SENSATION IN ST. THOMAS FOR COUNTY

Singular Circumstances Attend Joseph Birdsall's Death.

His Skull Was Fractured About Nine Days Ago-Ugly Rumors Afloat-An Inquest To Be Held.

[St. Thomas Journal, Dec. 19.] Mr. Joseph Birdsall died yesterday in the Amasa Wood Hospital under circumstances which, to say the least, are very suspicious and, if the reports which are in circulation prove true, deceased's own brother will find the charge of murder hanging over his

bead. The deceased, who is a son of Mrs. Birdsall, No. 225 Center street, was formerly employed as a brakeman on the M. C. R. and latterly on the F. P. and M. R. at Saginaw, Mich. He came to this city with his wife and three children a little over two weeks ago to valt his mother and about nine days ago Dr. Smith was summoned to his mother's house to attend him, and afterwards Dr. Lepsey has had charge of the case. On Friday last he was removed to the hospital, where he died

as stated yesterday.

The cause of death was a fracture of the skull, and the reports being circulated are that he and his brother got into an altercation, and then a quarrel, and the brother threw at him and struck him in the head with a heavy plate, causing his death. The mother of deceased states that he came into the house intoxicated and fell on a plate sticking through the floor, and was thus injured. Whatever story is true, there is no doubt of the cause of

AN INQUEST.

Dr. Gustin, coroner, and County Attorney Donahue were notified of the circumstances this morning and the coroner issued instructions that the funeral should not be proceeded with, and an inquest will be held.

DR. SMITH'S STATEMENT. Dr. Smith said he was called to see the deceased, he thought, a week ago Friday, about 7 or 7:30 p.m. He found Birdsall very drunk with blood all over his face. There was a scalp wound on the right side of the head above the ear about three inches in extent.

The deceased was wildly intoxicated, and was swearing and using frightful language, and the doctor found it very difficult to dress the wound. Finally he did succeed in doing so, and put in several stitches.

The deceased was thoroughly beside himself at the time," said the doctor, but I thought if he would get a sleep he would be better next day. His wife came to my office next day and said deceased suffered a great deal of pain and did not sleep. I went and saw him and gave him some powders to quiet him. I have never seen him since. I had, before leaving on the occasion of the second visit, asked the family to let me know how he was getting on, but received no word. Last Friday I started over to see him, it being about time to take the stitches out, but learning that Dr. Lipsey had since been in John MoInnes were nominated. attendance and that the deceased had been removed to the hospital, I did

The mother of deceased and the othwhisky. The deceased was drunk and wanted more whisky and they refused to get it for him, and he threatened to kill his mother and wife. They were all at the supper table, and his brother threw a plate at deceased and struck him on the head. The deceased then started after his brother Charles and threatened to kill him, but Charles

got out of his way.
"No doubt," said the doctor, "if he had caught his brother, he would have killed him as he was in a perfect

DR. LIPSEY'S STATEMENT.

Dr. Lipsey, in answer to the question of a representative of the Journal, said that Mr. Birdsall died of inflammation of the brain, the result of an injury received nine days ago. was fractured at the right side for an extent of about three inches. The brain was bruised and torn, and there was intense inflammation of the whole of the brain. The deceased had been taken to the hospital on Friday, and had been unconscious ever since

Mrs. Birdsall, mother of deceased, however, told Dr. Lipsey that her dead son was injured by falling while intoxicated and striking his head on a plate which stuck through a hole in

MRS. BIRDSALL'S STATEMENT. Mrs. Birdsall, the mother of the de-

ceased was seen by a reporter of the Journal. Asked how her son came to his injures, she said:
"He fell on the floor and struck his head on a piece of dish."

"How did he come to fall? Was he standing on anything?" queried the re-

Well, he had been drinking that evening and he slipped as he came in the door," replied Mrs. Birdsall. "I suppose you have heard the rumor that there was a scuffle before your

son fell? Was there a quarrel? "Oh, he was quite quarrelsome when he came in, but no one was near him,'

Mrs. Birdsall did not say how the piece of dish came to be on the floor,

and she evaded the question regarding the quarrel. "Was he rendered unconscious as soon as he fell?" she was asked.
"No," she replied, "he did not lose

consciousness for two days." A POST-MORTEM.

