

THE DYNAMITE PLOT,

Thomson's Career in Europe and America.

A Correspondent of the London Daily News, writing from Bremen respecting the explosion, says: "The author of this appalling catastrophe died at Bremerhaven at 4.30 p. m. on Thursday last, death resulting from the self-inflicted wounds. After being trepanned on Thursday morning his state was such as no longer to admit of his undergoing a legal examination. The name William King Thomas, alias Thomson, under which he passed for many years, seems to have been fictitious. He refused to give any information respecting his past life. In conversation he said he was a native in New York, to which place his parents had emigrated some thirty years ago. Another statement is to the effect that they went to New York some time between the years 1830 and 1840, and subsequently moved to Virginia, where he was educated. He fought on the Confederate side during the secession war, and is said to have distinguished himself as a blockade runner between St. Thomas and New Orleans. After the capitulation of Richmond he came to Europe, and lived partly in England and partly in Germany. In 1872 he resided with his family in the Hotel de Pologne, in Leipsic, in which city he frequented the best society, and was particularly intimate with the American Consul, with whom he one day went to a watchmaker, of whom he inquired if he could construct him a clock with a powerful hammer, which would run several days but the mechanic could not accommodate him. This mechanic still possesses the card given to him by Thomson on that occasion, bearing the inscription, 'Mr. Thomas, August Strasse.' About this time came to the Leipsic Easter Fair a clever maker of turret clocks named Fuchs, of Bernenburg, who learned from a friend from Mohrstedt that an American in the August Strasse could give him some profitable employment. Fuchs immediately proceeded to the address of Mr. Thomson, who was then living in elegantly furnished apartments. He described Thomson as being a tall, stately man, with whiskers cut in the English style. He was commissioned to make a clock which would run eight days. The order was not executed at the time, as Fuchs was not able to understand the broken German in which Thomson instructed him sufficiently to enable him to perceive clearly what was necessary in the mechanism of the clock. On the 9th of March, 1875, Thomson visited Fuchs in Bernenburg, and informed him that he had been in Vienna, where he was told that only Fuchs was capable of constructing the work. He wanted the machine to go for ten days without ticking, and also that the elevator or hammer which should strike the hour when the clock had run down should possess a concussion power of thirty pounds. On being asked for what purpose he required this clock, Thomson replied that he had many manufactories in America, principally of silk goods, and that the new piece of machinery was intended to tear simultaneously a thousand threads. It was to be finished in April, and the workman was to name his own charge. For the better guidance of the workman, Mr. Thomson left with him a model clock, which he said had been prepared in Vienna. On the 20th of April, the work being completed, Fuchs went with it to Leipsic and met Mr. Thomson in the Hotel Pologne as arranged. The latter examined the mechanism thoroughly, listen with great attention to the explanation of it, and expressed delight of the noiseless works. He tried the elevator, the fall of which was equivalent to the pressure of thirty pounds weight, and, indeed, was so that a portion of the veneer of the polished table sprang off. The clock ran ten days as ordered, and was the first thing of the kind that Fuchs had ever constructed, he having hitherto only made watches and clocks to go eight days. Thomson subsequently ordered by letter twenty similar machines, from which it may be inferred that he did not intend to be satisfied with the commission of one crime. The model has been handed over by Fuchs, to the Court in Bremerhaven. From Leipsic Thomson made several journeys, and returned six months ago, when he settled with his family at Strehlen, near Dresden. Here, too, he stood in the good repute in the American colony. Having taken Fuchs' clock about with him on various expeditions it seems to have got out of order, as he had it repaired at a shop in Bremen. The explosive material was probably purchased in America, to and from which country he had made many voyages. He refused to divulge his character, describing it always as "polishing-powder" when registering it. He had wound up the watch on the day on which the vessel was to depart, so that as according to his calculations, the ship would have been blown to pieces in mid ocean he himself had landed at Southampton—where he intended to put his heavily insured cases and packages on board. At Bremen he shipped a valise barrel, stated to contain caviar, which was insured for 3,000 marks. Judicial searches have been made in Dresden, which have brought to light several iron cases which it seems were ordered by Thomson. These have, of course, been taken possession of by the Court. Thomas most positively denied having any accomplice in his dreadful design. The suspicion that his wife knew anything of his infernal plan is groundless. Immediately upon the first telegraphic report of his being wounded, before it was dreamed that he was the cause of the explosion, she hurried to his bedside little thinking to ar-

rive in Bremerhaven at the very time when forty three victims of his heinous plot were being carried to their graves. She has moved in the very best society both in Leipsic and Dresden. Her evidence, as well as her letters, show that she had led a happy life with the deceased. According to the *Weser Zeitung* she did not mention her maiden name on account of regard for her family and relations. She married Mr. Thomas eleven years ago, but never knew anything of his family or connections, she does not even know his name to a certainty. She had looked up to him with love and confidence never inquiring into his affairs. She considered him an honest, good-hearted man, although he was liable to extremes of temper, sometimes passing from great kindness to the utmost violence. He loved his children tenderly. And this is the man who for years has been planning a diabolical crime, and making preparations with the greatest nonchalance for the execution of a hitherto unparalleled iniquity. His journeys to America separated him much from his wife. He probably brought his clock with him the last time he came over. He told his wife on leaving for Bremen that he was going to Berlin. Mrs. Thomas, intended to return to Dresden after the burial of her husband. The number of the dead amounts already to more than eighty; together, in dead and wounded, the number of victims exceeds two hundred. Traces of bodies continue to be found in the outer harbor. A private letter from Hamburg states that the explosion was heard at Odesloe, in Holstein.

During the thirteen months ending January 1, 1876, there were pardoned from the Illinois State Penitentiary 134 criminals. Of these, seventeen were murderers, seven of whom had been sent up for life; sixteen were convicted of manslaughter or murderous assault, and seventy-two of theft, robbery or burglary.

The first act of the new Postmaster, of Boston, was to dismiss four of the female clerks in the delivery department, and the Globe applauds the act, declaring that "if a prize were offered for the champion set of impudent, brazen-faced, inefficient and generally disagreeable set of young women, the female delivery clerks at the Boston Post Office during the past few years would take it."

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THE WHEAT OUTLOOK IN KANSAS.—Favorable reports of the condition of the wheat crop are coming in from all sections of Kansas. The mildness of the winter has been the salvation of the late wheat. So far, nine-tenths of the crop may be considered safe. All depends upon the favorable condition of the coming spring and summer. The opinion is universal that never before was there so much wheat sown in the State as was put in the ground last fall, and the crop could not possibly look better than it now does.

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