The Kansas City Journal.

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IT IS A WEIRD TALE.

ALICE PLATT, ACCUSED CHILD POISONER, ON THE WITNESS STAND.

PRESENTIMENTS OF DANGER.

SHE [illegible] OF A "DARK CLOUD" WHI[illegible]WLY SETTLED DOWN.

Otherwi[illegible] Makes a Good Witness in He[illegible] Behalf and Explains Aw[illegible]h of the Testi- [illegible] Damaging to [illegible]r Case.

A strange, [illegible] story was told in the criminal cou[illegible]oom yesterday by a fragile, delicate-looking, pallid-faced woman, a house servant, who is on trial for her life. It was the story of an uncultured woman's belief in an uncanny presentiment of evil. Alice Platt told the jurymen that have her life in their hands how some subtle, intangible influence had pictured to her mind an impending calamity to two of the members of the household where she was employed. She told of a cloud of darkness that seemed to engulf two innocent children, Elizabeth and Susie Mussey; how the cloud came down—every ray of light disappeared, and how to the startled and peculiarly impressed mother she had said:

"There is no light; I can see no hope."

The mother, instead of sending her away, had listened with eager ears to her

ALICE PLATT ON THE STAND.

maunderings, had prepared medicine to ward off the pretended danger, had written a note in advance summoning the father of the children, and placed it away to have it ready "when the cloud should close down."

It was a story in strange keeping with modern ideas; it would have sounded better as the croon of some withered witch bending above her cauldron.

Alice Platt told the jury that she loved Elizabeth and Susie Mussey, and that she was not responsible for their deaths. The courtroom was filled with women; sunlight streamed in through the windows. The great crowd that had characterized the hearings of previous days was not present because deputy marshals stationed at the doors prevented anybody from entering after the courtroom had become comfortably filled.

One woman, with a lean face, came to the court with an infant in her arms. By and by the infant grew restless and cried. Then the judge sent her away. She looked angry, and shook the child to hush its cry as she passed out.

Immediately upon the opening of court Major Woodson, for the defense, tried to introduce witnesses to impeach the testimony of Mr. and Mrs. Mussey, who had testified that they had had no family quarrels, and that Mrs. Mussey had not found her husband in bathing with another woman at Fairmount park, but Judge Wofford held that the evidence was not material to the case, and ruled it out. The judge held that the defense could not be cleared of the charge simply by showing that some other person had a motive to kill.

Attorney John E. Higdon testified that while Alice Platt had worked in his home she had had fainting spells similar to those

ALICE PLATT'S FATHER.

which the state had tried to prove were assumed. Dr. E. J. Dennis also testified that he had treated Alice for nervous disorder.

Then the father of the defendant, William Platt, a kindly looking old man, with a gray beard and blue eyes, took the stand. He had come from Carrollton, Mo., to listen to the evidence against his daughter and to testify in her behalf. He said that he was the father of twelve children, five of whom are still living. His evidence had little bearing on the case.

Alice Platt Takes the Stand.

After he had been dismissed from the stand the accused prisoner took it in her own behalf. She sat down facing the court room. It was the first time hundreds of those who had been daily attendants upon the hearing had seen her features. They scanned her closely. Then there was a great deal of whispering and shaking of heads. The prisoner half turned in her chair and faced the jury. She wore a black cassimere dress, with basque and full skirt, a gray walking hat with a black band around it, and a heavy blue veil fastened over her hat and drawn back, turban style. A small gold star that glistened at her throat was the only piece of jewelry she wore, except a band ring on her left hand. There was no sign of nervousness on her part when she sat down. Her

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY LOWE.

face was pallid and she had a tired look about her eyes. Once or twice during the examination she tapped the right arm of her chair with her index finger to give emphasis to her answers. She is slightly deaf and it was necessary for the attorneys to speak in a loud tone. In his cross-examination Prosecutor Lowe spoke very loud, and, a number of spectators thought, with unnecessary severity, but the prosecutor explained to the court that he did not wish to give the impression that he was trying to bear down upon the witness.

In answer to questions Alice said she was 26 years old. She went to work for the Musseys November 18, 1895, and was arrested for the murder of their children October 24, 1896. She explained the barn burning by saying that she had seen tramps coming out of the barn a short time before it took fire and she had remarked that unless the tramps were kept away there would be another fire. She had not predicted that the barn would catch fire. She had told Mrs. Page—the neighbor woman who had ruined her own testimony by declaring that she believed Alice guilty of murder—that the barn had been on fire twice and the house would go next time, "because the third time was a charm." Alice related the story of the house catching fire by saying that Elizabeth and Susie were playing with some red candles and Elizabeth crawled under the bed with one of the candles lighted and had set fire to the ticking. Alice put out the fire. She denied that she told Mr. Mussey that the house would catch on fire some day while he was away from home.