Dr. Lipsey and Dr. Tufford held a post-mortem on the remains of de-ceased, and found that death was caused as stated, from fracture of the

skull. THE INQUEST. The inquest will open at 7 p.m., be-

fore Dr. Gustin, coroner, at the Wil-

A MARRIED MAN The dead man was in his 27th year and leaves a wife and three children. His mother resides at 225 Center street.

and he has one sister, Mrs. W. W. Webb, of Memphis, Tenn., and two

brothers, Edward, of Chicago, and Hundreds have been cured without knife or plaster by our pleasant CANCER HOME

TREATMENT. Full particulars, 6c (stamps). A. L. Stott & Jury, Bowmanville, Ont. (Mention Advertiser.)

Charles, of this city. He was formerly a brakeman on the M. C. R. and lately on the F., P. and M. R., and was in the city on a visit.

COUNCILORS

Result of Nominations Made in Western Ontario Sections.

MIDDLESEX.

Glencoe, Dec. 19.-At the nominations for county councilors for district No. 7, Middlesex, Mr. William Webster and Mr. G. B. Campbell, the former representatives, were elected by acclama-

Strathroy, Dec. 19.-A very large meeting of the electors of Strathroy, Adelaide and Metcalfe convened in the town hall here today for the purpose of nominating candidates for the county council. Twelve nominations were Morgan, James Bennett, George Robotsall and Henry Owens. The contest so far remains between these gentlementwo to be elected.

Parkhill, Dec. 19.—The county councilors nominated at Parkhill today for No. 2 district, Middlesex, were: Simon McLeod, Parkhill; S. F. Stewart, Ailsa Craig: Trafford Campbell, East Wil-

HURON.

Exeter, Dec. 12.-Nominations for the county council took place here today. The following were nominated: J. A. Rollins, M.D., Exeter; Donald McInnes, Usborne; John Telbridge, Usborne, and Wm. Bawden, Exeter.

Clinton, Dec. 19.—County councilors nominated for this division are James Connolly, James Snell, S. S. Cooper, John Britton.

Dungannon, Dec. 19.-Nominations of county councilors took place today for No. 1 district, county of Huron. Philip Holt, barrister, Goderich; Hugh Gis-ying, farmer, Ashfield; T. C. Durnin, gentleman, Dungannon; A. Young, farmer, Colborne, and Mr. Jothrip, Alford, were nominated.

Brussels, Dec. 19 .- Nominations for county council for district townships of Grey, Morris and Brussels: W. H. Kerr, Brussels; J. Bowman, township of Morris; E. Bryans, township of Grey; Andrew Sloan, township of Morris.

LAMBTON.

Sarnia, Dec. 19 .- Nominations for the position of county councilors for divi-sion No. 1 (Sarnia and Point Edward), for the county of Lambton, were received at the town hall. George A. Proctor. Wm. McCleister, R. S. Oliver were nominated.

ESSEX.

Amherstburg, Dec. 19.-N. A. Coste and J. S. Patten were elected by acclamation as representatives in the Essex county council today for district No. 1.

St. Jacobs, Dec. 19.—A. H. Erb, of Elmira, and Alexander Peterson, of Woolwich township, were elected by acclamation as county councilors to represent the seventh division, county of Waterloo.

BRUCE. Port Elgin, Dec. 19.-At the nomina-

tion held here today for North Bruce county councilors, J. Pierson, H. Cummings, G. Leeds, Neil McDougall and ELGIN.

Aylmer, Dec. 19.-Nominations for county councilors were held this after- the pen of our junior colleague. From ers told me," said the doctor, "that the noon. The following were nominated: the pen of our junior colleague. From noon. The following were nominated: the condition in which some of them nijury was the result of a quarrel over Richard Locker, Oscar McInnes and came to us we were led to imagine Mahlon Edward Lyons.

MRS. VIAU'S COMPANION

Sam Parslow on Trial Charged With Murder of I. Porier.

