CONDEMNED TO DIE.

Seven Desperate Criminals Beneath the Shadow of the Gallows.

BLOODY RIOTS AND SECRET MURDERS.

Stories of Crime Unparalleled in the Criminal Records of the Country.

ANDERSON'S OFFER TO "DAD."

AIKEN, S. C., March 9, 1877.

There are now in the County Jail at this place, and awaiting execution of the utmost penalty inflicted by outraged law, no less than seven desperate criminals. Of this number six are negroes and one a white man. All are murderers in the strictest legal sense of the term, as the several or joint crimes of which they stand convicted were characterized by circumstances of exceeding brutality, without a single modifying feature to warrant the exercise of judicial clemency, or even of that common human pity which will assert itself in the breast of the most law exacting when the pursuer has himself become the pursued, and, hunted down by a swift footed and tireless Nemesis, is at last tangled in toils of his own making and brought by slow but sure paths to the verge of the grave which his too rash hand digged at once for his crushed and bloody victim—and himself unaware!

THE FIRST CRIMINAL.

First in the order of time is the white man, Robert McEvoy. It would not, indeed, be too much to say that in the order of crime also he is entitled to such doubtful distinction as is the meed of evil pre-eminence. The ancients assigned to ingratitude a place on the criminal calendar scarcely second to murder itself. When, therefore, to this highest offence of the heart is added that of the hand, the wretch in whose person both crimes have found embodiment is, indeed, something more than a murderer and stands beyond the pale of pity itself. McEvoy's history must, however, be touched upon only briefly in this connection, for the reason that, while lying under sentence of death, he succeeded in making his escape some months ago, and the day appointed for his execution having passed before his recapture it is necessary, under the law, that he should now be resentenced, and in consequence of this delay his fellow prisoners, though convicted at a later date, precede him to the foot of the gallows. It is enough to say concerning him that his double crime consists in his having murdered his benefactor, Mr. James Gregg, of Augusta, Ga., a gentleman loved and respected by all who knew him for his generous nature and upright walk and conversation, and, indeed, for every quality that goes to make a man a good citizen. To him McEvoy was indebted for education, position, employment—for his daily bread—for all that he had. Being a cripple, in consequence of having lost his leg when very young by falling under a railway coach in motion, he was of course the more helpless and dependent upon his patron. This dependent position he sustained for years, until having committed some unpardonable offence he was dismissed from his place with a merited rebuke. Always high tempered and revengeful, from that time the devil seemed to take possession of his soul. After a short visit to Texas he returned with the avowed purpose of revenging his fancied wrong (!), and seeking his old friend in his own office, after a few words of reproach and denunciation he quickly drew his revolver and fired upon him several times, his victim returning his fire without effect and receiving wounds which proved mortal in a few hours. McEvoy fled, was subsequently arrested, narrowly escaped lynching, was tried and convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to be hanged in October last, the sentence being stayed by his unexpected escape. Again arrested at Columbia while trying to get out of the State, he was brought to Aiken Jail, where, despite frequent daring and almost successful attempts to regain that liberty which to him means life itself, he now lies, heavily chained and sullenly awaiting and defying his doom.

CONCERNING THE SECOND CRIMINAL,

a negro, but little is known to your correspondent beyond the fact that he was arrested in this place a few days ago on well-founded suspicion, which was quickly verified, that he was a fugitive from justice. It is only known that he, too, committed a murder in one of the upper counties; but, thanks to the insecure condition of the county jail in which he was first lodged, he soon effected his escape to make his way to that in which he is now confined.

THE REMAINING FIVE

deserve such particular and extended notice that I have reserved them for the last, the two above mentioned having been, indeed, only referred to because of their presence in the same jail. When it is stated that the five had organized themselves into a secret society for the avowed purposes of crime, and had carried their plans into execution in numerous instances, embracing such deeds as house and church burning, burglary, highway robbery and rape; and when it is further remarked that the acknowledged leader of the gang was formerly a minister of the gospel for many years, and during that period in good standing, your readers will agree with me that some account of their career must possess a peculiar interest, notwithstanding the prevalence of those high crimes in all sections of the country. In this immediate connection, too, it may be noted that the scene of their exploits itself deserves a passing comment as showing that human passions seem themselves, at times, to become epidemic as well as human suffering, a fact that has frequently arrested the attention of the sociologist and which may yet be reduced to the same or like laws of our mysterious being. What are the causes or the occasions which lead to the development of such maladies of the mind and soul it is not advisable to discuss here where it is sufficient to say, only, that whatever they may be, they have had amplest illustration in the decade immediately following the late war, and have raged attendant with almost startling conformity upon the seasons of

LOCAL POLITICAL EXCITEMENT.

