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VOLUME XLI. MONDAY. KANSAS CITY, DECEMBER 26, 1898. MONDAY. PRICE TWO CENTS

COLUMBIA MO

There Seems to Be Anxious Inquiry at the Kansas Legislature for Col. Toucher

THEY ALL LOVE HIM

HENRY SLEIGHT, KANSAS CITY'S SANTA CLAUS.

IT PLEASES HIM TO DO GOOD

A QUAINT CHARACTER WITH AN INTERESTING HISTORY.

In Charles Dickens' Work His Prototype Can Be Found—Conducts a Little Grocery Store, but His Business Is Not Profitable.

If Charles Dickens had lived in Kansas City the old man who runs the little grocery store at 1800 Walnut street would no doubt be as well known to all the world to-day as he is to the neighborhood children, who believe that he is Santa Claus, and to the poor people of the vicinity who are his customers. He is a quaint, old man, and just as much a character as Mr. Jarndyce or Tom Pinch or Sam Weller ever was.

For ten years Henry Sleight has owned

HENRY SLEIGHT.

the little store at Eighteenth and Walnut. In all that time he has scarcely been away from the little curiosity shop, that looks as quaint and ancient and out-of-date as though it were on one of the side streets of London and had stood there for 200 years.

It is a little, dingy, one-room brick, with a "V" shape top.

Mr. Sleight, or the "old man," as the neighborhood knows him, sleeps on one of the counters of the little store at night. He cooks his own meals on an old base-burner stove that stands in the center of the room and looks as though it might have been, years ago, in the parlor of a pioneer's home, and had descended through a succession of second-hand deals to its present owner. It is battered and covered with rust. A frying pan, when not in use, is turned upside down over it and the drippings of many meals have trickled down and smeared its top.

Here Henry Sleight has lived all these ten years alone, except for the companionship of a cat and a dog, that are as faithful to the old man as his customers who love him and would fight for him.

He is 68 years old. His hair and beard are as white as those in the pictures of Longfellow, but his body is still stout, and the deep chest tones of his voice hint at a powerful pair of lungs.

The old man has an attractive face. His forehead is high, his eyebrows are bushy and noble, his features are well-defined and his eyes have all the glow and sparkle of youth in them. His resemblance to Santa Claus is remarkable. It has long been the custom of mothers of the neighborhood to point him out as "Old Santy."

Tots Wonder at Him.

"Are you Santa Claus?" asked one of three little children who passed his store yesterday.

"That's what they call me," was the answer.

"But are you really Santa Claus?"

"Yes, truly, my child, I am."

"Then what are you going to bring me?"

"Some candy, if you're good."

And then and there he handed out from his little store of sweets a packful of candies to each. He smiled as they went away and looked after them until they disappeared, and there seemed to be in his face the words of the poor woman in "Bleak House": "Pray, come and see my lodging. It will be a good omen for me. Youth and hope and beauty are very seldom there. It's a long time since I had a visit from either."

It is amazing to look into Mr. Sleight's little store. Everything is jumbled together in the strangest confusion. Canned goods, little boxes, jars, wooden butter dishes, tiny sacks of flour, and every other imaginable article fill the shelves, but nothing has a shelf to itself. Through heaps of potato sacks and apple barrels a big coal oil tank can be seen standing in one corner. In another corner is a miniature meat shop, with pigs' feet, sausage and pork chops in a heap. The room is redolent of the odor of potatoes and onions, and parched coffee.

"I am not a storekeeper and was never intended for one," said Mr. Sleight as he sat by the old stove last night, dressed in three suits of blue overalls that came up to his neck, and clung to his shoulders by little suspender straps. "Although I seem to be immured here in this petty business alone, my thoughts are active and my life is not unhappy."

Is a Wonderful Talker.

The old man showed himself to be a wonderful talker. He used the very best English and his words were simple and strong, many of his sentences possessing a natural elegance and grace. He had received but little education, he said, the greater part of his life having been spent as a miner in California. His fund of entertaining anecdotes of mining life, all with the stamp of truth upon them, is almost exhaustless.

"Do you never become lonely, here?" asked his visitor, looking out into the darkness of the street where a rough looking character occasionally passed and peered into the little store as he went by.

"No. I prefer to be alone. My thoughts keep me from being lonely." He told of the only time he was ever held up, when a footpad went through his pockets with one hand and held a revolver to his head with the other. Several times he had avoided holdups by his foresight. His strangest experience of that kind, he said, was with a well-dressed woman who came into the store and introduced herself as a friend of his long-lost brother's family in New London, Canada. After talking a while she left, promising to take his kind regards to the brother at New London, whither she was going. She found out that he and his brother never heard from each other. About three months later the same lady came again, this time with the news of his brother's death and a subscription list for the family which was destitute.