St. Scholastique, Dec. 20.-There was a fair attendance at the trial of Sam Parslow, charged with the murder of I. Poirier, husband of Cordelia Viau, when the court met yesterday afternoon. As the jury had been selected in the morning, matters proceeded rapidly. Mr. Ethier, counsel for the defense, asked that he be accorded the privilege of medical experts to inquire into and pronounce upon the mental condition of his client, Parslow. The crown argued that Mr. Ethier should bear the the accident and had made no statement to him as to how the accident occost. Judge Taschereau said that in his opinion the thing could not be done. remarked that he had consulted with Chief Justice Lacoste on the subject, and that he (Taschereau) would probably be able to give a decision to-

Mr. F. X. Mathieu presented the case of the crown to the jury in a short, concise speech of half an hour's duration. The prisoner, Sam Parslow, listened intently throughout.

When Mr. Mathieu sat down the first witness was called. This was Dr. Mignault, the coroner for the district. He testified to having

been summoned on the evening of Nov. 22, 1897, to go to St. Canute, as Isidore Poirier, of that place, had on the 21st either died suddenly or had been killed. He had gone and held an inquest. He described the condition of the room as he found it. The medical report of the inquest was read to the jury, and all the blood-stained, grewsome relics of the tragedy were shown and explained to them by Coroner Mignault and High Constable Braseau. The jury inspected

all of them carefully. Dr. Simeon Lemarche and Dr. Henry were the next witnesses. They were the doctors who made the autopsy, and gave their evidence as to the character

of the wounds.

The court then adjourned until Tuesday morning.

COST FOUR LIVES

Fatal Prank of an Engineer Who Had Been Drinking.

New York, Dec. 20 .- A dispatch to the Herald from Havana says: A terrible explosion shook the little steamer Fanita on Sunday, when some steam pipes in the boiler-room blew out, killing one man and fatally scalding three others. The Fanita was at anchor in the harbor, ready to out in the morning. Three men were at work upon the machinery, when Chief Engineer A. E. Geer, of Tampa, went into the boilerroom. Geer had been drinking. By mistake or accident he opened a stopcock, turning the full pressure of steam into pipes that had been found defec-Instantly there came a terrific tive. explosion that wrecked the room, instantly killing Geer. John Wilsey, assistant engineer; William Green, a fireman, and Peter Walsh, a machinist, were so scalded that they are all dving Ciccocciccocciccocciccocciccocciccoccic

Gave the Novelist His Start

In Literary Life-Met Him in France-Not a Promising Beginning.

[From the Brantford Expositor.] In connection with the death of William Black, the novelist, Principal Dymond contributes the following reminiscence of the deceased author's first introduction to permanent employment in a literary or journalistic capacity: In the year 1864, I was spending a few and no expense was spared to sustain made, all resigning but Messrs. John | the popularity of the existing regime. Among the sights most worthy to be seen was the grand display of the fountains at Versailles, a single exhibition of which, on alternate Sunday afternoons, was said to cost 40,000 francs. On returning to Paris I found seated opposite to me in the coupe of the railway carriage, a rather boyish-looking young man in a "Glengarry" cap, and further testifying to his British nationality by the possession of a Bradshaw railway guide. Being quite a stranger to Paris, and almost a stranger to the French language, the society of a fellow-countryman was not unwelcome, and I soon found that my young companion was not much, if at all, better furnished in those regards than myself. So we naturally came together and spent some pleasant hours seeing people, places and things in one another's

Thus it happened that the future successful novelist-for the young man was William Black-confided to me his desire for a literary career, and I, with the contents of editorial waste-paper baskets and the disappointed faces of the contributors thereto constantly in mind, did my best to discourage a dependence on so uncertain a venture. Rather, I advised, should he hold on to the situation—a mercantile one—he then filled, and trust to hours of leisure for literary possibilities. After my return to London, however, Mr. Black called upon me at the office of The Morning and Evening Star, and begged me to introduce him to Mr. Samuel Lucas, the managing proprietor, to whom I was acting as assistant manager. This led to Mr. Black's engagement as assistant sub-editor of the morning paper, his immediate head being Mr. Charles A. Cooper, since, for many years, editor-in-chief of the Edinburgh Scotsman, among the foremost of Scotch journalists.

