

DEATH'S FINISH

To the Career of a Beautiful and Accomplished Woman.

"DOVIE" COMSTOCK'S SAD HISTORY.

The Daughter of the Founder of the Washington Chronicle and Niece of John W. Forney, the Famous Philadelphia Newspaper Man, Dies in the Kansas City Jail—Her Rapid Fall in Four Years From the Position of a Brilliant and Aristocratic Society Leader to that of a Low Outcast—Dies a Victim of the Morphine Habit.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The death of Mrs. Edith Armstrong, better known as "Dovie" Comstock, in a Kansas jail ends a strange career of a beautiful and notorious woman. She was the daughter of D. C. Forney, founder of the Washington Chronicle, and a niece of John W. Forney, of Philadelphia.

All those who knew "Dovie" Comstock in her childhood speak of her dainty beauty. The name was given her because it fitted her. She was a laughing, wayward child. It seemed natural that she should fall in love with Walter G. Comstock, of Providence, who was rich and handsome and young. His father was very rich. He is a near relative of the Armours, and was in the wholesale meat business. They lived in Providence, on Park street, in the finest house in the aristocratic Elwood section. They plunged at once into the social whirl. It was not long before she gathered about her a coterie of young men, many of them not in the fashionable set. These young men drank quantities of wine. Young Comstock was at first delighted with the homage paid his wife. Then his eyes opened and he got a divorce.

It is said that the co-repondent was Samuel Post, the man who was killed by Ella Nelson. Some time after the divorce Mrs. Comstock came to New York and lived in various hotels. In July, 1890, she moved to No. 344 Smith street, Brooklyn. It was there she met Theodore Larbig, who lost his life through her. He was forty-three years of age, a man who had seen life. Constant intercourse with many people, coupled with checkered and valuable experience in California, had given him a certain polish. But it was his great strength and self-confident manner which attracted Mrs. Comstock. He became a constant visitor to her flat when he was in town.

In May she moved to No. 278 Sackett street and took as a boarder Darwin J. Meserole, son of General Meserole. She had known Meserole several years and had been very intimate with him. On June 27, 1891, Larbig called at the house and began quarreling with Mrs. Comstock. Meserole interfered and a fight ensued, in which Meserole shot and killed Larbig. The trial attracted a good deal of attention. The young man was acquitted. William J. Gaynor was counsel for the defense.

Ten months later "Dovie" was married to John L. Watkins and a short time afterward she went west. Being a victim of the opium habit, her downfall was rapid.

The Kansas City World of Monday gives the following account of the death of the unfortunate woman in the county jail in that city:

Mrs. Edith Armstrong, alias Mary Anderson, alias Welden, alias Miller, alias Darnell, was found dead in her cell in the county jail at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning. It is thought that her death was due to an abrupt cessation of opiates, as she was a slave of morphine and opium and had committed a number of thefts to obtain the drugs. For several days she had not used morphine, and she had told the prisoners in the women's cell that she would either cease using opiates or die in the attempt. Last Friday she was taken ill and she declared to May Plunkett that she believed she would die as a result of the abandonment of opium. She was taken with a high fever, and the other prisoners told the jail officials. A physician would have been summoned, but she refused to see one. She was tenderly cared for by a fellow-prisoner, May Plunkett, who had become attached to the unfortunate woman.

The deceased was last seen alive at 3 o'clock yesterday morning when she feebly called to May Plunkett, who had been detailed to care for her. She went to the sufferer's cell. The sick woman's lips were parched and she begged for something cooling. May Plunkett had nothing but an apple, but she pared this and, scraping some of the fruit fine, applied it to the dying woman's lips. She made her companion go back to bed and was quiet for a while. About 5 o'clock she began to sing. The women prisoners awoke and listened. The song died away in a moan and all was quiet again.

At 6 o'clock the prisoners were aroused. May Plunkett looked into the sick woman's cell and thought she was asleep. At 8:30 an attempt was made to arouse her. She was dead.

Edith Armstrong was committed to the county jail by Justice Krueger November 24 to await the action of the grand jury on the charge of stealing a diamond ring from Emma Von Elsner, of 1016 Oak street. She stole the ring in order to pawn it to obtain opiates. All of her thefts were committed for the same purpose.

At one time she thought she was cured of the morphine habit, and wrote a "Song of Rejoicing" for the "Banner of Gold," a religious hymnal published in Chicago.

RAPID TRANSIT.

