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JOSEPH A. BLAIR'S VERSION.

TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENCE IN THE ARMSTRONG MURDER TRIAL.

The Prisoner's Emotion on the Witness Stand—Armstrong's Insulting Language to Mrs. Blair—The Alleged Struggle before the Shooting—The Testimony of Mrs. Wheeler.

"There were marks of powder on the flesh near the wound," said Dr. Wm. B. Berry, testifying on the part of the defence in the trial of Joseph A. Blair, in Newark, yesterday; "but I know they were, to a certain extent at least, removed by my manipulation. I presume the powder marks were removed by my manipulation."

If Blair fired in a close hand-to-hand struggle with John Armstrong to prevent his using the pistol which he says Armstrong had already seized from the shelf in the little bedroom over the stable, then the muzzle of his (Blair's) pistol, it is argued, would have been likely to be very close to Armstrong's body. If, on the contrary, as the prosecution say, Blair fired at a distance, without being obliged to do so in self-defence, the powder would have left no marks. No marks of powder could be found, the prosecution say, on Armstrong's clothing; but this, the defence aver, was owing to the former's having been dissolved by perspiration on the clothing and to having its marks concealed by the blood discoloration.

Dr. Berry was the first physician who examined the wounds. The prosecution in cross-examination led him to testify that he had examined only two cases of close pistol shot wounds previous to the case of Armstrong. In neither of those cases did the bullet penetrate clothing, as in Armstrong's case.

The Public Prosecutor and the witness came to an agreement, after a little informal conversation of a scientific turn, that it is the unconsumed powder that blackens; that in first-rate modern centre-fire cartridges, such as those used in Blair's pistol, very little of the powder is left unconsumed; that grains of powder driven into the skin last for years because they are dissolved by the fluids of the body and the carbon is left as a deposit of coloring matter. Dr. Berry had not noticed any powder marks on Armstrong's blood-stained clothing.

Mrs. Nattie Wheeler lives on the opposite side of the road from Mr. Blair's house in Montclair. She is the new witness spoken of by Judge Titsworth in his opening on Thursday. To go from her house to the barn of Mr. Blair in Montclair, one has to walk about 200 feet southward along the road, cross the road, and then walk about 150 feet westward through Mr. Blair's grounds. She could see Mr. Blair's barn, she testified, from the front of her house. Her testimony was listened to with deep interest, because it tended to bear out the story of the defence in so direct and remarkable a manner. Mrs. Wheeler is about 30 years of age, and she has intensely black hair, and gray eyes which glisten with intelligence. Under the sharp cross-examination she was subjected to she occasionally leaned her head on her right shoulder and seemed to study the purpose of Mr. Abeel as if she regarded him as an ingenious puzzle. To questions put by Judge Titsworth she replied:

"I was doing up my hair when I heard the sound of quarrelling. I never had even a speaking, not even a bowing acquaintance with the Blairs, but my little children used to play with theirs. They had told me that afternoon that they were going to take a little broom over to Mr. Blair's children, and when I heard the loud quarrelling I looked out of a bedroom window and went out to look for them. I heard John Armstrong's voice when I got out in front of my house. He said:

"'Pay me my money, and none of your —— fooling.'

"Blair said, speaking in an ordinary voice for out doors:

"'John, harness up the horses and go for a Justice of the Peace.'

"They were standing up by Mr. Blair's barn at that time. I could see them. Armstrong replied:

"'I'll see you in —— first!'

"I saw Mrs. Blair, or some lady, then go out to the barn, and soon afterward I heard Armstrong say: 'If you don't get out, I'll blow the —brains out of you.' Then Mrs. Blair went after the children, and Mr. Blair's men, as I thought, were frightened, toward his house. Soon he appeared again and went back to the barn. Then I heard him demand the keys. I think John said he'd blow his brains out again. I heard steps on boards, and I thought they went back into the barn. I knew nothing about the stairs. I heard Mr. Blair say, 'Don't open that door.' I had walked a little way toward Mr. Blair's place then, but it was only a few feet. Soon after I heard Mr. Blair say 'Don't open that door.' I heard two shots, almost instantaneously. Then I saw him a very short time. Mr. Blair appear in the barn door again, with John behind him. I saw Rosselot help John down as he was about to fall. Then Mr. Blair walked toward his house with something in his hands, and I heard Mrs. Blair say as soon as she met him: 'Oh, Joe, what have have you done?' And Mr. Blair answered her, saying: 'Mary, I couldn't help it If I had not shot John, he would have shot me. Then Mr. Blair went back to the barn and told Rosselot to harness the horse and go for the Doctor."

Q.—When Mr. Blair came out of the barn what did he do immediately? A.—He started right toward the house with something in his hands. He held each hand out to his wife at the porch when the conversation occurred between them.

Q.—Did Mr. Blair disappear from your view at the time he talked with his wife? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—For a moment only? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did he disappear again after he started back to the barn and before Tures came in. A.—No, sir.

