The Sun.

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BOWEN'S GREAT LIBEL SUIT

THE SCANDAL TRIAL SCENES RECALLED IN BROOKLYN.

Bowen and Kinsella in Tilton and Beecher's Seats—The Story of Kidd's Treasure at the Foot of the Dunderberg—The Incantations and Prophecies of a Buxom Negress.

The Brooklyn City Court room yesterday was in its conspicuous figures suggestive of the Beecher trial that was prolonged in the same room. Ex Judge Fullerton, Charles H. Winfield, Henry C. Bowen, his two sons, and Seth B. Hunt, of the original members of Plymouth Church, occupied the seats at the plaintiff's end of the table; and Wm. A. Beach, Wm. C. DeWitt, Wm. Hester, the publisher of the *Eagle*, and Thomas Kinsella, the editor, were in the defendant's place. In the body of the room Usher Jacob B. Murray moved restlessly about. Deacon Howard was in the seat he occupied throughout Mr. Beecher's trial. Counsellor John E. Hill, John W. Harman, S. D. Morris, Ripley Ropes, Edward Eggleston and his long hair, Benj. Hutton, A. S. Barnes, S. V. White, Abner D. Keeney, Deacon Davenport, and Lorin Palmer were scattered around.

The jury having been called, the Hon. Charles H. Winfield opened the case for Mr. Bowen, who demands $100,000 damages for the *Eagle's* alleged libel that he planned the Kidd Salvage Company, that drew in capitalists to search for mythical treasures in the Hudson. Every man connected with it was ruined for life, Mr. Winfield said, and there never was a scheme concocted by villains that was a greater stench in the nostrils of the world. A man might have been stigmatized as a murderer for hire, and he could not have been disgraced more effectually than by accusing him of complicity with this scheme. The defendant has accused Mr. Bowen of the conception, origin, and carrying out of the entire villainy. They accuse him of using a buxom negress, through whose incantations and prophecies he induced his friends to put their capital in the fraudulent enterprise. There never was so heinous a case of libel as this.

William Hester, the publisher, testified that he published the paper containing the article on Sept. 8, 1874. The circulation of the paper was 25,000, two thousand of which number circulated in the country. The paper's exchanges were under 1,000. The paper goes to the Northern States. Ex-Judge Fullerton read the article to the jury, and the plaintiff rested.

Corporation Counsel De Witt, for the *Eagle*, in opening attempted to read articles from the Brooklyn *Union* when it was Mr. Bowen's paper, that severely condemned Thomas Kinsella. The Judge sustained an objection to this. Then Mr. De Witt proceeded to read the suits, and his voice was again stopped. Then he referred to the Judge's rulings which forced them to trial, as he thought, with little evidence. He intimated that he had hoped that the rulings would be reversed on appeal. Judge Reynolds quickly stopped him again, and reprimanded him for his criticisms.

Mr. De Witt disavowed any disrespect, but said that his associates felt keenly the injury of the Judge's decision has coming them to trial. The article, Mr. De Witt held, was more of a satirical extravaganza than a serious libel. It was a fruitful source to newspaper man in court seeking for his rivals dollars in a suit for libel.

Ex-Judge John Greenwood, a resident of Brooklyn since 1825, and a City Court Judge from 1840 to 1855, testified that Geo. Wilkes was friend better than an acquaintance. He published in 1859 in the *National Police Gazette*, in which Wilkes accused Henry Sheldon and James Freeland, members of the Kidd Salvage Company, of being swindlers. Wilkes was acquitted. The defence was the truth of the libel.

A copy of the *Spirit of the Times* was introduced containing the allegations that Bowen and others formed a company with $100,000 stock to raise the treasure ship of Capt. Kidd, which, they asserted, had sunk at the foot of Dunderberg Mountain, on the Hudson, in water owned by the company. The article asserted that the company employed negro necromancists to make the project current with the negro population. The file of THE SUN of January 4, 1872, containing an extract from the article in *Wilkes' Spirit of the Times*, which was entitled "Way Down South in Dixie," and "Dixie's Land," was offered in evidence. Mr. Frank Beard, the witness, testified that THE SUN'S present circulation was 150,000, and that it was nearly 100,000 in 1872.

Wm. A. Hall, a shoe dealer who had several millions of dollars' worth of Government contracts, testified that Henry C. Bowen's character for twenty years prior to September, 1874, was bad. The witness believed in Mr. Beecher's innocence, and took grounds against Bowen. He was never refused a loan by Mr. Bowen.

