SHE SHOCKED BROOKLYN.

MISS BUNKER'S LITTLE DANCE IN SHORT SKIRTS.

She Gave It Unexpectedly at a Performance of the Florence Dramatic Society and Got No Applause—A Meeting to Consider the Crisis Which She Brought On in the Society's Affairs and a Statement by the President—Miss Bunker Is Ill.

Among the twelve or more amateur dramatic associations in Brooklyn there is no more staid organization than the Florence Dramatic Society. This organization is made up almost entirely of residents of that section of Brooklyn known as the Hill, and it has among its members many men and women who have been identified with amateur theatricals for years and are known as favoring only performances of the most dignified sort. As a result of this policy the Florence always has been regarded as a correct body of young people, and its performances are more like big family parties than theatrical business. Never has such a thing as a questionable joke, a suggestive costume, or an improper dance been allowed to mar one of their performances; in fact, dancing has been tabooed entirely, and it was an unknown feature of a Florence play until the last performance, which took place a week ago yesterday. Then a dance was interpolated. That dance shocked the older members of the society so that they threaten to resign unless some immediate steps be taken to atone for it. The younger members also are in a great state of excitement over the matter, while the young woman who was the cause of it all is ill at her home.

The most thoroughly shocked members of the Florence admit that there was nothing in the young woman's dance or costume that would cause criticism had she been a professional, or even a member of any other of Brooklyn's amateur societies, but that a Florence girl should display her nether limbs in a Florence play, before an audience of Florence members and their friends, was more than they could stand. Such a thing was absolutely without precedent in the history of the society, and the sooner some assurance that it would not occur again was forthcoming from the dramatic committee, they said, the better it would be for all concerned. The queerest part of the whole thing is that the dramatic committee, as well as the other actors and actresses in the piece, were ignorant of the young woman's intention of dancing in skirts that barely reached her knees, and their amazement when she bounced lightly out on the stage was second only to that of the audience itself.

The young woman who is responsible for all of the discussion is Miss Louise Bunker, for two seasons a member of the Florence's dramatic corp. Miss Bunker is young, pretty, and vivacious. She can act well and dance better, and it always has been a matter of regret to her that the Florence would not give a play in which a dance might be interpolated. Miss Bunker pined for a chance to exploit her ability in this line before an audience of her friends, but never until two weeks ago did the opportunity present itself. It was at this time that the Dramatic Committee electrified the members by announcing that they had concluded to present a farce at the next performance. It was to be a harmless little skit called "In Answer to ——?" and when it was suggested that a few little specialties be introduced in the last act Miss Bunker lost no time in seizing one for a dance. It would be so amusing, she said, to put a little negro dance in and surprise the audience. Some dear old plantation shuffle, executed with the feet hardly leaving the floor at all, she said, and danced to the accompaniment of a Southern negro melody. The Dramatic Committee thought it over and concluded that it was not a bad idea, and Miss Bunker was told to go ahead and arrange for the dance, which she did. Now, Miss Bunker also had a part in the farce, and so did William L. Hopkins. He was *J. Spitzka Gibbs*, a medical student, and she was *Marie*, a member of a school of actors. Miss Bunker and Mr. Hopkins were thrown together a great deal during the play, and the young woman thought it would not be a bad idea to get Mr. Hopkins to help her out with her plantation dance. So she invited him to rehearse it with her. He did so. Now, these dancing rehearsals were never held at the regular rehearsals of the farce, and consequently no member of the cast had any idea of what the dance was like.

On the night of the performance, the Criterion Theatre in Brooklyn was packed to the doors with the enthusiastic crowd, which always attends Florence performances. The farce ran smoothly, and the audience was in fine humor when the curtain went up on the last act. It was right here that it had been arranged to bring in the specialties, and the usual excuse for their appearance, at such an inopportune moment, was forthcoming. Several young men had advertised for young women to come to a school of acting, and all the members of the cast were seated on the stage waiting for the appearance of Hopkins and Miss Bunker, who were to come in response to the advertisement and go through their dance in order to show the manager of the school how much ability they had. Now it happened that Miss Bunker had been on the stage up to a few moments before this time, and as she knew she would have to make a quick change she had put on her dancing costume underneath her other dress. When she left the stage she made a rush for her dressing room, slipped off the outer gown, mussed up her hair to make herself look more like a colored girl, and then rushed out again. She made a signal to Mr. Hopkins, who stood in the wings at the other side, and went flouncing out on the stage just as the orchestra, with a smash and a bang, burst out into a rollicking negro song. A few people began to applaud, but they stopped almost instantly and rubbed their eyes to make sure they saw aright. When it was seen that there was no mistake there was a buzz of conversation in the house, and people began to look worried and nervous. And the cause was Miss Bunker's costume. There was nothing especially daring about it, in fact, on the professional stage it would have been regarded as modest, but it was not what had been expected and the audience was shocked beyond measure. It consisted of a brilliant red dress, cut in Mother Hubbard style, and reaching just to the knees. Underneath was another layer of ruffy skirts of lace and linen. Miss Bunker's legs were encased in black silk stockings, and her feet were shod with the daintiest of patent leather shoes. The young woman had not had time to blacken up her face, but both she and Hopkins carried black masks, which they held before their faces. Miss Bunker did not keep her mask in front of her face more than half the time, and while it was up she kept peeking out from behind it in merry fashion. She seemed totally unconscious of the sensation she had created and danced with tremendous energy. The modest plantation shuffle developed into a rollicking wing dance, and the young woman's abbreviated skirts fluttered about wildly. Hopkins saw in a minute that the dance wasn't going to be popular, but he kept right on dancing with Miss Bunker and the music.

