

A MURDEROUS INFLUENCE
Curran Claims Hypnotism Drove Him to Attempt Murder

STABBED AN OLD MAN IN THE BACK

Thomas Curran Asked Aged Charles Earl for Money for Food, and Being Refused Followed and Attacked Him—Prisoner Puzzles the Police

Charles N. Earl, an aged resident of East Los Angeles, was stabbed in the back yesterday in front of the Westminster hotel by a beggar whose plea for alms he had refused...

"Come on; let's lynch the dog!" yelled somebody in the crowd, and instantly there was a rush towards the beggar, who had by this time been caught by Bowler. At first he drew back, as the officer came up, but when he learned that Bowler was an officer, he calmly submitted to being handcuffed...



THOMAS CURRAN -Sketched from life in jail yesterday.

Earl then remarked that he did not have any means to spare, and besides the fellow did not look as if he wanted for food.

"Well, I do, just the same," he responded. "I ain't had nothing to eat for five days."

"Well, why don't you go and get work?" asked Mr. Earl.

"I can't get work, on account of those mystic influences you Masons have put about me," replied the fellow. "Say, ain't you going to help me?" inquired the beggar, as Mr. Earl started away.

Mr. Earl thought this strange talk for a beggar, and replied as he began walking north on Main street toward Third: "No, I do not see any reason why I should help you." The old man had gone but a few yards when he realized that his footsteps were being dogged by the beggar.

"Help, murder, police; he has stabbed me!" screamed the prostrate man, putting up his hands to ward off any further stabs from his unknown assailant.

"Oh, you needn't make so much fuss," sneeringly remarked the beggar, looking at Mr. Earl, and then the assailant, with a shrug of his shoulders, turned and walked toward Third street, smiling to himself, with entire satisfaction over his deed.

forced aside opposition and took his prisoner out of danger.

The patrol wagon was summoned and the injured man removed to the receiving hospital, while the prisoner was taken to the police station. Dr. Ralph Hagan attended Mr. Earl and found that while his injuries were painful, they were not likely to result seriously.

The knife had not penetrated the cavity. Mr. Earl and his son, Homer P., who is on the editorial staff of the Express, were inclined to think that perhaps the attack had been inspired by the enemies of the A. P. A., of which the elder Earl was formerly a prominent member.

The officers are not inclined, however, to take this view of the case. Mr. Earl was removed to his home at 1507 Downey avenue. Had not the blows been struck downward, Mr. Earl would probably have sustained fatal injuries, but fortunately the blade did not penetrate any organ.

The beggar was searched at the police station and from him was taken a crucifix and a Catholic prayer book. He gave his name as George T. Curran. Beyond remarking as he was taken into prison, that he had got into a den of Masons and had tried to carve his way out, he would say nothing to the officers. Later Curran was interviewed by a Herald reporter. The prisoner is one of the most mysterious men who have come under the notice of the local police department for years.

He attributes the spell. The man is evidently well read on the subject of the Masonic belief, as well as hypnotism, but the belief he assumes is a jumble of ridiculous vagaries.

"Why did I stab the old man? Well, now," replied the prisoner, with a smile, "I do not know anything about that. He says I did so, so go and ask him. You see I have been under hypnotic suggestion for the past four years, and while a man is under such influence he may be led into doing anything. It was back in Cincinnati, Ohio, that I first felt that influence. It is from the Masons that I have been put under it, and they have hounded me every place I have since been. The Masons may get their heaven on this earth, but they will get hell after they leave it. They concentrate their bad thoughts and passions into one person and they singled me out as such a man. They now have nothing but good thoughts on this earth, but after they die they will have bad feelings. They will not allow me to have good thoughts, but all their bad feelings are concentrated in me."

"Well, did they put murderous feelings into you and cause you to try to kill that old man?" was asked. "They put murderous thoughts into me," he replied, but on the question regarding his attack upon Mr. Earl the prisoner would say nothing, he was asked whether he had attacked Mr. Earl. "Well, you see that is a matter between me, the old man and God." Continuing with the details of his belief, whether real or assumed, the prisoner said: "I am like that man in 'Sodom and Gomorrah. The people concentrate their bad feelings and while some feel good, and while some look to him for good sentiments, others do so for bad. I have been pursued by a hypnotic circle."