Seth B. Hunt testified that he knew that Mr. Bowen's reputation was not good among members of Plymouth Church, and he did not remember hearing him spoken well of at any time. He also heard ill of him in Wall street. He visited Bowen's house once to meet Jay Cooke, when he was putting forward the Northern Pacific bonds. S. B. Chittenden, Demas Barnes, and others were there. He had called upon Mr. Bowen twice within three weeks, but only as a fellow member of Plymouth Church.

Mr. Fullerton deftly traced Mr. White's animus to the Beecher scandal, obtaining from Mr. White the admission that he thought Mr. Bowen had something to do with the early circulation of the Beecher stories, and, in the present state of his mind, he thought that Mr. Bowen did wrong if he did circulate the stories. "I have his own word for it," said Mr. White, "in a recent interview, that he did not circulate the stories." "What conclusions have you reached about it?" asked Mr. Fullerton. "That he did have something to do with them, and that he did wrong," answered Mr. White. "Ah! that accounts for the milk in the cocoanut," said Mr. Fullerton. Mr. White further testified that Bowen introduced Jay Cooke at the dinner, and made a speech in behalf of the Northern Pacific road, using prospectuses and a map to illustrate.

Andrew McLean, the *Eagle's* managing editor, testified that Archibald Gordon, a reporter, prepared the article, and that he procured his information from persons in New York. The witness composed the head to the article.

ABUSES TO BE CORRECTED.

Small-Fry Politicians to be Deprived of One Source of Revenue.

A number of retail merchants organized last evening as "The Society for the Correction of Public Abuses." Mr. H. M. Niver presided, and Mr. Van Alsthe was Secretary. Most of those who attended the meeting are merchants who have been submitting for years to the petty swindling of the Sealers of Weights and Measures, and it was this public abuse that was dealt with last evening.

There are four Sealers of Weights and Measures in the city, but as each may appoint an unlimited number of deputies, and as each deputy does pretty much as he pleases, the merchants are heavily taxed. "It is no uncommon thing," said Mr. Niver, "for a merchant's weights and measures to be inspected six times a year, and at each inspection a fee must be paid. When a politician is hard up all he has to do is to go to the Sealer of Weights and Measures, get appointed as a deputy, and he is assured of a stake. We are forced to submit to the impositions of these irresponsible men; protests are of no avail. Mr. Rose, one of our members, had a deputy arrested a few days ago for fraud, but the deputy is at large, and Mr. Rose is under $5,000 bail for false imprisonment."

A member proposed that the organization take up the subjects of hay and coal, as public abuses. A bale of hay, he said, has fifty pounds of wood around it, and a ton of coal delivered to a consumer, weighs not 2,000, but 1,900 pounds. He had himself purchased a ton of English coal at $13, but when he weighed it he found only 750 pounds.

It was resolved that the necessary steps be taken to remove the Sealers of Weights and Measures guilty of impositions, and a committee of twelve was appointed to present the charges and specifications to the Mayor.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA JUDGES.

Gov. Chamberlain Refusing Commissions to Moses and Whipple.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 21.—Gov. Chamberlain has refused to issue the commissions of Whipple and ex Gov. Moses, the obnoxious Judges elect, filing the following statement of his reasons:

I decide to sign the commissions of W. J. Whipple and F. J. Moses, jr., elected as Judges of the Circuit Court of this State, by the General Assembly, on the 16th inst., for terms to begin Aug. 26, 1876. By the Constitution of the State, the Judges of the Circuit Courts are to be elected for terms of four years. By a series of adjudications here in the highest court of this State, extending to 1871 to 1872, it has, in my judgment, been settled that officers elected under previous laws have a right to this portion of the present Constitution, are entitled to hold and to enjoy the full term prescribed by the Constitution or laws under which they were elected, respectively. It follows that as the terms of the present incumbents of the offices to which the above named persons claim to have been elected on the 26th inst., will not expire until after another general election of the members of the General Assembly, the present General Assembly has not the right to elect their successors. While in some cases presenting similar legal questions it may not be required of the Executive to follow the adjudications of the tribunals, the circumstances of the present case compel me to this course.

FOUR REGIMENTS WIPED OUT.

The Views of the Commanding Officers of the Extinguished Regiments.

