

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1909.

CUT RATE BURIALS
IN BALTIMORE NOW

Undertakers Engage in a
Furious Funeral War.

ADVERTISING ON BILLBOARDS

Citizens Constantly Reminded They
Must Die, and Advantages of the
Various Firms Pointed Out in At-
tractive Circulars—Complete and
Refined" Funerals at \$50 Apiece.

Baltimore, Jan. 9.—Burial doesn't cost
much in Baltimore now. As the result of
an undertaker war burial is \$30 below
the scheduled rate, and if the competition
lasts much longer, trading stamps good
for a tombstone may be thrown in. One
shrewd undertaker has made such in-
roads on the business of the others that
all have combined against the original
price-cutter, and it is war to the death.
To use the bargain counter language
adopted by the rival interests, prices are
going down below cost. They have
dropped from \$100 or \$150 to \$45.

When the conservative Baltimorean
arises in the morning he finds the bill-
boards all about the landscape ornamented
with coffins and legends which, in effect,
say, "Try my funerals and you will use
no others." As he rides down town to
business placards in the cars announce
that one undertaker includes various un-
usual items in his cut-rate prices. And
when he unfolds his morning newspaper
he finds glaring advertisements in big
type, two columns wide, in which the
rivals denounce one another as robbers
in such vigorous and highly colored lan-
guage that it seems a typographical Dan-
nybrook fair. The rivals set forth the
advantages of their funerals so attractively
that one begins to think that, after
all, there may be some pleasure in the
final rites over the dead. And the merits
of their wares are set forth in such a
straightforward way, like the department
store with a sale of toothpowder or
kitchen soap, that one has the purely
mercantile part of the ceremony im-
pressed upon him. Just as one is getting
reconciled to the spirit of the modernism
in the undertaker business there comes
another cut in prices and another crash
of loud-tongued advertisement, and
finally it gets on one's nerves.

Shock for the Conservatives.

For a long time even the big dry goods
stores of Baltimore used only demure-
looking advertisements in business. It
was years before a banker would do such
a daring thing as appear in the public
prints. As for the undertakers, they were
supposed to sit far back in a dark shop
with drawn blinds, step in a dim light,
and wait for the grim reaper to send
them business. They wore black neckties
always, and seldom spoke above a whisper.
The only thing they dared in the way
of advertisement was a nameboard
that seemed to shrink back into the re-
cesses of the store window in response
to its presence. To make anything like
a noise meant social ostracism. The bill
was never questioned if all were quiet
and respectable.

Then a new undertaker came on the
scene. He was young and vigorous, and
he said things were all wrong. He an-
nounced in stentorian tones that the
widow and orphan were being robbed.
He said so on billboards, in the street
cars, and in the newspapers. He said
that the old undertakers were charging
about \$50 too much for a funeral. He
made such a noise about it that the town
had to sit up and take notice, although
it deprecated such hustling business
methods where the dead were concerned.
An imitator next entered the arena, and
soon there was a war of words in the
public print as to who was the only origi-
nal price-cutter.

Furnish Complete Specifications.

They published a list of all things
necessary for a complete funeral—much
like the specifications for a yacht or a
dance hall—and named their prices in big
type. They gave the choice of four dif-
ferent styles of coffins. They would fur-
nish not only any colored hearse, but also
as an inducement to shuffle off this mortal
coil it was to have rubber tires, and the
carriages for mourners were heated.
Then their burial suits or slumber robes
were becoming. And handkerchiefs, pairs
of gloves were furnished for the pall-
bearers. That cut the price also invari-
ably. They advertised, candelabra, cruci-
fix, rugs, chairs, with "no extras before
or after," was set forth to prove that
their \$75 funerals were as complete as the
\$100, \$125, and \$150 funerals.

Then the conservatives found the busi-
ness slipping from them. Anonymous ad-
vertisements appeared in the newspapers
attacking the methods of the young
progressives as reprehensible. Still the
business kept going to the men who were
shouting from the housetops. The adver-
tisements grew larger. Then a new com-
pany appeared on the scene. It was con-
sidered to represent a group of the
leading conservatives. They announced
"complete and refined" funerals at \$50.
The leader of the innovators came back
with funerals at \$45. He says he will
go a dollar less than any price set by
the combination.