She named several prominent Kansas City people who had given liberally, but by this time Mr. Sleight's suspicions were aroused, and he declined to subscribe. The woman never returned again. He has always suspected she was after money that she supposed he had made in the mines and had expended in Kansas City.

While he was talking a customer came in. It was an old colored woman with a shawl over her head.

"Well, madam, what will you have me do for you?" was the courteous question.

The customer put 8 cents on the counter. She wanted pork chops and bread. She got enough of both for a meal.

"Yes," said the old man, as he sat down, "I've lost $250 here in the last ten years, but I don't regret it. I feel that I have done good. I know that I have often fed the starving."

History of His Life.

Henry Sleight was born in England, in 1831. His father and his grandfather were laborers. He came to this country early in life and became a California gold seeker. After his children had grown up and his wife had died, having meanwhile had various adventures in various parts of the world, he came to Kansas City and invested in the queer, little place where he has since lived.

In 1893 he went back to England and found a man who remembered his grandfather and took him to see the humble little thatched home in which his grandfather had lived. The steward of the manor house hard by, for the master of which his grandfather had worked, allowed him to look into the spacious halls of the great dwelling. The stewardess took him up the great stairway and showed him a quilt of white satin and gold made by the hand of Mary, queen of the Scots.

Mr. Sleight is at work now on a book on "The Uses of Life and the Things of Life." He expects to put two more years of labor on it before it is ready for the public. He never goes to church, because he can't get away from the little store, but he believes in God and the immortality of the soul.

People about Eighteenth and Walnut streets who have known the "old man" for years believe there is more in him than appears. For know much of his early life and none knows whether he is rich or poor. Aged though he looks, and though he appears to walk quite lamely, he has the arm of an athlete. It is large and knotted with muscles that are as hard as iron.

CUBANS TURN BANDITS.

Members of Colonel Valiente's Force Giving Americans No Little Trouble.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 25.—Lieutenant Colonel Henry Ray, who had reported to General Wood, military governor of the department, that Colonel Francisco Valiente, chief of gendarmes, had been among the insurgents, and that several bands of robbers were operating in the neighborhood of Guantanamo, arrived here to-day. He repeats his charges against Colonel Valiente, declaring that they are well founded. He admits that Colonel Valiente was the first Cuban officer who nominally disarmed his men, merely requesting permission to guard the arms with a squad of his own troops. This request was granted by Major Harris, representing Lieutenant Colonel Ray at Sagua de Tanamo, Harris even promising to supply rations to the guard. According to Colonel Ray, Valiente, before starting for Santiago, turned over to the several Cuban captains 600 rifles that were stacked by his men when they were disarmed. This fact was only recently reported to Colonel Ray.

The latter, on arriving here, saw Colonel Valiente and repeated his accusations. Valiente declared that he had not armed the Cubans, but had merely given the rifles into the charge of the various officers.

Colonel Ray claims that this explains the existence of the troublesome bands of robbers who have infested the districts around Guantanamo. In one case, a Cuban major went so far as to order the proprietors of a sugar estate not to grind. Colonel Ray sent a company of United States troops to guard the estate, whereupon the Cuban major took to the woods with a band of men who have been ever since robbing and pillaging estates near by.

As a result of this condition of things, Colonel Ray's entire regiment, with the exception of two companies, is now scattered about the country, guarding private property. Colonel Ray says he has the names of several prominent Cubans who have censured Valiente for turning over his arms. Valiente replied that he had the arms under guard and would keep them safe until it was seen what the United States would do. Moreover, Colonel Ray insists that the Cuban police who were sent by Colonel Valiente to capture the chief bandit, were worthless and proved dishonest, as they allowed the robber to sleep undisturbed in the next house to the one where they were quartered. To-morrow Colonel Ray will return to Guantanamo. He intends to mount some of his own men and to capture the robber chief. Meanwhile, except on the guarded estates, work in his district is practically at a standstill.

CASTELLANE TITLE DISPUTE.

French Expert Says That Anna Gould's Husband Is Not a Count.

PARIS, Dec. 25.—According to Vicomte de Boyer, an expert on titles, the title of Count Castellane, who married Miss Anna Gould, is bogus. He says:

"There were two Castellane families, one from Provence and one from Toulouse. The former, which is now extinct, rightly bore the title. The Toulouse Castellanes, to whom belongs Miss Gould's husband, never had a title, but assumed one when the Provence family died out.

"Count de Rohan-Chabot, who married Miss Heyward, is not a count, either. His name is Chabot. The name De Rohan he took from his first wife.

"There is no Baron de Giers, although the man whom Chauncey M. Depew's ward, Miss Collins, married last year, bears that title. The Baron Alexander, husband of Mary Hyser, of New York, is son of a former prefect, and bears a title of no value in France, being granted by the king of Denmark.

"Count de Villars, who married Carola Livingstone, has no right to a title. He is descended from a man who came to Paris and started in the hotel business and quietly assumed the title of count.