This morning Gen. Shaler will formally order the immediate mustering out of the Fifty-fifth, Seventy-ninth, Eighty-fourth, and Ninety-sixth Regiments of Infantry, in obedience to instructions from Albany. Col. Laing of the Seventy-ninth and other officers returned yesterday from Albany, where they had made fruitless efforts to procure the revocation of the edict of disbandment. Officers of these regiments say there are others in the National Guard in this city and Brooklyn that have been undisturbed, and yet are considerably smaller in numbers. Col. Conkling says that the authorities entirely misapprehended the condition of the Eighty-fourth, or the disbandment would not have been ordered. By a mistake nearly forty men appeared in the evening for the full inspection, which was made in the afternoon, and the regiment was thereby credited with that number less than it ought to have had. He has since enlisted thirty-five, and the total makes the regiment larger than five others in the two divisions. The Colonel raised the Eighty-fourth at his own expense in 1863. It went through several campaigns with credit, and many of the veterans are still in its ranks. Col. Conkling adds that the annual cost of his 400 men to the city is just the cost of four policemen. Col. Laing tried to have the Eighty-fourth consolidated with the Seventy-ninth under the numerical designation of the latter; but in that also he failed. Col. Conkling says he will make no efforts to prevent the disbandment of his regiment, although he regards the order as a great mistake.

The alleged reason for disbandment is that the city has had to pay too much for armories for the numerous regiments. The Ninety-sixth was in a building owned by the city and cost it nothing, and the Eighty-fourth, Col. Conkling says, was about to move into a building on which there is yet two years lease, for which the city will be compelled to pay rent. Officers say, however, that the enormous rents of armories occupied by some regiments were foisted upon the city by politicians in the old Ring days, and that they have long struggled for a system of brigade armories to be owned by the State, instead of the costly armories that are leased by the city.

In 1861 the city had thirty infantry, cavalry, and artillery regiments which were provided for at small expense. The city has grown greatly since then, and it is said by many that the nine regiments left will be insufficient to protect the city in case of another riot like that of 1863.

The nine regiments remaining are to be reorganized into three brigades, as follows: First Brigade, Fifth, Twelfth, and Twenty-second Regiments; Second Brigade, Ninth, Eleventh, and Seventy first; Third Brigade, Seventh, Eighth, and Sixty-ninth. Battery A of the Second Division has also been disbanded, but although the whole division is a service larger than any of the above named brigades in the First Division, not one of the small infantry organizations has been wiped out. Officers say that Comptroller Green has paid to armory rent in this city for years, his opinion being that all the armory leases are illegal.

A YOUNG WOMAN'S ADVENTURES.

Knocking About the United States in the Clothing of a Man.

Miss Alice Holmes was detained in the police station in Astoria yesterday to give officers an opportunity to procure suitable wearing apparel in which to send her to her home in Massachusetts. She wore a midshipman's cap, a heavy pea jacket, blue flannel sailor's shirt, pantaloons, and men's boots; and her hair, of auburn shade, was short cropped, and parted on the side, making her appear as a stout and comely lad of sixteen or seventeen years. She was taken to the police station on Sunday, for disguising herself in male attire. Her sex was discovered in the boarding house of Alfred Horn, to whom she was sent as a boarder by Mr. Anton Pelise, the proprietor of the Carnolia Chemical Works at Dutch Kills. The latter was crossing the ferry to Hunter's Point on the 8th inst., when he was accosted by a boy, as he supposed, who asked for employment. The boy said that he would work as a farm laborer for his board and clothes. Mr. Pelise offered to provide him with board and clothes and give him $8 a month if he would work for him. He accepted the offer and was employed in the department for making chloroform. He gave the name of Walter Holmes. He was sent to live with Mr. Horn, who keeps a boarding house for young men. On Sunday last he was accused of stealing a shirt, and it was then that he was discovered to be a young woman.

Miss Holmes is between 18 and 19 years old, with blue eyes and fair complexion; she is five feet five inches in height. Her story, as told to Recorder Parsells of Long Island City and to others, is that she is from Marion, Massachusetts, where her mother lives. She was secretly married when she was about fifteen to a young telegraph operator named Barshob, and went with him to Chicago, where she has a child three years old that her mother has the custody of. She deserted her home in Marion nine months ago, because she could not get some money that she thought belonged to her. Her adventures in male dress began in Providence. She tried to obtain work there suitable for a woman, and, failing to do so, she hired herself to a farmer. She deserted him to go on the Sound steamer Schultz as a deck hand, and was afterwards steward on the coasting schooners Jamestown, Czar, and Willian H. Baker. She kept her sex a secret wherever she went. In August or September last she became acquainted with two young men named Jackson and Brier, one of whom told her that he had run away from his father, taking a large amount of money. They persuaded her to enlist with them in the United States Navy, and she then revealed to them who she was. She was taken as a ward room boy on the steamer Powhatan at the Navy Yard. She alleges that her two companions paid the examining surgeon $25 each to pass her without exposing her sex. She overstayed her leave from the vessel one day, and on her return she and one of her companions were put in the "brig" under arrest. On her release she deserted.

