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THE LIQUOR PROBLEM.

THE EXISTING CONDITIONS IN SOUTH CAROLINA DISCUSSED.

An Able Defense of the Dispensary Law—Its Workings Contrasted With the Former Saloon System—High License and Prohibition.

Mr. A. H. Patterson, of Barnwell, while in Columbia recently was interviewed by a reporter of the Register in reference to the Dispensary Law. The following is the interview:

Mr. A. H. Patterson of Barnwell was in the city last week. Knowing that he was a firm friend of the dispensary law, a reporter for The Register called upon him to get his views as to present conditions and the following was the result:

"Mr. Patterson, while you are not now a member of the general assembly, yet as The Register is desirous of knowing the sentiment of the people in regard to the dispensary law as it now stands will you give us your views of it?"

"I am glad that you asked me the question, as I am heartily in favor of the dispensary law, and I believe that if it ever had friends that now is the time for them to speak out, and then I am not one to desert what I believe to be a good law under fire.

"The enemies of the dispensary have systematically fought it from the time of its creation, and, led by some of the daily papers of the state, they expect to preach its funeral at the next session of the legislature. They are already marshaling their forces, and are determined, if possible, to have the law repealed before the Tillman-Latimer bill passes congress. Every influence and argument will be brought to bear upon the members of the general assembly between now and during the next session. Only a few days ago, the News and Courier addressed the following questions to the members of the legislature:

"'Do you think the dispensary law will stand as at present? If not what is your solution of the matter?'"

"Why this question three months before the legislature convenes? Because under the recent decisions of the federal court and the consequent flooding of the state with original packages they imagine that they have the dispensary in a hole, and that now, while the tide is high, they will get the weak-kneed friends of the law among the legislature to commit themselves before they get to the state house.

"This ruse, though, appears to have fallen flat, as a majority of the members, so far, have expressed themselves as being favorable to the dispensary—to the great discomfiture of the News and Courier, judging from its sarcastic headlines.

"The dispensary is by no means dead, and those who think so will find that it is a pretty lively corpse during the next session of the legislature, and in the campaign of next year. The recent senatorial race was a quasi victory for the dispensary, for no candidate could have been elected that did not pledge himself to support the Tillman-Latimer bill. Open opposition to the dispensary would have been the political death knell of any one of the candidates in that race. I say this because I believe that three-fourths of the democratic voters of this state, regardless of factions, are now in favor of the law."

"What do you think of the prohibition movement now being organized in the state?"

'I think that they are making a great mistake, and that if successful, they will realize that pandemonium will reign in this state until the legislature can repeal their law. At one time I was strongly in favor of prohibition, and voted for the Childs' bill while in the legislature. Since then I have been convinced that prohibition could not be enforced and that the dispensary law under present conditions in our state is the best solution of the liquor problem. During the two years that we had prohibition in Barnwell county I was county chairman of the prohibition party, and I must admit that the law was a perfect farce. It was violated upon every side and the grand jury would throw out the cases as fast as they were presented. The prohibitionists deserve the credit, though, for the dispensary law, as it was through their agitation that it was passed. I would now be in favor of prohibition if it would prohibit, but it virtually means free liquor."

"What do you think of having a high license law, with the constitutional restrictions?"

It would mean a victory for the barkeepers and be a curse to the state. We would be retrogarding, and all of the work that has been done against the saloon for the past ten years in this state would be lost. In a few years the constitutional restrictions would be ignored, for experience has taught us that the saloonkeeper will not respect laws that affect his pocket book. We had laws against selling to minors, drunkards, selling upon election days and on Sundays, before the dispensary law was adopted; yet they were violated with impunity. Such a law would not be enforced, for everybody's business is nobody's business.' If it is almost impossible now, under the dispensary law, to get a reputable citizen to testify against a fellow that runs a miserable "blind tiger," how much more difficult would it be to get him to voluntarily report a licensed saloonkeeper for allowing him to drink upon the premises or selling to him after sundown! Don't you know that he would not do it?

"Whenever you place the sale of liquor in the hands of an individual whose sole object is to make as great a profit out of it as he possibly can, he will violate the law. On the contrary, under the dispensary law, you have a man as dispenser who is an officer of the state. He is responsible to the state for his conduct and if he violates the law his official head is chopped off. He is required to be a man of good character and temperate. He is simply paid a salary for his services and therefore has no object in persuading and influencing men to buy liquor. He is under a heavy bond for the faithful peformance of his duties and he is ever watched by a state board and by the public. I say the public, because there are plenty of men ever ready to report any misconduct upon his part, so as to step into his official shoes; and the enemies of the dispensary are vigilant watchdogs upon him, so as to bring the law into disrepute.

