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ELEVENTH YEAR. THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 13, 1890. ONE CENT.

BIRCHALL'S HANGMAN

The World Had a Long Talk With Him Last Evening.

HIS NAME IS THOMAS RATLEY, P.E.

And He Is Steward of the Sunnyside Yacht Club—Portrait of the Parkdale Ketch—An Affable and Good-Natured Englishman Who Is Not Ashamed of His Profession—The Strangling Cord to Be Sold—Madame Tussaud to Secure the Clothes of Birchall for Her Waxwork Exhibition.

The man who at the decree of justice takes a life for a life has no friends. An outcast of society, no heart beats for him, no hand welcomes him. He is popularly supposed to be a monster of such frightful mien that to be hated has but to be seen. He is, however, nothing of the kind. He is a middle-aged, fairly good-looking Englishman named Thomas Ratley, and he is steward of the Sunnyside Yacht Club of Toronto. Fair complexioned, of medium height, with large, piercing eyes, he is a man whose countenance bears the stamp of determination. Here's his picture furnished to The World by himself, and it is a good likeness of the man as he appeared to-day:

The World had a long talk with Ratley at the Sunnyside Yacht Club house last night. He is an applicant for the position of public executioner and has the promise of Premier Mowat that he will use his influence towards the appointment of such an official.

And the experience of the past few months would seem to indicate the necessity for such an officer. The hungry maw of the judicial Minotaur bids fair to be nourished with full rations during the year of grace 1890.

No Novice at the Work.

Friday morning will be the fourth time that Ratley has officiated as a hangman in Canada—on a trio of previous occasions have his services been called into requisition when the gory and ill-omened Juggernaut of justice has been dragged forth to crush out a guilty life beneath its cruel wheels. Kane, the murderer of his putative wife in Toronto; Davis, the assassin of the husband of his paramour near Belleville, and Smith, the London murderer, each were ushered into eternity by the hand of this Parkdale Ketch.

I asked Ratley if he intended wearing a mask.

"Certainly not," was the reply, "I am not ashamed of my office. Why should I be any more than the jury or judge who pronounced the sentence of death? I am but an instrument in the hands of the law. Why should I be condemned any more than the gallows itself? I wore a mask at the Kane execution, but I had reasons for that. I never will cover my face again."

Sizing Up the Condemned.

"Have you seen Birchall yet?" I asked.

"No. He'll see me soon enough. I will proceed straight to the jail when I arrive in Woodstock and will probably remain there until all is over. Of course I always see a man before the day of execution. I wish to gauge his weight as accurately as possible, his build and other points in advance, as everything must be taken into account when arranging the rope. Even the condition of the man's mind has a great deal to do with it. The murderer who dies bravely is a harder man to kill than the fellow who is half dead with fright in anticipation of the end. For that reason a greater jerk is required to break his neck, and the drop of the weight must be longer. I can tell from observing him walk up and down the corridor just what sort of a subject I have to deal with. I don't think I will have the least trouble with him, unless I may have to support him. From my experience of condemned men, and I have officiated at 18 executions in my time, I believe that Birchall is craven-hearted. There is an excellent reason why he did not commit suicide; it takes a brave man to kill himself, a different kind of nerve from that requisite to cowardly shoot a man in the back. Sheriff Perry described Birchall to me when he was down to make arrangements, and you can bet that everything will pass off without a hitch so far as I am concerned."

"What kind of rope will you use?"

"Would you like to see it?" was the astonishing reply.

Ratley left the room, returning in a couple of minutes with

The Grim, Black, Ugly, Strangling Cord.

"It is 36 ft. long and weighs about 7 lb. 6 ounces. I had it stretched especially for Birchall."

The rope was Manilla, about 1 inch in diameter, and was redolent of grease. A huge slip knot stood out prominently.

"That ought to be effective, don't you think?" said Ratley as he explained its mode of operation.

"I don't believe in the old system of dropping a man," continued the executioner. "It is neither so secure nor so effective. The last man who was hanged in Oxford jail, I am told, had his head torn from his body. That was a result of the old system. My noose is known as the 'criss-cross.' The scaffold has been erected from plans prepared by me. It consists of two upright beams, with a cross-bar from which the noose hangs down through a hole. The other end of the rope passes over the bar and partially down the side of one of the supports, where it holds the 'drop,' which is fastened by an independent rope. All I have to do is to cut this rope with a chisel and the man shoots upward with a tremendous force and the sudden stoppage of the descent of the drop breaks his neck. The weight to be used, of about 350 lbs. avoirdupois, is now at Woodstock."

Ratley then proceeded to describe the previous executions at which he had officiated and the bearing of the "subjects." He explained that he had had Birchall's rope stretched to a greater length than the others for two reasons: Primarily, because he purposed allowing the weight a drop of perhaps 10 feet, which would require more rope than in the case of either Kane or Smith; and, incidentally, because he had other uses for the rope.

