

OF H.M.S. SERPENT.

Court-Martial on the
Survivors—Verdict of
the Court.

tributed to an Error of
of those Navigat-
the Vessel.

ily, of Dec. 21st, furnish-
ing account of the naval en-
gagement on the three sur-
vived ship Serpent, wrecked
on Nov. 10 last. Black
at Devonport, on Tuesday
was pisoned from the
which day it was previously
three survivors, Frederick
leading seaman, Onesti-
able seaman and Edward
seaman, all looking fairly
well, and the others in the
accordance with custom,
sal, with drawn sword,
n. The earlier part of the
ed with official statements,
three men rescued were
reed that there were no
the chains, nor any deep
g taken at the time of the
ere was half a gale of wind,
heaved wall. Staff Com-
erson, an assistant of the
department, who swung the
mouth in July, at that
was in a satisfactory con-
returned from the naval
Staff Commander the
the last cruiser the "her-
reduced to a minimum,
pent had approached the
the disturbance had taken
ed have been thrown off
all the magnetic causes
were prevailed would have
ship's safety.

ay Staff-Commander Ed-
valuable information in
ures from the position of
last seen by the ship
the Admiralty sailing dis-
north-east coast of Spain
showed that every warn-
be employed were sent
comandant officer, di-
ly to guard against the
with south-west winds,
at strength between the
and Cape Ortegal, but also
and frequently, especially in
the surroundings giving a
the surf, the shore can

ter deliberating for two
at the compasses in every
erment were in every re-
sult reliable; and that the
ad all hydrographical in-
the service on which the
be employed were sent
before she sailed from Pige-
ship appeared to have
respect seaworthy and
ped; that no accident of
appeared on board the ship
of her stranding; that
vidence to prove whether
the ship had been fixed
be available on board; that
proof that any unusual or
ous prevail in the Bay
near the east and north-
ast during the voyage of
on Plymouth, beyond those
were warned by the sur-
pect. The court attributed
Serpent to an error in
those responsible for the
the ship, in not having
sufficiently to the west-
d that no blame was to be
y of the survivors of the
with the loss of the ship,
re that the fact that orders
e discipline maintained by
w up to the last.

TERKEE REPLIES.

tor: I have just had the
the contractors of the
day's COLONIST, in which
the fact that in conducting
used to term our "strike,"
adopted the "honorable
ing idly. In reply, may
to state our case? Some
decided that we would work
comparatively with the
all the work we could get
a public direct. We give
the benefit of our skilled
and, and if we do this
as ever, and omit the mid-
the a right to complain?

WORKING PLASTERER.

ACCURATE.

tor: The Times has found
when it states that freight
Montreal and Halifax have
suit the Vancouver Sugar
any changes are to come
on the 1st of February,
arrangements made by the
bal association. The
Times should study figures
factual 15 is not a quarter
of 20 a half. The writer
ughten us how the N. rthern
Union Pacific, both in the
be interested in avoiding
to East in favor of a British
only.

Jobody Killed.

horse owned by Walter
nated his flight at the corner
ement street, yesterday
buggy, to which the horse
was turned up-side down, the
turned inside-out, and the
rally broken. The animal
frightened by the street car,
dash it, pulled the bridle
of the driver, who was stand-
down Yates street, passing
Government without doing
The excitement ended at the
E. Street market than ever before, Col-
mbian.

A VICTIM OF STRYCHNINE.

John Will Defeats the Law By Tak-
ing a Dose of Deadly
Poison.

Regretting His Act, He Asks for a
Doctor, But Help Comes
Too Late.

A telegram from Chemainus, received by
Sergeant Langley, of the Provincial Police,
late on Monday night, instructed him to
arrest and hold a young man, named John
Will, for a few months employed as bar-
tender at the Diard, upon a charge of ob-
taining money under false pretences from
Samuel Gray, of Chemainus. The police were
sent out at once to find the man, but failed in
obtaining any information as to where he
boarded, until yesterday morning. Then,
when they went to arrest him, they found
him dead.

