THE INDIANS.

Life and Law in the Indian Territory.

THE FIELD ARMY RATION.

FORT SILL, I. T., Dec. 10, 1874.

Since my last, on the 6th inst., that portion of Davidson's column composed of Carleton's, Norvell's and Keye's companies, Tenth United States cavalry, and Sanderson's Eleventh infantry, with ten Indian scouts, mustering in all about 150 rifles, started, on the morning of the 7th inst., from this post under command of Major G. W. Schofield. This will be the last scout made by Davidson's column this winter, according to present decision. General J. W. Davidson, with the approval of Major General Augur, (commanding department now here), remains, to conduct the management of the intricate questions which will arise on the approaching and decisive adjudication of the Indian matter, according to the directions of Lieutenant General Sheridan, which are expected to reach here by to-morrow's mail. Everything done by General Davidson thus far meets the unqualified approval of his department and division commanders, and General Augur in his yearly report bestows large attention and approving consideration upon the Wichita agency battle in August last, which was conducted by General Davidson, and proved the initial development of the Indian intention to take the field, and drew the line of demarcation between the hostile and friendly Indians, which had been, up to that, so cunningly concealed that all were treated alike, and the efforts of the government to punish the guilty rendered entirely abortive.

GENERAL SCHOFIELD'S DESIGN.

Major Schofield will pursue the line of march up the Wichita, as originally laid down in the deliberations held between Generals Augur and Davidson, as affording that most likely on which incoming penitent Indians may be met, with a purpose to surrender, and small lurking bodies of hosties as will be found yet under the banner of revolt, but receiving supplies from their friends at the agencies and thus enabled to gratify their Indian doggedness by "staying out" to gain *éclat* among their so-called more inglorious brethren who have yielded to a sound discretion. The era of diplomacy and countercurrents among the Indians who wish to stand well with the government still continues and will grow more interesting from day to day. Indeed, it will be quite as well worthy of notice and study as their pusillanimous operations in the field in the reflection of Indian character. The tilt now going on in part first is between the Kiowas ciceroned by that "William H. Seward of the Plains," the Hon. John C. Kicking Bird, as they are proposing to call him, in the strategic movements for a "peace policy," and the Comanches, who affect to despise the Kiowas.

THE OLD TIME INTERPRETER

here, Mr. Horace P. Jones, himself almost in feeling a Comanche, acknowledges a no less amiable feeling to the latter tribe; but mean as they are they have friends and I watch the joust with infinite interest; for insignificant as it is now, it may assume broader significance, and "Kicking Bird" is not to be outdone while standing up for his people even by an interpreter with all the powerful Comanches behind him, claiming as does the Kiowa chieftain the *"mens conscius recti,"* and a desire to serve his people faithfully. No later than this morning he sent word to General Davidson through Indian Agent Haworth that he had some information to convey to the Government concerning the movements of the "hostiles in the field," but he warily adds that he desires to give it so that it will not immediately be known by the Comanches, and suggests a channel through which it shall go to protect it from such interference as he apprehends if it went through the ordinary one. In due time I shall know the intelligence thus imparted, but for the present it is forbidden. As soon as the "military commission" for the trial of the Indian prisoners, now here, amounting to fifty odd, will have been convened, the place will be rife with rumors and no little excitement will prevail. In the release of the twelve Indian prisoners last week from the "ice house," ten being of the Comanche persuasion and two Kiowas, I was informed by General Augur to-day that it was only for the purpose of getting rid of the least criminal, or those who it is contended in a measure are innocent, and to make room for the guilty. But as a matter of leniency, he assured me, none would be permitted to go until

THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GENERAL SHERIDAN

were received, and that it was the positive intention of the government to severely punish them after fair trial and proof of guilt, as an admonition to the Indian against his fashion or propensity to raid and murder. General Augur, while disposed naturally by his temperament and large experience to treat the Indian in a fair and temperate manner, is still impressed with the necessity at this time of administering severe punishment to the bad Indians who have year after year persisted in their reckless ferocity and apparent obstinacy against remaining quiet and peaceable under the laws of the government. There is no doubt but that the final disposition made of them under his directions and the management of General Davidson will be such as to commend itself to our whole people. It is evident in the daily routine of the questions as they arise that no two general officers could be had better adapted than these gentlemen for the handling of the difficult and delicate issues as they come up. Their consideration and decision upon the least as well as the most important of them is controlled by a comprehensive appreciation of the necessity of treating them in a broad, just and deliberate manner, with a regard for what is due in a civil as well as military point of view. It is fortunate, alike for the government and the people at large, that at this time, when the contest between those favoring civil jurisdiction on the one hand and military on the other, is reaching the culminating point that the agencies through which it is to be decided as a reference are such as can be regarded with confidence, and the assurance that only what is right will be done.

ESTABLISHING A COURT.