"You intend to use it for other malefactors then?"

Madame Tussaud to Have Birchall's Clothes.

"Oh, no. Every inch of that rope is worth $1 to me. You have no idea of the number of relic hunters who desire to procure pieces of a rope with which a man has been ushered into eternity. At previous executions I gave the ropes away in sections, but this is too valuable for that. Why, Madame Tussaud has ordered a foot for her exhibition in London, England, and I have orders from numerous others. The clothing of Birchall, which is a perquisite of mine under my agreement with the Sheriff, will also go to Madame Tussaud. What do I receive? Well, I have a fixed tariff and I decline to act unless I receive my price. It is not necessary to mention the sum, but it is satisfactory."

"Do the directors of the Sunnyside Yacht Club know that their steward is an executioner?"

"Certainly they do. I have shown several of them the rope, and the majority do not object to my retaining the position as steward. Like sensible men they realize that, as long as the Sentence of Death is kept in the arsenal of justice as a terror to evil-doers, it is the law which is responsible, not the 'P. E.,' the instrument who carries it into effect. There are two of them against me and I have resigned my position, but I believe good sense will prevail and I will be retained.

His Employers Know Him.

"Where was I born? Oh! I will tell you that again, and my whole history for that matter, for I am not ashamed of it. My mother is coming out next fall. I wonder what she will think of it when she learns the facts. Women have a peculiar idea about affairs of this kind, you know. Have I a wife and family? Certainly, they live with me at the Club house, and have no objection to the way I earn my living, so long as it is honest. I have gone under half a dozen names, but Ratley is the correct one."

Ratley was very severe on an Associated Press correspondent at Kingston for certain statements he telegraphed broadcast concerning the Davis execution at Belleville. He prefers to be known as Thomas Ratley, "P.E.," the patronymic under which he is known in the neighborhood of High Park. There is no secret as to his calling among residents of the vicinity, and many of those who take a glass of beer with him occasionally at Johnny Scholes' are aware of his identity.

Ratley is the man who erected the scaffold for Morin, the Quebec murderer who secured a stay of proceedings a few days prior to the execution, but has again been sentenced to death. He has also the "contract" for expediting the departure of Remi Lamontagne at Sherbrooke, and expects to attend Arthur Day at Welland should he go to the gallows. Ratley will leave for Woodstock this morning.

BIRCHALL BREAKING DOWN.

Such is the Report That Comes From Woodstock.

WOODSTOCK, Nov. 12.—Workmen are engaged to-day in erecting the scaffold in the western jail yard. The condemned man's window overlooks this yard, but he cannot see the scaffold from it, although he can hear the noise made by the workmen in erection.

It is understood that the Attorney-General has granted permission to Birchall's friends to take the body, in which case it will be buried in the Church of England Cemetery here.

The hangman will arrive from Toronto to-morrow morning and give the gallows a preliminary test. Everything is being put in shape about the jail for the execution on Friday. The prisoners are clearing the yard and a general housecleaning is now going on preparatory to the fatal day.

Birchall, it is said, has completely broken down and no longer wears his careless, indifferent smile. Rev. Mr. Wade is with him much of the time now and is doing everything in his power to effect a change of heart, but so far without much encouragement.

Dr. Rice, the jail surgeon, visited the prisoner to-day and found him in excellent health. The doctor states that the mental strain is making no impression on the constitution of the prisoner.

Bluett Sues The Mail for $15,000.

A writ was yesterday issued against The Toronto Mail by Mr. J. A. Macdonald, acting on behalf of Detective Bluett, claiming $15,000 for libel. The trouble arises out of the publication by The Mail, in its Birchall autobiography on Oct. 30 and Nov. 1, of reflections on the character of Bluett as a private detective.

MORIN FURTHER RESPITED.

The Supreme Court Say He Must Not Hang Until After Dec. 19.

OTTAWA, Nov. 12.—Mr. F. Chequette, M.P. for Montmagny and counsel for Morin, the condemned murderer awaiting execution in the jail at St. Thomas de Montmagny, appeared before the Supreme Court to-day and asked that the trial be declared illegal because the Crown challenged twice the same jurymen without assigning any cause. The Chief Justice and Justices Strong and Gwynne agreed with Morin's counsel that the crown must give reason for their challenge, and decided that the Attorney-General must grant Morin a further respite until some date after Dec. 10 in order to allow a full judgment to be rendered.

Morin was sentenced to be hanged for killing a companion named Roy with a jug in a drunken row. Both were friends and had been trading together that day. As soon as he sobered up he attended Roy and sought medical aid, which, however, came too late.

