AN INVENTOR OF BEVERAGES.

The Death of Matt Higgins, One of New York's Best Known Bartenders.

Matt Higgins died at his home at 90 Broome street on Tuesday, and yesterday among business men, sporting men, men who own fast horses, politicians, clerks, and saloon keepers Matt Higgins's death was the topic of conversation. He was the proprietor of a saloon at 16 Ann street, but he was best known as a bartender. He was 36 years old, and died of a hernia received ten years ago, but neglected during the past few days.

He began his career as a bartender in the Mount St. Vincent Hotel in Central Park and remained there for years. He gained the acquaintance of the wealthiest and most conspicuous New Yorkers, the sporting men, the men about town, and people from every section of the land. He developed there the taste for inventing and manufacturing mixed drinks. When he left there it was said that he knew every drink that could be called for, and that he had no superior at mixing them. He was fortunate afterward in keeping pace with the growth of the list of fancy beverages at the store of H. B. Kirk & Co. in Fulton street, where he remained long enough to become known to the business men of that section of the city. He next established himself in business at the Houston Street Ferry, but failed. He spent the next ten years as head bartender for Nash & Crook, in Park row and Nassau street, and here he became known to the literary men, officers of the city Government, politicians, and the business men of the district. It is said that he changed the taste of an army of people there by introducing fancy drinks among them. Last June he opened a cosey little store at 16 Ann street, and carried there a business of astonishing proportions, his place being the rendezvous of a class of New Yorkers who never entered a house in Ann street before.

He was a spare man of medium stature, with a soft, low voice, a modest manner, and a knack at telling exceedingly funny stories, and yet retaining an exceedingly grave expression of countenance. When he came to the point of one of these narratives he used to assume a puzzled expression and ask his hearers why they laughed. He was in the habit of wearing a white sack and white apron behind the bar, and none who knew him ever saw a speck or a spot upon his garments. He knew the favorite beverages of the people who frequently came before him, and he served them without asking what they wanted. He seldom called a man by his name, but addressed his acquaintances with titles, as "General," "Major," "Colonel," or "Doctor." Strangers were flattered by this, and when he asked, as he invariably did, "Well, Colonel, what kind of wine will you have?" he occasionally led a man to purchase wine who had had no idea of doing so a moment before. He introduced with great success the habit of prescribing drinks to suit the physical condition of his customers.

"Matt," a customer would say, "I don't know what I want."

"Well, how do you feel?" the bartender asked.

"Oh, I don't know. I feel mean. I haven't any appetite and I am very nervous."

"Well, now, Colonel," Matt would say, "what you want is a cocktail, with an extra quantity of bitters as a tonic, and a dash of absinthe to brace up your nerves."

Although he knew every compound made in New York barrooms, and many more of his own invention, he was never seen to mix a drink, and nobody knew how he made what he served. He did all his work under the bar, and had not set out the beverages until they were completed. He was not a showy bartender, who could throw a stream of alcohol over his back and catch it in front of his chest, or describe a parabola with it over his head. He carried his modesty behind the bar. He seldom mixed a drink of "blue blazes" without permitting the purchaser to watch the curves and belts of azure fire that ran from one glass to the other. He was fondest of making "Santa Cruz scurs" and "milk punches" of peculiar excellence, but the secret of their make has gone with him.

In his store in Ann street he had a Southern negro who was an astonishing cook, and he served his customers there with free lunches of grouse, partridge, fried oysters, roast turkey, woodchuck, or Boston baked beans and pork. When he had a dish that he thought warranted the act, he sent a messenger to the places of business of his regular customers to notify them that the dish was ready.

LIEUT. FLIPPER'S DEFENCE.

