CHEVALIER ALFRED PARAF.

THE KING OF SWINDLERS SENTENCED TO LONG PENAL SERVITUDE.

The End of the Career of a Brilliant Adventurer, Who is Well Remembered Here—Swindling the Chilians by Pretending he Could Make Gold Out of Copper Ore.

The news of the final sentence of the Chevalier Alfred Paraf to five years' penal servitude, which has just been received in this city will be hailed with satisfaction by those who were victims of his plausibility, and with regret by many who were attracted to the brilliant adventurer by his personal magnetism and princely liberality. His career in this city was the most brilliant of that of any adventurer who ever set foot on these shores, and it was preceded and succeeded by equally successful and dazzling adventures in other lands.

This brilliant adventurer is a native of Alsace, handsome, polished, well educated, and was noted from his cradle for ready wit and quick intelligence, united to a courage that was never daunted. In addition to receiving a good general education, he devoted much time to the study of chemistry, a pursuit in which he took great delight and in which he soon became proficient beyond all others of his class. Upon graduating from the institute he was allowed by his father to travel for some time before settling in business, and it was while upon his travels that his lavish extravagance got him into difficulties, from which his father refused to extricate him and from which he succeeded in escaping by his own ready wit and knowledge of chemistry. It was while visiting the north of Scotland that he found himself absolutely penniless. He could get no answer to his appeals to his father for aid. In these straits the young man went to Glasgow, took possession of the most elegant suite of rooms in the best hotel, and visiting a wealthy firm of manufacturers announced himself as the discoverer of a new and cheap dye for calico printing. In the laboratory of the establishment he was able to prove his assertions, the manufacturers paid him liberally for his discovery, and in a few days the young man returned to his father with £1,000 in gold as the result of his first effort in making money. With this argument he was easily able to silence his father's reproaches upon his idleness and extravagance. The £1,000 was quickly dissipated by the young man in rations living, and again throwing upon his resources he compounded a new color, which he sold to his uncle, who was of the firm of Rey, Laval & Co., Rue de Saint-Denis, for 50,000 francs. Before he had dissipated this second fortune, the young man determined to see the world, and set sail for the West Indies where he soon spent what remained of his 50,000 francs. In June, 1867, he came to New York and quickly made his presence known. He was young and handsome, possessed apparently of great wealth and had the ease and self-assurance of a thorough man of the world. He first introduced himself to Brolt & Co., a firm of chemists on Fulton street, by whom he was introduced to Prof. Chandler of Columbia College and many other prominent gentlemen of the city. The first scheme that Paraf proposed to his new friends was for a manufactory of iodine from sponges; but it was found that the business would be soon stamped out by the "iodine trust," which he pretended to discover, and which proved to be something much needed in the printing of calicoes. Paraf cleared $60,000 on the sale of his stock to the manufacturers of New England before it was discovered that its real owner and patentee was coming over from Europe to claim its rights and compel parties using the stuff to pay handsomely for the privilege. That is the first swindling scheme with which Paraf is definitely charged; but from this time on his style of living was so magnificent and his expenditures so lavish that he was obliged to resort to dishonesty to provide the means for their maintenance. Upon returning to New York from his New England trip he brought with him a handsome and very stylish young woman whom he introduced as Mme. Paraf, and whom he surrounded with all the luxuries procurable by money. They took rooms at the Everett House at $125 per week. Paraf had his stage with its liveried driver and high-spirited horse, and Madame had her carriages. The adapter of "iodine stock" lavished money upon his friends, entertaining them in the most sumptuous manner with dinners at Delmonico's, and he was in the habit of mostly amusements. He rivaled the notorious Johnny Stein in his devices for squandering his easily acquired gains, and like that gentleman was equally successful in accomplishing his object. He could lose as easily $1,000 to $2,000 on a game of billiards, and would refuse to accept even the security and wonder if there was anything else he could do for his opponent. He delighted in taking bills prepared with the most costly perfumes, and the diamonds, laces, and superb robes that he lavished upon Madame were the envy of her female acquaintances.