Meantime the audience was recovering from its shock and beginning to get indignant. C. F. Nicholson, the Chairman of the Dramatic Committee, was standing in front with a friend, and when he saw what a terrible effect the costume and dance had on the audience he wanted to go right back and ring down the curtain. His companion grabbed him and begged him not to do so, as the play was almost over and it would only make a scandal, and so he stayed. There were other members of the Dramatic Committee who were in favor of interfering, but they were prevailed upon not to do so, and Miss Bunker and Mr. Hopkins were permitted to finish their dance undisturbed. They did it in the same rollicking style that they had assumed from the first. Miss Bunker winded up with an audacious swish of her skirts, which made a young man in the front row forget the sentiment of those around him and applaud. It was the only applause that the dancers got.

The rest of the play was finished amid an ominous and unbroken silence, and when the curtain went down and the audience filed out everybody was talking of Miss Bunker, her costume, and her dance. The Hill People haven't done much since but talk about the matter, and the result was the following letter to members from the President on Monday:

To Members:

It is a matter of regret to the officers of the society that the production of the farce on Thursday evening last has occasioned such wide criticism on the part of the members and their friends. For the purpose of investigation a special meeting has been called of the officers and Dramatic Committee for Thursday evening, Dec. 26, at 8 o'clock, at the residence of the President. The members are assured that the prestige of the society will be maintained and the future productions will be such as to merit their approbation.

FRANK SITTIG, President.

About twenty members of the Florence gathered at Mr. Sittig's house last night and talked the matter over a bit, but they declined to say to a reporter whether they had decided to act upon the matter. Vice-President Frederick Johnson said that there was nothing immodest in Miss Bunker's costume, in his opinion, but that it was regarded as unfortunate by members of the Florence that some of their girls should wear short skirts at all. Other members who were seen were unanimous in their defence of Miss Bunker, who, they said, had simply made a mistake in choosing short skirts for her dance. She did it unthinkingly, they said, and was under the impression that it would make the dance more effective. It was an unfortunate error, they said, and one that never would occur again at a Florence performance.

PEOPLE OF THE STAGE.

What Some of the Playwrights and Actors Are Doing for Our Amusement.

Richard Golden has written a drama about Benedict Arnold, and it will be acted at the Fifth Avenue Theatre this afternoon for the benefit of St. Mary's Hospital for Children. Anthony Hope's play for John Drew, "A Man in Love," has had a single performance at Providence to test its merits, which are declared to have proved satisfactory, and it now will be put aside until the actor's next season. The hero is a United States naval officer in London, and a factor in the story is a camera which photographs a villain's act of cheating at cards. Sydney Rosenfeld has written a farcical piece called "A Divorce Colony" for the American Theatre syndicate, and perhaps the Holland Brothers will appear in it. Mr. Rosenfeld's "A House of Cards," owned by N. C. Goodwin, is likely to be produced by A. M. Palmer, owing to the fact that Mr. Goodwin will need nothing else than "Ambition" this season. Mr. Goodwin is considering a Don Quixote play by J. I. C. Clarke. Denman Thompson's forthcoming play is entitled "The Sunshine in the Alley." A farce called "The Sunshine of Paradise Alley" is already on the stage. William A. Brady has perfected the copyright of a piece named "The Flowery Boy," but it is doubtful if he could prevent the use of the same title for a work in no other respect resembling his. William Gillette is rewriting his "Secret Service" for Charles Frohman, who also has a piece coming from Henry Guy Carleton. Mrs. Marino, a Southern authoress, having once put the curfew bell into a drama, fancies that she has a grievance against David Belasco because he introduced the same idea into "The Heart of Maryland." Oscar Hammerstein has put his own ballet-operetta, "Marguerite," into rehearsal at the Olympia, under strict guard against observers. The pantomimic and musical "Salome," by Charles H. Meltzer, which was a discussed novelty in Paris with Loie Fuller's spectacular dances as a feature, is to be brought to America with Loie's sister Ida in it. Sardou's newest play, "Marcelle," is a failure in Paris, and so is Wilson Barrett's "The Manxman" in London.

