

KILLS HER FOUR BODIES

Frenzied Mother Then Sets Fire to the Bodies.

Ends Her Own Life and is Cremated With Her Victims.

Chance Discovery by Passing Boys Reveals an Awful Tragedy in a Massachusetts Hamlet.

STURBRIDGE, Mass., March 23.—A frenzied mother in the hamlet of Fitchburg, after cutting off every means of escape by fastening windows and doors, crushed in the heads of her four little children to-day, threw their bodies into a closet, scattered oil over them and herself and then, after setting all on fire, closed her awful work and her own life by cutting her throat. It was Mrs. Peter Burke, the wife of one of the machinists in an engine factory, who committed this awful deed, and her victims were Lilla, 6 years of age; William, 5 years; Louise, 1 1/2 years, and May Rose, 5 months old.

That the woman had previously shown signs of mental derangement seems to be admitted, but that it should have taken such a violent form was not even thought of by her husband or her relatives.

But for the accidental discovery of the fire the deed of the mother might have been hidden forever from the world by the destruction of the house. Two boys happened to be passing the house when they saw smoke coming from a window. They burst in the doors and tried first to get out the fire with buckets of water, but it was too late. The fact that they were obliged to run for help. The neighbors prevented the flames reaching above the first floor.

Up to that time no one knew of the tragedy. Then some one noticed that the closet door was open and glancing inside a blackened mass was seen. In this heap were the bodies of Mrs. Burke and her four children. The fact that she killed them was not discovered until one by one they were taken out of the world by the fire.

From the appearance and the position of the bodies it would seem that Mrs. Burke had first cut off every means of escape for the little ones by nailing down the windows and locking all the doors. The weapon with which she crushed out the life of her children was a large axe.

KILLS ELDEST CHILD FIRST. The eldest, Lilla, probably met death first, for it was her body that was at the bottom of the pile. That of William, the next oldest, was above his sister; then came that of Louise and finally the baby.

Mrs. Burke must have dragged all the children into the closet and then poured kerosene upon their clothing, about the walls and then upon herself.

The fire had so completely charred the woodwork and the flooring that no blood spots were found on the floor. The bodies of the children were burned almost beyond recognition, but that of Louise was only scorched. The body of Mrs. Burke also was badly burned.

As soon as the fire was discovered in his house Mr. Burke was notified and he arrived just as the bodies were found. He fainted from the shock.

Mrs. Burke was 24 years of age. The family friends say her married life has always been happy.

Renews the Modus Vivendi. ST. JOHNS, N. F., March 23.—The bill renewing the modus vivendi regarding the French shore for the coming year passed the upper house of the Legislature to-day by the President casting the deciding vote. Among those who voted for the measure were two members who declare they will not support it another year. His defeat, therefore, appears to be certain, should the British Government request another renewal. France and England must therefore take some different action during the current year.

Railroad Rates Reduced. JOHANNESBURG, March 23.—A customs conference, at which the South African railway companies were all represented, has just been held here and has agreed upon a large reduction in the railway rates for the conveyance of the necessities of life to the Rand, the agreement to go into operation in July.

ADVERTISEMENTS. Thirty Years of Severe Heart Trouble.

Obtained No Relief Until I Tried Dr. Miles' Heart Cure—It Cured Me.

Since the advent of Dr. Miles' Heart Cure the general public has learned to know that heart disease is curable. Fluttering, palpitation, shortness of breath and heart pain rapidly disappear before its magic influence. It is recognized as a heart and blood tonic.

WOMAN SAYS HE PAID UNWARRANTED ATTENTION TO DAUGHTER.

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Special Dispatch to The Call. PORTLAND, Or., March 23.—Half-crazed by the unflinching acts of her wayward daughter and roused to frenzy because a married man paid her marked attention, Mrs. N. F. Hildebrand, "Carrie Nationalized" Walter Reed's optical instrument store in the Oregonian building this morning.

Armed with a short hickory club, she entered the place and without saying a word made a circuit of the premises and smashed every showcase in the establishment, together with jardeneries, artificial eyes, lenses and bric-a-brac. So heavy was the damage that the store had to be closed for the remainder of the day.

Reed is prominent in business, social and club circles, while his wife, formerly Miss Rose Courson of San Francisco and sister of Mrs. Ellen Courson-Rockell, is considered the favorite central singer of Portland. The uniqueness of Mrs. Hildebrand's method of punishment, together with the prominence of all parties concerned, makes a sensation that has no parallel in the history of Portland scandals.

