

# WILLIAM WATSON VICTIM OF A STRANGE DELUSION

### Mr. R. Watson, of Montreal, His Brother, Says the Poet is Under a Mental Cloud.

An important statement regarding the mental condition of William Watson, the English poet, whose poem, "The Woman With the Serpent's Tongue," has recently created such a sensation, is made by his brother, Mr. R. Watson, of 155 Peel street, Montreal, who has just returned from New York. Mr. Watson says:

"I have been reluctant to make any personal statement of matters concerning my brother, William Watson; and only do so now under strong constraint; seeing the necessity of some pronouncement from me in order to counteract the many erroneous ones, and that the real facts, however distressing, may be known.

Near the close of November, 1902, my brother entered on what is perhaps the saddest experience that can be endured in this life. He was, on December, 1892, until the several months following year, has never in public print made even the remotest allusion to that dark time, and it is difficult for me to quietly write about those days; but I will endeavor to state the circumstances without any ambiguity.

There were two almost concurrent events which were of great importance to him then; and which were the contributory causes of a profound mental chaos.

In October, 1892, Lord Alfred Tennyson died. Immediately on the tidings of his death reaching London, the "Illustrated London News" telegraphed my brother a request for a brief commemorative poem to appear in the following issue of that journal. Moved by an exalted ambition to produce a work of art, which should be worthy offering to the memory of him whose death had filled the world with grief, and lines which should do him the greatest honor, William Watson for fifty consecutive hours, without a break for either sleep or food, worked in almost tremulous eagerness and anxiety, his mind vibrating in painful sympathy with his theme; and, instead of the "brief poem" that had been requested, delivered to the "Illustrated London News" an immortal "Lachrymans Musarum," a poem of which Mr. Gladstone said, "I have never read a more beautiful poem in his opinion it was greater than Tennyson's own Ode on the Death of the Poet."

Early in November, 1892, a letter (the original is before me as I write) was sent my brother from New York, the official residence, informing him that Mr. Gladstone had been pleased to recommend him for an immediate grant of two hundred pounds, reserving the question of a Civil List Pension for further consideration.

And now I must disclose the fact that up to the time of that letter my brother had been suffering from a delusion, at times utterly disconcerting, at times apparently sane, and dimmed by the seeming hopelessness of the strife. And when the grant of two hundred pounds, from the Royal Bounty Fund, it was like a bolt from the sky, and he was so excited that he had been long exiled. But it was not long before he returned to his normal nervous concentration on his work, and he was so much more than he could bear. The burden of years had been lifted in a moment; and his mind, in the days of his memory of the past, "No more dark days now, mother; no more dark days."

But only a week later, and it became evident, beyond all doubt, that his mental balance was gone. Sudden success and joy had told on him more than all adversity and pain. And now that mental ailment which has its parallel again today, in the first few weeks of this December, the most of which was dominated by the ideas that he had a mission to accomplish, was again in his mind. And he it said here that those very persons here to whom afterwards he showed himself most sternly devoted and loyal.

So far I have been dwelling on the weeks of 17 years ago. It is a long stretch of time, and during such an interval one is apt to lose sight of what took place so far from today. Yet it is as all vivid to me as the events of this December in 1902.

And here I have the parallel I have referred to: The Poet has come to America with a deeply rooted belief that he has a mission to accomplish in certain families in high station in England. Nothing can dissuade him from that wild infatuation, which is more troubling him night and day. Terrible, absolutely unforgivable things, have been lightly hurried at that time, and he has not a word to say for himself; things which must be admitted seem to brand the author of them as beyond the pale of our toleration forever.

And yet, when I have put it in that way, I who alone have the right to speak out deliberately, in full knowledge, and with full empathy, that these things are in no sense the responsible utterances of the poet, William Watson. They are the outcome of a mental malady, alien to himself, and when he returns to himself, the William Watson we know will regret and condemn them; with burning words and bitter tears, he will say that he had been misled; full of the utter significance of details about tea and talk, and a note of dignity and grace, what of it? The fact that he wrote it was truly the hand of my brother; but not so much as one solitary sentence of mine, not a line, not a word; and when the poet is rehabilitated his lips will unparaphrasingly condemn what he has done, and to which his real mind has never given assent.