I doubt not I will be fully understood and many suppressed reflections readily supplied when I state that the section of country now under consideration is coextensive with that upon which public attention was so painfully concentrated a few months since in connection with the semi-political troubles which found bloody expression in the series of riots which, originating with the lynching of four or five murderers in Abbeville county, were followed in rapid succession by the "riots" of Hamburg (Aiken county), Ellenton, Cotteton, Combahee, Cainhoy and Charleston, all located in what may be properly considered a continuous belt of country, principally distinguished by the prominent fact of the presence of a powerful political majority of recently enfranchised slaves, brought into sharp antagonism with a restless minority of their late masters, smarting under a sense of injury and oppression resultant upon the misuse of the suddenly acquired power of their new foes. For it is just as well to speak plainly and call things by their right names as to attempt to convey the same just idea by tedious circumlocution.

THESE RIOTS

attracted widespread attention through the medium of Executive proclamations, the NEW YORK HERALD, the federal courts and investigations of Congressional committees; but the reader is wofully mistaken if he considers for a moment that having heard the most, seemingly, he had heard all! Such is not the case. These bloody outbreaks from time to time bore but the same relation to the general condition of the country that an eruption sustains to a volcano whose heart is ever afire and whose mutterings of thunder keep the fearful inhabitants in its fateful neighborhood in ever present dread and suspense by night and day, and from whose river sides small streams of death-dealing lava trickle comparatively unobserved at all times, overwhelming not whole communities, it is true, but many an unwary peasant who trusts himself to its treacherous soil. Of the riots all the world was speedily informed by the ready telegraph, but of the solitary murders in out-of-the-way hamlets and in dark places on country roads, of the destruction of private dwellings by the hand of the midnight incendiary, of the frightfully frequent instances of violation of the persons of defenceless maids and mothers; of the stealthy shot from ambush, maiming or killing the farmer returning from town, whither he had gone to dispose of the fruits of a year's labor—of all these things, solitary instances in themselves, but all going to make up an aggregate of crime which would appall the unsuspecting and far off reader, nothing was ever heard beyond the immediate neighborhood where the crime was committed. The subject is too large for further remark here, and I can be pardoned for the digression only upon the ground of its bearing upon the story of the miscreants with whose history I am at present concerned, and whose deeds are but a very few of the thousand like which might be readily cited and substantiated by the records of the courts of law, by new made graves and wrecked homes in almost every county in this crime-covered State. I will do no more than glance at the record of these miserable men, who are so soon to expiate their deeds by their death, leaving to a subsequent letter to give a more detailed account. What does that record, or so much of it as is certainly known, show? Passing by all

PETTY THEFTS AND SLIGHTER MISDEMEANORS,

any one of which would have consigned them to the Penitentiary, we come to the first of their more glaring crimes, and, it must be inserted here, all that is reported is upon the authority of the several confessions of the criminals themselves, voluntarily made at different times subsequent to their arrest and conviction. In the early fall the handsome and entirely new

BAPTIST CHURCH WAS BURNED

to the ground at midnight, despite the most strenuous efforts on the part of the citizens to save it from destruction. Occupying as it did an isolated position, and, being composed of new material, but one satisfactory theory could be advanced to account for its loss. That theory was based upon frequent instances of incendiarism, and the same theory was generally accepted as the secret of the last and more common loss. The church has never been rebuilt, in consequence of the poverty of the congregation, which had expended its entire resources upon the first construction. The most diligent search was instituted upon the slight clew afforded by certain suspicious circumstances, substantiating the theory of intentional destruction, but the perpetrators remained, for the time, undiscovered. But a few weeks elapsed before a second and

TREBLE OUTRAGE

was perpetrated within a short distance of the town, the fact being in brief that several unknown negroes repaired to the house of an old man named Parkinson, and after firing through an open window into the bed where they erroneously supposed the old man and his wife were sleeping they broke in, and, having seized upon everything which their avarice prompted them to take, they ravished his wife in his presence, and left with repeated threats of vengeance if he should ever narrate what had occurred.

PUBLIC INDIGNATION

at this new outrage had barely had time to subside in some degree before the peaceful little community was again shocked with the story of another and a more violent offence, in that it was marked by the shedding of blood. A harmless and almost helpless old man, well known for his inoffensive habits, was found dead, lying weltering in his blood, a short distance from the town. The old man, a rag dealer by trade, had evidently been killed for the sake of the small sum of money which the assassins hoped to secure from his person, as his pockets had been rifled when the body was found. That sum, necessarily inconsiderable, was the price of his humble life.

SEVERAL ROBBERIES

followed in rapid succession, none of which, however, were of such interest or magnitude as to warrant more particular reference. The next attempt was happily unsuccessful in consequence of an accidental or providential change of mind which led the intended victim, a well-to-do farmer returning home from town with a considerable sum of money in his possession, to leave his horse with a friend and pursue his way by another conveyance and another route. This, of course, was not discovered at the time, and was first made known in the after confessions of the would-be murderers. This instance might, indeed, be supplemented by a long list of like, and other and more successful endeavors; but without touching upon these I will close the list with the last, as it was the crowning act in the life of

THESE AMERICAN THUGS!

