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The Sun.

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WAS FIELD'S MIND UPSET?

HIS FIRM FAILS; HIS FATHER, CYRUS W. FIELD, PROSTRATED.

Borrowers Scrambling to Find Securities on Which the Firm Had Made Loans—The Senior Partner Said to be Sick in Bed—Fears for His Father—The Son's Life Insured for $600,000—Union Pacific Officials Trying, Not for the First Time, to Get Back Their Collateral—A Sale Yesterday of Bonds They Think May Have Been Theirs—The Assignee and a Partner Attribute the Trouble of the Firm to Young Mr. Field's Mental Condition.

When the announcement was made on the Stock and Produce exchanges shortly before noon yesterday that Field, Lindley, Wiechers & Co., stock brokers and commission merchants in the Washington building, had failed, the news caused only a ripple of surprise, for rumors that the firm was shaky had been current for months. The fact though that Edward M. Field, eldest son of Cyrus W. Field, was at the head of the firm gave an importance to the failure that it might not otherwise have had.

The first reports that reached the street did not put the firm's liabilities higher than $100,000. This estimate was based on the moderate trading which the firm had done on its own account on the exchanges, and on the fact that the grain and stocks bought in and sold for it by the two exchanges under the rule did not indicate that the firm was either very short or very long of the market.

As the afternoon wore on, however, and creditors of the firm began to arrive in considerable numbers at the office in the Washington building, a remarkable state of affairs was developed. It came out that the firm had been doing a big business in lending money on good securities, and when the representatives of several firms and corporations who owned the securities called to see about these securities they could get no satisfaction.

There was a very lively scrambling yesterday between the office of the firm and the office of the assignee by representatives of big corporations in the effort to get on the track of their securities once held by the bankrupt firm, and there were threats last night of immediate legal proceedings to recover the missing securities.

Shortly after the announcement that the firm had made an assignment without preferences to Lawyer Charles W. Gould, Sidney Dillon, the President of the Union Pacific Railway, ex-Judge John F. Dillon, and Gen. G. M. Dodge called in a body at the firm's office to look after a large block of securities, the property of the Union Pacific Railway Company, which had been pledged with the firm for a time, which they contended were improvidently put up, as high as $900,000. Rumors had begun to fly in the street that the firm had rehypothecated securities in their hands, and President Dillon had become alarmed. He could find no member of the firm who could shed any light on the whereabouts of the Union Pacific's securities, although he waited in the office for several hours with his two companions.

Treasurer H. W. Ham of the Union Pacific Railway Company gave this explanation of the transactions of his company with Mr. Field's firm: Several months ago the company obtained a large loan from the firm, the amount of which he could not state. As collateral the company put up Denver and Gulf stock, Union Pacific bonds, and Oregon Short Line 5 per cent. bonds. Three months ago an arrangement was perfected for the funding of the floating debt of the company, and this put the company in a position to pay off its loan. The Union Pacific people made a demand on Mr. Field's firm at this time for their securities, through Drexel, Morgan & Co., tendering the amount of the loan at the same time. They were told that the time was not up on the loans and that they couldn't get their securities back until the loans had matured. Field, Lindley, Wiechers & Co. also explained that they had no need of the money at the time, and that they would insist on the loans running their full time.

"Those securities," said Mr. Ham, "had been rehypothecated, and that was the real reason why the firm did not hand them over when we stood ready to pay them. We understand that Watson Brothers, brokers, of 36 Broad street, have sold 150 Union Pacific bonds to-day for Field, Lindley, Wiechers & Co. at about 73, realizing something like $110,000. We shall move immediately for an injunction, and it will be served in time to prevent the transfer of these bonds if they are ours."

Ex-Judge Dillon said yesterday afternoon that the Union Pacific was ready to pay off its loan at once.

"In fact," he said, "we have been trying to pay it for some time, for we want our securities. They could not legally be disposed of without the consent of the company, which was not given. If the securities are not forthcoming this evening I shall advertise for them.

"We do not know positively whether any of the collateral has been rehypothecated or not and whether or not the bonds sold by Watson Brothers are ours. We won't know until tomorrow, when we make an inquiry and look up their numbers. If they should prove to be the same bonds, our next step would be to learn if they had been rehypothecated for more than we got on them and who will lose the difference. If not for more, no one will lose anything, and we can redeem them direct from the present holders."

F. R. Thurber was one of the anxious callers. He said that he was looking for some securities left with the firm on a loan by a friend of his. He got no satisfaction in the Washington building, and when he hurried over to 2 Wall street, where Assignee Gould has an office, he didn't find Mr. Gould in. After two or three more unavailing visits to the firm's offices he gave up the quest for the day.

A bank official who has had an active acquaintance with the broken firm's methods of obtaining money told THE SUN yesterday of another transaction as remarkable as that with the Union Pacific officials.