In addition to what your correspondent has already said in regard to the advisability of establishing near here of the Wichita Agency a United States District Court, or something which has the semblance of law or justice about it, with paraphernalia enough to make it feared, felt and respected among the lawless and almost outlawed classes which abound in this country, white, Indian, negro and mixed. A permanent military commission, it might honestly be said, should be authorized at once by Congress, with power to try civilians as well as soldiers for the infraction of military discipline and police regulations. There is no fear entertained of the civil law, because it is remote and its machinery for prompt action perfectly ineffective; therefore it is in a measure ignored by the law breakers. The military law in most cases is powerless, except to act, through its officer, as an intermediate agent in handing over offenders for the farce of a trial, which, in nine cases out of ten is not even gone through with by the civil authorities, the criminals being released from jail on a nolle prosequi for want of evidence. Besides, the United States Marshal or his deputy should have power to call on the military as a *posse comitatus*, so that he could go into the camp of any Indian tribe on the reservation where a criminal or strongly suspected party has taken refuge. This he cannot do at present, because he has not the force nor authority behind him to execute his warrant nor the act of arrest.

TROUBLE OF SECURING WITNESSES.

This, with what has been said about the difficulty of securing witnesses, because they are not willing to go so great a distance as Fort Smith, will conclusively demonstrate that there should be some provisions made by Congress forthwith at this point for the execution of the law, making it so respected that this section would be rendered perfectly safe for travellers, and not require the humiliation, as Lieutenant General Sheridan said to me, "of having an escort for protection to go a short distance from this post on a shooting excursion." An opinion entitled to credit prevails with many who know the wants of the place that there should be, on the other hand, some kind of a territorial government, with proper officers and in a working condition, with due regard to our treaty obligations with the Indians, which—*en passant*, it may be said—have never been fully observed, but rather ignored in cases too numerous here to mention, from the days of Cass, Everett and Bell, in regard to whom and the Indian, the humanitarian and student would do well to consult the able discussion of the Indian question in that excellent work of De Tocqueville on "Democracy in America." Apropos of General Sheridan he remarked to me that he was going to make "this country safe enough for any one to go through it without danger or molestation." But why should the Indian, much less the white man, be asked to respect civilization and its laws when none of its surroundings are placed here by the government to look up to on side of the military, and that, salutary as it is, meets the objections of the so-called civilizing element.

LIFE AND LAW IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

General Davidson concurs with me in the views herein taken, and informs me that a sergeant, whom he had sent to Camp Augur as a courier, reports on his return yesterday that he met large numbers of white men here and there, apparently loitering about within fifty miles of this post. It is fair to assume they are lawless vagabonds, bent upon some mischief and are veritable rowdies of the plains. A few weeks ago one of them shot a worthy and unoffending man for his money, the ball passing directly through his head from temple to temple, fortunately not piercing his brain. He had been working at the agency during the haying season and saving his earnings, was known to have them about his person, $70 of which were taken from him, but the balance being sewed up in the lining of his coat was not found by the plunderer. The wounded man has been saved through the untiring exertions of the skilful post surgeon here, Dr. D. Town and his able assistant, Dr. Hatch. He is still in the post hospital and is convalescing. His name is Downer, that of his assassin Kelley. The latter, having been shot in the back before he would surrender, is held at the guardhouse in irons awaiting the action of the civil authorities and the warrant of the United States Marshal. Congress should at once do something to obviate the possibility of the horrible condition of the Indian Territory, or it might as well belong to the Cannibal Islands.

THE FIELD ARMY RATION.

Referring to the army ration in the field, alluded to heretofore in these despatches, an inquiry was recently directed to be made by the senior medical officers at the posts on the frontier, to determine its sufficiency. For some wise or inscrutable purpose the investigation has been directed to be withheld for the present. But the positively expressed opinion of Surgeon Town, United States Army, the experienced and able medical officer here, is, that it is not sufficient, and in this the officers of experience with whom I have consulted fully concur. This, added with the poor policy of making the animals subsist on half rations, necessitated by the working of the Quartermaster General's Department at Washington, will serve to show with what difficulty, penalties of disease, death and untold expense a hard campaign can be conducted on these boundless prairies, side hills and streams, where the military work in marching and endurance is tenfold what it is elsewhere in army life. I mention the matter that the investigation may be made to go forward. Our brave and hard fighting, battle-experienced army is not half as well fed as the German or French armies. *Cui bono?* Why is it so?

TROTTING AT FLEETWOOD PARK.