Being forced to give up further profits upon "iodine stock," Paraf selected Gov. Sprague of Rhode Island as his next victim, and he succeeded in inducing the fortunate to be the happy bidder for the process of the aniline dye. Madame Paraf had in every case been previously placed in the "secret" which Paraf claimed to have been discovered either by his servant or himself. His professed "re-agent" was found by experiment to be the hyposulphate of soda and gold, which resists the most powerful re-agents known without precipitating the gold contained, but does so readily when attacked by a metal containing the oxide of lead or iron. Paraf never assayed except in crucibles, nor extracted more than $100 worth of gold in a day. He had first to prepare the hyposulphate, which he could not do in large quantities, nor did he dare to purchase it openly.

The cage of his victims when Paraf's swindle was exposed was so violent that his life was in danger and might have been forfeited had he not been protected and safely locked up. His trial was tedious, and was prolonged by the numerous delays interposed by the lawyers on both sides; but it was finally terminated, and the swindler was sentenced to five years' exile from Santiago which time he must pass under surveillance of the Chilian settlement of Valdivia. The finding of the Court in the case of Paraf concludes as follows:

Considering that Alfred Paraf pretended an imaginary business or enterprise and took advantage of it to obtain the sum of $25,000 from Gov. Sprague, committed the offence foreseen by Article 470 of the Penal Code.

Considering that with respect to Francisco Rogel, as regards the swindling of the year 1877, the fact of his having received $17,000 in the shape of shares of the society, and having drawn dividends on his having also been an active partner in the enterprise, the charge against him cannot be considered as established, all such strong, do not of themselves constitute the criminality

Considering that Alfred Paraf violated the Penal Code, Article 470 and is condemned to the aforesaid penal to five years' exile, commencing from Sept. 29, 1877, the date of his imprisonment, and to the payment in the city of Valdivia of Francisco Rogel is absolved.

Paraf's last great fraud entails the loss of many thousands of dollars upon a number of Santiago families, many of whom could ill afford the sums thus squandered. They have nothing to show for the money they invested save the great Paraf smelting works, which remain in Santiago to this day.

SECOR ROBESON'S AMBITION.

He is Said to be Seeking Senator Randolph's Place—The Outlook in Jersey.

TRENTON, Nov. 3.—I have it on good authority that Secor Robeson is contributing largely to the campaign funds in the New Jersey counties which are to elect Senators to-morrow, in the hope to put the Republican candidates under such obligations to him that they will be apt to give him the caucus nomination for Senator in Congress to succeed Senator Randolph in 1881. Of the twenty-one Senators representing each a county, nominally two-thirds hold over each year. Six are to be elected this year, seven next year, and eight the year after, which mode of division lessens the liability to a tie vote. Four of the six retiring Senators are Democrats, representing the counties of Burlington, Hunterdon, Middlesex, and Sussex. The two Republicans are from Cape May and Passaic. Three of the six counties—Burlington, Middlesex, and Passaic—are debatable ground. Of the remaining three, Cape May is usually Republican and Hunterdon and Sussex overwhelmingly Democratic. The last Senate stood: Republicans, 11; Democrats, 9; Independent, 1. If the Republicans, therefore, should elect only one of the six Senators to-morrow, and the Democrats should elect the one Independent Senator—Belcher of Monmouth—it will be required to the organization of the Senate into the hands of either party.

In a similar situation about fifteen years ago, Mr. Sewell of Camden, although elected as a Republican, was smart enough to get the Democrats to put him in the chair of the Senate. But Senator Beakman has no ambition of that sort, and is likely to vote for the man he thinks the fittest, no matter which party he belongs to. And the question is not likely to arise this year, for the Democrats cannot elect at least two of the Senators due to the Republicans. In Cape May Richard S. Leaming, a rich ship-builder, who was Senator from 1874 until 1877, is opposed by Mr. W. H. Miller, better known as Burr Miller, who is making a lively canvass on the issue of the narrow-gauge railroad which Mr. Leaming and other capitalists projected in opposition to the West Jersey Railroad from Camden to Cape May, but which was defeated by the opposition of the Pennsylvania Railroad. In Burlington Senator Cassidy Rudgwan's reelection is closely contested by W. Hall Dobson, a lawyer, who is the nominee of the Republican House. The Democrats in Middlesex are said to have a good prospect of electing Mr. Wright Robbins of Metuchin, brother of the late Amos Robbins, who was President of the Senate and a notable Democratic leader. Ex-Assemblyman Isaac L. Martin, a Republican candidate, is an estimable man, and would pull a large vote, but the trouble between lawless order and Newark lager is going to hurt temperance candidates all over the State. In Sussex Senator Elias B. Sculborr's reelection is utterly contested by the Pollock wing of the Democracy that he, representing the John T. Bird wing, is having a hard time of it. But Hunterdon is a strongly enough Democratic county to elect Judge Smith, with votes to spare. Senator Hobart will probably be reelected in Passaic, because no conspicuous Democrat will take the nomination against him, and Mr. Garret A. Bogert consented to make the race only as a last resort.