Among this week's experiments of which generally favorable accounts are received are "Chimmie Fadden," in which Charles Hopper impersonated the title character at Middletown; "Gentleman Joe," the London burlesque in which M. B. Curtis took the leading part at Newark, and "The Speculator," in which Thomas Seabrooke was the chief comedian at Albany. The original French story of "Carmen" is not protected in this country by copyright, and one of the first results of Olga Nethersole's use of a new version was the hasty production at New Rochelle of a dramatization by William Mestayer.

The latest Parisian indecency of the stage is "Fin de Siècle," an obscene burlesque "review," at which a notorious French beauty is displayed, and foul songs and dances are given. One scene presents the heroine as a bankrupt through unfortunate speculation in African stocks, and as "worth nothing but what she has on," that consisting simply of a chemise.

Edwin Stevens goes into the Daly company for "The Two Escutcheons." Bettina Girard is to be in "The Lady Slavey." Olive May-Carleton is to return to the stage in her husband's next play. Gladys Wallis will try again with a tour in a French piece freely adapted by Clinton Stuart. George Robinson, an ailing actor, will have a benefit at the Garrick week after next. Odette Tyler intends to go starring in "The Councillor's Wife." Col. Robert G. Ingersoll is on the stage Sunday nights as an agnostic lecturer, and, as the theatres are usually crowded to hear him, he is getting rich at it. Anna and Margaret Robinson, known separately in Frohman casts, and who look alike, though one's talents are serious and the other's jovial, are to join Mr. Crane to play twin society girls in "The Governor of Kentucky." Meredith Stanley, who was employed not only to perform a leaping feat in a cheap melodrama, but also to advertise it by a drop from the roof of the theatre into a net held by men in the street, was badly injured by the fall in St. Louis. Mrs. Kendal told an English audience that while in this country she made no speeches in front of the curtain, leaving all that to her husband, but over here she is remembered as a frequent and fluent orator.

Alexander Herrmann sends to THE SUN the assertion that when travelling in Europe immediately after the Franco-German war he was often rapturously kissed by persons who mistook him for Napoleon III., so great was his resemblance to the exiled Emperor. Marie Studholme, the superlative beauty of "An Artist's Model," imparts the information that she has already received one offer of marriage from an infatuated American millionaire. Tim Murphy wishes it published that he has had to decline the proffered services of distinguished dramatists who asked to write a play for him, because he is so enduringly successful in "A Texas Steer." Richard Mansfield declares that he has already contracted for seventy nights next season at $1,000 each, and that the small Garrick Theatre once held an audience for him big enough to yield $1,500. Helena Modjeska asserts that the Emperor of Russia is secretly sorry for his edict excluding her from his domain, and would revoke it if that were politically possible. Fay Templeton sends out the news that her weight has increased to 110 pounds, which is ten more than the contract with her manager permits, and she has therefore gone on an anti-fat diet. Frank Daniels offers to THE SUN an account of his white rats in "The Wizard of the Nile" having had a fight with a lot of the ordinary rats of the theatre. Mr. Daniels also contributes this absorbing bit of autobiography: "At the Christmas matinée there was a novelty in the funny egg trick. The egg did not appear in the King's extended lips. He went through all the contortions, but the curtain fell without the trick being completed. Then the actor dropped to the floor, choking until he was black in the face. He had swallowed the egg! The unlucky King was carried to his dressing room, and the obstacle removed from his throat, but he will be more careful in the future."

GIRL IN BOY'S RIG AT THE SHOW.

Her Sex Was Discovered and Two Casino Orchestra Chairs Were Vacated.

In the second row of the orchestra seats in the Casino sat two young persons in cutaway suits, with white scarfs and tan gloves, and they sat a little closer together than the arrangement of the seats necessitated. The elder wore a moustache and small "sideburns," and seemed to be about 30 years old. His companion was short and slender, with big eyes and a mass of short, curly hair. He appeared to be a youth of seventeen or eighteen, and he drew considerable attention from the women near by because of his personal attractions.

At the end of the first act the boy was suddenly taken ill, and hurried up the aisle none too steadily, followed by his companion. It looked like a case of "first jag." The youngster got to the water cooler, where he leaned against the wall, asking faintly for a glass of water. This braced him up, and he and the others were about to return to their seats when the head usher stopped them.

"You can't go back there," he said.

"Why not?" demanded the elder, while the other shrunk away.

"Because you have a girl in man's clothes there," replied the usher. "We don't allow that here."

"I've paid for those seats, and I propose——"

"Do you want me to call a policeman?" asked the usher quietly.

At this the supposed boy broke down and, burying her face in her hands, began to cry, begging her escort to take her away.

"You've got us this time," said the man. "I'll take her away; but if she hadn't got faint no one would have known. It was only a foolish bet, any way."

They broke through the crowd that had gathered around, jumped into a cab and drove away.

SUES MISS NETHERSOLE.

Estella Jordan Hears that Her Play, "Carmen," Has Been Imitated.