NO CRIME TO SLANDER A WIFE.

Court Decision in North Carolina Af-
fecting Domestic Relations.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 9.—After this
North Carolina gentlemen will have the
right to slander their wives to their
hears' content, in a decision handed
down by the North Carolina Supreme
Court it is held that a man who malici-
ously and wantonly slanders a woman
is exempt from punishment if the woman
chooses to be his own wife.

Under the law, as construed by the
court, it is not allowable for a gentle-
man to chastise his wife, but he may say
as many mean things about her as his
pleases.

Chief Justice Clark and Associate Jus-
tice Fuller dissenting opinions, taking
the ground that common law it is a
crime for a man to slander any person,
even his wife, but the majority of the
court held that slander is one of the li-
bilities incurred by a woman when she
marries a man.

MAY SELL GERMAN CASTLES.

Kaiser, Short of Cash, May Be Forced
to Sacrifice Historic Piles.

Berlin, Jan. 9.—The Prussian and Im-
perial Crown has greatly needed money,
owing to extravagance in high places
which lately manifested itself in extraor-
dinary outlay for works of art, especial-
ly pictures, sculpture, restoring old cas-
tles, alterations to the Kaiser's Greek
castle on the Island of Corfu, interior
decorations, &c.

Immense sums left by the old Kaiser
having disappeared, as well as huge
amounts from other sources, to meet cur-
rent expenses the civil list was unable
to cover, the decision has been taken to
sell several Crown castles, including some
on the Rhine, and the notable Castle
Bentrich, the royal palace at Dusseldorf.
If the chaotic state of the Crown finances
is to be remedied, the Kaiser and the
whole Imperial family must practice
drastic economies.

TWENTY-ONE RULERS SLAIN

With Record Before Him, Timidity
of the Czar Is Easily Explained.

Portugal's Recent Regicide Has a
Practical Parallel in Terrible
Deed in Servia in 1903.

Twenty-one rulers of civilized countries
murdered in just over a century! No
wonder a timid man like the Czar shuts
himself up in fortified palaces and every-
one is constantly quoting Shakespeare's
words: "Uneasy lies the head that wears
a crown." And it has remained for Por-
tugal, which, like her neighbor, Spain,
has been practically free from royal as-
sassinations—although attempts have been
made by anarchists and political regicides
to establish a sad record; for never
within modern history, at any rate, have
a sovereign and crown prince been mur-
dered together, says a writer in Tit-Bits.
The assassination of King Alexander
and Queen Draga of Servia, in June, 1903,
is the nearest parallel to the terrible deed
which has recently horrified the world.
How the young King disgusted his min-
isters and the army and rendered him-
self generally unpopular by marrying
Mrs. Maschin, his mother's lady-in-
waiting, is too recent history to need
more than a passing mention here. It is
interesting to note, however, that most
of the army officers who carried out the
plot and actually murdered the King and
Queen in the palace are not only alive,
but still hold prominent military appoint-
ments. Moreover, they were paid £12,000
for the deed.

Three years previous to the Servian
tragedy King Humbert of Italy was slain
by the anarchist Breschi, while in 1888 the
cruel and utterly purposeless murder of
the beautiful and gracious Empress of
Austria took place. The Empress was
passing through Geneva on her return
from Wiesbaden, where she had been
under treatment for a heart affection, when
she was stabbed with a small, file-shaped
stiletto, which pierced her heart. King
Humbert was shot while entering his
carriage, and it is an extraordinary fact
that he was actually escaped by being
murdered only by a hat's breadth.
In Naples in 1878 a man rushed up and
tried to stab his majesty with a poniard,
but the King escaped with a slight
scratch, unless it was the case of King
Humbert was driving to the Capannelle
race course, a workman struck at him
with a dagger. Luckily, the blow was
averted.

Included in the twenty-one rulers al-
ready mentioned are eight Presidents of
the United States, and it is a singular
fact that three of these were Presidents
of America, and they have all been
murdered within the last forty-five years.
First a knife and a bullet, then a bomb,
Garfield in 1881, and McKinley twenty
years later. The murder of President
Lincoln came like a thunderclap to the
people of America, just when they were
rejoicing that the great Confederate war
had come to an end. Lincoln went to
Ford's Theater in Washington, and sat
with his family in a box watching the
performance of "Our American Cousin,"
when a fanatic, an actor, who, with
others, had prepared a plot to as-
sassinate the several heads of the govern-
ment, entered the box and shot the
President through the brain.