"Another serious objection to high license, which concerns the health of our bibulous citizens, is that they would be at the mercy of the barkeeper as to the quality of the liquors that they would drink, for it stands to reason that the higher the license the poorer the liquor and the higher the price. The poor man would get meaner liquor and the rich man would have to pay more for the finer brands. It is a well known fact that under the saloon system the vilest stuff was palmed off on the poor white man and the negro. Upon the other hand, under the dispensary law no distinction is made, but all are served alike, and the law requires that they be furnished with pure liquors.

"It is amusing to see those who were a while back fighting the dispensary upon the ground that it was a monopoly now advocating high license. One is a monopoly by the state for the benefit of its citizens; the other a monopoly by a few individuals whose sole object is to make all of the money out of it that they can. Morally, there is no difference between the state engaging in the sale of liquor and receiving the profits therefrom than for it to receive the license fees from saloons. It is a choice between two evils, and I choose the lesser.

"As long as the state engages in the sale of liquors the good features of the dispensary law can be enforced such as opening and closing at certain hours, not selling less than a half pint, not selling to minors or drunkards, or upon election days or Sundays, not allowing liquor to be drank upon the premises, and the selling for cash. The last requirement prevents many a man from buying liquor that the saloon system does not. Adopt high license, and in a few years all of these good features of the dispensary law will be a dead letter.

"Our people are not blind to the changes wrought in our towns since the adoption of the dispensary law. They have not forgotten that almost every town in the state had four or five barrooms with gambling dens attached, which ran day and night, and how the young men and boys were their chief patrons. All of this is done away with under the dispensary law."

"Well, Mr. Patterson, what course do you think would be best to pursue in regard to the law as it now stands?"

"I think that we should never give up the law unless it becomes absolutely necessary. I think that it should be rigidly enforced, both as to the 'blind tiger' and 'original package' stores, as well as against the dispensers. Every advantage should be taken of the 'original package' stores. No quarter should be shown them, as they are openly violating the laws of this state.

"I think that it is a great mistake to remove the constabulary at this time, whatever may be the advisability of doing so in the future. The dispensary is under fire now from every side and it should not be weakened. Once allow this state to be overrun with 'blind tigers' again (which will be the case if the constables are removed), and it will require the shedding of blood to suppress them.

"No changes should be made in the law by the next Legislature, unless to make a few amendments that may be necessary for the better enforcement of the law. It will be time enough to talk about repealing the law if the Tillman Latimer bill does not pass congress and the United States supreme court sustains Judge Simonton's decisions. There is no use to anticipate defeat of the Tillman-Latimer bill. I can see no reason why it should not pass congress, for it merely confers upon the states what the Wilson bill intended—the control of liquor when it enters the state. Every state in the union will be interested in this bill, for what is sauce for South Carolina is sauce for all of them.

"The members of the legislature can better occupy their minds between now and the next session in framing a bill that will knock out the 'original package' stores instead of being sidetracked by the newspapers.

"What is to prevent the legislature from passing a law requiring every 'original package' shipped into this state to be first analyzed by the state chemist before being placed on the market for sale? The act of 1897 upon this subject only required that a sample of the liquor intended to be shipped into the state be analyzed. Therefore it was held by Judge Simonton that this requirement was merely a resiriction and could not come under the head of police regulation, as there was nothing to prevent the shipper from sending a sample of one kind of liquor to the chemist and a barrel of another kind to the importer. I merely throw out this as a suggestion to the members of the general assembly.

"The war is on, and every effort will be made to have the dispensary law repealed at the next session. Therefore the friends of the law in all parts of the state should rally to its support. And unless they do, one of the best laws that this country has ever had in reference to the sale of liquor may be repealed."

Spare the Birds.

For the information of many who are said to be using their shotguns already with deadly effect upon young partridges, the following game laws of the State are given: It shall not be lawful for any person in this State, between the first day of April and the first day of November, in any year hereafter, to catch, kill or injure, or to pursue with such intent, or to sell or expose for sale any wild turkey, partridge, quail, woodcock or pheasant, or between the first day of March and the first day of August any dove, or at any time during the year to catch, kill or injure, or to pursue with such intent, by firelight, any of the birds named in this section. And any person so doing shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than $20 or be imprisoned not more than 30 days. Section one of the act passed in 1893 says it shall not be lawful after the passage of this act to sell or expose for sale any partridge, quail, woodcock or pheasant, deer or wild turkey, within the State, for the space of five years. Any person so doing shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than $10; or be imprisoned not more than ten days for each offense.

Fatal Bicycle Accident.

S. Jones, a contractor of Washington, D. C., was killed Thursday in a bicycle collision with R. F. Gray. Mr. Jones, who was 83 years old but exceedingly active and vigorous, had been inspecting the construction of a city fire engine house for which he was the contractor, and started across the street on business. He was struck by the bicycle ridden by Gray and knocked violently to the roadway, his head hitting the asphalt. Gray was arrested.

BRYAN IN ILLINOIS.

IN HIS SPEECH HE SCORED THE GOLD STANDARD.

