

PERSISTENT INCENDIARY

A Strange Case of Barn-Burning in Connecticut.

NEW YORK, May 25.—An exceedingly curious case has been commenced in the Supreme Court of Connecticut, at Bridgeport, before Judge Culver and a jury. Alexander Mead is suing David S. Husted for \$20,000 damages and charges him with burning down barns on his property three times. Both men are residents of Greenwich, Conn.

Mead is the owner of a large farm, comprising about two hundred acres, on which he raises flowers principally. This farm has been in his family and handed down from father to son for four generations. Immediately adjoining it is the magnificent country seat of Mr. Rockefeller, of the Standard Oil Company. Husted's farm is about three-quarters of a mile distant from Mr. Rockefeller's. He is a member of the same Congregational church as Mead, and no two Christian brothers apparently could have a more deadly hatred for each other. Some years ago Husted's house was mysteriously destroyed by fire, and in course of time he made application to the insurance company for the amount of his policy. The Glens Falls Company, in which he was insured, for some reason satisfactory to itself, made some hesitation about payment, and Mr. Husted was put to considerable trouble in the matter, never it is said, receiving the full amount of his policy. This trouble, and loss of money, Husted attributed in a great measure to Mead on account of some information the latter is alleged to have given to the insurance company.

The feeling between Mead and Husted at this time was very bitter and caused much comment in the neighborhood. About 7 o'clock on the night of October 22, 1875, Mead's valuable barn, well stocked with farm material, and the stock was burned to the ground. It was generally conceded that the fire was of incendiary origin, but Mead's standing and reputation in the community was such as to absolve him from the slightest suspicion. The insurance company took the same view and the insurance was promptly paid. Mead built a larger and more costly structure a short distance from the site of the burnt barn. In March, 1877, the new barn was burned under circumstances very similar to the first. In it was a large amount of grain and a valuable assortment of farming implements. The insurance was paid and the third barn erected larger than the second. In January, 1879, the third barn was totally destroyed by another mysterious midnight fire. In this were a number of very valuable cows and some horses that were burned alive, besides a considerable amount of grain and flower seeds. The insurance company came up smiling for the third time. It was also the last time, for the company intimated to Mr. Mead, and he was forced to admit it, that he "had no sort of decent luck with barns." The result of Mead's misfortune was that not only did his old company decline to take any further risk on any property of his, but the other companies followed suit, and at present his new barn is uninsured.

The counsel for the defense made a general denial of the charges with the statement that Husted had had nothing to do with the fires and knew nothing about them.

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY

Stonewall Jackson's Regiment and the Twenty-Eighth New York Volunteers Have a Reunion.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., May 25.—One of the most interesting reunions since the war was held here between veterans of the Fifth Virginia Regiment, C. S. A., and the Twenty-eighth New York Volunteers. The Fifth was Stonewall Jackson's old regiment, and did magnificent service to the rebel cause. It was organized in April 1861, in answer to the call of Governor Letcher. The regiment was assigned to the First Brigade after the battle of Bull Run, and commanded by Col. T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson. It was assigned to the first battle of the war in which the army of the valley was engaged, at Falling Waters, Va., near Martinsburg, in July, 1861. From that time on it was engaged in the fiercest battles of the war, winding up in the desperate charge at Appomattox station against Sheridan's lines on April 9, 1865, when the Johnnies tried to cut their way through the Federal forces to Leesburg. The regiment only quit service when Lee surrendered the whole army of Virginia to Grant. In the four years service the names of some three thousand men thirty great battles and innumerable skirmishes reduced the numbers to 250 at the close of the war, and now but 160 survive. Their regimental association headquarters are at Staunton, Va. The remainder of the regiment were met at Canandaigua by Colonel Brown, of the Eighteenth New York volunteers. They were warmly welcomed and cheered at every step, almost the whole population turning out despite the pouring rain. They went immediately to the International Hotel, where the Twenty-eighth Veterans were quartered, and then began an indescribable scene. Men who had never met but in battle, and then in desperate conflict at Cedar Mountain, where there was great loss on both sides, clasped hands and swore renewed fealty to the Union.

A Mob in Kentucky.

MR. STERLING, Ky., May 25.—An armed body of men from Menifee county, numbering seventy-five, attacked the Mt. Sterling jail, last night, at 2 o'clock, for the purpose of lynching one or more prisoners confined there. The three men on guard, State troops, opened fire on the mob, shooting the sheriff through the knee. Four others were wounded. The sheriff's leg will have to be amputated. Great excitement exists.

A PUT-UP JOB ON HIM.