She told Recorder Parsells that she had never tasted intoxicating drinks. Her hands show how she has toiled, and the palms are hard and calloused. She says she belongs to a good Massachusetts family. After hearing her story Recorder Parsells discharged her, and Police Commissioner Bodine gave her some money to take her home.

A SAD SKATING ACCIDENT.

The Drowning of Two Young Men in Newark Last Evening.

Jacob Haberle, 21 years old, of 163 William street, David Hastie of Broad street, near Orange, Joseph Metzler and several other young men went skating at Bound Brook, near Sixth avenue, Newark, last evening. The ice suddenly gave way, and Haberle and Hastie went down together, and Metzler a few feet away from them. Michael Dassman threw a rope to Metzler, and saved him. At this time Hastie was below the surface and supposed to be hanging to Haberle's legs. The latter's struggles became fainter, and before he could reach the rope that Dassman threw to him he cried out, "I can't stand it any longer," and sank out of sight. Both bodies were recovered about two hours afterward.

MORE FRAUDULENT BONDS.

An Investigation that Gov. Osborn of Kansas has Ordered to be Made.

TOPEKA, Dec. 21.—John Frazer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Thomas H. Cavanagh, Secretary of State, and A. N. F. Requa, Attorney-General, constituting the State Commissioners of the Permanent School Fund, have made a statement to Gov. Osborn that at different times since Sept. 2 they have purchased certain Kansas school district bonds purporting to have been issued by districts in Mitchell, Jewell, Republic, and other counties, amounting to nearly $15,000. Suspicious circumstances connected with these bonds led the commissioners to examine into the matter, and they have just discovered that the bonds are fraudulent, and were issued with the design to perpetrate a swindle. It also appears that the State Treasurer, Samuel Kimpin, who paid for these bonds on orders of the Commissioners of the School Fund, was not careful as to the identity of the persons to whom he paid the money, and suspicion has been aroused to such an extent that he is in some way connected with the swindle, that Gov. Osborn has demanded Benjamin O'Neil, by removing the bolt that has been made and inserted in the iron bars of the window in the keepers' mess room. He has eight years more to serve for the offence, which he committed by the aid of him that if he had replaced the bolt, the means of his escape would probably never have been found out, he said: "A minute seemed a lifetime then. I was beyond the women's prison on the hill in the time it would have taken me to put back the bolt."

A Probate Officer Accused of Forgery.

ELLSWORTH, Me., Dec. 21.—George A. Dyer, Register of Probate for this county, has been arrested for forgery, and for want of bail has been sent to jail. He has been financially embarrassed for some time, and has been forging the names of endorsers to notes to raise money. The amount of forged paper issued by him is estimated to exceed $15,000, and is held by various parties in Ellsworth and Bangor. It is believed that the Probate records are all right.

Excommunicating the Molly Maguires.

SHENANDOAH, Pa., Dec. 21.—At the services in the Roman Catholic church at Mahanoy Plane, the Rev. Daniel O'Connor, the pastor, read a letter from the Archbishop of Philadelphia, which was a formal excommunication of the society known as the "Molly Maguires," otherwise known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians

A VETERAN HUNTER'S END.

JACKSON FRAILEY'S ENCOUNTER WITH A CATAMOUNT.

The Death of a Famous Deer Slayer—After Thirty Years as a Hunter and Trapper—A Struggle near the Tamarack Swamp.

MARTINSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 21.—Jackson Frailey was killed in a contest with a catamount near Tamarack Swamp, on Welsh Mountain, on Wednesday last. His body was found on Friday. A large bear was seen on Monday in the mountain not far from this village, and on Wednesday morning Frailey, accompanied by Joseph and James Bloom, went out to hunt. The Welsh Mountain is heavily timbered, and surrounded by great swamps and ravines, in which bears, catamounts, and other wild animals are plenty. The hunters expected to return on Wednesday night. They took no dogs, as it was feared that they might go off on the track of deer. They did not return on Wednesday night, and on Thursday morning a snow storm set in. On Thursday night it cleared off, six or eight inches of snow having fallen. The hunters did not return that night, and their friends determined to despatch searchers to find them if they were not back by Friday morning. On that morning fifteen or twenty sawyart Woodsmen started to search Welsh Mountain for the missing men.

At about 10 o'clock the body of Frailey was found covered up in a snow drift, near the foot of the mountain, only half a mile from Frazer's clearing. His clothing were torn off from his throat to his knees, and his face, neck, breast and abdomen was terribly lacerated, seemingly by the claws or teeth of a wild animal. As there was no evidence of a struggle near, not tracks in the snow, it was inferred that after the fatal struggle in some other part of the wood before the snow storm, he had made his way thus far in search of aid, and that he had perished in the cold.