He Was Enthusiastically Received by the People and His Defence of the Silver Cause Cheered to the Echo.

Hon. W. J. Bryan, the next President of the United States, spoke at Roodhouse, Ill., recently. He was received with tremendous enthusiasm and the great audience cheered his pointed speech wildly. He was in fighting mood, and scored the gold standard unmercifully. We give some of the points he made: The Republicans didn't diagnose the disease right in 1896. They treated the people for an overloaded stomach when they needed medicine for an empty stomach. The party has fulfilled its campaign pledges by creating a famine in India and discovering gold in the British possessions. I would rather have an English Admiral at the head of our navy, or an English general at the head of our army than an English ideaed man at the head of our national treasury.

Mr. Bryan compared the condition of the country last year with a sick man, asserting that all parties agreed during the campaign that the country was sick. "In that condition," he continued, "the voter generally goes to his own party and asks that it apply the remedy. If the wrong medicine is prescribed, the voter, if he is more interested in curing political evils than in following his party, will seek a new alliance—in other words, will change physicians. I believe the wrong medicine was applied last fall (loud cheers) and if the Republican party will not consent to change the medicine I think the people will promptly change the doctors. The trouble was that the Republicans did not diagnose the case rightly. They treated the people for an overloaded stomach, when the country really wanted medicine for any empty stomach. (Laughter and loud applause.) These two diseases require different treatment. A large number of people maintained that we should have a greater volume of money. The Republicans insisted that more taxation would cure."

He didn't deny that a raise in taxes would benefit a few, but the many would be oppressed. He appealed to his auditors to listen to Senator Mason tomorrow, who would point with pride to the manner in which his party had fulfilled its campaign pledges by creating a famine in India and discovering gold in the British possessions.

Mr. Bryan asserted that the people standing behind the gold conspiracy never fought an open fight. The attitude of the parties on bimetalism was expounded this way:

"When we had bimetallism no party ever denounced it as unjust or unfair. For three fourths of a century we lived under a double standard and it was never condemned by any party, and no party ever dared indorse it until last year, when the bolting Democrats declared it was a good thing. But look at the verdict of the people in that election; some six and one half millions declared for bimetallism pure, without waiting for the aid or consent of any foreign potentate, and some seven millions declared for bimetallism by international agreement. Only about 132,000 declared for the gold standard." (Loud and continued applause.)

He quoted the platforms of 1892 and 1896, and, acknowledging the defeat of bimetallism without waiting for the aid of foreign powers, asked if the gold standard had won a victory. "It was won under the mask of bimetalism," he declared with vehemence. "It was another fraud of the people, a victory on false pretenses. President McKinley had hardly taken his seat until he asked congress for a commission to visit other nations and ask them to allow us to have bimetallism—to crawl on our stomachs and beg other nations to have pity on us!" And the withering sarcasm with which he uttered the words struck a responsive chord in the audience, which howled and waved parasols, handkerchiefs, hats—any old thing that was handy. Their lungs were working, too.

"There was a time," and the orator paused, "when this nation did what it pleased, and what it believed was to the best interests of a majority of our people, without waiting for the consent of any other nation, and six and a half millions of people last fall believed then and believe now that it has surrendered none of its rights."

He adverted to the fact that England has had the gold standard for 80 years, and its farmers have organized, and are demanding bimetallism. Germany has had the gold standard for 23 years, and its farmers are demanding the bimetallic standard.

"Every time the producers of wealth attempt to do anything," continued Mr. Bryan, "the chambers of commerce, the boards of trade and the financiers have massed themselves against the reform. Last year we were charged with arraying one class against another. Nothing was said of the class that was arrayed against the mass of the people, and bent on carrying out its own selfish aims. I believe that there were four state conventions last year that declared that it was not only wrong to have free coinage of silver, but wrong to say you wanted free coinage; that it is wrong to agitate the question. There must be no interference with the rights and privileges of a certain class.

He read an extract from a press dispatch detailing the movements of the monetary commission in England, one sentence closing: "But the movement meets with the solid opposition of the British capitalists."

"You can't point to a reform ever achieved where capital was in power," continued Mr. Bryan, impressively. "Every reform that has been inaugurated and carried successfully to conclusion has been opposed by that class of citizens who were driven out of the temple of Christ because they had made it a den of thieves. (Cheers and applause.)

"To morrow Senator Mason will tell you that the gold standard, after a trial of 23 years, is a failure, and that we want bimetalism, and want it badly; but we can wait an indefinite time for it—until England gets ready to give it to us. He will tell you this because his party platform of last year will compell him to tell it. I notice that there are some evidences of a scare among the English people, caused by our monetary commission, and I am going to do what I can to increase that scare. Do you know that 10 per cent. of all we owe England would consume all our gold? After that is all gone there is 90 per cent of our debt that would have to be paid in silver, and I believe England would be as much interested in keeping silver and gold at a parity under such conditions as any man in America. They are more interested in silver than gold, if we only realized it.