This testimony corroborates the prisoner's story in every important particular. Mrs. Wheeler says she overheard Armstrong's threat; overheard Blair warn Armstrong not to open the door; saw the two men come down stairs almost immediately, Blair holding something in his hands, which was, the defence say, the rusty pistol as well as his own, which he would not have had they argue if he had shot Armstrong from a distance; saw him show something in each hand to his wife; heard him make his plea of self-defence to his wife, and saw that he had no opportunity to go back up into the bedroom in the barn to get the pistol from the shelf, as the prosecution assert that he did before he showed it to Tures, who had by that time arrived at the barn.

"Now, why, Mrs. Wheeler," continued Judge Titsworth, "did you not make known this evidence before? I want you to explain to the jury."

"Because," was the reply, "I was taken sick that night owing to the excitement produced by the violent language and threats of Armstrong, with vomiting spells. The doctor had to be sent for the next day, and I was confined to my room for a long time. I didn't even tell the doctor of what I had heard and seen. I told a Mr. Weeks and my husband of the matter hurriedly, just after it occurred, but I did not tell them the entire thing."

On cross-examination Mrs. Wheeler said that the spot where Blair showed his wife what he had in his hands was not near the rear porch of his house, but on the barn side of the grape arbor, which stands between the house and barn. If the meeting had taken place at the porch, it could not have been seen by Mrs. Wheeler from her point of view. The arbor stands between the barn and the house, and prevents a person at the porch from being seen from the barn. At the inquest most of the witnesses said that the place of meeting was at the porch. It is now explained by the defence that Blair started toward the porch, where his wife was, but that she and Miss Draper ran out and met him on the barn side of the arbor. Here his action in holding out both pistols toward his wife could be distinctly seen by Rosselot and Mrs. Wheeler.

Q.—Did Mr. Blair talk very loud? A.—No, just in his ordinary voice.

Q.—Only as loud as I am speaking now? A.—Oh, louder than that. He was out of doors.

Q.—He was 500 or 600 feet from you when he talked with his wife? A.—Yes; but I can hear ordinary voices at his barn from my house. I have often heard them.

Q.—Had you ever heard Armstrong's voice before? A.—Yes; once a neighbor asked him where he should tie a cow he wanted to tether, and Armstrong shouted to him to tie it in h—l.

Miss Rebecca B. Draper testified that she was calling at the house of Mr. Blair on the day of the shooting, and who told him that Armstrong had stopped in front of a barroom on the evening before, stepped briskly to the witness stand. She wore a stylish hat and feather, and a tight-fitting black silk dress, with a white lace ruffle at her throat, fastened with a bar of jet. Her testimony corroborated the theory of the defence.

Several witnesses were called to prove Blair's reputation for peaceableness. None of them was cross-examined.

"Joseph A. Blair," said Judge Titsworth quietly. "Joseph A. Blair," roared the clerk after him, but before the name had been repeated, a tall, slender young man had risen behind the lawyer's chair, and persons all through the room were nudging one another and pointing at him. He slowly threaded his way out of the imprisoning chairs and tables of the lawyers and auditors. He had taken his wife's hand when his name was called, but he let go of it as he arose without looking at her. He walked with a bent head and a solemn countenance to the witness chair. The prisoner was at last to tell his own story. There was a brief buzz, a stir of feet, a rustling of dresses, and then all became perfectly still. Blair seemed to feel the intensity of the gaze that was centred on him, and bent his pale and sallow face toward the rail in front of him. He wore the same brownish drab business suit that he had on the day of the shooting.

"I am nearly 33 years old," said he, in a low but distinct voice in answer to questions put by his lawyer. "My father died in 1865, but my mother is still living in Brooklyn. I have three brothers and one sister. As paying teller of the Mechanics' National Bank in New York, I was in the habit of paying out daily from $250,000 to $500,000, mostly on small checks. I used to pay an average of 3,000 checks daily. The bank has not very many brokers' accounts, but does a large miscellaneous business. The checks I spoke of are in addition to those which passed through the Clearing House."

"Now, Mr. Blair," said ex-Judge Titsworth, "you may go on and give an account of what occurred after you arrived at the Montclair depot on the evening of June 26."

"When I arrived at the depot," said Blair, "I found my wife, Miss Draper, and the two children waiting for me with the carriage, and I went home with them. When I got home I went out to the garden and found John Armstrong and Edward Rosselot weeding carrots. I remarked that it was a very hot day and John replied that it was —— hot work they were at. I know I spoke pleasantly because I remember saying it had been very hot and sultry in the bank. I told them if the work was too hot they might change it. 'What shall we do?' John asked. I told them they might go and do some hoeing or any other work that would rest them from the kind they were doing. They said they would and I went to the house. While at supper Miss Draper told me that John had stopped the horses on the previous day in front of a lager beer saloon, had got out and entered the saloon, and on reappearing soon afterward had lashed the horses until they were out of her sight. She felt sure it was my team, but from what she had said I hardly believed it. I said I would go out and speak to him pleasantly about it, and after supper I went out to the stable where he was bedding the horses."