Then the witness took up the illness of Mrs. Torrence and described the manner of her death. Mrs. Torrence was stricken at the breakfast table. She complained of feeling unwell and drank some soda in water and afterward took a capsule. She was passing a plate to Elizabeth when she was stricken. Mrs. Mussey and Alice laid her on the floor and took her shoes off. Her body was rigid and her head kept jerking backward.

Passing over the details of the death of Mrs. Mussey's mother, Alice told of her presentiments, of the dark cloud and its fearful portent. She said that on Priests of Pallas day she was sitting by the window in the Mussey home when it seemed that a dark cloud appeared; it grew dark around her; she could see herself holding one of the Mussey children in her arms; the child seemed to be suffering with cramps. She did not know by what strange power she saw these things, but she was impressed and the next day told Mr. Mussey, who, instead of sending her away, paid little attention to it. When Mrs. Mussey came back from Wichita Alice told her about the dark cloud, and Mrs. Mussey seemed to believe that it impended some terrible calamity to her children.

PEOPLE IN THE CROWD.

"Did you ever claim that you could foretell anything?" asked Major Woodson.

"I never did. I have no such power."

Just before the noon adjournment Prosecutor Lowe began to cross-examine the witness. He had only gotten well started when a recess was taken for lunch.

Dramatic Announcement.

Just before the court convened after the noon recess Major Woodson arose and commanding attention said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen:—It is a matter of interest to the community in which he lived and the respect of which he enjoyed that it becomes my melancholy duty to announce that General Jo O. Shelby is dead."

An intense silence followed the announcement. After the shock had passed, the room again became filled with the buzz of female voices, and the grim old court room seemed more like an extra large meeting of a sewing circle or a pink tea party. At 1:30 o'clock Alice Platt was brought into the court room and her presence at once caused a hush to fall over the crowd. The jury filed into the box, and Prosecutor Lowe resumed the cross-examination.

"You had just stated that the reason the statement I had repeated to you could not be proven was because only Mr. and Mrs. Mussey were present. Had you not told them about seeing a man come to the window, and that your sister, Eva, was there?"

Major Woodson objected and was sustained.

"You are unable to tell how soon after you went to the Musseys that you had the first spell?"

"I don't remember. I never at any time claimed to be able to foretell events."

"Isn't it a fact that you did claim to be able to see things in the future?"

"No, sir."

"Do you know Mrs. Oborn?"

"Yes."

"Didn't you, while you worked for her, tell her that her child was going to be sick with convulsions, and was it not sick with convulsions just as you had predicted?"

Major Woodson objected to the question, on the ground that he had not opened the field in his direct examination. After a great deal of sparring by the lawyers, Judge Wofford sustained the objection.

"Isn't it a fact that you predicted the sickness and death of a child named May at Carrollton and that you asked Mr. and Mrs. Mussey to go home and that the child died as you had said it would?"

Again there was objection.

"Were you ever treated by a physician for this ailment of yours?"

"No; only for my general health."

"Didn't you have your hair all cut off during a time when you were being treated?"

Again objection stopped an answer.

"Were you sick awhile before the children died?"

"I was sick for awhile, and went away in September for a week's rest."

"Where did you go?"

"I was with Mrs. Sherwood and Mrs. Lome."

"What was the matter with you?"

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FAR FROM PACIFIED.

GENERAL WEYLER MISTAKEN IN REGARD TO PINAR DEL RIO.

IS OVERRUN BY INSURGENTS.

SEEM THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED AND DISCIPLINED.

A Surprise in Store for Weyler—No Treating for Peace—Spaniards in Havana Heartily Sick of the War—Generals Disheartened.

Havana, Feb. 9.—The various reports and statements of Captain General Weyler announcing the pacification of the province of Pinar del Rio and the almost complete disappearance of the insurgents in that part of the island are far from being borne out by facts. As intimated in these dispatches when the Spanish commander made the remarks cited, if Pinar del Rio were as quiet as he alleged it to be, what has become of the arms, horses, ammunition, stores, etc., of the 7,000 men who he admitted were under arms there? As a matter of fact, the insurgent forces in Pinar del Rio seem better off, more thoroughly equipped and disciplined than at any previous stage of the campaign.

In the neighborhood of Catalina and Las Cuevas are the insurgent leaders Varona Rivero and Luis Perez, with about 1,200 men, well armed and having plenty of ammunition, though poorly clad.

In the zone of Jaucia and Mula is the insurgent leader Lazo, with some 600 men. Lazo is wounded in both arms. In the districts of Bayas, Rio del Medio, Manganacos, Pena Blanca and Pan de Azucar, are various groups of insurgents with a total of over 500 men under Videl Ducasi.