Mr. Bryan expressed his pride at the manner in which the bimetalists bowed to the will of the majority last November. It showed that they had the spirit of true Americanism. He was not so sure that the other side would have been so graceful. He believed that the president was right in sending the monetary commission abroad and was glad the commission was trying to scare the foreign nations into adopting silver.

"The best way to help them," he continued with spirit, "is to hold up their hands. If this fall's elections are cabled across the ocean as a silver victory I predict that the monetary commission will be successful, and England will appoint commissioners to a conference. It will be all the same if the message is delivered at midnight. Enough of them will be awake to receive the news. On the contrary, if the news is cabled that silver sentiment is dying out, the commission will accomplish nothing. Our opponents tell us that the rise in wheat has killed the silver question. The question has been buried time and time again. It is a poor month when the silver question is not buried half a dozen times.

"Times have really been so bad since the election that the people almost thought I had been elected. I remembered seeing in a newspaper last fall, "Only four more days until prosperity arrives.' But it did not arrive. Then the date was changed to inauguration; then extended until the tariff law was passed. The chairman of the Republican State Convention in Ohio, denied that the Republicans ever promised prosperity. A man wrote congratulating me on my election because banks were failing and business houses were going into bankruptcy. "Haven't we read the papers and can anybody doubt that Bryan was elected?"

"This went along until they discovered gold. They told us last fall that we had money enough. Yet as soon as gold was discoved they began to rejoice. If we had enough then, any more would be too much wouldn't it? How absurd. We said, "Give the people more money and they will be happier, and the first indication of more money brings more happiness." (Applause.)

"I noticed in a newspaper that in December, 1894, wheat was 55 cents, and it is now something over 90 cents. The same time corn was 37 cents and now it is down to about 33 cents. The Republicans want to claim the glory for the rise in wheat. They must assume the responsibility for the fall in corn." (Loud applause.)

Mr. Bryan closed his address by an illustration:

"Hitch one horse to a sulky and another to a lumber wagon and start them around the race track. When the horse drawing the lumber wagon catches up with the sulky, give him the same privileges you give the horse in the sulky. How long do you suppose it will take the lumber wagon horse to catch up with the other?"

Six Railway Giants.

The South Carolina and Georgia road will put on six of the largest locomotives now in the South. Larger ones—in fact, the largest in the world, will be put on in the South by the Southern road later on, but until these Goliaths of the Southern are on the track the South Carolina and Georgia may safely be awarded the palm. These monsters of iron and steam are known as the Rodgers Consolidated four driver engines, and are models of perfection in machinery. The rate of speed is adopted to passenger and freight, and seventy-five cars may easily be pulled by them. The largest number of cars now pulled on the road is sixty. In order to prepare for these giants it is necessary to place seventy pound rails on all the curves of the road. This is now being done on the line between Augusta and Aiken. Two of these giant locomotives will be put on the Augusta branch of the road and will ply only between Augusta and Aiken. The other four will be used between Charleston and Columbia. Under the new arrrangement all freights to and from Charleston will be consolidated in the yards at Aiken. Light engines will take it in sections to points beyond Aiken and the two giant locomotives will take the heavy trains from Aiken to Augusta. The reason for this Aiken yard is two faced. Manufacturies at Aiken Junction and stations along the route have made the business of this twenty miles of the road an enormous one and the most convenient point from which to handle it is Aiken. Then Augusta does not afford sufficient yard room and the Hamburg yards are too swampy for all available purposes. Aiken Junction, but a few miles from Aiken, also presents the best means of transfer to the Southern, with which road the South Carolina has traffic arrangements, and all cost of city transfers to a considerable extent saved by the use of the tracks at this point instead of in the city.

No Sales in "Dry Towns."

Several days ago the original package store at Elko was ordered closed by the governor and the stuff seized. This was done because the town of Elko is "dry," the voters having declared it to be so. Not even a dispensary was opened there. The attorney general's office Tuesday received a telegram from Messrs. Mordecai & Gadsden, Charleston attorneys, inquiring why their client's establishment at Elko had been closed. Reply was made that as Elko was a "dry" town no liquor could be sold there. It is expected that a test case will be made of the matter. The legal advice of the administration is that liquor in no form can be sold, even under Judge Simonton's decision, permitting the sale of original packages in the state, can be dispensed in "dry towns."

Dead Body Hidden.

The ship America has arrived from Prince William Sound at San Francisco with a cargo of salmon and stowed away in a dark corner was the dead body of one of her Chinese passengers. It had been hidden by the other Chinese to prevent a burial at sea, which would have rendered it impossible to ship the body back to China. The condition of the body indicated that the man had been dead a week.

DIPSOMANIA AND MURDER.

TRIAL OF C. C. STEPHENS FOR KILLING HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW.

The Colleton Jury Found him Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity and he is Sent to the Asylum—Extraordinary Career of a Man Who Was Crazed by Drink.