Morin was to have been hanged May 16. On the evening of the fourteenth he had bid his wife and child adieu, the gallows was erected, the hangman was down from Toronto, the coffin was in the jail, and his black suit was at hand. He was respited to June 6, and the case being still pending he was again respited until Friday, Nov. 21. Petitions for a commutation were presented, signed by 98 members of Parliament and over 2000 citizens, including every cure and mayor below Quebec. Morin is a nephew of the late Hon. A. N. Morin.

AT THE HOME OF CRIMINALS.

THE CENTRAL PRISON VISITED BY THE COMMISSIONERS.

Further Evidence on the Causes of Crime—Fining Drunkards Condemned—Means of Reclaiming Juvenile Offenders—Appeals to the Æsthetic Emotions—The Mercer Visited.

The Prison Commission resumed its sitting yesterday morning at the Legislative buildings, Mr. J. W. Langmuir in the chair.

With regard to the accuracy of prison statistics Mr. W. Christie, the inspector of prisons, explained that it was not the fault of the department but of the jailers that there was not more uniformity.

Mr. Langmuir remarked that if any system of indeterminate sentences were to be adopted the police magistrate must know how often an offender was committed before, and therefore it was absolutely necessary that there should be more uniformity.

Mr. F. S. Spence, secretary of the Dominion Alliance for the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic for the past 6 or 7 years, said that he had paid a good deal of attention to the cause of crime and came to the conclusion that the chief one was strong drink. This cause operates extensively in the rural as well as the urban population. More than one-half of the commitments in the province are due to this cause. There were 11,587 arrests last year in Toronto, of which 5441 were directly for drunk and disorderly conduct, and 2209 more for offences induced by drink, making a total of 7650.

The orthodox penalty of a dollar and costs is not of the slightest value in the way of reclamation but only tends to increase the business of the police court. Commitment for a month has a better effect than a fine. The longer the period of imprisonment the better. Of the drunks in Toronto 871 were women, a large portion of whom were prostitutes. Commitment to prison is not the proper mode of treating drunkards.

Mr. Langmuir: "What mode of treatment would you recommend?"

Mr. Spence: "Well, I have not investigated the treatment in inebriate asylums sufficiently to answer, but the only cases of genuine reformation among drunkards that I know of were brought about by the careful management of friends, and by being kept away from temptation."

Continuing he said he thought very favorably of the plan of having an industrial reformatory, with commitments to it for periods increasing in length in proportion to the number of offences. He did not think there was any hereditary taint towards drunkenness, but parents who have broken down their nervous systems through drink will beget children also with weakened nervous systems, which may lead them to resort to drink, morphine or narcotics. If the liquor comes in their way, the children of drunkards are more likely to become drunkards than others. Nine-tenths of the prostitutes become so through drink and nineteen-twentieths of them are kept in that condition by the use of drink. In Toronto among women the number of habitual drunkards who are pure is very small and there are no impure women who are not drunkards. He produced figures to show that crime in counties under the Scott Act was reduced 50 per cent. during its operation.

Licenses and Drunkenness.

A system of licensing that would reduce the number of licenses would have a good effect in reducing the consumption of liquor, but increasing the price of the license does not reduce the amount of liquor sold.

Mr. Jury: "When the number of licenses in Toronto was reduced from 224 to 150 as a matter of fact, was there less liquor consumed?"

Mr. Spence said he had no figures on the subject but believed his statement was correct. His experience was that the most respectable saloons in Toronto sold the most liquor and that increasing the cost of the license would simply lead the proprietors to push their business so as to make up for the increased cost of doing business. The more disreputable the saloons are made the less will be the consumption of liquor, because they will be frequented only by the lowest, who will have to be made habitual drunkards before they will go there. He believed every tenth man in Toronto was an habitual drunkard, because there were 5000 drunks last year in the Police Court out of a population of about 50,000 male adults.

The Prison Inspector's Views.

Mr. Wm. Christie, inspector of prisons, said that, in 1889, out of 12,531 commitments in the province, there were 4777 for drunk and disorderly conduct. Imprisoning a man for drunkenness has no good result, but on the contrary, if he is a beginner, it simply debases him. The majority of these have no families. Those who have, after their first or second commitment, simply become a drag on their families.

Mr. Langmuir: "What scheme would you propose to effect a remedy?"

Mr. Christie: "I have thought of the subject a great deal, but never came to a satisfactory conclusion. The conditions of society are so varied that it is impossible to get a general law which would apply to each case."

Mr. Langmuir: "What do you think of an inebriate industrial reformatory, where the inmates would be kept at hard work on a system of indeterminate sentences?"

Mr. Christie: "It would be immensely better than the present system of jail custody. On the low ground of finances it would be a saving to the country. Jails ought to be kept for their proper purpose, the confinement of criminals. In this democratic country, however, it is doubtful whether the people would consent to an expenditure necessary to carry on such institutions as you propose. Under that system the cost of maintaining these people would be much less than at present, but the trouble is you can't convince the public of it."