In the witness of December 5 (which has only this day been put before me) there is a leading article which embodies some of the scathing criticism

that had been applied to my brother by the Rev. Dr. Aked of New York during an interview with the New York Evening Mail. On seeing a partial transcript of the Evening Mail article, I wrote a brief protest to Dr. Aked, and in reply received from him a letter of apology, in which he says: "I had, as you know, if you have seen my interview, and not merely quotations from it, a suspicion of the truth. Yet, of all those who should sympathize, not one seemed to your trouble is, after all, a small matter when the magnitude of the sorrow which I see, written in your estimates of your brother's genius. It was not for nothing that I described him as a prophet of God, and as, after Gladstone, the one great English voice. . . . I greatly regret that you will not care to accept any word of sympathy. I stand ready to sympathize and help to the limit of my power and opportunity.

In the light of this deeply apologetic letter from Dr. Aked, I earnestly say—let no one dare to prejudice in this case; let no one presume to lightly criticize this apology in the light of his vituperation against the man whom England has delighted to honor. . . . I do not mention by name here, but who was fully cognizant of the facts, might at least have been expected of him that he would have shielded where he has assailed, or at least, where he has assailed, would have remained wisely silent.

If I am asked to assign a definite cause for this present mental calamity, as I have done for that of 1892, I can only say, "do not know."

To myself I have my surmises, which may be wrong, and will therefore not give them. But anyone who deeply reads and carefully analyzes the "Sonnet to Miranda," may possibly for some sonnets, written at a time, and in which there is a deep personal interest unexpressed in the whole wide range of English literature.

# COOK ROYAL EXPEDITION IS NOW BEING

### Report of Special Committee Given to the Public

### Almost Contemptuously Shatters Cook's Title

### Branded as Imposter--Danes Are Filled With Chagrin

### Cook's New York Friends Drop Him--Made or Stole \$100,000

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 21.—The report of the special committee of scientists which the University of Copenhagen appointed to scrutinize Dr. Frederick A. Cook's claims that he had discovered the North Pole was submitted to the University of Copenhagen this morning, and the public was informed of the report.

The report shatters completely, almost contemptuously, the Brooklyn explorer's title to such discovery and fills the officials and the people of Denmark with chagrin at the figure Denmark is made to assume in the eyes of the scientific world. The public was prepared for a verdict of "not proven," but did not expect its recent hero to be branded as an imposter. Many clings to the belief that Cook is in good faith, but harbored a delusion.

Explorers and scientists almost unanimously have lost faith in Cook's honesty, while one of his warmest supporters, Knud Rasmussen, helped to frame the report. The evening papers attacked Cook and severely reproach him for hiding, which they regard as a sign of a guilty conscience.

The Board of Aldermen who voted Dr. Cook's title to the city on his return to this country, withdrew their grant. The resolution was placed on the agenda of the city council, which finished reading it last night.

NEW YORK NOT SURPRISED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—News that the University of Copenhagen had declined to accept Dr. Cook's claims that he had reached the North Pole came as no surprise to scientific circles here, and it is not surprising that the University of Copenhagen had been prepared for the result by early rumors.

Dr. Cook had fooled us all from the King of Denmark down, was the opinion of John R. Bradley, Dr. Cook's backer in his Arctic trip, when he was asked to comment on the news. "He fooled me with the rest," Mr. Bradley added.

Herbert L. Bridgman, secretary of the University of Copenhagen, said: "This is the saddest event in my life. As an explorer there seems to be no doubt that Cook is absolutely unreliable."

The National Tidende, while deploring the degree in a moment of enthusiasm, said that the fact that the University of Copenhagen had conferred the degree on Cook when he returned to civilization.

The President of his own country throughout the world, the fact that the University of Copenhagen had conferred the degree on Cook when he returned to civilization.

The late Miss Vassie was in her twenty-second year. She is survived by her mother, two sisters and a brother. The sisters of the deceased are Mrs. Bancroft, of Quebec, and Mrs. E. F. Foster, of this city. William Vassie, of this city, is a brother. Mrs. Bancroft was informed of her sister's death by telegram on Thursday afternoon at 2.30.

The death of Miss Vassie coming, as it did, very suddenly, causes general regret among all who were acquainted with the deceased, whose good qualities were highly appreciated.

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# WANT PRESENT SEVERE BLOW

### LAW CHANGED TO BENEFIT RAILROADS

### Commission's Report

### CHANGES SOUGHT

### Under Doctor's Care

### Refuses to Allow Him to Leave His Room for Some Time

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Vigorous recommendations for changes in the present law regulating transportation companies are contained in the twenty-third annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission transmitted today to the Congress.