Curran then hinted that he had had to make the attack upon Earl because the latter was responsible in some mysterious way for the condition in which the prisoner had been for the past few years. Curran did not elucidate that point when questioned, and when pressed regarding the details of the attack would refuse to talk, saying that it could be explained at the proper time. The talk of the man about hypnotic circles and influence is sufficient to convince anybody that the prisoner is insane, but he displays so much cunningness touching the details of the assault, refusing to commit himself on that point and is so rational on all other topics but religion, that the men who have interviewed him are inclined to regard him as perfectly sane.

The prisoner said he was born at Chapel Hill, Mary county, Ohio, and had taught school in that state. The officers are inclined to think that he is an ex-convict, for an observation he made when taken into the office of the detectives naturally aroused their suspicions. As he was brought into the office to be measured by the Bertillon system he was looking at the appliances, though there was no sign to indicate what system they were, remarked: "Oh, the Bertillon system, I see."

When questioned about his acquaintance with this system, Curran denied that he had ever been in a penitentiary, but had merely read up on the system. That he was well posted on the subject, he remarked that the local department does not use as many measurements as the system provides. Chief of Police Glass interrogated the prisoner, but was unable to learn much from him.

SOME OLD BOOKS

Interesting Papers Read at Historical Society

The regular monthly meeting of the Historical society was held last evening, with Rev. Father Adam, at the residence of Rt. Rev. Bishop Montgomery, 118 East Second street, with a large attendance. President T. D. Moody called the meeting to order. The first paper of the evening was read by Rev. Father Adam, on his recent trip to Europe, especially Switzerland, which was listened to with interest. Of all the European cities the speaker visited Berlin impressed him the most favorably, with its wide streets, fine buildings and excellent music. The musical scenery of Switzerland was fine, but there are sections of California that almost, if not quite, equal it. Prof. Polley, who has just returned from a visit to that country, fully concurred in Father Adam's opinion concerning the scenery, except that the California mountains lack the snow that adds so much to the beauty of the Alps. The Swiss people are progressive, intelligent, cultured, and a picturesque people in their festivals and merry-makings. It is a country that must be seen to be understood, and once seen inspired the traveler with perpetual enthusiasm.

Prof. A. E. Yerex followed with excerpts from Winsor's recently published history of America, quoting authorities on the much disputed march of Coronado and his discovery of Quivera and the seven cities of Cibola. The most interesting feature of the evening's entertainment and instruction was a file of eight or ten very old books, taken from Bishop Montgomery's library. They were old music books, containing the church masses and records from the missions of San Antonio de Padua and San Gabriel. They were written on heavy, tough, parchment paper, bound in sheepskin. The writing is as beautiful and regular as copperplate engravings, and though a century and a quarter has elapsed since some of them were written, the ink apparently has not faded a particle. The notes of the music books are in the old-time square and diamond shapes, written in red and black ink.

Father Adam read an instructive and entertaining description of some of the contents of these ancient volumes. One of them, he said, bears the date 1770, one year after the first explorers set foot in Upper California. Father Adam suggested that some of the best musicians of the city interpret the music and give a concert for the benefit of the Historical society. Another is written in Italian, supposed to have been brought with the mission fathers. A mass for four voices is signed by Father Ignacio Jerusalem. Every mission had its choir and orchestra of string and wind instruments. Sometimes it was necessary to lock the musicians up to keep them sober for the services, and, aware of their infirmity, they would sometimes come to the priest and ask to be locked up. Another of the books contains the famous "Misa Catalana," or "Catalonian Mass," and still another contains a record of the Soldado mission up to the year 1836.