A match between Blind Boy and Butcher Girl and a sweepstakes between Pet, Ice Cream and Van's Black Pacer were decided yesterday at Fleetwood Park. The track was very fair for the season of the year. Neither of the races were timed, however, as judges had been put in the stand without watches. The first race decided was that between the Pacer, Pet and Ice Cream. The former was at first backed over the field, but he behaved so badly in the first heat, which was won by Pet, that his friends lost confidence, and hedged out by backing Pet. In the second heat the horse did so well that he won the heat and subsequently the race. In the match between Butcher Girl and Blind Boy the former had the call. She won the first heat, but was beaten in all the others, the race at first having been decided on the fourth heat, and so declared by the judges. But on complaint of one of the backers of the girl, who claimed that Mr. Snarpe, the driver of Blind Boy, had not properly brought his weight back to the stand, they (the judges) ordered the horses back on the track to trot a fifth heat, saying that the fourth heat was a "dead heat." The decision was highly amusing to some, but very annoying to Mr. Sharpe. The point taken was a sharp one; but, as the judges had waived all rules in the preceding heats, no time nor result of heats was announced, nor had Mr. Sharpe been weighed in after winning the second or third heats. They should have adhered to their first decision, especially as they knew that Mr. Sharpe had carried his proper weight. Fortunately he won the fifth heat, so that his oversight did not change the result of the race.

SUMMARY.

FLEETWOOD PARK, N. Y., DECEMBER 17, 1874.—Sweepstakes $500, mile heats, best three in five, in harness; catchweights.

M. Van's Black Pacer	3	1	1
J. Murphy's b. g. Pet	1	2	2
J. Roger's s. m. Ice Cream	2	3	3

No official time.

Match $200, mile beats, best three in five.

George Sharpe's b. g. Blind Boy, in harness	2	1	0 1
Ben. Wilson's b. m. Butcher Girl, to wagon	1	2	2 0 2

No official time.

HORSE NOTES.

A German correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes:—"The Committee for Horse Breeding of Landes-Oekonomie Collegium, now sitting at Berlin, has unanimously agreed that government prizes are indispensable if the home breeding of blood horses and racing is to be preserved without the corruption involved in the English betting system. The committee has also resolved that the breeding of blood horses is not only a gentlemanly sport but that it is the most necessary condition for the proper development of all horse breeding, that of farm horses included. The committee pronounced further in favor of the establishment of State committees for horse breeding, especially of a Prussian committee.

ARREST OF A NOTED HORSE THIEF.

In Newark yesterday Chief of Police Oliver, of New Brunswick, and a Newark detective arrested one William Wilson, a noted horse and wagon thief, who has been operating in Brooklyn and perhaps in New York as well as New Jersey. His arrest was made for the alleged theft of a rig from a New Brunswick livery man. He confessed to the theft, and said he sold the rig in New York for $160. He also confessed to stealing a rig in Jersey City and another in Brooklyn. On his person were found six pawn tickets and a lady's handsome gold chain, besides other articles of jewelry. The tickets were for diamond rings, watches, &c. At the moment of his arrest Wilson was hiring (?) a horse and wagon at Compton's. His arrest was effected at the instigation of a woman claiming to be Wilson's wife, who declares Wilson has a diamond ring of hers. As an accomplice Paulina Winterbaum was arrested also. They will be taken to New Brunswick.

CORONERS' CASES.

Sebastian Mangold, a German employed in Schaffer's brewery, Fifty-seventh street, near Eleventh avenue, on Wednesday evening fell through the hatchway and received injuries from the effects of which he died soon afterward in the Roosevelt Hospital. Deceased, who leaves a widow and seven children, lived at No. 415 West Fifty-third street. Coroner Woltman was notified.

Coroner Woltman was yesterday called to No. 327 East Forty-seventh street, to hold an inquest on the body of Mrs. Ellen Creamer, a woman fifty-five years of age and born in Ireland. She died from an injury to the spine, the result of an accidental fall.

Early yesterday morning Mary Sullivan, thirty-four years of age and born in England, employed as domestic in the family of Mr. Graham, No. 418 East 116th street, was taken suddenly ill and died soon afterward. By permission of Mr. John T. Toal, Secretary of the Board of Coroners, the remains were removed to No. 53 East Houston street, where an inquest will be held by Coroner Woltman.

Officer Dalton, of the Fifteenth precinct, yesterday morning found the body of a stillborn child in the front yard of No. 10 Cottage place and conveyed the same to the Morgue. The body was first discovered by Mr. Donaldson, living in the same house. Coroner Woltman was notified.

Coroner Woltman was notified to hold an inquest at the Morgue on the body of Thomas Taylor, fifty-five years of age and born in Ireland, who was found dead in the doorway of No. 229 Tenth avenue by Officer Clark, of the Sixteenth precinct.

THE DEATH IN THE TOMBS.

A CENSURE AND A RECOMMENDATION BY THE CORONER'S JURY—COMMITTAL OF THE INSANE CONDEMNED.

Coroner Kessler yesterday afternoon investigated the case of Robert Visia, a German, who died in the Tombs on the 8th inst., to which he had been committed the day previous by Justice Murray, on a charge of insanity. Deceased had had a room at No. 7 Goerck street and was a liquor dealer.