At the heights of Gobernadora and the Sierra del Rosario, the insurgents are under the command of Brigadier General Ruis Rivera and the leaders, Jose Manuel Barrio and Perico del Gado. They consist of infantry and some cavalry, estimated to number about 800 men. At Soroa, is a force of insurgents under Antonio Nunez. Nunez, however, is also said to be wounded.

At the Loma heights is the Torro Bermudaz band and at Bayato and in the district of Punta Brava are the insurgents under Garraga and Lucas Martinez.

The insurgent leader, Federico Nunez, is at Las Margas and near Arabia la Carlota and Artemisa are insurgent forces under Lorau.

These forces alone, those of the known leaders of the insurgents in the field, are estimated to number about 5,000 men, and yet the captain general claims that Pinar del Rio is "pacified."

In addition to these forces is a strong body of insurgents which seems to have mysteriously disappeared from the neighborhood of Havana. The whereabouts of this force is exciting much attention and is known to be causing the Spanish staff considerable anxiety.

The friends of the insurgents intimate that a big surprise is being prepared for Captain General Weyler when he tries to return to Havana.

General Weyler, from Las Cruces, marched to Villa Clara, capital of the province of Santa Clara, and it was reported from Villa Clara that he will push on to Placetas and Remedios. Advices from Remedios say that General Maximo Gomez has moved from the district of Sancti Spiritus to La Siguanea, which caused rumors to be circulated of a probable conference between the generals, and eventually of the conclusion of peace. But these reports have since been denied from insurgent sources.

All the rumors published about prominent home rulers and former leaders of the ten years' war being engaged in treating for peace are entirely without foundation, and are only inspired by the Diario de la Marina, and perhaps reproduced by some of the correspondents here.

All the statements to the contrary, it can be affirmed, on excellent authority, that the insurgents expect, in the long run, to win something much more tangible than the "reforms" proposed by the Spanish government. It is recalled that the Diario de la Marina, during the captain generalship of Calleja, announced that the latter had the intention of going a great deal further in the direction of giving Cuba home rule than outlined by the cabled reports of the Cuban reforms scheme just proclaimed in Madrid.

The Spaniards here, it cannot be denied, are heartily sick of the war, excepting only those who are without money or property, and who actually make a better living out of the revolution than they ever did before or could hope to do again if peace is proclaimed. Then there is another class anxious for the war to continue—those who hope to better themselves considerably should the insurgents triumph.

General Gonzales Munoz is upon the point of returning to Spain on leave of absence. His example is to be followed by Generals Basanta, Fernal, Pin, Figueron and Losas, in March. These officers, the friends of the insurgents claim, see absolutely no chance of glory in Cuba and considerable danger of disgrace, to say nothing of disease and wounds. Consequently, their enemies add, seeing that the insurgents must eventually triumph by the machete, they are adopting the policy of rats when the latter become aware the ship which harbors them is upon the point of sinking.

As this dispatch is sent, it has become known that some of the most prominent of the home rule leaders here, after consulting together over the reforms projected for Cuba, succeeded in sending a cable message to the Madrid government requesting the latter to amplify the reforms scheme, adding that, under its present form, there is absolutely no chance of its meeting the wishes of the insurgent leaders and bringing about the pacification of Cuba.

CUBAN REFORM DECREES.

Their Publication Causes a Sensation in Spain—Great Opposition to Them.

New York, Feb. 9.—A dispatch from Madrid says: An unprecedented sensation has been caused in Spain by the publication of the reform decrees. The adroit declarations of Premier Canovas' preamble have awakened the great majority of the Spanish people to the gravity of the situation and the necessity of fulfilling of the promises contained in the royal speech, the ministerial statements and the reform law of 1895, as well as the expediency of settling the contest in Cuba in harmony with public sentiment in American and in Europe as well. Most of the newspapers try to stir up the people against the new policy. Most Spaniards are convinced that the government is confident of obtaining the approval and support of President Cleveland, Secretary of State Olney and the American public.

The opinion is general, too, that the policy cannot succeed unless General Weyler is promptly recalled from Cuba. The Cuban autonomist representatives warmly denounce the decrees. They are disappointed at Premier Canovas' silence on the electoral reform indispensable to make the new policy acceptable, and of the extraordinary elastic limitations upon the action of the insular assembly and the counsels.

Strangely enough, the published reforms were most unfavorably received by the majority in the conservative West Indian senators and deputies.

Pension Office Removal Condemned.

Olathe, Kas., Feb. 9.—(Special.) At a meeting of the McKinley Club, of this city, the action of the administration in removing the pension agency from Topeka to St. Louis was condemned. Resolutions were adopted asking that the people of Kansas, irrespective of party, join the members of the club in a protest to be submitted to the incoming administration.

Fraternal Aid Association.