There have been no arrests, and there is hardly a probability that Mrs. Hildebrand will be called upon to answer the law against vandalism.

WIND CAUSES UNEASINESS IN THE FLOOD DISTRICT. Levees of the Mississippi and Arkansas South of Memphis Are Being Closely Watched.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 23.—The river has remained stationary all day at 35.5 feet and to-night it is reported to be falling. The danger from the flood in this territory is considered to be practically over. The center of interest is now south of Memphis along the levees of the Mississippi and Arkansas. There has been much wind to-day and this has caused uneasiness, for those points along the southern levees are but a foot or more above the flood.

NATCHEZ, Miss., March 23.—Sycamore levee, ten miles above Vidalia, over which there has been so much uneasiness, is now a foot higher than in 1897. Work on it has been pushed rapidly. The Natchez gauge to-night shows 45.5, or 5.5 above the maximum of 1897, and is rising.

VICKSBURG, Miss., March 23.—A new danger point has appeared on the Mississippi River at Everton, three miles south of Rosedale, in Bolivar County. The main levee at that point is said to be sloughing. A special train bearing several hundred laborers was rushed to Everton from Memphis to-day and is working on the levee.

Scores of refugees came in yesterday and to-day the problem of what to do with them is becoming severe. The gauge here to-night registers 61.1, a two-tenths rise since morning.

FAIR EQUESTRIENNE HURT BY FALL FROM A HORSE. Miss Dottie Page of Santa Rosa Sustains Severe Injuries in an Accident.

SANTA ROSA, March 23.—Miss Dottie Page, one of the most fearless equestriennes in this county, a society girl noted far and wide for her horsemanship, was seriously injured in an accident last evening. She was thrown from her horse and fell beneath the animal. When assistance reached her she was unconscious and bleeding profusely. She was taken immediately to a sanitarium, where it was found that she had suffered internal injuries, which may prove fatal.

The animal which threw Miss Page is her favorite riding horse, a beautiful and spirited animal, but so well trained that he will take his mistress to any mounted. The accident happened on the Main-street bridge when the young lady was returning home from a ride. It is thought that the animal became frightened and swerved when the rider was unaware. He collided with a cart that was crossing the bridge, throwing the driver some distance. The man was uninjured and ran to Miss Page's assistance.

EXPLOSION OF A LAMP CAUSES A WOMAN'S DEATH. While Trying to Escape From the Fire She Falls Down an Air Shaft.

NEW YORK, March 23.—One woman was killed at a small fire caused by a lamp explosion in West Sixty-fifth street to-day and another woman was killed by the same fire. The woman who was killed by the fire was Mrs. Edna Wallace. She was discovered by three women boarders, one of whom was Miss Eleanor Price, and then fainting. Miss Price went up to the roof to escape and was killed by the fire. She was instantly killed. Mrs. Wallace became hysterical when revived and was taken to Roosevelt Hospital, where it was said her reason was in danger. The property loss was nominal.

Maguire to Defend Strikers. REDDING, March 23.—B. Cromer, president of the Keswick Strikers' Union, was discharged and the charge of unlawful imprisonment was dismissed when Cromer came before Justice Strong to-day. J. T. Lewis, a member of the executive board of the Western Federation of Miners, who is managing the Keswick strike, returned this morning from San Francisco with the assurance that James G. Maguire would be here from San Francisco Wednesday to defend seven strikers charged with rioting last Monday.

Conditions of Uruguayan Peace. MONTEVIDEO, March 23.—The conditions of the peace treaty signed between the Government and the White, or Nationalist party, which investigated the rebellion, are that the profits in five departments shall be chosen by the leaders of the Nationalist party and that the insurgents must surrender their arms, but that amnesty will be granted to all.

Snowstorm in Iowa. DUBUQUE, Iowa, March 23.—A severe snowstorm raged to-night. Snow is drifting on the railroad tracks and traffic is delayed.

"WHEN KNIGHTHOOD WAS IN FLOWER" SHOWS EFFIE ELLSLER AT HER BEST

Play Is Much Better Than Book, but Company Giving It Is Not of the Finest—"Robespierre" Is Applauded by Large House at the Grand—"Fallen Among Thieves" Central's Offering for Week



THREE FOOTLIGHT FAVORITES WHO ARE DELIGHTING THE PATRONS OF LOCAL THEATERS.

Next Friday morning the sale of reserved seats begins at the music store of Kohler & Chase, 25 O'Farrell street, for the two afternoon concerts to be given by Mark Hambourg, the eminent Russian pianist, at Fischer's Theater on March 31 and April 1.