On the morning of the 3d of November last still another was added to the long, dark list of deeds of darkness, the recital of which had become terribly familiar to our pained ears. This time

ROBBERY, MURDER AND ARSON

had been blended into one crime, the victims, two Germans, being first overpowered by stealth in their quiet home, then robbed, deliberately murdered and consigned to a funeral pile composed of the burning timbers of the house their own hands had erected as a shelter and resting place. The scene of this crime was about five miles from town, at a house near the mill where the murdered men found employment during the day, the mill being in fact the property of the elder, while the younger lived with him as an assistant. Their nail consumed bodies were found the next morning in the smouldering ashes of their late home, bearing such marks of violence as carried immediate conviction of their having met with foul play, as many others, in different ways, had so recently suffered before them. The community was now thoroughly aroused and excited. No one was safe and all felt directly concerned in taking active steps for the discovery and punishment of the outlaws who were preying on the interests, the peace and the life of the county. Every eye was now watchful for the slightest clew which might lead to the detection of the band whose existence as such, heretofore only suspected, had come to be regarded as a certainty. No single criminal can escape under such circumstances, and here were several, the chances of detection being multiplied, of course, by their very number. It was not long before the trail was struck and the hunt commenced. Several articles of property known to have been in the possession of the unfortunate Germans were discovered in possession of negroes living on the outskirts of the town. Search was speedily instituted at their houses, and other articles were also found and identified, some as being the property of the old pedler, others as that of the Parkinsons, and others yet as having had place in the pulpit furniture of the burned church. Several arrests were made, the ringleader among the first, and their many crimes being fixed upon them by indubitable evidence, confession speedily followed, and other guilty parties were implicated. The gang, now thoroughly alarmed, was broken up, and many fled to other portions of the State, where they were arrested in detail at different times. Brought back in chains to the scene of their devilry and lodged in a common jail other confessions were elicited, which were afterward repeated in open court. Able counsel defended them, but a jury composed of eleven negroes and one white man brought in a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree as to the five who were most deeply concerned in the last murder, and sentence of death was passed upon them all, their names being, respectively, Adam Johnson (the preacher already referred to), Lucius Thomas, Nelson Brown, John Henry Dennis and Steve Anderson. The last named was recommended for mercy by the jury, on the ground of being the youngest of the party and because the evidence went very far to prove that he was coerced into participation in the murder.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND A RULE TO HANG FOR HIM.

The following letter from the guard who has charge of Anderson shows the filial respect and consideration which the young murderer has for his aged father. He wants the old man to take his place on the gallows and offers to reward him for the self-sacrificing act. The old man would like to help his boy, but thought Steve's offer, although flattering, "the couldn't see it jess yet." The following is the guard's letter:—

AIKEN, S. C., March 6, 1877.

Anderson, one of the Hausmann murderers, who is to be hanged on the 16th of this month, sent for his father the other day and made a proposition to the gray haired man, now verging on seventy years of age. The son told the old man that he was young and was to hang on the 16th of this month. "You is old, dad, and will soon lebe dis land; den their will not be any one in dis world to look after moder. Now, dad, if you will hang in my place I will give you $50 and my mule." The old man hesitated a moment and scratched his head. The son, thinking he was about to take him up, added an additional $50 by way of a clincher.

The old man in the meantime had collected his senses, got control of his tongue and informed his anxious young hopeful:—

"The mule and de money was a powerful conducement, but dis old nigger scaped de rope dis far, and he could not jess see how de mule or de greenbacks gwine to help him any arter he done dead; he was open to conviction but somehow he couldent see it jess yet." E. BROOK, Guard.

The jail in which they are now confined is strongly guarded, in consequence of one or two recent vain attempts to escape, in which McEvoy (the white man) bore a prominent part, and in further consequence of threats of rescue said to have been made by the friends of the prisoners. The execution will take place on next Friday, the 16th inst.

MISSED FROM 'CHANGE.

Three days ago no man stood higher on 'Change at the Produce Exchange than Mr. James Kinghan. His word was good for any amount he might wish to purchase. But on Saturday last and yesterday Mr. Kinghan failed to "put in an appearance" among his brethren in business, and they cannot account for his disappearance otherwise than on the theory that he was involved to such an extent that even his large means were insufficient to extricate him from his difficulties; and that, while he had hosts of friends who would gladly have helped him, he shrank from laying bare his embarrassments, and left for parts unknown.

Mr. Kinghan was a merchant of this city for years, but went out West, where he became engaged in the pork packing trade, and a short time ago retired from business, and was estimated to be worth at least half a million of dollars. He brought his family to this city and took up his residence at the Buckingham Hotel, where his family still remains. He visited the Produce Exchange daily, and while he had no office he nevertheless speculated very heavily through brokers.

On the strength of the rumors of an impending war between Turkey and Russia Mr. Kinghan bought very heavily, and as the cloud of battle disappeared provisions fell in price, and his losses are said to have been severe. On last Friday he left word with some brokers that he could not put up any more margin, and since then no trace of his whereabouts could be obtained. His strange conduct surprises everybody, and many leading operators expressed themselves to the effect that they would gladly have effected almost any compromise rather than to see him fail.