Mr. Langmuir: "Would you recommend the Ontario Government to try the experiment?"

Mr. Christie said he would to a limited extent, but was somewhat guarded on this point.

A Gradation of Prisons.

In the evening the examination of Mr. Christie was resumed. He thought more could be effected by a gradation of institutions according to the age of the offenders than by a classification of offenders. Compulsory schools should be established for the youngest juveniles. Then should follow industrial schools, reformatories and schools with some degree of military discipline for offenders according to their age. The Boys Home and the Orphans Home to his knowledge have done an immense amount of good. All such institutions should have as much as possible of the parental character. He favored the cottage system in reformatories as being better than allowing all the inmates to associate. He said the industrial training at Penetanguishene was not what it should be and that the boys lost a great deal because there were not more facilities for teaching farming. Whether the boys came from towns or not, every effort should be made to induce them to take up agriculture. A good effect would be produced if there were better means of shortening the term of confinement at Penetanguishene upon the good conduct of the boys. The Dominion Government should establish an institution for first offenders between the ages of 20 and 30. Many of these young fellows are felons by accident and are merely contaminated and hardened by mingling with the old offenders in the penitentiary. With regard to the control of prisons, he was in favor of control by government, but this could not be done with the present buildings, because there was no uniformity among them and he doubted whether the public would sanction the expenditure necessary to obtain uniform buildings. Every county should be compelled to support its own poor.

Good Conduct Should Be Rewarded.

James Massie, Warden of the Central Prison for the past 10 years, said there were 389 cells and 340 prisoners at present. The highest number at one time was 444 and the lowest 250. He agreed with Mr. Christie that an intermediate prison between reformatory and penitentiary should be erected by the Dominion Government for first offenders between the age of 20 and 30. The intermediate sentence cannot be adopted with the present system of short terms in the Central. It would be a very good thing if the power rested with the Attorney-General of the province to remit part of the sentence of a prisoner for good conduct. There is a law now permitting remission, but it is too cumbersome, appeal having to be made to Ottawa, causing long delay. This province should follow the example of other states in making more endeavor to reclaim criminals. Even with the present facilities at the Central a large number are reclaimed and never return.

Mr. Massie's examination will be continued to-day.

CENTRAL PRISON INSPECTED.

Industrial Employment Provided—Æsthetic Tastes Cultivated—Mercer Visited.

The commissioners after lunch visited the Central Prison and the Mercer Reformatory. At the former institution Warden Massie received the visitors and conducted them through it. A number of improvements were noticed in the line advocated by prison reformers, to give the prisoners useful employment and to surround them with elevating influences.

The tailor and shoe shop will be enlarged as factors towards helping the prisoners to lead more honest and useful lives. The warden says it is not unusual for men to make a request to be taught these trades, and sometimes men from rural districts request to learn both, with the view of making clothes and shoes for their families after they are discharged. Some say that if they could only learn these sufficiently well to make and mend their children's clothing and shoes they would not regret their stay in the Central. To meet these demands these industries will be extended.

The machine and blacksmith shops are fitted with the machinery for making the iron beds for the insane asylums. These beds have a steel frame with a woven steel wire fabric and a light mattress, all made in the prison. The warden has been instructed to make 2000 of them to supplement the wooden ones in the asylums. This will give employment for some time to a number of prisoners, and besides a number are to be made of a different pattern for the new Upper Canada College and some of the county jails.

Little change has been made in the broom factory, but several improvements are in contemplation during the present year. The old machines now worn out are to be replaced by new and improved ones and the whole interior to be rearranged and painted.

In the reconstructed south shops is an engine nominally of 180 h.-p., and a beautiful piece of workmanship, from Goldie & McCulloch of Galt. It will supply power to all the machinery in the woolen mill and machine shop and also to the electric lighting apparatus which will soon be introduced into the prison, the Insane Asylum and the Mercer Reformatory.

Appeals to the Intellect.

The conservatory and greenhouses form an entirely new branch of prison employment, intended not only to beautify the grounds but also to educate the prisoners to an appreciation of the higher and more beautiful side of nature and human life. Gardener Huston presented Mr. Langmuir with a beautiful bouquet of roses and each of the visitors with a boutonniere.

The Warden has yet undecided what kind of entertainment or instruction to provide for the prisoners during the winter months. Two winters ago prayer meetings were held by city clergymen and others once a week. While these doubtless effected some good, the warden thought he could improve on them by a system of lectures on popular scientific subjects. Accordingly, last winter once a week he read instructive passages from the newspapers, The Scientific American, popular scientific works, etc. Prisoners were admitted to these provided they had no misconduct marks during the week. As a proof of how much they appreciated the entertainment it may be stated that the misconduct marks were one-third fewer than the year before. Something of the same sort will probably be adopted this winter.