Confined, Robbed and Finally Sentenced on False Testimony.

Detective Mason Makes a Charge of Robbery and Outrage Against the Ex-Chief Detective of the Treasury Department.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—George Albert Mason, who was discharged recently from the Albany Penitentiary, where he served a term of imprisonment for having counterfeited money in his possession, is in Washington for the purpose, as he says, of instituting an investigation regarding his arrest. He claims to have been the victim of certain officers formerly connected with the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department, and that he was innocent of the charge made against him. His story is substantially as follows: In October 1874, he was written to at Toronto, Canada, by Elmer Washburn, then Chief of the Secret Service, and invited to come to Washington; that he would be paid his expenses each way, and such demands as he might make for service as a United States detective. Mason came to Washington, and after consultation with Washburn was told that he should receive the same pay as the other Secret Service agents. Subsequently a dispute arose between Washburn and Mason concerning the pay, and the latter threatened suit. March 18, 1875, while Mason was in New York, he was deflected into Washburn's office, in Bleeker street, and after being overpowered by several men, his keys were taken from him. Mason was kept in the office while his valise was searched, and he alleges that Washburn took away all his letters, photographs, private telegrams and receipts for money, a revolver and \$2,000 in cash. In April, 1875, Mason was indicted by the Grand Jury for having a counterfeit \$50 bill in his possession, the testimony being that it was found under a bed in the room occupied by the prisoner. May 8, 1875, Mason was sentenced to the Albany Penitentiary for twelve years, and after he had served about a year some of the articles taken from his room were returned, with a request that he should sign a receipt for all that had been taken. This he refused to do, and the articles in question were retained by the Warden of the prison. In 1877 the United States Consul at Toronto visited Mason and informed him that a pardon could be secured if he would write to President Grant for it, and in 1881 a similar proposition was made through Commissioner Chase. Mason declined to take such a step, saying that he was innocent of the commission of any crime, and would not compromise himself; that all he wanted was a new trial and the property taken from him. He had not been afforded the proper means to have a fair trial when he was arrested, as a job had been put up on him. This story, he has embodied in a petition to the courts here, and he has intrusted his case to the law firm of Cook & Cole of this city. An effort will be made to secure the arrest and trial of ex-Chief Washburn, whom Mason says "shall not suffer a minute's rest till he makes restitution of the stolen property, and establishes the innocence of a wrongly convicted man." Mason claims that the service for which he was first employed by Washburn was to effect the capture of the noted counterfeiters, the McCarthy brothers, and that he performed the work. In so doing he was badly wounded by the prisoners, and he shows terrible scars to substantiate this portion of his narrative. Having established his case before the courts by proving his right to his pay as a detective, the fact will establish his innocence of the charge on which he was convicted, and the outrage perpetrated on him by the officers who put up the job on him.

ARM-CHAIR EXECUTION.

A Patent to Supplant the Gallows for the Capital Punishment of Criminals.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Mr. H. B. Sheridan, the patentee of some twenty electrical machines, and the electrician of the Sheridan Electric Company, has applied for a patent for what he terms "an improved device for executing criminals condemned to death." He accompanied his application by an assignment transferring to the Government the right to use his invention. He also intends to give it to all foreign Governments that may desire it. The Patent Office returned the assignment to him, saying it had no power to receive it, and telling him to seek out the proper authority.

Mr. Sheridan's device is a method of causing instantaneous death without pain to the criminal, and without disfiguring his body. It consists of an ordinary arm-chair, with legs containing some substance which will insulate the body of the chair from the floor. The arms end in two brass knobs, on which the hands of the criminal will rest. The chair has a foot rest on which is fitted a brass plate. The back of the chair is as high as a man's shoulders. At the top is a small knob, with a hole for a peg. The positive wire of a dynamo-electric machine runs up the back of the chair, and ends in the knob. The negative wire runs to a resistance coil under the chair, and thence to the brass plate in the foot rest. Another positive wire runs to one of the brass knobs on the arms of the chair, and a second negative wire to the other knob. The wires can be connected with a machine miles away by conducting wires.

The chair is in condition to be used in two ways, as the two sets of wires are not operated together. If the foot-rest wire is used, some preparation is needed. A small

silk collar is fitted tightly on the neck of the criminal. It has on the inside at the back a small brass button, which fits closely against the spinal process. It is connected with a small silk cable, which hangs loosely and ends in a brass peg. This collar is put on the criminal in his cell in the same manner as the noose end used in hangings. He is then brought out, with feet bare, and is seated in the chair. Straps fasten his arms to the chair-arms and his legs to the chair-legs. The brass peg of the silk cable is inserted in the hole in the brass knob at the back of the chair, and is there held by a screw. The bare feet of the criminal rest on the brass plate of the foot-rest. The circuit would now be complete were it not that the positive wire is broken at a short distance from the chair. Connection can be established at once by turning a switch, or by pressing a button. The full charge of electricity enters the criminal's body at the spinal cord and passes out at his feet. The resistance coil, which it meets under the chair, aggravates its force and prevents it from injuring the dynamo machine on its return. The criminal is killed instantaneously and without pain, as the electricity acts much more quickly than the nerves of sensation.