Seats are now on sale at Fischer's Theater for the students' matinee on next Thursday afternoon. Three one-act plays new to San Francisco will be offered.

"Ole Olson" drew another packed house at the California Theater last night and will probably continue to do a big business the rest of the week.

"Holy Toly" in its fifth week at Fischer's Theater, scored as big a hit last evening as it did at the outset. There were lots of funny lines in the little skit, and the music is catchy and melodious.

MINISTER TO LIBERIA TRAVELS INCognito. Gives an Entirely New Version of the Shooting at the Legation Building.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Dr. J. R. A. Crossland, United States Minister to Liberia, and C. W. Ellis, secretary of the legation, were passengers on the steamer La Champagne, which arrived to-night. Both are negroes. They came in under assumed names. Crossland appeared on the passenger list as J. R. Aubrey and Ellis under the name of C. Washington. They gave as their reason for not being listed under their names that they wished to avoid being asked questions regarding the shooting at Monrovia until the Minister had a chance to report to Washington. According to cables received in this country, Crossland had an altercation at the legation building with Thomas Faulkner on October 6. Faulkner was shot three times by Crossland, but recovered.

Crossland said to-night that the shooting was done in self-defense. According to his story, he had trouble with Faulkner over the legation building. The building was owned by a Mr. Hill, and Faulkner acted as agent, collecting rents. Crossland boarded with Faulkner and his wife. After some time, as Hill was not receiving his rent, he came to inquire about it. Crossland said that after hearing the story Hill decided to lease the building to the United States. Crossland then ordered Faulkner to move out. He said that was the cause of the shooting, and this was followed by Faulkner assaulting him with a razor. On October 6, the Minister said, he was assaulted by Faulkner without provocation and in self-defense shot him.

Minister Crossland denies the story that reached here that the trouble with Faulkner was of a domestic nature. Secretary Ellis, who recently was appointed, says he is going to Washington for instructions.

THEIVING BUTLER ROBS HOME OF HIS EMPLOYERS. Secures Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars' Worth of Jewelry and Makes His Escape.

NEW YORK, March 23.—The butler in the residence of Alfred Nathan, living in East Seventy-second street, has disappeared, and jewelry belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and valued at \$25,000 is missing. The butler's name is George Bossut. He left a note in a drawer addressed to Mrs. Nathan reading: Madam: I have taken your jewelry, so you need not expect to see it. You always treated me well, but I could not resist the temptation. Now, I'll tell you what I'll do. If you will keep the matter quiet and don't make any fuss I'll send the pawn tickets, may be, but if you put the police on my heels I'll stay in cover and get away—to Europe, possibly. Regards to the little boy. GEORGE.

Mrs. Nathan at the time of the theft was in the country, and had carelessly left unlocked a safe in which she kept her jewels.

Prohibits Betting on Horse Races. AUSTIN, Tex., March 23.—The anti-poolroom bill, so amended as to prohibit betting on horse races even at the tracks where the races are run, was hurried through the Senate to-day and was signed by the Governor.

Grand Opera-House. "Robespierre," a historical drama based on the events of the gory days of the reign of terror, was presented most successfully at the Grand Opera-house last night. The audience was large and enthusiastic to a marked degree. Emmett Corrihan, in the role of the great dictator, was the recipient of continual applause. His portrayal of the character of the unprincipled and ambitious tyrant, implacable at the zenith of his power and covering in the hour of danger, was something long to be remembered. His audience filled, thrilled and trembled with him. Maud Odell, who is starring jointly with Corrihan, had the not very important part of Therese, which she played in an entirely acceptable manner. Harrington Reynolds as Danton was also particularly good. Charles Stewart as St. Just did some clever work. Blanche Stoddard, Marie Baker and Charles Bates occupied important roles, which they filled to the eminent satisfaction of the audience. The other members of the cast furnished able support. The stage settings and the costumes are excellent. The play should have an unusually good run.

Central. "Fallen Among Thieves" was received last night at the Central by a large audience. The play is a comedy in three acts, and is a very clever work. The story is that of a man who is taken for a thief and is put in prison. He escapes and is taken for a thief again. The play is a very clever work, and is a very good one. The cast is excellent, and the play should have a very good run.

TALK IN CAMP OF DEMOCRATS

James O'Brien Is Chosen to Lead the Hearst Forces.

McNab Purposes to Attend National Convention of the Party.

In the management of political affairs connected with city and State campaigns Gavin McNab does not give his Democratic adversaries full notice of his future intentions. He holds himself free, however, to pursue a different line of conduct in a national contest and therefore gives notice to the Hearst-O'Brien Democracy that he intends to go to the next national convention of the party as a delegate from California.