Wichita, Kas., Feb. 9.—(Special.) The national council of the Fraternal Aid Association began its annual session to-day, with a good attendance of delegates. The general president, Hon. Will T. Walker, of Kansas City, Kas., delivered his annual address, and reports were presented by the various committees and officers, showing the order to be in a prosperous and growing condition. To-night the local lodges of the order tendered a banquet to the visitors.

POODLE AS A DETECTIVE.

Gave Away the Convict Who Robbed the Missouri Executive Mansion Yesterday.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 9.—(Special.) Five colored convicts were sent by the warden of the penitentiary to the executive mansion this afternoon to move some furniture and do some house cleaning, preparatory to the governor's reception this evening. While they were at work, "Fritz," Mrs. Stephens' little poodle, became greatly interested in one of the convicts, named Brown, from St. Louis, and followed him and barked at him almost incessantly. Soon after the convicts finished their task and were returned to the penitentiary, it was discovered that silverware, valued at $125, was missing. The circumstance of poodle "Fritz" barking at Convict Brown was then recalled, and a messenger was sent to the penitentiary with information concerning the robbery and the circumstances. Brown's cell was searched and the stolen silverware was found concealed beneath the mattress upon his bunk. He was at once thrust into the dungeon.

RAIL POOL COLLAPSES

MOST SUCCESSFUL TRADE ORGANIZATION EVER FORMED.

HAS RULED FOR MANY YEARS.

RAILS NOW QUOTED AT THE LOWEST PRICE EVER KNOWN.

Price Fell a Third in Twenty-four Hours—Carnegie Said to Be Responsible for the Collapse—Preferred to Sell in Open Market.

Chicago, Feb. 9.—Steel rails are being sold at the lowest price ever known in America. The steel rail pool has collapsed and $18 a ton was asked for rails in Chicago to-day and in Pittsburg the rate was $15.25.

Monday the price in Chicago was $26 and in Pittsburg it was $25.

The sensational break of $8 a ton within twenty-four hours is the result of a secret meeting of the rail pool, held in Pittsburg Monday. All the members were present. No agreement could be reached, and President J. W. Gates, of the Illinois Steel Company, hastily returned to Chicago and called a meeting of the directors of that company. As a result of their deliberations he notified H. C. Frick, chairman of the Carnegie Steel Company, that the Illinois Steel Company was unable to come to a conclusion and had postponed action until after the annual election of officers, to be held to-morrow. Two hours after the message reached Pittsburg, the prices quoted were being asked in Chicago.

Rumors were current all day that the Carnegie company was offering anything at any price in Chicago, but owing to the fact that the Illinois Steel Company was to hold its annual meeting to-morrow the rumors were classed as being made for stock jobbing purposes and had little effect. It was not until the prices had been quoted by numerous Eastern concerns that the trade really took cognizance of them. It was then announced that the Scranton Steel Company had formally withdrawn from the pool, and that prices were on a wide open basis.

Western railroads undoubtedly have had an inkling of the collapse of the giant pool, as, with a single exception, none of them had placed any orders for rails, despite the $3 a ton reduction made by the pool at the beginning of the year.

In the trade, dissolution of the pool is taken to mean that Carnegie & Co. in this way make it known that they can sell rails cheaper than anybody else and that they will not henceforth be hampered by an agreement which is to their disadvantage.

The steel rail pool was the longest lived and most successful trade organization ever formed in this country. The organization included only the mills making standard sections, and not those rolling street car and lighter rails, and presumably heavy forfeits were on deposit to prevent violation of agreement.

The eleven concerns popularly believed to be members of the pool were: The Carnegie Steel Company, Pittsburg; Scranton Steel Company, Scranton, Pa.; Pennsylvania Steel Company, Steelton, Pa.; Maryland Steel Company, Sparrows Point, Md.; Cambria Iron Company, Johnstown, Pa.; Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company, Philadelphia; Bethlehem Iron Company, Bethlehem, Pa.; the Johnson Company, Lorain, O.; Cleveland Rolling Mill Company, Cleveland; Illinois Steel Company, Chicago, and the Union Iron and Steel Company, of Youngstown, O.

The basis of prices which the pool maintained for many years was $28 a ton at Pittsburg, and $29 at Chicago. A reduction of $3 a ton was made at the opening of the year, in order to conciliate customers and to conform, in a measure, to the lower basis of prices brought about by the collapse of the billet pool. This did not bring the orders expected, and trouble began.

H. H. Porter, chairman of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad Company, and a former director of the Illinois Steel Company, said to-night that he heard of the break-up of the pool, and presumed that it meant a general cut of prices of steel rails.

"Judging from past experience," he said, "I should say that the dissolution of the pool will open the door for each mill to make its own price on the product and sell where it can in its own territory. There can be no profit in the prices so obtained, and the consequence will be that men will be thrown out of work and only the mills with large capital and exclusive territory can keep in operation. There will be cutting of prices, possibly until an actual loss on the product takes place and the industry is paralyzed."