Warden Quinn and two of his assistants testified to the commitment of deceased for insanity. Dr. Becker, physician of the City Prison, testified that his attention was called to Visia soon after he entered the prison, and from the diagnosis then made he was of the opinion that his patient was suffering from delirium tremens or other sickness and not from insanity. Dr. Becker prescribed for Visia, but thought he would not recover, which was true, as the man died during the night in the cell where he had been placed. The doctor thought that in the condition he found Visia he was a more fit subject for the hospital than for a prison. Deputy Coroner Leo made a post-mortem examination and found the internal organs of deceased indicative of an excessive use of alcoholic stimulants, to which death was no doubt mainly due.

The case was then given to the jury, who rendered the following verdict:—

That said man came to his death by cerebral apoplexy, apparently induced by an excessive use of alcoholic stimulant, at the Tombs, on the 8th day of December, 1874. And while it appears the said man was committed to prison by a criminal magistrate as insane, there is no evidence to warrant any such conclusion, and we take occasion to censure the practice of sentencing people confined in the Tombs for any space of time without first ascertaining their physical condition and cause of ailment. The custom of committing insane people to a prison is an outrage, and we strongly urge that care should be exercised in affording a thorough medical examination to all parties charged as suffering from any mental disability before removing them to a cell in the Tombs.

TAKING THE WHITE VEIL.

RECEPTION OF EIGHT NOVICES AT THE CONVENT OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, YORKVILLE—DESCRIPTION OF THE SOLEMN SCENE—THE CEREMONY IN THE CHAPEL—AFFECTING CONGRATULATIONS.

Yesterday morning the ardent aspirations of eight novices received the white veil at the convent of the Good Shepherd, Yorkville. Owing to the long and dangerous sickness of the Superioress this event had been postponed from time to time for the last month; but the Angel of Death at last withdrew the shadow of his wings and the whole community of 100 white robed women entered upon their annual solemn retreat of eight days, closing the spiritual feast with the impressive ceremony of yesterday morning.

At eight o'clock the lady friends of the expectant brides were admitted to the chapel, where they could await, with suppressed eagerness, the entrance of the procession, which came in the following order:—Black veiled religious and novices, bearing lighted candles; then the postulants, two by two, clothed in white cashmere dresses, white illusion veils, wreaths of orange blossoms, white gloves and white shoes, followed by their saintly Superioress and her assistant. The religious retired to their stalls in the choir, singing the "Ave Maria Stella," while the postulants passed between their ranks, and, conducted by the Superioress and her assistant, approached the grate that divides the choir from the altar, where they remained until the hymn was finished, and then all knelt while the officiant prayed for the spirit of charity to animate all the actions of these aspirants to the title of Daughters of Our Lady of Charity. A lighted candle was then presented to each postulant, with the words:—"Receive, my daughter, this exterior light, symbol of the ecclesiastical light to which Jesus Christ calls you, by withdrawing you from the darkness of the world in which you were enveloped. Put your confidence in Him He will be your light and your strength." The officiant then prayed for the light of love of God and Christian knowledge to be enkindled in the hearts of his suppliants; and, being vested in surplice, stole and cope, he then addressed them on the importance of their choice in life; exhorted them to continue faithful to that choice, and to let their daily life correspond in thought, word and deed with the divine example of their heavenly model, Jesus Christ. He then intoned the "Veni Creator," the choirs replied from side to side in this invocation of the Holy Spirit, and at the close of the hymn the officiant offered another prayer. The postulants knelt before the grate, the religious stood face to face, while the following interrogations were made and answered:—

Officiant—My daughter, what do you ask?

Postulant's reply—My Reverend Father, I solicit the habit of this holy house and the favor to be tried in the practice of the Christian virtues and in the observance of the holy constitutions. One thing I have asked of the Lord, and will never cease to ask of Him, is that I may dwell in the house of the Lord and of His holy mother all the days of my life. The beauty of Thy house I have loved, Oh, Lord, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth, and I have preferred humiliation, poverty and mortification in the house of the Lord rather than to dwell in the tabernacles of sinners.

Officiant—Blessed be the Author of all good who has inspired you to make so good a choice as to take the Lord for your inheritance, for better is one day in Thy courts above thousands. Happy are they who dwell in the house of the Lord. They will praise Him eternally. Hearken, then, my daughter. Give ear to the words of the Holy Spirit. Forget thy people and the house of thy father that thou mayest draw down upon thee the favorable looks of thy heavenly spouse.

"Do you persevere in the demand you have made?"

Postulant—Yes, reverend father, I persevere and renew the demand I have made, hoping through the infinite goodness of God to obtain the grace of being faithful to Him, and to honor and accomplish His divine will in this holy house."

The choir turns toward the altar, the officiant rises, uncovers his head and prays for the postulants, that God may direct them and finally clothe them in the garb of immortality.