Nothing further was found until the party reached Tamarack swamp. The body of Frailey was taken back to Martinsville by three of the party. While going about the swamp, one of the men found Frailey's rifle standing against a tree. Both barrels were empty. A short distance to the right, in a hollow, was the body of an enormous catamount. It was covered with wounds, one being made by a rifle ball, and the rest plainly by a knife. The snow having been scraped away about the tree against which the rifle stood, the hunter's knife—a long clasp knife with a buck horn handle and pieces of his clothing were found. It was evident that there had been a fearful struggle, for the ground was covered with blood for several feet around, and the underbrush was bloody and broken.

The search was resumed, and at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon some of the party reached an old cabin near Hunt's ravine, known as the Lone Cabin. Fresh tracks of men were about it, and inside a fire was still smouldering. The tracks of two men led away toward the village. This trail was followed, and after the party had walked about two miles they met one of the Blooms walking rapidly toward them. He told them that he had just returned from Martinsville, where his brother and he had arrived an hour or so before; and that he had come to inquire if Frailey had not joined them. Neither he nor his brother knew of the fate of Frailey until then. They had all three hunted until Wednesday night, and had shot twice at the bear, but lost it in a swamp. They stayed in Lonetown until next day, Frailey promising to return to the village and inquire if he was safe at the bear out of the swamp. He went forth from the cabin at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. It snowed so hard next day that the hunters did not go out of the cabin, and did not expect Frailey with the dogs. On Friday morning they were alarmed at his non-return, and had supposed that Frailey would return, it was so cold.

Frailey leaves a large family. He had followed hunting and trapping for thirty years, beginning before he was ten years old. In those thirty years he killed over 2,000 deer, 243 bears, 25 catamounts, 4 panthers, and numbers of wolves and foxes. He was known throughout the State as the Nimrod of the Conawango and the Deer Slayer.

SAILORS' BLOOD MONEY.

How Seamen are Trafficked by Reckless Shipmasters and Crafty Landlords.

A SUN reporter found Capt. G. C. Duncan in his office in Cherry street recently drawing up his report for the year. He read some parts of it denouncing the taking of what is called "blood money" by the captains of the ships. "Blood money" is a bribe paid by the keepers of sailors' boarding houses for the privilege of shipping a crew from their own houses. They then deduct the amount so paid, together with a liberal margin for themselves, from the advance rate given to the seaman when he signs the ships articles, payable three days after the sailing of the ship, provided the sailor in whose favor it is drawn is reported in his place on board at the time of the sailing by the pilot boat, as being on board at his duty. To obviate as far as possible the evils arising from this system the rules for shipping seamen provide that the master of a vessel shall give twenty-four hours' notice when he desires to ship a crew, and no one except a Deputy Shipping Commissioner or the master himself shall be permitted to select the crew; that the use of the fists, tickets, or distinguishing marks shall not be allowed; and that no boarding house keeper, employee, or person acting as a business runner shall be admitted to the floor of the hall where a crew is being shipped.

On a recent Friday, the Commissioner says, Capt. Carver, of the bark Fannie, made an appointment to ship a crew on Saturday morning. A hundred men were in attendance, but the Captain was called away before he had selected only five seamen whom he had already selected. They were at once turned out and made to take their places with the other men, but, on the representations of the Captain that he desired to ship two of them, they were again admitted and allowed to sign the articles. Then Capt. Carver said he wanted to select the other three, and when Deputy Commissioner Pentz told him he could not do so, he replied that he would not ship another man. He went out, and half an hour later returned with Mr. Walsh, of Walsh & Field, agents for the vessel, and the three men whom he insisted on being allowed to ship. The Deputy Commissioner applied to Capt. Duncan for instructions, and the Commissioner refused to suspend the rule. Capt. Carver bolsterously called the men into the office, and threatened to take proceedings against the Commissioner. Finding this ineffectual, he appointed Monday morning for shipping the remainder of his crew. He did not again go to the office until Tuesday morning, when he was accompanied by Mr. Walsh and a deputation of the Ship Owners' Association, consisting of R. R. Minturn, John Dibblosen, and Mr. Norval, Secretary of the Association. They read a protest against Capt. Duncan's course, and showed the written declarations of the sailors that they had been hustled out of the office as they were about to sign the articles. The Commissioner explained his action, and the deputation said that if as Capt. Carver, they were so satisfied that a crew was shipped for the Fannie at once. Capt. Duncan supposed the affair was amicably settled, and was surprised to learn of the subsequent action of the Ship Owners. "I don't accuse Capt. Carver of receiving blood money," said Capt. Duncan, "but he acted just as though he had." The Commissioner added that the Secretary of the Ship Owners' Association threatened to "go for his office like hell in Congress."