The circumstances of the tragic affair are
not very clear yet. Will came here from
California, where he has a brother employed
as a second engineer on a coasting steamer,
about four or five months ago. He was
a bartender, and for a time, secured
employment at the Diard. Afterwards he
was given work as a trainer and handler of
horses. It was a victim of strychnine. He
lived at No. 6 Kane street, where he occupied the
front room on the ground floor. He slept at
home on Monday night, and in the morning
went down town to get his breakfast.
An hour or so later, he returned, and again
went into his room, telling the lady of the
house that he need not make up his bed as
he was going to try and get a little more
sleep. Not long after one of the other lod-
gers came home, and as he was passing
Will's door, the latter called to him to get
a doctor at once. Will was at the time all
most screaming, and suspecting that some-
thing was wrong, the young man broke
open the door. The occupant of the room
was on his bed, writhing with agony.

No time was lost in bringing Dr. Milne
to the bedside, and he at once realized the
situation and administered all the remedies
known for strychnine poisoning. The drug
had, however, done its work of death, and
the victim expired in about one hour. His
property was taken possession of by the
police, who also took a letter which was
left, addressed to W. J. Taylor, of Eberts &
Taylor. The contents will, no doubt, be
made public at the coroner's inquest, the
hour for which has not yet been fixed. It
is believed that Will had got money that
he expected, and fearing arrest, the unfor-
tunate man determined to commit suicide.
Having taken the drug, he regretted doing
so, and called for a doctor, but too late.
Strange to say, while the doctor came, he
steadfastly refused to take several of the
remedies offered by the medical man.

THE EARTH.

Rev. J. W. Green Delivers the Second
of His Scientific Lectures.

Rev. J. W. Green delivered the second
lecture of his series upon the Earth, in the
Cathedral church last evening, the following
being a summary of his remarks: The
Earth, he said, having been already treated
of as a rotating and revolving body
developed on the nebular hypothesis
of Laplace, and consequently now
in a slowly evolving state, we
may consider best from an outside
standpoint first. We find that its external
material is an atmospheric envelope of very
great density, the outer regions, and
growing denser naturally from pressure as
we approach the body of the planet. Next
to this outer envelope comes another layer
of greater density in the shape of the
ocean, which is constantly supplying by
means of evaporation, the outer envelope
with water vapor; and beneath this inner
envelope, and in many wide areas, crop-
ping up above it in the shape of the land
is the solid, hard, dense body of the
Earth, which below its surface retains vast
stores of heat, which makes itself felt in very
rapid ratio as we descend beneath the sur-
face. Reversing the ratio and comparing
the rate of heat loss with the rate of heat
temperature in ascending mountains, the
lecturer then proceeded to explain the
course of the trade winds and anti-trade
winds, and to show on a map on Mercator's
projection how the variations in these con-
stant currents are made intelligible. The
effect of large masses of land in low lati-
tudes in raising the temperature by im-
mense absorption of the solar heat, and the
effect of land in the high latitudes, as
productive of monsoons, were next dwelt
upon, which thus introduced the general
laws of climate, of which Mr. Green chose
North America and Europe as the most in-
teresting exemplifications, as showing in a
very plain manner the effect of mountain
and plain in attracting warmth and causing
cool respectively. The laws of storms are,
as yet, too little understood to be intro-
duced with advantage. We see readily
how rapid is the radiation constantly going
on from the still boiling heat in the bowels
of the earth. To-night, however, we must
content ourselves with the outward envelope,
the atmosphere. And, first, how can we
weigh it? The lecturer here gave an ex-
planation of the barometer. Secondly, is it
always the same? No; dry air is far
rarer than aqueous vapor, and since the
sun is perpetually heating the surface of
vapor from the ocean and from all water
surfaces, it is constantly disturbing the
atmospheric equilibrium, and without such
disturbance the air would go back and
be unable to support life. This con-
stant disturbance takes the form of air cur-
rents, or, as we call them, winds. Now, let
us trace the origin of winds, their chief
causes, and the laws that govern them.
They are caused by the intense expansion
at the equator, produced by the sun, and
where they do not blow in regular courses,
the reasons for their variability can be gen-
erally assigned.