The case against C. C. Stephens, indicted for the murder, was ended in the Court of General Session at Walterboro on Monday, Sept. 27, when Judge Townsend signed an order instructing the sheriff to convey him to the State Hospital for the Insane, at Columbia. The trial of the case was begun Friday morning, and lasted until 7 30 o'clock Saturday evening, the verdict of the jury being that the defendant was "not guilty," as charged, "by reason of insanity." The case was, in some respects, the most remarkable perhaps ever tried in the county. It drew a large crowd that manifested much curiosity, if not interest, in the trial. The populace could not agree, as is usually the case, upon a verdict, and was puzled as to what disposition should be made of the man.

The jury even went so far as to inquire of the Judge upon retiring what disposition would be made of the defendant in the event they found him not guilty by reason of insanity. Stephens had been "off" for some time prior to the day upon which he committed the crime for which he was tried. Although he had really harmed no one, he was considered dangerous by the people of at least three townships, and the prevailing sentiment and conclusion of these awe-struck citizens was that in no event should he be turned loose and allowed to frequent their communities.

The Don Quixotic exploits of Stephens for the last twenty years were related by numbers of witnesses, and the defendant himself entertained the Court and the assembled spectators Saturday, barring an intermission of two hours for dinner, from 12 o'clock noon till 6 o'clock in the evening with the recital of his career, beginning with his service in the late war and culminating in his imprisonment for the murder for which he was being tried. While he talked intelligently enough, his eccentricty or insanity was shown by the particular attention he gave the most trivial events and circumstance occurring in his career.

The simple killing of a rabbit was of sufficient note with him to be recorded in his diary, which he said he had kept from the time he was 15 years of age. Stephens belongs to one of the best families of the State, and his peculiar mental condition was brought about by drink. He received a thorough education, and in some respects may be even now considered brilliant. According to his own story, which is substantially, if not accurately, correct, he joined Hart's Battery the 17th of August, 1864, but left the army to attend the South Carolina Military Academy, to which he received an appointment.

After his graduation there he returned home, where he remained till March 1, 1870, when he went to Greenville, studied law, was admitted to the Bar, and again came home, settling subsequently at Midway, where he practiced his profession about one year quitting it there and coming to Walterboro in March, 1877. In May, of the same year, he went to St. George, and was local attorney for the South Carolina Railroad. During all these years he says he drank freely, and was not without company. In 1878 he began teaching school, which he has followed ever since almost continuously.

Stephens not only, as he says, drank a great deal of liquor after acquiring the habit in Greenville, but various substitutes, such as cologne, essence of lemon and the like, developing into a dipsomaniac. About two weeks prior to the murder Stephens was released from jail upon examination, having been incarcreated on a writ of insanity. He went immediately to the home of his brother-in-law, Mr. James S. Bell, a retired merchant and farmer, and remained there until he killed him on the 16th of January of the present year.

He was ably represented in his trial by the Hon William J. Fishburne and Mr. J. Graham Padgett, whose plea of defence was that he was not guilty by reason of insanity. The defendant, himself, however, demurred to such a plea and claimed the killing was accidental.

W. D. Bennett, C. J. D. Marsh, John Herndon and H. M. Padgett, merchants, testified that Stephens had purchased cologne and essences from them before and during the week in which the killing occurred, and all had noticed that the defendant was very "queer" in his actions.

Mr. Thomas Broxton, an old friend of the family, had perceived that the defendant upon his return from Greenville showed a "deficiency of nervous temperament," and was uncontrollable when deer hunting, of which he seemed very fond.

A week or ten days before the killing the defendant came to his house, bringing two guns, two dogs and two sticks, and talked incessantly. He dined with him but would eat very little.

Sheriff Owens and Deputy Sheriff Arnett testified that Stephens was very obstreperous when first put in jail, and very profane and abusive. It was his desire to have light all night in his apartments, and was quite fond of the pursuit of catching cockroaches in his cell. He gave away almost all his clothing, and cut up and burned his mattress and bedding. He paced the floor of his prison Tasso like, and would not sleep at night. It was his diversion in the dark hours to sing and recite poetry.

Capt. C. C. Tracy and Mr. A. A. Patterson testified as to their experience with the defendant, and both had noticed his eccentricities.

Drs. T. S. Waring, C. E. Kinsey and J. G. Saunders described the disease known as dipsomania, and it was evident that it was what was the matter with Stephens.

Stephens himself then, under protest of his attorneys, took the stand and told his story. He began by saying his full name was Capers Calhoun Stephens, and, after relating the ups and downs of his life, finally came to the culminating point, the killing of his brother in law. His story bore every evidence of being true, and was, perhaps, the strongest proof of his unsound mental condition. He related with exact minuteness the quarrels and disagreements had from time to time with the deceased, showing the existence of malice for his brother in law.

