

FLORIDA BRIEFS.

ITEMS OF INTEREST GATHERED AT RANDOM.

News from all Parts of the State Summarized.

There is already a lively movement among the republican politicians of the state toward the securing of plums that will fall from the republican administration should the party be successful in '97.

Fire at Green Cove Springs a few days ago destroyed almost an entire block of stores and dwellings. The loss will reach in the neighborhood of \$60,000, partly covered by insurance, most of which is carried by the Hartford.

The executive committee at St. Augustine for the entertaining of the National Editorial association next January met and organized a few days ago. The National Editorial association consists of about 1,000 members, and holding their next convention at St. Augustine will be the means of bringing at least 2,000 people to the city and county.

Washington county makes a good showing in taxable property for the year 1895. The tax books show the following interesting facts: Total value of property, \$1,274,507.73; real property, \$917,085; No. of polls, 1,108; total county taxes (8 mills) \$11,955.91; total state taxes, (4 mills), \$5,749.87; No. mills assessed, 13; exemptions, \$3,035; No. horses in county, 881; cattle in county, 9,584; sheep and goats in county, 8,631; hogs, 7,674; total value of animals, \$107,205.

Major T. H. Handbury, of the United States engineers, was in Jacksonville a day or two ago, and in an interview with C. H. Smith, secretary of the board of trade, said that the delegation of United States engineers, directed to meet in Savannah and consider the question of the improvement of Cumberland sound, would no doubt go to Jacksonville, as he was under the impression that their instructions were to that effect. When in the city they will visit the bar and examine the jetty work and the work which the county did on the river.

E. W. Amsden, of Ormond, embarked in the palmetto berry business last year, and shipped no less than thirty tons to northern cities, for manufacture into medicines. He has provided a large evaporator for this year's business, but feels very doubtful of obtaining enough berries to keep it running to even half its capacity. The extreme variability of the berry crop is the worst feature of this industry. The medicinal properties of the fruit of the saw-palmetto have but recently come to the knowledge of the profession, and are as yet imperfectly understood.

The Knights of Labor at Fernandina declare that the fight is still on against the lumber stealers, whom they declare to be controlled, body and soul, by the consignees. They want 20 cents an hour for loading lumber, though they have accepted 15 cents for loading phosphate. The lumber men say they will not pay 20 cents and assert that they will have no trouble in getting plenty of laborers. The county commissioners have refused to pay the bill of \$90 for the services of the sheriff's deputies during the strike. They said they did not care to establish that as a precedent, and if their position was wrong they preferred to have the payment made under a mandamus to issue from Judge Call.

Red, and A BIG SUIT.

Each side of South Carolina claim title to Anastasia Island.

At the office of the clerk of the United States court at Jacksonville has been filed a suit which involves the title of nearly all of Anastasia island, opposite St. Augustine.

The suit is brought by Charles M. Furman, of Summerville, S. C., and A. G. Furman, of Greenville, S. C., against Henry L. Mitchell, governor of the state of Florida; W. D. Bloxham, comptroller; C. B. Collins, treasurer; W. B. Lamar, attorney-general, and L. B. Wombwell, commissioner of agriculture, as the trustees of the internal improvement fund of the state of Florida; the Florida Coast Line Canal and Transportation Company, with headquarters at St. Augustine; the St. John's Railway Company, with headquarters at Jacksonville; Horace S. Cummings, of Washington; John A. Henderson, of Tallahassee; Jennie McGonigle and John N. McGonigle, of St. Augustine.

The bill of complaint of the plaintiffs is to the effect that they own and hold title in fee simple as tenants in common to a tract of land in St. Johns county within townships 7, 8 and 9 south, of range 30 east, known as "Anastasia," or "Saint Anastasia" island, said to contain 10,000 acres, but which in fact contains about 7,500 acres, excepting therefrom what was known at the time of the Spanish grant as the "King's quarries," the boundaries of which were marked by stakes, the same being about 200 acres lying on the east side of the old King's road between the same and the old light-house.