When he stabbed Maj. Henry Rathbone
first a knife and a bullet, then a bomb,
Garfield in 1881, and McKinley twenty
years later. The murder of President
Lincoln came like a thunderclap to the
people of America, just when they were
rejoicing that the great Confederate war
had come to an end. Lincoln went to
Ford's Theater in Washington, and sat
with his family in a box watching the
performance of "Our American Cousin,"
when a fanatic, an actor, who, with
others, had prepared a plot to as-
sassinate the several heads of the govern-
ment, entered the box and shot the
President through the brain.

Four of Russia's czars have been as-
sassinated, the last being Alexander II,
in 1881. Six times did assassins attempt
the monarch's life. On one occasion he
only escaped through the barrel of the
assassin's pistol bursting, while in 1895
when the dining hall of the winter palace
was wrecked by an explosion proceeding
from the cellar beneath, the Emperor
owed his life to a breach of his usual
punctuality; the company not having sat
down to dinner when the explosion took
place.

His majesty's "guardian angel," how-
ever, was powerless against the nihilist's
bombs of 1881. The Emperor was return-
ing to the winter palace after a military
review when his carriage was suddenly
shattered by a bomb. Several of the
escort were killed, but, strangely enough,
the Czar himself remained unharmed. After
inquiring about the wounded, his majesty,
with phenomenal coolness, con-
tinued his progress on foot. He had ad-
vanced but a few steps when another
bomb exploded at his feet, and mangled
his body in the most frightful manner.
He died a few hours later.

From 1872 to 1876 four rulers were as-
sassinated—namely, Col. Balta, President
of Peru; Moner, President of Ecuador;
Gutiérrez, President of Peru in 1872-3, and
the Sultan Abdul-Aziz. At the time it
was given out that the latter, having
gone mad, had committed suicide by cut-
ting the arteries of his arm; but in June,
1881, various high officials, including the
Sultan's brother-in-law, were convicted
of the murder of the Sultan.
Perhaps the most barbarous assassina-
tion on record was that of the Queen of
Korea in 1898, when a band of hired
Japanese assassins, backed by Korean
troops, entered the palace and hacked
the Queen and two ladies of the court
to pieces, afterward burning the bodies
with paraffin.

Old Man Lost on Mountain.

Shenandoah, Pa., Jan. 9.—Benjamin
Manilla, sixty years old, undertook to
walk over Locust Mountain to visit rela-
tives at Ringtown four days ago, but has
not reached his destination as yet and no
trace of him has been found in spite of his
wife, George Bohm, who from this city to
Pittsburg on a bicycle. This winter's
snowstorm came up, and it is feared he
lost his way and perished upon the
mountain.

NOTED ENGLISH SPORTSWOMAN ARRIVES.

Lady Constance Stewart
Mackenzie Richardson, the
woman who recently landed
in New York on her way to
South Sea Island. The lower
picture shows Lady Richard-
son at the rifle range.



ELOPES THAT HE MAY LOAF.

"Now My Affinity Works," New York
Married Man Is Quoted.
Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 9.—Otto Axman,
accused of having eloped from New York
with his wife's sister, was arraigned and
held until the police communicate with
Mrs. Axman.
When asked why he had left his wife
and children Axman told the detectives,
it is asserted, that when he lived with
his wife he had to work.
"Now," Axman is alleged to have said,
"my affinity works and I do nothing."
His address in this city was learned
through a letter written to a friend of his
wife in New York.

CAT'S FATAL JEALOUSY.

He Couldn't Stand for Babies and
Was Ignominiously Executed.
Elmer, N. J., Jan. 9.—Because he was
jealous of babies "Tom, the great hunt-
ing cat," was shot by his owner, Andrew
Schnatzler, telegraph operator at this
place, to-day. The cat first belonged to
M. G. McPheerson, telegraph operator at
the railroad station here, and every time
he went gunning Tom went along, and
two dogs, but when a little baby came
to the McPheerson home Tom became
sullen. He watched the child as a cat
watches for a mouse, and attempted to
attack the child several times. Mr. Mc-
Pheerson, fearing for his child, gave Tom
to his fellow-telegrapher.

