FIGHT FOR A GIRL'S LIFE

Pretty Bertha Haines Rescued from a Desperado's Clutches.

BUT IT WAS A HARD BATTLE.

Her Captor Tries to Brain Her with an Axe, But is Overpowered Before He Can Accomplish His Purpose.

A New Jersey Crime.

MOORESTOWN, N. J., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—One of the most fiendish crimes on record was committed last night in the heart of the Jersey pines. At dusk on Sunday Bertha, the twelve-year-old daughter of Charles R. Haines of Pemberton, was missing from her home. She is a bright child and a favorite in the neighborhood. It was suspected that William Sloan, a desperate character living in the outskirts of town, was concerned, and the father and a friend named Bush went to Sloan's house. His wife said he had gone down to the shore. They followed his trail in the sands, and after walking twelve miles came to what is known as Butter Place, where there is a deserted hotel. There was a light inside from a fire that Sloan had built, and beside it lay the form of the girl on a blanket insensible. Not far from where she was lying they saw Sloan. Knowing the desperate character of the man they had to deal with, Haines remained on guard while Bush started on a run for Woodmansie, three miles away. There he found Constable Adams. It was nearly 3 o'clock in the morning when they reached the place where Haines was still waiting. Inside the condition of affairs was unchanged. Sloan had an axe by his side and was bending over the prostrate form of the girl when Constable Adams burst open the door and made a rush for him. He seized the axe and aimed a blow that would have beheaded the constable if he had not quickly dodged it. Just at that moment Haines struck Sloan on the head with a club, felling him to the floor. As he rose he made an effort to kill the girl by a blow with the axe, but her father struck his arm with a club and diverted the blow. Finally he was struck on the head with a club and was tied and taken to jail. His wife was also locked up as an accomplice.

Bertha, the injured girl, was found to have been horribly maltreated. It is doubtful if she will recover. Her parents are highly respectable people. Sloan evidently intended to kill the girl to prevent her from testifying against him, as he is a man who stops at nothing. The community is terribly excited over the affair.

NEBRASKA NEWS.

Not Caused by Dry Fodder.

GIBSON, Neb., Dec. 31.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The deaths of cattle in this locality running in the stalk fields have not been owing to too much dry food, resulting in the packing of the stomachs. On the contrary, the stomachs of dead cattle so far as examined have been almost empty, and show unmistakable signs of inflammation of the stomachs and bowels. In some instances colts have died where they had free range in stalk fields. The fodder of corn cut when green, is being largely fed with no signs of disease. The deaths from feeding in the corn stalks seem to be caused by a poison, and it looks probable, from present knowledge, that a parasitic fungus, developed into its most potential activity by the extremely dry weather last fall, is the active agent. This poison has not as yet been isolated, so as to demonstrate this theory, but the investigation will be continued.

Not Backward on Sugar Beet.

LONG PINE, Neb., Dec. 31.—[Special to THE BEE.]—There has been some feeling prevailing in and near Long Pine for nearly two years regarding the sugar beet industry, but it has become violent lately, due to the fact that there is a man here now from sugar beet districts of Germany, and who has been through the Grand Island district and he pronounces this county as having the finest prospects for a sugar factory of any place he has been in the United States. The peculiarity of the loamy soil has brought it to the front rank of vegetable producing counties and which was proven by receiving the first premium at New Orleans. Parties here are now negotiating with sugar capitalists in New York city.

The Crossing Trouble Settled.

BEATRICE, Neb., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The city council met in special session this afternoon and passed an ordinance granting the Union Pacific railway company the right-of-way over Sixth street at the point where the track was torn up by the order of the mayor yesterday morning. The injunction to restrain the road from building the track in question was withdrawn by mutual consent of both parties. The matter is now practically settled so far as it concerns the city. The Kansas City & Beatrice road will also be given permission to cross the disputed street and such other streets as may be necessary for the prosecution of its business.

A Steam Heater Fraud.

TILDEN, Neb., Dec. 31.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Word reached here this morning that a man named Hall has been "fleecing" the farmers in the northwestern part of this and Antelope counties on a new scheme. He sells steam heaters and in payment takes an accepted sight draft, together with a contract. He makes the drafts in sums of from $300 to $1,000. At the present time he has realized about $7,500 and it is impossible to take legal recourse and the only way is to avoid dealings with him. The vice president of the Tilden State bank has been taken in for about $2,500.

They Left a Hot Fire.

PONCA, Neb., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—George S. Sherwood, a farmer living one mile north of here, lost his house and contents by fire last evening. Immediately after supper the family locked the house and drove to this city, leaving a hot fire. They returned an hour later and the building was nearly consumed. It is supposed the fire originated from the stove. Mr. Sherwood holds a $1,000 policy in the State insurance company of Des Moines and this will cover all losses.