Notwithstanding the recommendations made, however, the report, in this respect, is notable rather for what it does not do than for what it does. Five of the suggestions made by the special committee selected by President Taft to draft changes in the existing interstate commerce act are offered in the report. It is known that the commission, as a body, favors the plans proposed by that committee, but, as a matter of courtesy, it has refrained, in its report, from discussing the changes in advance of the special message on the subject which President Taft has indicated he will send to the Congress.

The commission expresses its conviction that certain amendments to the present law are necessary to enable it fully to accomplish the purposes of Congress. Briefly summarized, the amendments are as follows:

That a physical valuation be made of the interstate railroads of the country. The commission points to the difficulty of valuing certain cases where its orders are attacked in court in meeting the testimony as to physical value offered by the carriers, and says that if its rates are to be defended, some method must be furnished by which a value can be established which shall be binding on the courts and the commission.

The commission again suggests that it be given power to prevent advances in rates or changes in regulations or practices to the disadvantage of the shipper, pending an investigation into the reasonableness of the proposed change. It is stated that where a rate has been in effect for years it is presumably reasonable and that there would be no hardship on the carrier in giving the commission authority to require continuance of the rate until opportunity had been afforded to investigate the proposed advance.

The commission's authority to establish a joint rate and through route is limited to cases where no such route exists, and the commission recommends that this limitation be stricken out of the law, so that it may establish through routes wherever upon investigation it is found that the public necessity and convenience require such action. A further recommendation is to the effect that in certain instances the shipper be permitted to direct the intermediate routing of his traffic. It is further requested that the law be so amended as to give the commission authority to enter a corrective order as the result of an investigation instituted by the commission upon its own motion.

The commission again calls to the attention of Congress the increasing importance of some form of federal control over railway capitalization and expresses the opinion that adequate legislation upon this subject is required by the interests involved.

The annual reports to the commission from the carriers show that for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1908, the gross operating revenues of all railroads in the United States were \$2,461,821,345, and the operating income (net after deducting operating expenses and taxes) was \$654,132,321. For 1909 the operating revenue was \$2,494,115,589 and the operating income was \$688,570,541, indicating an increase for 1909 of \$32,694,248 in gross earnings and \$34,438,220 in net earnings. The average number of miles operated in 1908 was 288,184 and in 1909 283,092. The large increase in net as compared with gross earnings is accounted for by a reduction of operating expenses in 1909 because of the 1908 of \$59,251,983.

# LEOPOLD IN HADES; SATAN ABDICATED

### Rev. Hazen Conklin Preach Startling Sermon at Pawtucket

### PAWTUCKET, R.I., Dec. 21.—

### Under Doctor's Care

### Refuses to Allow Him to Leave His Room for Some Time

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PAWTUCKET, R.I., Dec. 21.—The whole Unionist cause rests in no special a way upon Balfour, but something like a constellation spread through the Unionist clubs last night when the news came through that Balfour had been forbidden by his doctor to go on his journey from his home, Whittinghame, to make a short speech at Edinburgh on Monday.

Miss Balfour, who devotes her life to her bachelor brother, has been inundated at Whittinghame today with messages of inquiry. Every one, following the opinion of medical men, expected when Balfour left London last Friday week that on days' rest would banish the pulmonary catarrh, which had kept him to his bed for the best part of the year. He continued to give his nearest friends some anxiety and was set back by his insistence against the doctors' wishes on going to the Commons on Tuesday day when he quitted moved his anti-Lords resolution. But now the doctors and Miss Balfour together have him better in hand, and decline to allow any public appearances till after the new year.

Unionists refuse to contemplate the possibility of a campaign next month, if Asquith held, at least five men, including the possible Unionist leader, Howard Grey, who has been in the front of the fight, but now that Chamberlain is disabled, Balfour stands alone as the possible Unionist leader. How, in today reports from Whittinghame, the belief that with extreme care Balfour may be able to get back as he has done previously, and be ready for the platform the second week of January, is not held first.