The cat soon became a favorite in its
new home and seemed happy, but it
showed its old traits of jealousy as soon
as a baby was born in the Schnatzler
home. Last night the child, which is
now six months old, was crawling on the
floor, when the cat seized a long-sought
opportunity and jumped on its head,
scratching it fearfully. Hearing the
child's cries, Mrs. Schnatzler rushed in
and tried to pull the cat off, but it would
not let go until kicked almost to death.
The cat did not seem sorry when Mr.
Schnatzler came home. Seeing the bleed-
ing child and hearing the cause, he
grabbed his rifle. Old Tom was over-
joyed, thinking he was to go rabbit
hunting once more. He forgot the child
and gladly mewed. Mr. Schnatzler
touched the trigger and Tom was no
more. Mr. McPheerson received a tele-
graphic message this afternoon telling of
old Tom's death.

LOVE FOR HOME WAS FATAL.

Man Escaped from Hospital and Died
on Own Threshold.

Pittsburg, Jan. 9.—After escaping from
the Mercy Hospital to fulfill his expressed
wish of dying in his own home, Kenny
Fitzpatrick, aged sixty-five, a well-known
riverman, made his way to his home, 222
Verschell street, and dropped dead on the
very threshold. Fitzpatrick had been in
Mercy Hospital three weeks suffering
from malarial fever, and while conval-
escent declared to the doctors that he
must go home.
This morning when the ward was visit-
ed it was found that Fitzpatrick had
made his escape by the old-fashioned
method of knotting bed sheets together
and climbing out of a window to the
ground. Shortly afterward came the
news that the half-clad fugitive had col-
lapsed on his doorstep.

Falls to Escape Wife.

York, Pa., Jan. 9.—In order to escape
arrest on a warrant sworn out by his
wife, George Bohm, who from this city to
Pittsburg on a bicycle. This winter's
snowstorm came up, and it is feared he
lost his way and perished upon the
mountain.



PREHISTORIC RELICS FOUND.

Interesting and Valuable Discoveries
on the Island of Malta.
Rome, Jan. 9.—Much space is given in
the latest report of the activities of the
British school here during the last year
in the partial exploration of prehistoric
remains of Malta. Malta, especially, is
of much importance. It has been settled
since the dawn of the great megalithic
structures of the Gigantia, Hagarr,
Kilm, and Malidra are buildings of the
bronze age having a sacred character and
were probably temples.
Close to the Valetta there was discovered
a short time ago an extensive hy-
pocaust, called Haisantien. It was cut
in the rock, and its arrangement is strik-
ingly similar to that of the three tem-
ples, although this served at some period
as a burial place. In it has been found a
large quantity of pottery peculiar to
Malta.

CAT DEVOURS BIRD ACTOR.

Richard Gose from Cast of "The
Boys and Betty."
New York, Jan. 9.—Richard, a canary,
one of the most artistic singers in the
cast of "The Boys and Betty," at Wallack's
Theater, suffered a violent death at the
performance. Richard is brought in dur-
ing the first act as a gift from Paul to
Betty, and until the fall of the curtain he
thrills as merrily as any canary could,
competing with the star herself.
When he was brought on the door of
the cage had not been securely fastened.
In a twinkling he was out and flew
tittering into the wings. When the stage
hands finally got trace of Richard all
that remained were a few scattered
feathers, while Tom, the stage cat,
rubbed himself against a piece of scenery,
purred and licked his chops.

INDIANS IN LARGE NUMBERS ATTEND
GIFT FEAST OF WEALTHY CHIEF.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 9.—Jim Yellow-
kanim, the aged chief of the Nook-
sack tribe, who is conceded to be the
wealthiest Indian in the northwestern
part of the State of Washington, entertain-
ed 400 swishes of every tribe in the
Northwest at a potlatch or gift feast on
his ranch near Lynden, where he con-
tributed gifts of a total value of \$3,999
and expended as much more for food and
nonalcoholic drink.
The festival included the peculiar cere-
monies of the aborigines. The Indians
disinherited and rebuffed all the dead of
the Nooksack tribe, the weird rite being
performed in the cemetery owned by
Chief Yellowkanim. This part of the
ceremony was characterized by all due
solemnities and ritualistic performances.
A medicine dance, in which all the
guests participated, closed the congress
of the natives.