Solemn and Positive Denial of the Charge of Embezzlement.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Dec. 7.—At the opening of the court yesterday morning Lieut. Flipper made the following statement:

To the first charge and its specifications in this case I declare to you, in the most solemn and most positive manner possible, that I am innocent in every way, state, and form; that never, by word or by another, I converted or applied to my own use a single dollar of government money, or permitted it to be done, or authorized any person to do so with it whatever. Because I did not make a statement for the telegram of May 2 I thought it unnecessary, and discontinued it for days. The other charge of embezzlement I put in a trap, and it was the examiner's math. Jury's, when it was reported immediately for the east many interests. Then was discovered a discrepancy of $1,000. I had not said that I had paid it out of my own money for the amount intended to be paid personally to the band before requisition to remit a check. I stated upon my honor from memory on the 19th of July, I know they had two months' pay in check, and thought I could get what I wanted, but I could not, and I paid it out of my own money. I then relied upon my word to the publication of my loss, who had promised it. I was disappointed again. I believe the shortage in the subsistence commissary stills was due for stores sold the men and inattentive on my personal account. It caused no uneasiness, however, as I thought when the money should be paid I could deposit to back the amount to meet it with personal funds. When leaving the quarters on the 19th of August I delivered, and still believe, $1,000 in the safe. There was respectable were in the trunk, except this check. I learned otherwise. I was perfectly astonished, and entirely unprepared for what they said. I was unexplainable, except to make them good, which I have done. My servant lived with a laundress, who had no place to keep her clothing. I allowed her to put her part in my trunk. I always retained the key except when given to her for a short time to rearrange or get out her clothing. I have no reason to suspect dishonesty. I never at any time worth attracting attention. I believe warped prejudiced the commanding officer would take the first chance to get rid of me. I put but little money in this at the time, but afterward remembered it disunity. I know how it represented and how it may be seen, and I know I have been unfairly dealt with. I endeavored to have my case investigated, but I was not permitted to work out in his own responsibility, without giving him any knowledge of my embarrassment.

Canadian Criticism of the Message.

TORONTO, Dec. 7.—To-day's *Globe* says: "President Arthur's first message of mishap does not rest on the score of a lack of commonplaceness, verbosity, or treasonable surveys mankind from Chinese Peru with the most exemplary patience. Canadians will be pleased to learn that the United States navies have orders to avoid all collisions with British men-of-war, even using the tender upset of restoration. The armed police and marines have similar instructions extended to them. Referring to the Fisheries Award, the President maintains the perfectly indefensible claim that the United States control of the canal connects the United States and the European powers. It is not altogether unknown that the Dutch Government also claims to be equally indefensible. None of the Powers in Europe can contemplate good power dominating so important a highway as this canal will be."

Father McCarthy's Murderer.

GREENFIELD, Mass., Dec. 7.—David McMillan, who shot Father McCarthy on Sunday evening, reached here last evening at about 7 o'clock. Fearing that an attempt would be made to lynch him, McCarthy was stopped some distance from the depot, and the prisoner was put into a carriage and driven rapidly to the jail. The news, however, had leaked out, and the jail yard was filled with people anxious to get at the prisoner, but a display of revolvers by officers deterred them from violence. Father McCarthy died at about midnight, but being conscious at the time, a deceptive report to the effect of the assault. A warrant for the arrest of McMillan, on a charge of murder, was then issued.

The Cleveland Bond Robbery.

BUFFALO, Dec. 7.—William Burke, alias Charles H. Page, has been arrested here as the thief who stole $117,000 worth of railroad bonds belonging to President D. P. Rolle of the Commercial National Bank of Cleveland. Burke was taken at the express office, while inquiring for a box of clothes shipped to him from Cleveland. It seems that he, with two other men, entered safe at Cleveland, which were to be shipped to B. Bat. His two companions are supposed to have the stolen bonds in their possession. Burke hails from Chicago, and is in good and a professional bank sneak thief.

The Husband Alone Responsible.

NORTH TROY, Vt., Dec. 7.—The examination of Mrs. Peters on the charge of being implicated in the murder of a child at Mansonville was held at that place yesterday, and resulted in her discharge. The Court held that as the husband had confessed to the murder of his child, the law presumes that she was under her husband's control, and holds the husband alone responsible. Mr. Peters is still at large.

The Disabled Steamship Faith City.

BOSTON, Dec. 7.—The steamer Marathon, which arrived here from Liverpool, reports that when she took the steamer Faith City from Bristol for New York, she was slightly disabled from losing her rudder. Her engine's were all right, and she had plenty of coal. She was towing some short her stern posts.

President Arthur's Brother.

CHICAGO, Dec. 7.—Major William Arthur, the President's only brother, arrived here this morning from Helena, Mont., en route to New York, having received an appointment on Gen. Hancock's staff.

A $600,000 Purchase of Real Estate.