At the selection of clippings from exchanges and such like operations of the scissors and paste-pot, I am bound to say that the "sub's" "sub" was not a success. He was born, doubtless, greater things, but I am afraid we did not very highly estimate some, even of his more original efforts. We were in the habit of publishing in the evening edition, light narrative or descriptive sketches on topics real or imaginary, and entitled, "Readings by Starlight." Mr. Samuel Lucas had died in 1865, and Mr. Justin McCarthy and I had succeeded to the management, he taking the editorial and I the business department. And I well remember the light esteem in which we held certain contributions to the "Readings" from came to us we were led to imagine admission to other publications. On the outbreak of the war between Prussia Black acted as our war correspondent, or rather very honestly and perseveringly tried to act in that capacity. He sought official recognition from the authorities at Berlin in vain, and had to be content with following the Prussian forces at as short a distance as circumstances would permit. His prudence in this regard, however, did not insure absolute safety, for one of his best letters detailed with much humor, of a grim sort, a brief sojourn in prison under the charge of being a spy, w. significant hints that the spy's fate awaited him if his innocence was not speedily established. He was a singularly quiet, unassuming young man, but with a good deal of the business shrewdness of his nation, as his publishers probably discovered when, rather to the surprise of his old friends and associates, he blossomed into one of the most popular and prolific novelists of

POWER OF THE NEW RIFLES

Bullet Fassed Through One Man's Foot. Broke the Arm of Another in Room Below and Passed Through Two Two-Inch Oak Floors.

Detroit, Dec. 20.-The power of the Krag-Jorgensen rifle was shown in an accident which took place in the barracks at Fort Wavne the other day. Privates Thomas J. Collins, Company and Frank L. Sands, Company H, are both in the regimental hospital, suffering from wounds, and they can thank their lucky stars that they were not mortally wounded. Private Collins has been on detach-

ed duty as carpenter for some time, and has not been using his rifle except for inspection once a week. Another member of the same company had borrowed the gun for use on guard duty, and had left a cartridge in the chamber. This morning Collins started to clean up his gun. He was standing near his bed in the barrack-room, which is on the second floor of the building. He leaned over to pick up a gun brush. The trigger presumably struck the edge of the iron bedstead. The gun which Collins imagined was empty was discharged.

bullet cut through Collins' foot, passed through the two-inch oak flooring, through the ceiling and plaster struck Private Sands, who was standing directly below in Company H's barracks, cleaning his gun. The bullet entered Sand's neck, passed close to the bone, went into his arm and passed through, breaking the bone. Even then the velocity of the bullet was not stopped. After leaving Sand's body it glanced downward, passed through another two-inch oak floor, and finally landed in the basement.

Sands and Collins were removed to the hospital where their wounds were The hole in Collins' foot is not larger than a lead pencil, and both floors are cut through without hardly a splinter being torn off the sides of the hole. The wounded men are not seriously injured.

Sands is 19 years old, and enlisted

Collins is 26 years old and enlisted at Fort Logan, Colo. He has the repu-

WM. BLACK Fresh Literary Notes Veterinary Surgeon. J. H. TENNANT-VETERINARY SURGEON-Office, King street, opposite Market House. Residence, corner King and Wellington. Telephone.

Principal Dymond, of Brantford, 1898 (Poet Lore Company, Boston) is But this kind of "figurative" speech is an interesting budget of literature and clamation "Oh, beauty! what crimes" literary criticism. The standpoint of are committed in thy name!" is not this journal is given in the following correctly described as a "paraphrase' statement: "Poet Lore considers literature as an exponent of human evolution rather than as a finished product, and is interested in discerning life and the progress of ideals in letters." This point of view insures a living journal, which pays attention to both past and present. It is needless to say that it is also cosmopolitan in its tone. There days in the city of Paris. It was in are several articles in the present issue the high days of the second empire, which are of interest to the general reader, as well as much material for the student and teacher of English literature. One of the special features is a brief sketch of "A Golden Wedding," from the French of Edouard Rod, which derives additional interest from the fact that this accomplished writer and able critic is about to visit Harvard for the purpose of giving a course of lectures. This is becoming a regular feature of the academic year. The French-Canadians of Montreal also import a distinguished lecturer from France each term.

