when Dr. Curtiss summoned him and told him Couch was dead, and a woman, he (the doctor) had never seen before was in his office.

SCORES COUNTY OFFICERS AS LOT OF KNOW-NOTHINGS.
"At the time of the fire that destroyed the old Masonic Temple I heard that Couch had saved a woman from the fire," said Smith. "But, Lord bless you, I put no stock in it. They told me that she had a woman in there and that when the fire came she almost roasted to death, but—have an apple—I didn't take no notice of such talk. When I saw Miss Branch by Mel's dead body it was the first time I'd ever seen her. I used to hear his typewriter clicking nights, but gosh 'n' mighty, I just said to myself, said I, 'Mel's a mighty hard worker.'"

"These county officers are a lot of know-nothings. If they had handled things right nothing about the woman would have got out of my hands. I'd have her in my office and have kept her here till everything had blown over if only Mel had confided in me that he had a woman hidden in that room beyond the partition."

It has developed that for seven years instead of three was Couch's willing prisoner, and had a room in the office in the Masonic Building as she had in the new. She was away, however, when the old building burned four years ago.

EXPECTED THE BURGLAR WHO STOLE EMPTY SAFE
Railroad Men Were Prepared for Yeggs, Active for Some Time Near Syracuse.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Burglars pried open the back door of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western station at Jamesville early to-day and carried away the safe on a handcar. There was no money in the safe, because the attack was anticipated by the station agent, T. Girard.

"Because of their activity in this vicinity recently we expected we would be visited by the yeggs next," said Mr. Grace, and disposed of our valuables. The yeggs, not only ransacked some freight packages in the freight house.

Col. George Hendricks and Gen. L. A. L. ...

SCHMIDT DEFENSE RESTS; STATE TO COMBAT 'MAD' PLEA

Sister Tries to Have Aumuller Slayer Greet Father Christmas Day.

The case for the defense of Hans Schmidt, the confessed murderer of Anna Aumuller, was concluded to-day with the testimony of the last of the expert alienists by whom it is sought to establish his insanity. Dr. M. S. Gregory of Bellevue. Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald was called to the stand to read the records of the examination of Schmidt by alienists employed by the District-Attorney.

The narrative of the questioning of Schmidt sounded very much like an account of a police third degree. Schmidt was "warned of his rights," and then was put under instant demands that he admit his own sanity, that he knew himself guilty of a crime and that he had committed it with deliberation.

The father of Schmidt and the married sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Schadler, who came to this country to aid him with their testimony, are still in this city. Mrs. Schadler has been deeply hurt by the refusal of Schmidt to acknowledge Heinrich Schmidt as his real father. Alphonse G. Koebler, of counsel for Schmidt said that he would speed to-morrow in a last effort to bring the father, sister and brother together under the influence of Christmas sentiment, but he was most doubtful of the outcome.

INSANITY CHART GETS CONSIDERABLE AMENDMENT.
A modified form of the hereditary chart of the course of insanity in Schmidt's family was submitted by Dr. Jeffrey to the jury. It was further amended by the cutting out of several alleged instances of insanity among Schmidt's forbears which are only based on hearsay testimony.

The chart was hung on the wall beside Judge Foster, while Dr. Jeffrey lectured on it as showing the influence of heredity on insanity. Black squares represented the male progenitors from great grandfathers down and black circles represented the women. Only one woman was in court at to-day's opening. Two young girls entered later, but did not remain long.

Dr. Jeffrey explained that he considered the map important because it showed that a taint of insanity ran through the families of both the father and the mother of Schmidt but did not become active in this generation until the two strains met. Four of Schmidt's brothers and sisters died in infancy, two in early youth and according to testimony the others had unusual habits of mind.

The defense rested at 11.5. Judge Foster urged the counsel to use every device effort to shorten the trial and to avoid drowning the record in a flood of words.

The prosecution at once called Dr. Leo Schmidt's own physician, as a witness in rebuttal. **GAVE SCHMIDT TEXT BOOK ON MENTAL ABNORMALITIES.**
Dr. Leo testified that he had supplied Schmidt with a book on morbid mind conditions by a celebrated German investigator of criminal and sex abnormalities which was still reading to any one not professionally interested.