Estella Jordan, through her attorney, Robert P. Noah, has obtained from Judge Beekman an order directing Olga Nethersole and Charles and Daniel Frohman to show cause why they should not be enjoined from producing a play called "Carmen," or any colorable imitation thereof. Miss Jordan says she is the author of a play called "Carmen," which was copyrighted by her on Nov. 3, 1894, and which was played in New Rochelle on Dec. 19 last. She says that she is informed that the defendants are about to produce an imitation of that play. Miss Nethersole says that while the names may be similar, the plays are not alike, and that her version was written by Henry Hamilton of London. The order was made returnable to-day.

Cop Didn't Report a Dead Horse.

Commissioner Roosevelt tried seventy-six delinquent policemen yesterday. Among them was Patrolman Edward J. Shoemaker of West 125th street, who failed to report that there was a dead horse on his post. These reports are required in order that the contractors who remove dead animals may be quickly notified.

The Bluff Point House Burned.

The Bluff Point House at Fort Lee, N. J., caught fire at about 9 o'clock last evening, and within an hour was burned to the ground. The house was empty, and the origin of the fire is unknown. J. Fletcher Burdette, the owner, estimates his loss at about $10,000.

STREET SKIRT DANCING.

GIRLS FOLLOWING HAND ORGANS OBJECTED TO.

Two Clergymen Declare that Their Dancing is Often Indecent, as Well as Street Obstructing—Police to Stop This.

Chief Conlin made public yesterday some of the letters he had received complaining of girls obstructing the streets by dancing around hand organs. One of the letters read:

"Referring to the interview which you kindly gave me on Tuesday, Dec. 16, I beg leave to submit to your earnest consideration the following matter: Of late there has been a marked tendency on the part of young children and girls under the age of 15 years to indulge in street dancing, fostered by licensed piano organ grinders. Respecting the practice I would beg to present the following objections:

"First—Sidewalks are at times so completely obstructed that pedestrians are compelled to pass by on the other side.

"Second—When sidewalks are filled to overflowing, streets are also blocked, so that there is danger of accident from passing vehicles.

"Third—These performances or skirt dances are considered to be highly demoralizing to the participants and the crowds of idle spectators drawn by them.

"Fourth—The companies thus collected will follow the music from block to block, and with their noise and attraction become a public nuisance.

"Fifth—Children are in this way induced to become truants to parents and teachers.

"Sixth—The organ grinders have been seen instructing young children in these dances.

"Thanking you once more for your readiness to examine this matter, I remain, very respectfully, J. ERICH HERRMANN,

"Pastor German Moravian Church."

Another letter is as follows:

"I wonder if the street dancing in the offensive form which it has assumed within the past few months has been brought to the attention of your Board. The waltzing, which was the feature of the dancing in the summer, has given way to the skirt dance, with the disgusting and demoralizing tendencies connected with it. Many times the sidewalks are blocked so that people have to walk in the streets. I understand that Mayor Strong says that the whol matter lies in the power of the Police Department, which is my apology for troubling you with this matter.

"I do not know where the remedy lies, but that it is a menace to the morals of the east side children there can be no possible doubt.

"JOHN R. DEVINS, Hope Chapel."

On the back of one of the letters is a statement by Chief Conlin, which will be submitted to the Board of Police to-morrow, as follows:

"While I see no harm in children innocently amusing themselves by dancing on the sidewalk, if, as the writer claims, the sidewalks are blocked to the inconvenience of the public, and the dancing has assumed a condition that is both immoral and demoralizing, means will be taken to prevent such indecent exhibitions and annoyance to the public."

President Roosevelt had this to say about the matter:

"Of course the Board of Police will not interfere with children dancing in the streets to the music of hand organs unless the dances are improper or unless an undue crowd collects."

Chief Conlin, fearing that some of the police had misunderstood his order about children dancing in the street, issued later the following order to all Captains:

"You will instruct the members of your command that the telegraph order of the 23d inst., relative to dancing on the sidewalks by young girls, &c., has reference only to cases in which the public streets and sidewalks are obstructed, dancing of a disorderly or indecent character, or the laws or ordinances are in any other way violated."

NO SEPARATION FOR THE SIMONS.

They Don't Have to Live Together, but the Legal Home is Simon's House.

Judge Gildersleeve has dismissed the action brought by Sigmund Simon against his wife, Jennie, for a separation on the ground of abandonment. The counter claim of Mrs. Simon for a separation on the charge of abandonment was also dismissed. This is the couple that quarrelled over the dismissal by the husband of the wife's French maid. Mrs. Simon left her husband and went to the home of her father, Michael Sampter, a millionaire. She would not come back except on an understanding that she was to be supreme in domestic affairs. Judge Gildersleeve says that the testimony discloses no desire on the part of the wife to consort with her husband again. The husband, he says, is equally anxious for a separation, and the whole dispute seems to have resulted in itself into a fight for the custody of the two children. He holds that the conduct of Mr. Simon in discharging his wife's French maid and his refusal to agree to her wishes as to the reception of his relatives warranted Mrs. Simon in temporarily leaving their home for her father's house. But the evidence fails to establish valid grounds for granting her a legal separation.