The plaintiffs claim that this tract of land was granted by the government of Spain to Jose or Joseph Fish on June 19, 1795, and that the grant was ratified and confirmed by the United States by treaty with Spain on Febru-

ary 19, 1821. The title then descended to the plaintiffs, as follows: Joseph Fish died unmarried and without children, a short time prior to the cession of the Floridas by Spain to the United States. His only heir at law was his mother, Sarah Fish, who died in 1825, intestate. Her only heir at law was her grand-daughter, Jessie B. Perpall, who shortly thereafter intermarried with Charles B. Furman, of Charleston, S. C. She died intestate, leaving as heirs at law her husband and one child, William Furman, the son died in infancy in 1836, leaving his father as his only heir at law. Old man Charles B. Furman died in 1872, leaving a will whereby the said Anastasia island property, as part of his real estate, was devised one-half to his nephew, Charles M. Furman, one-fourth to his nephew, Richard K. Furman, and the remaining one-fourth to his grand-nephews, B. B. and I. K. Furman, all of whom are the plaintiffs in this suit. The will was admitted to probate in Charleston county, South Carolina, July 2, 1872, and was afterwards recorded in the county court of St. Johns county, Florida.

It is claimed by the plaintiffs that the United States, without right or title, conveyed this land under the swamp and overflowed land act to the state of Florida, and by the state, through the trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, portions of the land have been conveyed to some of the parties to this suit. The tract of land in controversy is said to be worth \$25,000, and a hard fight will be made by the plaintiffs to secure possession of it. Notices of the suit have been served by the United States marshal and his deputies upon nearly all of the many defendants, and these defendants are required to appear and answer on the first Monday in November.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

The Outlook for Orange Growing in Florida.

We reproduce the following interesting letter written to the Times-Tribune by Mr. John F. Rollins, of the firm of Greely, Rollins & Morgan, representatives of the Florida Finance company, the great and enterprising combination of English capitalists that has done so much for the state. Mr. Rollins says:

During the past six weeks I have visited orange groves in Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Alachua, Putnam, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Lake and Hillsboro counties. The object of my visit has been to examine into the present condition of the groves in which our company is interested and to decide whether it was worth while to continue to cultivate them, and if so, what was needed to be done this fall to start the trees on the road to recovery, what groves were worth cultivating and what locations were the most favorable for the growth of the orange, and any other information I could obtain as to orange culture and the best way of treating orange trees that had suffered from the freeze. I have examined at least fifty groves in which our company is interested, and many others, with a view of obtaining all the information possible. The conclusions I have come to may be of value to others as well as to ourselves, though I do not claim to be able to give advice and I am only acting upon what seems to me to be common sense. We have commenced work on groves in all the counties named, with a view of rebuilding them as soon as possible. To this end we have them hoed out, the lower limbs cut off and the roots carefully examined for wood lice, all dead wood and bark removed and apply lime and sulphur to drive the lice away; also have the groves plowed out to turn under the grass and weeds. Where the young shoots are strong enough, we are putting in buds.

In many groves that have been worked during the season fine buds have been put in that have made a good growth. All are budded near the ground, so that in case of a freeze the coming winter they can easily be protected. In all the groves I have examined I find but a small per cent of dead trees, as upon examination, live wood is found almost invariably below the surface of the ground. I see no reason for our citizens to be discouraged as to the growth of oranges. The freeze has been a sad blow, but the groves can soon be brought back into bearing if our people will only act promptly. Where a whole grove cannot be cared for, the owner should cut down the area to what he can care for in good shape. One tree, well cared for, is better than five half worked. There are many points that it seems to me it would be well for our state authorities to look into in connection with the freeze and its results. The many thousands of people engaged in the orange industry, and the vast amount of money invested, surely deserve to be protected from such disasters if it is in the power of man to do it, and even if only a partial protection or help can be had, it would be of great value, not only at present, but in view of like troubles in the future.

In my trip about the state I have been brought in contact with some of the best growers, and find much difference of opinion as to what is best to be done with frozen orange trees. Whether to leave them alone, as many have done, or cut them down and cultivate as many others have done. My own observation leads me to think that to cut and cultivate is the best. In the cases where the trees were not at once killed to the ground, there are many interesting and important questions that deserve the careful study of a skilled man in horticulture and chemistry. Many trees that sent out shoots in the spring, high up in the branches have since died down. Others are still alive, and have made an immense growth of sprouts, have been