ANTI-CIGARETTE LAW.

Tennessee Legislature Passes a Bill Prohibiting the Sale of the Coffinnails.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 9.—To-day the senate passed a bill heretofore passed by the house prohibiting the sale of cigarettes or cigarette paper in this state, or the giving away of cigarettes or cigarette paper.

Nest of Boilers Explodes.

Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 9.—A nest of boilers at the gang mill of Simpson & Bagdad, twenty miles east of here, one of the largest lumber plants in the South, exploded this morning, killing Paul Raymond, of New Orleans, and fatally scalding another man. The mill was badly damaged.

Veteran Ohio Editor Killed.

Newark, O., Feb. 9.—A. B. Clark, for many years editor of the Daily American of this city, was killed to-day by a railroad train. He was 72 years old, and had retired from newspaper work three years ago.

Explosion in a Jail.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 9.—The boiler of the county jail exploded at 11 o'clock, utterly wrecking the jail office. Several men who were in the jail are injured, and James Rodgers, Cabell Hardin and Lew Hill may die.

Fire in a Russian Naphtha District.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—Fire has broken out in the naphtha district of Baku. Twenty-nine boring platforms and five depots containing a million poods of naphtha have been destroyed.

Drank Coal Oil by Mistake.

Marshall, Mo., Feb. 9.—(Special.) The 2-year-old daughter of Robert Young, near Marshall, died in terrible agony to-day from drinking half a cup of coal oil given for water.

Twelve London Workmen Killed.

London, Feb. 9.—Through the collapse of the scaffolding of a viaduct on a railroad in Cornwall to-day twelve men fell a distance of 150 feet and were killed.

A NEW DEPARTMENT.

M'KINLEY IN FAVOR OF ANOTHER CABINET POSITION.

WILL AID IN SECURING IT.

TO BE KNOWN AS THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Favors a Tariff Commission, Which Shall Be Auxiliary to the Proposed Department—Tariff Issues to Be Referred to Commission.

Chicago, Feb. 9.—Ferdinand W. Peck, president of the newly organized National Business Men's League, accompanied by Franklin H. Head, returned from the East to-day, where they were in conference with senators and representatives at Washington. On their way back from the capital, they stopped at President McKinley's home last evening.

According to assurances conveyed to President Peck and Mr. Head, there will be important special legislation at the next regular session of congress. A department to be known as the department of commerce and industry will be created, if the plans of the association, supported by the promise of hearty co-operation by the president-elect, mature.

President-elect McKinley even volunteered to go a step further last evening, while discussing the acts of the association with Messrs. Peck and Head. He suggested he would be in favor of a tariff commission which should be auxiliary to the department of commerce and industry, to which might be delegated all tariff issues and recommendations.

The suggestion of the president-elect that the proposed tariff bureau be made part of the new department is believed to be the first mention of such an idea.

A special meeting of the league is to be called immediately by President Peck.

Canton, O., Feb. 9.—The report that Major McKinley would likely turn to New York for a member of his cabinet in the event a new cabinet position was provided by congress, to be known as the department of commerce and industry, is entirely unfounded. Should such a place be created, it is far more probable that he would make the selection from Kansas. It thus appears that Kansas still has a chance for the cabinet. The reason for this, of course, is apparent, and Major McKinley's action would be heartily approved. It would be looked upon as simply recognizing the able and efficient work of Executive Committeeman Cyrus Leland, who so ably conducted the campaign in that state, as well as in Missouri and Nebraska.

Electoral Votes All In.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The electoral votes of all the states have been received, that of Montana, the last to be received, arriving to-day.

AN OPEN LETTER TO WOMEN.

Mothers and Wives Urged to Work for the Cause of International Arbitration.

New York, Feb. 9.—An open letter to the women of the United States, urging them to use all means in their power to further the passage of the arbitration treaty with Great Britain, has been issued. It is signed by the following well known women:

Ellen M. Henrotin, Alice Freeman Palmer, Louisa Lee Schuyler, Josephine Shaw Lawell, Margaret Sangster, Mary Mapes Dodge, Mary L. Dickinson, Jeanette L. Gilder, Hannah R. Elstein, Grace H. Dodge, Mary E. Trautman, Candace Wheeler, Elizabeth B. Custer, Mary Louise Beebe and Maud Ballington Booth.

Mothers and wives are asked to oppose amendments which would cripple the efficiency of the treaty, by writing to their senators, holding meetings and sending petitions to Washington.

In the letter the following paragraph occurs:

"The mothers, the wives and the homes of our land have the deepest interest in the substitution of law for war. In times of conflict they are the keenest sufferers, and, while the nation's honor is dear to them, whatever tends to settle disputes by reason and law rather than by warfare demands their heartiest indorsement."