Mr. Kinghan's liabilities are stated to be over $500,000. His brother has been seen concerning his disappearance, but knows nothing of his whereabouts. The firm of Kinghan & Co., of No. 6 Whitehall street, is no way connected with the gentleman in question.

NAPOLEON WOUNDED.

On Sunday evening Joseph Lapraez, of No. 545 West Fifty-second street, entertained some friends in honor of the birth of a son some days before. One of the guests, George Schuster, of No. 35 West Forty-ninth street, became drunk and disorderly in the course of the evening, and was put out. Shortly afterward Officer Dalton came up, and while Joseph Lapraez was talking to him, Napoleon, a brother, was attacked by Schuster and stabbed quite dangerously. The assailant was arrested, arraigned yesterday at the Fifty-seventh Street Court, and committed to await the result of Napoleon Lapraez's injuries. The wounded man was stabbed in the right lung, and has been transferred to St. Luke's Hospital.

LOVE OR MONEY.

Twenty years ago or more Michael and Ann Duffy became one in England. She visited the United States and married here, according to Michael's statement. He followed where she had dared to tread and remarried. Since this last move by him she has endeavored to checkmate his happiness by following him about, which he states has been a positive annoyance to him. She, for her part, claims he owes her $20 and that she seeks her money and not himself. She was arraigned yesterday at the Fifty-seventh Street Court, but on promise of leaving Michael, in future, in peace she was discharged.

METHODIST MINISTERS' CONCLAVE.

LOCAL SCAPEGOATS FOR ITINERANT UNCOUTHNESS—RESOLVING THE PRESS AND PUBLIC OUT THAT DULNESS MAY PRODUCE RESPECTABILITY.

Gradual or instantaneous sanctification occupied the attention of the Methodist preachers for a while yesterday morning. It seems that the process by which this experience is attained is of equal if not of more importance than the experience itself. Dr. True is an advocate of both processes, Rev. J. Parker of the instantaneous, while Rev. S. D. Ferguson and others look for the experience regardless of the processes. The New York *Observer* had a standing offer for several months to pay $100 for a specimen of the sanctified class, no matter by what process made so, but there were no claimants, and as the doctors differ in regard to the processes, and also as to the degree of sanctification, the meeting left the matter where it was found, and agreed to differ about it hereafter as much and as stoutly as heretofore.

FIXED STARS OR METEORS.

The brethren then passed over by an easy process to a subject that more vitally affects most of them—namely, the lengthening or lessening of the pastoral term—and on this Rev. J. Dickinson relieved his mind. He would be satisfied with "the old itinerancy," but as that "no longer exists" he does not want to hang on the ragged edge of an obsolete system any longer. True, the old system exists in the pages of Methodist history, and might be resurrected at any time. But the brethren would take their chances on that provided the disciplinary restriction was removed and they could stay as long as it should be found mutually agreeable to preacher and people. But the "people" have little or nothing to say about their preacher. Nevertheless when he comes they must bear with him for at least one year, though he be as dull as a stump and as useless too. And as the preacher, once installed, can manipulate the class leaders, who can be made or unmade by him absolutely; and the stewards, who are his nominees, and are rarely, if ever, rejected by the Quarterly Conference; and the exhorters, who may be very largely his creatures—inasmuch as the preacher can thus make or control more than two-thirds of his Quarterly Conference, he may also influence enough of his church trustees to keep himself in place year after year for a lifetime. Indeed, under the itinerancy as it is, some men serve the same churches six, nine or twelve years of their lives by just changing from one to another every three years. But the preachers find their greatest objection to the itinerancy now in the fact that it severs or prevents friendships and acquaintances. This excuse, as Rev. F. Brown showed, "won't hold water." Some men would not become acquainted with a church in twenty years, while others will know all their members in six months. And the removal of the disciplinary restriction won't help the one sort nor hinder the other. All the brethren say they are in favor of the itinerancy, but all their arguments are in favor of a settled pastorate—an indefinite pastoral term. Itinerancy implies a system of frequent changes. The question is, as Mr. Brown said, "Had Methodism such a system?" He believed it had. It is not necessary that they should change pastorates every six months. Most of them do change now at the end of a year, and it would be well for the larger number, who stay three years, if they left at the end of two; for they are usually a drag and an incubus upon the churches after that. There is more settledness and stability in one or two years' pastorates than in three, and the limit should be less and not more, unless the preachers want to become Presbyterians.

POOR METHODIST CLERICAL TIMBER.

The Rev. A. S. Graves, Presiding Elder, would take off the restrictions as to time, because there are a large number of Methodist preachers that it is a benefit to them and to the churches to change every year; and as soon as the change to these years was made there were more pastoral changes the first year than either the second or third. About six per cent only of the preachers stay three years in charges. There are charges, however, in which it would be a great good if the pastors could stay more than three years. A false sentiment prevails that a man loses caste unless he remains three years in one charge.