Passaic is another county that usually has a good Democratic margin, and the nomination of Mr. Thomas Lawrence is unexceptionable, but he has to carry weight because of the extravagance of Democratic county officers, which the recent disclosures in Warren and other counties have exaggerated into suspicions of corruption against Mr. W. A. Sloan, a clever journalist and sharp debater, is making the most of his chances. The fact that the solid Democratic county of Warren elected a Republican Senator last year on the heels of the trial of the county officers there, shows that party majorities are not to be depended upon in the face of such questions. In a small Congressional district of such questions, it is probable that the Republicans will gain at least one Senator, and have twelve of the twenty-one Senators.

NEW JERSEY POLITICS.

A Lively Struggle in the Assembly Districts of Monmouth County.

RED BANK, N. J., Nov. 1.—Monmouth County, containing in its borders the majority of the great watering places of the State, is full of excitement over the election. The county represents the moneyed interests of Long Branch, Eatonton, Seabright, Monmouth Beach, Highlands, Red Bank, and Middletown, besides other places where large amounts of taxes are paid by permanent and summer residents. The present political fight in this county involves the life-saving stations on the coast, the fisheries of the State, which are larger here than elsewhere on the coast, and also a struggle for supremacy between the Central Railroad of New Jersey, with its tender, the Southern Railway of New Jersey, and the opposition developed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which is endeavoring to get its through line from Philadelphia, from Manasquan to Long Branch. Consequently the Assembly fight is very lively.

In the First Assembly District, comprising the southern part of the county, Spring Lake, Sea Girt, Manasquan, &c., the candidates are Samuel C. Bowne (Dem.) and Sherman B. Ovitt (Rep.). The latter was renominated because his record is closely contested. The Second District, including Long Branch, Eatonton, and its environs, is purely Democratic and not contested, John D. Hance of Marlboro, being the only candidate. In the Third District the feeling is bitter, and as a full vote of both parties gives a Republican majority of only eight, the railroad companies and local organizations are working hard. The Democratic candidate, Arthur Wilson of Shrewsbury, is nominated for a third term. His opponent, J. Lufburrow (Rep.) of the same township, is a member of the Board of Freeholders.

WIFE POISONING CHARGED.

THE TRIAL OF A WEALTHY MANUFACTURER IN NORWICH, CONN.

Strong Suspicions of Arsenical Poisoning—The Exhumation of the Body of Mrs. Riddle—Circumstances that Gave Rise to Gossip.

NORWICH, Conn., Nov. 3.—The preliminary examination of Mr. William B. Riddle of this city, who is accused of poisoning is wife Julia in 1877 and 1878, was begun before Judge J. C. Kellogg this morning. Mr. Riddle is a Belfast Irishman, tall, slender, and handsome, and full of energy and ambition. He is about 40 years of age. He came to this country in his youth, and when he married his wife was a mere girl. Being a skilful machinist, he soon started a little business of his own in Preston, across the Shetucket from Norwich. He next went to work in the Willimantic Linen Company's mill, and was soon made parmaster. He produced several valuable inventions and sold them to the company. Afterward he came to Norwich and started a mill for making fine thread and cord, and his business steadily prospered.

Previous to Riddle's removal from Willimantic, it was rumored that he and his wife had quarrelled. In the summer of 1877 his wife's health failed, and he sent her to the Edgecomb House, on the border of Long Island Sound. He visited her often, and provided her with medicines. One night a telegram was hurried to him in Norwich, informing him that his wife was dying. He hurried into a late train, and at New London, not waiting for the slow ferryboat, hired a skiff and skurried across the harbor. He sprang into the shoal water before the boat touched the bank, and ran at headlong speed across the fields to the hotel. He reached his wife's bedside ahead of the physician who had been summoned, and it is alleged by an attendant upon Mrs. Riddle and by another witness that he caught up the medicines and threw them away, and broke the bottles. Mrs. Riddle recovered, and returned to her Norwich home, and was therefore subject to several physical relapses. Dr. Bailey treated her for gastritis. Bleeding in the spring of 1878.