John Noble has paid $600,000 for ten city lots on the south side of Seventy-sixth street, between Madison and Fifth avenues upon which he has placed mortgages amounting $401,250.

PUGILISTS IN PRISON.

Holden and White Making the Best of It—Friends Trying to Get them Out.

JEFFERSON, Ohio, Dec. 5.—George Holden and Frank White, the pugilists, are confined in a little county jail here with half a dozen cells, and windows so near the ceiling that they let in only a little light and afford no view of the outside world. "Are the prize fighters still in jail?" is the first question asked by nearly every visitor to Jefferson, and when answered in the affirmative they cast about for some means of securing a glimpse of the pugilists. There are eight or ten prisoners in the jail.

"How are you standing your imprisonment?" Holden was asked, and he replied: "It's not very pleasant, but we make the best of it."

Holden is a butcher by trade, and has a family in England.

White is bearing his imprisonment philosophically. He was born in New York, and has been in the employ of one of the largest iron manufacturing establishments in the world for over fifteen years. He worked at his regular employment until the night before starting for Erie to engage in the fight.

When Holden and White were arraigned before Justice Thomas Fricker of this place on the charge of engaging in a prize fight they made no defence. The Justice talked to them severely, saying that the offence was an anomaly to the residents of Ashtabula County, and was the first that had occurred there. The soil of Ohio, he said, was too sacred to allow of any such offence. The Justice concluded, in a voice very solemn, with the remark that he would bind the defendants over in bonds of $1,200 each to appear at the next term, which meets in January.

It is for the purpose of giving the required bail that the friends of Holden and White in New York are trying to raise money. There is talk of a big benefit entertainment for that purpose. The penalty for prize fighting in Ohio is from one to ten years' imprisonment, according to the discretion of the Court.

George Lewis's Readiness for Trial.

George Lewis, a cheerful-looking mulatto boy, about 14 years of age, was arraigned yesterday at the bar of the General Sessions, upon an indictment charging him with burglary in the third degree. He pleaded not guilty.

"Have you counsel, Lewis?" asked Assistant District Attorney Phelps.

"No, sah," Lewis replied. "I kin take care ob myself."

"Oh, can you?" rejoined Mr. Phelps. "Did you ever study law?"

"No, sah," Lewis answered with smiling confidence. "Don't know the difference between assault and battery, sah."

"Are ready for the trial, sah, right away, sah?"

"Well, your Honor," Mr. Phelps said, turning to Judge Gildersleeve, "I don't think that, taking the interests of the people into consideration, I ought to rush into a trial against a building jurist who is so ready for trial as this one appears to be. I ought to have a few days to brush up." (Laughter.)

"I think I shall have to assign counsel to help you in your defence, Lewis," Judge Gildersleeve said. "I will assign Lawyer Simonson to assist you."

"I don't care about any lawyer, Judge," Lewis still stubbornly persisted. "I'm telling you, Judge, I kin take care ob myself."

"Well, nevertheless, Lewis, I will assign Lawyer Simonson to give you any help that you may need—as associate counsel," Judge Gildersleeve went on. "And I will put the trial off for a day or two to give the District Attorney, Mr. Phelps, a chance." (Laughter.)

Lewis's smiles disappeared, and he walked away from the bar with a dissatisfied air.

Masonic Rites for Grand Secretary Austin.

The funeral of Dr. James M. Austin, Grand Secretary of the State Grand Lodge of Masons, took place yesterday afternoon. None but immediate friends and relatives were at the house, 424 West Twenty-second street, where the Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Backus, read the Episcopal burial service.

The body, encased in a casket covered with black velvet, was then conveyed to the Masonic Temple. The Masonic services were under the direction of the Grand Lodge, and were opened with music by a quartet from the Harmonic Society, composed of Messrs. Hulse, Eddy, Sees, Mitchell, and Gerlach. Mr. T. J. H. Daum was the organist. Grand Chaplain Dr. Charles H. Hall offered prayer. Grand Master George S. Taylor read the ritual. The funeral oration was pronounced by Chief Commissioner of Appeals Frank H. Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence said the Masonic history of Mr. Austin was part of the history of the Grand Lodge, which owed much of its prosperity to his endeavors.