"In what frame of mind were you at this time?" asked ex-Judge Titsworth.

"I was in a pleasant frame of mind. John was in the stalls here (rising and showing the place with a pointer, on a large diagram of the barn hanging on the wall behind his chair), and I came in and stood here (pointing to a place behind the horses).

"'John,' I asked, 'what way did you come home last night with the carriage?'

"'What, sir?' said he.

"'What way did you come home last night?'

"'By the road.'

"'What road?'

"'None of your —— business, so long as I got here,' was the reply.

"'Keep cool, John,' said I. 'The reason I ask is,' and then I told him what I heard about his stopping to get a drink of beer and afterward lashing the horses.

"'They're —— —— —— that told you,' he said. 'Can't a man get a glass of beer without its being talked about all over the neighborhood?'

"'Keep cool, John,' I said.

"'Montclair is the —— —— —— place I was ever in, anyway,' he replied.

"'Don't talk that way, John; keep cool,' I said. 'I'd rather have you leave than do so.'

"He then demanded his money, and when I refused to pay him all he asked, he swore terribly and refused to go without it. Then I went to Rosselot and asked him whether Squire Pilsbury was not a Justice of the Peace. Rosselot replied that he was, and, going back to John I told him to hitch up a horse and go for the Squire, who could settle the dispute between us. I wanted him to bring the Squire because I thought he would be able to protect me and my family. I thought I could keep him at my house that night. He said:

"'I don't care a —— for any Squire. I won't hitch up the horse and no —— —— can make me do it.'

"After a while he began to hitch up the horse. While he was doing so Mrs. Blair came out. One of the children was with her. He kept on swearing, and she said:

"'John, don't talk so.'

"'You —— slut, you,' said he, 'if you were a lady you wouldn't be out here.'"

At this point in the recital the witness's voice broke. He made two attempts before he could utter the last offensive word. His emotion seemed to be genuine, and the foreheads of many of the jurors were wrinkled. Some of those within the bar turned involuntarily to look at Mrs. Blair. She sat as still as marble with a half-spread fan covering her face.

"I said," continued the witness, still with an uncertain voice and with moisture glistening in his eyes; "'John, I don't want you to talk so to my wife.'

"'If you'll step in here,' said he, 'I'll blow your —— brains out!'

"My wife took the child and hurried away, and I went into the house and got my pistol. Then I went out again and found him standing by the half-harnessed horse in the carriage room.

"'Now, John,' said I, 'I am prepared to defend myself. I want the keys of the place, and I want you to leave.'

"'I'll give you,' said he, 'I'll give you your keys.'

"Then he ran to the foot of the stairs leading from the carriage room to his bedroom over head, and I followed him. As he got to the top he pulled the keys out of his pocket, and stepping across the little unfinished part of the shelf between the head of the stairs and his bedroom door he inserted the key in the door. Then I saw that he was not going after the keys, and knew that he was after the pistol, which I supposed must be loaded, although I had thought when he made his threat to blow out my brains that he had it in his pocket. As he put the key in the door I sprang forward and caught his left arm with both of my hands and tried with all my strength to stop him, but he pushed and I pushed my hold as he turned around the door post here (rising and pointing out the left-hand door post in the diagram). I was close behind him. The pistol lay on the nearest corner of the shelf on the left-hand side of the room as we entered. It was in full view, and I saw it as soon as I entered the door. I knew he must not get possession of that pistol. He reached forward in this way with his right hand and grabbed, and as he did so I took my pistol out of this pocket (taking an imaginary pistol from his hip pocket) and fired as soon as I could. I fired as soon as I got it out. I meant to shoot him in the legs and disable him. I had thought of that way of doing when we had our scuffle at the door. I fired higher than I meant to. With the pistol in his right hand, he turned in this way (turning in the witness chair toward the left hand and pointing an imaginary pistol partly over his left shoulder at a supposed adversary behind him). I grabbed his pistol with my left hand, and thinking from his movements that I had not hit him, I fired again. As I did so I got his pistol out of his hand. Then I hurried away down stairs with both of the pistols. I did not think he was much hurt. He followed me down stairs."

During his description of the struggle in the bedroom and of the firing the voice of the witness was again broken.

"When he came down stairs," he continued, "Rosselot helped him down on the slope that rises from the ground to the floor of the carriage house, and with the pistols in my hands I went toward my wife who was at the porch of the house. There is a grape arbor between the barn and the porch, but I think she met me on the barn side of this arbor. She asked me what had happened, and I said: 'Mary, I have shot John. If I hadn't he would have shot me, and there is the pistol (witness held out his left hand, the one in which he is said to have carried the rusty pistol) he would have shot me with.' After Rosselot went for a doctor I went up to where John lay on the grass (Armstrong had been removed to the shade of a large tree near the stable to allow the carriage to be driven out of the barn). I either carried a wagon cushion to him and put it under his head, or else I gave him some water. At any rate I came close to him, and he called me a murderous ruffian. I said:

"'John, you brought it on yourself.'