The most curious and valuable of the collection is a record from San Gabriel, written and signed by Father Francisco Palou, the bosom friend and companion of Padre Junipero Serra. It was signed October 4, 1778, and contains a record of the number of masses said for the repose of the souls of forty-two priests killed by the Indians up to 1803, including the father murdered at San Diego. It records the death of Father Fermín Lassen, in 1803, and Father Miguel Sanchez, the beloved priest of San Gabriel, in the same year. The removal of the mission site from the old ground to the present, which was better adapted to the purpose, and the beginning of the present church in 1778 is recorded, all that now exists of the former extensive buildings.

Father Adam gave an account of the reckless destruction of the old records, not one of which can be found, of the Mission San Luis Rey. By request of the society he will continue the translation of important facts from these ancient records, for preservation by the society. The monthly meeting then adjourned, and the annual meeting was called to order for the purpose of electing a board of managers, from which officers will be chosen for the ensuing year. The election resulted in the following board of directors: Dr. J. D. Moody, J. M. Gunn, A. E. Yerex, R. J. Adams, Mrs. Burton Williamson, Prof. Frank Polley, H. D. Barrows. The following members were chosen as officers: President, A. E. Yerex; first vice-president, R. J. Adams; second vice-president, Rev. J. D. Moody; secretary, J. M. Gunn; treasurer, Judge Baxter.

AT THE THEATER

THE ORPHEUM.—The principal feature of last night's bill was the comedy sketch written by Harry Lacy, and in which he appeared, supported by Ida Van Sicien. It is entitled "Hob Racker's Pajamas," and demonstrates the trouble that may arise from two people of opposite sexes imagining that they are respectively the only occupant of a certain room in a public hotel. There is the usual accurate entrance of one on the scene, coming on the exit of the other, and matters are timed as in all well regulated farces, so that the risibilities of the audience are excited to the highest pitch. The lady in the case is a smart, tailor-made girl who, finding a suit of nice silk pajamas in her room, thinks it will be great fun to put them on. She does so, and is immediately horrified to find the man whom they belong walking into the room and sternly commanding her to "take them off." Of course the man turns out to be an old lover from whom she has been parted for many years, and after a capital scene of misunderstanding which the disguised girl is taken for, she is allowed to come right with the proper and expected wedding. Miss Van Sicien looks real cute in the title role, and barring a tendency to throw her words separately at the audience in a somewhat spasmodic manner, is quite captivating.

Harry Lacy, an old favorite here, has a rollicking devil-may-care sort of part, and plays it in his easy free-handed style, not with any particular refinement, but with a good many artistic touches withal. The sketch was heartily applauded.

A troop of educated dogs was another attraction of the program that will draw all the juveniles in town to the theater. The four Florences repeat their acrobatic turn, and there are several other holdovers from last week, including the ever-popular big show.

The so-called comedians should be made to cease the vulgar and ancient jest about Helen Hunt, but no suggestion can be made for the improvement of the singing comedian who is "author of every song he sings." He and his tap room ditties should be abolished. The persistent advertising of a leading Spring street saloon and some of its prominent frequenters by name may be very good for the front row, but is not the kind of better fitted for the common music hall than for an audience such as was present last night.

The management has made several improvements in the house, the abolition of the candy stand and of the popcorn boys being among them. But boys are still allowed to peddle candy and popcorn among the seats, and their hoarse cries entirely spoiled the pleasure of those who wanted to listen to the orchestra, especially to the flute and clarinet duet played by Messrs. Cann and Strong. By the bye, George Cann, with his flute, has been added to the strength of the orchestra, and a grand piano has taken the place of the old upright.

THE PAVILION.—A good sized audience greeted the presentation of Lincoln J. Carter's spectacular melodrama, "The Heart of Chicago," at the Pavilion last night. The piece is full of stirring situations, mechanical effects and showy scenery, principal among them being the famous approaching engine scene, a clever bit of scenic construction in which a full sized train, presenting all the appearance of rapidly lessening distance, dashes to the footlights. Others worthy of especial mention are the Columbus fountain, Masonic temple roof garden, court of honor, World's fair and State and Madison streets the night of the great fire.