"Field, Lindley, Wiechers & Co.," he said, "made a loan of $250,000 on good security. It was a time loan, and it was understood at the time by the borrower that the brokers were the original lenders, and were not acting for any one. The securities put in were all gilt-edged, and there was a very wide margin between the amount of the loan and their real value. A number of poor securities were mixed up with these good ones, as transpired later, and say $350,000 was obtained on them by rehypothecation. This gave the firm a clear $100,000 for their own uses, really raised on somebody else's securities. The borrower wanted to pay up his loan before it matured, but Mr. Field's firm refused to deliver up the securities. Then the borrower offered to pay the full interest on the loan to maturity, and Mr. Field's firm explained that they were acting for another party and could not make the settlement themselves. This was news to the borrower, who had understood that Field, Lindley, Wiechers & Co. had made the loan for their own account. Pressure was at once brought to bear and the name of the banking house where the securities had been deposited was finally disclosed. An investigation then showed at once that the securities the borrower was looking for had been rehypothecated with a quantity of poor securities owned by Mr. Field's firm. The borrower made a sharp demand upon the stock brokers for his securities, threatening legal proceedings, and they were forthcoming in short order. He didn't pay interest to maturity, either."

The firm has been dilatory in giving up securities even on call loans. There have been several instances where twenty-four hours have elapsed before the firm responded with the securities.

The members of the firm are Edward M. Field, Daniel A. Lindley, who married the senior partner's sister; John F. Wiechers, nephew of the late F. A. Wiechers, the sugar refiner, and Herman C. Hilmers, a brother-in-law of F. O. Matthiessen, the sugar refiner. Mr. Field has not been down town for several days. Mr. Lindley referred all persons inquiring concerning the firm's condition to his chief clerk.

"We haven't the slightest idea how we stand," said the clerk, "and as our business is divided up into several different departments, each independent, it is impossible even to approximate our liabilities. We have made the assignment a general one so as to protect all interests. There have been a great many rumors in the last few months to the effect that we were trading heavily in different stocks, but there was little foundation for them. We were sometimes short of the market and sometimes long, and once in a while we were a-straddle. The general losses of the firm are responsible for its failure, and these are principally in grain and railroad stocks, especially the former. We have made no attempt, however, to manipulate the market, and the report that we were in this last corn deal is untrue.

"When I came down town I knew nothing of any intention on the part of the members to make an assignment. I know that it would have been possible to raise enough money to keep us above water for some time. But it was thought best not to involve any one with the firm further. The firm will go out of existence after its affairs have been settled up."

When THE SUN reporter was talking with his informant, he asked about a rumor which had then only just begun to spread that the senior member of the firm had become mentally unbalanced. The clerk promptly denied it.

At the office of Mr. Gould Mr. Field's mental illness was stated as a fact, and very soon it was described as the cause of the firm's failure.

"Mr. Field has not been in his right mind for some time," said Mr. Gould; "he has been greatly overworked of late, and this is responsible largely for his mental condition. It has been very noticeable in the last few days only. His mother's death this week made him worse. Two days ago I tried to get some information from him regarding a matter in which I had been called in as a legal adviser. His mind wandered so that I looked over the books myself, but could tell nothing from them. Fearing that some of the creditors might make trouble, I advised an assignment. Experts are now busy on the books, but it will be several days before they will strike a trial balance. I have no idea how either the assets or liabilities are."

Mr. Gould said later that Mr. Field had put a large amount of money into a business enterprise and that this had inconvenienced the firm. "I consider the money safe," he said, "but for the sake of investors I will not disclose the nature of the enterprise."

A broker acquainted with the firm's affairs said yesterday that he knew the nature of the enterprise referred to, and he was certain that the firm hadn't put more than $50,000 into it.

Mr. F. R. Thurber said that a banker of his acquaintance had seen Mr. Field only two days before, and Mr. Field seemed to be in possession of all his faculties then. At Mr. Field's residence, 125 East Twenty-first street, the servant who answered the door yesterday said that Mr. Field was perfectly well on Thursday evening, when he was last at the house. They said he was not there yesterday. Elsewhere it was said that he was sick abed in the house.

Mr. Field is about 38 years old and a graduate of Williams College. He went into business first in March, 1877, forming a partnership under the name of Tefft, Truesdell & Field. This continued until 1879, when the firm became Field, Lindley & Co. Cyrus W. Field became a special partner at this time in his son's firm for $250,000. Five years later there was a reorganization, and Cyrus W. Field increased his interest to $500,000. The firm's capital and responsibility then was estimated at about $2,000,000. The firm suffered heavily in the big wheat deal of 1887, and the sharp decline in Manhattan Railway stock when Cyrus W. Field was pinched by Jay Gould also came back on the firm. On March 31 last Cyrus W. Field dropped out of the firm as aspecial partner and the firm itself was dissolved by limitation. On April 1 the present firm was organized. It did a great deal of trading through Stephen V. White & Co., who suspended in September. Mr. Field's life is insured for $600,000. It is said that another company had been asked lately to insure him for a large amount, but on learning the size of the policies already issued by the other companies it refused.

