

The Bee.

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WOODSTOCK JAIL ECHOES.

The Sentinel-Review says:—The morning of Birchall's prison life was relieved the other day by a visit from his counsel, Mr. Hellmuth, of London. It is understood that Birchall's friends in England have requested Mr. Hellmuth by cable to have a petition circulated for the revivification of the condemned man, but whether or not this course has been adopted, considering the statement of the judge when sentencing Birchall, is not definitely known. Birchall says he will complete the history of his life and his confession in two weeks. He wants to sell it for \$3,000, the money to be paid to his wife.

Birchall keeps a diary and counts each morning the remaining days he has to spend on earth. He is cheerful and to those who have access to him, and while there does not appear to be much reason for it he has not given up all hope. He thinks there is a chance for his life yet and will not be convinced to the contrary. Wednesday night of last week he discussed the Day trial and criticised the verdict of the jury, founded as it was on the evidence of a woman of unsavory reputation. When he read of the mistake in fixing the date of his execution, he appeared quite pleased to learn that Day had a longer lease of life. Birchall will write him offering his congratulations and trusting that upon the reserve points Day may be acquitted.

The Port Hope Times had a conversation last week with J. A. Stroud of the firm of Stroud Bros., tea merchants, of Toronto, who was a school mate with the now famous J. Rex Birchall at Oxford six years ago. Mr. Stroud states that Birchall's mind continually ran on the subject of horse racing, and after his leaving college he made a precarious living at book-making on the race tracks in England. Birchall was a poor student, and rarely put any time on his studies. He was a most prodigious preparator—a trait of character he well preserves—and was known to be a man who would tell the most flagrant untruths all to no purpose. Mr. Stroud does not credit Birchall with sufficient "sand" to perpetrate such a crime as murder, and thinks there is something yet to be heard regarding the murder which will be startling in its character.

THE SWAMP OF DEATH.

I.
By yon dark swamp, with cruel, murderous hands,
In coldest blood this poor young man was slain;
Rejoicing in good health he here did stand
Careless of all; with short and sudden pain
He fell a victim, to the murderer there loving
A man with heart of stone, who loving gold
Laid down his honor and his character—
Laid down his all, his life for money sold.

II.
By justice caught he now must meet his fate,
E'en now, for it in prison cell doth wait;
Naught now can save him from the hangman's rope,
With God he yet may make his peace, we hope;
Entreating his maker in His wondrous grace,
Looking from heaven, to find him there a place,
Leading him to Him through the realms of space.

—Magna Poeta.

One of the most skillful criminal lawyers in New York said Thursday in speaking of the Birchall murder case:—"The trial of this man has recalled to my mind the judgment of the strongest writers on criminal jurisprudence in the world. This judgment coincides with the theories which have been held by the great writers of criminal stories from Gaboriau to Charles Reade. It is that an absolute denial is the very strongest defence that a prisoner can make of a murder. All of the efforts to prove alibi, substantiate outside plans and build up elaborate systems of defence, amount to child's play. If the prisoner from the very moment he is arrested absolutely denies all knowledge of the murder and refuses point blank to talk to anybody except his counsel, it is the hardest thing in the world to convict him no matter how strong the circumstantial evidence may be. Nine-tenths of the men convicted on circumstantial evidence for murder have only themselves to blame for their punishment. If nobody has actually seen a man committing murder and that man swears constantly that he is innocent, the circumstances will never menace him."

Stenographer Young, who did the assize court reporting at Hamilton, says that in every murder case where there is a conviction the court reporter has to forward to the minister of justice a transcript of the evidence. This will have to be done by Nelson B. Butcher who took the evidence in the Birchall trial. It will total up about 3,500 folios or 1,000 pages of typewritten foolscap. Mr. Young says: "I never like reporting murder cases, the strain is so great. The reporter has to keep on the qui vive all the time lest he should make a slip that might prejudice the prisoner's chances. Often a man's life may hang on a word or two."

The sheriff's mail is flooded these days with applications for the position of hangman. They come from all sections of the country and from all sorts of degraded wretches. Already 15 or 20 applications have been received. One came from an Indian and the writing could hardly be deciphered. Deputy Sheriff Perry says that no inexperienced man will be engaged; that it is quite likely that the man who conducted the executions at Toronto and London recently and who is endeavoring to get the appointment of official hangman of the province will be employed, and he went to Toronto Saturday to complete arrangements.