REORGANIZING.

This topic, too, had to give way, just as the meeting had become interested in it, because the committee of nine appointed a week ago had a report to make and a plan to present for a reorganization of the Preachers' Meeting as a Pastors' Meeting. This is a step in the right direction. It may tend to make the talkers more careful of what they say than they have been. They have shut out all the gentlemen and ladies who delighted to spend an hour there on Monday mornings, and being alone henceforth they won't let off so much buncombe. But while this will be a great loss to some it will be a great gain to others. The process by which the meeting arrived at this decision exhibits, however, remarkable obtuseness. Their wild speeches and ungentlemanly and unministerial remarks were scattered abroad over the land necessarily in an imperfect condition. Country papers and city journals also were at one in condemnation of those vagaries. Now, instead of confining their own language within decent and proper limits, their committee yesterday brought in the following report and rules of order of exercises for the meetings in future:—

RESPECTABILITY BY RESOLUTION.

The New York Preachers' Meeting shall be composed of the travelling preachers and pastors of the Methodist Episcopal Church residing in New York city and vicinity who shall by their signatures to this article of organization and the following rules agree to abide by the same.

Any travelling preacher or pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall be welcome to any session of the meeting on the introduction of a member and recognition by the President.

Then follow the old rules of order.

On this report Drs. Crawford, Scudder, Parsons, Dickinson and other members of the committee spoke, and also Drs. Curry, Roche, McAlister, Willis and others who were not on the committee. The local preachers, reporters, ladies, laymen, and even ordained ministers who had spent half a life time in the service of the Church, were summarily ordered outside, that these resolutions might be discussed. Such was the feverish haste of the meeting to resolve itself into an orderly and decent body. Mr. McAlister favored the admission of the local preachers, and thought the traveling ministers, by curbing their own tongues, could avoid this predicament. Drs. Curry and Roche took similar ground, and there was an apparent inclination to admit the local preachers, when Rev. J. Dickinson remarked that one of that class was connected with the HERALD, and by admitting him as a local preacher they could not prevent him making reports. But the speaker erred in saying that the HERALD representative went in as a local preacher and not as a reporter. He went in the latter capacity always and was so known. A compromise between the anti-locals and those in favor of them by admitting them under the head of pastors was carried. So that if a local preacher has charge of a church he is by this new order of things a member of the New York Preachers' Meeting. But shutting out the press and the public will not necessarily shut in courtesy and order and gentlemanliness, as the meeting seems to think. The chairman, Mr. Willis, and Dr. Curry were opposed to secret conclaves of the ministers, for their proceedings will be published as heretofore, but in a more garbled and extravagant condition. The resolutions were adopted, however, with not more than half a dozen dissenting votes. Thus dies the New York Preachers' Meeting. Its burial will soon follow.

TWO GOOD SAMARITANS.

Charles Hansen, an innocent young German, was wandering through Second street, near avenue B, on Saturday evening, and went into a lager beer saloon and asked the nearest way to the Harlem boat. Two young men in the place said that he had better take the Second avenue car, and as he seemed to be loaded down with provisions, such as coffee, tea and sugar, they volunteered to help him to carry them and show him the way to the car, for which proposed service he asked them to take a drink with him. Hansen left the saloon with the two young men. One of them took the coffee and tea and the other the sugar, and they walked along. When they arrived near First avenue the largest of the two, Henry Reickle, threw his arm around Hansen's body while Beyer rifled his pockets of $35 and ran away. Yesterday morning young Hansen, who works for a baker at No. 2,390 Second avenue, came down town and walked through Second street. He recognized the lager beer saloon he had been in and also saw the two men who had robbed him standing near by. He at once proceeded to the Eleventh precinct station house, made a complaint and had them arrested. They were arraigned before Judge Wandell, at Essex Market Police Court, yesterday, and held in $2,000 bail each to answer.

REFORM IN WESTCHESTER.

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Westchester County Supervisors, yesterday, a peremptory mandamus, issued by Justice Dykman, of the Supreme Court, was served on that body ordering it to rescind such resolution or other action as authorized the County Treasurer to credit himself with $1,370 02 for his services in receiving and disbursing the State tax of 1875. The amount named is alleged to be in excess of the fees and commissions allowed by law in such cases. It was further ordered that the sum stated be placed to the credit of the county by the Supervisors. A similar mandamus was also served on the Board in the matter of $100, allowed as a charge against the county for stationery supplied to the office of the Registrar of Deeds. The special committee to which the judicial orders were referred reported in favor of complying with the mandates of the Supreme Court, and recommended that an appeal be taken in the premises to an appellate court. The report having been adopted the Board adjourned *sine die*.

A MOMENT TOO LATE.