The morning of the tragedy Bell, who objected to Stephens keeping his dog in the room with him at night, ordered him to leave and not come back. Stephens had arranged a "great" dear hunt for that day, and, after borrowing a musket from a neighbor, went forth to enjoy the expected sport. No one, however, of the numerous party he had invited came to participate in the chase.

About 12 o'clock Stephens tired of his solitary watch for the "antlered monarch," and resolved to go to Magistrate Ulmer's Court, by request of a friend, and represent a defendant in suit then in progress.

In pursuing this purpose he passed Bell's. Upon arriving at the house he bethought him of his linen, and resolved to step in and make a change. He went to his sister, who was in the yard making sausages. There he saw Bell, whom he informed of his presence, and asked Bell what he was going to do about it. Bell wanted to get his gun, but Stephens would not let him go alone in the house to get it for fear that Bell would shoot him through the open window. In stopping Bell he cocked his musket, but told him he would accompany him and would not take any advantage of him. Mrs. Bell here came between them and endeavored to put her husband in the smoke house. He tried to pull her inside the door while she was endeavoring to shut it. She clasped the door facing with one hand and Bell held the other.

Stephens said he put his gun under her arm for the purpose of breaking her hold upon the door, when it fired and Bell fell. He said it was a pure accident, as he had no intention of killing his brother in-law. Mrs. Bell ran immediately across the road to the residence of Mr. Bell's brother. Stephens said he had reason to fear this brother, so he reloaded his gun in case he had to defend himself, and went immediately to Magistrate Ulmer and surrendered and was thence committed to jail.

The case was submitted to the jury without argument, the solicitor stating the State would be satisfied with a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity.

In obedience to the order of Court, Sheriff Owens sent Stephens on his way to the Asylum. Stephens said in parting: "Tell Sheriff Owens if he has occasion to send any one else to the Asylum, send them in my care and I will see that they are properly treated."

The Poll Tax Matter.

"The matter of the collection of poll tax from those who are on the delinquent lists is still a live question, and very soon the opportunity will be afforded some one to test the constitutionality of the statute law bearing upon the subject. It seems that there can be no question as to the lack of jurisdiction of a magistrate to imprison one for his failure to settle, but whether a magistrate has the right to levy upon the personal goods of a delinquent is open for final adjudication by the supreme court. The matter has reached the stage now that the delinquent pavers feel that they cannot be made to pay; but judging from what Magistrate Clark on said a new line of procedure will be started. The magistrate claims that he has a right to levy upon the personal goods of a deliquent, and if refusal is then made the effects will be sold at public outcry for the debt. Magistrate Clarkson says that he intends to bring out about the contingency during the week and then the chance will be afforded for a test case. He stated that he has prominent Columbians on his list, and because refusal to pay has been made in several instances, the personal effects will be levied upon. There has been nothing said in all the recent discussion about the payment of poll tax as to the right of a magistrate to levy upon personal property, but Magistrate Clarkson claims that he is acting under authority contained in a statute not very long ago passed by the general assembly."

Live Frog in His Stomach.

"Frogs in his stomach instead of consumption" is what has just been discovered as the ailment of young Albert Vansant, a young man of Rahway, N. J. Within two years numerous physicians have diagnosed his case as pulmonary trouble, and two weeks ago he began the use of inhalants instead of drugs. Thursday he was taken very ill with cramps, and peculiar pains in his stomach, and soon he expelled a live frog four inches in length from his throat. The creature hopped about as if glad to be released from its confinement, and is now in possession of the physician, who is diagnosing the case for more frogs. The young man seems better than for a year past. It is supposed that the animal was swallowed about two years ago while the young man was drinking from a small stream of water. He was violently ill for a few days at that time. The case is being watched with great interest.

A Dollar's Worth of Sense.

The Examiner says that once when Chief Justice John Marshall was driving, the hub of his wheel caught on a small sapling growing on the roadside. After striving unsuccessfully for some moment to extricate the wheel, he heard the sound of an ax in the woods and saw a negro approaching. Hailing him, he said: "If you will cut down this tree, I'll give you a dollar." "I kin git yo' by 'tout de ax ef dats al yo' want." "Yes, that's all," said the judge. The man simply backed the horse until the wheel was clear of the sapling, and then brought the vehicle safely around it. "You don't charge a dollar for that, do you?" asked the astonished chief justice. "No, massa, but its wuth a dollar to larn some folks sense." The quick witted darkey got the dollar without further questioning.

No More Constables.

In accordance with the proclamation of the governor all the Dispensary Constables were removed on last Friday, and the police of the different towns and cities will in future be charged with enforcing the dispensary law altogether.

Quarreled Over a Pasture.

Willis Collins was shot and killed by Z. A. Leggett near Mayo, Florida, Thursday. Both men were prominent, Leggett being chairman of the county democratic executive committee. They quarreled over a pasture.

Made Spurious Money.