"Afterward, when he had been removed to his bedroom up stairs, at the order of the doctors, a Catholic priest who had been attending him came down and conducted me up there. He told John to forgive me, but John seemed to object.

"'John, you must forgive him,' said the priest.

"Then John said, 'I forgive him.'"

This closed the unbroken narrative of the prisoner.

"How long was it" asked Judge Titsworth, "after the shooting before Mr. Tures came?"

"It could not have been more than two minutes. I showed him the rusty pistol. John said I had shot him at the bedroom door or at the head of the stairs, and I told Tures I shot him inside the bedroom, and that if he didn't believe it he might go up in the room and he would probably see some of the smoke there yet."

The prosecution claim that when Blair went to the house the first time he did not have the rusty pistol, and that he afterward went back up stairs and got it off the shelf, so that he might give color to a plea that he shot Armstrong in self-defence.

"Now," continued Judge Titsworth, speaking in a tone of deep earnestness, "what was your intention in going to the house after your pistol?"

The auditors held their breath to catch every word of the reply to this question.

"My intention," said the prisoner, "was, I believed the man meant to shoot me, and I thought if he saw me have a pistol it would quiet him, and I could get him to go after a Justice of the Peace. I relied on the Justice being able to protect my family."

Q.—Now, tell us exactly the words you used to John after you had got your pistol. A.—I said, as nearly as I can remember, "John, I'm prepared to defend myself and my family. I want the keys of the place, and I want you to leave."

Q.—What did you think when you saw him going up stairs? A.—I thought he was going for the keys, yet his manner was so violent that I didn't dare to leave him. I was afraid if I left him he would turn and shoot me.

Q.—Could you not have shot him down stairs? A.—Certainly; I could have shot him anywhere we went after I got my pistol, if I had wanted to. I was close to him down stairs, and right behind him all the way up stairs.

Q.—In what frame of mind did you think he was? A.—I knew he was in a great rage.

Q.—How hard did you try to prevent him from opening the door? A.—I tried very hard. He was a very powerful man. I am not. I lost my hold on him as he went around the door-post.

Q.—Did you have any animosity against him? A.—I had not. I was afraid of him. I could never get a civil answer from him, but it was his manner that frightened me.

Here the direct examination was closed. Prosecutor Abeel drew from the witness the names of half a dozen servants, men and women, whom he had had in his employ before Armstrong came to work for him, and then, at the usual hour, the court was adjourned until Monday morning.

IS VACCINE VIRUS POISON?

An Anti-Vaccination League Organized in New York.

The "First Anti-Vaccination League of America" was formed in the lecture room of the United States Medical College, Thirteenth street, last evening. The movement was brought about mainly by the presence in the city of Mr. William Tebb, an Englishman, who lives in the fashionable quarter of London, who has stubbornly resisted thirteen prosecutions for refusing to have his children vaccinated. He was fined twelve times, but on the thirteenth he says the British Government got tired and did not molest him further. His attention was first drawn to the subject by taking his second daughter to be vaccinated after one effort to vaccinate her had failed. The physician said, "Take your daughter home and let her alone. Vaccination won't prevent small-pox, and it may do the child an injury." Soon he made up his mind that the compulsory vaccination act was a tyranny because it made people liable to take inoculable diseases, and did not insure them against taking small-pox. He hunted up books and statistics, and ascertained that at least eight per cent. of those who died of small-pox in England were those who had been vaccinated. The more he read and investigated, the more he became determined to resist the vaccination act. He published tracts, got up lectures, established an anti-vaccination newspaper, and paid his fine every time rather than permit his children to be vaccinated. Whenever he could get any one to resist the law, he furnished aid and comfort. Anti-vaccination societies were formed, lawyers were engaged to defend accused persons, fines were paid, and his own case was carried to the highest court, where it was decided against him. Still he would not yield, and he has not yielded to the vaccination of his youngest children. Wherever he goes he carries his anti-vaccination tracts, and preaches resistance to the law as the chief means of effecting a change in public sentiment. He now announces with pride that in two of the Yorkshire towns the opposition to vaccination is so strong that in each of them there are 6,000 children not vaccinated. He numbers among the leading public men who oppose vaccination, Herbert Spencer, John Bright, W. E. Gladstone, Jacob Bright, Prof. P. W. Newman, Mr. Pearce, M. P., Dr. Wilkinson, and Dr. J. Collins.

Finding his ideas not entirely new to New Yorkers, Mr. Tebb was glad to attend the meeting last evening.

Alexander Wilder, M. D., on taking the chair, said he had long been hostile to vaccination. He supposed that after centuries of experience people are more likely to take any disease—even small-pox itself. When once the blood is contaminated by bovine virus, the chance of taking small-pox is greater than if the vaccination had not been done. From his personal observation among relatives and friends and patients he was satisfied that many persons contract small-pox after vaccination, and even after they have had the small-pox once. He was satisfied that Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination, never recommended the use of bovine virus as a preventive.

