

WOMAN FREES MURDERERS?

BIDDLE BROTHERS BREAK JAIL—WARDEN'S WIFE MISSING.

Men Were Under Sentence of Death in Pittsburgh—Warden's Wife Visited Them on Wednesday Night—On Pica of Sicknes They Deceived a Keeper to Their Cell, Injured Him, Shot Two Other Keepers and Put All in a Dungeon—Then Walked Out at Their Leisure.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 30.—Edward and John Biddle, murderers and burglars, escaped from the Allegheny County Jail, in the heart of Pittsburgh, at 5 o'clock this morning, after wounding two of the guards and locking up three of them in the jail dungeon. Mrs. Soffel, the wife of Warden Soffel, is missing. Her husband is convinced that it was she who smuggled into the Biddle brothers' cell the saw and revolvers that effected their escape. The Soffels have four children, the eldest 14 years and the youngest 5.

The Biddles were convicted of the murder of Grover Thomas D. Kahney, whom they shot to death as he interrupted them while they were trying to chloroform his wife at 3 o'clock one morning last summer. At noon the same day Edward Biddle killed City Detective Patrick Fitzgerald after a desperate fight. The brothers were convicted of the murder of Kahney chiefly on the testimony of an accomplice, Walter Dorman of Cleveland. Two women, Jessie Dorman and Jennie Seebers of Milwaukee, were the companions, one of Edward Biddle, the other of Walter Dorman.

Jessie Bodine, Edward Biddle's companion, is in the St. Faith's House at Tarrytown, N. Y., trying to reform. Jennie Seebers disappeared from Milwaukee yesterday. The police there think she has some connection with the escape of the Biddles. However, she was Dorman's mistress, and it was Dorman's testimony that convicted the Biddles.

Gov. Stone had twice reprieved the Biddles, once to enable their counsel to appeal to the Supreme Court, the last time to allow their case to go before the Board of Pardons. There is deep feeling here against the Governor. Had he not granted them a respite they would have been hanged last week.

According to Warden Soffel's story his wife told him last night that she would sleep with their eldest daughter, as she had to get up early to visit some friends at McDonald's. The guards on duty at the jail were George Koslow, James McGary and Charles D. Reynolds. McGary acted as night clerk.

About 5 A. M. John Biddle sent word to McGary by Reynolds that he was sick. McGary left the office with medicine for Biddle and when he got to the murderers' cells, which adjoined each other, he was seized by the Biddle brothers. They took his keys from him and dropped him over the railing to the stone floor, sixteen feet below. He fell on his head. Reynolds was sitting at a desk in the cell rotunda. He saw the men seize McGary and ran to them, grappled with Edward Biddle and threw him, but while they were struggling Biddle shot Reynolds in the hip, disabling him. Koslow had heard the shouts and ran forward with a chair raised aloft. Jack Biddle shot at him twice and missed him, then putting the revolver to Koslow's face he ordered him to drop the chair. Then he marched Koslow to the dungeon, which was open, and pushed him in. He and his brother dragged McGary into the same dungeon with Koslow, put Reynolds into another and locked the doors with the key-lever.

While this was going on the prisoners created a pandemonium, shouting and beating on the bars of their cells to attract the attention either of the warden's residence or persons on the outside. The Biddle brothers prepared for their escape. They went out through the warden's living apartment doors. The wooden doors to the street were not opened by them. They passed into the warden's residence, took the warden's overcoat and went out. It is supposed that Mrs. Soffel either had left the doors open or had waited for them. From 5 o'clock until 11 the two guards in the dungeon at the warden's office and the fractured skull-shouted and were aided by the prisoners, who raised a din that should have been heard a block away, but nobody outside and neither the warden nor his children inside heard the noise.