Everything about the prison was found clean, sweet-smelling and showing the effect of the good order and discipline maintained.

The Mercer Reformatory was next visited, the visitors being shown through by Mrs. Code in the temporary absence of Mrs. O'Reilly, the superintendent. The building does not appear adapted to the reformatory influence for which it was intended.

FIREBUG AT THE FALLS.

An Incendiary Gives the Town a Close Call and is Arrested.

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., Nov. 12.—A bold attempt at incendiarism was made about 2 o'clock this morning. Flames were noticed coming from the rear of M. H. Buckley & Co.'s furniture store and also the Niagara Falls gymnasium rooms. A young man named Albert Connolly, who was passing, noticed the flames when returning home, ran to the fire tower and rang the alarm. The flames were quickly extinguished before doing much damage. A few hours later scraps of burned paper were found on the stairway leading to the first floor in Cole's block, a few doors east of the rink in the same block, proving conclusively that a second attempt was made and had burnt itself out. The Ontario police, after looking into the affair, found scraps of partly burnt paper, one in particular being a notice of a protested note with Connelly's name on it and with other evidence. The police arrested Connolly this morning. Connolly, who is suspected of being the incendiary, is employed as guide at the Whirlpool Rapids Park.

For St. Mary Magdalene.

A sale of work was held in McBean's Hall last night, corner of College-street and Brunswick-avenue, in aid of the building fund of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene. A special attraction was the art gallery. The main hall was beautifully decorated with flags and pictures. Tables laden with delicacies were presided over by charming young ladies. As the people moved about in promenade their step was quickened by the music of Curry's orchestra. In the afternoon the Misses Shanly won much praise by their presentation of "The Baby's Opera" and "Nursery Rhymes in Character." Altogether, the entertainment was highly successful, both socially and financially.

Large sums of money are invested in real estate. In the event of the death of a person holding such real estate, it would be difficult to realize upon the same immediately without incurring loss. The opposite is the case of the holder of a compound investment policy in the North American Life Assurance Company, which is payable immediately in case of death or will realize a handsome return if the holder lives to the end of the investment period. 246

The Sheffield House Importing Company (Registered).

85 Yonge-street (below King.) Just to hand new English goods, suitable for wedding present, at wholesale prices. C. E. Robinson, Manager.

A New Toronto Paper.

The Meat Trade Journal, a weekly publication in the interests of the Canadian cattle trade, will make its bow to the public on Saturday. Mr. George Brooks, well known in the newspaper world, is the editor and proprietor, and has as patrons all the big cattle men of the province.

New and novel. The latest "fad" for young men. We have just placed into stock 500 nobby tweed suits. The styles of the coats are the new double-breasted sack. Every young man in Toronto should see them. Prices from $10 to $15. The Model Clothing Store, 219 and 221 Yonge-street, corner Shuter-street.

Mistook the Medicine.

KINGSTON, Nov. 12.—Mrs. Hansen, wife of Louis Hansen, the well-known fish dealer, took a large dose of bug poison in place of other medicine. Dr. Henderson administered emetics. She is getting better.

Adams' Tutti Frutti Gum purifies the breath and aids digestion.

Personal Mention.

Mr. B. M. Britton, Q.C., Kingston, is at the Rossin.

J. R. Stratton, M.P.A., Peterboro, is at the Rossin.

MURDER DUE TO JEALOUSY.

Cowardly Shooting of a School Teacher Near Tavistock.

TAVISTOCK, Nov. 12.—A daring attempt was made last evening upon the life of Mr G. A. Damm, school teacher, who resides with Mr. S. Bender, 2½ miles from this village. About 7¼, while Mr. Damm and other members of the family were sitting in the diningroom, some unknown person outside fired a gun loaded with slugs through the window, part of the charge striking Mr. Damm on the side of the head, and the balance passed through the wall on the other side of the room. Dr. Steele has succeeded in removing most of the slugs and the patient is doing well. The person who fired the shot is still at large.

The motive for the crime is attributed to jealousy, Damm having won the affections of a young lady who, it appears, had other suitors. Damm is in a very low condition and it is not expected he will live through the night.

ROMANCE OF TWO WAIFS.