Scott & Martindale, of Galt, have completed their contract in connection with the stone to mark the last resting place of Frederick C. Benwell at Princeton. The stone was placed in position this week. The inscription it will bear is as follows:

In loving memory of
FREDERICK CORNWALLIS BENWELL.
Born 15th September, 1865,
Murdered in the Township of
Blenheim Feb. 17th, 1890.
ELDEST SON OF LT.-COL. BENWELL, OF CHELTENHAM,
ENGLAND,
Formerly Capt. 100th Regiment.
"What I do thou knowest not
now, but thou shalt know
hereafter."

Ministers' sons came to the front in the great criminal trial at Woodstock. Mr. Osler is a son of the Rev. Canon Osler, formerly of Dundas. Mr. Blackstock is the son of a retired Methodist minister. Mr. Hellmuth is the son of the well-known Episcopal divine of that name. The old slander that ministers' sons never amount to anything is not true of Ontario. It never was true anywhere.—Canada Presbyterian, Sir Chas. Tupper; Sir Richard Cartwright, son of the late Rev. R. D. Cartwright; Hon. J. C. Abbott, leader of the Government in the Senate, son of the late Rev. Jos. Abbott; Judge Strong of the Supreme Court, son of the late Rev. Dr. Strong; Judge Gwynne, son of the late Rev. W. Gwynne, D. D.; Hon. Wm. Humé Blake was a son of Rev. Dominick Blake; R. N. Hall, M. P. for Sherbrooke, is a son of Rev. R. V. Hall; J. P. Patterson, M. P. for Essex, son of Rev. James Patterson; E. G. Prior, M. P. for Victoria, B. C., son of Rev. Henry Prior; Hon. W. H. Richey, late Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia, son of Rev. Matthew Richey, Deputy Minister of Justice Sedgwick, son of Rev. Dr. Sedgwick; Alfred Selwyn, director of geological survey, son of Rev. T. Selwyn; Robert Bell, assistant director geological survey, son of Rev. Andrew Bell; W. H. Smithson, accountant post office department, son of Rev. W. Smithson; Judge Rose, son of Rev. S. Rose.

Ethel.

Rev. Mr. Sherlock preached in Atwood last Sunday.
J. Stubbs is on the sick list this week with an attack of inflammation.
Rev. D. Rogers, of Atwood, occupied the Methodist pulpit last Sabbath.
David Milne was away at Blyth fall show the other day as judge on cattle. Mr. Milne is an expert in this business.
George Dobson is attending the Commercial College at Toronto, posting himself on book-keeping, shorthand and typewriting.

Lawrence Dobson is home from Manitoba after a five or six weeks' stay. He enjoyed his visit and saw a large number of old friends and acquaintances. Mr. Dobson is of the opinion that Manitoba and the Northwest is the place for young men willing to work.
Mrs. J. M. Davies has returned from an extended visit with friends at Woodstock and Brantford. She visited the Robertson family, former residents of Ethel, now residing at Burford, where Mr. R. is keeping store. Alex. is in a Chicago wholesale house.

Bornholm.

Miss Sophia Pfeifer, of Mitchell, spent Sunday at her home on the 12th con.

Send along your subscriptions for THE BEE—the best home paper in the county—and get a copy of the Pioneer Number. The balance of this year for 20c.

Paring bees are quite prevalent in this section, as the people are busy making apple butter. It is said that the apples are not yielding so much cider as in former years.

Rev. Mr. Nugent, of Mitchell, preached a very impressive sermon, bearing on the missionary cause, in this church on Sunday last. The rev. gentleman spoke with his usual enthusiasm and the result was that a large subscription was collected at the close.

Much regret is felt here at the sudden death of Mr. Watson, which took place last Friday morning at his home on the 14th con. Deceased retired as usual on Monday evening and about 11 o'clock was seized with a stroke of apoplexy, from which he never recovered. Previous to his death he had enjoyed good health and had been working at his trade as a stone mason. His remains were interred in the Elma Centre burying ground.

Country Talk.

Stratford.

A case of destitution that should receive the immediate attention of the Christian people of the city is that of an aged woman, Mrs. Davis, who lives on William street in Falstaff ward. She lives alone and is perfectly helpless in consequence of a broken thigh.

