

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1891.

THE CHIEF WITNESS.

It is generally admitted that the degree of credit to be attached to the statements of a witness in a very great measure depends upon the character he bears. If the witness is known to be an upright and truthful man, who has never been mixed up in any questionable transaction, and whose word is as good as his bond, his testimony will be implicitly believed by those who know him, even where it is not corroborated by circumstances or the evidence of other witnesses. But, when his character will not bear investigation, when his antecedents are bad, and when it is known that his unsupported word is not relied upon by those who are best acquainted with him, then his testimony requires to be strongly confirmed by circumstances, by documents, or by other witnesses of greater credibility. This will be admitted by all reasonable and impartial people.

Let us enquire now, who is the principal, indeed the only, witness against Sir Hector Langevin in this McCreedy scandal business? It is one Mr. Owen Murphy, otherwise, Mr. Owen Eugene Murphy. Mr. Murphy is a gentleman from New York city, where he lived some twenty-eight years. Mr. Murphy thrived in New York. He was a builder and contractor, and being a little ambitious he became an Excise Commissioner and the treasurer of the Board of Excise without security. He was also elevated to the position of School Trustee. While he was treasurer of the Board of Excise of New York, a great deal of public money passed through his hands. Some of this money he spent in carrying the elections of the candidates of his party; some he lent to friends, and some he appropriated to his own use—intending, of course, to return it to the Treasury whence it was taken. But things did not turn out as Mr. Murphy expected—they hardly ever do in such cases—and he found it convenient to leave New York, indebted to the people of New York some \$50,000. In the language of plain people, he was a defaulter to that amount; and, although it is some fourteen years since he left New York, that amount stands against him still on the books of the commission. Indeed, it is not Mr. Murphy's fault that it is not \$10,000 more. For after he had been a short time in Canada, he was so very modest as to give his friend Mr. Nicholas Connolly a cheque on the funds that belonged to the Board of Excise for \$10,000. The New York people were by this time better acquainted with Mr. Owen Murphy, and did not honor his cheque.

This, then, is the kind of man Mr. Owen Eugene Murphy is. When placed in a position of trust in the city of New York he appropriated to his own use \$50,000 of the people's money, and after he came to Canada tried to get ten thousand dollars more. How much credit ought to be attached to the unsupported testimony of such a man we leave every person of common sense to judge.

We see, by late telegrams to the Winnipeg papers, that when Mr. Murphy came to the cross-examination with respect to the alleged payment of ten thousand dollars to Sir Hector Langevin, his memory failed him. He could not tell whether it was in 1886 or 1887 that he paid the money. Neither could he say whether it was in midsummer or midwinter, or from what bank he had got the money, or what were the denominations of the bills. His mind had suddenly become a blank with regard to the transaction. So distressed was he, while under the hands of the cross-examiner, that he faintly attempted to answer a question.

For fear that some of our readers may think that we have misrepresented the character and the doings of Mr. Owen Eugene Murphy, we will reproduce, from the Montreal Gazette, part of the cross-examination from what has all the appearance of being a verbatim report.

Was the audit (in New York) against you?
A. I was not there to see whether it was or not.

Q. Did you hear about it? A. I used \$20,000 in the election. Some of it for myself and some for my political friends, and when the time came that they promised to pay the money they did not make it good. In the excitement of the fight between Kelly and Tilden, in the election of 1876, I had been carrying a great deal of real estate, and it fell and depreciated very much, and with the expectation of making it good, drew an extra \$30,000. That is the whole story, and I do not care who knows it.

To witness—Then, as a matter of fact, you left New York a defaulter to the extent of \$50,000? A. Yes.

Q. And that default remains against you, no matter what was done with the funds? A. It remains against me.

Then, with regard to the cheque for ten thousand dollars more, after he arrived in Canada?

Mr. Oler—I want to ask you one or two questions on another matter. When you came to Canada, did you draw any cheque on New York? A. Yes.