A Boozy Bartender.

KEARNEY, Neb., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Fred Andres, a well known bartender of this city, was seized with a fit of delirium tremens last week, and failing to rally from them was adjudged insane last night by the commissioners. He was taken this morning to the asylum at Lincoln.

One Montana Senator.

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 31.—Colonel W. F. Sanders has been nominated for United States senator. He will be elected in joint session tomorrow. For second choice T. C. Power, B. Platt Carpenter and Lee Mantle have been placed in nomination. The house has adjourned till 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The republican house met at 4 o'clock and immediately adjourned till 10 tomorrow.

At the caucus of the republicans tonight Power is said to be in the lead, but there are prospects that a dark horse will get away with the prize tomorrow.

The democrats of the house and senate also caucused and it is understood W. A. Clark of Butte will be nominated for the senatorship with Martin McGinnis and S. T. Hauser close for second.

Window Glass Men.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 31.—At the meeting of the window glass manufacturers of Ohio and Indiana today the prices named at Findlay on November 18 were reaffirmed. They also allied themselves to the syndicate with a capital stock of $800,000, which will take the glass off the weaker concerns which would otherwise have to place the same upon the market.

A RAILROAD ROW.

Trouble Between the Trans-Missouri and Western Freight Associations.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The trans-Missouri and western freight associations have hitherto been free from the wrangles in which all the other associations have been embroiled. The record is now broken, however, by the two peaceable associations getting into a row with each other. The question at issue is one of jurisdiction over common territory west of the Missouri. As the older association the western freight does not propose to have its powers abridged, and as the association nearest to the inter-state commerce railway the trans-Missouri thinks it has a right to dictate in common territory. The point which brought up the main issue was the relative basis of grain rates from Nebraska points to St. Paul and East St. Louis. Under the ruling of the Western freight association the rates from Nebraska to East St. Louis were lower than to St. Paul. A short time ago, by special dispensation from the trans-Missouri association, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha was allowed to make the same rates from common Nebraska points to Duluth as its competitors made to East St. Louis. This gave both the northern and southern routes a differential of 5 cents over the route via Chicago, and as a consequence the Chicago-Missouri river lines have been losing over a thousand cars of grain a week which formerly came through Chicago and now goes via St. Paul and the Canadian Pacific to the seaboard. It is openly charged that the Canadian Pacific accepts 5 cents less than its usual proportion on this traffic, thus allowing the Omaha line of the Northwestern and other St. Paul routes their old rate before the reduction. The matter was brought up today in the meeting of the general managers of the Interstate railway association and a violent discussion was begun, but was ended by the whole matter being referred to Chairman Walker for arbitration. It is thought likely the powers of the trans-Missouri may be slightly abridged, but any reduced rates can as readily be made under the rates of the Western freight association.

Kansas and Nebraska Rates Fixed.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The general managers of the interstate commerce railway association today relieved themselves of a heavy burden in settling the long-standing difficulty in reference to Nebraska and Kansas rates. The basis of settlement was on an equalization of the Omaha and Lincoln rates. That is, the sum of the rates east and west from each point is the same. All other rates to outside points are built up on this equalized basis. There is a general lowering of rates in connection with the settlement, the reduction averaging about 5 per cent.

Notice of a Reduction.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 31.—Notice of a reduction in passenger rates between St. Paul and Chicago corresponding to the cut made by the Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Burlington & Northern has been issued by the Wisconsin Central. The reduction takes effect tomorrow and only affects south and east bound rates.

The Omaha & South Dakota.

YANKTON, S. D., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Considering the increased interest the people of Omaha feel in Yankton and South Dakota on account of the projected Omaha & South Dakota railroad, it may be well to state that the permanent improvements of Yankton for the closing year will be at least $500,000. They consist of brick blocks, first class residences, hotel, railway and the cement plant. This exceeds all former years, but the coming year will far exceed this. A railroad from Omaha to Yankton will give Omaha a large trade from South Dakota. The people along the line of the Omaha & South Dakota road are awake and will contribute liberally to aid in building the road in their section.

Secret Society Insurance Rates.