At the end of this prayer the postulants left the chapel to change the bridal dress for the white habit of the novice. The officiant then blessed the white robes which lay at hand, and they were immediately carried to the postulants, and while the latter were being clothed in them the officiant blessed the veil, mantle and rosary; and the choir sang in joyful cadence, "How lovely are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! my soul longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord?" continuing the psalm until the re-entrance of the postulants clothed in the habit gump and little veil. When these latter approached the grate they sang, "I have despised the kingdom of this world, and all the vain splendor of the age, for love of our Lord Jesus Christ." They then knelt while the officiant blessed them, saying, "May the Lord keep thy coming in and thy going out." Reply, "From henceforth and forever."

After another prayer the officiant presented to each postulant the scapular, as the emblem of the light and amiable yoke of Jesus Christ; then the white veil, as the symbol of that purity and modesty that should ever characterize the true spouse of Christ; the rosary, as a mark of devotion to the mother of Jesus Christ, and the long white mantle as a sign of that worn by the followers of the Lamb; while last, but not least of gifts, the new name promised by the Lord of hosts to the victorious over sin, self and the allurements of an enticing world. After praying fervently for the new novices the officiant left the sanctuary, the superioress retired to her stall at the end of the chapel and facing the altar; the *religieuses*, appointed for that office then conducted the new novices one by one to the mother whom they so dearly love and respect, where they embraced her, asking her prayers. With the tenderness of a true mother she returned the embrace, saying, "Sister, God give you His peace," and the novices passed up one rank and down the other, carrying the kiss of peace to the assembled community, the choir singing the oft-repeated anthem, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," and concluding with other appropriate psalms and alleluias until the kiss had been bestowed upon all. At the singing of the "Laudate" the *religieuses* formed in procession and retired from the chapel. After the signing of the reception by the novices they joined their friends in the parlors, where the most genuine congratulations were showered upon them.

The music, as usual, was supplied by the Sisters, with the addition of Miss Sayers, who sang a solo in her best voice. The names of the young ladies who received the habit are Misses Mary Meehan, Sister M. of Venerable John Endes; Nettie McCann, Sister M. of Loretto; Rose Spillam, Sister M. of the Divine Heart; Mary Moxham, Sister Margaret Mary Alcoque; Kate Sammons, Sister M. of the Angel Guardian; Mary Cullito, Sister M. of St. Sebastian; Maggie O'Donnell, Sister M. of St. Florence; Mary Ryan, Sister M. of the Immaculate Heart.

TAMMANY GENERAL COMMITTEE.

THE LAST MEETING FOR 1874—THE TREASURY SOUND—A FEW RESIGNATIONS AND A LITTLE TROUBLE.

The Tammany Hall General Committee held a special meeting last night at the Wigwam in Fourteenth street. It being generally known that it would be the last meeting of the General Committee of 1874 the attendance was very large. Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, Vice President, called the meeting to order, Mr. John Chanler being still severely indisposed. Messrs. Smith Ely, William C. Conner and Henry Hughes, the committee appointed at the last meeting to examine the accounts of the committee's Treasurer, reported that his accounts had been kept correctly and that the sum of $2,454 87 remained as a credit balance. The report was accepted.

The following members tendered their resignations, which were, on motion, accepted:—Nathaniel Turpenny and William McManus, from the Twenty-first District Committee, and Jacob Seitz, from the Sixteenth District Committee.

The Committee on Organization reported that they had selected Tuesday, the 29th inst., as the day on which the annual primary election was to be held.

Mr. Peter Woods, from the Sixteenth district, made objection to the committee's report in relation to the inspectors of election selected for that district. He also submitted affidavits of men whose votes, as alleged, were bought on election day by his opponent for Assembly honors, Mr. John T. McGowan. On a vote being taken, Mr. Woods was beaten on every point and on every motion he made. On his offering to resign the chairman decided he was out of order.

After the Sixteenth district fight had been disposed of the committee adjourned *sine die*.

THE INFANT ASYLUM BALL.

The season of grand charity balls is now near at hand, and the managers of the worthy institutions for whose benefits they are given rejoice at the prospect of obtaining through this medium the aid they so sadly need. Among these charity undertakings there is none more deserving of success than the annual ball in aid of the New York Infant Asylum, to be given at the Academy of Music, on January 14, 1875. The tickets are being rapidly disposed of and there is no doubt that the crush of the *elite* of the refined and cultured society of this city, on this occasion, will be equal to that in former seasons. The list of managers comprises the names of many of the first ladies and gentlemen of New York, and their names are quite a sufficient guarantee that no efforts will be spared to make the ball one of the most brilliant and enjoyable that has been given here for a long time.

STRANGE MURDERS.

An Old Virginia Farmer, His Wife and House Boy the Victims.

A YOUNG NEGRO ACCUSED OF THE CRIME.

MONEY OR REVENGE SUPPOSED TO BE THE MOTIVE.

MANASSAS, Va., Dec. 16, 1874.

Since Friday, the 4th inst., the people of this county have been excitedly discussing one of the most brutal human butcheries that has ever been recorded in the annals of crime in Virginia. That your readers may better understand the facts of the case a brief description of the character of the victims and the scene of the fearful tragedy are here given.