The second method of using the chair is to discharge the current into the palms of the hand through the large brass knobs. In this case no collar is needed, and the subject need not be barefoot. In either case all the wires and apparatus, excepting the small collar, would be out of sight, and the criminal would see nothing but an ordinary chair. The Sheriff could signal the executioner to turn the switch, or he could press a button in the floor, and in a second all would be over.

Mr. Sheridan says that he invented this machine in the interest of humanity, and that he gives the invention to the Government, as he does not wish to make any money out of it. He says there is no possibility of its failing to do its work quickly and well. It will prevent all such dreadful scenes as the struggles of Cornetti, at White Plains. Mr. Sheridan says he will manufacture one of his arm-chairs at once and get it in full working order. He intends to have a bill introduced in the Legislature next fall authorizing its use.

BOW TO BOW.

A Propeller Strikes the Escort and She Goes Down.

NEW YORK, May 25.—The steamer Escort, of the New York, Catskill and Athens line, was making her way down the Hudson on Tuesday night, on her return trip to this city, when, shortly after 10 o'clock, as she was about three miles above Poughkeepsie, her pilot saw the lights of a propeller some distance ahead. The Escort was keeping in to the west shore, and as the propeller was coming up the river directly in her course, the pilot, as he claims, sounded his whistle once, as a signal that he intended to keep to the right. As the sound of the whistle ceased, however, the propeller, as is said, replied with two whistles, thereby signifying that she would keep to the left. The Escort signalled back that she could not alter her course, as her officers say that had she done so she would have struck the propeller amidships and cut her in halves. The propeller, it is claimed, again whistled twice. Finally, seeing that a collision was imminent, Captain Peter Acker, of the Escort, ordered the engines to be backed, but before the steamer could be stopped she met the propeller bow to bow.

The crew of the propeller consisted of the Captain, three men and a boy, and they were greatly excited when the vessels collided. They at once lashed the helm and started their engine to full speed, in the hope of driving the vessel on shore, but as she passed close by the Escort they sprang on board that vessel. The propeller, her helm being lashed, made a wide semi-circle, and then settled down. Captain Acker, after ascertaining that the crew had escaped, ordered a line to be made fast to her, and before she sunk she was towed in as near as possible to shore and made fast, so as to prevent her from drifting.

The propeller was the Emita, of the Pennsylvania Annex Line. She was on her way to undergo inspection by the inspector of boilers. She was built five years ago and was valued at \$8,000. Her captain and crew were sent on there in the Escort's lifeboat. Captain Acker sent yesterday a full report of the collision to the Inspector of Steamboats.

A Mysterious Mountain Pass Found at Last.

PANAMA, May 25.—The Bariloehi Pass, between Chili and the Argentine Territory, which has been recently discovered, had long been searched for, but the astuteness of the Indians in time of peace and the precautions taken by them in time of war, have hitherto prevented it becoming known to Argentines or Chilians. The Jesuits were aware of its existence, and a century and a half ago unsuccessfully explored for the entrance to it in all directions, while Pessis, author of the map of Chili, confidently stated that the easiest route between the Atlantic and Pacific would become known directly from the Argentine drove the Indians from the plains and mountains. The discovery of this pass places the Pacific within seventy miles, by an easy road, of the extreme western Argentine outpost at Lake Nahuelhaspi, and it will now be possible to construct a railroad from the Gulf of San Matras, Patagonia, to the Atlantic, across the Pampas and through this pass to Chili, on the Pacific, which will be less than one-half the length of that now in course of completion from Buenos Ayres to Santiago, via Mendoza. It is difficult to overestimate the value of this discovery, as it will certainly have an immediate effect in promoting the development of the vast plains of Southern Argentine and Patagonia and of the regions which are now being for the first time explored and opened to civilization by Argentine and Chilian soldiers.

RECEIVED BY THE CABLE.

The English Destroy Three African Towns.

African Chiefs Declare War on Portugal—Troops to Quell the Revolt—The Parnell Fund Reaches \$11,000.

