A STRANGE ITALIAN LAWSUIT.

How the Servants of a Marchioness Robbed Her of Large Sums.

From the London Daily News.

A strange case is at present going on at Piacenza. In that place there lived the Marchioness Fanny Anguissola, the heiress of two of the oldest noble families of north Italy, the Viscontis and the Anguissolas, connected during four centuries with the history of Italy. The marchioness possessed a fortune of 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 francs. She was always very extravagant and irritable, and the early death of her husband and only daughter, who fell a victim to an unhappy love affair, increased the eccentricity of her disposition. There remained to her one son, Filippo. With the pride and exclusiveness of a feudal lord, he combined a fanatic love of Socialism and great activity and delight in reforms. He was crushed by a threshing machine while superintending his agricultural affairs and lost his life.

This misfortune rendered his mother misanthropical. She shut herself up in her palace, which she closed to all visitors, and lived in a miserly fashion. Her only friend was her lapdog. Her servants, finding themselves deprived of all perquisites, revenged themselves by robbing her. It was her custom the whole year round to take her meals in an arbor in the garden, and there in various holes and corners she hid large quantities of gold and notes. These she often missed, but she never complained, fearing that if she did her immense wealth would become known to the public. She was so desirous of being considered poor that once, when a note of 1000 francs, which she had paid in mistake, was returned to her, she refused to take it, saying that she had never possessed a note of that amount.

But her avarice alternated with fits of lavish generosity. To many persons who begged of her she gave "handfuls of bank notes." She sent 100,000 francs to the American mission aries, but at the same time complained of the expense of the postoffice order. She frequently left her home to spend some time at convents near Piacenza or Milan, where she devoted herself to religious services, and met with much flattery, for she gave money readily for pious ends. At these times of absence all Piacenza was aware that the Palace Anguissola was searched from cellar to garret, and it is believed that in the course of years its mistress was robbed of millions of francs.

During her lifetime the police could not interfere, for she would listen to no warning, and utterly refused to believe in the possibility of her being robbed. She died of apoplexy, and afterward about 300,000 francs were found hidden in the mattresses of the beds, in the stuffing of the chairs, in old stocking-, behind picture frames, and other curious places. There was a report that she had been poisoned, but a post-mortem proved it to be unfounded.

But now justice interfered, and evidence respecting the various robberies supposed to have been committed was collected. Many of the domestic servants of the house, together with their relatives and friends, had grown rich, and could not explain the source of their wealth. They were also found in possession of valuables belonging to their mistress, which they said had been given to them by her. Many persons in Piacenza are now either accused of theft or summoned as witnesses.

The case was commenced the other day, and excited great interest. The accused, eleven in number, were all dressed in mourning. They are coachmen, doorkeepers, house servants, etc. One coachman confessed to having deposited at various times in various banks sums to the amount of 60,000 francs, which he said had been given to him in the course of years by his mistress out of gratitude because he had driven away some thieves who broke into the palace and for other services, or in order to induce him to stay when he threatened to leave.

The doorkeeper, on being interrogated concerning a certain box containing immense sums, which had been sent from his house through various hands, and of which at last all trace was lost, accused his brother of having demanded a bribe from him of 50,000 francs, failing which, he would be accused of having false keys. The examination of these two witnesses, the latter of whom looks like an old soldier, gave rise to much laughter in court.

Is Death Painless?

—A Philadelphia doctor, after years of careful observation, says that our demise is as painless as our advent to the world. This is certainly reassuring; yet, notwithstanding these great inducements, we still do not court death, and shall continue to use Dr. Pierce's infallible remedy, the "Golden Medical Discovery," for consumption, spitting of blood, shortness of breath, weak lungs, cough, bronchitis, and kindred affections of the throat and chest. It is unequaled. By druggists. d

Clinging to a Pin.

From the Chicago News.

One of the funniest incidents of any railroad wreck that I ever saw—and there are always funny things that one remembers about a railroad disaster—was that of a man who was on my train when it ran through a misplaced switch at Riverside and collided with a freight train standing on the side track. It was a terrible smash-up. Amos McDaniels, the engineer, saved his life by jumping from his engine before it struck the freight train, but Andy McGlenn, the fireman, was caught between the tank and the boiler head of the engine, where he was held fast, alive, but with his legs both crushed and cooked. As soon as the passengers found that not one of them was hurt they swarmed out and began helping to get poor Andy out of his terrible prison. I noticed one passenger who worked like a hero, lifting and pulling and straining to get Andy out, yet all the time using one hand as if it were crippled. I noticed it several times, paid a good deal more heed to it than you would expect a man to under such circumstances, but, don't you know, under the most exciting conditions a man's mind will hit upon some such little thing and never let go of it? Well, I noticed that man never opened his hand to take hold of whatever he was going to lift, but put his wrist under it and kept his thumb and fingers together.