perfectly riddled with the borer, and upon examination I find the entire heart of such trees sour and evidently on the quick road to decay. What is to be done with such trees? Can they be saved? Will they live a year or two and then die? Will the shell of live wood and bark be enough to maintain the tree and enable it to bear a crop of fruit, or is it best to cut them down at once and depend upon a new sprout for a future tree? The settlement of this one question would be worth many thousands of dollars to those who now have trees in just that condition, and it seems to me that a careful study of this question is worth the attention of our authorities, even if they are only able to lay up information for the future. I have found but few groves in the counties named that have any fruit upon them and but few where there will be fruit next season—1896—but if we have no severe cold this season there will be an increase of crop in 1897, and in 1898 a still larger crop, as from all the information I have been able to gather, sprouts from bearing seedling trees will begin to bear in three years, and as many growers will not bud, we may expect some fruit from the young trees. In the meantime, our citizens must learn to live without the orange groves, and if they learn that lesson they will become a more prosperous people than ever.

JOHN F. ROLLINS.

WARD SKIPS OUT.

A Memphis Man Gets Away with Three Hundred Thousand Dollars.

A. K. Ward, secretary, treasurer and manager of the Memphis, Tenn., Barrel and Heading Company, has been missing several days. Ward is wanted because of the liberty he is said to have taken with the names of rich relatives and business friends, which were potent with bankers.

Later developments in the shortage of Ward show that his forgeries will amount to about \$300,000. Of this \$75,000 is held by local banks, \$40,000 in New York city, \$12,000 in Chicago and the remainder by firms and individuals in Memphis. Ward enjoyed unlimited confidence in business and social circles and he secured money on forged notes from at least a dozen widows in amounts running from \$1,000 to \$50,000. He also borrowed the savings of the employees of the firm of which he was general manager and gave them spurious notes for it. No one knows what he did with the money, but there are no traces of his gambling, speculating or dissipating. The best information to be had shows that half of the money was secured within the last six months. Ward and his wife are en route for British Honduras on the steamer Breakwater.

CUBAN REBELLION EXTENDING.

Three More Bands of Insurgents Make a Strike for Liberty.

Passengers arriving at New York by the steamer Yumuri from Havana say that the rebellion is spreading westward. Three bands of insurgents have appeared in districts which have hitherto been quiet. One party of 200 men, half of whom were said to be Spaniards, rose in the vicinity of Batavio, twenty-five miles from Havana and the southern terminus of railway which runs across the island from Havana. Another party has risen in Melena Del Sur. It has 300 men and the third party is at Ybarra, the place where the rebellion first broke out, and where quiet was restored last February. In the last party there were 150 men. The news of these risings have caused some excitement in Havana. It is also reported that Maximo Gomez has left 2,500 men in Camaguey and with 2,000 is marching toward Las Villas.

VICE PRESIDENT STEVENSON

Visits the Exposition With Members of His Family.

The vice president of the United States, Hon. Adlai Stevenson, reached Atlanta early Friday morning on the Western and Atlantic through train from Bloomington, Ill., his home. He was accompanied by Mrs. Stevenson, Miss Julia Stevenson, Miss Letty Stevenson, Mr. Lewis Stevenson, and Mr. S. H. Kerfoot, of Chicago.

In an interview with Mr. Stevenson he stated that he did not at present intend to be in Atlanta longer than two or three days. In the afternoon the party were driven out to the exposition grounds, attended by a special committee appointed by the exposition authorities. The party were entertained during the remainder of their stay by the various social organizations of the city.

EMPLOYEES LOCKED OUT.

Bicycle Factories of Toledo Close Their Doors.

A dispatch from Toledo, O., states that the strike inaugurated there has been turned into a lockout. The tool makers in all the bicycle factories, except in the Viking and in the machine shops of the city, struck for ten per cent advance in wages. The Manufacturers' association declined to accord to their demands and Friday morning posted notices on the doors of their establishments announcing that they are closed. This makes nearly 5,000 men who are idle.

Not a bicycle factory is at work in any department, except the Viking. The foundries are at work, but otherwise everything in iron and steel manufacturing is at a standstill.

To Build Two Big Ships.

The North American Lloyd Steamship company has orders from a ship building firm at Govan, a suburb of Glasgow, Scotland, for two steamships whose dimensions will exceed those of the Campania and the Lucania.

THE SULTAN YIELDS

WILL SIGN THE PLAN OF REFORM IN ARMENIA

As Demanded by England, France and Russia.