Partner Herman C. Hilmers said last night that he felt confident that all the obligations of his firm would be met in full.

"As soon as we discovered Mr. Field's condition," said Mr. Hilmers, "and the mistakes that he had made, we made the assignment. Mr. Field has been a sick man for several months."

"What is his condition such now that it will be necessary to send him to an asylum?"

"Oh, no; he is not so bad as that. I think he is suffering from overwork and nervous strain," replied Mr. Hilmers. Mr. Hilmers said that Mr. Field had not been at the office for several days.

Were the securities of the Union Pacific Railway Company that were in your hands rehypothecated?" asked the reporter.

"That was not in my department, and I do not want to say anything about it, for it would involve going into all the details of the firm's affairs. Our accounts are all in the hands of Mr. Gould, and his investigations will bring out all the details. I simply want to repeat the statement that I think our resources are sufficient to meet all our obligations. There have been other parallel cases where a firm has been run into debt and mistakes have been made by a sick partner. When the accounts are examined everything will be known. Until then I do not wish to discuss any of the details."

These were the stocks bought and sold under the rule yesterday on account of the firm at the New York Stock Exchange, of which Mr. Lindley is a member:

Sold—100 Michigan Central, 400 Canada Southern, 200 Brunswick.

Bought—200 Chicago Gas, 500 Northern Pacific preferred, 700 Union Pacific, 200 Rock Island, 100 St. Paul, 400 Atchison, 200 Lackawanna, 100 Missouri Pacific, and 1,000 Sugar.

On the Produce Exchange 455,000 bushels of wheat, December delivery, and 70,000 bushels of corn were bought and sold on the firm's account. It is impossible to estimate just how the firm stands in grain, but members of the Exchange who have followed their transactions think that they are a little long of wheat and short of corn. There will be a second call to-day and a third on Monday.

The firm also had limited dealings on the Coffee Exchange.

The trouble has prostrated Cyrus W. Field, and he now lies in his big house on Gramercy Park dangerously ill of nervous prostration. He was a sick man before he heard the news. His wife's death a few days ago was a great blow to him, and when he came to town from Ardsley yesterday he was in a strained and almost broken-down nervous condition and was much weakened physically. Besides, Mr. Field is an old man. He had to be lifted into the train.

He heard the details of this new trouble in his house, and the shock was too much. He sank under it as under the blow of a fist. They put him to bed and called a doctor. The doctor said he might never recover.

Though all information was refused at the house, it was learned that Mr. Field's condition throughout the afternoon and evening was very alarming to his friends. He lay still in his bed, limp and apparently helpless. He made no effort to move, scarcely noticed his friends, and could be induced to say very little.

The news of his condition spread rapidly among his relatives and friends, and a great many visited the house. Some on leaving went next door. That is where Edward W. Field lives.

It was said that he had been at home in bed all day. His sister, the wife of partner Lindley, is reported to be very ill also at her husband's house at Dobbs Ferry.

CHICAGO, Nov. 27.—No losses will be sustained here, as far as can be learned. King and Harlow hold open trades for the suspended firm to the amount of 95,000 bushels of wheat and 150,000 bushels of May corn, against loss on which they are protected by ample margins.

MR. WISHMACH AND MRS. VOLLMAR.

Mrs. Wishmach Visits Her Husband at Mrs. Vollmar's House.

Some light was thrown on the suit for absolute divorce, begun a couple of weeks ago in this city by Mrs. Alma Wishmach against Paul Wishmach, a glass importer, in the Gates Avenue Police Court in Brooklyn yesterday.

Mrs. Wishmach appeared there as complainant against Mrs. Maria Vollmar for an alleged assault in the third degree. Mrs. Vollmar is a widow who lives in a two-story and basement frame building at 104 Himrod street in Brooklyn. On the evening of Oct. 26 Mrs. Wishmach paid an unexpected visit to the home of the widow, accompanied by her mother and a male relative. When Mrs. Wishmach rang the bell, it was her husband who responded and opened the door. He was in his shirt sleeves and his feet, it is said, were encased in prettily embroidered slippers.

He closed the door as soon as his wife had passed into the hallway, and thus excluded her companions. A quarrel followed between husband and wife, during which the plate-glass windows in the front door were broken, a diamond pin was snatched by her husband from Mrs. Wishmach's breast, and Widow Vollmar assaulted by Mrs. Wishmach.

When Mrs. Wishmach was ejected from the house she went around to the nearest police station and returned to the house with a policeman to search for her missing diamond. When she got to the widow's home she found the parlor brilliantly lighted, the blinds up, and her husband seated near the window in an easy chair, smoking a cigar.