"Clara Ward married an alleged Prince de Chimay. There is no original Prince Chimay. A Chimay married a princess and took the title of prince."

PLEA FOR CHURCH UNION.

Nashville Minister Wants "North" and "South" Presbyterians to Get Together.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Dec. 25.—Rev. Dr. J. I. Vance, of the First Presbyterian church, in his sermon to-day, urged the wiping out of the terms "North" and "South" applied to the church, saying:

"I wonder if the time is not at hand for the effacement of geographical marks from the name of our beloved Presbyterian church in America. She should be the first to put into practice the gospel she proclaimed. And yet it must be admitted that, while Mason and Dixon's line has disappeared from the geography of citizenship, it survives in the geography of the church. I speak to-day for a Presbyterianism that shall no more be marked 'North' or 'South,' but whose territorial boundaries shall be coterminal with the uttermost limits of the republic—an American Presbyterian church."

MISSING MAN RETURNS.

Trenton, N. J., Architect Who Was Supposed to Have Been Drowned Shows Up.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 25.—Architect William W. Slack, who was supposed to have been drowned in the Delaware river about two months ago, by the upsetting of his boat near White Hill, returned to his home to-day.

Slack's whereabouts had been known to his friends for some time, and it is said he was in an institution for mental treatment. No explanation other than this was given for his disappearance. His domestic relations were pleasant, and he had no financial troubles, except that his business was not particularly prosperous. Slack is now with his wife and children.

ON LINE OF SEX

HOW TOPEKA OPINION IS DIVIDED IN COLLINS CASE.

WOMEN THINK HIM INNOCENT

MRS. COLLINS AND GRACE CRUSHED BY THE VERDICT.

Believe John Is the Victim of an Infamous Conspiracy—Case Will Be Carried to the Supreme Court by the Defense.

TOPEKA, Dec. 25.—(Special.) It has been a sad, sad Christmas for the Collins family. A few friends have called to offer their sympathy to the women whose stepson and brother has been declared a convicted murderer and it is a sad story they bear in the Van Buren street home. Within eight months, the head of the family has been murdered and now a life sentence in the penitentiary is the lot which the son, the only other man in the house, has to face. The last blow was far more crushing than the first.

Mrs. Collins and Grace apparently have the utmost confidence in John's innocence. To them he always has been a kind, gentle, affectionate boy, on whom, when the husband and father died, they expected to lean for comfort and support. Now they believe they are the victims of an infamous conspiracy. The testimony which convicted John they consider a mass of colored falsehoods, conceived in the brain of detectives. They cannot understand how a jury could bring in a verdict of guilty, or why a Shawnee county court would permit such an array of false testimony to be advanced against him. It is beyond their comprehension why such an infamous outrage will be allowed in a land of civilization.

John Collins is bearing up under the terrible conviction much better than his stepmother and sister, just as the charge has always been treated by him in a much lighter spirit. He does not shed tears, for that is not John Collins' style. But the prisoner grieves for his unprotected and sorrowing loved ones, and it is when thinking of them that the seriousness of the verdict impresses itself upon him. So far as he is personally concerned, a life at hard labor in the penitentiary apparently possesses no terrors. John Collins laughed when he was being tried for slaying his father and he calmly puffed a cigar when the jury announced that it believed him to be a murderer.

General opinion in Topeka regarding the verdict is divided on the line of sex. There are few women who have not from the start believed Collins innocent and who do not now think he is being terribly wronged. Before County Attorney Johnson made his closing argument Saturday, he was waited upon by a committee of women who implored him not to be "too hard" on John.

The men of Topeka by a large majority consider the verdict thoroughly just and are satisfied that the murderer of J. S. Collins is his own son. A prominent Mason says that the members of that order, to which the murdered man belonged, are generally "highly gratified." Sympathy for the stricken family is, however, universal and sincere. For this reason, very many citizens who were friends of J. S. Collins express their belief in John's guilt, but ask that their names be withheld.

The testimony of Mrs. Burnett, and of Updegraff, it is generally thought, did the defense more harm than good. It developed to-day that the attorneys for the defense, themselves, do not wholly understand these witnesses. Mr. Godard said this afternoon to The Journal correspondent:

"I sincerely believe that Mrs. Burnett did see a man on the roof of the Collins house on the morning of the murder. What she was doing at that hour I do not know, but I believe she told the truth as regards the man on the roof. I also believed Updegraff, although he puzzled us when he was cross-examined. I have received letters from County Attorney Ralston, of Coffey county, and a merchant of Burlington, saying that Updegraff is a thoroughly reliable man, and from parties with whom I am acquainted, I have learned that no men in that community stand higher than Ralston and the merchant who vouched for the witness' character. Updegraff was badly tied up under crossfire, but I attribute that more to Sanford's boisterous manner than to anything else."