ATCHISON, Kan., Dec. 31.—[Special to THE BEE.]—As the secret society insurance men are just now engaged in a controversy with State Insurance Commissioner Wilder about some of his rulings, the following statement of the cost per $1,000 insurance in eleven societies of this character is interesting: Ancient Order of United Workmen, $5.50; Masonic Mutual Benefit society, $18; Knights of Pythias, $25.20; Knights of Honor, $18.75; Northwestern Masonic Aid association, $17.68; Covenant Mutual Benefit association, $18.50; Odd Fellows Funeral Benefit association, $23.33; Kansas Mutual Life association, $30.57; Provident Savings Life Assurance society, $27.16; Mutual Benefit Life association, $23.66; Mutual Reserve Fund Life association, $28.95; average, $21.84. With the exception of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the assessments of all these societies are regulated by the age of the insured. The first seven named are connected with fraternal societies; the last four are independent of such societies, but their insurance is on the same plan. The figures given are on the life of a man sixty years of age. A younger man would pay less. A man forty-five years old would pay about a third less.

The Weather Forecast.

For Omaha and Vicinity—Light snow, followed by clearing weather.

For Nebraska and Iowa—Snow, warmer Wednesday morning, much colder by Thursday morning, northwesterly winds, cold wave.

For South Dakota—Snow, much colder by Wednesday night, northwesterly wind, cold wave.

Steamship Arrivals.

At London—Sighted: The steamer Arizona, from New York.

At Queenstown—The City of Paris, from New York.

At New York—The Assyrian, from London.

At New York—The Spain, from Liverpool.

The Fire Record.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—A disastrous fire has occurred at the industrial school in Westham. Twenty-four lives were lost and the buildings were totally destroyed.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Fire at 129 Crosby street tonight did $60,00 damage. It is near Niblo's theater and for a time much excitement prevailed.

Discontent in Brazil.

LISBON, Dec. 31.—Advices from Brazil say the government has urged the political parties to constitute immediately some kind of representation for different states in view of the rapidly increasing disorganization and discontent with the military dictatorship.

Higgins Throws Moth.

AURORA, Ill., Dec. 31.—Joe Higgins, an Irish wrestler, downed Charles Moth, the German, in a catch-as-catch-can bout, first fall, in thirty seconds; second fall, 11 minutes and 25 seconds. Higgins weighed 160 pounds and Moth 185 pounds.

Four Boys Buried Alive.

JACKSON, Tenn., Dec. 31.—While four boys between the ages of six and eight were playing under the edge of a sand bank in the eastern portion of this city yesterday, the bank caved in, burying all. When taken out they were dead.

Naquet Will Try It Again.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—M. Naquet, the Boulaugist, whose election to the chamber of deputies was recently declared invalid by that body, has issued a manifesto in which he says he again seeks election.

Reception to Governor Thayer.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 31.—A reception was given last night at the American legation to Governor Thayer and party. A military band furnished by the Mexican government discoussed music.

Dr. Peters Reported Alive.

BERLIN, Dec. 31.—The Tagblatt says it has information that Dr. Peters and the members of his party are certainly alive, and the expedition is marching between Kenia and Baringo.

Bond Offerings.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The bond offerings were: $5,000 at $1.04½.

IOWA TEACHERS IN SESSION.

Two Great Meetings of Educators at Des Moines.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS.

Delegates Present From Every Portion of the State—Object of the Gatherings—Other Hawkeye Happenings.

Conventions of Educators.

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The annual meeting of the state teachers' association and the state music teachers' association began here today. The former includes all the educational workers of the state, divided into the following sections: College professors, county superintendents, city superintendents, high school teachers, and teachers in the common schools. During the day there was a session of the educational council. This is a senate composed of leading educators in each of the sections, and it formulates the general policy of the association. The first committee to report to it was one on the duties of city superintendents. The discussion which followed hinged on the point whether city superintendents should do any teaching themselves. Superintendent Seerley of the state normal school at Cedar Falls urged that they should, and said that he had more of a personal impression upon 1,800 pupils when superintendent of the schools of Oskaloosa than he now makes upon the 400 in the normal school, and the difference was due to the personal contact he had in the former case. The general sentiment of the council seemed to be that the city superintendents should teach some when practicable. The next report was on methods of influencing public sentiment in educational matters. The report was read by Prof. Grumbling of Mount Pleasant, and recognized the state university as the head of the educational system of the state. This brought out a prolonged discussion, the representatives of the other colleges insisting that they, too, should be recognized as at the head of the higher education of the state.

This evening the president of the association, Miss Lettie E. Granger, county superintendent of Page county, delivered the annual address, after which the association went in a body to the opening exercises of the state music teachers' association. A large number of the prominent educators of the state are present, and great interest is taken in the meeting.

Tired of Life's Struggle.

BOONE, Ia., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—John Peterson committed suicide here yesterday by shooting himself and jumping into the Des Moines river. He was injured some time ago by an explosion in a coal mine near here and has been despondent ever since. Yesterday was the first time he has been able to get out of the house, and he took a crutch and went to the river, and breaking a hole in the ice, shot himself and fell in the hole. His body was recovered this morning and an inquest is being held.