While Capt. Duncan was speaking the Deputy Commissioner entered and said that the captain of a ship for which a crew had been regularly selected at the shipping office, had ignored his obligations and taken another crew. Capt. Duncan desired the Deputy Commissioner to inform the owners that if the crew first shipped were not taken they would give every man a month's pay. "There," said the Commissioner, "is another instance of the evils of blood money. The captain probably received $5 or so ahead for each man he allowed some landlord to ship for him."

A Minute that Seemed a Lifetime.

The burglar who was caught in Brooklyn, on Saturday night, after trying to enter the houses at 182 Kent street and 127 Bedford avenue, and who described himself as John Whittaker, was identified on Monday by Keeper Jackson and Chief Clerk Gifford of the Sing Sing Prison as the notorious burglar George Jones, alias "Big John Garvey." He escaped from Sing Sing on the big limit of the 24 hrs., with Henry J. Salisbury and Dennis O'Neil, by removing a fine bolt that had been made and inserted in the iron bars of the window in the keepers' mess room. He has eight years more to serve for the offence, which he committed by the aid of him that if he had replaced the bolt, the means of his escape would probably never have been found out, he said: "A minute seemed a lifetime then. I was beyond the women's prison on the hill in the time it would have taken me to put back the bolt."

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THE RIVER PIRATES AGAIN.

The Robbery of the Crew of a Brig at a Twenty-first Ward Bulkhead.

The brig John Kennedy is loading with a general cargo for Rio at the bulkhead between Thirty-ninth and Fortieth streets, East river. The spot is surrounded on three sides by high piles of lumber. At 2 o'clock yesterday morning the mate, David W. Martin, awoke to find a big revolver pointed at him within two inches of his face. "Give me your money, or I'll blow your damned brains out," said the river pirate who stood over him. The mate was unarmed, but he jumped out of his bunk, and as he did so the pirate backed down to the foot of the companionway. Capt. Hickman was ashore, and except the mate, only Slim Jim Mills, the colored steward, and Eug. F. Hughes, a visitor, were in the brig. Both were fast asleep, one on the starboard side and the other on the floor. At the companionway three more pirates levelled their pistols at the mate, and he then surrendered. They searched even his stockings, and after taking $8 and a $25 overcoat, they fastened him in his bunk. Slim Jim was next robbed of a silver watch. The other men, also unarmed, was asleep, but when he awoke and discovered the situation, he closed the little door opening on his bunk and was not molested. The pirates then went into the Captain's stateroom, broke open the Captain's trunk, and took what money they could find and two or three articles of jewelry.

The pirates' ringleader had a big false nose on, and all wore white cloth masks, with holes cut for their mouths and eyes. All were armed with formidable one-barrelled six-chambered revolvers. They got into the cabin by reaching through a crack with a wire and lifting the hasp. The schooner Clara Woodhouse was robbed at the same spot some time ago.

After the robbery the pirates rowed down as far as Thirty-third street, and boarded a canal boat; but the Captain chased away at them as they were descending the bulkhead ladder, and they beat a precipitate retreat, and taking to their boat rowed across the river toward Greenpoint.

MR. PROCTOR'S LECTURES.

Still Further Studies in the Isle in Other Worlds than Ours.

"Since it is clear that the earth has had and will have a period without living creatures, and its period of life is a finite between two comparatively infinite periods, a mere ripple," said Mr. Proctor in Steinway Hall last evening, "the chance is small that any planet taken at random is at this time inhabited." Mr. Proctor gave various data, from which his inferences were that the moon is dead; that Mercury probably never had life, and being now in its old age as a planet, is cooled off completely, its own cold, however, counteracted in considerable measure by the heat of the sun; that it is not certain that the planets came into being that at the same time; that some of them may now be growing, and that we can know but little about Mercury, as he is so near the sun that the sun obscures our view of him for one-third of the time. It was said to be the transit of Venus that she is an atmosphere; and although she must have a climate to warm that earthly beings could not live there, possibly she has people who can.

Mars in 1877 will be in that part of his orbit in which he will shine the brightest and redder. There is reason for believing that Mars is younger than the earth. Its life must be shorter. There is no a feature of the history of Jupiter and Saturn resembling the earth. Indeed, there are two forms of planets in the solar system, the large ones and the small planets. These great planets are still having a little system of their own. But when Jupiter has cooled as much as our earth, he will be smaller than the earth and of six times as much as he is now. The satellites of the great planets are in their early life course. Some parts of Saturn, said Mr. Proctor, suffer eclipses of the sun two years long. In the star depths, he continued, there are probably millions of living beings; and as we extend our domain of the known, we extend our imagination of the unknown.