"We must," he concludes, "leave the case here without disposing of the vital issue in this action, namely, the custody of the children. We are not disposed to shirk or avoid that issue, but consider that it arises only as incidental to a decree of separation, and that in view of the conclusion reached we are without jurisdiction in the matter. We have given the most thorough, honest, and earnest consideration, and deeply regret we are unable to so dispose of it as to settle the differences between this unhappy couple."

MR. QUIGG'S AID INVOKED.

Collector Kilbreth Says He's the Man to Get Money for Custom House Repairs.

Collector Kilbreth would like to see Representative Lemuel Ely Quigg of the Fourteenth New York district the next time Mr. Quigg comes over from Washington. The Collector wishes that Mr. Quigg would take up the effort to secure an appropriation to renovate the New York Custom House in Wall street. An appropriation of $500,000, the Collector said, would do this. Then, also, an appropriation is required to complete the new appraiser's stores in Laight street.

Collector Kilbreth said that in his estimation Representative Quigg was the man to undertake this task. Certainly, he added, Mr. Quigg could rely upon the support of Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Cummings, but Mr. Quigg, being the foremost Republican Congressman from New York city, was the man to start the ball a-rolling, particularly as he is on good terms with Speaker Reed and the Republican majority in the House of Representatives.

"Every man in public life who visits this building," said Mr. Kilbreth, "pronounces it to be unfit for occupancy and a disgrace to the Federal service. In this building seventy per cent. of the customs revenue of the country is collected, and yet it is the most difficult thing to obtain an appropriation sufficient to make the building fit to do business in. I believe that if Congressman Quigg would take up this matter he could benefit New York, and that our importers and merchants would be grateful to him."

SUES THE TROLLEY FOR $40,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Newburger Want Indemnity for Their Smash-up.

The trial of a suit brought by Jacob S. Newburger and his wife, Ruth, to recover $40,000 from the Consolidated Traction Company, was begun yesterday afternoon in the Supreme Circuit Court in Jersey City before Justice Lippincott and a jury. Mr. Newburger took his wife out for a drive on Dec. 16, 1894. In Ocean avenue, near Bidwell avenue, he was obliged to turn into the tracks because the street had been torn up.

As he was about to turn back to the roadway a trolley car came along behind him and crashed into the buggy. Mr. Newburger and his wife were thrown to the pavement, the buggy was wrecked, and the horse was injured. Mrs. Newburger's right leg was cut badly, her head and face were bruised and lacerated, and she received internal injuries from which she has not recovered. She has been unable to leave the house since the accident. Mr. Newburger was cut about the head and body and one wrist was broken. The case was still on when the court adjourned.

Notice: Shovel the Snow Off Your Sidewalk.

The law requires property owners to clear their walks of snow and ice within six hours after a snowfall. If it is not done the Commissioner of Public Works is empowered to do the work and the expense constitutes a lien on the property collectable in the shape of taxes. Commissioner of Public Works Collis announced yesterday that he intended to enforce this law to the letter this winter.

Churches, which pay no taxes, are among the principal offenders.

A Brooklyn Petition for Sunday Shaves.

The Brooklyn Boss Barbers' Association has put into every barber shop a petition which will be presented to the Legislature, requesting that Brooklyn be placed on the same footing with this city and Saratoga as regards Sunday shaving. The Rev. Sylvester Malone, Regent of the State University and pastor of the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul in Wythe avenue, has signed the petition.

GARDENING ON SHIPBOARD.

Two Crops of "Sass" Raised While Sailing from Ireland to Oregon.

From the Morning Oregonian.

Most people have heard of the hanging gardens of Babylon, the modern roof gardens, and the gardens on floating islands in which vegetables used to be grown for the citizens of ancient Mexico; but probably few have heard of a garden on board a ship, with farmyard attachment. The splendid ship Mowhan, now in port, and the largest vessel which has ever been here, had such an arrangement on board during her trip to Oregon.

On leaving Belfast for Portland, she took on board as ballast 2,000 tons of Irish soil, which when levelled off, made quite a stretch of ground, and, as the soil of Ireland is proverbially fertile, the ship's company proceeded to put it to good use by planting a stock of garden truck in it—cabbages, leeks, turnips, radishes, lettuce, peas, beans, &c. The seeds came up all right, and the plants flourished finely, and, when the ship was in the tropics, grew with great rapidity. As they progressed toward the Horn, and the weather grew cooler, things came to perfection rapidly. The crew and ship's apprentices amused themselves by weeding and cultivating the plants, and the Captain and officers took regular walks in the garden daily, and all had green vegetables to their hearts' content.