HOLD MEDICINE DANCE.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 9.—Jim Yellow-
kanim, the aged chief of the Nook-
sack tribe, who is conceded to be the
wealthiest Indian in the northwestern
part of the State of Washington, entertain-
ed 400 swishes of every tribe in the
Northwest at a potlatch or gift feast on
his ranch near Lynden, where he con-
tributed gifts of a total value of \$3,999
and expended as much more for food and
nonalcoholic drink.

WOMAN RECOVERING FROM FRACTURED
ARM HAS PECULIAR FALL.

Pittsburg, Jan. 9.—Just recovering from
fracture of the shoulder and arm, Mrs.
Anna Fey, aged eighty-four, of Grant
street, McKeesport, suffered a fracture of
the left leg yesterday in a peculiar man-
ner.
Mrs. Fey was lacing her shoe, when
her foot turned and she fell to the floor,
breaking her limb above the ankle. Mrs.
Fey received the first injury two months
ago when she fell downstairs.

HUMAN LIFE AS SACRIFICE.

Found to Exist in Case of Farmer in
India, Who Killed a Boy.

Calcutta, Jan. 9.—The practice of hu-
man sacrifice is growing increasingly rare
in India, but occasionally one hears of it
in remote districts. A case has recently
come before the Sessions Court at Chota
Nagpur, where a bunia of the Ranchi
district, on the Lohardaga Plateau, was
sentenced to imprisonment for life on the
charge of homicide, for he explained that
his wife's fields turned out to be so
fertile that he determined upon a sacri-
fice to the local goddess. With great
craftiness he engaged a boy to catch
birds for him, and then, luring the child
into the jungle, he set two of his culti-
vators to commit in ceremonial form
the sacrificial murder, and himself made
the offering of blood to the goddess.
The boy was missed, the police tracked
down the man who killed him, and these
confessions that the bunia had plotted the
child's death.

TREED BY HERD OF BUFFALO.

Government Agents Skid on Snow-
shoes, Then Climb to Safety.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 9.—Charged by a
herd of outlaw buffalo which drove him
into a treetop, where he was forced to
remain until nearly dead from exposure,
was the experience of James Thomason,
of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, thirty-four
miles east of Spokane, a government
agent on the Flathead Indian reserva-
tion, in Western Montana, to be opened
to settlement next summer.

Thomason and his party were cruising
over the big domain when the herd made
the charge. They skidded quite a dis-
tance on their snowshoes and then man-
aged to clamber up a big tree just as the
enraged buffalo reached the base of the
limb, remaining there an hour, pawing
the snow and throwing their weight
against the trees.
When the animals returned to the can-
yon the men climbed down and went to
their camp.

HIMALAYAS OVERTOP OTHERS

Mountains Elsewhere on the Globe
Made to Look Like Anthills.

Many of the Highest Peaks in India
Have No Native Names, So
Are Grouped.