A SIXTEENTH WARD TRAGEDY.

Still Another Crime that is Chargeable to the Account of Rum.

Patrick Purcell and James Murray, laborers of 248 West Seventeenth street, after drinking to excess in a saloon at 293 West Seventeenth street late on Monday night, started for home. Purcell dropped something on the sidewalk, and began to search for it by the light of a match, and while he was on his knees engaged in the quest several men approached, among them Edward Gannon of 151 West Eighteenth street, a burly young truckman, whose strength and combativeness are proverbial among his acquaintances. One of the new comers, not Gannon, insolently asked why Purcell was making a fool of himself, and the inquiry aroused Purcell's drunken resentment. A wordy quarrel soon became a free fight, which ceased when Purcell fell insensible on the sidewalk under a blow from Gannon's fist. The whole gang, including Murray, then ran away, leaving Purcell where he fell. He was found there some time afterward by Roundsman Walsh, and the officer carried him, still insensible, to the Twentieth street police station. Police Surgeon Wade found a fracture of the base of the skull. Purcell was sent to Bellevue Hospital. He was still unconscious late last night.

Roundsman Walsh began to search for Purcell's assailant, and after arresting several persons against whom there was no evidence, he arrested Gannon. The prisoner at first denied that he had fought at all on the night in question, but when the assault was brought home to him by Murray's testimony, he confessed that he had struck somebody a "little clout," under which the unknown person fell, and had not got up when the striker left saw him. Justice Dodge committed Gannon to jail to await the result of Purcell's injuries, and held Murray as a witness.

OBJECTING TO EVASION.

A Decided Opposition to Mr. Beecher's Council by Congregational Preachers.

Mrs. Moulton has decided to repeat her request to Plymouth Church seeing them to join with her in a mutual council that will adjust their differences. She will not change her proposition, but will express to the church in a letter her preference for a mutual council, and her reluctance to call an *ex parte* one. If this course fails, she will then advise the calling of a council of the most eminent clergymen. There is a growing sentiment among the leading Congregational ministers against the Plymouth society, on the ground that it is not strictly ecclesiastical and is an evasion of the disputed point. This feeling is expected to take shape in a direct attack from a recognized source on the proceedings of Plymouth Church. The influence of Plymouth Church are being sent to rural churches.

The Newest Trade Union.

A recent decision by Judge Daly, that the landlord of a hotel, or the proprietor of a licensed boarding house, can legally seize a piano or an organ that has been hired to a person who owes the landlord, led to a call for a meeting of the pianoforte dealers, and, in the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday, they organized a trade union. Representatives from firms of musical instrument makers were represented. W. Steinway, F. Chickering, A. Mason, W. A. Pond, A. Weser, Mr. Hazelton, and Mr. Haines were appointed a committee to draw up articles of association, and to look up existing laws.

A Dead Letter Auction.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Postmaster General has authorized a "dead letter office auction" sale in this city, beginning on Jan. 17. The catalogue embraces 8,000 different articles sent through the mails, but unredeemed, including books, papers, music, engravings, jewelry, necktie, baby clothes, socks, scarfs, cloth clothing, watches, knives, pistols, gloves, stockings, corn cruzes, scythe stones, tooth picks, charms, asthmatic fumigators, night caps, sheetings, ribbons, saws, and corn blasters.

The Sale of Edwin Forrest's House.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—Edwin Forrest's handsome residence at Broad and Master streets, was sold at private sale to-day for $98,000.

It is understood that the purchaser, whose name is unknown, will convert it into a resort similar to Thomas's Central Park Garden in New York. Mr. Forrest's diamonds, which are valued at $38,000, were to-day deposited in Bailey's jewelry store for exhibition and sale.

Religious Excitement Leading to Suicide.

HARTFORD, Dec. 21.—W. T. Derrin, aged 23 years, clerk in a boot and shoe store, committed suicide by taking laudanum. He had been under some religious excitement for several weeks, and was in which he often prayed, took the drug, and seemed to have occupied himself while consciousness remained in reading hymns. He was found this morning in an unconscious state, and died in the evening.

An Old Captain-General Dead.

Gen. Caballero de Rodas, formerly Captain-General of Cuba, is dead.

CURIOSITIES OF CRIME.

George Price, colored, of 487 Seventh avenue, stabbed William Moffit, aged about 40, of 212 Broome st. in the face and neck, in Bleecker street, near West Tenth street, last evening. The face wound is serious. Price was arrested.

Charles Gilmore entered Mr. J. A. Spooner's jewelry store in Williamsburgh yesterday, and was caught by the partner as he was about to remove a diamond ring. Gilmore's trunk. He was sent to the Mercer street police station

LIGHT ON LIBERIA'S WAR.