The door of Dugan & Co.'s liquor store, in Church street, was found open on Sunday night, and the place bore every evidence of having been ransacked by burglars. Officers Weisberger and Fuchs, securing the place, started off to find the thieves' trail. On the corner of Thomas street they found several boxes of cigars, demijohns of whiskey, raspberry sirup and a quantity of tobacco. Goods of this description, amounting in all perhaps to about $5,000 worth of property, were stolen from the premises by burglars, who were not captured.

THE ABODE OF CRIME.

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT OF THE WARDEN OF THE NEW YORK PENITENTIARY—ITS OVERCROWDED CONDITION AND THE PROPOSED REMEDY—WHAT THE CONVICTS HAVE DONE DURING A YEAR—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The second annual report of Warden Fox, of the New York Penitentiary, has been submitted to the Commissioners of Charities and Correction. It is a document of more than ordinary interest, showing as it does the defects of this immense metropolitan home of the dangerous class, its wants and the work that has been accomplished by the convicts during the past twelve months. According to the census of the Penitentiary on January 1, 1876, there were 992 prisoners—882 male and 110 female. The total number of admissions during the year was 2,302, of which number 1,962 were males and 340 were females. The number discharged during the year was 2,318, leaving on hand December 31, 1876, 856 males and 126 females—a total of 982. The daily average during the year was 954, an excess over any year since the establishment of the prison. The average daily cost of maintaining each convict was a little more than thirty-one cents, and the total outlay during the year was $110,735 87.

MORE CELLS WANTED.

The report says:—"The population of the institution is increasing yearly corresponding with the increasing population of the city; yet during this period there has been no increase of cell accommodations, although the census has more than doubled. The whole number of cells in the Penitentiary, exclusive of dark cells and including fifty-two at the Branch Penitentiary, on Randall's Island, is 778; consequently I have been compelled to exclude all of the females from cells and to place two males each in as many as 100 or more cells, at times, according to the variations in the census. It is evident that the time has come when increased accommodations for the convicts should be supplied. I recommend that the prison be enlarged by building an additional wing sufficiently large to contain at least 250 cells. This would enable me to place the entire population in separate cells, which would not only improve the sanitary condition of the prison, but would afford greater facilities for carrying out our system of the classification of prisoners and of keeping day and night the discipline intact. A building such as would be required could be easily and rapidly erected, as we have plenty of stone on the island, and men enough to quarry it, dress it and do the masonry. In fact the whole work could be done by convict labor and the building be completed in less than two years."

IMPROVEMENTS.

During the year just closed the old carpenter shop has been taken down, the debris removed and the grading is now progressing, which, when completed, will give to that portion of the island east of the new shops quite an imposing appearance. A large workshop, commenced about the middle of last June, has been completed and added to the Penitentiary Department. It is 150 feet long, 35 feet wide, is three stories high and is composed of stone quarried from the island and built by convict labor. It will be occupied by carpenters, wheelwrights, cabinet makers, coopers, chairmakers, painters, &c. In this shop it is intended to carry on the manufactory of prison vans, carriages, carts, trucks, &c., on an extensive scale, thus supplying all vehicles necessary for the use of the Department of Charities and Correction. It is also intended to place in the shop young men who have long terms to serve and instruct them in the different trades.

LABOR OF THE CONVICTS.

The convicts were distributed for labor in the following departments during the year:—Blacksmiths, 24; carpenters and painters, 29; tailors, shoemakers, broom and brush making, 109; gardeners, 26; guarding boats, 17; stone breaking, 74; stone cutting, 62; new shop building, 30; quarrying, grading, &c., 265; roads, 28; butcher shop, bread room, kitchen, 10; miscellaneous, 10; grading sea wall Randall's Island, 52; scrubbing, 62; other employment, 59.

NATIONALITY, EDUCATION AND CONDITION.

Of the army committed during the year 1,363 were natives of the United States, 545 were from Ireland, 190 from Germany, 84 from England, 26 from Scotland, 20 from France, 17 from Canada, 11 from Italy, 6 from the West Indies, 6 from Russia, 5 from Cuba, 8 from Norway and Sweden, 4 from Holland 2 from Austria and 12 from Mexico, Africa and South America. The number that were able to read and write was 1,575, and the number that could not was 258. The married numbered 663, the widowed 148 and the single 1,491.

THEIR CRIMES.

The report shows 26 were committed for attempt at petit larceny, 1,544 for petit larcenies, 4 for trick and device, 2 for attempted petit larceny from the person, 55 for grand larcenies and attempts at the same, 5 for larceny from the person, 334 for assault and battery, 21 for felonious assaults, 38 for assault with intent to steal, 1 for robbery, 38 for burglary in first, second and third degrees; 1 for an unnatural offence, 5 for forgery, 1 for abduction, 11 for indecent exposure, 14 for embezzlement, 7 for malicious mischief, 9 for receiving stolen goods and possessing burglars' tools, 3 for carrying concealed weapons, 25 for obtaining goods by false pretences, 15 for cruelty to animals, 9 for cruelty to children, 1 for attempt to rescue prisoners, 2 for assisting prisoners to escape, 14 for dog fighting, 12 for selling obscene literature, 1 for extortion, 3 for vagrancy; total, 2,302. Their terms of imprisonment was as follows:—13 for ten days, 2 for twenty days, 389 for one month, 207 for two months, 379 for three months, 167 for four months, 247 for five months, 522 for six months, 3 for eight months, 15 for nine months, 13 for ten months, 2 for eleven months, 142 for one year, 22 for two years, 11 for two years and six months, 12 for three years, 4 for four years, 9 for five years, 2 for ten years.

PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS OF CONVICTS.

The occupations of the prisoners were as follows:—7 agents, 63 boatmen, 1 awningmaker, 42 butchers, 29 blacksmiths, 21 bootblacks, 19 barbers, 16 barkeepers, 11 boilermakers, 10 bricklayers, 7 bookbinders, 5 brass finishers, 3 brass moulders, 3 brushmakers, 2 basketmakers, 1 billiard marker, 1 bill poster, 1 boarding house keeper, 1 boiler felt maker, 1 boot fitter, 1 boxmaker, 1 brewer, 1 broker, 1 bronzer, 78 clerks, 60 carpenters, 51 cooks, 19 cigarmakers, 12 coopers, 9 coachmen, 4 carmen, 4 cabinetmakers, 4 compositors, 4 confectioners, 3 carriers, 3 combmakers, 2 carvers, 2 conductors, 1 carriagemaker, 1 collector, 1 copyist, 179 drivers, 5 druggists, 2 dealers, 2 dyers, 1 dock builder, 9 errand boys, 6 engineers, 4 expressmen, 1 engraver, 18 firemen, 8 farmers, 2 fishmongers, 2 flaxdressers, 2 filecutters, 1 flagger, 13 gasfitters, 12 gardeners, 2 gilders, 2 glassblowers, 1 goldbeater, 1 grocer, 20 hostlers, 6 harness makers, 4 hatters, 2 hatworkers, 1 hodcarrier, 1 hodmaker, 1 hotel keeper, 1 iron turner, 10 junkmen, 2 janitors, 1 japanner, 1 jobber, 296 laborers, 8 longshoremen, 14 liquor dealers, 3 lathers, 2 lawyers, 1 leather worker, 2 lithographers, 1 locksmith, 25 machinists, 10 moulders, 6 masons, 5 marble cutters, 4 messengers, 2 merchants, 2 milkmen, 1 matchmaker, 1 musician, 9 news venders, 11 oystermen, 2 operators, 1 oilman, 73 printers, 65 painters, 59 pedlers, 26 plumbers, 12 porters, 8 paper makers, 8 plasterers, 5 potters, 2 paper hangers, 2 polishers, 2 produce dealers, 1 paperstainer, 1 poundkeeper, 4 rock blasters, 11 restaurant keepers, 11 roofers, 1 runner, 64 sailors, 64 shoemakers, 7 sailmakers, 7 saddlers, 5 steam fitters, 4 soda water manufacturers, 3 saloon keepers, 2 stonecutters, 2 stablemen, 17 tinsmiths, 72 waiters and 88 others, representing almost every craft beneath the sun. Of the females committed 1 was an actress, 2 were booklenders, 13 cooks, 3 cigarmakers, 1 clairvoyant, 1 confectioner, 155 domestics, 14 dressmakers, 82 housekeepers, 26 laundresses, 32 seamstresses, 1 pedler, 1 ragpicker, 31 tailoresses, 31 waitresses, 1 weaver, and 9 were children.

The deaths last year were 17 in number. The sanitary condition of the prison has been excellent.

RUM AND DEATH.

Officer Owen, of the East New York police, was informed on Sunday night last that the body of Nicholas Grosen, who had died on Friday, was still lying unburied at his residence, at the corner of Schenectady avenue and Crown street, Brooklyn. He at once proceeded to the apartments of Grosen and found the body of the deceased covered with a sheet, lying on the floor, while, not far distant, Mrs. Grosen was also extended upon the floor, not dead, but sleeping off the effects of a spree. A poor woman who resided in the vicinity was sitting quietly in one corner of the room watching the body. Everything in the apartment indicated the utmost poverty and destitution. When the officer found there was no money with which to bury the dead he reported the case to the Kings County Charity Commissioners. The deceased will be interred in Potter's Field.

THE LEON-MASSIMINO ASSAULT.

Antonio Leon, the Italian who murderously assaulted his daughter, Rose Massimino, at her residence, No. 48 President street, Brooklyn, on the morning of the 10th of February last, was yesterday brought before Justice Ferry for examination. As Rose did not appear an officer was despatched to the house to ascertain her condition. He there learned that she was in a very critical state. She is about to become a mother, and has not as yet fully recovered from the wounds inflicted by her inhuman father. If there is no hope of saving her life she told the officer that she wished to have a carriage sent for her so that she could appear against her father before she left this world. She still claims that the story she told of her father's crime is true, and is willing to swear to it. Justice Ferry, upon learning the condition of Rose's health, adjourned the case until Friday next. A complaint was also preferred against the prisoner yesterday by Nicholas Massimino, the father-in-law of Rose, in which he charges Antonio Leon with stabbing him with a pair of scissors at the same time and place the assault on Rose was committed.