The policeman made an investigation, but refused to make an arrest, instructing Mrs. Wishmach to go to a magistrate if she wished to make a complaint. Within a few days she began divorce proceedings, and had her husband incarcerated in Ludlow street jail through an order of Judge Lawrence until he had furnished bail in $2,000. She also had the widow, who is made a co-respondent in the divorce proceedings, arrested.

Justice Kenna took a big batch of testimony yesterday in the alleged assault episode and found Mrs. Vollmar guilty, but he suspended sentence. Mrs. Wishmach was a widow when she married her present husband, six months ago.

Something New.

"Nabob."

Pure, pleasant, tasting.—Adv.

New York Central's elegant Chicago Limited affords perfect service.—Adv.

WILL SHE FIND OUT GOD?

EXPERIMENT WITH A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND GIRL.

Opinions of Theologians and Other Thinkers on the Course of Education Prescribed for Little Miss Robin—Views on the Question of Innate Religious Impulse.

The story about little Miss Robin, 7 years old, who within a year and a half after her birth became blind, deaf and dumb, has not only attracted widespread attention, but has set a great many learned men a-thinking. THE SUN told yesterday how this little girl, to whom the sky and all the rest of nature were a big, black void, and the chirping of birds and the other music of life an unbroken silence, was kept in ignorance of religion and of a belief in a hereafter, in order that it might be ascertained whether or not the idea of a divine being was inborn.

Of course it is not expected that she will solve, by intuition as it were, any of the intricate points that theologians are constantly arguing about. But will there develop within her an instinct which will teach her that there is a supreme being who rules over nature? And if there does, or if there does not, will the result of the experiment prove anything? And are her friends doing right in keeping from her the opportunity to form any religious opinion by external influence?

A SUN reporter put these questions to several theologians and thinkers in this city yesterday and here is the result. The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, a Presbyterian, said:

"If this girl does not develop a religious instinct or give some evidence that she possesses an innate conviction of the existence of a Supreme Being, it will not prove that there is no Supreme Being. It will, at the most, prove that the religious impulse is not inborn. A man, for instance, may have an impulse, intellectual or artistic, and yet it may never assert itself without proper exterior incitement. You may be an artist, and yet your surroundings may be such that, although you have artistic instincts and impulses, they may never develop. They are dependent upon outside excitation. I assert this without qualification. The direction of a man's life, the current of his thoughts, depend upon the influences which are brought to bear upon him. Take our ancestors who lived in the woods. They had the same impulses, possibilities, and instincts as you and I have, yet they never exerted them because nothing was ever presented to them from the outside that tended to excite them.

"I think the outcome of this experiment will be entirely independent of the religious light depends upon some kind of exterior excitation, and my opinion is that this girl will never manifest any religious disposition unless something exterior is brought to bear upon her.

"As for the salvation of the girl's soul if she were to die to-morrow, if I thought that that were not associated with preach in God's behalf. The idea of that child not being saved is a kind of savageness that is not predicable of a heavenly Father. I should hesitate if I were called upon to make such an experiment upon any child, although the purpose is in every way commendable.

"Should the girl, however, manifest any religious impulses, it would not prove, from a philosophical standpoint, the existence of God, but only the fact that this impulse is latent. And again, if she does not manifest any such impulse it does not prove the non-existence of God or the non-existence of a latent religious instinct.

"As for the salvation of the persons who keep from her all knowledge of another life, that depends entirely upon the motive which inspires them."

Robert G. Ingersoll, when asked for his views on the matter, expressed them very carefully and deliberately:

"Well, I think," he said, "how a child born deaf and dumb and blind could obtain many ideas on any subject. If, however, it should turn out that such a child had any idea of any supreme being, this certainly would throw no light on the naturalness of such a conception by persons who can talk and hear. If, instead of supposing it to a conception, all it possibly could establish would be that persons born deaf and dumb and blind might have an idea of a supreme being. But whatever the conception of this person, real or supposed, is or may be, I do not see that it sheds the slightest light on the question as to whether there is or is not what is called a first cause. I remember once a man was shot in the stomach, and when the wound was healing physicians made experiments to find out how long it took food to digest. I said to a physician at the time: 'How can I tell from the result of these experiments how long it took my stomach to digest food? I could only guess at how long it might take if I had a hole in my stomach.'

"My opinion is that the questions of origin and destiny are beyond the human mind; that no mind is great enough to know whether there is or is not an infinite being. Consequently, there is no mind that can tell whether any fact tends to prove or disprove the existence of an infinite being. That is to say, if a man cannot comprehend a fact, he cannot tell whether any other fact tends to prove or disprove the fact that he cannot comprehend.

"The fact that a thing, an impulse, and instinct is natural does not prove anything. There was a time when almost all nations worshipped serpents and various wild beasts. There was a time when almost all people were cannibals. I presume naturally so. There was a time when all people were savages. Cannibalism now is held to be wrong because many people object to being eaten, and they do not care how natural it is if they are afraid to or want to eat.