HISTORY OF THE VICTIMS.

In the southwestern portion of this county, near the Fauquier line, in a low log building, containing two rooms, lived an old man named Jeremiah Herndon, whose age was bordering on eighty, and his second wife, aged about fifty-five. Surrounding them were their possessions, consisting of 1,700 acres of land. Upon these lands lived the old man's six sons, each of whom paid him $100 per year rent. Living with the old folks was a dark, copper-colored negro boy, aged about eighteen, employed as a farm hand, named Jesse Fouks; and as a house boy, a little darky ten years old, named Addison Russell, the latter the son of one of the most deserving and industrious colored men in the State.

DISCOVERY OF THE MURDER.

A little after sunrise on the morning of the 4th of this month, Sommerfield, one of the sons living near the dwelling of old Mr. Herndon, went to the house, and finding no one stirring, an unusual thing at that hour, walked to the stable, and, finding that locked, started back to the house again. On entering the yard he discovered

BLOODY FOOTPRINTS,

and, following them up, saw that they came from the house and across the porch, in the middle of which lay a bloody axe-handle. Shocked at these tokens of murder he cautiously and fearfully opened the unlatched door, when a ghastly scene was presented to his view. In this room, about ten by fourteen feet, the furniture of which consisted of a bed, four old splint-bottom chairs, a table and a rickety bureau, was enacted the night before the bloody tragedy I am about to describe. Lying across the bed, with her clothes on, was old Mrs. Herndon, weltering in her blood-stained garments, but still alive. In the corner near the door, on a gray army blanket, lay little Addison Russell, cold in death, his

HEAD CLEFT IN TWAIN

and a blood-stained axe lying at his feet. These two persons lay there alone, the spirit of one having gone to its final account and that of the other just flickering out its last faint spark. The old man, the head of the house, was not to be seen, and tremblingly the young man sought the other room, expecting there to find the mangled remains of his father. On entering he found the room empty, with the exception of a couple of barrels filled with short corn. It quickly flashed on his memory that his father and his step-mother had frequently quarrelled, and that as sometimes their quarrels had ended in blows, it occurred to him that it might be the old man who had, in a quarrel with his wife, committed the bloody deeds, and his absence lent probability to this view of the case. In a very short time the neighbors were notified, and an effort was made to discover the whereabouts of the old man, which soon resulted in his discovery about a half mile from the house, bareheaded and in his stocking feet, trembling with cold and

COVERED WITH BLOOD,

which had flowed from wounds in his head. On being questioned he could give no account of the affair, nor how he came to be wandering in the fields. He was carried to the house, and then, returning to consciousness, related the following story as

HIS DYING DECLARATION:—

"Jesse Fouks, the hired man, had been hauling wood during the day. He (Herndon) had been to Bristow station, on the Virginia Midland Railroad, and coming home about three o'clock learned that the little boy, Addison, had found a piece of chine (pork) hid in the hired man's basket, and Mrs. Herndon had recognized it as belonging to the family. When Jesse Fouks came in at night he was accused by Mrs. Herndon first, and afterward he and his employer had a quarrel about it. Mr. Herndon drove the man away, but in about an hour and a half he came back and demanded his handkerchief, which was wrapped around the meat, and said to the little boy if Mr. Herndon would say no more about the meat he would let it drop. This was communicated to the old man, who replied, "he did not settle such matters in that way." Fouks then entered the house in a very excited manner, and said, "It would not take me two minutes to kill two such d—d old wretches as you are." At this the old man picked up an axe, which he said in his declaration was a borrowed one, and brought it into the house to prevent its being stolen, and said to Fouks, "If you do not leave the house I will split you down." At this juncture

MRS. HERNDON'S DYING DECLARATION

comes in, which says, when her husband picked up the axe she ran in between him and Fouks and said, "Dont strike with that axe or there will be murder here." She says she pushed Fouks out at the door. The last she remembered of that night's horrors was that Fouks had a club or axe raised over her. The old man's memory closes here also. Inquiries were now made for Fouks, and it was ascertained that he was at Mr. John H. O'Rear's, his former owner, engaged in butchering hogs. He was arrested and taken back to the scene of the bloody work. In order to help to hide his guilt, his garments, that must have been sprinkled with the blood of his victims, were now deeply

SATURATED WITH THE BLOOD

of the animals. This otherwise damning evidence was thus ingeniously wiped out, and at this time, notwithstanding the story of the old man, many persons, his former master more freely than the rest, expressed a belief in the innocence of the negro and, coinciding with the first reflections of young Herndon, thought the old man the real culprit.

DEATH AND INJURIES OF THE SURVIVING VICTIMS.