Suicide at Creston.

CRESTON, Ia., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—John Becker, jr., who attempted suicide yesterday by taking oxide of mercury, died this morning at 10 o'clock. He leaves a wife and two daughters in comfortable circumstances through a heavy life insurance. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and was held in high esteem.

An Operator Killed.

DECORAH, Ia., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Todd Peck, a young man employed as telegraph operator on the Chicago, St. Paul & Milwaukee road at this place, was run over by the cars and killed today. He had come out of his office to assist in the switching when he fell under the wheels.

A Reunion of Law Makers.

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec 31.—A call has been issued for a reunion of the law makers of the territory and state of Iowa at Des Moines February 21. All members and officers of the house and senate up to 1868 are invited.

Russian Influenza at Des Moines.

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 31.—Several well defined cases of European influenza are reported in this city.

The Penmen.

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 31.—The western penmen's convention closed here today and decided to hold the next meeting at Peoria.

A Little Girl's Horrible Death.

CHARLOTTE, Mich., Dec. 31.—Two little girls were playing in a grain elevator this morning when one of them, Blanche Pollock, aged eleven, the daughter of a prominent citizen, ventured too near the shafting. Her clothes became entangled and before any one could reach her she was whirled about the shaft several times. When the machinery was stopped it was found that all her limbs and ribs were broken. She lived but a few minutes.

A Cold Wave.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 31.—The observer here announces that a cold wave will reach this city within the next twenty-four hours. There will be a fall of from two to sixteen degrees below zero.

Business Troubles.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 31.—A special from Wausau, Wis., says the mercantile establishment of J. N. Mansion is in the hands of the sherif on a chattel mortgage for $4,000.

A Dakota Creamery Burned.

YANKTON, S. D., Dec. 31.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The creamery at Scotland, owned by Hon. A. W. Lavender, burned last night. Insurance $2,500.

The Public Debt Decrease.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—It is estimated at the treasury department there has been a decrease of nearly $4,000,000 in the public debt during the month.

Fatal Mexican Bull Fight.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 31—During a bull fight at the Villa Lerdo Sunday, the amphitheater fell and nearly a hundred persons were injured, five fatally.

Bauereisen's Sentence Commuted.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 31.—Governor Fifer has commuted the sentence of Bauereisen, the "Q" dynamite conspirator, and he will be released from Joliet on January 2.

No Leniency to Election Workers.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—The government intends to enforce the legal penalty against the 300 men convicted of meddling with elections.

Another Nihilist Plot.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—The Siecle says that another nihilist plot against the czar has been discovered in St. Petersburg.

SOUTH OMAHA NEWS.

A Venerable Land Mark Gone.

Mrs. Ann Toner, aged seventy-six, an old and respected citizen, after a short ailing of old age, died Monday morning at 9 o'clock at the family homestead, Forty-eighth and Q streets. Mrs. Toner leaves four children, two sons, P. H. Toner and John Toner, both of this city, and two daughters, Mrs. Frank Moore of Omaha and Mrs. James Egan of Sarpy county, to mourn the loss of a good and pious mother. The funeral services will be held Wednesday morning in St. Agnes' church. The friends with the body will leave the house at 9 o'clock for the church. The interment will be in St. Mary's cemetery.

Fire Alarm.

A child raising a chair over the railing in the telephone office Monday evening knocked a hanging lamp down, and in a moment the spilt oil was aflame. The miss's mother seized her and carried her out in a fainting condition. The flames soon covered the sides and ceiling over the rooms, but prompt action extinguished the flames before any damage was done.

Emanon New Year's Reception.

The ladies will entertain at the Emanon New Year's day. The following are the committees:

Reception—Mesdames B. F. Carpenter, L. C. Gibson, A. V. Miller, Fred C. Van Liew, Fred M. Smith and James G. Martin, and Misses Jessie Savage and Tina Dunbar.

Refreshments—Mesdames John P. Evans, Arthur W. Saxe, Eli P. Doud, E. Scott Herroll and A. N. Millspaugh, and Misses Maud Hayward, Kate L. Wyman, Myra P. Brigham and Lora Graham.

The Caledonians Entertain.

The South Omaha Caledonian club gave a New Year's eve reception and dance in Knights of Pythias hall, and a pleasanter lot of guests and a happier clan never assembled in the city. All that the rooms would accommodate were present to dance to as good music, receive as courteous attention and enjoy as much pleasure as can be afforded in an evening. The committee on arrangements, consisting of Messrs. Brougham, Stevenson, Frank B. Burness and G. Wallace McDougall, had made such careful preparations that there was no chance for disappointment or mishap, while Messrs. Frank H. Cantlin and John C. Buchanan received members and guests with a warm greeting that made all breathe the air of home on entering the rooms. The floor committee, consisting of Messrs. James Ferguson, John Milroy, Andrew McAdam, Alexander D. Webster and Charles McAdam, was as zealous in meeting every wish as strangers could desire or guests expect. The Musical Union band of Omaha furnished excellent music. An excellent banquet was opened and the Caledonians are proud of having had one of the most successful dances ever held in the city. Mr. Frank Cantlin and Miss Fannie L. Patterson led the grand march.