Leopold Ilmen was arrested in Chicago Thursday for counterfeiting silver dollars. It is believed that he was the maker of the very fine counterfeit silver dollars which have been put in circulation all over the country.

SAVED TWENTY-NINE LIVES.

A New York Policeman Promoted for Signal Gallantry.

In the October Century there is an article by the Hon Theodore Roosevelt, entitled "The Roll of Honor of the New York Police." In speaking of promotions for gallantry, Mr. Roosevelt says:

Among the first promotions we made were two which illustrated the attitude of the board toward cases of this kind, and which also incidentally illustrated exactly what we mean by "taking the force out of politics"—that is, by administering it on principles of decency, and appointing and promoting men on their merits, without regard to their political backing. The first case was that of an old fellow, a veteran of the civil war, who was at one time a roundsman. I happened to notice one day that he had saved a woman from drowning, and had him summoned that I might look into the matter. The old fellow brought up his record before me, and showed not a little nervousness and agitation, for it appeared that he had grown gray in the service, had performed feat after feat of heroism, but had no political backing of any account. He was a Grand Army man, but not one of the "political" type, and so he had not received any attention from the former police boards; and now, at last, he thought there was a chance for him.

He had been twenty-two years on the force, and during that time had saved some twenty-five persons from death by drowning, varying the performance once or twice by saving persons from burning buildings. Twice Congress had passed laws especially to empower the then Secretary of the Treasury, John Sherman, to give him a medal for distinguished gallantry in saving life. The Life Saving Society had also given him its medal, and so had the police department. On examining into his record carefully we found that it was wholly free from complaints of any infraction of duty, and that he was sober and trustworthy. We felt that he was entitled to his promotion, and he got it. We did not know his politics, nor did we care about them. It is very unlikely that the woman whom he last saved, as he swam out towards her, felt any special interest as to whether he had voted for Cleveland or Harrison, nor did we. He had risked his life freely again and again in the performance of his duty; he had conducted himself so as to be a credit to the department, and a credit to the city; and we felt that he was entitled to his remard.

It is worth while mentioning that he kept on saving life after he was promoted to a sergeantcy. On October 21, 1895, he again saved a man from drowning. It was at night, nobody else was in the neighborhood, and the ship from which he jumped was in absolute darkness, and he was about ten minutes in the water, which was very cold. The captain of the precinct, in reporting the case, said: "The sergeant was off the bulkhead and into the water after his man quicker than it takes to say 'Jack Robinson.'" There was no way in which the board could reward him for this, except by telling him that he was an honor to the department; for he had been given all the medals, and bars to the medals, that he could be given. It was the twenty-ninth person whose life he had saved during his twenty three years' service in the department, and he was 55 years old when he saved him.

A Senseless Panic.

Eva Duncan, a negro woman who has been under guard three days, at Houston, Tex., declared to be a suspicious case by State Health Officer Swearingen, but by every local physician to be suffering from dengue and kidney inflamation, is getting better. The cotton exchange and board of trade held a meeting and passed resolutions requesting Surgeon General Wyman to send an expert to Houston at once to look at the case and wire to him. Nobody there believes the woman has yellow fever, but every town in Texas has quarantined against Houston and the situation is very serious commercially as the loss to trade is a million dollars a day while this ostracism lasts. Two thousand men are out of employment already on account of it and the list grows daily. It is hoped that the government will send Dr. Guiteras or some other man whose reputation will send Dr. Guiteras or some other man whose reputation will be sufficient to allay the fears aroused in the interior of the State. The scare is intense in many small towns and accounts of the actions of the rural quarantine officials would be ludicrous were it not for the very serious effect they have on business and their towns.

Had His Neck Broken.

A young man by the name of Nolan was killed on Wednesday night while riding on a trolley car in the suburbs of Charleston. It seems that the young man had been attending ceremonies incident to the opening of a new park about five miles out of Charleston. Returning he left the pleasure grounds on a City Railway car just before midnight. The car came spinning down towards the city with a merry party on board. Just before the Five-mile House was reached young Nolan put his head out of one of the windows, it was thought, to look back towards the park. As he did so the car rushed by a trolley post standing close to the track. Nolan's head struck against it with terrific force, breaking his neck.

Chopped Off Two Fingers.

Karl Karlson, carpenter on the ship Vavoutous on a voyage to Rio Janerio from Pensacola, Fla., has been committed to jail for setting fire to the ship eighteen miles at sea. The evidence against Karlson was mainly circumstantial, but it was shown that he was so opposed to going on the voyage that he chopped off two of his fingers the day before the ship sailed. It was also in evidence that after the vessel, crossed the bar he told the crew they would be back in Pensacola in another day.

Will Enforce all Laws.

Mayor Sloan, of Columbia, has issued an order to Chief of Police Doty informing him of the fact that the constabulary had been removed, "and that the whole responsibility of enforcing the dispensary law rests upon municipal authorities. You will, therefore, use the greatest diligence in suppressing the importation and sale of illicit liquors. You will expend these instructions to the police force and see that they are properly enforced."