MITCHEL SWORN IN AS MAYOR OF CITY BY JUSTICE FORD

Sister Tries to Have Aumuller Slayer Greet Father Christmas Day.

entrance in time to see it shoot up like a rocket. A midwife of a uniformed starter told the photographers that they could not go up in the next car and they threatened to annihilate him then and there.

Later on, when the Mayor-elect learned what a fine run the photographers had made from the City Hall to Chambers street, he laughed heartily and announced that he would admit them to the scene of the oath-taking provided Judge Ford was willing. The consent was quickly given.

The oath of office administered to the Mayor is contained in Article 23, Section 1, of the State Constitution. Mayor-elect Mitchell gave a detailed denial of the reports widely circulated to the effect that he and Samuel E. Koenig, the Republican leader, had fallen out because he refused to state Koenig for Corporation Counsel or some other Republican for City Chamberlain.

The reports of the Mitchell-Koenig row were to the effect that George V. Mulvaney, who was Mitchell's law partner, was slated for the head of the law department, and that Henry Bruens of the Bureau of Municipal Research was to be City Chamberlain.

"To begin with," said the Mayor, "you know I am not discussing appointments or selections. But as to the stories that Mr. Koenig and I have had a disagreement, all that I can say is that they are absolutely without foundation. Mr. Koenig has entered no protest against any action he believed I contemplated. He has never discussed with me the office of Corporation Counsel or City Chamberlain. Nor has Senator Reynolds suggested any appointment to me."

"Has Mr. Koenig discussed offices with you?"
"He has not discussed specifically the offices mentioned," replied the Mayor-elect.

CHRISTMAS DINNERS FOR 255 FAMILIES
More Than 430 Also Made Happy at the Presbyterian Hospital.

Four hundred and thirty-five small boys and girls, who otherwise might have had no Christmas presents at all, were made happy by Christmas stockings filled with toys and candy and the more useful gifts of underwear, mittens and caps which the Presbyterian Hospital distributed yesterday. The hospital continued its good work to-day by giving away two hundred and fifty-five baskets containing all the essentials of a good Christmas dinner.

KILLED MADMAN WHO HELD FAMILY IN FEAR ALL NIGHT

Son of Farmer Steals on Armed Intruder Who Kept Six Prisoners in Home.

STRAUSE, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Defending the life of his father and mother from the attack of a madman, Bert Webster, twenty-four years old, shot and killed Frank Kenyon, telegraph operator of the West Shore Railroad at Amboy, eight miles west of here, early to-day.

Last evening Kenyon, who apparently suddenly went insane, appeared at the Webster home on the Hopkins farm and ordered the farmer to burn his barn. Webster ordered the man away, whereupon Kenyon drew two revolvers and declared he would keep the whole family prisoners until his orders were carried out.

Mr. and Mrs. Webster and their four children were ordered into one room, lined up against the wall and kept prisoners there all night. In the mean time the madman gloated over his doings and promised to kill Webster if his orders were not carried out.

The helpless family were unable to get word to outsiders until early this morning, when one of the children slipped away, ran to a nearby house and summoned aid.

A posse was formed and hastened to the house. Bert Webster, in the mean time, had obtained a gun and stealing into the room shot Kenyon, who died while the posse surrounded the dwelling.

After the shooting Bert Webster disappeared and the Sheriff is looking for him. Other members of the Webster family are prostrated and under the care of physicians.

M'ADOO ACTING PRESIDENT.
Ranking Officer During Absence of Wilson and Others.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Secretary McAdoo will be acting President of the United States to-morrow. In the absence of President Wilson and Vice-President Marshall, he becomes the ranking official left in Washington for Christmas Day. Speaker Clark, after having Christmas dinner with his family, will leave for a lecture tour in New England, which will continue until the Congress reassembles on Jan. 13. Secretary Bryan is at his winter home at Miami, Fla.; Secretary Garrison will spend Christmas Day with his brother at Merchantville, N. J., and later will spend a few days with Mrs. Garrison at Atlantic City. Secretary Daniels will dine in Washington, but will later go for a few days to Raleigh, N. C.

BEATEN IN STREET ROW.

Factory Law Violators Get Fined.

Twenty factory law violators were disposed of by Chief Justice Russell in Part V., Special Sessions, to-day. Eighteen of them were for smoking in factories and the other two for locking doors during working hours. M. J. Shulman of No. 223 Mercer street and the Gondorf Auto Company of No. 3 West Sixty-first street. They were fined \$20 each. Sixteen employees who were found smoking paid fines of \$20 each, and two employees were fined \$30 for the same offense.