After we had got Andy out and they had carried him to the depot I stood talking to this passenger, who was as white as a sheet and so much excited that he could hardly put words together.

"Is your hand crippled?" I asked.

"No," said he, quite astonished, and, holding it up where I could see it, he betrayed the fact that all this time he had been clinging with his thumb and first finger to a pin with which he was just fastening his necktie down when the collision occurred. And one of the funniest parts of the whole performance was the fact that as soon as he held up his hand and saw the pin he went right on pinning the necktie down as if nothing had happened.

—World-wide is the reputation of West's Cough Syrup, the truly marvelous remedy for coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough, asthma and consumption. All druggists.

A Seasonable Hint.

—During the breaking up of winter, when the air is chilly and the weather damp, such complaints as rheumatism, neuralgia, lumbago, sore throat, croup and other painful effects of sudden cold, are prevalent. It is then that Hagyard's Yellow Oil is found truly valuable as a household remedy. 246

Bully Boy With a Glass Eye.

From the Chicago News.

A tall, lean Indian who passed through Chicago some time ago on his way back to the reservation from a visit to Washington, attracted a great deal of attention by his weird and unearthly appearance. He was a swarthy fellow, with black hair and a large black eye, but the other eye was glass, a bright blue, and gazed into vacancy with a cold, cerulean stare that was strange to behold. The Indian seemed proud of his dissimilar eyes, and he was looked up to with great respect and awe by the other savages with him. His appearance was explained by an army officer who was in town last week. He also has only one good eye, but the artificial organ looks natural and healthy. One day at the War Office he took out the game eye, after the manner of men who own them, and, wiping it off, slipped it back carelessly into the socket. The Indian saw the performance, and was much struck by it. He asked the officer if he could see with the glass eye, and the officer facetiously told him he could. "Gimme one," said the Indian, and the army man went into his trunk, where he kept a supply, and produced one. The Indian jammed it into the place where his natural eye used to be, and then stalked away like an apparition from the lower regions. He never once thought of taking the eye out once he had it in, and he stoutly maintained that he could see with it as well as with the other.

A Heavy Load.

"When I ate, my food was like a lump of lead in my stomach. I took Burdock Blood Bitters. The more I took the more it helped me. I am like a new man now," says Ezra Babcock, Cloyne, P.O., Township Barrie, Ont. 246

—West's Cough Syrup instantly relieves and speedily cures bronchitis, sore throat and all throat diseases. Try it and be convinced. All druggists.

Capture of a Churchyard Ghost.

From the Cardiff Weekly Mail.

Recently ghost alarms have been very common in the Potteries and adjoining districts, and considerable excitement was caused one night this week after 11 o'clock by the mysterious movements of a figure clad in white, among the tombs in Shelton churchyard, near Hanley. The nocturnal visitor was watched by a large crowd, who completely blocked the adjacent thoroughfares. For some time the "ghost" was permitted to conduct his peculiar perambulations unmolested, but ultimately two members of the crowd, more daring than the rest, mustered courage enough to approach the figure. A closer inspection convinced these persons that, so far from being the shadowy, etherial spirit which is said to have visited other churchyards in the district, the ghostly visitant of the burial ground was a really tangible body.

The snow-white figure displayed much uneasiness on the approach of the two active men, whose measures for its capture were not to be circumvented. Flight was useless and dissolution in thin air impossible. So Edward Hauptman, a corporal in the Hanley Volunteers, had to quietly submit to the unpleasant process of being led into the crowd he had done his best to terrify, and afterwards to the more disagreeable experience of being lodged in the Hanley police cells by Police Constable Smith, to whom he was handed over by his captors.

The operator had secured a woman's night dress, which, being too small for the accommodation of his somewhat portly frame and commanding figure, he ingeniously held before him, expanding it by his arms, and by this means he succeeded in his practical joke. He was taken before the magistrates on Tuesday, but considering that he had been locked up all night and that he had suffered some maltreatment from stone throwing on the previous night, he was discharged with a caution.

Broken Down.