A meeting of the Stratford Natural Gas Company was held in the city council chamber Monday night, Oct. 13th, when it was decided to pull the casing from the present well, plug it and test for water. A number of the directors and shareholders are inclined to the belief that gas or oil may yet be found in this vicinity and at the meeting on the 14th inst., \$1,800 worth of stock was subscribed as a starter for a new well.

It may be interesting to some to know that "Mexican Charlie," or the gent who is said to have figured in other places as "Mexican Charlie," is just now doing Stratford the honor of making it his headquarters. The Windsor hotel is his stopping place at present, and he was one of the attractions at the fall show here the other day, where he did quite a brisk trade for awhile in watches at \$5 with a \$1 bill inside the lid. In some cases he made believe to put a \$5 bill in the lid, but some who bought trusting in Charlie's generosity and thinking they had a sure thing found that Charlie was too dexterous for them, and it was only a \$1 bill after all. Charlie didn't push business very far here, however, it being his scheme apparently to stand in with at least one town which he can make a sort of city of refuge. For this mark of Charlie's distinguished consideration Stratford should doubtless be truly grateful.

Elma.

The concession roads are getting very muddy which render travelling difficult, especially on the 12th con.

J. W. Ward has resigned his position as teacher of the Elma and Wallace boundary school. He will pursue his studies after New Year's unless something pretty tempting is offered him in the matter of a school. Joe has given every satisfaction to both trustees and pupils.

Wm. Danbrook will offer his farm stock, implements, etc., for sale on Friday, Nov. 7th, having made up his mind to spend the remainder of his life in quietness and ease in Atwood. Alex. Morrison will wield the hammer. Mr. Morrison's reputation as an auctioneer is pretty well established judging from the many sales he conducts in all parts of Elma.

DIED.—The funeral of the late Mrs. John Leonard took place on Monday of this week and was largely attended by friends and relatives of the deceased. The sorrowing husband has the sympathy of the community in his sad bereavement. They were married only about two years.

The trustees of S. S. No. 2 have re-engaged T. M. Wilson until the mid-summer holidays at the same salary he received this year. Mr. Wilson has proven himself a zealous worker, a good teacher and beloved by all his pupils. He has had unbounded success with entrance work ever since he took charge of the school, only one being plucked out of the host he sent up this year. T. M. declined taking the school for any longer period than six months, having decided to take up a course in Arts at Toronto University next year.

Brussels.

Ed. Creighton, of Guelph, spent Sunday with his parents.

Mrs. Ainlay, sr., has returned home from an extended visit to Listowel.

Rev. Wm. Norton, of Mt. Forest, is visiting his brother, Thos. Norton.

Mr. Woodman, of Londesboro, spent several days with his daughter, Mrs. D. C. Roberts.

Mrs. D. Armstrong was in town this week. She left for Buffalo Wednesday to join her husband.

Last Saturday little Edna Dennis had the misfortune to break one of her legs while playing at her home on Turnberry street.

Rev. S. Sellery, M. A., B. D., preached in Bluevale last Sabbath afternoon—the last Sunday for service in the old church.

Mrs. S. Pearson left last Saturday for Port Huron where she intends making her home for the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Fred. Pelton.

Geo. Love and family removed to Harriston last Wednesday. We are sorry to lose our friends, but our loss will be Harriston's gain.

H. Wilbee has a mammoth squash that measures 5 feet, 7 inches by 5 feet, 1 inch and weighs 40 pounds. It grew in Mr. Wilbee's garden and is a regular whopper.

Last Sabbath Bishop Baldwin, of London, preached morning and evening in St. John's church. At the close of the morning service 19 persons were confirmed.
A good time is expected at the platform meeting in the Methodist church next Tuesday, 25th inst. Speeches on the "Nationalities" from Revs. Livingstone, of Listowel; Scott, of Wingham, and McLaughlan, of Gorrie, and suitable music by Miss O'Connor, Messrs. Sinclair and Strachan and the church choir.

Grey.

Mrs. D. C. McNair, son and daughter, of Toronto, are visiting their relatives on the 14th con.

We regret to learn that Wm. Telfer, jr., of the 16th con, is very ill with pleurisy and pneumonia.

The trustees of S. S. No. 8 have engaged Jno. Stewart, jr., as teacher in their school for 1891, salary \$340.