Among the "Notes and News" we find "Cyrano de Bergerac," from two or three points of view, a division of "In Memoriam," said to have been given by Tennyson himself, as well as a piece of Shakespeare criticism by Mr. Rudyard Kipling. Here also we have it explained why the name of the Spaniards' favorite saint, "Iago," is used by the great English dramatist for the villain in one of his greatest plays.

During the past six months thousands in this country who use the International Lessons have been engaged in studying the history of Israel, and the same class will resume that study in the middle of the coming year. We now acknowledge that history in all its branches is one of the most interesting and important studies. Those who wish to have a neat specimen of what the critical study of Old Testament history means will do well to invest in Prof. Camill's "History of the People of Israel from the Earliest Times to the Destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans," a handsomely bound volume of 325 pages, including a convenient index. (The Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago; \$150). The book owes its English dress to W. H. Carruth, professor of German in the University of Kansas, and it is not by any means what is called "translator's English." Camill's treatment of the subject is both critical and reverent. His view is that the Old Testament does not claim to be history in the strict sense of that word, but that it contains materials which the scientific historian of today must arrange and compare in the light of the latest research. book, we are told, is for "lay readers," but many students and ministers will find it stimulating and helpful. The professor claims that a knowledge of Israel's history is as much an essential part of a good education as an acquaintance with the life of Greece and "Besides Hellas and Rome, Rome. third in the group of races to which the arbiter of history assigned an exceptional mission in the world, stands Israel." "For all times the truth is established that was uttered by the founder of Christianity himself woman of Samaria in the talk by that they had already in vain, sought Jacob's well at Sychar. Salvation is of the Jews, and which his greatest apostle wrote in an epistle to the Chrisand its allied states and Austria, Mr. | tian community of Rome, that Abraham is the father of us all in the faith. "For I hold the firm and well-grounded conviction that the traditions of the people of Israel itself regarding its early history are thoroughly historical in all essential points, and can sustain the keenest and most scorching criticism. Poetic legends have, indeed, woven about these ancient traditions a misty magic veil which charms the eye and captivates the heart, and in which lies the spell that these traditions cast over every unbiassed mind." These extracts show the spirit of the book, which, whatever may be our opinion on particular points, will well repay perusal.

by Woods Hutchinson, M.A. (Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago.) The criticism that many will make on this book will be that it is not a gos-pel, and it is not strictly according to Darwin. In reply, the author would perhaps say that he finds it a sufficient and inspiring gospel for himself. and that the latter part of the title "is not used in the narrow sense of the personal views of Charles Darwin, but simply as typifying the evolutionary movement and its wonderful consequences." The writer quotes in one place the saving of a Methodist minister that some people think themselves excessively pious when they are merely very billious. Whatever may have happened to Dr. Hutchinson since, no one would credit him with being very bilious when he wrote this book, as it is marked by a buoyant optimism which seems to think that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds. Evil. we are told. is only negative, the shadow of good. It is good to live and easy to die. Nature provides remedies for small ills, and narcotics for the incurable ones. The bad perish, which is good for themselves and for the race, while the good live on in the life they have helped to create. If people would only accept this cheerful creed and cast away false philosophies and foolish superstitions, all would be well and humanity would march on triumphantly to its glorious destiny of continuous progress. To attempt to criticise this teaching would require a book bigger than the one before us. The writer is not sparing of criticism, and it is to be hoped that he will get his share. According to him, St. John makes "deplorable" statements, and Huxley gave a "deplorable" swan song, "while orthodoxy is too often also a mixture of onefourth Christ, one-fourth Paul, and one-half pure superstition." There is tremendous natural vigor in the book, which is good for those who are able to bear it. On such subjects as "the strength of beauty," "the benefits of over-population," "love as a factor of evolution," the writer expresses himself with great clearness and strength, and while there is never anything coarse, there is a brusque frankness in dealing with the "wicked" which is somewhat startling. There is a breeziness about the book which might serve as a corrective of a narrow piety, maudlin evolutionism, or gloomy superstition, only the fact is that those who run in these directions are hardly likely to choose this food. We are inclined to think that the writer owes something in Boston, Mass., in May. His home to Prof. Drummond's beautiful book, is at Cambridge, A sister lives in and the reference to him might have been a little more courteous. When When speaking of "love as a factor of evolu-