Viola Bancroft makes a very pretty Emily Coleman, the young wife, and in the second act, supposedly twenty years later, a charming second edition as her daughter. Helen Dale fills the part of "Maggie" with spirit; David Conger is a good villain, paradoxical as it may sound, and Allen Hampton an excellent type of the genus hob. The other characters are fairly well sustained, and the piece, with its decidedly Bowery flavor, was very well received and will probably be played to good houses during the balance of the week.

THE BURBANK.—Tonight the Henderson company will commence its two weeks' engagement at the Burbank. "The Crust of Society," by Alexander Dumas, will be the initial performance. It is a play which has not been given here for a long time, and as it is among the few great dramatic works dealing with modern society, it should prove a powerful magnet. Considerable interest is manifested in the appearance here of Miss Adelaide Fitzgibbon. The lady comes with an excellent reputation as a leading woman. A heavy advance sale of seats is apparent.

THE LOS ANGELES.—The "Bunch of Keys" will be given on Thursday night. During the past theatrical recess Manager Bolter has had the play overhauled; new songs, dances and situations have been introduced, and some changes and additions have been made in the company. There is no change in the star, Ada Bolter, her Teddy will be the same, but there are others, and quite a lot of them; new girls, pretty girls, dainty girls and dancing girls; at least the press agent say so, consequently it must be true.

Silvany Will Case The Silvany will case, which has been on trial for some two weeks before Judge Ballard of Orange county, sitting in Department two of the superior court, was at last submitted to the jury last night. An evening session was held to allow time for the concluding argument by Zach Montgomery, his son and the attorneys on the other side of the case, Messrs. W. A. Harris and A. A. Montana, having consumed the day with their pleas. The case will probably reach a verdict today.

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Undelivered Telegrams There are undelivered telegrams at the Western Union office for Jacob W. Fuss, Miss M. E. Snell, Westminster Ceterly company, A. W. Beneman, George W. Weber. Five Miles up in the Air Two daring London aeronauts ascended five miles above the earth in a balloon and nearly froze to death. The temperature at that height was 10 degrees below zero. The men went in the interest of science, and while the actual benefit of their trip to humanity at large was considerable, it will not begin to equal the great good accomplished by the medical relief which gave the world Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. Nothing to equal this remedy has ever been discovered for ailments of the stomach, liver, bowels and kidneys. They strengthen the body, the nerves, they brace up the despondent and cheer the invalid.

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INDEX TO CITY NEWS

Five important supreme court decisions. Murderous attack upon a pedestrian by a beggar who was refused alms. A masher properly "done up" by a woman whom he had followed and insulted. Receiver Gibson's report on the receipts and expenditures of the water company. Case against Annie Siefert indefinitely continued, and will probably be dismissed.

EVENTS OF TODAY Orpheum—Vaudeville. Burbank—"The Crust of Society." Hazard's Pavilion—"The Heart of Chicago." City council meets—10 a. m. Pioneers meet, Caledonia hall—8 p. m. Board of police commissioners meets—10 a. m. Board of water arbitrators meets, council chamber—10 a. m. Astronomical section Academy of Sciences, 325 West Adams street—8 p. m.

THE WEATHER TEMPERATURE—Record of observations taken at Los Angeles, Dec. 5th. The barometer is reduced to sea level.

Maximum temperature, 78. Minimum temperature, 51. Forecast For Southern California: Partly cloudy Tuesday; brisk northwest winds.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF Dr. Beach, removed to 218 S. Broadway. Breese Brothers, funeral directors, Broadway and Sixth. The best and cheapest. Robert Sharp & Co., funeral directors, 751 and 753 South Spring street. Tel. Main 1029. The board of supervisors yesterday apportioned 10 per cent of the road tax to the road fund. Watches cleaned, 75 cents; mainsprings, 50 cents; crystals, 10 cents. Patton, 214 South Broadway. Adams Bros., dentists, 230 1/2 South Spring street. Rates from 84. Painless extracting, 50 cents. Filling a specialty. Hours, 8 to 5; Sundays, 10 to 12. Do you know that a framed picture makes a most desirable wedding present? If you are looking for anything in that line do not fail to call at H. C. Lichtenberger's art emporium, 202 South Spring street.

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