Riddle was a changed man after his wife's death. He dressed in deep mourning, fixed his family group of photographs in the tombstone of his wife, and covered the grave daily with flowers. A few weeks ago he broke up his Norwich business and sold out his household effects, and was on the eve of removing to New York. A week later he married Miss Nellie Gristol, who had worked in his mill before his wife's death. A few days thereafter he gave a party to his mill girls in his home. Next morning he quarrelled with Williams, his colored engineer, and withdrew some presents he had made him; and Williams swore out a warrant for Riddle's arrest on the charge of murder, and the manufacturer was arrested in New London the same evening while he was on his way to join his wife in New York. He was locked up until the State might get the analysis of Mrs. Riddle's remains. That analysis has now been completed.

When Riddle lived in Preston he was a member of the Central Baptist Church of this city, and when he went away he joined a Baptist church in Willimantic. When he came to Norwich he did not take out letters of dismissal, and it is held by the church here that he is no longer a member of the society.

It was positively announced by the city authorities last night that the trial would certainly be begun at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning in the usual judicial delay interposed, and it was 2 o'clock before Prof. Johnson of New Haven took the stand.

"On the 7th of October," the Professor began, "I assisted Drs. Perkins and Paddock and others in opening the grave of Mrs. Riddle in Yantic Cemetery." The Professor opened a black bound book, and recited therefrom the particulars of the exhumation. He found the body in an excellent state of preservation. There were yellow stains, usually indicative of yellow sulphide of arsenic, in the liver and stomach and flesh. Nothing else in the remains bore evidence of arsenic. "In my examination I was assisted by Mr. Chittenden, a Yale teacher, and familiar with toxicology. We first examined a portion of the yellow stained stomach, and discovered that the stains were produced by arsenic. We had first washed the portions of the stomach in hydrochlorate acid, and then washed them with ammonia, which precipitated the yellow sulphide. That precipitate was dissolved again in ammonia, and the solution placed in the Marsh apparatus after adding sulphuric acid, and we procured the arsenic mrrior. In this process we used only three chemicals. In the old tests professors have been accustomed to use many chemicals. We first weighed stomach and spleen together, and then took a portion from the mass. We examined a portion weighing 1.542½ grains. From that we weighed .006 of a grain, equivalent to 16 hundredths of a grain of white arsenic, making in entire stomach and spleen .827 of one grain of white arsenic."

The Professor took 1.542 grains of the liver, and by his tests got 94 thousandths of a grain of metallic arsenic, equal to 125 thousandths of a grain of white arsenic. The entire liver would therefore contain .739 thousandths of a grain of white arsenic. In 1.542½ grains of intestines and inwards, he found 2.060 ten-thousandths grains of metallic arsenic, equal to 25 and eight-tenths one-thousandths of metallic arsenic, or 398 grains of white arsenic. He next placed 100 grains of one lung and the liquid it contained in its cavity under his processes, and extracted 682 ten-thousandths grains of metallic arsenic, equal to 90 one-thousandths of a grain of white arsenic. In the brain he found evidences of arsenic, but not in weighable quantity. The total arsenic he has thus far obtained amounts to 2.540 ten-thousandths of a grain.

This covers all the tests thus far. The Professor has examined only five and a half pounds of the remains, and an equal quantity remains to be treated. In the number of poison cases under his eye, he has not had time to complete his analysis in this case.

The Professor took from his leather valise a square parti-colored box containing the arsenic he had obtained, and showed the little glass phials to the Judge, the jurors, and the reporters. In one clear bottle, of about the shape and size of a dice box, he has a part of the mucous membrane of Mrs. Riddle's stomach preserved in alcohol. It is of a dull brownish hue, and on the outer surface shows a clear yellow-brown tinge, that the Professor says is the presence of yellow sulphide of arsenic.

"Is that stain arsenic?" the Prosecutor demanded.

"Positively it is," the chemist replied.

The witness described other and well-known tests by which he obtained or failed to obtain arsenical stains. Some of his methods yielded arsenic in an hour, and others in three or six hours. He didn't find so much bismuth as he had expected, for he had been informed that Mrs. Riddle had been in the habit of taking that mineral in large doses.