CLEVELAND TO MAKE A TOUR.

Will Take a Trip Around the World With a Party, It Is Said.

Toledo, O., Feb. 9.—A passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific, now in this city, is authority for the statement that President Cleveland will take a trip around the world immediately after the inauguration of his successor. The president and his party will go to the coast over the Canadian Pacific road, and Division Passenger Agent Sheehy, of that line, will conduct the party in person.

It is the desire of the president to start as soon as possible after the inauguration of President-elect McKinley. He desires to avoid public functions as much as possible, and intends to make the circuit of the globe as a private citizen.

Private Secretary Thurber and several members of President Cleveland's cabinet are expected to accompany him. Mrs. Cleveland and the children may accompany the party; that matter has not been fully decided yet.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Private Secretary Thurber refused to-night officially to confirm or deny the statement. He preferred, he said, to await the publication of the story before making any announcement about it.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

A Liberal Member of Parliament Moves to Disestablish and Disendow It.

London, Feb. 9.—Mr. Samuel Smith, Liberal member for Flintshire, and formerly president of the Liverpool chamber of commerce, moved in the house of commons to-day the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England. He contended that the established churches are inimical to popular rights. Mr. Balfour, first lord of the treasury and government leader, described the motion as a shame and as wasting the time of the house. It was rejected by a vote of 204 to 86.

Mr. Smith is the author of a work entitled "The Credibility of the Christian Religion."

DR. TALMAGE ON THE BALL.

Is in Favor of Entertainments That Scatter the Wealth of the Rich.

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 9.—The Rev. Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage was in the city to-day. When asked for an expression on the Bradley-Martin ball, Dr. Talmage said:

"My general theory is that it is well to give to the poor and the needy. There are two ways to do it—one directly, and the other by scattering the wealth.

"I think that when an entertainment that will scatter $100,000 is given, the man who cannot see that $90,000 of it will reach the poor needs a new pair of spectacles. I am in favor of these great entertainments. I am not talking now from a moral standpoint."

Left His Property to the G. A. R.

Sedalia, Mo., Feb. 9.—(Special.) Henry Bonhoff, an old citizen of this county, and who was a prominent architect in Sedalia eighteen years ago, was found dead in bed this morning at his home in Longwood. He was a veteran of the civil war and has willed all of his property to George R. Smith post, G. A. R., of this city.

Receiver for a Printing Company.

Topeka, Kas., Feb. 9.—(Special.) Judge Z. T. Hazen has appointed Charles F. Spencer receiver of the Hamilton Printing Company on the claim of Charles T. Sears, who owns stock in the company to the amount of $4,000, and claims that no dividends have been paid him.

GENERAL SHELBY'S CONDITION.

He Shows Wonderful Vitality, but Death May Come at Any Time.

At 1 o'clock this morning a report from the bedside of General Shelby said that he was still alive, but that his condition was so low that death might come at any moment.

At 2 o'clock this morning General Shelby's physicians issued a bulletin to the effect their distinguished patient was sinking fast and would probably die before daylight.

MURDER AT SEDALIA.

Negro Tough Raises a Row in a Saloon and Is Shot by the Negro Proprietor.

Sedalia, Mo., Feb. 9.—(Special.) Hayden Vaughn, colored, was shot and almost instantly killed this forenoon in the Imperial saloon, a low resort for colored people, on Kentucky avenue, by George Davis, colored, the proprietor of the place. Just before the shooting, Vaughn had created a disturbance in the saloon and had been ejected by Davis. Vaughn went in search of a gun, threatening Davis' life. He entered the saloon a few minutes later and started another disturbance, winding it up with an assault upon Davis. The saloonkeeper picked up a 38-caliber revolver and shot Vaughn, the bullet entering the left side and passing close to the heart. The fatally wounded man ran out of the saloon through a rear door and dropped dead just as he stepped into the alley. Davis was arrested and placed in jail without bail. The murdered man was a tough character and until recently was employed as a deck hand on a Mississippi steamboat running out of St. Louis.

At the coroner's inquest this afternoon nearly all of the evidence showed that Davis shot at Vaughn as he was passing out of the saloon. The jury recommended that Davis be held for murder. Davis is almost white, owns a couple of fast horses and has been quite prominent in local politics, being theleader of the colored Democrats.

TRAIN ROBBER SHOT DEAD.

He and a Partner Held Up the Santa Fe Flyer and Made a Mess of It.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 9—The west bound Santa Fe train No. 1, due at Los Angeles at 1:10 yesterday afternoon, was held up and robbed by two masked men near Nelson, a small station about six miles east of Peach Springs, A. T. One of the robbers was killed by the express messenger.