A special cable dispatch from Constantinople is to the effect that Saib Pasha has accepted the scheme for reform in Armenia drawn up by Great Britain, France and Russia, and it now awaits the signature of the sultan. The scheme is almost identical with the proposals of last May, in substance, that the governors and vice-governors of Van, Erzeroum, Sivas, Kharut and Trebisond, be Christians or Mussulmans, according to the inclination of the population; but either the governor or vice governor is to be a Christian, and the appointments are to be confirmed by the powers. Local and state officials are to collect the taxes and enough money is to be retained before it is forwarded to Constantinople to pay the expenses of the local administration. Complete changes will be made in the judicial system. Torture will be abolished.

The police will be composed of Christians and Turks equally, and the laws against compulsory conversions to Islamism will be strictly enforced.

The ambassadors of the powers expect that the whole question will be finally settled during the course of the week by the promulgation of an imperial decree. Contrary to general expectation the high commissioner who will be charged with the execution of this scheme of reform will be a Christian. This was the hardest pill for the Porte to swallow and for a long time it threatened to bring about the most serious complications.

INSURANCE MEN ARRESTED.

A Bitter War Is On Between Them at Chattanooga, Tenn.

Eight members of the executive committee of the Knoxville, Tenn., board of underwriters who arrived at Chattanooga Tuesday afternoon to arbitrate the long standing differences between the board and the local agent, met with a very warm reception. Capiases were served on them as they walked into the corridors of the Read House, charging conspiracy against the Chattanooga public by means of a trust to control rates. They found no trouble in securing bondsmen and marched in a body from the courthouse to the appointed meeting place, where they found all the local agents except the three prosecutors awaiting them.

The arrested officials were President J. A. Thomas and Charles Matthews, of Nashville; W. H. Wheeler, J. C. Johnson, Frank Snyder and J. H. Curry, whom they propose to make manager at Chattanooga to see that the terms arrived at are observed by the agents, all of Louisville, C. B. Thompson, of Covington; W. J. Dean, of Atlanta, and C. T. Band, of Louisville, were given similar treatment on a former visit.

It seems inevitable that the obstinate agents will be frozen out and their companies forced out to other agents, though the prosecutors of the suit are among the first insurance men of the city.

THE SALE CONFIRMED.

Decree Rendered in the Central and the Savannah and Western Deals.

The sale of the Central Railroad and Banking Company of Georgia and the Savannah and Western railroad was confirmed by Judge Don A. Pardee in the United States circuit court in Atlanta Thursday morning. The counsel interested were all present in person or by proxy. Judge Pardee looked into the terms of the sale and finding that it was made in accordance with the terms of the decree, confirmed the sale of both roads, and ordered that the special masters who made the sale, Messrs. E. A. Angier, of the Savannah and Western, and A. E. Buck and George W. Owens, of the Central, execute a deed conveying the property to the purchasers of the two roads. The Central was sold for \$2,000,000 and the Savannah and Western for \$1,500,000.

This action of Judge Pardee completes the last act in the drama that began when the Central was put into the hands of a receiver two years ago. The property has passed out of the hands of the parties who built up the old road, and it now becomes an outside corporation.

The question of attorney fees did not come up, and it is not probable that it will be decided while Judge Pardee is in Atlanta, as the counsel have not put in their applications as yet.

TENDERED TO PLOUGH.

Report That He Will be Manager of the Central.

The report that A. B. Plough, vice-president and general manager of the St. Paul and Duluth railroad, has been tendered the position of general manager of the Georgia Central, is believed to be true.

Mr. Plough is at present in the south in company of President Hayes, of the St. Paul and Duluth, and Central authorities in Macon have been instructed to pay special attention to him and to show him every favor.

Insurgents Will Blow Up Railroads

Advices from Havana state that the insurgents in the province of Santa Clara have circulated pamphlets advising the inhabitants not to use the railroads, as they have determined to blow them up with dynamite.

A. P. A'S. MEET.

National Convention Held by the Order at St. Louis.

The national conference of the American Protective Association met at St. Louis, Mo., Monday morning. All of the supreme officers and most of the state presidents were in attendance and the hall was packed. The object of the meeting was to organize the national advisory board which was appointed last year at the Milwaukee meeting of the supreme council and to outline a plan of action with regard to the next national campaign.