At this stage, the fact was elicited that no more arsenic was found in Mrs. Riddle's brain after eighteen months' burial than was found in Mary Stannard's brain after she had been buried only thirty days. The bladder and kidneys have not yet been examined.

"Did you find any evidence of cosmosis?" Prosecuting Attorney Ripley inquired. "I haven't the remotest idea what it means, but I've seen it in the newspapers."

"Cosmosis," Professor Johnson explained, "is the soaking of the arsenic through the body, and I have found no evidence of cosmosis." The witness thought that he had discovered sufficient arsenic in the body, combined with what had been eliminated, to indicate a fatal dose.

Thus far, the analysis has yielded two grains of arsenic, and the chemist and State Attorney will expect to find more much more.

The defense will endeavor to prove that certain properties in the soil of Yantic Cemetery tend to arrest decay. From the first to the last of the expert testimony, Riddle sat with closest attention, his keen blue eyes fastened on the Professor's face. His son sat near him and took occasional notes.

Dr. Paddock, the next witness, testified in relation to the exhumation. Five or six physicians saw the disinterment. The preservation of the body was striking. The Doctor was satisfied that death was caused by arsenic and poisoning.

Prof. Johnson purchased several glass jars to-night, and will open the grave of Mrs. Riddle again in the morning and take away other parts of the body, to be examined in his New Haven laboratory.

To-Day's Races in Jerome Park.

Full fields of evenly matched and weighted horses are on the programme for to-day's six races in Jerome Park. No doubt the contests will be fierce and exciting. The entries are:

First race, hurdle, 1¼ miles—Deadhead, Disturbance, Judith, Pomeroy, Bertha, Dandy, Lizzie D., Viraliam, Bay Rum, and Bencher.

Second race, three-quarters of a mile—Jericho, George McCandlish, Conrad, Jesse D., Una, Pique, Lulu, and Lady Middleton.

Third race, 1¼ miles—Fortuna, Vagrant, Invermoor, Pelgrid, Juanita, and Jet Black.

Fourth race, 1¼ miles—Jericho, Harlequin, Una, and Lulu.

Fifth race, one mile—Charlie Gorham, Dan K., Hattie F., Milan, Pique, and Vagrant.

Sixth race, steeplechase over the full course—Deadhead, Disturbance, Judith, Pomeroy, Katie P., Bertha, Bay Rum, Dandy, Lizzie D., and Bencher.

The betting room were all crowded last evening, but as there was great uncertainty as to whether all the horses entered would start, there was no business done worth mentioning.

Courtney Consents to Row.

CATUGA, Nov. 3.—Charles Courtney sent a despatch to William Blaikie to-night, accepting the last suggestion to row Hanlan a race for the $6,000, and agreeing to put up $500 forfeit. Courtney says that he considers this proposition a fair one, and hopes that it will result in a race. He said that the rumors that he objects to Blaikie as a referee are without foundation.

Pistachi is Found

In its perfection in Greenfield's bon-bons. 909 Broadway.—*Adv.*

BIG FAILURE IN DRY GOODS.

Stettauer & Co. of Chicago Suspend with $1,000,000 Liabilities.

The largest failure in the dry goods trade for over a year occurred in Chicago on Saturday, Stettauer Brothers & Co., who, with the exception of J. V. Farwell & Co. and Field, Leiter & Co., are the largest jobbing house there, having suspended at the close of business on that day. The fact was not known there or in New York until yesterday morning when the creditors received a circular announcing the suspension. The firm consists of Charles and David Stettauer in Chicago and George Einstein in New York. They have an office at 115 Worth street, New York, and branches in Paris and Manchester. The Stettauers are sons-in-law of Mr. Rosenfeld, of the old house of Rosenfeld & Bissinger, whose present house succeeded in 1865. The liabilities are estimated to be in excess of $1,000,000, and many of their creditors reside out of Chicago. The firm's capital is $1,500,000. The impression in the trade is that the failure is a bad one. They have paid very few of their fall purchases and none of the bills maturing in October. Their sales amounted to over $3,000,000 during the past year, and their profit was very high. At Bradstreet's the firm gave the following statement: Jan. 1, showing assets of $[illegible], of which there was merchandise, $[illegible]; bills receivable, $392,201; equity in stores, $[illegible]; equity in stock in trade, $[illegible]; equity in stores, $[illegible]; equity in stock in trade, $[illegible]; equity in stores, $[illegible]; equity in stock in trade, $[illegible]