THOUGHT HE'D NEVER DIE.

A FANATIC'S MOCKED FATE, BUT DEATH CAME.

Was a Follower of the Strange Religion of Shermanism—When Dying He Did Not Believe That He Would Die.

Sleeping in death beneath the sod of the old family burying ground in Henry county is Mack Dodson, a man who in life believed that he would never die. His faith was that he would never see death, yet he is dead. In a pretty house at No. 1 Glenn street came the end to this man's remarkable career. Lying almost unconscious in the throes of death, he argued that he would not die. To the religion of a lifetime he was true to the last. Mack Dodson was a believer in that strange creed called Shermanism. The sum and substance of this weird dogma is that a man who has faith will never die; that if he will live right he will some day be caught up to heaven in a chariot of fire, just as was Elijah of old.

Shermanism is without doubt the strangest religion in existence. It has thousands of followers, but none of them with a faith like Dodson's. He was the most prominent of the hundreds of Shermanites who inhabit north Georgia. For years he has been an aggressive believer in the religion of Sherman and there has been no more powerful factor in spreading the religion in Georgia than he. He was prosperous and could have dressed well, but his religion was that a man must have but one coat, so he never had but one. He thought that a man should wear his hair long like Jesus and the apostles, and from the time he adopted the eccentric belief he wore his hair in long flowing locks that fell below his shoulders.

Last week while Dodson was visiting his brother-in-law at No. 1 Glenn street the death which he had scorned grew tired of the mockery and took from him that life which he had sworn should always be his. Just before he died he was told by a brother of the creed to get up and walk and he would be well. The sick man's faith was stronger than all else and he rose up and dressed. In a short while he was dead.

It was over ten years ago when Dodson first embraced the faith which he held to his death. In Henry county he was one of the most progressive citizens. About 1886 a preacher named Sherman came to Henry county preaching a strange, new religion. Dodson went to hear the man tell of his system of religion. He was struck with the force of the stranger's utterances. After the sermon was finished he offered the preacher some money.

"I never accept money or pay for ministering," said Sherman.

The preacher told Dodson that he must go through forty days of fasting and prayer. For forty days the searcher for the truth prayed and eat only what was necessary to keep body and soul together. Sherman, with the assistance of Mr. Dodson, soon secured other followers. In a few years he established in Henry county and Clayton a large church of his followers. Very few people in Atlanta know Sherman or know that his religion exists, yet in a few miles of the city there are hundreds of men who believe they will never die. In north Alabama Sherman has a following estimatmated at 10,000 men. They may not be known as Shermanites, for frequently the only evidence of their belief is their quaint way and long hair. The main basis for the belief is found in the eighth chapter of John. This is the passage of Scripture which Dodson said was his promise: John viii, 51. "Verily, verily I say unto you, if a man keep my saying he shall never see death."

Others were: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me hath everlrsting life."

"Your fathers did eat of that manna in the wilderness and are dead."

"This is that bread which cometh down that a man may eat thereof and not die."

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat this bread he shall live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

"This is that bread which came down from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead; he that eateth of this bread shall live forever."

Two weeks ago he came to Atlanta to visit relatives. He was unwell when he came to the city and every day of his stay he became worse. Last Monday he was quite ill. His brethren of the faith visited him and encouraged him to cling to the creed of eternal life. Sherman, the man who had changed the current of Donson's life, came and sat by his bedside. Rugged, bearded and with hair streaming down his back, he looked like some priest of a dark craft. He lost one arm in battle and the empty sleeve adds to the grotesqueness of his apearance.

"Have faith: take up thy bed and walk," he said to the sick man.

Dodson rose up and dressed at the bidding of his chief. He was hardly able to stand, yet his faith upheld him. Dodson was so weak after dressing that he had to go back to his bed, despite the urgent request of his priest to conquer sickness by faith. The sick man refused a doctor. Finally he became so ill that he could not forcibly object and Dr. Odell was summoned. The physician diagnosed the case and said that the patient was suffering with typhoid fever. Dodson grew constantly worse. In a few days his relatives saw that death was inevitable. He contended that he would not die. He still laughed at death and said that he believed too strongly in Jesus to think he would died. Just before Dodson's death a number of the Shermanites were with him. After he died they fled like frightened people flee from one who has been stricken by the plague.

"He sinned," they cried.

It was their religion that a man would never die unless he sinned and they claimed that Dodson had sinned. They would not go near him after death, for they said they were afraid they would catch the dread contagion of his transgressions. When he was carried to the family burying ground in Henry county not a single Shermanite followed the bier.

"Let the dead bury its dead," was the quotation of the Shermanites. They said that Dodson had sinned and as such it and they did not want to go near him.

The labor of a lifetime was devoted and legal, but it didn't save him from the inevitable.—Atlanta Constitution.