At this time McNab is not on the O'Brien programme. Hearst, however, is offering the pipe of peace to all of his political adversaries and McNab may be constrained to smoke for the sake of harmony in the ranks of the common gossip in the Democratic camp that Chris Buckley, Sam Ralney, Maxwell and Max Pupper are ready to join ex-Governor Budd, Charles Wesley Reed and M. F. Farney in efforts to send a Hearst delegation to the national pow-wow. The story goes that McNab will be smothered out of political sight if he fails to light up with the O'Brien Democracy.

O'BRIEN'S NAME MIGHTY. In the eyes of the untortured Democracy the very name O'Brien is a tower of strength, yet, odd as it may seem, O'Brien is not a prominent name in the Democracy to Hearst on account of his dear name, but was promoted to the grade of leadership because his presence in the front rank would not engender envy among other aspiring leaders.

Instructions to guide O'Brien are no longer passed along or filtered through the channels of the Democracy. O'Brien's quarters in New York to the O'Brien Democracy in San Francisco. O'Brien is on the main line, connected by direct wire.

OVERTURES TO LANE. He is authorized to say to his fellow Democrats that they can have all the fruits of the local field from Mayor to Justice of the Peace and all the patronage of the several commissions in return for a solid Hearst delegation from California to the Democratic National Convention of 1904.

Gavin McNab notes the activity in the camp of the O'Brien Democracy and turns his gaze to the country for reinforcement. He knows that overtures from Hearst to Frank B. Rowley, Rainey, Farney, Maxwell, O'Brien, Casey and Clinton considered. It is talk in the political camps that Lane may consent to lead the Democrats as a candidate for Mayor in the municipal campaign this year.

It is in this connection that Lane has been wrangled in California. It is supposed that he has given orders for a general extension of the olive branch. It would not be surprising therefore if Phelan, Sims, Budd, Reed, Pupper, Geary, Fitzgerald, McDonald, Buckley, Rainey, Farney, Maxwell, O'Brien, Casey and Clinton should be found in the ranks of the O'Brien Democracy, beckoning Gavin McNab to join and make it unanimous for Hearst.

Jumps From Roof of His House. John McClellan, a painter employed by the Board of Public Works, jumped from the roof of his two-story house at 9 Mayre terrace last night, while suffering from delirium tremens. He was taken to the Central Emergency Hospital and treated by Dr. Merchy. McClellan's right leg and a bone in his left foot were broken.

Homes at a Nominal Cost. Any person interested in securing a neat country home should call at the offices of the North Shore Railway, 429 Market street, in order to increase the population along its line the company is actually selling land at less than the cost of improvements at Monte Rio Park and Russian River in western Sonoma County. It is surprising what a nice place can be obtained for \$200.

Automobilist Fined. John Munford appeared before Police Judge Cambias yesterday and pleaded guilty to a charge of violating the park ordinance by driving his automobile along the main drive of Golden Gate Park Sunday. The Judge sentenced him to pay a fine of \$5.

HAVANA, March 23.—A Cardenas company reports having made a contract to supply 7000 tons of sugar for Liverpool.

OIL STRIKE MAY PROVE A THEORY OF EXPERTS. Gusher Opened in Northern Santa Barbara Indicates a Very Rich Area.

SANTA BARBARA, March 23.—That which oil experts consider a most significant and valuable strike was made last night when a gusher was opened on the other side of the Los Alamos divide in the northern part of Santa Barbara County, a few miles from the point where the Union and Caroga companies recently made rich discoveries of oil. It is claimed the strike proves the theory of experts that one of the largest oil-producing territories in the United States lies in the district between a line from Santa Maria, Los Alamos and Lompoc and the Pacific Ocean, a distance thirty miles long and ten miles wide.

Harvard Wins the Debate. CAMBRIDGE, Mass., March 23.—Harvard met and defeated Yale at joint debate in Sander Theater to-night, having the affirmative on the question, "Resolved, That the United States should permit a European government to seize and hold, and permanently, the territory of a debtor State not exceeding in value the amount of the award." This question was applied to South America, and six conditions governing it were proposed, so that arguments were based on the understanding that payment of the debt according to the arbitration at The Hague had been defaulted. The Judges' decision was unanimous.