Q. How much was that cheque for? A. \$10,000, to the order of Nicholas Connolly.

Q. You drew that cheque on the funds that belonged to the Board of Excise, or that were in your name as treasurer? A. Yes.

Q. And so, after you came to Canada, you signed a cheque "O. E. Murphy, treasurer," and handed it to Mr. Connolly for collection? A. Yes.

There are men who will, without scruple, take advantage of the Government who are perfectly square and honorable with their partners, and in their dealings with private individuals. But there was one private transaction about which Mr. Owen Murphy, while on the witness stand, refused to speak on the ground that he was not bound to criminate himself. This was with regard to selling a certain note for \$400,000 to Mr. Robert McCreedy. Here are a few questions and answers with regard to that transaction:

Q. You had a transaction with him

(Robert McCreedy, by which you sold him a note for a pretty good sum, hadn't you?)
A. That is a question I will answer in another place. I do not think I am forced to answer it here.

Q. Did you sell him a note for \$400,000? A. I decline to answer that question here.

Q. Did you have a note for \$400,000? You will state, I suppose, your reason for declining to answer? A. I am sued in a criminal suit by Michael Connolly, about a transaction, with a note claimed to be for \$400,000, and I decline to answer anything connected with that.

Q. Do you refuse to answer because it may tend to criminate you? A. Yes.
Q. There is a criminal indictment with reference to that? A. Yes, and also with reference to Robert McCreedy.

Q. The indictment is for conspiracy? A. I believe so.

Q. In connection with the \$400,000. A. I believe so.

Q. And it is because there is an indictment pending against you in the Criminal court at Quebec? A. I decline to answer any further questions in connection with that. I am sued criminally and I might give testimony here that would criminate me. I do not think it is fair for counsel to ask me these questions.

The story respecting that note has been, in part, related by our Ottawa correspondent. In order that our readers may be able to form a fair estimate of the character and credibility of Mr. Owen Eugene Murphy, we will repeat it here. One wet afternoon Mr. Michael Connolly and Mr. Murphy, to while away the time, amused themselves by drawing up notes of hand for fictitious sums. The one Connolly drew up in Murphy's favor was for four hundred thousand dollars. Here is a copy of it:

"On demand I promise to pay to Mr. E. Murphy, or order, four hundred thousand dollars, for value received, without defalcation or discount."

(Signed) MICHAEL CONNOLLY.

The note bears no date. When the partners were tired of this kind of fun, Connolly tore up the note that Murphy had given him, but Mr. Murphy kept Connolly's, and, some time after the partners had quarrelled and separated, Murphy sold this note to Robert H. McCreedy, who attempted to collect it. McCreedy did not succeed in getting any money, but he did succeed in getting himself and Mr. Murphy prosecuted for conspiracy. The case is before the courts, and has been twice postponed on the motion of Murphy's counsel, in order that witnesses, who were alleged to be absent from the country, might be secured.

We do not think that fair-minded men, when they know what sort of a man the chief witness against Sir Hector Langevin is, will feel inclined to attach much importance to his unsupported testimony. They will naturally ask for corroborative evidence, and if the books of account and cheque books, now before the parliamentary committee, do not confirm what O. E. Murphy asserts, and if there is no other credible witness to the payment of the ten thousand dollars, they will, in considering the case, feel it their duty to pay no attention whatever to the statements made by that witness.

THE ORGAN A BAD ADVISER.

The organ of the Opposition, very kindly and considerately points out the course which the COLONIST ought to have pursued with regard to the dispute between the Superintendent of Education and the Principal of the High School. It says:

"It was the duty of the COLONIST, when the Times attacked the Department, to ascertain the truth of the charges preferred, and, if untrue, to demonstrate it in black and white."

The COLONIST would do what was both wrong and foolish if it undertook to interfere in the manner pointed out by our contemporary. Newspapers are very useful in a community as long as they keep within their proper sphere and do their legitimate work; but they are nothing better than mischief-makers and nuisances when they take upon themselves an authority which they do not possess, and undertake work which they are not competent to perform. It is not the business of newspapers to settle disputes between teachers and the officials of the Department of Education. They have no authority to do this kind of work, neither have they the means at their disposal to make the necessary enquiries.