ENGLAND.
LONDON, May 25.—An English expedition from Sierra Leone has burned and totally destroyed the towns of Whymac, Hahoon and Zenneboh, and has killed over 100 followers of Chief Gpoo, as a punishment for rebellion and a retaliation for pillages, of which they were guilty in the Boom and Kiltan countries.

LONDON, May 25.—The Ministry publicly denies having used any influence to secure the issue of the Papal circular, and this denial was reiterated by Lord Fitzmaurice, Under Secretary, when the question was raised in the House of Commons last evening. He said the Government did not know Mr. Errington in the matter at all. The Government has never intended to establish a resident at the Vatican, and had so stated positively and publicly two months ago.

IRELAND.
LONDON, May 25.—The Parnell fund amounts now to nearly £11,000. Resolutions condemning the recent Papal circular have been passed all over the country. The general tone of the speakers present at meetings called for the purpose of considering the document, and more especially that of the Irish members of Parliament, has been one of sober self-control; there has been an absence of wild language or proposals. This is largely due to consideration for the priests, the vast majority of whom regret the action of the Vatican. Archbishop Croke, addressing the students of the Irish College in Paris, said: "I come back from Rome as I went to Rome—unchangeable and unchanged."

AUSTRIA.
VIENNA, May 25.—Lieutenant Schlager was shot and killed here to-day in a duel with the editor of the Militarische Zeitung.

RUSSIA.
MOSCOW, May 25.—The Czar's proclamation announcing proposed reforms and his wish for popular harmony and the cessation of agitation, was read here publicly yesterday and received by the populace with acclamation. A feeling of unexpected quiet and security prevails.

GERMANY.
BERLIN, May 25.—The officers of the Russian Emperor Alexander Grenadier Guards will offer the Czar a handsome congratulatory present upon his coronation day.

HAMBURG, May 25.—Dr. Banks, the Vice President of the Progressist Organization, shot and killed himself here to-day.

PORTUGAL.
LONDON, May 25.—Makalolo and other chiefs, on the Shari river, in West Africa, have declared war on Portugal.

Dispatches from Lisbon announce that gun-boats and troops have been dispatched from Mozambique to the west coast of Africa to quell the insurrection.

BRUSSELS, May 25.—The famous Belgian statistician, Xavier Henseling, died to-day.

A BRAVE OLD WOMAN.

She Lays Down Her Life for Others.

NEW YORK, May 25.—Louise Guedan, a widow, sixty years old, who manufactured artificial leaves and fruit, was burned to death at No. 190 Greene street. She occupied the first and second floors and the rear basement and slept in the work-shop. Two front rooms on the second floor were let to lodgers. The sub-tenants were L. Germain, a feather-dyer in the front basement; Julius Lambert, a maker of stands for artificial flowers, in the rear of the third floor, and Therese D. Trenchand and six children in rooms in the front of the third floor. At 9:30 o'clock, when the fire broke out, there were in the building Germain and his employees, Mrs. Guedan's employes, a woman she had hired to do chores, and six workmen employed by Lambert. The fire started in a wooden extension in the rear of the first floor, where colors were applied to leaves and fruit in course of manufacture. A vessel of naphtha caught fire from a gasjet and exploded. The extension building was ablaze in a few seconds, and the employes fled. Mrs. Guedan was more solicitous for the safety of the persons upstairs than for her own, and she ran to the second floor, calling out "Fire!" to warn Lambert's employes. It is believed that she inhaled smoke on the second floor landing, and went into the largest of the front rooms with the charwoman, Thomas Downs, of No. 340 Hudson street, passed the house at the time the fire broke out, and watched until he saw Mrs. Guedan and a younger woman appear at the second-floor window and clamor for aid. Downs ran to No. 180 Greene street, and entering the room of Anthony Monet, begged for a blanket to aid in saving the lives of two women. Monet wanted to know who would pay him for it if it got torn or soiled. Downs left Monet, but Eliza Chevallier, a laundress in the basement, gave Downs a quilt. When Downs reached the street the women were no longer at the window, but Lambert's employes were getting out of the window at the south end of Mrs. Trenchand's room to the cornice of No. 188 Greene street, a very perilous feat, but they all saved themselves. The fire swept from the rear to the front of the house, gutting the rear and destroying the third floor and roof. Mrs. Gue-

dan's body was found on the third floor. It was apparent that she left the front room on the second floor and groped blindly to where she was found, hoping to escape to the roof. Little remained of her but her trunk, her head, arms, and legs being reduced to charred flesh. Her body was removed to a Spring street undertaker's from the Mercer Street Police Station.

VERDICT FOR BELLE.