Court Teutonia Ball.

Court Teutonia, No. 195, Independent Order of Foresters, filled A. O. H. hall last night with as well pleased and well entertained friends as ever were received by the fraternal grip at a South Omaha social. Shilany's orchestra furnished excellent music. Mr. William Liebe and Mrs. Herman Trenkle led the grand march and the fifty couples present looked very attractive beneath the electric glare.

Jumped Out of a Window.

John Flaherty, locally known as "Curley," made a bad break Tuesday night. After being thrown out of the New York house about 2:30 o'clock for being too fresh he went upon the bank to the rear of the house, and cutting out a pane of glass climbed in Mme. Vavlin's rooms. The French landlady, going to her room, caught "Curly" rummaging among her effects and the intruder made a break for down stairs, and failing to get out ran up stairs again and jumped out of a second story window, carrying the sash along for a neckyoke. He escaped and has not been heard from since.

The Mask Ball at the Germania.

One of the most successful masked balls ever held in the city was in Germania hall New Year's eve. The excellent music always furnished there, the courteous and considerate attention shown all and the superb accommodations make the Germania the most popular resort in the city.

The City Hotel Social.

Ever up to the times, Peter Melchiors gave one of his pleasant invitation dances at the City hotel last night. The zealous efforts ever made to serve and entertain friends make dances at the City hotel among the most enjoyable of the dances given in the city.

Notes About the City.

Theodore T. Dakin of Albright, employed at Swift & Co.'s packing house tagging beef, who has been ill for some days with pneumonia, died at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, aged twenty-eight. Mr. Dakin leaves a widow and three children to suffer the loss of a good husband and father. The arrangements for his funeral will be made as soon as his friends in New York city express their desire about his burial place.

Court Magic City, No. 168, Independent Order of Foresters, will hold a public installation of officers in A. O. H. hall Thursday evening. District Deputy George J. Seltzer will install the officers-elect.

Miss Maud Hayward had a watch party Tuesday evening in honor of her guest, Miss Ida Wolf. Quite a number of young people were present and a delightful social evening was spent by all.

Edward Bowes of the Transit house force, is dangerously ill with heart trouble.

Lyman Carpenter has been appointed depot policeman by the Union Pacific company, and the citizens are as much pleased with the appointment as they approved of the move. No better selection could have been made.

An infant child of S. J. Coffman is dangerously ill.

John H. Empkins has removed to his new residence, Twenty-seventh and J streets.

Mrs. James Emmerett and children, who have been quite ill, have turned for the better.

Martin V. Sample is sick.

A stereoptican entertainment will be given in the Methodist Episcopal church Friday evening, January 3.

Miss Agnes Nichols of Brown Park is listed among the ill.

Miss Theresa McConnell is among the influenza victims.

Mr. Quinn is suffering with a sore arm from blood poisoning.

About People.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ritchey of Omaha were of the visitors at Teutonia dance Wednesday evening.

C. M. Hunt is in Lincoln.

Prof. J. A. Best of Chicago is visiting his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Lane.

A. L. Caughey, stock editor of the Drovers' Journal, who has been ill and off, has returned from Iowa and is much better.

Mrs. Isaiah La Rue of Fairmont and Mrs. Nathan Gilliland, who have been visiting their niece Mrs. Carrie Marshall, have returned home.

H. Scott of Murray, Ia., is visiting T. B. Scott.

A. E. Rishel of Lewis, Ia., is visiting Frank Erion.

Fred Gosmann, the popular bookkeeper for Burke & Frazier, after a Christmas visit with his parents at Cheyenne and a stop at Kimball, has returned.

Patrick Cusick, a large shipper and feeder of Iowa, is over from Creston visiting A. B. Haley and family.

J. Oscar Voorhees of Keokuk, Ia., is visiting William Martin.

Mrs. T. C. Togg of Waco, is visiting her son, Harry Togg, clerk in the McCloud-Love Commission Company.

Thomas J. Hubbard of Stuart, Ia., is visiting Joseph W. Sipes.

O. E. Walker has gone on a short jaunt to Exira, Ia.

S. D. Rynearson has gone to Red Oak on a business trip.

Robert Pearson has gone to Dedham, Ia., on a holiday visit.