County Attorney Johnson announced tonight that he would, within the next few days, institute proceedings against Mrs. Burnett, charging her with perjury. It will be remembered that Ella Buchanan, colored, testified that she was with Mrs. Burnett on the morning of the murder, and also saw the man on the roof. The next day she took the stand again, and acknowledged that she had sworn falsely, and declared under oath that Mrs. Burnett had promised to pay her for doing so. Mr. Johnson will also investigate the case of Updegraff, the man who claimed to have been under a box car at Burlington a few weeks before the murder, and to have there overheard a conversation between two negroes, who were plotting the murder of J. S. Collins. As yet, Mr. Johnson has not enough evidence to warrant his arrest.

Many profess to believe that the gauzy testimony of these witnesses may have influenced the jury against Collins. John's acknowledgment that he had been with the negroes, Harper, Jordan and Smothers, undoubtedly hurt him in the public mind. Again, the prisoner's apparent indifference during the trial lost him friends and very probably it also influenced the jury against him. One of the jurors intimated as much to The Journal correspondent to-night.

John's light-heartedness has led many to believe that he is not in his right mind. "It seems incredible that a young man who was brought up in a good home and under the very best influence could have acted as he did when on trial for the murder of his father," said a business man.

A prominent Mason said:

"I thoroughly believe that John Collins is guilty. There was a long time before the members of our order could believe it and it was as much to remove all suspicion from the family as to perform a duty toward our unfortunate brother that we hired a detective. The Masons put up the money to ascertain the murderer, and they have landed him."

The attorneys for Collins are preparing their petition for a rehearing. When the application will be heard is not known. It is not generally considered probable that Judge Hazen will grant another trial.

"There never was a murder trial that a petition for a rehearing was not made," said County Attorney Johnson. "In this case, nothing will come of it. I am satisfied that the application will not be granted."

In case the defense does not get a rehearing, the case will be carried to the supreme court. In this event, Mr. Godard will be placed in a somewhat peculiar position. Early next month he will become attorney general of Kansas, and, consequently, the state prosecutor. In the event the case goes to the higher court, Mr. Godard says he will take no part in the trial, but will allow Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sanford to continue the prosecution.

Despite the general belief in the guilt of John Collins and the confidence in the justice of his conviction, the verdict came as a hard blow to hundreds of friends of the family who have watched his growth from infancy. As a boy, John was always generous. He was never quarrelsome and his heart is tender—so that what has often been taken for indifference on his part has frequently been his natural quiet reserve.

While in the public schools John always stood high in his classes. This fact made him a favorite with all of his teachers and caused heartaches among them when they learned of the revelation which followed, with greater horror than those who had taught him in the Topeka schools. He never cared to participate in boys' sports, and studied the read while they played. In this respect he did not change when he grew older. Often the young men of the neighborhood would play ball in the yard and John would always watch them from the porch. He rarely attended the university athletic games.

When John was a small lad his admiration for his father was remarkable. Five years ago, J. S. Collins was an independent candidate for mayor of Topeka, and the 15-year-old son was his chief lieutenant and campaign manager. He spent the evenings in visiting his father's friends and hauling voters to the polls in the family carriage. It was the greatest surprise of his life when he learned that his father had been defeated.

Until he went to Lawrence, John was seldom in the society of girls. He rarely attended parties. For two years at Lawrence he was studious and popular. Then his head was turned. He attended the university parties and saw life in a new light. He ordered to be the best dressed on University hill, and succeeded in satisfying his ambition. To do this and to keep up his attention on the young women he admired as he thought he should, required more money than his father gave him for an allowance and he commenced to borrow right and left. The rest of the story has been recounted in all of its harrowing details from the witness stand of the Shawnee county district court during the last four weeks.

HIS NERVE IS FAILING.

Verdict of the Jury Has Had a Noticeable Effect on John Collins.

A gentleman who stands in the relation of a close personal friend to John Collins, convicted of murdering his father last May, and who was an eye witness to the entire proceedings of the trial, was in the city yesterday, having left the condemned man but a few hours before. He was induced to talk concerning the great trial, and said:

"The notice of the application for a new trial has been given by the attorneys for the defense and they are already at work gathering evidence to support the plea. Of course, the position of the jury will be attacked and the fact that it arrived at a verdict so quickly seems to make the attorneys hopeful that they will gain their point.

"Up to the time of the jury returning the verdict, Collins was very hopeful, but the conclusions to be drawn from the quickness of it in arriving at a verdict seem to have robbed him of some portion of the iron nerve he has exhibited all through the proceedings.

"The greatest concern of the condemned man is for his family and he feels keenly the blot it will cast upon it. I was with him some time and his whole talk was on that subject. In reference to himself and his hopes of being eventually cleared, he had little to say. In fact, preferred not to dwell upon that point at all.