—"Being completely broken down in health, I was induced to try that valuable remedy Burdock Blood Bitters. One bottle made me feel like a new man, restoring me completely to health." Geo. V. Detlor, Napanee, Ont. 246

West's Cough Syrup, a sure cure for coughs, colds, croup and consumption.

Thieves' Annual Supper.

From the London Standard.

Last night over 200 men and lads belonging to the rescued criminal classes sat down to the annual substantial supper of meat, plum pudding and etceteras, with hot tea and coffee, given by the St. Giles Christian Mission in the chapel building, Little Wild street, Drury-lane. The chapel was profusely decorated with flags and evergreens, while there were scores of banners inscribed with inspiriting mottoes and scriptural quotations. The Lord Mayor presided, and among those present were Mr. Hatton, Superintendent of the mission, and Mr. Wheatley, Secretary; Mr. Howard Vincent, M.P.; Mr. C. T. Bartley, M.P.; Colonel the Hon. G. Gough, Sir Wm. Charley, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, Sir John Hartman, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. Monro, Capt. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Saunders. After supper, which was served in the anteroomis and galleries, the guests, each of whom was supplied with a pretty bunch of flowers, came in and took seats in the chapel.

The superintendent, Mr. George Hatton, then read a report of the work done by the mission during the past year in aiding released convicts and other prisoners. He said of the 20,625 prisoners released from the four metropolitan prisons in the year ending last November no fewer than 14,261 had accepted the society's invitation to breakfast, and of that number 4071 had signed the temperance pledge. In addition to that 5791 had been assisted to earn an honest livelihood in various ways, at an expense of £3000. There had also been fifty-six young boys brought up for sentence intrusted to the mission to reclaim, every one of whom was doing well.

West's Cough Syrup, the most reliable remedy for all throat and lung diseases. For safety keep it always in the house. All druggists.

Nine Men to be Hanged Together.

From the Cardiff Mail.

SYDNEY, Dec. 1.—Sentence of death has been passed upon nine young men convicted of assaulting a servant girl, 16 years of age, near Moore Park, in the suburbs of this city, last September. A young girl of 16, of good character, was decoyed into an unfrequented suburb of Sydney, and there was violently outraged by relays of youths from 15 years old and over. As the child was alone amid a gang of at least twelve strong young ruffians, her struggles, though violent, were unavailing. She was at first held down by her hands and feet, but after the brutality had lasted some hours she became unconscious.

One man, who attempted to rescue the girl, was overpowered by the gang, some of whom had knives, and while he fled to inform the police another man arrived and witnessed the crime without raising an alarm. After the last of the gang left her she was found by the police sitting crying on the bank of the creek. On being removed to the police station it was found impossible to make a surgical examination in her then condition.

After a day in the hospital she was examined, and the evidence of her injuries confirmed. It was not for some time, however, that she was able to appear in the witness box.

When she did, she identified her assailants, and the result is that nine of them are sentenced to death. The law of the colony prescribes death as a penalty, but there is probably no case on record where nine men were sentenced to be hanged for assaulting one girl.

—A toilet luxury in every respect, Ayer's Hair Vigor never fails to restore the youthful freshness and color to faded and gray hair. It also eradicates dandruff and prevents the hair from falling. d

An Awful Example.

From the Boston Record.

It sometimes happens that the country pastor, like his city brother, fails to adapt his sermon to his congregation. He preaches to an imaginary group of thinkers or to a class unrepresented in his parish. An illustration of this misfitting came under the historian's notice. An intimate friend of his, an Episcopal clergyman, was taking his outing on the Maine coast, and was clothed appropriately in a blue flannel shirt, with rough clothing to match. Burned by the sun, and altogether hardened in his aspect, the clergyman made his way on Sunday morning to the only place of worship in the region, and sat under the ministrations of a good Methodist brother. The few faithful men and women who made up the congregation were all in their places, and their devoutness was marked. Imagine, then, the wonder of the clerical hearer when the pastor announced his subject as an attempt to prove the existence of God. Arguments of unbelievers, which these simple-hearted people had never heard, were stated and answered. Finally, as the preacher waxed warm in his argument, he suddenly turned and pointed to the blue-shirted Episcopal minister and cried out: "If there is an atheist present I beg him to heed this demonstration of the existence of God." The "awful example" blushed deeply, of course, as the congregation closely eyed him.

A Seasonable Hint.

—For an obstinate harrassing cough there is no better remedy than Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam, which cures all throat, bronchial and lung diseases. It is pleasant to take and effectual for young or old. 246

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