The injustice which would be sure to be perpetrated if newspapers took upon themselves to settle disputes between individuals would be simply monstrous. Knowing this, when the Times attacked the Department of Education, we reminded it that it had heard only one side of the question, and asked it, in effect, to suspend its judgment until the case had been tried by the constituted authority. We did not defend the officials of the department, neither did we take the part of or condemn the Principal of the High School. We simply protested against trying this case by newspaper, and showed how foolish and malicious the Times was in taking for granted that the Department was in the wrong before its officials had been afforded the opportunity of making any explanation.

If we had taken the course which the Times prescribes we would have acted quite as foolishly as the Times has done. There is a proper way of proceeding in such cases which we pointed out at the time. Until the matter is placed regularly before the authorities, it would be improper for the Superintendent of Education to say one word more than he has already said, and the COLONIST would be making itself as ridiculous as the Times has done if it attempted a defence of the Department before a witness has been heard or a paper examined.

If the Principal had done what we believe he ought to have done—if he feels aggrieved—appealed to the Government for redress; and if the Government had refused to hear his complaint or to do him justice, if it was found that he had been treated unjustly, then the Times, having all the facts before it, might, with perfect propriety have criticised the action of the authorities.

But, when it blindly attacks the Government, without knowing whether the officials have done right or wrong, it simply makes a fool of itself, and does what it can to bring journalism into disrepute in this Province.

COMMON SENSE.

The people of the State of Washington are beginning to find that the unsettled state of things at the coal mines, and the frequent outbursts of violence there, are bad not only for the mine-owners and the miners, but for the community in general, as well as for the prospects of the country. This is what the Seattle Post-Intelligencer says in its yesterday's issue:

"It is certain that if we are to have the fullest advantage of nature's bounty in the form of coal deposits in this state, and to see that the end it is a sufferer from the regular work for spasmodic work, of certainty for uncertainty, and of minimum cost of mining for maximum cost. There must be such a change as will, in short, make coal cheaper and assure its regular supply. This does not mean that labor must waste and receive less, but that there must be less loss through strikes and interruptions. The business community is beginning to understand all this, and to see that in the end it is a sufferer from the mining troubles along with the mine-owners and the mine-workers. And that the facts of the situation are beginning to be thus understood, is the best assurance for speedy and permanent settlement of the troubles. There is still another interest in this matter connected with the public, and that is the reputation of the state as a coal-producing state. It is undeniable that they are giving the country and state a bad name with investors. Conservative men do not care to risk money where there is constant inharmoniousness between capital and labor, and will always give such a country a wide berth. The mining troubles will, most unjustly, but in fact nevertheless, hurt our credit if they shall not very soon be amicably and permanently composed."

This is a sensible and a practical view of the subject. The Intelligencer is favorable to the miners and it is a warm advocate of the interests of labor, but it sees that the want of harmony between mine-owners and miners that has existed so long in Washington, both as a Territory and a State, has done harm in the past to workingmen and every other class, and if better relations are not established soon, it will do still greater harm in the future.

SANGUINE.

Sir George Baden-Powell, M. P., is believed in the utility of his mission. He is reported to have said to a New York interviewer:

"Fortunately, the dispute has been taken in hand in time, and when we return from our expedition, probably in November next, I am confident the back of the problem will have been broken and a solution reached which will prove satisfactory to all concerned."