Three days after, when the old lady had recovered in a degree her senses and become able to talk, she told almost the same story as her husband. On Wednesday evening following the tragedy Mrs. Herndon died and a post-mortem examination disclosed the fact that she had received two cuts with the edge of an axe, one over the forehead four inches long, extending to the brain, and the other in the temple; either of which, said the doctors, was sufficient to have killed an ox. Mr. Herndon died on the Friday night following. A post-mortem examination was held, and it was found that a blow just above the right eye had fractured the skull in two different directions—one across the forehead and the other extending to the ear. The boy's head was crushed into a shapeless mass by two blows with the back of the axe, and his body laid where he had retired to sleep on that terrible night.

Fouks was committed to the jail at Brentsville at the time of his arrest, and to-day he was brought out for a hearing, when he was fully committed to await the action of the Grand Jury at the January term of the Circuit Court. If the dying testimony of Mr. and Mrs. Herndon are admitted as evidence on the trial Jesse Fouks will pay the penalty of this bloody deed on the gallows. On the night of the tragedy there was in an old bureau in the same room, in one of the drawers, $800 in gold and silver and $235 in greenbacks. The coin was wrapped in old rags, and the paper money was in two piles in the drawer. The latter was taken and the

PRINTS OF BLOODY FINGERS

showed that it was taken at the time the murders were committed, and shows that robbery incited the murders and was deliberately planed by Fouks before his return to the house after having been driven away.

A WEALTHY MISER.

Herndon was a native of Fauquier county, but has lived most of his life in Prince William. He is reputed to have been worth between $30,000 and $50,000, in real estate, outstanding debts and cash. He was slenderly built and about six feet high, wore homespun clothes and long hair, not generally well combed. He attended all the County Courts, where he had considerable business, and between business hours could be seen about the hotels, where he made himself conspicuous talking about his financial affairs, which consisted in loaning money in small sums and purchasing choice tracts of land. He lived very roughly, and as the abode in which he met his death plainly indicates, was not surrounded by any of the luxuries that money will afford, and, indeed, few of the necessaries of life. His greatest regret during his suffering was that of the loss of

THE STOLEN MONEY,

and as he lived he died, worshipping money as his god. His six sons, his only heirs, have posted to-day written notices, advertising the personal effects of their father, and, like him, seem to have but the almighty dollar in view. It is said they will go to no expense nor make any effort to prosecute the murderer of their parents. Mr. E. E. Meredith, who was employed by Mr. O'Rear, Fouks' former owner, to defend him, after hearing the dying declaration of the old people read to-day, abandoned the case and stated that unless ordered by the Court he would not defend the prisoner.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MURDERER.

Fouks, the accused, is slenderly built, about five feet four inches in height and weighs 120 pounds. At his examination he had a wild and vacant stare and did not seem to understand what was going on around him, his attention being called by the committing magistrate to the reading of the evidence. He seemed only to understand that he had been brought out for trial and offered an intoxicated spectator who sat near him $100 to plead his case. It is believed by many that he will confess his guilt before he is brought to trial.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.

ATTACK ON JERSEY OFFICIALS—THE ALLEGED PERPETRATOR IN CUSTODY.

About midnight on Wednesday Freeholder Charles F. Ruh, Councilman Fritz A. Meyer and Street Commissioner Hansen were walking on Union street, on Union Hill, when they were fired on by some person who lay in ambush. The ruffian escaped, and a search was made throughout the neighborhood, but without success. Several friends of these gentlemen scoured the whole vicinity yesterday morning at an early hour, and, from information obtained by them, the three gentlemen appeared before Recorder Morgan and had a warrant issued for the arrest of one John Mulvihill on the charge of attempted murder. Constable Brown started in pursuit, caught Mulvihill and lodged him in the County Jail. The prisoner declined to make any statement in regard to the case except to declare his innocence. His place of residence was searched, but there were no firearms found, nor were any found on his person.

There are two causes assigned for the act. The first is that Mr. Ruh had Mulvihill arrested some time since for being drunk and disorderly. Mulvihill was heard to make threats that he would "get square," but this he denied yesterday. The second cause is that Mr. Ruh, by his untiring activity in the Board of Chosen Freeholders, had a committee of investigation appointed to unkennel the corruption that existed in connection with the administration of the affairs of Hudson county. The investigation elicited frauds that had been in existence for years, and that were positively startling in their character. The frauds were brought to the attention of the Grand Jury, who visited them with a severe presentment, which was published in the HERALD at the time. Mr. Ruh's name has since been a source of terror to corruptionists.

THE STAMFORD OUTLAWS.

THE FATHER OF THE GANG TRIED AND HELD FOR BURGLARY.

STAMFORD, Conn., Dec. 17, 1874.