A Toronto Detective Proves to a Man and Wife That They are Brother and Sister.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 12.—A romance of unusually pathetic details was discovered to-day when two detectives from Toronto discovered in Mr. and Mrs. Asa Barr of Kansas City, Kan., the relationship of brother and sister and the heirs of fortunes left by Mrs. Barr's deceased mother. Twenty-five years ago two waifs, mere babes, brother and sister, were abandoned by German immigrants at Castle Garden. They were legally adopted, one by a man named Asa Barr, the other by a Mrs. Evans. Mrs. Evans moved soon afterward to Philadelphia, where she brought up her adopted daughter, giving her all the comforts of a home and a good education. Twenty years later the boy, grown to manhood and having taken his adopted father's name, moved also to Philadelphia, where he followed the trade of a painter. Chance drew the brother and sister together. Barr was captivated with the girl and wooed, won and married her. Soon after they moved to Kansas City, Kan., where Barr continued in his trade as a painter. Not long ago Mrs. Evans died. Quickly following her death occurred that of a relative in London, Canada, who died rich and intestate. His fortune would have passed to Mrs. Evans as the nearest relative, but her death having occurred her adopted daughter became the heiress. The attorneys then detectives to trace the heiress and in their investigation of the case discovered the true relationship of Mr. and Mrs. Barr to be brother and sister. They arrived here to-day and revealed to the unfortunate pair the facts. The terrible knowledge prostrated Mrs. Barr and her husband is grief-stricken. No issue has resulted from their marriage. Legal proceedings will at once be instituted to sever the marriage bond and Mrs. Barr will go to London, Canada, to claim her fortune.

SERVICES OF PRAISE.

At the Churches of the Redeemer and the Ascension Last Night.

The choir of the church assisted by Mrs. Clara E. Shilton and Mr. Charles Dimmock, gave its 23d song service last evening. The character of these services is well-known, and their continued popularity was attested by the large audience last night. The efforts of the visiting artists, as well as those of the regular church soloists, were much appreciated. Mr. Schuch and Mr. Dinelli are rendering the cause of art valuable service by these programs.

The Church of the Ascension.

The regular monthly service of praise, which was the 29th, was held in the Church of the Ascension last night. The sacred edifice was comfortably filled. Artists well known to the public contributed a program quite up to the high standard of these popular services. Mr. E. Doward presided at the organ. His pupil Mr. J. H. Rennick assisted. The solo vocalists were Miss MacGillivray, Miss Edith Matthews, Miss Fuller, Mr. Sims Richards and Mr. H. Barker. A substantial offertory was given in aid of the organ fund.

Poor Suffering Cuba.

HAVANA, Nov. 5.—The strike of the coachmen and hostlers of Havana, which for the past two weeks has kept the police and the authorities on the qui vive, has at last ended without serious consequences. It is true that several people have been killed and injured, but this is of little note in a city where several murders are recorded daily. Most of the strikers were negroes and in their skirmish with the police used razors with bloody effect.

The operations of the bandit bands are as frequent and bold as ever. The vaunted preparations of the police have ended in smoke. It is true that Diaz and Ramos were caught and shot, but that is all that has been done. All the reports received seem to confirm what was telegraphed abroad, that the police are either indifferent to the robberies or are hand and glove with the robbers.

Commotion in an Opera House.

BELLEVILLE, Nov. 12.—Whilst the lecture given by Joe Hess was in progress last evening someone in the audience raised the alarm of fire. For a few minutes the scene was an animated one. The audience rose in one mass and rushed towards the main entrance. Those who occupied seats upon the stage and Mr. Hess shouted to the people to remain quiet, as there was no occasion to be alarmed, the cry having been a false one. It was, however, some minutes before order could be restored.

Grant & Co.,

77 King-street east, for fine furs and stylish perfect fitting sealskins at old prices, having purchased their season's supply in skins previous to the advance. The latest in ladies' capes and storm collars; dress and mantle trimmings cut to order at moderate prices. See our ladies' storm collars, the latest out, and only to be had at 77 King-street east.

The Dead.

Mr. F. A. Rolph, the well-known Toronto grain buyer, and brother of Mr. J. T. Rolph, of Rolph, Smith & Co., died on Tuesday in San Francisco, Cal.

Mrs. John Holderness, wife of the proprietor of the Albion Hotel, died yesterday morning after a comparatively short illness. The deceased was only 51 years of age and leaves three children to mourn her loss, Mrs. Alexander Paterson, jr., Mrs. F. W. Monson and William Holderness, now in the Northwest. The funeral will take place to-morrow from the family residence, 164 Isabella-street.

Mr. Josiah Blackburn, one of the oldest journalists on the Canadian press, died rather suddenly at Hot Springs, Ark., yesterday afternoon. The deceased was born in London, Eng., in 1823, and since 1850 has been connected with the newspapers in the western peninsula. At different times he was connected with The Paris Star, The Toronto Mail, The London Free Press and The Ingersoll Chronicle. The latter two were established by him.

Cooking ranges, 25 per cent. cheaper than any place in city. Wheeler & Bain King east.

A Great Demand for Furs.

Owing to the great advance that has recently taken place on the finer grades of skins, such as seal, Persian, otter, beaver, sable and bear, the furriers are quite busy. Dineen, on corner King and Yonge-streets, reports trade brisker than usual—their full staff of hands is working over-time to keep up with the orders, and from present appearances there won't be many choice furs left at the close of the year. Those who do not take advantage of the present prices to buy furs will have to pay double next year.