It is, we fear, a great deal more likely that Sir George will return from Behring's Sea a disappointed man. If what experienced seafarers here say is true, he will at this late season, see very little in the sealing region that will aid any one in solving the problem which the arbitrators will have to tackle. And it is still more unlikely that he will hear anything from those he will meet there that it will be safe to rely upon. The seals will be scattered over the wild waste of waters, and the few that he can catch sight of here and there can give him no idea of the numbers that frequent the sea. From all we can hear of it, Behring's Sea is a very dreary place during the months of August, September and October, and the commissioners will find that their mission will be almost as fruitless as that of the proverbial wild goose chase. They will, however, see how little there is to be seen which will be instructive. They will find that, as far as their part of the work is concerned, the dispute has not been taken in hand in time. To get any information worth bringing home the commissioners should have started for Behring's Sea more than two months ago.

THE SECTIONAL GRADUATES.

The kind of journalism popular in Vancouver would strain very severely the consciences of editors living in any other city, but we suppose where writers are compelled to draw upon their imagination for facts from day to day, such an article as the "World," entitled "Sectionalism Run Mad," can be produced without turning a hair. It is impossible that a whole community can delight in glaring falsehoods and, for the benefit of those who love the truth, we now present briefly the real facts with regard to the University movement.

The World says they, on the mainland, had done all the hard work in connection with the initiation of the movement. The fact is they had nothing to do with its initiation. The first meeting in connection with the subject was called by the Mayor of Victoria, at the suggestion of a few gentlemen who were interested in higher education. The first bill was prepared in Victoria and put through the House by Mr. S. Duck, then one of the members for Victoria. If Victoria had desired to take advantage of its opportunity it doubtless could have framed that bill in its own interest, but those concerned in the matter were gentlemen, and therefore acted with perfect loyalty towards the whole province.

What then was the hard work to which the World refers of the Mainland people? Why, it was in seeking to amend the original bill so as to give the Mainland such a preponderance on the Senate as to leave Victoria at their mercy. They proposed ten members to be placed on the Senate by convocation, and their conduct at the last election leaves without any doubt as to their purpose in thus seeking to pack the governing body.

The World refers triumphantly to the letter of the Rev. E. D. McLaren, which

appeared in its columns, and affects to sneer at the gentleman who so completely answered him in our columns. All we need say about Mr. McLaren's letter is that a more unfortunate specimen of special pleading never came under our observation, and we can only wonder that so able a man should have allowed himself to become the mouthpiece of such unworthy associates.

See how the Rev. gentlemen reason. We are in the majority as to population, and we should be in the majority on the Senate. But he forgets that he has no authority to speak for any portion of the Mainland, outside of the two cities of Vancouver and Westminster, and he ought to know that a large portion of the Mainland would prefer Victoria, had they any opportunity of expressing their views. Further, he forgets that Victoria has at least a population equal to the two cities of the Mainland, and that, even if that were not the case, the question of the site of a university ought to be settled on far other grounds than the mere numbering of heads. But Mr. McLaren said Victoria had eight members on the Senate, and the Mainland thirteen. Did Mr. McLaren forget that members of the Senate appointed by the Government, by the Medical Council, by the Law Society, and by the Teachers' Institutes were chosen to represent these interests, wherever their home might be; and did he not know that when these present appointments should be changed, and their appointment is only for one year, Victoria would in all probability have only one representative on the Senate, namely, the appointee of the City Council; and, by the way, the Mainland men worked hard to prevent the cities having any representatives in the Senate, so determined were they to have the whole power in their own hands. How is the Senate, if it exists, comprised at present?

Vancouver has six representatives, Westminster, four, Victoria, one elected for that purpose and four who happen at present to reside in our city, but who may be chosen, next year, from the Mainland. But now, we come to some of the hard work of the Mainland men. The bill, as passed last session, gave Convocation seven representatives; there are 55 members of Convocation in Victoria and 80 on the Mainland. The members in Victoria agreed to nominate only three out of the seven, but the Mainland men sent out a circular, blessed by the minister's signature and marked confidential, urging their cohorts to secure the whole number, that is, refusing to the fifty-five Island graduates any representation at all.