A Most Remarkable Case of Belle English Against Her Alleged Father—She Gets \$2,500.

CINCINNATI, May 25.—Belle English claims to be the daughter of one Clement L. English, who denies the relationship. Miss English brought a suit against Clement L. English to recover \$10,000 for slander. The case is up for hearing before Judge Force and a jury. An affidavit from Mrs. A. McHuron states that in March, 1861, Mr. and Mrs. English came to her asylum, near Westboro, O., representing themselves as man and wife; that Mrs. English remained, and was delivered, two months later, of the child now known as Belle English, which child was adopted by Peter Knicely and wife. Sixteen years afterward \$100 was paid them by Mr. English to compromise the suit, brought for expenses incurred.

This morning Mrs. English, wife of Clement L. English, took the witness stand and denied everything the plaintiff testified to. Mrs. Tackworth, a sister of Mrs. English, testified that her sister did not leave the city in May, 1861.

Clement English testified that he was born in the city; had paid Mrs. Knicely \$400 for board for Miss Belle English to avoid public notoriety and public scandal. Did not know the plaintiff; did not admit that Miss Belle English was his daughter; did not say she was a blackmailer, or that she was an illegitimate child; do not know Mrs. McHuron, and was never at her house at Westboro, Ohio. The reporter who interviewed him, he said, was under the influence of liquor.

Belle Fowler testified. She was a domestic at Mrs. McHuron's twenty odd years ago, and remembered of Mrs. English coming to the lady's house.

Dr. Dawson was sick, and could not be obtained for the plaintiff.

Plaintiff's counsel argued that no testimony for the defense had been offered to cover the time from the marriage in December, 1860, to the time in the following May, 1861, when the child was born.

He claimed the girl's parentage was fully established by the alleged letter of Dr. Dawson to Mrs. McHuron recommending Mrs. English to her care, as testified to by the plaintiff; that the payment made by English acknowledged the parentage; that the domestic, Belle Fowler's, recognition of Mrs. English as the woman who was at the lying-in hospital established the identity.

He claimed that the resemblance between Mrs. English and Miss English was unusually striking, and that the mother could hardly keep back her emotion as she looked across the table to the child, and that it was only the iron will of the husband that kept her from acknowledging her offspring.

Judge Wilson, counsel for the defendant, claimed that the real issue had almost been lost sight of in the attempt to establish the paternity of the girl.

He said all the jury had to decide was whether or not the defendant had called Miss English a blackmailer. Judge Wilson also claimed that the plaintiff had not fixed her parentage upon Mr. and Mrs. English. The plaintiff is a very pretty girl, with dark eyes and hair, a straight, well-formed nose, a delicately mouth, thin lips, and an expression over all that is pleasing and intelligent. The jury evidently did not believe the general denial made by English, for they returned a verdict for the girl for \$2,500 damages. A motion will be filed for a new trial.

This ends a remarkable case, such as has not been before known in the history of jurisprudence in this county. There is one thing, however, not yet finally established, and that is the parentage of the girl. Judge Force, in charging the jury, said that if ever the question should be brought up as to her parentage, she could not plead the record in this case as establishing that fact, as the question for the jury to decide was solely as to whether or not the slander charged had been uttered, and how much her damages were, if that be considered as proved.

CONDENSED TELEGRAMS

AT Forsyth, Ga., Henry Green, sentenced to hang to-day, has been granted a respite and allowed an appeal to the Supreme Court.

AT Epsom, England, the race for the Royal Stakes (handicap) was won by Lord Ellesmere's Lowland Chief, Gerard's Sweetbread second, J. E. Walker's Rout third. Fourteen starters, including P. Lorillard's Sachem.

AT Des Moines, Iowa, Ida Kinia, aged eighteen, was cut to pieces by a train of eight freight cars. Her intended husband, who had just arrived from Chicago for the wedding ceremony, witnessed the sad accident.

THE use of the diving apparatus in the sponge fisheries is no longer to be permitted in the East. The introduction of such scientific appliances has always been very objectionable to the natives, and the Turkish Government has just issued an order prohibiting them.

THE Craft case has been submitted to the Court of Appeals. When the appeal was granted it operated as a stay of proceedings until a decision is reached. No action will be taken by the Governor of Kentucky until a decision is reached by the Court of Appeals. Craft's neck is safe until that time.

THE statement issued by the Treasury Department to-day shows the number of distilleries in operation in Ohio to be twenty-four, with a capacity of 45,000 gallons; in Kentucky, 174, with a capacity of 78,000 gallons, and in Indiana eleven distilleries, with a capacity of 20,000 gallons.