"The family feel the result of the trial very keenly and under the circumstances bear up well. The action of the jury seems to have stunned them and they have not had time to realize the gravity of the situation. The friends of the family are deliberate and doing all in their power to keep their spirits in a hopeful state.

"This morning a number of presents were sent to the jail among them being several pictures and other knick-knacks from Collins' friends. He will use them to decorate his narrow quarters and make them as cheerful as possible.

"If the judge refuses to grant the plea for a new trial, it will be taken up higher on appeal. In that case the state will have to appoint a special prosecutor, as Mr. Godard, Collins' attorney, has just been elected attorney general of the state."

Yesterday in some unaccountable manner the rumor gained currency in Kansas City that John Collins had committed suicide, that his conviction had at last broken down his nerves of steel and that he could not face the anomaly of life imprisonment. The telephone switchboards were kept busy answering inquiries and at last the replies became stereotyped into the reply: "There is no truth in it."

MISS CLARA SUTRO WEDS.

Daughter of the Late Adolph Sutro Married to a Chicago Lawyer.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Dec. 25.—Miss Clara Sutro, daughter of the late Adolph Sutro, the famous San Francisco mining man, mayor and millionaire, and William J. English, of Chicago, were quietly married this afternoon at the residence of Right Rev. Bishop Montgomery, who officiated. The brother of the bride was the only witness to the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. English will remain here for a few days, and will then journey to New York. They contemplate a trip to Spain, and, upon their return to this country, they will take up their residence in Chicago, the home of the groom.

Mr. English is a widely known attorney, being a member of the firm of English & Heffernan, of Chicago. He is also a member of the Chicago school board, and is ex-president of the Chicago Fair Association.

PLANS FOR SAMPSON WEDDING.

Marriage of Admiral's Daughter Next Week to Be an Elaborate Event.

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 25.—About 1,000 invitations have been issued for the marriage of Miss Olive Harrington Sampson, daughter of Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, to Henry Harrison Scott, of San Francisco, which will be solemnized in the Congregational church in Glen Ridge on Wednesday, January 4.

Among those invited are President and Mrs. McKinley and the members of the president's cabinet, and officials high in the naval, army and civil departments of the federal government.

Elaborate preparations are being made for the event. The prevailing floral decorations will be violets, yellow roses and palms. A reception will follow the ceremony at the admiral's home, to which only immediate relatives and friends will be invited.

HEAVEN PITY THE COLONELS!

Every Saloon in Lexington, Ky., Closed Yesterday on Account of Indictments.

LEXINGTON, KY., Dec. 25.—This was the first day in the history of Lexington that thirsty men could not get a drink. Every saloon in the city was closed by mutual agreement of the proprietors. This action was brought about by the fact that the recent grand jury indicted all saloonkeepers for violating the Sunday law.

Velvet Edges on Collars.

Munger's Laundry Company have a patented device for smoothing the edges of collars and cuffs that prevents scratching the neck and wrists.

JUDGE DAY TALKS

SAYS HE WILL NOT BE A GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE.

AS TO PEACE COMMISSION FEES

SAYS TALK OF $100,000 FOR HIS WORK IS PREPOSTEROUS.

Safe to Say That Commissioners Will Not Receive More Than $15,000 Each—Large Fees for Negotiating Other Recent Treaties.

CANTON, O., Dec. 25.—Judge Day, president of the late peace commission, and Mrs. Day reached their Canton home in time to take Christmas dinner with the family. They arrived at 9:15 this morning over the Pennsylvania railroad. There was no formal greeting arranged for them, but a committee of the Stark county bar, several personal friends and members of their family were at the station to meet them.

The judge is in excellent health and spirits, and the trip abroad has evidently been beneficial. Mrs. Day is also in excellent health and, notwithstanding seasickness on the return voyage, comes to her home in much better health than when she left it.

Judge Day, when asked as to his plans for the future, said he expected to remain in Canton and resume the practice of law in the firm of which he was a member before entering the cabinet of President McKinley. The work of the committee ended when the treaty was delivered to the president, and he does not expect to visit Washington again in connection with any duties on that commission.

Asked as to whether he had any desires which the state of Ohio could satisfy, he said: "If you refer to political desires, I have not. My only ambition is to be allowed to pursue the practice of my profession." Later in the conversation he authorized the direct statement that under no circumstances would he be a candidate for governor as has been reported during his absence in Paris.

While he talked freely on many matters connected with his work in Paris, Judge Day did not feel at liberty to give an interview in detail on the work of the commission. He said the talk of $100,000 compensation for the commissioners, or of any sum approaching that amount, was ridiculous and preposterous. The president fixes the compensation of the commissioners and none of them, it is safe to say, accepted the duties as a speculation. None of them has an idea of a large fee, such as would have been paid had they performed the duties in the capacity of regularly retained attorneys.