As they came around the Horn, the garden was replanted, and by the time they reached the equator everything was abloom, and all hands feasted on fresh vegetables daily. The only drawbacks to the garden were the weeds, which grew so rapidly that they could hardly be kept down, and the drove of pigs, which were kept in the farmyard attachment, and which, on several occasions, when the ship was bucking into a nor'easter and rolling heavily, broke out of the bounds and made serious inroads on the garden. It is a serious matter to call all hands on board ship, and is only done in emergencies; but when the pigs got into the garden there was mor pounding on forecastle scuttles with handspikes and blowing of boatswains' whistles than if the ship had been laid aback by a typhoon or all the masts had been carried away, and every sleeper was aroused to help get the pigs out of the garden.

The last pig was killed and served up with green vegetables just before the Mowhan entered the Columbia. On the arrival of the Mowhan here, the Irish soil was discharged on the elevator company's dock and piled up neatly so that any exiled patriot who desires a bit of the "ould sod" can be accommodated. The pile will doubtless be covered with shamrocks in the spring and will furnish boutonnières for a whole St. Patrick's day procession. Doubtless many a sack of it will be carried off to fill flower pots, &c. Although it comes from the "black north," it is still the real "ould sod."

PROOF AGAINST VOLLEYS.

The Remarkable Case of a Prisoner Condemned to Death in Mexico.

From the San Francisco Examiner.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 17.—The remarkable case of a patient in the San Pablo Hospital is attracting attention all over the republic. The man was condemned to death some weeks ago in the State of Guanajuato for stealing a large can of kerosene oil. Why so severe a penalty was imposed for so trifling an offence is not stated.

When the day of execution arrived he was led out into the suburbs and placed before a brick wall. A squad of State troops was stationed a few paces off. At the word "Fire!" they poured a volley into the poor unfortunate. Then two soldiers advanced until they were standing just over his prostrate figure, and in this position with their revolvers they tried to fire more bullets into the man's brain.

The soldiers returned to the garrison, leaving the body to be called for by the prison wagon. When they were well out of sight the man who had been shot struggled to his feet and, gaining strength from fear, fled. He turned his face toward this city and tramped on and on through his long journey until he reached the capital. Here he was admitted to the San Pablo Hospital, where he finally told his story.

The narrative was corroborated by three rifle bullets in his body and by a pistol bullet in the skull. It was further substantiated by a claim made by the authorities of Guanajuato to have their ex-prisoner restored to them, that they might make another effort to vindicate the dignity of the law. The prisoner himself pleads to be kept in the capital. He contends that his health has been so impaired of late that his constitution would not support another execution. He argues, moreover, that though he may be getting well again in Mexico city, as far as Guanajuato is concerned he is to all intents and purposes dead.

The public appears to concur with the strange patient in his views.

ELOPED FROM HER COFFIN.

Parental Objections Thwarted in a Most Remarkable Way.

From the Bismarck Tribune.

Good material for a novel may be found in a tale which comes from Hope, Stelle county, this State.

Miss Ellen Norman, living near there, was engaged to be married to George Thompson, a prosperous young farmer, but her parents were strongly opposed to the match. In October, 1894, the girl was taken ill; Oct. 24 she died, at least the doctors pronounced her dead, after subjecting her to numerous tests. The funeral was set for Oct. 25. The body was kept over night in the Norman house. The only watcher was Mr. Thompson, who declared that he was not afraid of the disease, whatever it was. It was due to his watching that the young woman is alive day. Thompson removed the lid of the coffin in order to gaze once more upon the face of his fiancée. He was startled to see the chest of the body in the casket rise and fall in a spasmodic way, as though the girl was gasping for breath. He wrapped the rigid form in a blanket, carried it to his house, returned to the Norman home, made up a dummy, and closed the coffin. This was buried. After Miss Norman had been carried to the Thompson residence and a doctor had worked over her for several hours it became evident that she was simply in a trance. She remained in this condition for days. As she became stronger all was explained to her.

About the middle of December Miss Norman was spirited away from Hope by Dr. Mullan and Mr. Thompson, and since that time she has been travelling in the South and West, where she has fully recovered her health. The other day she returned to Hope as the bride of Thompson, the old folks were amprised of her being alive, the fatted calf and several other farm animals were killed, and they will doubtless live happily ever afterward.

MR. BRIGGS'S LOST CAT.

It Is an Animal with a Past, and He Is Making an Effort to Recover It.

From the San Francisco Post.

Frank Briggs, North Dakota's popular Auditor, has lost his cat. Mr. Briggs and family feel the loss keenly; it had been in the family for forty-two years, having been a present to Mr. Briggs's father when a kitten.

It was originally a white cat, but since living in Mandan it changed color every time the house was painted, and at the time of its disappearance was yellow with white trimmings. It wore side whiskers and sandburrs in its black hair, with a changeable tail. A big scar adorns one leg, which it got in the civil war the night it slept in the cannon. There was either some misunderstanding about the time of starting the cannon or the cat oversleptt, and it struck a tree three miles in the country and was lame for a week. It has always borne a good character, was amiable, modest, and always seemed satisfied with Mandan mice or meat market liver. Two years ago it fell in with a bad dog and lost some of the expression on its left side, but no one ever blamed the cat in the matter and the dog didn't live long enough to be blamed.