A Livery Horse Beats the New York Elevated Train In a Novel Race.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—A livery hack horse beat the Manhattan elevated railroad system last night in a novel race from the battery to Fifty-ninth street. The match was for \$50 a side, Lynwood Palmer, the artist, backing the horse and Frank Elliott, the Canadian gentleman jockey, backing the elevated system. His blind confidence lost him the wager. The terms of the bet were that Palmer could drive, without police interference, from the battery to the Central Park riding academy, Seventh avenue and Fifty-ninth street and cover the route faster than Elliott could travel by train. The start was made from the battery stairs leading to the elevated station. Bertie Ashenden was starter and time-keeper, and drove with Palmer's watch in hand. The route was up Broadway and Seventh avenue to the end of the course which was covered in just twenty-nine minutes. The two men were in a rhabnab wagon pulled by a horse, hired from a livery stable. The best time was made on Upper Seventh avenue where there was no interference from passing vehicles. Elliott arrived ten minutes later.

THE KAISER'S SPEECH

At the Opening of the Reichstag—Dedication of the New Building.

BERLIN, Dec. 5.—Emperor William, wearing a British uniform, visited the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York this morning and the two latter returned his majesty's visit an hour later. They then started for England. Emperor William then donned a Prussian uniform and prepared to open the Reichstag.

The radicals are furious that the monarch does not come to parliament, but, instead he must go to the castle for the ceremony. The session of the Reichstag was opened at noon in the Ritter saal of the castle instead of the usual white hall, which is being renovated.

Emperor William in person read his speech from the throne. It is as follows:

"Honorable Gentlemen—in the name of my exalted allies I bid you welcome at the beginning of your constitutional work. You will transfer your labors to your new home, which, after ten years of earnest work, is now upon the point of completion, a monument of our national industry. May God's blessing rest upon the house and may the greatness and welfare of the empire be the goal for which all are called upon to work within its walls with self-denying loyalty. I entertain this wish all the more strongly in view of the economic and social political tasks which must be solved with your cooperation.

"Faithful to the traditions of our ancestors, my exalted allies and myself regard it as our foremost duty to the state to protect the weaker classes and to assist them in obtaining higher economic and moral development. The duty of the state becomes the more imperative as the struggle for existence upon the part of certain sections of the people grows more serious. The federal governments will continue their efforts to promote feelings of content among the people by mitigating economic and social differences.

"In consequence of the change in the financial situation to the disadvantage of the individual states, which instead of receiving, as heretofore, surpluses from the imperial revenues, have lately been called upon to contribute to the imperial expenditure, the creation of fresh sources of revenue has become necessary. This oppressive state of affairs can only be partially remedied by an increase of the stamp tax and the opening of other fresh sources of revenue is indispensable. To this end all for the reform of the tobacco taxation will be submitted to you.

"To my lively satisfaction, my confidence in the maintenance of European peace has been further strengthened during the past few years. Faithful to the spirit of our alliances, we cultivate good and friendly relations with all the powers. In the death of the Emperor of Russia, I deplore the loss of a friend and a tried co-operator in works of peace."

His majesty afterward went to the Reichstag building, in order to formally perform the ceremony of laying its cornerstone, which is combined with the dedication of the building, and the formal opening of the new session of the Reichstag. Immense crowds of people were gathered along the route and outside of the new building, and cheered the emperor and the German reigning princes on their way there and upon their arrival. Prince Hohenlohe, the chancellor, and Field Marshal Bismarck, chief of the general staff of the Prussian army, who is about eighty years of age, were accorded an especially warm welcome from the people.

The dedication ceremonies passed off without a hitch.

The absence of General Von Caprivi, the former chancellor, at the ceremonies was much commented upon.

THE ORIENTAL WAR.

Several Engagements Reported by the Japanese Field Marshal.

HINOSHIMA, Dec. 5.—A dispatch from Field Marshal Yamagata, dated Antong, December 3, says that the Japanese scouting party sent in the direction of Lin Shan Kwan engaged the Chinese outposts on the summit of Motien Ling on November 15. One Japanese soldier was killed and three were wounded. The scouting party was afterwards reinforced and occupied a position at Sokako, where it was attacked by the enemy in large force. Over forty Japanese were killed in this engagement.

A company of infantry sent to reconnoitre Kwan Tien and Saibashu was attacked by a large force of Chinese on November 20 at Taskow, and was compelled to retreat with the loss of several killed.

Field Marshal Yamagata adds that measures have been taken to clear the country around Kwan Tien and Saibashu. The detachments under General Tachimi and Colonel Nisewinia have reached their destinations after meeting with slight resistance. They attacked the enemy at Saikabo on November 13, and compelled the Chinese troops to retire. The two detachments are now returning to Antong.

Rumors of an Armistice.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 5.—It is rumored here that a ten days' armistice has been arranged between China and Japan, and it is said that the terms of peace which are still under negotiation are to include an indemnity and the formation of a buffer state consisting of the country now held by the Japanese. China now fears the winter more than Japan as the supplies of rice have been kept back too long.