At 7 A. M. one of the day guards, Marshall, came to work. He opened the wooden doors and saw the guards in the cell and the cell doors open. He telephoned for the police and then awoke the warden, telling him the guards were missing, and ran from the shouts of the prisoners. It is supposed there was a mutiny when the police arrived the party drew their revolvers and went into the cell. The prisoners then in obedience to directions from the prisoners the party went to the dungeon and released the three guards.

PROF. PEARSON ON THE BIBLE

He Makes a Home of Ethel and Hays

CHICAGO, Jan. 30.—Prof. Charles W. Pearson of Northwestern University, who has attacked certain parts of the Bible, especially as to its inspiration, the construction and the accuracy, made a statement at the Chicago conference of the American Society of Theology, which he made in a brief statement in which he declared that he had been misrepresented. He said that he had written down his own conclusions and that he had been misrepresented. He said that he had written down his own conclusions and that he had been misrepresented.

JOHN M'KEEVER ENDS HIS LIFE

HORSEMAN, HOTEL MAN, ONCE STATE COMMITTEEMAN.

Disappeared From His Home in the Fifth District on Tuesday, Registered at Hotel Lincoln as John Gorman and Shot Himself—Had Been Acting Oddly.

John McKeever of 17 Bank street, sporting man, politician and hotel owner, who had been missing from his home for several days and for whom Capt. Titus's detectives had been hunting at the request of the family, was found dead yesterday afternoon in a room in the Lincoln Hotel at Fifty-second street and Broadway.

He had been acting queerly at home and his wife had been watching him. On Tuesday morning he got out of bed, and after dressing himself put his bathrobe on over his clothes and got out of the house when his wife thought he was going to the bathroom. He got out without his overcoat. The family sent for his brother and he asked Capt. Titus to help in the search. McKeever was traced to an uptown tailor's, where he had demanded to have an overcoat made in fifteen minutes. When told that this would be impossible he bought a coat for \$40.

He was well acquainted at the Lincoln, but when he came there on Tuesday and registered as John Gorman, the manager, John P. Sifferlin, failed to recognize him. McKeever went to his room and ordered a number of bottles of ginger ale sent up. Then he locked himself in on Wednesday afternoon.

My name is John McKeever. I reside at 17 Bank street. I have been sick and depressed and could not stand it any longer. Hoping my family and friends will forgive me for the act.

McKeever arrived in New York from the north of Ireland in 1868. He was elected into politics and secured an appointment as court officer in the Third District Civil Court. Later he went into the liquor business with his brother Alexander, then assistant foreman of an engineering company. They opened a saloon at Houston street and South Fifth avenue, and shortly after that purchased Senator Michael North's old place at Carmine street and Fourteenth street.

John McKeever induced his brother to purchase a stock farm near Gosport, which was known as the Warwick and here they got their trotting horses. Among their horses that won records was Van Cott, pacer, 2:29 1/2. John McKeever was fond of driving Van Cott on the latter part of the year. He was thrown from his wagon about six years ago while driving this horse. He was dragged for some distance, but he got up and drove the horse to the stable and won the brush he was contesting. As President of the Salvator Club he led tally-ho parties to the local racetracks every big race day.

Once he was a member of the Republican State Committee and was Postmaster Van Cott's right hand man in politics. He was a member of the present Republican County Committee and was said to control about as many Tammany votes in the Fifth district as the Tammany party in the city. His brother was unusually out of his mind. "I always believed that he was seriously hurt when he was thrown from the wagon while driving Van Cott."

TO FINISH OLD TUNNEL

Important Trolley Traffic Scheme Uniting New York and Jersey (N. Y.)

It was learned yesterday that the Jersey City and New York Railway Company, which largely represents the English creditors, who some time ago bought in by foreclosure the unfinished North River tunnel, has made arrangements to complete the tunnel without delay. A traffic agreement has been reached with the North Jersey Street Railway Company, which will control the trolley service in the northern portion of New Jersey near the tunnel. E. J. Young, President of the North Jersey Street Railway Company, and William G. McArdle of McArdle & McArdle, 65 Wall street, who represents the Jersey City and New York Railway Company, were in the city last night and will probably reach an agreement on the tunnel. It is understood that the tunnel will be opened for service within two years. Work on the tunnel was originally started in 1874, and has been several times interrupted. The work has been completely abandoned since 1892. From the New York Herald.