Frank Davis, who went East some time
ago in the interests of Visser's export
business, returned by the Pacific ex-
press to Westminster, on Monday, well
satisfied with the results of his trip. Mr.
Davis visited all the large cities, and says
he is a shipman year more fresh salmon to
the E. Street market than ever before, Col-
mbian.

THE GOVERNMENT CLERK.

As He Appears in the Departments at the
National Capital.

The Government clerk is the institu-
tion of Washington, says a correspond-
ent of the New York Evening Post. He
fills the theater, he buys from the
shops, he rents the houses, he even
makes up a large proportion of those
who go to balls and parties, he consti-
tutes the resident population. What
sort of tenure of office he has, and what
salary he gets, may be immaterial to
him. Let us see what sort of a man he is.

The first is bent with age and years of
leaning over a desk. A mild and amia-
ble atmosphere of conciliation sur-
rounds him, only to give place to a
harmless air of importance as he trudges
the department corridors with papers in
his hand for the inspection of his chief.
And he is facetious, too, but God forbid
that he should ever pass by and break
forth into a burst of confidence
one day that he thought he was "real
stylish." And I knew a young man who
married a girl who was red-headed, slab-
bed, as thin as a rail, and who over-
shadowed him as a bean-pole does a
clothes-pin, and he actually de-
scribed her to me before I saw her as
"fair and most divinely tall."

And I was personally acquainted with
a woman who was just exactly as home-
ly as they make them, but her leading
abomination was her walk. She seemed
to be loose all over, and sort of unjoint-
ed and then joined up again as she me-
andered around. Boys ridiculed her,
girls giggled at her, and men stood
off and swore about her as she
went down the street, and yet positively
her husband had been heard to say that
"Sarah Jane wasn't much of a beauty,
but she did have a nice, easy, careless
gait."

Can you call any system a failure that
makes people happy and contented with
their possessions, that abolishes
defects and offenses, and reveals
charms, attractions and beauties
that under other circumstances you
couldn't see with a telescope? Not
much! The world is chuck full and
running over with people like those de-
scribed above, and in consideration of
that fact I can but say: "O! level where
is thy sister? O! divorcee where is thy
brother?"

Human nature may be a failure, I
don't deny that, but marriage is a howl-
ing success, and has done more for
human nature, the bad material it had
to work with, than any condition or system
that was ever invented. Away back
when Adam was a young man—now I
know Adam is a rather ancient subject,
but you need not elevate your eyebrows
in contempt, for you'll be ancient your-
self some day—he found himself in the
world one day, he did not know how and
I don't know, do you? And the world was
young and beautiful; the first flush and
bloom was on the mountains and the
valleys, the flowers wondered at their
own fragrance, the birds were thrilled
by the sweetness of their songs, the
waves broke into little ripples of delight
at their own liquid beauty, and the stars
of heaven and the unfaded blue were
above his head, and yet he wasn't satis-
fied. One morning he was standing
idly in the blushing dawn while the
sparkling dew of novelty, innocence and
youth lay like a magic spell upon him,
wondering why the days were so long, and
why there were so many of them, when
suddenly out from under the swinging
vines and the swaying foliage Eve
came forth and passed lightly by. Adam
saw that her cheeks were red and her
eyes were bright, and he too went on;
but he did not forget her, and he came
early the next morning and found her
near the path she had trod, and she
came again. Adam saw that her arms
were white and rounded and her step was
light and he whistled a soft, low whis-
tle, with a sort of O-wo-ty-you-say-a-mo-
ment cadence in the music, and Eve
looked up; and I think right then he
plucked a flower and offered it to her,
and of course she refused, and he, mean-
while, but she glanced at the rose and
then at him, and saw he was tall
and strong and beautiful—and she be-
gan to understand; reaching out her
hand she took the little flower and then
for the first time in the world a woman
smiled and blushed, and I suspect it
was at that moment that the "morning
stars first sang together."

After awhile, in some primitive way,
they were married, with love for high
priest and the stars for witnesses, and
made them a home—something that
every man and woman strives, plans
and works for, because there is no place
on earth like it.