Ward H. Hills, of Shelby, Ia., is visiting Joseph W. Sipes.

Larry Hanrahan has arrived from Chicago and is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Van Sant.

Nathan E. Acker and family have returned from Avoca, Ia., where they went to bury their sister, Mrs. Dean.

Mrs. William Atkins, who has many friends in this city, came down from Omaha to visit in the Magic city.

Mrs. S. D. Rynearson has gone to Seward with her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Breen, who has been visiting her parents here.

Mrs. G. W. Madden of Lincoln, who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hector, has returned home.

W. H. Berry, who has been spending a fortnight visiting his wife and daughter in Gardiner, Me., returned home Monday.

Walter M. Keenan, superintendent of the credit department at the Armour-Cudahy packing houses, has returned from Los Angeles, Cal.

Fred N. Grantham, the courteous bookkeeper for the commission firm of S. I. Coffman, Smiley & Co., has gone to New York to make a holiday visit at home.

Have you tried
McClurg's Pastry Wafer Sodas!
They are delicate, crisp and delicious.

LAST YEAR OF A DECADE.

It Was Ushered In With Ceremony at Midnight.

ANOTHER GLAD NEW YEAR.

How it Will Be Celebrated in Private Homes, Theaters and on the Floors of Our Various Public Halls.

New Year's

The last of the holidays, New Year's will be celebrated today.

In the business world it will be generally observed as Sunday. Business will be almost generally suspended. The depots, banks, and public buildings will be closed and the great mass of humanity will be divided between the search for pleasure and the enjoyment of rest and recreation at home.

The theaters will give afternoon performances, in many parts of the city balls, under various auspices, will be held, while a hundred of little social parties will take place in a hundred cosy homes.

The old-time practice of New Year's calls will, to a certain extent, be respected. But it will not receive the sanction of society. With the devotees of the latter the custom, for several years, has been gradually becoming a memory, and now it lives only with those who love the past.

There will, however, be many a hearty "Wish you a Happy New Year" extended, many a friendly grasp, and many a real friendly wish for a continuance of the friendships of other days. Some of these will doubtless be indulged in at a very early hour, because, in hundreds of instances, the entree of the New Year will find hundreds of waking eyes waiting to scan the features of the infant prodigy.

The festivities will begin bright and early and will be of both a religious and social character.

Today's Entertainments.

Bolossy Kiralfy's great "Antiope" will be produced at Boyd's, afternoon and evening.

Miss Ackerstrom will play at the Grand.

There will be afternoon and evening performances at the Eden Musee.

The Parnell social club will give its dance at Cunningham hall.

The new church at Florence will be opened.

The Y. M. C. A. will give a reception from 3 to 6 for gentlemen only. At 4 o'clock there will be an exhibition in the gymnasium and several contests, high and broad jumps, etc. In the evening from 7 to 11 a general reception will be had, to which everybody is invited. At 8 a fine performance of music, gymnastic exercises, club swinging, with addresses by prominent citizens will be given in the concert hall. Refreshments will be served afternoon and evening. If the reception last year is any criterion, this will be a great gathering. The programme comprises the following: Piano solo by Prof. F. S. Robbins; address by Judge Clarkson; horizontal bar exercises by members of the gymnasium; club swinging by the class; Prof. Gillenbeck on the banjo; dumb-bell drill by juniors' class; Y. M. C. A. chorus, etc.

Clement Chase gives a reception to young men at his residence 809 Park avenue from 3 to 7 p. m.

Last Night.

Among the various entertainments and watch night services last night were the following:

AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL.

A large number of the members of Trinity cathedral gathered in their beautiful place of worship at 11:30 last evening to celebrate the death of the old and birth of the new year. The exercises were very impressive. The opening hymn was "A few more years shall roll." This was followed by a sweetly sung solo by Mrs. Cotton. The other musical feature of the service was a beautiful song rendered by a quartette consisting of Mrs. Cotton, Mrs. Meuller, Mrs. Jules Lumbard and Mr. W. Wilkins.

Dean Gardner followed with a brief address in which were some pertinent remarks about the ex erioences of the closing year and the opportunities for good in the one about to commence.

At midnight the advent of the new year was heralded by the pealing of the cathedral chimes in the merry old tune, "Ring out the old, ring in the new." Other symphonies from the tongues of the bells followed for five minutes, whereupon the members dispersed after wishing each other a happy new year.

"SHINE FOR A DIME."

"Let your imaginations carry you back one week," said Dr. Loisenring to an audience of admiring friends at Boyd's opera house last night, "and suppose this Christmas instead of New Year's eve. Do that, and I am sure you will enjoy these festivities as much as though they had occurred on time."