"The probability is that such a child as you describe would be more apt to be orthodox in its belief than one having the full complement of senses. It may be that a child that can neither hear nor talk nor see would be very ready to adopt the orthodox creed. To men of the lowest degree of education an impulse which leads them to trust in a superior being is most natural. They see and hear and feel and are afraid, and their ignorance leads them to try and get solid with the fellow who's making thunder and lightning. But as they advance and reach a higher plane of knowledge they begin to think, and want to have things explained to them and then the instinct ceases.

When asked what he thought about the chances of salvation for the girl if she should die, he answered:

"Oh, that's too silly for anything."

"There is, beyond doubt, a kinship between the created soul and its Creator, a union, a bond of divine sympathy, which may at one time and in some way assert itself," said Dr. Thomas S. Hastings, President of Union Theological Seminary. "This relationship, the assertion of the kinship, may be manifested in one or in many of a vast number of different ways, some of which we may comprehend, and some we may not, but the union exists under all circumstances, and in this way every human being has a knowledge of God. We Presbyterians all firmly believe this. Therefore, in our view, the experiment which Mr. Anagnos proposes to try with the child is no experiment at all. We believe that every human being has a knowledge of God. The heathen have such a knowledge of God, an innate knowledge of the true character of the Supreme Being, which is often shown by their reaching out and above their idolatry, and by this light they may achieve their salvation. This much is acknowledged and held by even the most rigidly orthodox among representatives of Presbyterian churches. The child may not be able to express this knowledge in a way that we can comprehend, but that may be our ignorance and not the child's. It would be exceedingly hard to set up a standard by which to determine whether such knowledge existed or not.

"But such an experiment would not affect the child's future its salvation. The child would be safe. You know my position on this subject of infant damnation. And, indeed, we all hold that idiots, insane people, and all such afflicted persons are saved by God through Christ. If the child has no means of knowing God, and coming to Him through the revelation of the Scriptures, it will, of course, be saved. This is true of the heathen, who come to God through what light they possess.

"But I think it is cruel to keep this knowledge, or any knowledge of the good and beautiful, from the child. To keeping the best things in the world from it merely to gratify a curiosity, without any good to be gained. It is very good of these devoted people to teach and train the poor child as they are doing, but there is to me something pitiful in the idea of cutting it off, directly and indirectly, from the best and sweetest knowledge to be imparted. They do not see how they can develop its moral nature fully and leave out all they propose to, for all that is best in life is bound up with religion in one way or another, and of course there is a grave responsibility for keeping such knowledge and training from the child. Its future is not affected, its salvation not endangered, but its present life is dwarfed and robbed of what, under the peculiar circumstances, might be its brightest blessings."

Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home.

quoted the Rev. Dr. Robert Collyer, when asked what he thought of the experiment and whether he believed that every human being had an intuitive knowledge of God. "There is no need of any such experiment, for what they would seek to prove is certainly to my mind, as to many thousands of others, something that has amply and very often been demonstrated. There never was a time when a human being had no innate ideas. The germ of the idea of God is there; it exists in one form or another, and some day it will find expression. But how will these experimenters recognize the expression of the idea when it comes? It will depend altogether on what their ideas of what the attributes of God are, and conceptions of this nature vary very widely different indeed. I cannot see that any good can come of such an experiment. Nothing of value that will be accepted generally can be brought out.

"As to the effect on the child's future, it would have no effect whatever. The more pitiful the case the more pitying the Father in His love. Would the father of the child, because it was so cruelly afflicted, put it in the cellar? Such a question as to the child's future would not, and ought not to arise.

"The experiment can do no harm to the child's future, but it will to its present life, and I do not approve of it by any means. It is keeping from the child the best knowledge that could be imparted to it. Perhaps it would be best if its religious teachers would be apt to impart the kind of teaching that was given a hundred years or so ago; but they would not, and therefore I think the experiment unnecessary and unkind.

"It is an experiment of very doubtful value," said Dr. McChesney of Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church. "The means of communication with the child are so exceedingly limited that the teachers or friends will never be able to tell what the child thinks, but cannot express. Even those of us who have our faculties of expression developed in the highest degree are not able to convey to others even a faint suggestion of the swelling tides of emotions that surge through our souls.

"There are waves far off on the ocean
That never shall break on the beach,
And we oft hear songs in the silence
That never can echo in speech."

"How can they tell what the child may think, when it has such very imperfect methods of expressing its thoughts? The experiment can lead only to very doubtful conclusions. I believe every human being has innate ideas of God? Every human being at some time discerns between right and wrong, shows the possession of a moral sense, and is not this an attribute of the supreme being? How will they draw the line and determine what is an indication of intuitive knowledge of God?

"As to its effect on the child's salvation, we are responsible for what we are and what we know, not for what we are not and don't know. The child's future would be all right, but its present would be clouded by keeping from it such knowledge. I think the experiment has an element of cruelty in it. I do not see how genuine human instruction can be given to the child without in some way embracing moral training, and moral training in a sense embodies religious teaching."