Marriage may be a failure in a few in-
dividual cases, where, for instance, a
man swears every thing black and blue
on account of a piece of beefsteak or
a cup of coffee; or where a woman opens
her mouth and in the short space of ten
seconds makes a man's life a howling
wilderness or sandy desert because she
can't have every thing she wants and
have it right away. But marriage as a
system is a nickel-plated, anti-monop-
oly, everlasting success.

The Decimal Point.

In France and Germany $\frac{1}{4}$ reduced to
a decimal is written 0.25, in England it
is written 0.25; in the United States it
is always written either 0.25 or simply
written .25 without the naught. In the
first two countries the period is never
used, always the comma. While English
writers use the period they never put it
at the bottom of the line as we do, but
always use it thus: 0.25. This style is
said to have been introduced by the
Isaac Newton, who placed it at the top
of the line to distinguish it from the
punctuation mark.

A Sole Leather Cane.

There are 300,000 of people that walk
about the streets of London daily, and
in so doing they wear away a ton of
leather particles from their boots and
shoes. This would in a year form a
leather bolt six inches wide and one-
fourth of an inch thick long enough to
reach from London to New York. The
amount of disintegrated leather at 25
cents a pound (which it costs consumers)
would amount to \$35,000. Reduced to a
strap one inch in width it would reach
more than once around the world.

MARRIAGE A SUCCESS.

A Defense of Matrimony by an
Observing Woman.

She Considers Married Life the Rock of
Salvation for the World and Proves
Her Opinion to Be a Correct One—
The First Courtship.

What does marriage mean? This
question is answered as follows by a
woman writer in the Chicago Tribune:
It means home, and home means the
laughter of children, the smiles of wom-
en, the fragrance of flowers, the light on
the hearth-stone—a light that outshines
the stars of heaven.

Marriage is a nickel-plated, overlast-
ing success, and I can prove it.
I knew a woman whose husband was
fat, black and forty; had stubby hands,
and always wore a paper collar too big
for him, and "pants" too short, and yet
his wife told me in a burst of confidence
one day that she thought he was "real
stylish." And I knew a young man who
married a girl who was red-headed, slab-
bed, as thin as a rail, and who over-
shadowed him as a bean-pole does a
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Curiosities of Bird Life.

The vulture is 100 times as large as
the swallow, but its wings are only fif-
teen times as large. The Australian
crane weighs 3,000.000 times as much as
the common gnat, yet the latter has 150
times as much wing surface per unit of
weight.

A Kidney's Latest Court-bation.

A County Kildare girl just landed
weighs 234 pounds, stands 6 feet 7
inches in her stockings and is but six-
teen years of age. What a policeman
would make if it was not for her
sex.

DRESS-MAKING PAYS.

Fortunes Await Women Who Can Cut
and Fit Properly.

Kate Reilly, a well-known New York
dress-maker, tells a reporter of the
World: "The woman who knows how
to fit a dress properly can dictate her
own terms. Keep a carriage, wear
purple and fine linen, and recede
three months of the year," luxuries, by
the way, in which this skillful artist is
able to indulge.

Mrs. Mary Ann Connelly has made
dresses for all the wealthy women in
New York, and to-day she owns a valu-
able corner on Fifth avenue and three
of the handsomest cottages in Long
Branch—cottages to which the Pullman,
Childs and Drexel estates are not to be
compared—argument and proof that
dress-making is a good paying business
—the possibilities of which are not ap-
preciated by the intelligent women of
New York who have their way to make
in the world.

Now for some figures. Any woman
who can cut and fit a dress-waist—not
both it, but fit it to the figure—can com-
mand a salary of \$3,000 in any large city
in the Union. More than that, she can
be as well as she likes, have all the privi-
leges she wants, scold the help, boss
the customer, and pad her check, shoul-
ders and chest with hair cloth and cot-
ton batting.

The forewoman who is able to take
charge of an establishment, and origina-
te designs can get a \$2,500 position any
day in the week, with a trans-Atlantic
voyage and all expenses paid for a Paris
visit to see the styles.

On a scale of a waist after it is
fitted and trim it gets thirty dollars a
week, and works from eight till six,
with an hour for lunch.