There is no actual precedent on which to base an estimate, but the prediction is ventured that the compensation of the commissioners will not exceed $15,000 each and reasonable expenses incurred on the trip in Paris. These expenses, however, will not include those incurred for the wives and families of the attaches of the commission, because all such went on the journey entirely independent of the commission and were in no way a charge upon the official party.

It is probable that the stories of large compensation were suggested by payments in treaty negotiations of the past, notably the Bering sea matter and Mr. Foster's work in connection with the China and Japan treaty. In the case of Mr. Foster, there is no parallel to the Paris commission. He was retained for a very large fee to perform certain duties. In the case of the Bering sea treaty, the commissioners were paid very modest sums for their work, but associated with them were a number of attorneys of note, in the capacity of counsel, looking after large interests, and as such they were paid liberal fees.

A number of friends have called upon Judge Day since his return and to them he has talked entertainingly. The work at Paris was felt by the commissioners to be arduous and left little or no opportunity for pleasures which the judge would have been glad to enjoy in a city which impressed him with its beauty and historic interest. The French government treated the commissioners very well and the room in which negotiations were conducted was a magnificent one, well adapted to the work in hand. The Americans were in session every day, and during long hours on most days, during their sojourn in Paris. They took a vast amount of testimony bearing upon the questions to be disposed of, and were in constant communication with the president. Whenever, under instructions from Washington, the American position was closely defined, a session was held with the Spanish representatives and at such sessions the Americans always presented a firm and united position. There were but two critical periods in the negotiations, the first regarding the Cuban debt, which was an open question for more than a month, during which time the Americans never swerved from the position presented to the Spaniards. The other was upon the Philippine cession, and after the Americans reached a conclusion in their own councils as to the concessions that could be granted, there was no deviation and the Spaniards finally accepted.

The personal relations between the two governments were at all times friendly and cordial. The Americans have great respect for the ability of the Spanish members and believe that nothing was left undone that could benefit the Spanish case. The president of the Spanish commission was remarked as a man of great ability by the Americans, and won their respect for the able manner in which he conducted the Spanish case.

CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL BURNED.

Church of the Bishop of Harrisburg, Pa., Diocese Damaged by Fire.

HARRISBURG, PA., Dec. 25.—St. Patrick's pro-Catholic cathedral, the church of the bishop of Harrisburg Roman Catholic diocese, was ruined by fire this afternoon. Shortly after 1 o'clock, a blaze was discovered in the rear of the church near the altar, and the Christmas decorations were soon blaze. The flames ran up the rear wall and got between the roof and the ceiling, pushing their way to the front of the church. The entire interior was flooded before the fire was put out. The altar ornaments and sacred vestments were saved. The organ was ruined by heat and water. The loss is $15,000, fully insured. Electric light wires crossing caused the fire.

Price of Nails to Advance.

PITTSBURG, PA., Dec. 25.—The wire and nail trust, which operates under the name of the American Steel and Wire Company, in addition to absorbing new plants and negotiating for the purchase of others, has withdrawn all price quotations and will make a general advance immediately after January 1.

NINE MEN BADLY INJURED.

Yard Engine and Freight Train Collide in Suburbs of Lexington, Ky.

LEXINGTON, KY., Dec. 25.—The worst wreck in this vicinity in ten years occurred in the suburbs of this city, near Pepper's distillery, at 2 o'clock this afternoon. A Louisville & Nashville yard engine and Chesapeake & Ohio engine No. 97, pulling an extra freight train, collided, and as a result nine men are badly injured, two probably fatally, and both engines demolished. The yard engine was backing down in the yards and the freight train was coming from Louisville. The foreman heard the latter, which was coming around a curve, whistle, and started for a switch, which was the only way of avoiding a collision. He was unable to make the switch and the two engines collided. The Louisville & Nashville engine was completely demolished and the wreck was carried 300 feet along the tracks. The Chesapeake & Ohio engine was run back through the tender and the whole front beaten in. All the Louisville & Nashville employes jumped and all were injured, two probably fatally. The Chesapeake & Ohio men remained at their posts and were not seriously hurt. Yard Clerk Hornbrook and Foreman Morrissey, on the Louisville & Nashville engine, will almost certainly die. The injured:

Lester Hornbrook, Louisville & Nashville, yard clerk; arm broken, skull fractured; will probably die.

R. O. Vaughan, Louisville & Nashville, fireman; leg broken.

Al Clerk, Louisville & Nashville switchman; right arm broken and right shoulder fractured; head badly bruised.

William Morrissey, Louisville & Nashville foreman, internal injuries, probably fatal.

James Douglas, Louisville & Nashville foreman; scalp wound in back of head; right leg broken; body badly bruised and left shoulder mashed.

George Hund, Louisville & Nashville engineer, badly bruised and left shoulder mashed.

John Collins, Louisville & Nashville switchman, badly bruised.