Victoria has never claimed the University, but has been ready to submit loyally to the verdict of any impartial arbitrator, or to compete with the other cities as to which should make the best offer in the interests of the University; but, on the other hand, "Vancouver has proclaimed on the house-top its purpose to secure the university at all costs. We have in our possession, a pamphlet, entitled 'Information for Travellers,' in which it is stated that Vancouver will soon have the university. Whetnam College was represented as the preparatory college, and its teachers promised professorships. The World has been happy in its title, for here, surely, is sectionalism run mad, and here, too, are grounds sufficient to justify honorable men refusing to belong to a Senate composed of men whose interest seems to be the booming of a city, and not the advancement of higher education."

MURPHY'S TESTIMONY.

Mr. Owen Eugene Murphy's career as a contractor and a negotiator for contracts is interesting, and, if viewed from the proper standpoint, instructive. The good old-fashioned way of doing business did not suit Mr. Murphy. It was not, we presume, exciting enough, and did not enable him and his partners to make money sufficiently fast. Like a great many other people Mr. Murphy does not like competition. He, according to his own story, wanted to get competitors out of the way, and it was his great desire to have a friend in court or in the Public Works Department. Being active-minded and ingenious he proposed to his partners to secure the road offices of Mr. Thomas McCreedy, and to accomplish that end he proposed to them to give him \$25,000. The sum was to be paid for getting the cross-wall contract on such terms as would enable the contractors to recoup themselves and have a snug margin of profit besides. According to his testimony every thing went merry as a marriage bell. The partners agreed to pay the money and give the notes of the firm for the amount. Mr. Murphy got the notes and paid them over, not to Mr. Thomas McCreedy, as he would at first have the word believe, but to his friend and crony, Mr. Robert McCreedy. This was brought out clearly in the cross-examination. The following extract from that examination is taken from the Toronto Mail's report:

What day was it the \$25,000 in notes was paid for?
I cannot tell you that.
Was it after the contract was executed?
To the best of my knowledge, that is so. I want to get a clear statement from you of the parties present when the notes were handed over?

To the best of my recollection they were all present, Larkin, Nicholas Connolly, and I believe Michael Connolly, Robert McCreedy, and myself, and I think Thomas McCreedy came down stairs after a while. Do you think that Thomas was present when the notes were handed to Robert?
I have no recollection, but to the best of my opinion, he was not.

You handed them to Robert without Thomas being there?
That is my recollection.

Has that always been your recollection?
It has, I think.

Then it is clearly an error. Your evidence at the top of page 43. You promised \$25,000 to Thomas McCreedy? "Yes," I want to get a clear statement from you of the parties present when the notes were handed over?
Yes, "Did you give it to him?"
Yes, "What was it at page 73?"

is that it is incorrect, that you would not like to swear positively.

To the best of my knowledge, I don't think he was present.

So, after all, the \$25,000 were not paid to Mr. Thomas McCreedy, and, for anything that even Mr. Murphy knows to the contrary, he may not have seen a cent of the money he is accused of having taken as payment for his influence in securing the cross-wall contract. There is a very important link in the chain of evidence wanting. What became of the notes after Mr. Robert McCreedy received them is not known. They were taken up not by the Connolly Brothers, who signed them, but by Mr. Murphy personally. It was he who retired the notes as they became due, by the firm's cheques drawn in his own favor. It is known that the firm paid the money, but it has not yet been shown who pocketed it. All that is known as yet is that the notes of hand were placed by Mr. Murphy in Mr. Robert H. McCreedy's hands.

With regard to the ten thousand dollars which Mr. Owen Eugene Murphy says he paid to Sir Hector Langevin, there is not a particle of evidence except that of Mr. Murphy himself, to show that the money was so paid. It will be remembered that when Mr. Murphy was cross-examined as to the details of the alleged transaction his memory failed him completely. He could not tell when he handed the money to Sir Hector, or what kind of money it was. Here is the summary of this part of Mr. Murphy's cross-examination, which appears in the Winnipeg Free Press of the 8th inst.:

"Witness could not remember whether it was midsummer or midwinter he paid the \$10,000 to Sir Hector; he could not tell where he got the money; supposed it was from the bank, but could not tell what bank it would be either the Union or Bank of B. N. A. He thought he paid the money in the day time; could not say whether or not he had himself drawn the cheques on which he got the money, or to whose order the bills he got, and professed to have no recollection of the details of the transaction. Other than read Murphy's main examination last week, when he professed a good recollection of this transaction and had said he drew the money on cheques signed by him in the name of the firm, and that he believed they were endorsed by Nicholas Connolly. He had then said also that he asked for \$100 bills, but the bank had not got them, and he had to take fifties and twenties. He had no recollection of any entry in the books of the firm, or of any other record. Other than from his main evidence, in which witness said this item represented money he had paid Sir Hector. He also read from the evidence the statement of witness that while he could not say how he got this money, his cheques would show, and he asked Murphy to produce the cheques. Murphy replied that he could not find any such cheques, and was not aware if any were missing. His bank book did not show there was a sale."

This, then, is how the case stood, a few days ago. The \$25,000 alleged to have been paid to Mr. Thomas McCreedy has not been traced beyond Mr. Robert H. McCreedy, who is associated with Mr. Murphy and Mr. Tarte in trying to prove that a Minister of the Crown and a Member of Parliament have been guilty of malfeasance in office; and there is no evidence except that of Owen E. Murphy, a self-confessed defaulter and betrayer of trust, to show that Sir Hector Langevin received a dollar, improperly, from Mr. Murphy, or from anyone else. There is not only not a credible witness, but there is a circumstance or a document to corroborate what Murphy, the hoodler, has sworn to. Even the Toronto Mail, which cannot be said to be friendly to Sir Hector Langevin, says: "The character which Mr. Murphy gives himself forbids the belief that the various sums of money reached their destination until testimony is adduced in support of Mr. Murphy's statements." The case, as regards proof of these payments, is now, so far as we can see, in precisely the same position as it was when the sentence we have quoted was written.

ONE OF THE HANLON'S KILLED.

William Hanlon Fell During a Circus Performance, Breaking His Neck.

CLINTON, Iowa, July 13.—During the afternoon performance of Adam Forepaugh's show, to-day, the crane broke upon which William Hanlon, of Hanlon Brothers, gymnasts, was performing. He fell to the ground, missing the net and striking upon his head. He broke his neck and died almost instantly.

Hanlon was 31 years old, was born in London, and has for 24 years been associated with the Hanlon vaudeville. Last August he met with a serious accident at the Academy of Music, New York, falling from the dome, receiving severe injuries and breaking two parietal bones. His work was on the horizontal bar in the centre. Robert and James Hanlon were doing the flying trapeze. Deceased leaves a widow, but had no children.

FRENCH NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

Demonstration in the Gulf of Lyons—Sixty Warships in Battle Line.

PARIS, July 13.—The French naval manoeuvres in the Gulf of Lyons ended to-day, in the whole fleet attacking Toulon, Ribot and Barbey. The military attaches of the American, British and German legations, and many senators and deputies witnessed the attack. The torpedo vessels and shore batteries defended the roads against sixty warships, headed by a steel barrette which was extremely formidable. After a furious cannonade the ships advanced in one long line and broke through the defenses. Among the features of the manoeuvres was the use of balloons in towing steamers. The official report of the French manoeuvres in the Mediterranean concludes: "The ironclads during three days maintained without accident a high rate of speed. It is incontestable that ironclads of inferior speed, if attended by a sufficient number of light craft, can be kept informed of the movements of a faster squadron and can thus be enabled to counteract the enemy's design. Hence it is advisable to provide large, swift cruisers."

Health, Happiness and Prosperity.
It is health impossible without health insurance. It is happiness impossible without health insurance. It is prosperity impossible without health insurance. It is the use of B. B. B., the best blood purifier known.

MOVING PLANTS.

Interesting Facts About the Mysterious Organisms Called Bacteria.