Shirt-makers, who never sew a stitch,
are paid from \$20 to \$25, which is a much
better salary than the average teacher
in the public or private schools gets, and
not any thing like as hard on the nerv-
ous system. Drapers earn from \$18
to \$25 a week, waist finishers from \$10
to \$15, skirt-makers from \$5 to \$10, and
sleeve-hands are in demand at \$3, which
is a better salary than thousands of
typewriters in down-town offices are get-
ting.

FRESHNESS REWARDED.

How the Captain of a Pacific Steamer
Protected a Lady.

On a through Eastern train of the
Pennsylvania road, one day last week,
all the seats in the car were taken ex-
cept two. A lady sat in one and a man
from the West with a big sombrero oc-
cupied the other. He was a fine-looking
man, a friendly fellow, and was taken by
those around him for a lawyer. At the
next station, says the Pittsburgh
Dispatch, an unattractive drummer
got on the car. He sized up the
situation at a glance. The lady was
pretty and that settled it. Without
even asking her he sat down by her and
at once commenced to make himself
agreeable. She tried to avoid him, but
looked out of the window, but the fol-
lowing the one-sided conversation. The
Western man was calmly watching the
proceeding and stood it as long as
he could. Going up to the lady he said:

"Madam, I see you are annoyed.
Wouldn't you prefer to have my seat?"
"O, thank you," she replied, "certainly
yes," and the big man helped her to
transfer her valise, while the other pas-
sengers tittered at the drummer's dis-
comfiture.

The drummer was boiling over, but kept
down his wrath until he got to Altoona,
and then he demanded satisfaction for
the insult. The words were scarcely
out of his mouth before the Western man
banged him on the jaw, and then with
his boot kicked him around as a foot-
ball. "Stand back," yelled some of the
ticked passengers, but the drummer
kept on shouting together, and that
drummer finally crawled under a car to
escape further punishment, a wiser and
sadder man. Everybody wanted to
know who the Western man was. He
turned out to be the captain of a Pacific
mail steamer out on a vacation.

AN AMUSING WEDDING.

A St. Louis Man Who Was Married Under
Adverse Circumstances.

About the funniest wedding on record
was that of a friend of mine, a well-
known St. Louis gentleman, writes a
Globe-Democrat correspondent. He
married a girl who was visiting a town
less than one hundred miles from here.
The bride was a very pretty girl, and
before the wedding was to take place
my friend learned that her
sister was preparing to make the wed-
ding a grand affair, and this he was op-
posed to. A license was obtained, and
that night he left the city with his girl
bound for the town she had been visit-
ing. He started the next morning, and
if she was willing to get married that
night. She consented, and a telegram
was sent from the next station
notifying her brother-in-law to have
things ready. The telegram reached
there at ten o'clock and the couple at
eleven o'clock. Every one was excited
but the groom. The minister was pres-
ent and ready for the ceremony. The
ladies were upstairs, and no one
seemed to think of my friend. He had
left the city hurriedly, had traveled on
a hot night, his shirt and collar were
soiled, he had no cuffs, his shoes were
unshined and he was badly in need of
a shave. He sat found a thin skin
and a beard in the back yard. He washed
and wet his hair, but finding no brush
or glass, went to the parlor and forgot
all about himself. After the ceremony
was over his wife turned to him and
said: "Why, Charlie! You didn't comb
your hair! What makes it more funny,
is the fact that the very gentleman
is very particular about his appearance."

The vulture is 100 times as large as
the swallow, but its wings are only fif-
teen times as large. The Australian
crane weighs 3,000.000 times as much as
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teen years of age. What a policeman
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THE BIG HORN SHEEP.

Towering Precipices Easily De-
scended by the Woolly Rammer.

A Dweller of the Crags and Cliffs of the
Rocky Mountains—How the Curious
Animals Escape from the
Gun of the Hunter.

In a Main street cigar store, says the
Kansas City Star, is a stuffed specimen
of the Argali, or big horn sheep of the
Rocky mountains. This animal is not
only very shy, but, having an appetite
for vegetation which can only be dis-
covered among the very highest plateaus
of the Rocky mountains, is a dweller of
the crags and cliffs. It is a solid and
breathes a more rarified atmosphere than
is found in an altitude of 9,000 feet. Its
manner of life and its place of living
make it a difficult animal for the hunter,
and the Utes and other mountain in-
dians in the day of the bow and arrow
looked on the killing of a big horn as a
feat. They are very scarce and not at
all prolific.