Conductor Meadows and Fireman John Jones, of the Chesapeake & Ohio, both escaped serious injury, but were badly bruised.

ESCAPED IN NIGHTROBES.

Family of Chilean Minister at Washington Routed Out by an Early Morning Fire.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Fire broke out shortly after 7 o'clock to-day partly destroyed the house occupied by Senor Don Carlos Morla Vicuna, the Chilean minister, at the corner of Connecticut avenue and N street. The roof and top story were destroyed and the furniture of the whole house ruined by smoke and water, entailing a loss of $8000. The minister and his family escaped early in the morning, and owing to the energy and coolness of the 12-year-old son, Carlos, but the flames made such headway that the inmates were unable to secure clothing and were compelled to hurry out in their nightrobes. All took refuge for a time in the British embassy, just across the street, where they were cared for by Lady Pauncefote and her daughters. Two maid servants were overcome with fright and had to be taken from the house. The governess, Senorina Malfredi, received a bad fall in climbing upstairs in an attempt to secure clothing for Madame Vicuna.

The fire was caused by an overheated flue. It was discovered by the son, Carlos, who slept on the third floor, through whose instrumentality his three sisters, occupying rooms on the same floor, the maids who slept upstairs, and the father and mother, who slept on the second floor, were awakened and apprised of their danger. The house was formerly occupied by Senor Mendonca, the Brazilian minister.

THREE CHILDREN DROWNED.

Thirty Boys and Girls Go Through the Ice on a Brookline, Mass., Pond.

BROOKLINE, MASS., Dec. 25.—By the sudden breaking of the ice on Leverett pond, in the park system, this afternoon, thirty young girls and boys were thrown into eight feet of water, and, although numerous spectators and the police worked hard to rescue the children, three were drowned before help could reach them. They were James W. Clattenburg, Jr., 9 years old; Arthur Collins, 12 years, and Emma Miller, 11 years.

BOUGHT BY THE TIN TRUST.

Black Plate Plant of Reeves Company at Canal Dover, O., May Be Abandoned.

CANAL DOVER, O., Dec. 25.—The black plate plant of the Reeves Iron Company, which manufactures plate for the tinning plant here, owned by Philadelphia capital, has been sold to the American Tin Mill trust, now forming with headquarters at Chicago. Negotiations are also pending for the sale of the tinning plant. The Reeves mill will be shut down January 1 when inventoring will begin. Great concern is felt by the employes lest the plant will be abandoned at this point by the trust. In that event, however, it is believed it will be leased by the Reeves people and converted into a sheet mill.

INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

Wedding of General Manager Allen, of the Katy, Will Not Occur During Holidays.

SEDALIA, MO., Dec. 25.—(Special.) Local society circles were considerably shocked when it was authoritatively announced that the wedding of A. A. Allen, of St. Louis, vice president and general manager of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, and Miss Annie Miles, the well known vocalist of this city, which was to have been celebrated here during the holiday season, had been indefinitely postponed. Miss Miles will sail from New York on January 3 for London, where she will complete her musical studies at the Royal academy.

BANFFY TO FIGHT HORENSKY.

Latter Called the Hungarian Premier an Impostor, Cheat and Traitor.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A dispatch from Budapest to the Central News says that a duel has been arranged between Baron Banffy, the president of the Hungarian council of ministers, and M. Horensky, a member of the Hungarian diet. The duel grew out of an altercation in the chamber of deputies yesterday, when Horensky denounced the premier as an impostor, a cheat, and a traitor. Baron Banffy's seconds are Baron Fejervary, minister of national defense, and M. De Perczel, minister of the interior.

TWO SUDDEN ST. JOE DEATHS.

Colonel Louis Hax Found Dead in Bed, and Herman Garlisch Drops Dead.

ST. JOSEPH, MO., Dec. 25.—(Special.) Colonel Louis Hax, millionaire banker and furniture manufacturer, was found dead in bed at 8 o'clock this morning. He had complained of a pain over the heart before retiring, but otherwise was in good health.

Herman Garlisch, druggist, capitalist and Democratic politician, dropped dead in his store at Seventh and Felix streets at noon to-day. Heart disease was the cause.

Death of Mrs. Bahlmann.

WARRENSBURG, MO., Dec. 25.—(Special.) Mrs. Lydia Lord Bahlmann, wife of Captain William F. Bahlmann, professor of Latin in the state normal school in this city, died to-day of typhoid fever. Mrs. Bahlmann was of a Virginia family, a leading Baptist and was 65 years of age. She was married to Captain Bahlmann in 1861.

PATROL OF HAVANA

UNITED STATES TROOPS BEGAN DUTY LAST EVENING.

TO GUARD AGAINST DISORDER

SOLDIERS HAD AS LIVELY A CHRISTMAS AS POSSIBLE.