DANGEROUS SWINDLER.

A New Game of Forgery—The Method Unknown.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Dec. 4.—A new and dangerous swindling game developed to-day at the Ketchikan National Bank. On November 20 a man giving the name of George H. Hendricks bought a New York draft for \$12 and on the 27th another for the same sum.

The first draft was cashed on the 30th by an Altona bank, but it had been raised to \$1,200. The drafts were on safety paper and the method of forgery is unknown. The same man, about the same time, bought another \$12 draft at the Holcomb National Bank, of this city. The others have not yet been heard of.

Morgantown Municipal Ticket. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Dec. 5.—The following ticket was nominated by the Republicans last night to be voted for at the coming corporation election: S. A. Posten, mayor; John M. Gregez, recorder; Dr. J. P. Fitch, Dr. W. C. Melley, J. A. Davis, J. A. Weaver, and H. C. Baner, councilmen. The ticket will probably not have any opposition, although there are a few opposed to it.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

THE GONG MYSTERY.

The Murder of the Minneapolis Woman. Trying to Find the Murderer.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 5.—What will probably prove to be the most mysterious and sensational crime in the history of the northwest is the murder of Miss Catharine Gong, which was announced in these dispatches yesterday.

Miss Gong, who was a dressmaker, was twenty-nine years of age and of striking beauty. Her bruised remains lie cold in death upon a marble slab in the morgue in this city, a victim either to the rapacity of a highway robber or the vengeful vindictiveness of a jealous and frenzied lover. Beaten and mangled out of all semblance to their former perfect outlines, the features of the dead woman seem mutely appealing for the pity denied her by the cruel murderer, who, seeing the bullets had failed entirely to snuff the spark of life, completed his fearful work with the butt of a pistol.

A young man named Harry T. Hayward, who was said to have had business dealings with the murdered woman, was examined by the police in a most vigorous manner for several hours last night. He admitted having had dealings with Miss Gong, and said he had loaned her at various times large sums of money. He held her personal notes for \$5,000 and stated that she had not long ago taken out an accident policy of \$5,000 which was assigned to him. Beyond this no information of note was secured from Hayward, who strongly protested his innocence of any knowledge of the crime.

Miss Gong, who had had connections in Auburn, N. Y., had been in this city some time and had worked up a lucrative business as a dressmaker. She had been known to carry large sums of money on her person on several occasions of late.

One of the most important facts yet learned is that Miss Gong drew \$7,000 from a safe deposit vault Monday, and no trace of this money can be found. This strengthens the theory that she was killed for money.

Others think it to be a love affair and that the murder was prompted by jealousy. No arrests have yet been made, but the theory that it was the termination of a lover's quarrel is based on the fact that it is known to a number of persons familiar with her movements of late that she had been in the habit of driving out alone and picking up her companion at some point in the outskirts of the city, and for this reason, the police are bending every energy toward locating this person. Mayor Eustis is heading the investigating and large rewards have been offered for the apprehension of the murderer.

One of Miss Gong's numerous admirers was Fred L. Reid, at present manager of a department store in St. Paul. Mr. Reid was engaged to her at one time, but broke his engagement without giving her any explanation, and even sent an officer to secure his diamond engagement ring, which she refused to surrender.

One of the first things which the police learned was that lately several notes had been sent to Miss Gong by a man who always summoned a messenger from the Nicollet street and that she received one of the notes Monday. The messenger was located, and upon visiting Miss Gong's room pointed out the picture of Harvey Axford, local manager for an eastern clothing firm, as that of the man who sent the notes, but when Axford's wife proved that she had given Miss Gong Mr. Axford's photograph, Mr. Axford was dismissed.

DISCREDIT IT.

The Japanese Legation on the Report of Japan's Demands.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—At the Japanese legation here the disposition is to discredit the statement made by the Japanese semi-official press that if the war were concluded now the victorious nation would demand an indemnity of 400,000,000 yen and the cession of Chinese territory now occupied by the Japanese. Great secrecy pervades the entire course of the diplomatic preliminary treaty negotiations now in progress, and the Japanese government, it is asserted, is not making public the terms upon which these negotiations are based.

Even the foreign representatives of the government are not kept advised of what is being done. It is not desirable, it is said at the legation, that the terms of any treaty of peace should be published at this time, consequently there can be offered no pretext for interference by foreign powers who may fancy themselves at a disadvantage as the possible result of the conclusion of such peace negotiations. Nothing is known at the legation of the terms of the counter-proposition made by Japan to that originally proposed by China as a basis of peace.

New Postmaster.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 5.—J. E. Walhall has been appointed postmaster at Brooklyn, Raleigh county, vice C. S. Upton, resigned.



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