The robbers stopped the train by signal, and as the engineer stepped out of the cab to ascertain the cause of the trouble, an armed masked man commanded him to cut the engine and run ahead a quarter of a mile, which he did. The robbers then turned their attention to the mail car, their command to open the door being complied with. One robber entered the car and commenced picking up the registered packages. The robber started then for the express car, but Messenger Summers quickly opened the door and, with extraordinary coolness, shot the robber dead. The other man then escaped, taking with him a few registered packages. The dead robber was taken to Peach Springs, but has not yet been identified.

CONFESSED ON HIS DEATH BED.

Dr. Gorrell Tells How He Murdered a Wealthy Creditor Eight Years Ago.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Feb. 9.—About eight years ago Alexander Campbell, a farmer of this county, wealthy and old, was killed, supposedly by a dynamite explosion, in the home of Dr. John B. Gorrell, on Fishing creek, in Tyler county. Dr. Gorrell died last week, and it has just transpired that he confessed murdering Campbell and told the mode of the murder. He said Campbell came to collect $50 of him, that they quarreled, that he first clubbed Campbell to death, then placed him on a bed and exploded dynamite under it, after removing his own family from the house. Dr. Gorrell was always suspected of the murder, but evidence enough to justify his arrest was lacking.

DUESTROW MOTION OVERRULED

Division No. 2 Refused to Transfer His Case to the Supreme Court En Banc.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 9.—Division No. 2 of the supreme court to-day overruled a motion to transfer the case of the millionaire double murderer, Arthur Duestrow, to the court en banc. Attorney Noland, of St. Louis, immediately made application to the court en banc for an order requiring the judge of division No. 2 to transfer the case to the court en banc, and Chief Justice Barclay announced that the motion would be acted upon in a few days. Duestrow's attorneys announce that if this application is refused they will appeal the case to the supreme court of the United States.

BOY KILLS HIS STEPFATHER.

Uses a Shotgun With Good Effect in Defending His Mother Against Assault.

Texarkana, Ark., Feb. 9.—At Homan, Ark., ten miles from here, to-day, Sam Leigh, a 15-year-old boy, shot and killed Adam Courtwright, his stepfather. Courtwright, in a jealous frenzy, assaulted his wife with a club, inflicting fatal wounds. Leigh tried to protect his mother, but was too small to grapple with his stepfather. He secured a shotgun and shot Courtwright to death. The woman is still alive, but will die.

Protected by Militia.

Lebanon, Ky., Feb. 9.—William Black arrived here to-day with fifty state troops from Louisville and was presented in court immediately to answer for criminal assault on Mrs. J. D. Clark. The negro pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary, the maximum penalty. The husband was in court and armed, but he did not get a chance to use his weapon. The trial and conviction lasted just one hour.

Shot Dead by His Wife.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 9.—George Davies, for many years a prominent commission merchant of this city, was shot dead by his wife this morning at 9:30 o'clock at their residence. The couple lived unhappily, and the tragedy is the result of a long series of quarrels. Mrs. Davies was arrested shortly after the shooting on the charge of murder.

Mother Held for Infanticide.

Corning, N. Y., Feb. 9.—At Coudersport, Pa., the coroner's jury in the case of the drowning of the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ellsworth has found the child's mother, Flora Ellsworth, guilty of wilful and deliberate murder, while the father of the babe is held as an accessory. The story that the family was starving was found untrue.

Guilty of Criminal Libel.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 9.—In the criminal libel case of State Senators William Flinn and C. L. Magee against the Commercial-Gazette, the jury to-day found Proprietor Alfred H. Reed and Political Editor Walter J. Christy guilty, and City Editor E. W. Bartlett not guilty.

Girl Drinks Carbolic Acid.

Golden City, Mo., Feb. 9.—(Special.) Miss Jennie Hickman, the 18-year-old daughter of City Assessor Hickman, took carbolic acid this evening with suicidal intent, but was saved by the physicians. A few weeks ago she was arrested for burglary, but the charge was never pressed.

Fatally Shot by Footpads.

Huntington, W. Va., Feb. 9.—Three masked men held up two citizens in the central part of this city late to-night. Officer Alex McClaskey gave chase and was fatally shot. A posse is in pursuit, heavily armed. Bloodhounds are on the trail.

BY A VOTE OF 42 TO 32.

KANSAS HOUSE CONDEMNS THE METROPOLITAN POLICE LAW.

PARTY LINES WERE NOT DRAWN

HACKBUSCH REPEAL BILL RECOMMENDED FOR PASSAGE.

Vote on the Measure Preceded by a Sharp Debate—It Is Said That the Senate Will Pass the Bill—Other Legislative News.

Topeka, Kas., Feb. 9.—(Special.) By a vote of 42 to 32, the house, as a committee of the whole, to-day decided to recommend for passage the Hackbusch bill repealing the Metropolitan police law. The question brought up a bitter fight. It was not made a party issue. It was Republican and Populist against Republican and Populist.