The occasion was a cantata, Christmas tree and other exercises given by about two hundred boys and girls of the Tenth street mission schools.

"We hope you will not have critical eyes and critical ears for our performance," continued the doctor. "Don't forget that these children are the waifs gathered from our alleys and poverty flats. They have not had a chance to be polished, but are willing to do the very best they can."

If the doctor had fears that his pupils would not acquit themselves creditably they were not well founded, as the entertainment fully proved. They behaved splendidly and went through the exercises entrusted to them in good shape. At one side of the stage stood a large evergreen tree loaded with tempting looking bundles of pop corn, candy and fruits, which, after the exercises, were distributed among the enthusiastic little ones, much to their delight. Before this most interesting part of the programme, however, the school sang several Sunday school songs and played a short cantata, entitled "Shine for a Dime." No happier lot of American youths went to bed in Omaha last night to dream about Santa Claus' goodness.

A. O. H. BAND MASK BALL.

The second annual mask ball given by the A. O. H. band at Exposition hall last night was a success. More than one hundred couples were present and the costumes were dashing, catchy and costly. It was 9 o'clock before the grand pageant moved, but precisely at that hour there was a scene seldom witnessed in Omaha. A programme of fourteen numbers was rendered and all present enjoyed themselves in a manner that reflected credit on the society.

THE CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

At Green's hall, 1417 Farnam street, there was a gathering of pleasure loving carpenters and joiners in sympathy with the opponents of the butchers' license. The soliciting committee reported quite a sum collected in support of the aims of the society, and the evening was enjoyably passed with cards and dancing. About fifty persons were present.

SOCIAL CLUB HOP.

The South Side Social club gave a pleasant hop at Cunningham hall last night. The music was furnished by the Ancient Order of Hibernians band, and fifty couples danced the old year out and the new year in.

AT W. C. T. U. CHAPEL.

Rev. C. W. Savidge led a watch meeting at the Woman's Christian Temperance Union chapel, on Dodge street just east of Thirteenth. The attendance was quite good and the occasion profitable as well as interesting to all present. The service consisted of singing, remarks and prayer, and continued until about 12:30.

A Well-Established Fact.

The fact has been abundantly proven that Chamberlain's Cough remedy is the most prompt, most reliable and most successful medicine yet discovered for acute throat and lung diseases, such as coughs, colds and croup.

Brevities.

There was a meeting at the government building yesterday of the appraisers appointed by the federal court to appraise the property of Henry Tucker, near Bellevue, condemned for part of the new Fort Omaha site. The oath was administered to them and they adjourned to meet at Bellevue January 13.

THE CHANEY TRIAL.

Considerable Time Consumed But Little Work Accomplished.

The Hillside Congregational church was given up entirely to the young people last night, the older members of the congregation having retired early to make up for time lost the night before in attending the all-night session of the council which was trying Mrs. Chaney for refusing to be disciplined. All the houses in that section were dark, as though the inmates had retired with the chickens.

In order to avoid being disturbed in their deliberations the council had quietly stolen away and left no trace behind. They were found holding a closed session in the pastor's study of the Plymouth Congregational church, corner of Wirt and Twentieth streets.

There were present Revs. J. A. Milligan of Cherry Hill, M. L. Holt of Park Place, H. N. Smith of Saratoga and A. R. Thain of Plymouth; besides the following laymen: J. E. Eaton of the Third Congregational, Samuel Avery of Saratoga, I. N. Hammond of Cherry Hill and W. E. Finley of Park Place.

The old adage that "great bodies move slowly" was never better exemplified than in this instance. The testimony had all been submitted at the previous session, and last night the arguments were made. The arguments were ponderous and of great length. Not that anything especially important was said, but it seemed to be a talking match against time. It was the general opinion that something must be done, but no one seemed to know just what that something was. It was the general opinion that Mrs. Chaney should be suspended for about six months.

Rev. A. R. Thain and Rev. M. L. Holt were finally appointed a committee to draft a resolution to be submitted for the consideration of the council, but at the hour of going to press the resolution was not forthcoming.

Lord Coolodge writes: "Send me 15 dozen Cook's extra dry imperial wine. I tried it while here and find it superior."

MRS. WOODWARD IS HAPPY.

A Local Branch of the W. C. T. U. is Organized and Adopts Her Name.

Fourteen ladies and four men met in the Sunday school room of the Newman M. E. church at 3:30 p. m. yesterday to form a branch organization of that faction of the W. C. T. U. favoring prohibition.

Mrs. C. M. Woodward, vice president of the state Woman's Christian Temperance union, and state organizer, presided, and Mrs. Jones acted as secretary pro tem.