Sixth Missouri Regiment Reached Camp Too Late to Have a Special "Spread," and Dined on Fresh Beef, Rice and Beans.

HAVANA, Dec. 25.—The United States troops have began this evening a regular patrol of the city of Havana, in order to guard against possible disorders. The day, however, passed in comparative quiet. The bando issued on Friday by Captain General Jimenez Castellanos, prohibiting crowds from assembling in the streets, has been generally observed.

Last night there was some disturbance said to have been caused by liquor, in Montserrat place. A shot was fired about midnight from a roof at a group of people below, and many shots were returned at figures vaguely seen on the roof. An unidentified man was killed and three were wounded in other affrays.

Christmas at Camp Quemados was as lively as the troops could make it with slender materials. Turkeys, at $7 apiece were scarce, and everybody said that, with the heat at a summer temperature and the hedge rows brilliant with flowers, the day did not seem much like Christmas.

All the company messes of the Forty-ninth Iowa, the First North Carolina, the Fourth Virginia, the Second Illinois and the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana regiments had extra "spreads" out of company funds, with gifts from well-to-do members. The army ration was supplemented by fruit, canned goods, sweet potatoes and sometimes chicken.

The Sixth Missouri regiment, the last to arrive, had no chance to prepare an extra dinner; so the men dined on fresh beef, rice and beans. One battalion reached camp yesterday, the other two marching to-day a distance of eight miles over a dusty road.

All the regimental bands played and the men were granted leave within a mile radius of the camp.

Company F, of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana regiment, has a cactus tree with a present for everybody stuck on the points, as, for instance, hardtack, beans, salt pork and candles. The officers of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana indulged after dinner in songs and speech-making, with several solo dances.

At El Vedado, the Eighth and Tenth regular infantry regiments dined well at the expense of the company funds.

Major General Lee and his staff partook of a modest dinner. General Lee had a number of live turkeys available, but, as the birds are very lean, he decided to keep them, on the chance of improvement for the New Year's feast, after the flagraising. General Lee spent most of the day on horseback, studying the best route for the New Year's parade. The streets are too narrow to allow the troops to march past the palace, so that the route will probably be through the Prado and Central park, to Cerro, the Havana suburb. General Lee expects 8,000 men, including the Cubans, in the military procession.

Major General Butler will go to Matanzas and Cienfuegos to-morrow night on official business. The American troops are about to take possession of the San Ambrosios hospital.

C. S. Beaver, the United States postal agent in Havana, has complained to the postmaster general of the irregularity in the arrival of mails from the United States.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 25.—Christmas has passed without local disorder. There were few private dinners given to celebrate the day among the Americans, as most of them prefer to hold their festivities to-morrow.

Last evening three companies of United States troops guarded the city, as a precaution against possible disturbances, some of the Cuban negroes having made threats against Spaniards and Spanish property. But to-night went by quietly.

DRIVEN INSANE BY IDLENESS.

Six Convicts Go From the King's County Penitentiary to Asylums.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Six convicts, driven mad by idleness, were taken from Kings county penitentiary yesterday to asylums for the criminal insane.

Two of the men, federal prisoners, were taken to the national insane asylum, at Washington, and the other four, state convicts, to the asylum at Matteawan.

The men removed to Washington were Henry Turner, alias "Dynamite Jack," of Indian Territory, who was serving a term of fifteen years for robbing the mails, and Robert Stiller, also of Indian Territory, who was serving a thirteen year term for the same offense.

One of the penitentiary officials said this evening that until the abolition of convict labor there had not been a case of insanity among the prisoners in that institution for years.

MISSOURI DOCTOR ARRESTED.

Charles W. Little, of Kirksville, Charged With Practicing Medicine Without a Certificate.

LINCOLN, NEB., Dec. 25.—Charles W. Little, a physician from Kirksville, Mo., practicing osteopathy, has been arrested on the charge of practicing medicine without a certificate. He was released on his own recognizance. The complaint was signed by City Detective James Malone, but Dr. Little charges physicians of the other schools are responsible for the arrest, and have raised a purse to prosecute. He says he will make a test case in the courts and fight to the end.

HOUSTON COTTON RECEIPTS.

Aggregate Is Already 2,000,000 Bales, and City Is Preparing to Celebrate.

HOUSTON, TEX., Dec. 25.—The cotton receipts at Houston for the first months of the present season have been 2,000,000 bales, a record never equaled by any interior town or port of the United States, and which will be celebrated with a banquet to which all the prominent civic officials and cotton men will be invited.

It is estimated by Secretary Warner, of the Cotton exchange, that 600,000 bales will yet be received during the remainder of the season.

More Troops Ordered to Havana.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Dec. 25.—The First United States infantry has been ordered to move to Havana. The First battalion leaves to-morrow for Port Tampa, and the Second battalion will leave for Charleston, Tuesday. The Third battalion will go to Port Tampa