Senator Stone Out of Danger.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Senator Stone of Missouri, stricken with the grip a few days ago and for whom fears were felt, was reported to-day by his physicians out of danger.

When Tuberculosis Threatens
get fresh air, sunshine and above all the cell-building, energy-producing properties of SCOTT'S EMULSION. Its prompt use often thwarts tuberculosis. 12-144

White Rose CEYLON TEA
White Rose Coffee, None Better

White Rose CEYLON TEA
White Rose Coffee, None Better

Shah of Persia
Indorses **VIN MARIANI**
Famous French Tonic Wine

The flavor of Yuban distinguishes it from all other coffees. Ask your grocer for it.

DIED.
CAREY.—On Dec. 24, NELLIE CAREY (nee Reynolds), beloved wife of John M. Carey, at her residence, No. 1223 Fulton ave., Bronx. Interment Lorain O. SODERMAN.—On Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1913, PHILIP SODERMAN in his 57th year, beloved wife of Charles Soderman. Funeral from her late residence, 147 E. 84th st., Thursday, Dec. 25, at 1:30 P. M. Interment Woodlawn.

O'LOUGHLIN A SANTA CLAUS.
Gives Wage Increases to Twenty-four Veteran Employees of O'Keec.

It was Merry Christmas to-day in the office of the Register of Kings County in Brooklyn. Edward T. O'Loughlin, the Register, put the capital letters in the designation by announcing that he had increased the wages of twenty-four of the employees.

The men benefited are all veterans in the services and have been passed by in previous administrations. The increases amount to from \$50 to \$30 per annum for each individual, and not a man on the list knew he was going to get his pay boosted. Hence the excess of happiness around the County Court House this afternoon.

Many of the employees of the County Clerk's office in Brooklyn have been awarded increases of salary by County Clerk Charles S. Devoe, but he made his Santa Claus announcement yesterday.

YELLOW TAXI BURNED.
Passenger Supposed to Have Dropped Lighted Cigar Inside.

A yellow taxicab burst into flames early to-day as it turned east from Broadway into Forty-fourth street. A policeman turned in a fire alarm as the chauffeur stopped the car. By the time the fire engines arrived the interior of the vehicle was burned out, the damage being about \$50.

William Evans of No. 202 West Forty-ninth street, the chauffeur, said he had just taken a party to Columbus Circle and probably a passenger had dropped a lighted cigar or cigarette on the cab floor.

Billboards for Churches.
NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 24.—As a part of a movement "for a better New Haven," the Chamber of Commerce and allied organizations will urge everybody, of whatever creed, to attend church on Jan. 11, 1914. The movement includes all the surrounding small towns. Billboard and other advertising will be used to increase the attendance.

HOPE
Drops to 10¢
Makes every biscuit a masterpiece

DERRIN GLOVES
FAMOUS THE WORLD OVER
\$1.50
\$1.00

Gillette Safety Razor
Five Million Men use the Gillette. The Blade are fine. Got a Gillette today.
NO STOPPING NO BURNING

CANDY
PENNY A POUND PROFIT

Christmas Sweets
The little folk are penciling their final instructions to Santa Claus. The old darning basket is being carefully hauled in search of stockings that will conform to the full weight and measure law, and incidentally steal a march on Old Santa's generosity when he makes his annual visit to fill them with Toys and LOFT CANDY to-night. Our Christmas Stocks at all TEN STORES have been splendidly reinforced and offer just as good selection now as ever, and our displays sparkle with hundreds of brilliant gift inspirations.

Assorted Hard Candies
Buttercups, Molasses Peppermints, Mints, Fruit and Nut Chips, and many other equally pleasing specialties.

Special Offer to Sunday Schools, Churches, Etc.
A Special Selection of each store contains sweets and courtneys

FREE at All World Offices!
The World's Winter Resort Guide for 1913-1914
The Greatest Guide of Its Kind Ever Published!
Of Large Size, Printed on Heavy Coated Paper. Profusely Illustrated.
Presenting all the information a tourist or vacation-taker would want to know about Winter Resort Hotels and Boarding Places at home and abroad, Steamship Cruises to Foreign Lands, Railroad Routes, Hotels and Restaurants in New York City, &c.
TAKE A FREE COPY HOME WITH YOU TO-NIGHT!