When the bill came up under general orders, Mr. Taylor, Populist, of Wyandotte, wanted to kill the thing in its infancy by moving to strike out the enacting clause. This brought up the debate immediately.

Mr. Cubbison, Republican, of Wyandotte, opposed Taylor's motion in a strong speech and Mr. Weilep, Democrat, of Cherokee, spoke in favor of it. He declared that when the Republicans were in power they did not want the system abolished, but as soon as they were licked they began to advocate the repeal of the law.

Mr. Fairchild, Populist, of Kingman, one of the leaders of the Populist side, made a rather sensational speech against striking out the enacting clause. Among other things, he said: "The admissions of the gentlemen on both sides of this house have furnished sufficient information to cause the repeal of the Metropolitan police act. If it is true that the law was passed to punish certain individuals in certain localities, that of itself should furnish one of the grounds for the repeal of the law, because the conclusion must be at once reached that such a purpose, so far as the object is concerned, is pernicious. I notice, and the idea is prevailing throughout the country, and has been since the election, that Governor Morrill ran ahead of his ticket because of the influence of the Metropolitan police in the last election. A lobby from Leavenworth county, in talking with me, stated that the Republican Metropolitan police of that city used the power conferred upon them to coerce voters into supporting Morrill for governor.

"It is an acknowledged fact throughout the state, a proposition that is never disputed, that police commissioners, whether elected or appointed, levy a tribute off joints for campaign purposes, and in the interest of centralizing political power. It, therefore, matters little whether those commissioners are appointed or elected, inasmuch as it allows the state administration to levy tribute from unlawful concerns to centralize power around the executive department of this state.

"I have opposed the Metropolitan police system in the hey-dey of Republican success. I oppose it now. There is only one way, only one theory, under which Metropolitan police can be appointed. That theory is the enforcement of the law. If a petition is presented to the governor of the state asking for the appointment of a Metropolitan police, it is the duty of the governor to appoint a Metropolitan board for the purpose of enforcing the law. The people of the state believe in the enforcement of laws, trusting to the people whether such laws shall be repealed or not. And when the governor of the state appoints a Metropolitan police board for any other or different purposes he prostitutes his office, violates his oath, and disregards his constituency. If John Leedy, the present governor of the state of Kansas, should appoint a Metropolitan police board and then should not enforce the prohibitory law, and if it should be returned to the position I now hold, I would brand his name in the same way as I have branded administrations in the past, because it is an acknowledged fact that no administration in the past has appointed a Metropolitan police board for any other purpose than to centralize political power around the administration and levy tribute off joints for political purposes."

Mr. Larimer, Republican, of Shawnee, said that the metropolitan police law had never been given a fair test, and that it should not be repealed until this was given. Leedy ought to be compelled to instruct the police commissioners of the large cities to enforce the prohibitory law instead of ordering them not to do so. "In case he refuses to do so, he will break his own back, as we did ours."

Mr. Botkin, Republican, of Reno, declared that the metropolitan police law was the foulest ever placed on the Kansas statutes by the Republicans, and ever since then it has been a source of never-ending corruption. He declared that it was always used as a machine to perpetuate the dominant party in power. Just as he was getting well warmed up, he glanced to the gallery, and noticed a number of ministers shaking their heads in disapproval. He then gave the preachers a shot for the benefit of those present. He declared that the law extended even to the pulpits, and that the pastors of churches in the large cities dared not talk against the open violation of the prohibitory law for fear they would lose their jobs. "The only ones that ever dared to do so now," said he, "find themselves out of jobs or their salaries reduced. They were coerced until now none of them talk about it."

Mr. Trueblood talked in favor of the Taylor motion. When put to a vote the motion was lost, 42 to 32.

The bill was then read, section by section, and by the same vote was recommended for passage.

The opponents of the Hackbusch bill say they will try and skirmish up enough votes when it comes to final passage to defeat it. Both sides will do some tall campaigning.

It is said to-night that the senate will pass the bill in case it goes through the house, and that Governor Leedy will sign it.

In case the Hackbusch bill to repeal the metropolitan police system becomes a law, the chiefs of police and police judges of cities of the first class will be elected by the people.

SAVORS OF REPUDIATION.

Lambert's Anti-Loan Agent Bill Was Forced Through the House by the Pops.

Topeka, Kas., Feb. 9.—(Special.) In the house committee of the whole to-day the Populists forced through a mortgage bill that savors very strongly of repudiation. It was the bill of Lambert, of Lincoln, providing for the recording of assignments of real estate mortgages. While the intent of Lambert was all right, yet the act contains some clauses which, if made into law, will enable a person inclined toward repudiation to take advantage of Eastern capital and avoid the payment of his honest debts.