Mr. Tebb gave his views and experience to the meeting. In addition to the facts recited above, he said that he had known several cases of great hardship, in which poor men had been persecuted for refusing to have their children vaccinated. One case was that of a man named Nye, a clockmaker, who had been imprisoned nine times because of his refusal to comply with the law. The man's reason was that two of his children who had died were, in his opinion, poisoned by vaccine virus.

Mr. Tebb related the experience of his own physician, who had lost $2,500 a year in his practice by refusing to vaccinate. One lady, a passenger on the steamship, told Mr. Tebb that she had lost two children by vaccine poison. She told the doctor he had used bad virus, but said she to Mr. Tebb, "at that time I did not know that it was all bad." In Montreal, where the vaccine virus was punctured into the people by law, the public indignation at the outrage became so strong in consequence of the obvious fact that vaccination does not prevent small-pox that a popular movement actually threatened to tear down the buildings in which the authorities were assembled to pass a compulsory vaccination act. The people had seen their children diseased by the poison of vaccine virus, and saw that nothing but a mob would save them from the law. The mob put an end to the old-fashioned inoculation that was condemned only after a hundred years of failure.

Dr. R. A. Gunn concurred in what the previous speaker had said.

Dr. Wilder said that to start a running ulcer in a man's arm would be about as useful in preventing him from taking small-pox as any other method. "Indeed, that is about what vaccination is," he added. "I used to believe in vaccinating from the arm, but now I am of the opinion that the least dangerous way is to get vaccine matter from a respectable calf, rather than run the risk of some of the sore arms that now often furnish the supply of virus."

The Anti-Vaccination League was organized by the choice of Dr. Alexander Wilde as President, J. W. Nickles as Secretary, M. A. Hollbrook as Treasurer; J. E. Briggs, M. D., Thos. A. Granger, M. D., and R. A. Gunn, M. D., as Executive Committee. The object of the society is to awaken the attention of the public to the evils of vaccination and to its inutility, to put an end to the practice, and to prevent legislation for its enforcement.

DISSATISFIED 'LONGSHOREMEN.

A General Strike Possible—An Advance Obtained from the Anchor Line.

Last spring when the 'longshoremen struck in consequence of a reduction of wages they were told that low freights had rendered the reduction necessary. The companies had been paying 30 cents an hour for day work and 45 cents for night work. They offered the men 25 cents per hour, day and night. The men wanted to compromise at 30 cents day and night. This offer was declined. After remaining out for nearly a month, the men went to work at the companies' figures.

At the last meeting of 'longshoremen in Varick Hall it was decided that when freights were good a demand should be made for the old wages.

"The opportunity has now arrived," said a member of the Executive Committee of the 'Longshoreman's Association, last evening. "Freights have been booming ever since the first of last month. Such a rush of paying freight has not been seen for years; not grain and the cereals, that hardly pay for their transportation by steam, but merchandise of all descriptions. This activity is not confined to incoming freights; the outgoing freights are heavy. We are preparing to call a meeting of the men to unite upon a definite plan."

On Wednesday last the men working by the hour for the Anchor line refused to go to work in the hatches or on the wharf for less than thirty cents per hour. The company had five steamers in port, with mountains of perishable freight to be stowed. A hurried conference took place, which resulted in the men's demands being acceded to on both of the company's piers. This action of the Anchor line, which line was one of the foremost in the combination of companies last spring, was commented upon last evening by groups of 'longshoremen gathered in West street. Several thousand men are working at twenty-five cents an hour for the other lines, and many of these are said to be ready to strike for an extra five cents per hour. So great has been the acceleration of freight at the National line's pier that last night and for several nights past additional men have been sought in the evening by the superintendent and the stevedores.

The coal passers on Morgan's line, at Pier 36, asked yesterday for an advance, which was refused, as was a similar demand made by the men employed by the Metropolitan line at Pier 11. These men have been paid $10 per week and eighteen cents per hour for overtime. They have asked for $11 per week and twenty cents per hour for overtime.

It doesn't take gold. A quarter of a dollar will buy a bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup.—Adv.

Nervous debility and weakness of generative organs positively cured by Allen's Brain Food. $1. Dunup's Odor House; 202, 1,240 Broadway; Allen's, 218 1st st. Send for circular.—Adv.

AMONG CITY POLITICIANS.

THE HON. JOHN KELLY TO TAKE THE STUMP IN THE INTERIOR.

Some of his Supporters Meeting him in the Grand Central Depot—Some of his Opponents Speaking Against him in Beethoven Hall.