When Mr. Briggs moved from Mandan to Bismarck a few weeks ago he carried the furniture and Mrs. Briggs carried the cat in a large basket; everything went well until the bottom dropped out of the basket, and the cat hastened away and has not been seen since. Mr. Briggs's friends are doing everything in their power to assist him in recovering the cat. His office hours for inspecting stray cats are from two to four; they are brought and sent to him from all parts of North and South Dakota and he has opened up a branch office in Montana, the manager of which is now confined to his room from too close inspection of a wildcat brought in by a cowboy.

FROZEN TO THE IRON RAIL.

A Wildcat Found Strangely Entrapped in Montana.

From the Anaconda Standard.

What is by long odds the best hunting story of the season comes from St. Regis, and the section foreman, Nels Thompson, who looks after the Stark track at that place, is the hero. It is probably the first case of its kind on record and establishes an interesting precedent in the killing of wildcats.

Last Thursday morning as Thompson and his gang of Scandinavians were pushing their handcar along the track on their way to their work, which that day was along the clay bluffs east of St. Regis, they were startled by the angry snarling of a wildcat ahead of them. They slowed up the car as they rounded the bluff, and a strange sight greeted their eyes. The morning was bitterly cold and a fringe of ice bordered the banks of the St. Regis River, which rushed along just below the track. Broken ice and a wet trail up the bank showed that the cat had swum through the icy stream and established his present predicament. For he certainly was in the gravest predicament in which ever a wildcat found himself. He was fastened firmly to one of the steel rails by one forefoot.

The supposition is that the cat had come through the river and leapt up the track embankment. His last jump brought one of his wet forefeet upon the rail, and it froze to the steel. There he was, held as fast as if in the jaws of a trap. The ground showed that he had struggled to free himself, but his efforts had been in vain.

A blow from a crowbar cracked his skull and the victim of cold water was dead. It required a strong pull to detach the frozen foot from the rail, and when it did come, patches of skin and

FIFTH AVENUE TRACTION.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE RECEIVER'S SALE OF THE STAGE LINE.

Two Rival Railroad Companies Said to Be Interested—All the Old Six-day Stage Horses Died on the Purchasers' Hands.

That a franchise for transportation of passengers on Fifth avenue is an object of interest to both the Third Avenue Railroad Company and the Metropolitan Traction Company was intimated yesterday in the Supreme Court before Judge Beekman. Hoadly, Lauterbach & Johnson, representing Isaac and Louis Stern, stockholders in the late Elliott F. Shepard's Fifth avenue stage line, asked Judge Beekman to set aside the receiver's sale of the assets of the Fifth Avenue Transportation Company, which were sold some months ago for $10,000, the buyers, Ward Campbell and others, assuming liabilities amounting to $30,000 more. The Sterns say that the amount received was insufficient, that the sale was not sufficiently advertised, and that there should have been an adjournment of three weeks.

William G. Peckham opposed the motion. He intimated that the presence of Mr. Lauterbach in the case showed an interest of the Third Avenue Traction Company, and the other side made vague allusions to the Metropolitan Traction. Mr. Peckham said that there should have been no adjournment at the time of the sale, and that the rule applying to perishable freight, namely, immediate sale, should hold good with Fifth avenue stage horses, for all of the horses had died on the purchasers' hands since the sale.

Mr. Peckham also said that the Sabbath would be maintained better by leaving matters as they were, and that Fifth avenue would be preserved. He said that Mr. Shepard had expended $300,000 on this company to maintain the Sabbath, and for the comfort and convenience of his neighbors in Fifth avenue. Mr. Peckham said that as far as their pockets would stand it the present purchasers intended to follow along the lines laid down by Mr. Shepard. Decision reserved.

SMITH INFIRMARY TROUBLES.

Superintendent Resigns Because She Was Not Popular.

Miss Marie S. Selmer, for two years superintendent of the Smith Infirmary, New Brighton, S. I., has resigned her place as a result of disagreement ith her nurses and the hospital trustees. The trustees say her resignation is voluntary, but Miss Selmer and her friends declare she was compelled to resign.

Miss Selmer, a Swede, went to the hospital as superintendent over a year ago. Six months ago it was found that the duties of housekeeper, which had been coupled with her other labors, were too onerous for her, and a Miss Smillie was made housekeeper. Soon Miss Smillie began to complain that Miss Selmer interfered with her work. The trustees decided to let Miss Smillie go, since she had been engaged temporarily only, and Miss Selmer's capabilities were unquestioned. When Miss Smillie left, her sister, Miss Elizabeth Smillie, who was head nurse, resigned, too, voluntarily. Then the Misses Smillie began to make trouble for Miss Selmer, so the latter says. They had in their favor the latter's unpopularity in the hospital, which, so it is asserted, extended to some of the trustees.