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CHILD BORN TO MME. TSILKA.

Liberation of the Captives Said to Be Delayed by the Event.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Jan. 30.—The latest news concerning Mrs. Tsilka is contained in a despatch, dated Jan. 29, and sent from Raskik by W. F. Maud, special correspondent of the Daily Graphic. He says: "The liberation of the captives has been delayed by the accouchement of Mme. Tsilka in Bulgaria, near the frontier. I understand from American officials that Turkey will allow the captives to be brought across the frontier. Responsibility for the outrage will naturally always rest with Bulgaria."

It seems, therefore, that the previous stories of Mme. Tsilka's accouchement were conjectural. Nevertheless, it is apparent that despatches from Mr. Maud, dated Jan. 25 and Jan. 26, were delayed by the Turkish censor. The presence of Turkish troops has frightened the kidnapers. Dragoman Gargulio is communicating with them, but is unable, owing to the attentions of the soldiers, to do anything secretly. M. Gargulio has done his utmost to induce the kidnapers to remain at Djumaballa, while he and the civilian companions went to Raskik.

A Turkish captain refused, under orders, to allow M. Gargulio to take the ransom into the mountains without an escort. M. Gargulio telegraphed to Constantinople, asking for instructions, and was ordered to remain where he is. Meanwhile, negotiations are going on between Minister Leishman and the Porte. It is understood that the latter refuses to allow the ransom to be paid on Turkish territory.

ENGLISH M. P.'S SERVANT SHOT

In a Native Riot at Cairo Over Exaction of Backsheesh.

Cairo, Jan. 30.—A riot broke out this morning among the native population here, in consequence of an angry dispute between hotel porters and dragomans over the exaction of backsheesh from visitors. A hotel doorman shot two dragomans dead and wounded a third. The dragomans paraded the streets and threatened the hotel porters. At this time of year the hotels are crowded with wealthy visitors from all parts of the world and the excitement is intense. One of the men killed was the servant of Sir John Aldred, Member of Parliament and railroad contractor.

HIGHER RATES, OCEAN TRAVEL.

Arrangement Being Reached—To Put Up Freight Rates, Too.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 30.—The correspondent of THE SUN is informed that an arrangement is being reached between the English, American and Continental transatlantic steamship lines with the view to increasing saloon and second cabin rates. Lines outside the Atlantic Conference are joining the movement. The English and American lines are negotiating to raise freight rates to a paying basis. The establishment of a minimum rate is contemplated.

STRING OF LADY SLEUTHS

Embarrass Sergt. Lamey, on Whom Somebody Has Played a Mean Joke.

Ten lady detectives, experience unnecessary. Sergt. Michael J. Lamey, of a Church street station, has been overruled by volunteer female sleuths. Sergt. Lamey didn't know about the joke on him till Monday afternoon when he took the train. He had just dismissed the men when a fashionably dressed blonde young woman tripped up to the desk. "Is Sergt. Lamey here?" she asked in the sweetest voice. "Yes," replied the sergeant, "he's behind the desk." "Well, Sergt. Lamey," piped the blonde young woman, "I'm here to apply for that position you advertised about this morning. I've got a lot more famous sleuths and they all told me I was real good. Here are my references. They told me that if my present employer wasn't satisfied with me, they could call back and get someone more, but I guess there'll be a lot of girls who think they're just as good as me. I'll advise you to put down my name at the top of the list. I've had some experience and you know that counts for a whole lot. I didn't advertise for any lady detective, so some one has been playing a joke on you."

SCHOOLBOYS HURKED

For Writing Love Letters to Her Pupils of the Night School.