Died in the Jail.

OWEN SOUND, Nov. 12.—Hugh Mallory, from Durham, serving a two-months' sentence for malicious destruction of property, died in the jail here Monday of uræmia convulsions.

Jurgenson Watch es.

If you carry a "Jurgenson" don't risk a large depreciation in value by allowing it to RUN TILL IT STOPS. Ed. Beston, High Grade Watch Specialist, 35 Leader-lane.

SCOTS GUARDS HOMELESS.

THE WELLINGTON BARRACKS IN LONDON BURNED.

Several of the Children of Soldiers Belonging to the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Connaught's Regiment Perish—Koch's Wonderful Consumption Cure — Gen. Booth's Great Scheme Progressing.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—The Wellington barracks of the Guards were destroyed by fire to-day. The fire originated on a staircase in the quarters of the married soldiers. The inmates were rescued by means of ladders. There were in the barracks a number of children suffering from measles, who were wrapped in blankets, carried out and put to bed in another building. Two children, however, are missing and it is feared they perished. On the breaking out of the fire the troops responded promptly to the bugle call for fire parade and worked the hand apparatus with a will, the officers cheering them on.

The Children Rescued.

The fire was attended by many exciting incidents. Several heroic rescues were made and some painful scenes were witnessed. The women and children in the burning building implored wildly for help. When it was found that two children were missing a soldier bravely re-entered the burning pile to search for them. Hearing screams issuing from the rafters on the top floor he disjointed an iron bedstead and with a piece of the iron broke away the ceiling until he found the children, when he rescued them unhurt. In trying to escape by a trap door and roof they had lost themselves between the rafters and the tiles. Many persons were more or less injured by jumping from windows and six persons received serious injuries and were sent to the hospital.

The Wellington barracks are the barracks of the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards, of which H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught is colonel.

Koch's Remarkable Cures.

BERLIN, Nov. 12.—The following particulars are published of a case of lupus of the face in Frankfort where Dr. Libbertz has been treated by Dr. Koch's method. Six hours after the injection of the lymph the temperature of the patient rose to over 104 and the pulse to 120. At midnight the fever abated, the sores swelled the head of the lupus, which became light yellow and from them exudes a serous liquid. After 12 hours scabs began to form. To-day the patient was free from fever, and the ulcers were covered with scabs similar to those on a person recovering from an eruptive fever or from eczema. The doctor intends to inject more lymph when the scabs fall.

A medical correspondent of The Tageblatt reports that in a case of lung disease the patient complained of pains in the knee which were regarded as proof of the tuberculous nature of the disease and that an injection of lymph was made in the back, which was followed by considerable swelling of the knee joints.

Minister Von Gassler has given 200,000 marks for the erection of a special hospital for the treatment of consumptives by the Koch method. A patient who has been treated by Prof. Koch will be shown to the Surgical Society Monday.

The Prussian Diet Opened.

BERLIN, Nov. 12.—The Emperor opened the Diet of Prussia to-day. In the speech from the throne his Majesty said that in view of the friendly relations of Prussia with all foreign states, which relations have been further strengthened this year, the country could look forward with confidence to the further preservation of peace. The speech announced that bills would be introduced for a reform in taxation, for the organization of provincial councils and for the establishment of elementary schools. It also affirmed that the finances of the kingdom are in a satisfactory condition.

Another Jewel Robbery.

BERLIN, Nov. 12.—Robberies on the Belgian railways appear to be on the increase. In addition to that of the Baroness Rothschild last week the thieves have just obtained possession of a case of jewelry belonging to the Countess Wilhelm von Bismarck, while she was passing through Belgium on her way to England. When the Baroness Alphonse de Rothschild's jewels were stolen, somewhere between Aix-la-Chapelle and Liege, lines, about three weeks ago, the Belgian authorities evidently regarded it in the light of a national disaster. They stopped the train for some time while the frightened passengers were subjected to a personal search by the police.

Lady Connemara Divorce.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—It is officially announced that the resignation of Lord Connemara as Governor of Madras has been accepted. Lord Connemara was only appointed in December, 1888, and it is understood that his resignation has been occasioned by the suit for divorce that has been brought by Lady Connemara, his Lordship not caring to stand the exposure that, it is averred, will inevitably follow the approaching trial, the case standing on the calendar next to that of Capt. O'Shea. Lord Connemara was known as the Hon. Robert Bourke before he received his title in 1887. He is the third son of the Earl of Mayo. Lady Connemara is the eldest daughter of the First Marquis of Dalhousie and was married in 1883. The scandal occurred in December, 1888.

Wissmann's Projects.