FELONIOUS ASSAULT.

A quarrel occurred on Sunday night between Patrick Moore and Joseph Maroney at No. 60 Cherry street, during which Maroney fell upon his antagonist with a shoemaker's knife, inflicting several severe wounds. The disturbance attracted the attention of an officer, who arrested the men. At the Tombs Police Court yesterday Moore preferred a charge of felonious assault against Maroney, and the latter was held in $1,000 bail to answer in the General Sessions.

THE "FORCE" ON TRIAL.

Sergeant Thompson Before a General Sessions Jury.

HOW CANNON WAS "FIRED OFF."

Knocked Down and Picked Up Three Times in Succession.

A PUSH OR A BLOW?

Within two weeks, it will be remembered, "Joe" Coburn, the pugilist, was the defendant in an indictment for an assault on two policemen. Yesterday it was different. Sergeant Theron T. Thompson was put on trial in the Court of General Sessions for assault and battery on Michael Cannon, in Park row, the 13th of last February, and the defendant's counsel was "Ned" Price, who once entered the lists with Coburn, whom the jury condemned as a felon last week. Mr. Bell, Assistant District Attorney, prosecuted. When the jury was sworn he briefly stated the nature of the complaint and then called his first witness. The court room was fairly filled and quite a number of police captains attended.

William S. Andrews, No. 75 West Fifty-fourth street, was the first witness called. His testimony was as follows:—I was passing down Park row on the afternoon of February 13, and noticed a crowd of persons coming toward me; saw defendant standing directly in front of the *World* office; some one rushed up to speak to him; then I saw him go out into the street, seize a man by the collar, strike him in the face and knock him down; then he helped him up, pushed him and said:—

"Go on; get out of here."

The man man stood looking stupidly at him; then the defendant said, "If you don't go on I'll give it to you again;" after this he struck the man and knocked him down again.

"Is that man in court?"

"Yes, sir."

"Do you know his name?"

"I heard afterward it was Cannon."

"Go on."

"Then he struck him and knocked him down a third time and he picked him up again; Cannon after that walked up Park row, followed by the defendant; I lost sight of him by reason of having stopped to get the names of some witnesses; I overtook them again near the *Daily News* office, and saw a man I had not seen before walking beside the officer."

"Who was that man?"

"That was a man named O'Hearn; the officer said to that man, 'If you don't go away I'll give it to you, too;' O'Hearn did not leave, and a moment after the officer struck at him; at the same moment another officer came up to take charge of O'Hearn, who seemed to be under the influence of liquor; Cannon was intoxicated."

"Where was Cannon arrested?"

"Near the Fourth Avenue Railroad track, opposite the *Staats Zeitung* office."

"Was Cannon's face marked?"

"Yes sir."

Cross-examined—I saw the man's face before he was struck and did not then notice any bruises; did not see what had occurred prior to the moment the defendant put his hand on Cannon's collar; did not speak to Sergeant Thompson at all during the occurrence; Cannon did not show fight at all.

Isaac N. Hebbard, No. 18 Murray street, testified that he saw the prisoner about three minutes after five o'clock on the afternoon of February 13 near the corner of Beekman street and Park row; saw a man running to get on the front platform of a car; he got beyond the platform and seized one of the horses; then the driver put on the brake and stopped; the conductor stepped to the front platform and beckoned to an officer (the defendant) who was on the sidewalk.

KNOCKED DOWN THREE TIMES.

The defendant advanced toward the man and struck him what witness considered a violent blow, knocking him down; when the man got up he struck him and knocked him down again; then the man moved toward the sidewalk, as if seeking to escape, when the defendant came up to him again, and, saying, "I'll give it to you again;" as he said this he struck him the third time and knocked him down; then the man went up Park Row, followed by the defendant; on the way another man came alongside the officer and spoke to him; as he spoke the officer said:—

"Go on or I'll give it to you, too," drawing back at the same moment as if about to strike; subsequently, an officer arrested both men.

Cross-examined—Had three conversations with Mr. Andrews about the occurrence.

Redirect—There were no bruises on Cannon's face before the blows; after the second blow it was swollen; after the third the skin was broken.

Recross—Didn't know positively whether there was any mark on Cannon's face before the officer struck him.

UP AND DOWN AGAIN.

Mr. Henry F. Herkner, of No. 215 West Fifteenth street, the next witness, said he arrived on the scene as the defendant ran from the sidewalk and seized Cannon; as Thompson wheeled the man around he brought his left side toward him; then he planted his fist in his face felling the man to the sidewalk; when the man got up the defendant knocked him down again; Cannon appeared to be dazed, and only raised his hand as if to guard his face; when he got up the second time the officer struck him and knocked him down again.

Cross-examined—Has spoken to M