The geological survey of India has just
published four large pamphlets giving a
summary of the geographical information
concerning the Himalayas that has been
accumulating for a century since the
first survey party was sent out among
the mountains in 1807. These volumes
are written for the general public and the
results are presented in a popular man-
ner.
The first impression one gets from them
is that the Himalayas so far exceed every
other mountain system in the world in
everything that makes the greatness of
mountains that they stand in a class by
themselves.
Though these mighty ranges have been
included in the survey scheme of British
India for a century, a great many of their
lofty peaks are not yet mapped and
there are many hundreds of summits
whose heights is not yet known. But of
the peaks that have been measured there
are seventy-five whose height exceeds
24,000 feet.
It is certain that there is no mountain
of this height in North America, and if
there is so lofty a summit in South
America the fact is yet to be shown.
Each of these seventy-five mountains is
nearly or more than two miles higher
than the loftiest eminence of Europe and
stands four-fifths of a mile or more
above the highest point in Africa.
The geological survey catalogues these
seventy-five principal peaks in five
classes in order of magnitude. The
peaks of the first magnitude, exceeding
23,000 feet in height, include only Mount
Everest and Kinchinjunga I; peaks of
the second magnitude, between 21,000
and 23,000 feet, are Kinchinjunga II and
Makala; third magnitude, between 20,000
and 21,000 feet, are 11 mountains; fourth mag-
nitude, between 19,000 and 20,000 feet, 22 moun-
tains, and fifth magnitude, between 18,000
and 19,000 feet, 20 mountains.
This far 87 mountains have been
measured whose height is above 10,000 feet
or more. It is estimated, according to the
law of probability, based upon the work
already done, that there are probably
1,325 mountains in the Himalayas that
are 20,000 feet or more in height.
There are besides many hundreds of
prominent, but, lower, summits. Very
few of these mountains have native
names and the question rises how, as
the mapping of the Himalayas progress,
shall this vast array of summits be
designated.
Of the seventy-five greatest peaks only
nineteen have native names. The sur-
vey says it would be a mistake to at-
tempt to attach an actual name to
every peak. Astronomically named
stars; in early days they grouped them
into constellations, and they now
number them according to right ascen-
sion. The survey proposes to fol-
low the method introduced by Col.
Montgomerie in the Karakoram region,
where he has named the whole region K
and its peaks K1, K2, K3, &c.
The survey says that the most isolated
and probably the most imposing peak in
all Asia is one whose name a few persons
have ever heard. It is Nanga Parbat,
standing on the western side of the Indus
valley and rising to a height of 26,200 feet.
Within sixty miles of it no other sum-
mit attains an altitude of more than 17,
000, so it surpasses all its surroundings by
more than 9,000 feet. The mountain does
not rise from a high elevation, as is the
case with many Himalayan summits, but
it is thrust skyward from a base that is
only 3,500 feet above the sea, so that
22,700 feet of it is completely exposed to
the gaze of the observer, and at a dis-
tance of less than forty miles he has an
unparalleled view of this overwhelming
spectacle, with its vast snowfields, glaciers
and crags.

INDIANS IN LARGE NUMBERS ATTEND
GIFT FEAST OF WEALTHY CHIEF.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 9.—Jim Yellow-
kanim, the aged chief of the Nook-
sack tribe, who is conceded to be the
wealthiest Indian in the northwestern
part of the State of Washington, entertain-
ed 400 swishes of every tribe in the
Northwest at a potlatch or gift feast on
his ranch near Lynden, where he con-
tributed gifts of a total value of \$3,999
and expended as much more for food and
nonalcoholic drink.
The festival included the peculiar cere-
monies of the aborigines. The Indians
disinherited and rebuffed all the dead of
the Nooksack tribe, the weird rite being
performed in the cemetery owned by
Chief Yellowkanim. This part of the
ceremony was characterized by all due
solemnities and ritualistic performances.
A medicine dance, in which all the
guests participated, closed the congress
of the natives.

HOLD MEDICINE DANCE.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 9.—Jim Yellow-
kanim, the aged chief of the Nook-
sack tribe, who is conceded to be the
wealthiest Indian in the northwestern
part of the State of Washington, entertain-
ed 400 swishes of every tribe in the
Northwest at a potlatch or gift feast on
his ranch near Lynden, where he con-
tributed gifts of a total value of \$3,999
and expended as much more for food and
nonalcoholic drink.

WOMAN RECOVERING FROM FRACTURED
ARM HAS PECULIAR FALL.

Pittsburg, Jan. 9.—Just recovering from
fracture of the shoulder and arm, Mrs.
Anna Fey, aged eighty-four, of Grant
street, McKeesport, suffered a fracture of
the left leg yesterday in a peculiar man-
ner.
Mrs. Fey was lacing her shoe, when
her foot turned and she fell to the floor,
breaking her limb above the ankle. Mrs.
Fey received the first injury two months
ago when she fell downstairs.

HUMAN LIFE AS SACRIFICE.

Found to Exist in Case of Farmer in
India, Who Killed a Boy.