The Misses Smillie made formal charges against the superintendent affecting her conduct. She left the hospital suddenly about a month ago. At the hospital it was said she had broken down in health, and had gone away to recuperate. On her return she handed in her resignation.

One of the trustees said last night: "We did not force Miss Selmer to resign. She did not get along with the other hospital people, although she was very capable. We saw she couldn't get along, and she recognized the situation and resigned. There was no fault with her so far as fitness for her place is concerned, and we gave her an excellent testimonial."

The Smith Infirmary is the largest hospital on Staten Island, and is supported by many of the leading people there. Two years ago trouble arose between the then head nurse and the hospital physicians. It resulted in the resignation of all the physicians. The physicians did not approve some of the professional acts of the nurse.

MARY A. EDSON'S EXECUTORS WIN.

Her Lapsed Legacies Theirs Absolutely Even If Meant for Charities.

Mary A. Edson left by will a large amount of money to charitable institutions, a number of legacies which lapsed, and the residue of half a million to the executors in trust to be divided among such institutions as the Rev. Dr. William R. Huntington should name. This last request was held by the courts to be invalid.

On behalf of heirs-at-law an action was brought to impress with a trust the bequest of the lapsed legacies which were left to the executors absolutely with the expectation that they would carry out the known wishes of the testatrix in distributing them. As creating a trust for charities the bequest might be attacked, because it was dated only two months before the death of the testatrix. The action was dismissed yesterday by Justice Russell of the Supreme Court, who says:

"It is impossible under the law of the State of New York for an owner of property by deed, will, or transfer to absolutely give to another that property in the full expectation or belief that that other will apply it to certain specific purposes, but at the same time conferring in the transfer papers little or nothing to disregard his wishes if that other so chooses? Is there any such limitation upon the power of transfer? Could the owner afterward, when he had repented of his act, there being no attendant fraud, recover it back?"

The Judge holds that such a bequest may be made within the two months' period before a testator's death at which charitable bequests cannot be given by will, and holds that the executors received the legacies absolutely with the right to act as to their disposition according to their consciences. The executors are Charles S. Fairchild and John E. Parsons.

MEMENTO FOR CHIEF JUDGE DALY.

His Gavel Bound in Gold to Be Presented to Him in the Common Pleas.

There is on exhibition at the Gorham Manufacturing Company store in Broadway the gavel used by Joseph F. Daly, the last Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. The gavel has been mounted in gold, and will be presented to Judge Daly at the meeting of the bar, which will be held in the General Term room of the Court of Common Pleas next Monday.

The gavel is made of ivory, and the ends have been heavily covered with gold. On one end is engraved the seal of the court, and on the other "Joseph F. Daly, 1870 to 1890, Judge; 1890 to 1895, Chief Judge." Around the head is a heavy gold band on which the names of all the Chief Judges are engraved, with dates of their terms of office.

The Chief Judges were: John T. Irving, Michael Neshoefer, Daniel P. Ingraham, Charles P. Daly, Richard L. Larremore, and Joseph F. Daly. On the handle of the gavel is a broad band of gold engraved:

This gavel was used by Hon. Joseph F. Daly, the last Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the city and county of New York. *Hic ejus in memoriae jurabit.*

The gavel rests in a box of old oak highly polished, with a gold plate in the centre. The design was prepared by Mr. William S. Kelley.

ST. NICHOLAS BANK'S DEBTS PAID.

Receiver Grant Just Two Years Doing It—May Be Something for Stockholders.

The St. Nicholas Bank went into the hands of Hugh J. Grant as receiver on Dec. 26, 1893, and yesterday, just two years after his appointment, Mr. Grant filed his account in the Supreme Court, showing that he had practically settled the affairs of the bank, and had paid the creditors, outside of the stockholders, 100 cents on the dollar. He has still in his possession $48,190.09, applicable to the payment of receiver's commissions and attorney's fees, and a dividend to the bank's stockholders is possible, as this amount may be increased by the results of pending litigation. Under the law, Receiver Grant gets $12,000 a year for his services, but, as he says, from now on he will have comparatively little to do with the affairs of the bank, he will refuse any compensation for further services that he may perform as receiver. Judge Beekman appointed Hamilton Odell as referee to pass upon Receiver Grant's report.

Mrs. Korb Discharged.

Marie Korb, widow of Arno Korb of 583 East Eighty-sixth street, who committed suicide on Tuesday by inhaling gas, was arraigned in Harlem Court yesterday for attempting to die with him.

She was not questioned. Her husband's employer said that the woman, through sleeping in the same room, fell a victim to her husband's means of destroying himself. Magistrate Crane discharged Mrs. Korb.

9,601 Excise Arrests This Year.

The annual report of the City Magistrates was read at their meeting in Yorkville Court on Tuesday night. Among other statistics the report gives the number of arrests for violation of the Excise law as 9,601. Of the prisoners arrested 7,518 were held for trial. The report