Twelve girls ranging in age from 15 to 18 years, who are pupils in Public School 26 in Gates avenue, Brooklyn, had a stormy interview with Frank E. Perkins, principal, on Wednesday afternoon. The school is closed for both day and night sessions. At the night school on Wednesday evening the girls were discovered by Perkins. They had written love letters to the principal, which resulted in the discovery of a store of the same kind of letters. The girls were committed to the principal's custody and their parents were also told of their conduct. The principal declared that he had found them and that he had written to their parents. The girls were taken to the police station and their parents were notified.

MAILED IN YEARS FOR HIS FAT

The Government Seizes His Fat and Mails It to Him.

Newark, Jan. 30.—During the War of the Rebellion John Harris of New Brunswick, New Jersey, served with Company E, 10th New York Cavalry from 1862 to 1864. He was discharged from the service on Jan. 10, 1864, and he has since been a resident of Newark. He has a large amount of fat, which he has been using for cooking. The government has seized his fat and mailed it to him.

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DUTCH SEEK BOER AID HERE.

WANT US TO USE OUR INFLUENCE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Minister of Holland Has Had Talks With Secretary Hay—Attitude of Administration Remains as Heretofore—No Proposals Reduced to Writing.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—In addition to its overtures to Great Britain to bring about peace in South Africa, the Government of the Netherlands has informally approached the United States Government with the understood purpose of securing its aid to induce Great Britain to consent to treating with the Boers. The subject has been discussed by Secretary Hay with members of the Diplomatic Corps, notably with Baron Gevers, the Minister of Holland, and presumably with Lord Pauncefote, the British Ambassador, but in no case has the matter ever progressed beyond verbal exchanges.

Baron Gevers was at the State Department today and had a brief conversation with Secretary Hay. In the talks between the Secretary of State and the Minister of Holland neither official has committed his Government in any way, and no suggestion or proposal has been reduced to writing. Neither side has regarded these exchanges of views as official, although notes of the conversations may have been made, and with propriety, for the information of the Dutch Government and President Roosevelt.

The attitude of the Roosevelt Administration is similar to that of the Administration of Mr. McKinley. This Government is adhering to the rule that in a war between civilized nations, an offer of mediation cannot properly be made unless both parties to the conflict request it, or it is known that such an offer will be favorably received. While Mr. McKinley was President he went as far as he believed to be proper in suggesting to Great Britain that the United States Government would be glad to serve as the intermediary for the transmission of any message to the Boers. The response of Great Britain left no doubt of the purpose of that Government to conduct the Boer War without outside diplomatic aid, and the tone of its answer was aptly described in a headline in THE SUN: "To All Nations; hands off."

JOHN L. IS STILL LIVELY.

Makes Three Hours Pass Joyfully in Pennsylvania Railroad Station.

John L. Sullivan, the ex-champion pugilist, who is starring as Simon Legree in an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" company, had lots of fun for nearly three hours yesterday morning at the Pennsylvania depot in Jersey City. Sullivan and the rest of the company reached the depot about 7:30 o'clock to catch a train for Perth Amboy, but the Perth Amboy train didn't start until 10:30, and John L. made a few laps around the waiting room before finding the café. Then he amused himself by making several passengers drink with him. He bought two cigars for a quarter and insisted on giving the cigar clerk a dollar for selling them.

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Sir Westman D. Pearson Says It's the Only Sensible One for Us.

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Family of Missing Man Think He May Be on Steamship Lulu.

The family of Max Joseph, the missing Brooklyn lawyer, are still without tidings of him. Dr. C. Saur, the family physician, said last night that some of the relatives were inclined to think that Joseph had gone to Italy, possibly on the Lulu, which is expected to sail for Genoa tomorrow. They think that his anxiety to obtain the signature of Mrs. Tesla to some papers bearing upon the claim for his estate, which was damaged by the Panama Canal, may have affected his mind. The family have been informed by the steamship company that if Joseph embarked at the last night he would not appear on the passenger list and that until the ship arrived at the other end it would be impossible to tell whether or not he was aboard.