Bacteria are not insects or "bugs," says the Popular Science News, but plants. They have, however, the power of spontaneous motion. Like other living things they take in matter and potential energy and give off matter and manifest energy.

In common with all vegetables not possessing chlorophyll they require organic food for the maintenance of life, but they can subsist upon food that contains no proteid, being able to take nitrogen and sulphur from inorganic sources and carbon from organic sources, and with water they build up proteid material. They share respiration in common with all living things, taking in oxygen and giving off carbon dioxide. Certain bacteria, however, do not require free oxygen, being able to unlock it from the substances in which they exist; and certain chemical processes attributable to them evidently depend upon this power of unlocking oxygen from stable compounds. Bacteria are very widely distributed, being present in the atmosphere in vast numbers, and also existing in earth and water. They cover the surface of our bodies and line our entire alimentary canals; fortunately, however, they are chiefly of the benign variety, which will not thrive in living tissues—hence called non-pathogenic.

These micro-organisms are among the smallest objects that the microscope reveals. A very common form of bacteria is that known as the bacterium ferro, which is an elongated, rod-like cell about 1-25,000 of an inch in breadth and less than twice its breadth in length. It is non-pathogenic, easily killed by antiseptics, and is always found in putrefying or septic fluids; hence it is sometimes called the carrion or septic fungus.

Cold (32 degrees Fahrenheit) suspends the animation of bacteria, but does not kill them; many withstand a much lower temperature. Boiling water kills many bacteria, but those that are in the condition of spores can withstand a much higher temperature or can withstand the temperature of 212 degrees Fahrenheit for a much longer time than the mature bacterium. In general terms extremes of heat have a more destructive action to bacteria than extremes of cold. Heat without moisture does not necessarily destroy the lives of all bacteria, but renders some simply inactive.

AN INGENIOUS CIPHER.

How the Friends of a French Thief Got Themselves Into Jail.

Some years ago, says the Detroit Free Press, the friends of a Parisian thief adopted a decidedly new method of carrying on a clandestine correspondence with him while he was awaiting trial. One day the jailer was visited by the prisoner's betrothed, who asked him to give her an envelope. This upon being opened was found to contain simply a small lock of her hair, around which was coiled a length of book. The jailer did not consider it worth his while to deliver this souvenir to the culprit, and, therefore, threw it aside.

A day or two later a similar inclosure was handed in at the prison gate and shared the fate of its predecessors. In the course of a week another was left by the same person. This aroused the suspicion of the governor of the prison, to whom had been detailed the circumstances. He determined to investigate the meaning and accordingly first examined the printed leaf. This he found was torn from a novel and contained twenty-six lines on each side. He then turned his attention to the hair and discovered that there were twenty-six pieces of unequal length. This puzzled him for awhile, and then he jumped to the conclusion that there must be some connection between the number of the printed lines and the number of hairs, he laid each of the latter along the line of the page they respectively reached, beginning with the shortest hair, at the top of the leaf.

After changing them about several times he discovered that each hair pointed to a different letter, and the combination thus produced formed a slang sentence, by means of which the prisoner was given to understand that his friends had ascertained the day on which he was to be taken to court and were determined to make a bold attempt to rescue him as soon as he made his appearance.

Taking the cue, the governor adopted every precaution to frustrate the well-laid plans of the outsiders; the attempt was made and, as a natural consequence, the conspirators soon found themselves in the same condition as the one for whom they had planned the rescue.

The Tiger's Courage.

The Bengal tiger has more courage than the lion, according to a showman, who states that the matter was tested in this manner: "We placed a shooting cracker in the respective cages and fired the fuses. As soon as the fuses began to burn they attracted the attention of both animals, but in a widely different manner. The lion drew into a corner and watched the proceedings with a distrustful and uneasy eye. The tiger, on the contrary, advanced to the burning fuse with a firm step and undoubting gait. On reaching the cracker he took his paw and began to roll it over the fuse, and when it exploded beneath his very nose he did not flinch, but continued his examination until perfectly satisfied. The lion betrayed great fear when he heard the report of the explosion and for quite a time could not be coaxed out of his den."