The Hon. John Kelly started from this city yesterday morning to make a canvass of the interior cities in the State for the Democratic State ticket of which he is the head. Fifty politicians went to the Grand Central Depot to see him start. All of them were Tammany Democrats. Many were Tammany braves, and some were sachems. Among them were Grand Sachem Augustus Schell, and Sachems Henry D. Purroy, Sidney P. Nichols, Henry A. Gumbleton, Menzo Diefendorf, and John J. Gorman, Sagamore Edward Gilon, John D. Newman, the Wiskinskie of the tribe; Coroner Croker, Aldermen William R. Roberts, William Sauer, George Hall, and John Cavanagh; ex-Aldermen William Bennett and Peter Seery; Edward D. Gale, Edward T. Fitzpatrick, George J. Krauss, Philip Benjamin, Felix McCloskey, Capt. John H. Mooney, William H. Secor, Philamon W. Rhodes, and Theodore A. Hamilton. These politicians gathered in groups in and in front of the depot half an hour before the time for the departure of the train, and talked of the ovation which they were sure their candidate would receive wherever he speaks. Ex-Alderman Bennett was well acquainted in Albany and Troy, and he knew that Mr. Kelly would be well received in those cities, and Alderman Cavanagh was sure that the people who saw him at Niagara Falls at the State Committee's meeting would turn out to hear him speak. Ex-Alderman Tuomey and Sachem Diefendorf talked with eminent Syracuse Democrats when they were at the State Convention, and were satisfied that those gentlemen would give Mr. Kelly a monster meeting. Ex-Assemblyman Skeels of Niagara County predicted a great ovation in Lockport, and P. W. Rhodes added that his intimate knowledge of the feeling of nearly every Democrat in the State convinced him that Mr. Kelly would be enthusiastically welcomed wherever he showed himself.

In the midst of this conversation Alderman George Hall, who is known among his colleagues as a practical business man, interrupted the speakers by saying, "All this talk is nonsense. Don't you fellows know that the Republicans will see that plenty of people attend Mr. Kelly's meetings?"

John D. Newman, the collector of Tammany's assessments, concurred in Mr. Hall's opinion, and the rest of the politicians stopped talking.

At 10:15 Mr. Kelly stepped from a Madison avenue car and walked toward the entrance to the depot. Capt. Mooney followed, carrying Mr. Kelly's travelling bag. Then came Congressman S. S. Cox, O. B. Potter, John B. Haskin, Morris F. Holohan, and John H. Strahan, the speakers who are to accompany Mr. Kelly on his tour. The politicians took off their hats to Mr. Kelly as he passed, but looked enviously at the gallant Captain, who carried his travelling bag. Inside the waiting room Mr. Kelly was met by Grand Sachem Schell, Sachems Nichols, Purroy, Gumbleton, and Gorman, and the Tammany braves who had come to wish good luck to his canvass. Mr. Kelly shook the hands of the sachems and braves, and then started for the cars. But the politicians who, through the windows, had seen him greet the sachems and braves, determined that they, too, should shake his hand. They rushed into the waiting room, and getting between Mr. Kelly and the passenger way to the cars, put out their right hands as he passed. The candidate for Governor received the over-attention of his followers good-naturedly, and smiled as he shook their extended hands and stepped through the gate into the depot. At 10¾ o'clock the train pulled out of the depot. The politicians raised their hats as the drawing-room car in which Mr. Kelly sat passed.

Mr. Kelly spoke in Albany last evening. He will speak in Troy to-night, in Utica on Monday, in Syracuse on Tuesday, in Oswego on Wednesday, in Rochester on Thursday, in Lockport on Friday, and in Buffalo on Saturday. His last speech is to be delivered in Elmira on Monday, the 20th inst. At Buffalo Mr. Kelly and his party will be joined by Lieut.-Gov. Dorsheimer. Ex-Alderman Tuomey accompanied the party to Albany. He intended to speak at the outside meeting in that city.

As the politicians returned to the waiting room, John D. Newman stood at the gate and showed his little book. The politicians, sachems and braves had evidently enjoyed their beats, and with pale faces, hurried into the street and started for their homes.

An enthusiastic mass meeting of the Robinson Central Campaign Club of German-American citizens was held in Beethoven Hall, in Fifth street, last evening. The long platform table was bright with a scarlet cloth, on which was the name of the club in golden letters, and a canopy of flags was suspended over it. Police Justice Otterbourg was in the chair, and among the 107 Vice-Presidents were William Steinway, Oswald Ottendorfer, Oscar Zollikofer, Godfrey Gunther, Jacob Ruppert, ex-County Clerk Charles E. Loew, Coroner Ellinger, Charles Goepp, Henry Clausen, Willy Wallach, and Herman Uhl. Charles J. Nehrbass and George Kuster stood at the head of the list of thirty-eight secretaries, and officiated on the platform.