Mrs. Woodward said that anybody could join, male or female, provided he or she paid $1 annually and took a pledge to abstain from the use of spirituous, vinous or malt liquors, including wine and cider, and to discourage the sale of the same. She declared that women are not as contrary as men are; however, she said, the stubborn creatures could join, but could not hold office or vote. The janitor and other three men present were not moved by this appeal and declined to join.

Mr. Holt, a co-worker with Mrs. Woodward, was called on for a few remarks. Mr. Holt told the ladies that they had an influence for good that men haven't, and that they could influence men, particularly young ones, better than anybody else. He asked the ladies to vote yes or no on every question that came up, and also to attend every meeting that was called. He urged them to hold socials and invite their gentleman friends. He laid special stress upon their duty to subscribe for a certain sheet that represented the cause of the society, and to do all in their power to sustain that journal.

Mrs. Woodward then read the lengthy constitution prescribed by the national convention for auxiliary societies, and the ladies adopted it in a bulk without a dissenting vote.

On the suggestion of Mrs. Baldwin, the new organization was dubbed the Woodward union. Mrs. Woodward was delighted with this suggestion and thanked the ladies again and again for the honor. She repeated the name a number of times and begged the pardon of the ladies for so doing, saying it sounded so nice.

Election of officers followed. Mrs. Baldwin was elected president, Mrs. Rohrbaugh, vice president, from Newman M. E. church; Mrs. House, vice president, from the Beth Eden Baptist church; Mrs. Willard Scott, vice president from St. Mary's avenue Congregational church; Mrs. Jones, corresponding secretary; Miss May Ingersoll, recording secretary; Mrs. Ensign, treasurer. Committees were appointed to apprise Mrs. House and Mrs. Scott of their election, and to ask them to urge the members of their churches to join the union.

An Absolute Cure.

The ORIGINAL ABIETINE OINTMENT is only put up in large two-ounce tin boxes, and is an absolute cure for all sores, burns, wounds, chapped hands and all skin eruptions. Will positively cure all kinds of piles. Ask for the ORIGINAL ABIETINE OINTMENT. Sold by Goodman Drug company at 25 cents per box—by mail 30 cents.

She Will Probably Pay the Duty.

A Beatrice belle will today receive a handsome fourteen-carat diamond ring from a gentleman in Germany—providing she pays a duty of $12.50 on it which the said gentleman in Germany thought to cheat the United States government out of by the smuggling process. The postoffice authorities in New York suspected that something was wrong, and marking the package "Supposed liable to customs duties," sent it to the collector in this city. The guess of the New York authorities was found correct, and instead of being mean enough—as the girl would probably think—to confiscate it, as he has a perfect right to do, Collector Alexander simply sent the diamond ring to the posmaster at Beatrice, with instructions to let the young lady have it providing she pays the duty on it.

Insist on having the genuine Red Cross Cough Drops, 5 cts a box. Sold everywhere.

CLAY-EATERS.

Death of the Last Member of a Queer Family.

Cincinnati Enquirer: The death of Emanuel Jones, who was killed in the Indian territory recently, recalls to the memory of many of the people of this part of the state the history of a remarkable family, of which he was the youngest. In 1852 Reuben Jones and wife arrived here from South Carolina and purchased a farm three miles from this place, where they resided until their death, leading lives of the ordinary country people. To them were born seven children, five boys and two girls, each of whom showed no unusual propensities until arriving at the age of puberty. At this stage of life they each developed a taste for sun-baked clay, taking it in small quantities at first, but gradually increasing the amount until they made it nearly their sole diet. They were hospitable people, and if their visitors were so inclined would talk for hours on the subject of clay-eating. They procured their unusual diet from the bottom and sides of a large spring on the farm, and, after working the clay, would roll it out into cakes of about one inch in thickness, then cut it into pieces of the size of an ordinary biscuit and place them in the sun to dry, after which they would store it in the smoke house for future consumption. Wherever they went they always carried a quantity with them, and could be seen nibbling at the mud with evident relish. It had no apparent effect upon them for awhile, and they would do an ordinary day's work. As the abnormal habit grew stronger on them they began to change to a dull yellow.

Their mud-eating finally caused the death of all except Emanuel, none of them living to be over thirty years old. Just before death they all presented a horrible appearance, being so bloated they could hardly be recognized, and after death the stench was so fearful that no undertaker would go near them, and the family had to perform the last rite for their dead.

None of them ever married, and, after the death of the parents, Emanuel, the only one of the family left, sold the farm and left for the west, where he came to his death from violence. The spring from which these extraordinary people procured their source of supplies was visited by your correspondent today. The earth about the spring has the appearance of ordinary yellow clay, and how the people could subsist on it for ten of twelve years is a mystery.

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