After the conference was called to order by President W. J. H. Trayner, of Detroit, Mich., Mayor Walbridge was introduced and made a welcoming address. Other addresses followed and the conference became executive.

At the afternoon session the work of the credentials committee was ratified and a resolution passed congratulating the members in Nashville, Tenn., upon their recent victory. It is possible that Judge Stevens, of Michigan, will be chairman of the advisory board.

Speaking of the proposed national political movement President Trayner said: "It is not our intention to form a third party or independent movement. All we want is recognition from the national political parties. The party that recognizes us will get our support. The advisory board, when organized, will evidently appoint a committee to present our principles to each national party, and demand recognition. Ours is a representative body, composed of all nationalities. Nationality or creed is no bar to membership. Our organization is working more openly now than ever before and if I had my way about it all our sessions would be public. We have nothing to hide."

GROWTH OF THE SOUTH.

The Industrial Condition as Reported for the Past Week.

Reports as to industrial conditions in the south for the past week are favorable. Valuable quotations for cotton, generally keeping prices well maintained, are bringing in cotton in considerable quantities, but the bulk of the crop will be held as planters are better off financially than any year since the war. Diversified crops have been exceedingly profitable, even though prices have been low. The iron producers are doing a large business at satisfactory rates. It is believed that iron quotations will be maintained, but not increased, but large producers are not making contracts at present rates for future delivery. A 20 per cent. increase in freight rates has no effect on business. Coal production is now large and is increasing as the season grows colder, and the coal market is very active and prices are firm. The steady increase in lumber shipments is an encouraging feature of the situation. Lumber prices are pretty firm and well adhered to. Cotton mills that were well stocked with old cotton have done well, but new cotton is running too high in proportion to the market for finished goods. Southern textile mills however, are all doing well, and the mills started during the present season are a good many of them, now in active operation.

Among the important new industries incorporated or established in the southern states during the week are the Kinston Land and Lumber Co. of Laurel, Miss., capital \$100,000; the Terrell Press Co. of Terrell, Ga., with \$50,000 capital, the North State Lumber Co. of Farmington, N. C., capital \$25,000, and the Keweenaw Coal and Mining Co. of capital \$12,000, of Bluefield, W. Va. Brick works are reported at Spring Hill, Ala., a canning factory at Alta Loma, Texas, a large cotton ginners at Woodruff, S. C., and a fertilizer factory at Ona, Va. Ice factories are to be built at Chattanooga, Tenn., and Parkersburg, W. Va., a machine shop at Piedmont, Ala., and a mill factory at Slaterville, W. Va.

There is also reported an oil mill at Shiloh, N. C., a wood and metal working factory at Chattanooga, Tenn., a spring bed factory at Annist N. Ala., a shoe factory at Fort Smith, Ark., and a tannery at Manchester, Va. The woodworking plants for the week are at Gainesville and Miami Fla., Shreveport, La., Jackson and Newberry, Tenn., and Elgin, Tex. Water works to cost \$30,000 are to be built at Newberry, S. C.

The enlargements for the week include an addition of eight tons daily capacity to the Franklin Ice Co.'s plant at Frankfort, Ky., to a knit mill at Peru, Mo., Va., and to a furniture factory at Belmont, Texas.—Trade-mark (Chattanooga, Tenn.)

THE PULITZER-JONES MUDDLE.

Some Interesting Developments in the Newspaper War.

As a result of the legal differences between Mr. Joseph Pulitzer and Colonel Charles H. Jones, in the control of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the special service which existed between The New York World and The Post-Dispatch was suspended last week. This service consisted of news proofs, illustrations, correspondence, etc., together with a special wire from New York to St. Louis. This action, it was stated, was taken by Mr. Pulitzer in order to give even for a temporary restraining order which Colonel Jones had secured to prevent the former from interfering with the latter's editorial policy and management.

In retaliation Colonel Jones has set the official pulpit in operation and the figurative heads of Managing Editor Florence D. White, Advertising Manager C. Steighers and Cashier Edward Buttell dropped in the basket. As Mr. White is treasurer of the company, and his signature is necessary on a check to negotiate its payment at the bank, some interesting complications are looked for.

USED A COWHIDE.

Lawyer Brown, of Atlanta, Whips Two Newsboys.