The resolutions asserted that the issues now before the people concerned solely the interests of this State. The point was whether the great reform measures inaugurated by Lucius Robinson should be carried to their legitimate result, or whether they should fall into decay by passing into the hands of a Ring of Tammany Hall leaders, of the Republican machine, and of the former canal league. The Empire State should keep aloft the standard of reform, won after a long and severe struggle, as a beacon to the people of other States, who are now waging fights with corruption. A cordial appreciation was given of Gov. Robinson's strict fulfilment of his promises of reform, and the necessity of his renomination as Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth was strongly expressed. The Hon. Clarkson N. Potter, the nominee for Lieutenant-Governor, was referred to as a gentleman of tried ability and scrupulous honesty, and the whole ticket was approved. The candidates were not considered simply as the representatives of a political party, but as honest men sure to enforce economy in their respective departments.

Oswald Ottendorfer said that, in 1877, when Alonzo B. Cornell, the man who was removed by Hayes for inefficiency and extravagance, was Collector of the New York Custom House, its expenses were $313,204, but that in 1878, with a great increase of business, the expenses were reduced to $189,876. The speaker quoted from Gov. Robinson's letter of acceptance, saying that, in 1874, the canal expenditures, exclusive of the canal debt and interest, reached $3,842,892, of which $2,373,425 was paid from the proceeds of a direct tax. In 1878 the expenditures were only $903,347, paid entirely from the revenues of the canals, without any direct tax, and with lower rates of toll and better service than ever before. In 1876 the excess of State prison expenditures over earnings was $704,379, but now they were substantially self-sustaining. In 1874 the State taxes were $15,727,482, but this year only $7,678,103. At the close of the war the State debt was $51,041,537. It has now, after deducting the sinking fund, shrunk to only $8,130,726. Legislative appropriations had been vetoed in the last three years to the extent of $1,534,015, and none of these, arrested by Gov. Robinson, had been passed by the Legislature over his veto. Mr. Ottendorfer then spoke of the cause of Mr. Kelly's enmity toward ex-Gov. Tilden and Gov. Robinson. He urged that Gov. Robinson should be enabled by a reelection to pursue the honest and economical course in which he had successfully begun. He considered that only two candidates were really in the field—Gov. Robinson and Mr. Cornell.

Coroner Ellinger said that when Tammany joined with the Republicans it augured ill for the interests of the people. Tweed bargained with them, and they passed corrupt measures in the Legislature, which he carried out in this city, and caused a spoliation of millions from the treasury. Many Republicans who are not strict party men intend to scratch Mr. Cornell's name from the ticket and vote for the rest of the candidates.

S. D. Sewards said, in regard to the charge against Gov. Robinson that he employed convict labor to the prejudice of that of honest mechanics, that only sufficient labor was exacted to meet the prison expenses.

Justice Otterbourg remarked that when Senator Conkling mingled in local matters, there was certainly a game on hand which needed watching.

The meeting was ended with cheers for Gov. Robinson.

The Irving Hall Democrats' County Convention is to be held in Irving Hall on Thursday, the 23d inst. Their Senate Conventions are to be held on the 24th; the Conventions for the nomination of District Aldermen on the 25th; the Assembly Conventions on the 27th, and the Conventions for the nomination of Civil Justices in the Seventh and Tenth Judicial Districts on the 28th. The primaries for the election of delegates to all the Conventions are to be held on Monday evening, the 20th.

FIVE-CENT FARES DEMANDED.

Up-Town Residents Protesting Against the Elevated Railway Rates.

The Yorkville Citizens' Association took measures, last evening, looking to a reduction of fare on the elevated railroads to five cents. Jacob F. Miller was Chairman, Samuel C. Pullman, J. T. Brooks, Dr. N. M. Freeman, Scoville D. Brooks, Orvin Hutchinson, Edward Roberts, and other influential taxpayers of the upper wards participated. Mr. Henry C. Robinson attacked the management of the elevated railroads. He said that there is a conspiracy by which the people of the city are compelled to pay double rates for the privilege of riding on the elevated monopolies. The conspirators had watered the $7,000,000 which they had originally put into those roads up to $43,000,000. They had put $13,000,000 into the capital of each of these roads, making $26,000,000 in all, of which not one dollar had been expended either in construction or in equipment. They are paying on their enormously watered stock 10 per cent.; on their millions upon millions of bonds 7 per cent.; and yet they are able to issue $7,000,000 of Manhattan stock, dependent for its returns upon the surplus earnings, after paying interest and dividends, on the thirty odd millions already spoken of.

Careful calculations showed that at a charge of 3⅛ cents per head the companies could make 10 per cent. profit on double the amount of capital they had expended on the road. That would allow them 100 per cent. of watering. Their case differed widely from that of out-of-town surface roads that were allowed to charge two and three cents a mile. In the country there was room for competition; here there was none. These people had taken the public highways and thoroughfares, and it was impossible for any one else to attempt to compete with them.

In this emergency Mr. Robinson said it was the duty of the Legislature to force them to reduce their excessive and extortionate rates. Five cents was high enough to pay them double and treble interest on the money invested.

The actual contract price for the iron superstructure, post pillars, everything, of the New York Elevated was only $352,000 or $351,000 per mile. Five hundred thousand per mile would cover it all, rolling stock included.