The excitement incident to the capture by the military on Saturday of Michael Mackey, father of the four desperado sons, the aged wife and the daughter, Bridget Mackey, and the consequent breaking up of their abiding place in the "Roxbury" district, has in a large degree subsided, but the interest taken in the affair by all classes is as great as ever. This was instanced by the crowds in attendance at the trial, just concluded, of the elder Mackey, in the Stamford Town Hall, before Justice Benjamin J. Daskam. The accusation against Mackey was burglary, though other and quite as serious charges could have been preferred. Many witnesses were examined during the trial, which began Monday afternoon and continued three days, and while nothing was developed to make the character of this veteran in crime darker, it was established conclusively that his house has been for years the rendezvous and hiding place of law breakers in this locality, and that about all the burglaries, thefts and possibly some of the incendiary plots of late could be traced there. Mrs. Mackey, who shows in her face that she was once in better circumstances, was not put upon the stand. Bridget, the daughter, was also not called on, and was, at the close of the trial, set at liberty. Mackey was bound over to the Superior Court for trial. He failed to procure bonds in the sum of $200, and to-morrow will be sent to jail.

This afternoon a rumor became current that one of the Mackey sons had been seen at a point in the northern part of Fairfield county. Deputy Sheriff Newman, with detectives, set out for the place. At a late hour to-day he had not returned.

THE AUSTRIAN POLAR EXPLORATION.

A FINE COLLECTION OF PICTURES PRESENTED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The Chevalier Hugo Fritsch, Vice Consul of the Austrian Empire in this city, has just received from his friend, Count Wilczyk, an autograph letter to the Geographical Society of New York, presenting them with a very large collection of Arctic and Norwegian views, taken by the Austrian North Pole Exploring Expedition, and also by himself while on board his yacht, the Isbjorn. The collection is unique in its character, and of the greatest interest to the scientific world. It embraces striking views of the midnight sun and photographs of the snow-covered and rugged mountains of Nova Zembla, rare pictures of the savage grandeur of the land of eternal snow and ice. The portraits of many of the inhabitants, both male and female, of the Arctic wildernesses are curious in the extreme. Ice and snow, of course, form the most prominent features in these pictures. The exquisite dreariness of life in the Polar regions is most graphically depicted, and the mind instinctively turns to the weary days and nights spent by the brave men who risk their lives for the advancement of science in that far off land for the realization of the fond idea of reaching the navigators

ULTIMA THULE, THE NORTH POLE.

A striking picture is that of the exploring ship Tegethoff frozen in an immense icefield, the small, dark hulk of the vessel appearing a mere atom in comparison with the broad expanse of dazzling whiteness surrounding her. In the background is a range of mountainous peaks. The only evidence of human life is a sailor plodding his way across the ice to his ship. In addition to the foregoing are pictures of quaint landmarks of many kinds on the Norwegian coast, from Bergen northwards, visited by Count Wilczyk while in his yacht bound for the northern waters. The collection is therefore composed of scenes visited in these high latitudes by the Count, and also of the rarer ones taken on board the Tegethoff, which vessel, it may be remembered, was fitted up at the expense of the millionnaire Count in question, who, like Prince Sirbey, his countryman, is a devoted student of geographical science. The yacht used by Count Wilczyk, and of which there is a photograph, was the same vessel which had been previously used by Captain Weyprecht, and the Army Lieutenant Payer, of the Austrian Scientific Corps. The wonderful adventures of the Tegethoff in the Polar regions, which vessel, it may be remembered, was till recently looked upon as lost, she having been absent two years, was lately told in these columns. Count Wilczyk has also forwarded to Chevalier Fritsch a printed description of his experiences on board his yacht, the Isbjorn. Another very curious affair is a small handbook containing letters to the officers and crew of the Tegethoff when she was supposed to be lost. These letters were distributed broadcast by the Count to all vessels bound to the Polar regions.

On the recent Polaris expedition some very artistic sketches were taken by First Engineer Emil Schuman, now of this city, and which are now in the hands of Secretary Robeson at Washington.

GRAY—HARRISON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

In your issue of this morning, December 17, the announcement of a Gray-Holdane marriage is a mistake. My daughter, Miss Daisy Harrison, and Colonel J. Howard Gray, were married on the 5th inst., as announced in your paper of the following day.

MRS. E. P. HARRISON.

No. 104 East Thirty-eighth street.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

MARRIED.

DE CHOISEUL PRASLIN—FORBES.—At Geneva, Switzerland, at the Mairie, afterward at the Catholic church, the Duke DE CHOISEUL PRASLIN to ELISE W., daughter of Paul Forbes, of New York.

FRELIGH—CALDWELL.—On Tuesday, December 15, at Trinity church, Saugerties, N. Y., by the Rev. Dr. Robertson, LEONORE, daughter of J. S. Caldwell, Esq., of Brooklyn, to MYNDERS FRELIGH, of Saugerties.

INGRAHAM—CROWELL.—On Wednesday, December 16, 1874, at the Summerfield Methodist Episcopal church, by the Rev. Thomas H. Burch, assisted by the Rev. J. M. Bulkley, GEORGE INGRAHAM to CLARA R., daughter of Stephen Crowell, Esq., all of Brooklyn.

KIRBY—NASH.—On Wednesday, December 16, 1874, at the