'The Gospel According to Darwin,'

"Poet Lore" for the last quarter of | cribed as a sort of atomic affection." of Madame Roland's famous saying. However, we leave this book, in which there is much that should thought and much that calls for criticism, with the statement that if its philosophy is not profound, the author has managed to infuse into it some of the living personal force which he evidently possesses in large measure. Here we have another volume from

the same enterprising publishers, "Truth and Error on the Science of Intellection," by J. W. Powell. Speaking for ourselves, we do not like the word "intellection," but of course Mr. Powell cannot help that. Much as we would like to do so we cannot recom-mend this book to "the man in the street" or to any of our friends who are seeking "light reading." our philosophers will, no doubt, consider it light enough though they may not regard it as luminous. The author certainly mingles the abstract and the concrete in a wonderful fashion, so that We meet some pages that are highly complicated and others that are quite easy and interesting. The book belongs to the evolutionary school and is an attempt to apply "scientific" principles to philosophy. The concluding words are, "The philosophy presented here is neither idealism nor material-ism; I would fain call it the Philosophy of Science." It appears that philosophy, from the days before Aristotle down to Mr. H. Spencer, has been a series of fallacies which are here classified and controverted so that in future mankind may not stray into such forbidden paths. The great sin of thinking men, the sophists and the unsophisticated, has been something which our author calls "Reification." It is pleasantly alluded to in the following passage, which refers to an Indian's illusion: "So in the moonlight of the last evening's sojourn in the camp on the brink of the canyon, I told Chuar that he was a great traveler (i.e., wise man) and that I knew of two other great travelers among the Scers of the East, one by the name of Hegel and another by the name of Spencer, and that I should ever remember these three wise men, who spoke like words of wisdom, for it passed through my mind that all three of these philosophers had reified void and founded a philosophy thereon." Those who wish to sharpen their powers of "intellection" and at the same time learn how to avoid this sin of "reifying void," will do well to give some days and nights to the study of "Truth and Error." Learning to think is learning to distinguish things that differ, and this author has, of course, distinctions of his own by which Kant and Locke, Bentley, Hume and others are tried and found wanting. Woe betide the man who cannot grasp these distinctions. His punishment is severe. Witness the following statement: who cannot distinguish between concomitancy and relativity cannot follow this argument and cannot understand its fundamental doctrines. He who cannot follow up this distinction in all of its logical results under the conditions of complexity which are exhibited in the various bodies of the universe considered by scientific men, had better devote his time to metaphysical speculation, where logical distir are confused and fine spun theories of the unknown are the substance of philosophy; for scientific men deal with simple facts, though they may tangled in relations; while metaphysicians confessedly deal in speculation about the unknown and boldly affirm that realities are fallacies." fessedly" is very good, but we must resist the attractions of this fascinating

LIFE SAVED .- Mr. James Bryson Cameron writes: "I was confined to my bed with inflammation of the lungs and was given up by physicians. A neighbor advised me to try Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil, stating that his wife had used it for a throat trouble with the best results. Acting on this advice, I procured the medicine, and less than half a bottle cured me; I certainly believe it saved my life. was with reluctance that I consented to a trial, as I was reduced to such a state that I doubted the power of any remedy to do me good.

Hotel Cards.

THE RICHMOND—CORNER OF KING and Richmond streets, H. L. Peine new proprietor. A call solicited. EUROPEAN HOTEL — 208 DUNDAS street. Choice wines, liquors and sigars, Chas. Stevens, proprietor.

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Legal Cards.

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U. A. BUCHNER-BARRISTER, EFC, 83
Dundas street, London. Telephone 99
Money to loan at lowest rates. tion, this statement is made: "Thus gravitation might be figuratively des-

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Marriage Licenses.

MARRIAGE LICENSES AT SHUFF'S Drug Store, 540 Dundas street east, corner William. Trolley cars pass the door. No witnesses required.

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED-OFFICE Adkins' Jewelry Store, East London. No witnesses required. W.M. H. WESTON, ISSUER OF MARRI-AGE licenses, 64 Stanley street. No witnesses required.

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