The pall bearers were Past Grand Masters Joseph R. Evans, Joseph J. Couch, Edmund L. Judson, Charles H. Rome, John W. Simons, and Past Grand High Priests George Van Vliet and Thomas S. Cassidy.

The body will lie in state in the Grand Master's room until this morning, when it will be conveyed to Woodlawn Cemetery.

O'Donovan Rossa Says he Didn't Send It.

A despatch from Montreal indicates that the city is somewhat excited over the discovery by the police of another internal machine under the north wall of the Court House. It was designed to explode by means of a trigger pulled by clockwork and a lock falling upon a percussion cap, but the connecting wires were not adjusted, and it is surmised that it was expected that the explosion of the machine discovered close to the place on Sunday would explode this one. In the box, the report says, were found pieces of O'Donovan Rossa's paper dated November.

"Well, what's up now?" exclaimed the editor of the Daily Telegram when the reporter, with the despatch in his hand, entered his sanctum yesterday.

"Have you been wrapping up explosives in your paper and sending them to Montreal?" asked the reporter.

"No, of course not," replied the editor. "The Daily Telegram goes to Montreal without any further aids to assist it."

He was handed the despatch, which he read through.

"Jesus only knows what people think of this paper," he said. "I would have to be a good advertisement. This is all nonsense; I don't believe a word of it."

What McCahill Couldn't Understand.

One of the letter carriers belonging to Station E, employed by Inspector Byrnes to assist in arresting J. Howard Wells, the blackmailer of Jay Gould, on Sunday, Nov. 13, was James A. Clubby, who was stationed at the letter box at Eighth avenue and Twenty-ninth street. Detective Faulkner was with him. Policeman McCahill of the Thirty-seventh street station, seeing a man look in Broadway furtively, opened the letter box and reading the address of the letter, suspected that something was wrong, and arrested Clubby. In vain did Detective Faulkner explain. McCahill took Clubby to the station, where he was sent to the Police Department of Station E, and after representations had to secure his release. McCahill placed letters in the Police Commissioner's hands, and he was called up to answer for his zeal, that he had acted in good faith.

Gen. Sickles's Curiosity.

The Manhattan Gas Company was not ready in the Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday, to argue on the injunction obtained by Gen. Daniel E. Sickles to restrain the company from cutting off his gas. The argument was set down for 11 o'clock today.

"But we shall wait all day if they are unable to go on in the morning," said Mr. Maunsell B. Field, Gen. Sickles's counsel. "The case must be finished without further adjournment, for Gen. Sickles is going to the West to-morrow night, and before he starts he desires to know whether he shall have to pay gas bills while he is out, and whether any gas is burned in his house or not. It is a mere matter of curiosity on his part, and I believe that curiosity is shared by a good many others."

Money Wanted for New School Houses.

In its provisional estimate for next year the Board of Apportionment has cut down the appropriation asked for by the Board of Education from $3,800,000 to $500,000, after hearing the claims of the Board of Education. The Board yesterday adopted resolutions declaring that the reduction will prevent the increase of school accommodations imperatively demanded by the increase of population in the upper wards of the city, endangering health, and notifying the public that the responsibility for it, if it shall be enforced, will lie wholly with the Board of Apportionment, the law giving the Board of Education no relief.

Court Calendars This Day.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 24, 53, 57, 59, 71, 88, 9, 114, 116, 118, 120, 126, 128, 147, 160, 170, 172, 184, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 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2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213.

COMMON PLEAS—SPECIAL TERM—No calendar. Part I—Same as on No. 27 calendar. Part II—Nos. 1173, 1504, 1490, 1504, 1508, 1517, 1434, 1517, 1519, 13, 1440, 1390, 1408, 1422, 1446, 1390, 1391, 1402, 1410, 1398, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1412.

MARINE COURT—Part I—Nos. 6343, 6401, 6350, 5609, 6354, 6403, 6401, 6404, 6388, 5670, 6361, 6342, 6361, 5609, 6365, 6366, 6367, 6368, 6369, 6370, 6277, 6340, 6312, 6325, 6366, 6368, 6364, 6364, 6365, 6366, 6364, 6365. Part II.—Nos. 6399, 6400, 6401, 6402, 6403, 6404, 6405, 6406, 6407, 6408, 6409, 6410, 6411, 6412, 6413, 6414, 6415, 6416, 6417, 6418, 6419, 6420, 6421, 6422, 6423, 6424, 6425, 6426, 6427, 6428, 6429, 6430, 6431, 6432, 6433, 6434, 6435, 6436, 6437, 6438, 6439.