Mr. Eugene M. Macdonald, the editor of the *Truth Seeker*, said:

"No man can tell where the idea of a deity comes from. It would be the most natural thing in the world for this girl to wonder who made her, and who made the water which she drank and the air which she breathed, and the probability is that she would come to the conclusion that there is a big man somewhere who can do more than her father or her mother. She would reason within herself that a big man controls everything that she cannot see, and might even picture to her mind's eye how he looked, and then she would be just as well off as other folks.

"I keep my own boy without religion, and do not allow any one to tell him about God or Sunday school yarns. I think it is a good thing to keep children without that knowledge. Not being orthodox, I cannot say what will become of the soul of the girl and her friends."

A Catholic clergyman connected with Mgr. Farley's church said:

"The parents and friends of this girl are wrong. They are endangering her chances of salvation. What is the value of the experiment when compared with the child's soul?"

"I do not doubt that she will have some ideas—imperfect ones, of course—about a superior being, and prove absolutely that nothing. The origin of ideas is from sensible things passing through a method of abstraction and becoming intellectual things. How, then, can a blind and deaf girl conceive definite ideas about anything?

"As to the girl's salvation, that would depend upon her sins. Although she may not have conceived sins in so many thoughts, yet she may have had thoughts which, even to her own instinctive notions, are wrong. If she were to die without a sin on her soul except, of course, the original sin of our first parents, the case reduces itself to one like that of infants dying without baptism. It is certain she could not go to where the saints are, there is no dispute, however, as to where she will go. Will she go to hell or is there a place specially for those who have committed no sin of their own? Her parents are sinning, and the value of the experiment is not sufficient to make up for the greatness of the sin. What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul? These words are peculiarly applicable to this case.

"As to the experiment itself, I do not believe that God will create in her mind any other knowledge than that derived from sensible things by the method of abstraction to which I have referred. That is the order of nature."

CATCHING A BADGER GANG.

They Had a Fly in Their Net and Were Preparing to Feast on Him.

Two victims of the badger game complained to Inspector Byrnes recently that they had been robbed. Detectives Grady, Vallelly and Hanley were set to catch the thieves. They watched two showily dressed women who paraded Broadway, and last night they found the gang's headquarters at 147 East Twenty-sixth street, and arrested all the operators.

Shortly after 7 o'clock last night a well-dressed man accompanied Jennie Jones into the house. The detectives who were watching the place arrested McCarthy, the lookout, as soon as the door closed on the Jones woman.

They waited ten minutes and then filed up the steps. Forcing the door to the apartments of the thieves, they turned up the gas and arrested four men and two women. All are notorious thieves and well known to the police.

The men were Tim Oates, William Ferguson, alias Billy Devere, Jack Walsh, Mike McCarthy, alias "Wreck" Donovan. The women were Jennie Jones, alias Alice Oates, and Annie Davis.

Oates was the leader of the gang. He is 41 years old, and has served several terms in prison for pocket picking and working the panel game. He was first arrested in this city in 1874, in company with his wife, under the alias of Addie Clark. Inspector Byrnes's book has his picture.

The detective found an ingeniously arranged suite of rooms for the operation of the game. The front and rear parlors were connected by a passage way six feet wide and eight feet long. Two closets with lace curtains in front were in the passage.

There was a bed in the back parlor and a lounge between the head of it and the entrance to the passage. These were the only articles of furniture in the room.

A door made to look like a folding door concealed the passage-way and in the closets behind this, men were concealed where they could easily reach the clothes of their victim and rifle them.

The man who had been entrapped by the Jones woman said his name was Charles Henry, and that he was a wealthy coffee merchant stopping at the Hoffman House. No one of that name is registered at the Hoffman.

While the detectives were leading their prisoners out of the house Annie Davis entered with another man. She was caught, but the man escaped.

The rooms were hired more than a month ago. He had a wash from a man named Kennedy. Henry says he will be on hand to prosecute this morning. Perhaps he will be.

Hardiker Missing, His Accounts Wrong.

DETROIT, Nov. 27.—George A. Hardiker, assistant freight agent of the Grand Trunk Railroad, went away a week ago. On the day following his departure his wife went to his office, but could learn nothing about him. The suspicions of the cashier were aroused and an overhauling of the books was started.

At first a shortage of $400 was discovered, but the amount has grown to $3,200, and the investigation is still in progress. Hardiker is 26 years old, and has been in the employ of the Grand Trunk Road for eight years.

The Game of "Innocence Abroad."

Play this jolly new game of travel.—Adv.

JUDGE KENNEDY'S THREATS.

HE SAYS HE MEANS TO HAVE THE VOTE IN ONONDAGA COUNTED RIGHT.

Inspectors and Canvassers Who Do Not Obey His Orders He Threatens With State Prison—He Sacrilegly Refers to Gov. Hill's Interference and Says He Will Not Stand Any Trifling.