THE CASE AS IT IS STATED BY THE REV. DR. JOHN ORCUTT.

The Natives' Resistance to Customs Restrictions—Bishop Janes Showing Why Civilization Should Sympathize With Liberia.

The friends of African colonization met last evening to listen to a presentment of the claims of the American Colonization Society upon the zeal and pecuniary support of philanthropists. The Rev. Dr. Samson presided and read the sixth annual report. The Rev. Dr. John Orcutt described the late war between the Liberians and the natives, from imperfect accounts of which the opponents of colonization are endeavoring to prove the lapse of the colonized negroes toward barbarism.

The war, he said, is a question of the title of Liberia to the territory constituting the county of Maryland, the southernmost colony. That county, once independent of Liberia, was lately annexed, but the natives are unwilling to submit to the trade restrictions of customs officials. They claim the right of free trade on the ground of prior possession of the territory, and on that issue they went to war. Between September and Oct. 15 eight battles were fought. Six of them were almost bloodless, and resulted in victory for the Liberian army, which had Cape Palmas for its base of supplies, and having fought the earliest skirmish far inland, fought each succeeding one a day's march nearer its base, despite its victories. The last victory left the Liberians 1,100 strong, cantoned in Cape Palmas, where they lay for a month, while the native forces were repairing their defeats in Tubman Town, four miles out.

One Gen. Crawford, of the Liberians, suggested a night attack upon the native forces, but to this Gen. Gardner, the commander in-chief, did not consent, as he seemed content with the glory of reporting every morning that his army had not been attacked on the previous night. At the end of a month, however, a forward movement was ordered. The natives were attacked near Tubman Town, and the Liberians were badly beaten, after losing seventy-nine men killed and wounded. They withdrew again to Cape Palmas, leaving a small force in the defences of Tubman Town. The latter was attacked by a strong body of natives, but the assailants were handsomely repulsed after a protracted battle, in which few or none were hurt. Thus bloodless contest ended the war in favor of the Liberians.

Bishop Janes made an earnest appeal for colonization, urging the great influence upon the evangelization of Africa that would result from sending educated Christian American negroes to be missionaries. He held that the results of the war upon the African race made the scheme even more important than it was before. Two greatly discouraging obstacles had been removed: those who detested colonization because they feared its influence upon slavery, and those who dreaded lest it should render the slave trade more difficult, had vanished at the end of emancipation. With these gone he felt that it would be the fault of those that heard him if Liberia and colonization and their claims to philanthropic support were not more successfully presented.

ONE STOLEN UMBRELLA.

Why George Smith was Under Indictment for Larceny from the Person.

George Smith, a young man of good address, was arraigned in the General Sessions, yesterday, upon an indictment for larceny from the person. He pleaded guilty of petty larceny, and when asked what he had to say about his sentence, he answered:

May it please your Honor, I have something to say. Can I be permitted to speak? (Judge—Yes; the prisoner will tell his story.) Well, your Honor, the prisoner continued, I have been out of employment for a long time, and I walked the streets. I slept for several nights allowed me to sleep in the station house, and I begged him to let me sweep out or do odd jobs about there to earn something to eat; he no could do no job for me. When I got there without food for three days, I asked him to send me on the island, and he told me that he couldn'on that unless I committed some offence or other. I was hungry, I rushed into the street, and snatched a cotton umbrella from a lady, and then waited to be sure she had me arrested, when I gave her back the umbrella. I never was arrested before in my life, and I thought it would be better to be arrested than to starve in the street, and I thought it would end in my getting where I would be furnished food and lodging without committing a crime.

Several gentlemen in the court room told Judge Sutherland that they had good reason to believe that the prisoner's story was literally true. He was remanded to the Tombs, to give the Court opportunity for further examination as to the facts.

THE BREMERHAVEN EXPLOSION.

The Author of it Never in the Employ of the Old Dominion Company.

PETERSBURG, Va., Dec. 21.—Mr. Plummer, the President of the Old Dominion Blockade Running Company, which operated from this city by way of Wilmington during the war, still resides here, and being interviewed to-day with respect to Thomas or Alex Andria, the author of the Bremerhaven plot, who is alleged to have been at one time in the company's employ, denies that it ever had such an officer in the service. The President of the company, however, says he was owner, originally in Petersburg, says that the first Captain of the Old Dominion steamship was named Pace, the first Captain of the City of Petersburg was Fuller, and the next one Hill. All of these were Englishmen.

Diligent inquiry in other quarters has also failed to elicit any information that any such man as Thomas ever lived in this city, and his story is regarded as a myth.

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