Calcutta, Jan. 9.—The practice of hu-
man sacrifice is growing increasingly rare
in India, but occasionally one hears of it
in remote districts. A case has recently
come before the Sessions Court at Chota
Nagpur, where a bunia of the Ranchi
district, on the Lohardaga Plateau, was
sentenced to imprisonment for life on the
charge of homicide, for he explained that
his wife's fields turned out to be so
fertile that he determined upon a sacri-
fice to the local goddess. With great
craftiness he engaged a boy to catch
birds for him, and then, luring the child
into the jungle, he set two of his culti-
vators to commit in ceremonial form
the sacrificial murder, and himself made
the offering of blood to the goddess.
The boy was missed, the police tracked
down the man who killed him, and these
confessions that the bunia had plotted the
child's death.

JAIL BIRD AN EXPERT

Prisoner in Missouri Prison
a Fine Mathematician.

NUMERICAL EQUATION SOLVED

M. A. McGinnis Evolves Theory for
Algebraic Work that Goes Beyond
Anything Ever Before Devised.
Once Professor in Kansas College,
Whisky Proves His Downfall.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 8.—In Mis-
souri's great prison house in this city,
the largest penitentiary in the world,
containing convicts from every State in
the American Union and thirteen foreign
countries besides, there is a prisoner who
the guards may have no sense—a thin,
frail man of more than fifty years, slight-
ly stooped, whose besting brows are al-
ways drawn together above a pair of
steel-gray eyes with focus fixed upon
some object far away. He is wholly un-
fitted for the ordinary labors of prison
life and is employed in odd jobs about
the State binder twine plant. None of
the convict labor manufacturing con-
cerns is willing to accept him at the
State's wage of 50 cents a day.

This useless man, with the prison pal-
lor in his face and the strange light in
his eyes, who can hardly perform the
simplest duties of prison life, is known
as No. 929 in the Missouri Penitentiary,
but abroad men of science are grappling
with his theories of mathematics.
His name is M. A. McGinnis, Dr. J. M.
Greenwood, superintendent of the Kan-
sas City schools and himself a mathe-
matician, says:

"I first became acquainted with McGin-
nis some eight or ten years ago through
his algebraic solutions of numerical equa-
tions of the highest degree. In handling
such numerical equations he is the most
skillful algebraist I have ever read of."
McGinnis has evolved a theory for the
solution of algebraic equations which is
said to go beyond anything previously
devised. But he has gone further in the
solitude of his prison cell, and now an-
nounces that he has discovered a formu-
la for the solution of algebraic equations
as far as the twelfth degree. Mathemat-
icians have declared that it was impos-
sible to do what McGinnis says he can do.

His Hope for Freedom.

But McGinnis does not regard this dis-
covery as his greatest achievement. He
claims to have perfected a solution of nu-
merical equations by logarithms.

So thoroughly in earnest is the prison-
er and so fully is he convinced of the
correctness of his theory that he is will-
ing to stake all his hopes of freedom
upon its acceptance by the world of
mathematics. He is an old man and has
served only eighteen months of a ten
years' sentence, but he asks that Gov.
Folk, of Missouri, submit his theory of
the logarithmic solution of equations to a
jury of mathematicians of national re-
putation.

If the jury shall fail to sustain his the-
ory, McGinnis says, he is willing to serve
the remainder of his sentence, which,
considering his age and frail health,
means death in the prison. But if the
jury of mathematicians shall sustain his
views, he asks that the governor sign
his pardon upon the ground that he has
made a discovery of such value to civi-
lization as to cancel the debt which so-
ciety now holds against him.

Gov. Folk is himself an algebraist, and,
although the fact is known to but few,
algebra for years has been his favorite
method of mental recreation and relaxa-
tion, and he finds it much more interest-
ing and mentally invigorating than
chess, for instance. Gov. Folk is now
giving some of his spare time to the
McGinnis theories, but has not yet an-
nounced a conclusion as to their value.

Once a Professor.

McGinnis was formerly professor of
mathematics in a Kansas college. A few
years ago he published simultaneously in
the United States and Great Britain a
mathematical work entitled "Algebra the
Universal Solution for Numerical and
Literal Equations."

Whisky has been the downfall of Mc-
Ginnis. When under the influence of in-
toxicated he is easily influenced, and
while in that condition a few years ago
he was drawn into