SYRACUSE, Nov. 27.—Justice Kennedy declared from the bench to-day that the corrections necessary to be made in the returns of the election in the First Assembly district of Onondaga county to elect David A. Munro, Jr., Republican, must be made by 4 o'clock to-morrow afternoon. He is determined that the postponement granted by Gov. Hill in the case of County Clerk Cotton until Monday shall be taken advantage of. He does not agree with some other Republicans that County Clerk Cotton is to be left undisturbed in office by the Governor, but is sure that if Munro does not get a certificate to-morrow there will be a conflict of authority between the judicial and executive branches of the Government, the consequences of which cannot be foretold.

The mandamus issued by Justice Kennedy to compel the Canvassing Committee of the Board of County Canvassers to send back and have corrected the returns claimed to be erroneous was returnable to-day. To the surprise of everybody several of the election inspectors, to whom the returns were submitted, had defied the Court, and refused to add the "Jr." or insert the initial "A" to Monro's name in the returns. The number of refusals was sufficient to still leave Patrick J. Ryan, Democrat, with a majority on the face of the returns. When this report was made to Justice Kennedy on the appearance of the canvassers before him, he, too, was astonished. Counsel for Mr. Munro demanded that the Court compel the Canvassing Committee to reveal why the corrections had not been made.

"It is enough," said the Court, "that the corrections have not been made. The fact that the inspectors have refused to do the work after the mandate of this Court makes them guilty of a felony, punishable as a State's prison offence."

Then Justice Kennedy, "for the benefit of the inspectors and their friends," read the law bearing upon the duty of inspectors to make corrections of clerical errors. He recited the penalties in the case of inspectors making a false canvass of the votes or refusing to do anything required by the statute.

Mr. Marshall submitted that, so far as the Board of Canvassers were concerned, they had complied with all the provisions of the writ.

"They haven't complied with all the provisions of the writ," said Justice Kennedy.

"Well, so far as they could," said the counsel.

"I will say here," Justice Kennedy went on, "that at the next Oyer and Terminer I shall instruct the District Attorney to institute proceedings against these recusant inspectors for their omission of duty."

Counsel for the Republican candidates insisted that the report of the committee be made more in detail in order that the responsibility might be fixed on the district inspectors. To this the Court acquiesced, fixing 4 o'clock this afternoon as the hour for the Canvassing Committee to report. In granting the postponement Justice Kennedy said that he would stand no further trifling from anybody.

Louis Marshall, counsel for the canvassers, assured him that there was no intention of trifling on the part of the Board of Canvassers.

"I hope so," said the Justice.

At the appointed hour a report of the character desired was presented, which showed that the returns had not been brought back from the Third ward, from two districts of the Seventh ward, from two districts of the Ninth ward, and from the town of Salina. The returns had not been corrected in the Fourth and Sixth districts of the Third ward, in the First district of the Tenth ward, in the Third district of Elbridge, or in any of the Marcellus districts. This report was signed by the two Republican members of the committee, but not by Thomas J. Welsh, the Democrat, who, the Court was informed, instead of delivering his returns for correction to the inspectors in his ward, had kept them in his pocket ever since they were given to him.

"Where is the Sheriff?" asked Justice Kennedy, adding when that officer appeared: "Mr. Sheriff, have that man here at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning to show cause why he should not be punished for contempt."

The Justice then considered the report, and in a bold manner declared his intentions. He decided to issue mandamuses addressed to the inspectors of election who had not corrected the returns, requiring them to perform that duty before 4 P. M. to-morrow, when he said he would expect a final report. When it was intimated that perhaps all the inspectors could not be reached by that hour, Justice Kennedy said he would, nevertheless, expect it.

"I fear," he said, "that these inspectors have been advised to defy the Court by persons who ought to know better. The consequences will have to be suffered by the offenders, and there is to be no leniency shown."

The Justice delivered himself very forcibly on the necessity of preserving the integrity of the ballot. More than once, too, he paid his respects to Gov. Hill, though in language more temperate than that which he employed the other day. In extenuation of Mr. Welsh's neglect, the fact was mentioned that he had been obliged to go to Albany on the Governor's subpœna in the proceedings to remove the County Clerk.

"Yes," the Justice fairly sneered, "I understand a good many men have been subpœnaed to Albany since this proceeding began." Afterward he said: "To such men, whoever they may be, who attempts to trample down the ballot is doing something that means a great danger to the country."

Again he said: "I wish to repeat here what I have already said before, that I have not the least partisanship in this matter, as has been charged by high authority, but I intend that these votes shall be counted, and I intend that they shall be counted right. I have been greatly embarrassed throughout this proceeding, but I am glad to say that it is not often that high authorities interfere with the courts in the exercise of their judicial functions."

Whether the inspectors will be frightened by the Judge's threats remains to be seen. The Democrats are firm to-night and little alarmed by Justice Kennedy's attitude. They anxiously await Gov. Hill's action in the case of County Clerk Cotton and will be guided to some extent by that.