Wanted---Females.

A.—UP-TOWN ADVERTISERS May leave their favors for THE SUN at the only authorized up-town advertisement offices.
1,238 Broadway, corner 31st st., till 9 P. M.
808 West 23d st., corner 8th av., till 8 P. M.
760 3d av., entrance on 47th st., till 8 P. M.
92 East 14th st., corner Union square, till 8 P. M.
No extra charge.

ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.—Weinburger, Loeb & Hecht will now engage, on favorable terms, first-class rose, blossom, and pique makers to commence work with them the second week in January. Apply between 12 and 1 o'clock daily at G. LOEB'S office, 534 Broadway.

ARTIFICIAL FLOWER MAKERS.—Good hands wanted by VANVELSOR & STEIN, 581 B'way.

BUTTONHOLE MAKERS on white vests; experienced hands only. ALFRED BENJAMIN & CO., 73 Wooster st.

BOOK FOLDER. Inquire after 9 o'clock at 255 Greene st., top floor. THOS. A. BIRCH.

EXPERIENCED glue hands for bordering; day or evening work. 144 Rivington st., basement.

GOOD HANDS wanted on men's neck wear. BLOCH BROS., 435 Broadway.

LADY as designer for ladies' silk and lace neck wear. SOLOMON BROS., 558 Broadway.

OPERATORS on Lotkin vamp folding machines and good vampers wanted for Wheeler & Wilson and Weed machines. J. & T. COUSINS, 198 and 201 Grand st.

OPERATOR—, hosiers, and buttonhole makers on white vests. Call all week, basement 237 West 29th st.

SEWING MACHINES.—Selling off, great reduction; all best kinds, $10 up; for $7; splendid cabinets, $20. 1,324 West 10th st., near Greenwich av., or No. 137 East Broadway.

SEWING MACHINES.—New Home, Domestic, W. & G., Singer, W. & W., $35, $30, $25; second hand, $10 up; rent, $2.50. BROWN, 262 Grand st., near Forsyth.

SEWING MACHINES.—New, $25, $20, $15; second hand, warranted, $10, $12, &c.; rented, $2.50; repaired. BACHNAGEL, 546 8th av., 37th and 38th sts.

SIEGEL BROTHERS, 163 and 165 South 5th av., want experienced operators on chemises and nightgowns; W. & W. machines; steam power.

WANTED—Several first-class basters and waist trimmers; also young ladies for the needle and attend to the parlor. Apply before 9 in morning, at 59 5th av., basement.

WANTED—A few bright and intelligent saleslades. Apply to Manhattan Book Company, 16 West 14th st., 8 to 9 A. M.

WANTED—A smart little girl to mind children and do light housework. Apply at 19 James slip, corner South st.

WANTED—A woman for housework, cook, wash, and iron. 7 St. Luke's place, Savoy st.

WANTED—A young colored girl for general housework. 80 Madison st.

YOUNG GIRLS can obtain situations free, lodgings and meals at 6 cents each, at the Girls' Lodging House, 27 St. Marks place, one block east of Cooper Institute under care of Mrs. Chase's Aid Society.

Wanted---Males.

A JAPANNER for carriage lamps; must be first-class workman; steady work. Apply to ROMER & CO., 61 Warren st., New York, or to factory, 141 Railroad av., Newark, N. J.

A WATCH and clock maker, especially perfect in new work, French clocks, musical boxes, &c.; wishes employment; best of reference. E., box 137, Sun office.

A BOY to ride on a wagon, run errands, and live in Brooklyn. J. H. SACKETT, 192 Liberty st.

A YOUNG man that understands polishing jewelry. L. A. CUPIDA, 19 Union square.

BUSINESS STENOGRAPHER wanted; permanent situation. Address, stating terms, references, salary expected, Newspaper Union, 150 Worth st.

BOYS WANTED from 14 to 17 years old as messengers by AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO., No. 823 6th av. Wages, $4 to $5 per week.

BRASS FINISHERS; those used to electric work preferred. EDWARDS & CO., 4th av., 14th st.

BOOKBINDERS.—Wanted, a first-class cloth forw