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ONE LITTLE WORD COST \$50,000.

"And" Instead of "Or" in Woman's Will Deprives Her Stepdaughters of a Fortune.

HACKENSACK, N. J., Jan. 30.—The importance of a small word has been illustrated by a decision of Vice-Chancellor Stevenson in construing the will of Mrs. Euphemia Conklin. She made several bequests and left her residuary estate to her husband, Peter L. Conklin. He died before his wife and she did not change her will, which gave \$100,000 each to his daughters, Fannie DeWolf Conklin and Mrs. C. I. Zabriske.

The daughters claimed the residuary estate also, presenting evidence that Mrs. Conklin had declared that she intended them to have it. The Vice-Chancellor decided that the death of Mr. Conklin barred his daughters from the residuary estate, as the will read "to him and his heirs." Had the wording been "to him or his heirs" the decision would have been for the two sisters. Now about one hundred cousins of Mrs. Conklin will come in for the residuary estate, amounting to about \$50,000.

NOT DRUNK—APOPLEXY.

Man Wanders Speechless Into Station, So He's Locked Up Over Night—Dying.

An elderly man over six feet tall and poorly dressed entered the Hamburg avenue police station, Williamsburg, late Wednesday night and spoke so unintelligibly that the desk sergeant thought he was drunk and had him locked up. The man couldn't tell his name.

Early yesterday morning his groans attracted attention. An ambulance was summoned from the German hospital, and Dr. Deming found that the prisoner was dying of apoplexy and took him to the hospital. He was at the point of death last night. There was nothing on his person to identify him.

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ANSWER TO SCHLEY'S APPEAL

IT DENIES THAT SCHLEY DIRECTED SANTIAGO BATTLE.

And Declares That Not the Stroke of a Propeller Blade, Nor the Touch of a Helm, Nor the Firing of a Shot, Except on the Brooklyn, Was Done Under the Direction or by the Orders of Admiral Schley—Not a Signal From the Brooklyn Was Seen by Any Other Ship Except "Close In," Which Was a Standing Order of Admiral Sampson's.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—In the most positive and emphatic language, without qualification or suggestion of it, Capt. S. C. Lemly, U. S. N., the Judge Advocate of the Schley Court of Inquiry, and E. P. Hanna, his legal assistant in the conduct of that notable investigation, deny the assertions of Admiral Schley's counsel in their appeal to President Roosevelt that evidence given before the court showed that Admiral Schley directed the American fleet in the naval battle of Santiago and, being in absolute command, was entitled to the credit of the victory.

The answer of Capt. Lemly and Mr. Hanna to Admiral Schley's appeal was delivered to President Roosevelt on Jan. 27, and the seal of secrecy from it was removed to-day, action by the President on the appeal may be expected by the end of next week. The appeal, which was printed in the newspapers this morning, was five times as long as the Judge Advocate's answer. This is a document of about 7,500 words, written with an entire absence of legal verbiage, and intended, evidently, to be a plain review of the contents submitted by the "petitioner," as Admiral Schley is styled in his appeal. Admiral Schley's assertion that Secretary Long erred in holding in his endorsement of the Court of Inquiry's report that the court properly failed to pass upon the question of command at Santiago because that question had been ruled out, is met by Capt. Lemly and Mr. Hanna with references to testimony to show that the court specifically held that evidence on that point should not be admitted and Admiral Dewey is quoted as saying, when Mr. Bayner of Schley's counsel brought up the subject: "We do not want that, we have ruled that out. We have kept the New York [Admiral Schley's flagship] out of the question. It is maintained, therefore, that Admiral Dewey, in making a separate report, holding that Schley was in absolute command at Santiago, went directly contrary to his own decision."

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