Mr. Robinson said that the members of the association should pledge themselves to vote for no member of the Senate or Assembly who will not bind himself to vote for a reduction of the fare to 5 cents.

A committee of five was appointed to take steps towards the proposed reduction.

AMUSEMENTS.

The Strakosch Italian Opera Company in Brooklyn.

The Strakosch opera troupe opened the Brooklyn season last evening with a representation of "Faust," which was noticeably thin and sketchy, if not absolutely careless. Its chief interest lay in introducing to the musical public of the vicinity two artists as yet unknown to the American stage, Mlle. Lablanche and M. Castlemary.

The former of these, known in private life as Miss Blanche Davenport, is daughter and sister of the well-known artists of that name, and has for some years been studying and singing in Italy, where she has, we are told, appeared with great acceptance in various cities, especially in Naples.

As *Gretchen* she made an agreeable impression on her audience last night, though her evident indisposition may well call for a suspense of severe criticism till a more favorable occasion. In form and feature she is prepossessing, picturesque, and sympathetic. She moves, acts, and sings with the easy self-possession of a practiced artist rather than the rawness of the *débutante*. Her voice is in the upper register pure and fine, but in the high degree, but noticeably deficient in color and volume in the middle and lower scales. Her prominent merit, as heard last night, was great grace, delicacy, and refinement in execution and expression; her defect an almost entire absence of breadth. She is a singer, however, though apparently a pleasing concert singer, at short focal range, it does not as yet appear that she has the dramatic proportions for the more exacting requirements of anything but the lightest of lyric opera.

M. Castelmary, the *Mefisto* of the occasion, has a fine, imposing figure and a strong, resonant basso. His vocal methods seem rough, and his dramatic intensity goes far to overshadow the mere musical element of the role. The famous "Dio del Oro" was rather chanted or recited than sung, and grotesque tonelessness of delivery, with an almost undue exaggeration of the demoniac element in movement and facial expression, detracted sensibly from what might otherwise have been a strong and impressive interpretation.

Sig. Lazzerini (Wagner), acceptable though not a very significant *Faust* and Mr. Gottschalk—the *Valentine*—come back to us with an improved voice and method.

At the matinee this afternoon Miss Litta will essay the part of *Gilda*, and this evening promises an occasion of interest, for the appearance of Mme. Singer, the new soprano; the tenor, Sig. Petrovitch, and the baritone, Sig. Storti, in "Aida," with which it is expected Mr. Strakosch's short preliminary season will close for the present.

THE MISSING BALLOON.

Prof. Wise and his Companion Believed to have been Lost in Lake Michigan.

CHICAGO, Oct. 10.—The statement that a balloon was seen yesterday at Albion, Mich., is discredited here. It was claimed that the air ship was moving over that place in a southwesterly direction at a rapid pace. Telegrams to all towns lying southwest of Albion, beginning at South Bend, Ind., and ending at Bloomington, Ill., brought responses in each case that no balloon had been seen at any of them. There has been no ascension in this part of the United States since the Wise party started, and the claim of the Albion man, who reported that a balloon was visible there, is consequently doubted. It is believed that the last seen of Wise was by the railroad employees at Miller's Station, Ind., at midnight, thirty hours after the departure from St. Louis, as THE SUN has been already informed. The wind was then blowing a gale from the southwest, and the balloon, if it ever passed over Lake Michigan, toward which it was rapidly drifting, which is doubtful, must have gone to the vast wildernesses of Michigan, or perhaps to Canada. The absence of news concerning the missing balloon and its occupants, however, is accepted here as conclusive evidence that they must have gone down in Lake Michigan. If they had struck land anywhere this side of the Georgian Bay country they would have been discovered before this. They might have been lost in Lake Michigan without coming to the surface or being discovered, as Donaldson and his balloon have never been found, although it is certain that he perished in the lake.

DUBUQUE, Iowa, Oct. 10.—Thomas Lloyd, compositor on the *Times*, saw a balloon early this morning. He watched it for over an hour, and called the attention of a telegraph operator to it. It was up very high, and the car could be seen but not a person could be seen in it. It was in the southeast, and travelled south, slowly rising and falling in its course. A number of others also claim that they saw the airship.

FALSE SWEARING PROVED.

The New Evidence in the Greenfield Murder Trial Successfully Impeached.

SYRACUSE, Oct. 10.—As matters stand now the new testimony given for the defence in the Greenfield trial by Erastus D. Wyman may be considered as successfully and substantially contradicted. Wyman testified that on the night of the murder he saw three men come into the yard of a farm house in Orwell, about half a mile from Greenfield's house. One of them had a gun, one of them washed his hands, and one had a bag that seemed to be half full. The three men were John W. Taplin and Alden and Royal Kellogg. This testimony was regarded as extremely important for the defence. This forenoon his father and mother, who live at North Volney, Oswego County, twenty-seven miles from the scene of the homicide, were both presented in court and swore that John W. Taplin, their son, and his family were at their house on the night of the homicide, and that he had been there for two weeks.