MRS. MAY WANTS HER DRESSES.

Her Silverware Returned After Seizure at the Custom House.

Seven trunks owned by Mr. F. de Courcy May of the Union Club and Mrs. May of Washington were seized on the Majestic on Wednesday, and yesterday were sent to the Appraiser's stores. Mr. May had declared that his baggage contained nothing dutiable.

Six of the seized trunks were found to be full of expensive clothing. The seventh contained silverware. On Mr. and Mrs. May's declaration that they had taken the silverware with them when they left this port for England and that it was manufactured in America, the seventh trunk was returned to them.

No further information could be obtained from the Custom House officials. At 5 o'clock yesterday Collector Hendricks, ex-Collector Fassett, and Surveyor Lyon were in consultation in the Collector's room, and it was said that they were considering Mrs. May's demand for the return of her dresses.

Democratic State Committee.

The Democratic State Committee will meet in the Hoffman House on Tuesday. A successor to Herman Oelrichs, who resigned from the National Committee, will be named. If Mr. William Steinway will fill the vacancy, the preference will probably be given him. Other names suggested are those of J. Edward Simmons and Daniel S. Lamont.

Burglars Rob a Catholic Cathedral.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 27.—Irreverent burglars entered the sacristy of the Roman Catholic cathedral here early this morning and went to work on the two safes there. They blew off the doors with dynamite. The most valuable articles they carried off were two ciboriums and one tabernacle, both of solid silver, and valued together at $1,000.

DRAGGED AT THE HORSES' TAILS.

Mr. Curtis's Coachman in a Furious Broadway Runaway.

A big pair of roadsters, a gray and a brown, drawing a light wagon, were frightened by a train passing overhead on the Fifty-third street link of the Sixth avenue elevated railroad and sprang into a wild race down Broadway at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Broadway, just above Fifty-first street, is clogged for half its width on the East side by building materials. The runaway team got into the chute that is left open. Just ahead of them and going in the same direction was a heavy grocery wagon, whose driver did not appear to hear the hubbub. His horse ambled along nearly to the lower corner of Fifty-first street, right in the path of the runaways.

An old man was driving the gray and brown team, and a youth sat beside him. A trace shook loose. It struck the legs of the near horse and he sprang away from it, over the carriage pole. The pole broke, the wagon swung partly around, and its hind wheel caught into the hind wheel of the grocery wagon. The grocer's quiet horse went down, his wagon was driven over him, and the two wagons reared up behind until they were almost on end. The young man flew into the air and fell on the pavement. The light wagon broke in two. As the horses tore away with the front part of the wreck in tow, the driver's seat turned over backward.

The old driver fell with it, but he kept his hold on the reins and talked to the horses as they dashed away. They swung him from side to side, now against the curbstone and again into the middle of the street, for nearly a block, rolling him over and over. Finally he struck a stone and lost his grip.

He was unconscious when he was picked up and covered with blood. The youth who had been thrown out at first looked at him and fainted.

The driver was Christian Carlisle. He is coachman for George N. Curtis of 16 West Fifty-third street, and has been this twenty years. Mr. Curtis is one of the family who grew rich making and selling Mrs. Winslow's soothing syrup. The youth was Mr. Curtis's youngest son, George W. Curtis.

Mr. Curtis was about to buy a new team, and the gray and brown had been sent around for them to try. Carlisle was sent to Roosevelt Hospital. The doctors there found nine scalp wounds, big and little, around his head, but his skull was all right, and they let him go home after sewing and plastering him up. Young Mr. Curtis was not seriously hurt.

A FARMER'S WIFE MURDERED.

Found by Her Husband with a Rope About Her Neck—A Workman Suspected.

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, Nov. 27.—Mrs. Charles T. Leonard, 35 years old, the wife of a well-known farmer, was murdered to-day. A farm hand known as Louis Hariot, a native of Lorraine, is suspected. He is described as six feet tall, of dark complexion, with gray eyes, and about 21 years old. The motive for the crime has not been discovered.

Mr. Leonard was away from home, and the children missed their mother. On the return of the father a search was made which resulted in the finding of Mrs. Leonard's body. There was a rope around the woman's neck with which she had evidently been strangled and the side of her head was crushed in. It is reported that Harriot was seen in the neighborhood by several persons, with his clothes bespattered with blood. He has disappeared, but the police expect to apprehend him without delay.

Free Trade With Hawaii.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—Dr. Mott Smith, a member of the Cabinet of the Queen of the Hawaiian Islands, who was sent to Washington some time ago to secure modifications of the reciprocity treaty between Hawaii and this Government, has concluded his work. His efforts have resulted in the negotiation of an entirely new treaty, which provides for absolute free trade between the two Governments in the products and manufactures of both countries.

The treaty has been signed by Dr. Smith and by the representatives of the United States,