There has always been a large amount
of lying about the big horn. Hunters
had, for a time, some unexplainable ex-
periences with them. A bunch of four
or five would be seen feeding upon
some high grassy mesa or table-land,
which would find termination, on three
sides perhaps, in a precipitous and
steep descent of several hundred feet.
The hunter, ambitious and indefatig-
able, would, with infinite labor, creep-
ing up canyons and crawling
among rocks, come in behind them.
He would exert in the certainty
of a shot. The big horns could not es-
cape. A 400-foot precipice on three sides
so steep that a bird could scarcely sus-
tain itself thereon, and the hunter cut-
ting off retreat on the fourth, matters
looked gloomy for the big horn. Rest-
ing himself for a moment to recover his
breath and nerve, both somewhat
strained in his scramble among the
rocks, the hunter would move forward.
On catching sight or scent of him the
big horns would amble in the distance
and contentedly go apparently to the
edge of the precipice and disappear.

The hunter on coming forward would
see his game racing far out in the valley
400 feet below. How did they get there?
That was always the question with the
Western man. It was finally concluded
on all hands that the big horns jumped.
As his four legs could scarcely be ex-
pected to sustain such a descent, the
ingenious Western mind had re-
course to the big horns from which the
Argali gets his sobriquet. These are
from four to seven inches in diameter
at the base and sprout in horny spirals
from the animal's head much after the
fashion of the horns of that engine of
destruction the common Morino ram.
When the big horn leaped, said these
Munchausens, he turned head down-
ward and alighted on these horns. They
had seen him make the trip, they said,
and they would thereupon enlarge on
the downward whirling plunge of any
thing from 300 to 2,000 feet, according to
the mendacity of the raconteur. They
would tell how he descended like a stone.

On motion, it was resolved to pay Mr.
Reed \$200 for extra work in the preparation
of the annual report during the past month.
On motion of Ald. Smith, seconded by
Ald. Holland, the resolution of last week,
with reference to the receipt of tenders for
sewer pipes was rescinded. It was re-
solved that an address be en-
grossed on parchment and presented to the
Mayor for the able, efficient and painstak-
ing manner in which he had discharged the
duties of the city magistrate's office during
the year, and that the subject be referred
to the Printing committee with power to act.
The council adjourned to meet again on
Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The auditor's statement set forth that
there had, in almost every department,
been a gratifying increase over the esti-
mate, the exceptions being water rates,
road tax and cemetery fees, the shortage in
the former being due firstly to the reduc-
tion in the price and secondly to the fact
that owing to the recent sickness of Mr.
Partridge, a number of consumers had not
been collected from. The outstanding
water rates were thus far \$9,251.54, against
\$8,856 last year. Mr. Baynor recommended
the appointment of an assistant water col-
lector, also an energetic and active collec-
tor of road tax from which \$5,000 should be
collected, instead of \$1,600 as this year.
The cemetery fees are less than the esti-
mate by some \$275, and \$100 less than last
year. The total collections from ordinary
resources amounted to \$224,722.99, an in-
crease of \$23,555.60 over the estimate.
In every department, except that of street
lighting, the expenditure was exceeded the
appropriation, large amounts have
been expended to meet unexpected demands;
\$7,072.25 having been laid out in
the purchase of street lamps, and the
amount borrowed. Owing to the large
amount of litigation, the account of Messrs.
Elerts & Taylor, (legal advisers of the cor-
poration) reached \$2,702.86, as against
\$1,700 last year. During the latter part
of the year, by-laws authorizing the borrow-
ing of money for the following purposes
were passed, viz: sewerage, \$300,000; mar-
ket site and building, \$100,000; crematory,
\$10,000. The Bank of British North
America have advanced \$35,200 on the se-
curity of the market bonds, and the first
payment on account of the site has been
made. It is strongly recommended that
the Municipalities Act be altered to allow
the fiscal year ending Nov. 30th. On the last
three days of the year \$45,000 were col-
lected.

The Dempsey-Fitzsimmons Fight.