One who is in a position to know says the King greatly regrets the use being made of his name in the present conflict. He would have been glad to report incident at the Newcastle meeting yesterday, when Arthur Kennan, chairman of the Labor party, with a strange disregard for the ceremonial of the British constitution, said: "This is a grave business, and I am sure that the King will be disappointed in the result of the present campaign. I regret, said His Majesty, that your provision of the necessary supplies proved unavailing. Sir Edward Grey, who is the Duke of Northumberland also got into the conflict over the use of the King's name. The Duke accused the minister of wanting no respect to the Crown, and not having a proper sense of decency, saying something which none of his Grey's forefathers would have said. Grey's reply is as follows:

"The Crown is recognized in its perfectly well understood principle in the head of our constitution of which it is an integral part. When any reference to the Crown is made in the course of the Crown's business, it is a reference to the person or personality of the King himself. I made my reference to the Crown in the way which is generally done, but the Duke of Northumberland has thought it fitting to constitute himself champion of the King's personality. That is certainly most unusual and undesirable, much more wanting in respect and decency than anything I said. I suggest that the Duke should be asked to withdraw his reference to the person or personality of the King himself. I made my reference to the Crown in the way which is generally done, but the Duke of Northumberland has thought it fitting to constitute himself champion of the King's personality. That is certainly most unusual and undesirable, much more wanting in respect and decency than anything I said. I suggest that the Duke should be asked to withdraw his reference to the person or personality of the King himself."

# NEW PORTUGUESE CABINET FORMED

### All of the New Ministers Selected Are Progressionists

### LIBRION, Dec. 22.—The formation of a new cabinet was announced today. It is composed as follows:—

### Death of Lord Monkswell, Prominent Reformer

### Former Preacher in Trouble—\$3 phubling

### Plant Destroyed—H. Strian Misled by Forged Documents

LIBRION, Dec. 22.—The formation of a new cabinet was announced today. It is composed as follows:—

Beltrao; Minister of Justice—Monteiro; Minister of the Interior—Dias; Minister of Finance—Branco; Minister of Foreign Affairs—A. S. Villaca; Minister of War—Matias Nunes; Minister of Marine—Azevedo Coutinho; Minister of Public Works—A. S. Villaca.

All of the new ministers are progressionists. The Cortes will reassemble on January 2, but immediately adjourn for two months for the winter recess. All of the new ministers are progressionists. The Cortes will reassemble on January 2, but immediately adjourn for two months for the winter recess. All of the new ministers are progressionists. The Cortes will reassemble on January 2, but immediately adjourn for two months for the winter recess.

# SARDINIAN IN FROM LONDON AND HAVRE

### Brings Only Twelve Passengers

### LARGE GENERAL CARGO

### Lake Michigan Sails for London and Antwerp—20 Passengers

### LgBLANC CAPTURED AFTER LONG FREEDOM

### HARRISON FARM AT GONDOLA POINT SOLD

THE Sardinian, from Liverpool, docked at Sand Point last evening. The steamer brought a large general cargo. The trip out from London was made in good time and fairly good weather was encountered.

The Lake Michigan of the C. P. R. line sailed at 8 a. m. yesterday for Halifax, London and Antwerp. She took twenty passengers from this port and will pick up about a hundred in Halifax.

The Michigan has a large cargo, including 100 head of cattle. The steamer Bertha, of the Cuban Line, sailed yesterday for Havana with a cargo of lumber, potatoes, hay, and other New Brunswick produce.

The Donaldson liner Parthenia, with passengers and general cargo, from Glasgow, is due here this morning. The next sailing from this port will be the Allan liner Tunisian, which leaves for Liverpool on Friday. The steamer will carry thirty saloon, one hundred and fifty third-class passengers.

Bellevue's Farm's Almanac, for eighty-five years the favorite annual compendium of information in the Maritime Provinces, is issued for 1910 in a bigger, brighter and better form than ever. It is almanac and encyclopedia in one and is of interest and value not only to farmers but to every business or professional man in the Maritime Provinces. Nowhere can so much information be secured so cheaply.

### RESTORE OLD TARIFF ON NAILS

### WANT TO GO TO QUEBEC—PUGSAY COMING.

### OTTAWA, Dec. 21.—Mr. R. L. Borden will spend Christmas with his mother at Grand Pre, Nova Scotia. Sir Frederick Borden will spend the holidays at Boston, and Hon. Dr. Pugsley will go to St. John. Hon. A. B. Aylesworth will spend the holidays at St. John's, N. B. Mr. J. H. Borden will go to Beville.

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### MISS CHARLOTTE VASSIE DIED HERE YESTERDAY

### DEATH OF MISS VASSIE

### COAL BUCKET FALLS ON MAN AT BORDER

### ST. STEPHEN, N. B., Dec. 21.—A fatal accident occurred at the Washington County Railway coal dock in Calais this afternoon.

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### MISS CHARLOTTE VASSIE DIED HERE YESTERDAY

### DEATH OF MISS VASSIE

### COAL BUCKET FALLS ON MAN AT BORDER

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