Deceptive Telegraph Poles.

In Java the woodpeckers bore into the telegraph poles, deceived by the buzzing sound made by the wires into the belief that insects are concealed in the wood. In Norway the woodpeckers have been found to bore into the poles, but more curious is the fact that in Norway bears have torn away the large stones placed at the bottom of the poles, deceived by the sound into thinking that bees and their store of honey were to be found beneath.

COMPlicated MARRIAGES.

The Two Nuptial Ceremonies Which Are Necessary in France.

In the higher French classes the custom is that the civil or legal marriage should be celebrated before mayor or magistrate the day or two before the religious one, a custom whose origin is the desire to show that they consider the religious ceremony alone valid from a Christian point of view. The young bride returns to her family on leaving the town hall, and only starts for her wedding journey after the marriage has taken place in a church, in a temple—as Protestant places of worship are called—or in a synagogue. This creates a rather equivocal situation, says the New York Commercial Advertiser, for if, which is rare, but has sometimes happened, some incident should occur between the two ceremonies to delay the second one, the husband and wife would be legally married without being so in fact. I knew of such a case. On the night of the civil marriage the husband received a telegraphic dispatch calling him to his mother's bedside, who was dying, and who lived in a foreign land and whose illness had prevented her being present at the wedding. He left, received her last blessing, and rendered her the last sad rites, and was afterwards kept at the place by business affairs relating to her death and which were of the greatest importance to him. This lasted for a month. His wife, who was devout Catholic, would not have consented to anything in the world to go and join him until their union had been blessed by a priest. During this interval the husband met a cousin he had formerly loved. She succeeded in reconquering him, and he had not the courage to consummate the marriage legally contracted in Paris. He offered to be divorced, but the young wife's religious scruples prevented her from accepting this proposition, and she asked for and obtained without difficulty a legal separation on the grounds of desertion. However, the husband found a roundabout way, more or less irregular, to marry his cousin in Holland, where he lives now, but in France he would be considered a bigamist and his legal wife in Paris, who has never been his wife. The affair created a great scandal at the time in Parisian society.

THE VILLAGE HATTER.

Something That Is Interesting and Historical About Headgear.

The wool hat industry is native to the soil in this country, according to the New York Sun. Away back in colonial times there was a village hatter, just where there is now a village blacksmith. He made hats of felted wool, doubtless in imitation of patterns brought from the mother country by the latest immigrants. Wool felting, by the way, was, according to an ancient tradition, the accidental discovery of the hatters' patron saint.

According to the legend the good man, trudging along a dusty highway, lost his hat. He found his feet bleeding and blistered from the gravel that got into his sandals. Not being of a penitential order, he paused beside a hedge, picked some wool that passing sheep had left upon the thorns, and thrust it into his sandals for greater ease. Then he trudged onward, and on reaching the monastery was surprised to find the wool felted into a compact mass by the constant pounding it had received from his feet. This hint was enough, and in course of time the future saint set up as a feltier.

From the monastery the trade spread to neighboring villages, and so over Europe. In course of time, too, the colonists brought it with them to America. Here it flourished in a small way for more than a century, until the stirring activity of Americans led them to cast about for labor-saving machinery. However, the factory system was not thoroughly developed in this country until thirty or thirty-five years ago.

The factories do practically all the work now, and all kinds of hats are marvelously cheapened. Buffalo Bill's cowboy hats, for instance, are manufactured in central New York, and they are vastly cheaper than those made by hand in Mexico. Cowboy fancy must be studied by the manufacturer, and there is a great variety of ornaments on these hats. One has an enameled leather band about the crown; another an elaborate tinsel owl on the front; another a curled twisted cord or band with a tiny baseball dangling from one end.

The Sidesaddle.

The horrified opposers of the movement for women's riding on equestrian seats have been so long in coming that it is not for an accident of fashion the gentler sex would be striding their horses still, and that the sidesaddle is not