The publication in last week's issue of the Kansas City Sun, a paper devoted to scandals, of an alleged libellous article reflecting upon Mr. Julius L. Brown, of Atlanta, caused that gentleman to administer a cowhiding to two news vendors who, it is said, had sold the papers in question on the streets.

"Roxie" Callaway and Joe Bowers were the victims of Mr. Brown's wrath and indignation. Both were thoroughly chastised and show marks of the whip. Roxie Callaway has employed the firm of Glenn & Rountree to represent him, and that firm will institute a suit for \$10,000 damages in his behalf against Mr. Brown. Roxie also declares his intention of prosecuting Mr. Brown for assault with intent to murder.

CLARKE IS F

DETERMINED THAT THERE BE NO FIGHT IN AR

Hot Springs Sports Miscellaneous Position in the Matter

Governor Clarke took his ride from Hot Springs for Edw. Thursday morning. The talk freely to a correspondent to the present aspect of affairs in the Corbett-Fizzimmone case. He was asked whether or not he was responsible for the reports, and he had found nothing during his trip to the Springs to cause him to change his mind about the contemplated fight.

"Is it a fact, governor, that you would let the local militia cope with the matter and the circumstances would you call militia of the state to support fight if the Florida Athletic club insisted on going on with it?"

"There is no foundation in rumor," replied the governor, "dispatches that have appeared in press of this morning attribute promises to me are incorrect, no such assertions, either private or public, and I regret very much they have been allowed to appear."

"Have your views in regard to the contest been modified in any way?"

"They have not. I came to Hot Springs to see if there was some common ground that would find to stand upon, but after the day investigating the matter I find none whatever. I entered the same view that I did prior to and cannot see how I can permit the favoring of a prize fight pulled off in Arkansas's territory."

The governor talked pleasantly and the impression he made that he meant every word he said that unless something intervened prevent him from so doing he would declare martial law. He paid Duffie a high compliment. "He stood like an old Roman in committee room and would not blink that the proposed contest should be on, refusing to yield or to waver a word or a syllable."

Corbett to be Jailed.

A line of action seems to have been agreed upon in the Corbett-Fizzimmone matter. Thursday afternoon Prosecuting Attorney Teague issued a warrant for the arrest of J. Corbett on a charge of contempt, and commit a breach of the peace by entering into an agreement to do harm to one Robert Fizzimmone.

TILLMAN BALKED.

Convention Delegates Refuse His Bidding.

In the South Carolina constitutional convention, Wednesday, Senator Tillman introduced as an amendment to the legislative article, a section providing that the general assembly of the year 1916 and every 20th thereafter should refer to the people the question of holding a constitutional convention and permitting the convention to be held upon a majority vote.

The convention once again sat on the senator, killing the amendment by a vote of 65 to 47. The legislative article after much talk has been completed, save two sections, that relating to homesteads and that relating to intermarriages. Before the recent convention passed an amendment providing that no marriage should be allowed between a white person and a person possessing any negro blood.

Judge Frazer offered a further amendment to preserve the status of all such marriages, now existing as property, etc. "Uncle George Tillman" made a powerful speech on the subject, advocating and showing the necessity of saying "one-eighth" of negro blood, instead of negro blood.

The whole matter was recommended to the committee.

The sections providing for the establishment of general laws for the charters of cities, towns, villages, manufacturing enterprises, etc., and prohibiting special legislation thereon were adopted.

BACK AT WASHINGTON.

The President and His Party Reach the Capital Safely.

The president arrived at Washington at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. He was accompanied by private secretary Thurber and E. C. Benedict, who has been for the past four days his host on board the steam yacht Oneda.

The president was met at the wharf by his carriage, which drove him rapidly through the city to the white house. The president has improved notably in appearance during the summer and is evidently in excellent health. In addition to the recreation he secured at his seaside home, he managed to keep up with all current business which demanded his attention, and in consequence he returns to find no accumulation of work on his desk except a great number of vacancies created during his absence, and for which, in most instances, he has practically determined on the appointments he will make.

Children Cremated.

Mrs. Miner, living south of Macpherson, Ark., locked her two children, aged six and four years in a room while she went to a neighbor's home. While gone the house caught fire and the children were cremated. The mother, it is thought, will lose her mind.