Theatrical Manager Is Robbed. MILWAUKEE, March 23.—Treasurer Nirdlinger of the Marguerita Sylva company, here this week, was robbed of cash and notes amounting in all to about \$3000 at an early hour to-day, the money having been taken from beneath his head while he slept. It was reported that Nirdlinger was drugged before he retired. A member of the company who slept with Nirdlinger is missing and is suspected of the theft.

SOUFIERE IN ISLAND RAINS SAID

Inhabitants of St. Vincent Flee From the Volcano.

Darkness of Night Spreads Over Barbadoes in the Forenoon.

Fall of Ashes Destroys Hope of Growers That Their Plantations Might Again Be Cultivated.

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, March 23.—The eruption of the Soufriere continues. The volcano has been cannonading all day and the quantity of lava is apparently greater than at the time of either of the previous eruptions, but stormy winds are driving the clouds northward. There has been a heavy fall of ash and black sand in the northern districts, which caused a few casualties. The inhabitants are going southward in great excitement.

Barbadoes reports that darkness spread over that island at 11 o'clock in the morning. The obscurity was accompanied by a fall of red dust.

The activity on the Soufriere last night was less formidable than during Saturday night, but became more violent to-day, throwing a black cloud over the entire colony.

The lands beyond Georgetown and Belton where the erosion of the former deposits has been reported since last October, are again overwhelmed, causing serious hindrance to it not the complete abandonment of future cultivation. The arroyos exposed on the drying-grounds are in a state of despondency. At Georgetown windows were broken by falling stones and the streets are covered by three or four inches of sand. Earth tremors are felt constantly.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbadoes, March 23.—Sudden darkness spread over this island to-day from 9 until 11:15 a. m. Dust fell, and the lamps were lighted in the churches and other buildings.

ROSEAU, Dominica, March 23.—Frequent muffled detonations were heard during the afternoon of Saturday and on Sunday morning from the southeast, and the clouds traveling westward were laden with dust.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL TAKES CHARGE OF AFFAIRS. Court Directs Him to Settle Business of Defunct International Investment Company.

ST. LOUIS, March 23.—By consent of the depositors, the United States District Court to-day ordered United States Marshal Morsey to take charge of the affairs of the International Investment Company, which was conducted by J. W. Hogue, and to arrange for a settlement. Hogue, who was indicted several weeks ago after the failure of the concern, evaded service and has not been apprehended. The assets of the concern are placed at \$10,000. The liabilities are not known, but a book was turned over to Marshal Morsey containing about 1000 names supposed to be the list of depositors. More than 11,000 certificates of depositors in the John J. Ryan Investment Company are now in the hands of Marshal Morsey. The aggregate amount of the deposits represented is estimated at \$1,000,000. It is stated the assets will pay less than 20 cents on the dollar.

DISCARDED LOVER CUTS WOMAN WITH A RAZOR. New Almaden Miner Commits an Atrocious Crime and Escapes to the Hills.

SAN JOSE, March 23.—Ramona Papilla, a young Spanish woman, was the victim of a murderous attack by Jesus Martinez of New Almaden this evening. It is stated that the two had been lovers, but the woman had gone back on Martinez. This evening he went to her house, drew a razor and attacked her. The Papilla woman's head was almost severed from her body. One gash was across the front of the throat and another on the side of the neck. One ear was badly cut and there were other wounds. The woman is not expected to live, but was alive when the news reached the Sheriff's office.

Martinez rushed from the house and escaped in the hills. Sheriff Langford and a number of deputies at once went to Almaden, but up to midnight had not found Martinez. The latter is a mine and about 30 years of age. He went to Almaden a few years ago from Texas.

Would Operate Flats to Children. CHICAGO, March 23.—Under the title, "An ordinance to prevent unjust discrimination by landlords against parents," Alderman Ruxton to-night introduced in the City Council a measure intended to make liable to a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$100, owners and agents of flat buildings in Chicago who refuse to rent apartments to persons with children. The ordinance was referred to the council judiciary committee.

ADVERTISEMENTS. Your Wife can be provided with an annual income for life, in event of your death, at less cost than you can make the same provision for your children.

The low rate makes very attractive this form of contract, devised and introduced by The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

On August 7, 1899, a young business man of New York took out Policy No. 1,000,000 in favor of his wife. He paid three premiums of \$100.00 and in September, 1902, he died. The company at once paid his widow \$1,000.00, and will continue to pay her that amount annually as long as she lives.

In writing for terms, state the amount of annual income you would like to provide for your wife, the amount of cash you would like returned and give the ages of both.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK, RICHARD A. MCCRAW, President.

STANLEY FORBES, Manager, Mutual Life Building, San Francisco, Cal.