MARSEILLES, Nov. 12.—Baron Wissmann, the German commander to East Africa, starts from here for Zanzibar to-night. He declares that he does not intend to renew hostilities with natives, but to organize the country and establish a civilized form of government. He proposes to create a provincial police force to maintain order. Among the chief features of his administration will be the improvement of harbors and construction of substantial roads throughout the German possessions.

The Olphert Estate Evictions.

DUBLIN, Nov. 12.—The work of evicting tenants was resumed to-day on the Olphert estate. The weather was inclement. The Bishop of Raphoe, acting on behalf of the tenants, had a half-hour's consultation with the agent of the estate, but failed to effect an arrangement. To-night the bisnop will have another conference with the agent, which it is expected will lead to a settlement.

Conflict Between Military and Police.

GALWAY, Nov. 12.—Several fights took place here to-day between the police and military. A police sergeant was severely injured. The military finally routed the police and chased them to their barracks. The Connaught Rangers, who took a prominent part in the disturbance, have been ordered away from Galway.

Gen. Booth's Scheme.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—Mr. Gladstone, the Bishop of Manchester and the Bishop of Durham have sent letters of sympathy to Gen. Booth. Several persons have written letters in response to Mgr. Bancroft's offer to donate £1000 to promote the philanthropic scheme, provided 99 others donate £1000 each for the same purpose.

Confiscated Pictures to be Destroyed.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—The court has ordered that 21 of the pictures illustrating the works of Rabelais, which were recently seized by the police at an art gallery in Pall Mall on the ground that they were improper, be destroyed. The proprietors of the gallery were committed for trial.

The Jewish Persecutions.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—The memorial asking the Lord Mayor to call a meeting to discuss the persecution of Jews is signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Manning, four Dukes, many members of the House of Lords and House of Commons and a large number of college professors.

The Venue Changed to Clonmel.

TIPPERARY, Nov. 12.—The magistrates' court here to-day changed the venue of the conspiracy case from Tipperary to Clonmel. Counsel for the defendants made vigorous protests against this, but were overruled.

They Posted the Police.

PARIS, Nov. 12.—The police prevented the duel between M. Laguerre and M. Deroulede. The principals, however, are determined to have a meeting and it is probable the fight will take place in Luxemburg to-morrow.

Flour Mills Closed.

OPORTO, Nov. 12.—The flour mills here are being closed in consequence of the decree prohibiting the importation of foreign wheat.

The Queen Appointed Regent.

THE HAGUE, Nov. 12.—Queen Emma has been appointed regent to govern the kingdom during the illness of King William.

Cable Flashes.

The Times hears that £1,500,000 in gold is coming from Russia and £3,000,000 from France.

The Lord Mayor has called a meeting for Nov. 24 at the Mansion House to discuss the persecution of the Jews in Russia.

Mr. Gladstone, in a circular, urges his supporters to attend the opening of the coming session of Parliament.

Lord Hartington has sent a circular to the dissident Liberal members of the House of Commons requesting them to be present at the opening of the session, as business of importance will immediately be taken up. Mr. Henry Smith, Government leader in the House of Commons, has issued a similar circular.

The St. James' Gazette says the negotiations between Great Britain and France for settlement of Newfoundland fishery question are progressing. The basis of negotiations is that France shall surrender to Great Britain the French shore of Newfoundland and shall be compensated therefor by one of the British West African colonies, possibly Gambia. In addition Newfoundland will renounce the Bait Act.

THE VERDICT SET ASIDE.

Final Judgment in the Taylor v. Johnston Seduction Case—Does Not Affect the Question of Guilt.

Mr. Justice Street yesterday handed out judgment in the Taylor v. Johnston seduction suit, on the point which was argued before him last week.

His Lordship holds that the settlement of $800 made on behalf of Johnston with the girl's father is a bar to further proceedings by the plaintiff. The verdict of the jury at the trial awarding the plaintiff $1200 damages is set aside, but the judgment is not to affect Johnston's guilt as found at the trial.

PRESIDENT BOGRAN ESCAPES.

He Fights Through the Lines of the Revolutionists and is Being Pursued.

LA LIBERTAD, Nov. 12.—Gen. Bogran, President of Honduras, and his forces, who were surrounded in one of the wards of Tegucigalpa, withdrew from the capital on Monday night, fighting through the lines. They are being pursued by soldiers sent after them by Gen. Sanchez, who is now in complete possession of the capital and appears to be master of the situation. It is understood that Sanchez will at once declare a de facto government and send representatives to Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and possibly to Mexico and the United States. A cipher dispatch over the federal lines from Guatemala brings information that Barillas has sent 1000 soldiers from the frontier to aid Bogran in recapturing Tegucigalpa and restoring order in Honduras. The greatest excitement prevails in the Guatemalan capital and another large war is predicted. Conservative people censure the act of sending troops to Honduras and predict a general war in Central America.

SAN SALVADOR,