The Molesworth Plowing Match Association will hold their annual plowing match on the farm of Wm. Mitchell, lot 54, 2nd concession of Grey, on Friday, 17th inst., commencing at 9 a.m.

Thos. Baylis, the well-known pig man attended the Walkerton, Fordwich and Blyth Fall Shows and carried off a lot of prizes. He also made a number of sales. Mr. Baylis says the hog business is looking up in a most satisfactory manner.

Harry Atwood is home from the Northwest after an absence of 10 months. He is not very much taken with the country, owing to the number of drawbacks in the way of frosts, droughts, gophers, etc. He thinks Ontario stands at the head yet and he purposes residing here.

A partridge flew into David Holmes' house, 16th con, recently and in its attempt to regain its freedom went through the window pane. The bird was somewhat stunned giving Mr. Holmes time to secure it for his dinner, thus balancing the damage done to the window.

A happy event took place on the 16th con. on Wednesday, Oct. 8, when Miss Mary, daughter of Geo. Shiels, consummated a marriage contract with Henry Hart, of Leadbury. If he makes as good a husband as he is a blacksmith they ought to be happy. He and his partner, Robt. Shiels, are doing a good business in Leadbury. The boys gave the young couple a good charivari to inaugurate the successful launching of their barque into the sea of matrimony. May their joys be many and all their troubles little ones.

OBITUARY.—Last Tuesday evening, about 5 o'clock, Wm. Perry, 12th con., was called home to his reward. The deceased was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, in 1815, and was married to Miss Jean Brown, of Dumfriesshire, 1855, and came to Canada in 1871. He settled on lot 10, con. 12, and continued to reside there until his death. Mr. Perry had been a comparatively healthy man with the exception of one attack of inflammation in mid-life. During the past summer he was not very well but was only confined to his room for about a week previous to his decease. Congestion of the lungs appeared to be the cause of his death. The subject of this notice was a quiet, unassuming man, consistent and faithful in all things and had been a worthy member of the Presbyterian church for many years. His end was perfect peace. The family consists of the widow, six sons and one daughter who mourn the demise of a true husband and indulgent father. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon of last week, the interment being made at Brussels cemetery.

Trowbridge.

Several weeks ago W. J. Tughan cut 32 acres of oats on the Bell farm, Trowbridge, in two days, with a single team on a Brantford binder.

The grim messenger of death has been visiting several homes in this locality of late. Two mournful processions might have been seen on Monday last slowly wending their way to the Silent City.

The Seaforth Expositor has the following to say of a former resident of this village and well-known throughout Elma township:—Our citizens generally were much surprised and deeply pained to learn on Saturday, Oct. 4, of the death of Mrs. David Sproat, of Egmondville. Mrs. Sproat had been in delicate health for some time and underwent two operations for the removal of cancer, but it was thought by her friends that she had recovered from these and further danger was not anticipated. And it is not likely that her death was due in any way to this disease. She was subject to very severe head aches and on Friday afternoon suffered in this way, but she came up town to do some shopping. She retired at night not feeling any worse than she frequently did and nothing serious was anticipated. About one o'clock in the morning Mr. Sproat was awakened by her heavy breathing, but as she seemed to be sleeping soundly he did not wake her. About six o'clock he saw something was wrong and he immediately summoned medical aid. All efforts to restore her, however, were unavailing and she passed peacefully away about twelve on Saturday, never having spoken or recovered consciousness. Paralysis, caused by the rupture of a blood vessel in the brain occasioned death. Mrs. Sproat's maiden name was Mary Milligan. She was a native of Dalbeattie, Kirkcubright, Scotland. She was 52 years and 6 months of age. She came to Canada when quite young, in 1851, and settled in the township of Nichol, Wellington county. Her parents never came to Canada. She was accompanied to this country by her sister, Mrs. Hugh Stewart, of the 16th con. of Grey, who still survives her and who was her only near relative on this side of the Atlantic. She was married to Mr. Sproat in Egmondville, by the Rev. Mr. Graham, in 1864; they never had

any family. It may be mentioned as a circumstance that three of her uncles and other relatives have died very suddenly and from a like cause to that which caused her death. Mrs. Sproat was of a cheerful, uncomplaining disposition and was universally beloved and respected by all who knew her. It seemed to afford her the greatest pleasure to do a kind or generous act, and her quiet and unostentatious manner of giving always made the gift to be doubly appreciated by the recipient. She will be much missed not only by her bereaved husband and relatives but by a very large circle of friends. The sincere sympathy of all will go out to Mr. Sproat in this the hour of his very sad and sudden bereavement. The funeral took place on Monday Oct. 6, and was very largely attended, many being present from distant parts and who had come to pay a last tribute of respect to one whom in life they had so much beloved. The remains were interred in the Egmondville cemetery.

Listowel.

A good many apples are being shipped from here just now, buyers having been through the neighborhood and have bought up large quantities of winter fruit. The apple crop is a fair one, but it is expected that they will be scarce before spring owing to the large quantities that are being shipped. From \$1.50 to \$2.00 per barrel, according to quality, are the figures which are being paid at present.

G. A. Walton returned the other day from a trip to Manitoba where he visited Melville Hayden at Killamey. They had good crops in that district and were busy at harvest. He says that both G. Love and Mr. Hayden are doing well. He brought back a bunch of wheat grown from one wheat grain. It contained no less than 57 straws and the heads were well filled. If that kind of thing is usual up there no wonder that it is a great wheat country.

The young stallion, Black Billy, who has been handled this season by Kidd Bros., was returned this week to his owner, D. Gordon, Thessalon. Before this season he had never shown much speed but under the good management of W. C. Kidd, together with the advantages of the Listowel track he improved rapidly. He went in eight races and won first place five times, one second and one third, these last two being at Mitchell, where the sharp corners bothered him. He was given a mark of 2.32, but under continued good management he will certainly lower it well within the magic circle. He is by Whirlwind, Jr., from a Canute mare.

OPENING OF THE NEW ORGAN.—The opening of the new pipe organ recently placed in Knox church by Geo. Vogt, of Elmira, organ builder, was celebrated on Monday evening Oct. 13, by an organ recital and musical and literary entertainment in which Toronto and London talent took the leading part. Considering the very meagre announcement made, there was a good audience, the large church being filled. The total cost of the new organ is something over \$2,000. The following description of the instrument has been handed us for publication: "Of the organ itself we can speak in none but the highest terms of praise. The specification is a happily selected one, reflecting great credit on the committee who selected and adopted it, and upon the builder, Geo. Vogt, of Elmira, who so thoroughly and satisfactorily carried out every detail in its construction. We are safe in saying that there is not in the province to-day an organ of equal size which, all things considered, surpasses it, and few if any, can justly claim to equal it. The material of its construction, the beautiful balance of tone of the combined instrument, and the individual beauty of the different solo stops, are of so high an order of excellence that they cannot fail to attract the attention and meet the hearty approval of any expert competent to judge of its merits. Especially noticeable features are the substantial appearance of the cabinet work, the large reserve power of the bellows, uncommon in organs, and the excellent material of which the pipes are composed. The touch is most satisfactory, permitting an organist to play any music written for an organ with the greatest ease. On the reed stops a delightful quality has been produced, the oboe being particularly excellent and characteristic of the instrument they represent, and of that peculiarly mellow effect which is striven after by all organ builders, but seldom attained. The flute diapasons and the pedal register character, and in these as well as the Gamba Dulciana, and the charming combination which cannot but be a source of permanent satisfaction, and it will be a source of pleasure to the organist who may preside. The full specification of the organ is as follows: Great Organ.—1. Trumpet, 8 feet; 2. Open Diapason, 8 feet; 3. Clarabella, 8 feet; 4. Stpd. Diap. Bass, 8 feet; 5. Dulciana, 8 feet; 6. Wald Flute, 4 feet; 7. Principal, 4 feet; 8. Twelfth, 2 1/2 feet; 9. Fifteenth, 2 feet; 10. Fifth, 1 1/2 feet; 11. Bourdon, 16 feet; 12. Oboe, 8 feet; 13. Stpd. Diap. Treble, 8 feet; 14. Stpd. Diap. Bass, 8 feet; 15. Viol de Gamba, 8 feet; 16. Principal, 4 feet; 17. Violina, 4 feet; 18. Piccolo, 2 feet. Pedal Organ, etc.—19. Sub-Bass, 16 feet; 20. Manual Contpler; 21. Ped. to Gt.; 22. Ped. to Sw.; 23. Tremulant; 24. Bellow Signal."—Standard.