#### KILLED FIVE OF HIS FAMILY

Surviving Child Pleaded for the Life of Her Father Though She Barely Escaped Losing Her Life-Realism Too Horrible for the Stage-An Extraordinary Judge. Chartres, Dec. 30.-After a week's

trial, which has attracted the attention of the whole of France, Brierre, the farmer of this vicinity, vho, April 21st, murdered four of his aughters, aged respectively 14, daughters, aged respectively 14, 5, and 4, and his son, 7 years of age, stabbing and beating them to deal, while they were in bed, was found guilty to-day, and was condemned to be decapitated by the guilotine. Before persisted in declaring himself innocent, and defended himself with the habitual cunning of the French peasant. But the circomstantial evidence was overwhelming.

A pathetic incident of the trial occurred when Briere's surviving little daughter, who, the police declare, only escaped the fate of the other only escaped the face of the other children by not responding to Briere's invitation to go to see him, went on the witness stand sobbingly, and protested that her father was in-nocent, and begged the court to re-store him to her. An Extraordinary Judge.

This is the first time a man has been tried in France for murdering his five fittle children, beginning with the enest, by successivery cut-ting their throats while sleeping, in ting their throats white sleeping, in order, as the judge himself proclaims, to marry his mistress, a woman of reputed wealth, who did not want to wed a man with a family. Brierre, the accused, is a hard-neaded, retuent peasant, the owner of a small in mear the pacturosque Village of Corancez. He emphatically declares his innocence, stating that he is the victim of the hatred of his townsfork, who, at the instigation of another peasant, one Luoin, the father other peasant, one Lubin, the father of the woman he wanted to marry the man whom he accuses of being the real murderer of his live children— conceated in his stable the blood-stained blade of a plough with which the crime was committed, and placed ther brood-stained objects on the

other blood-standed objects on the premises, thereby providing a chain of circumstantial evidence.

The Judge refused to allow the jurors to examine the premises where the crime was committed, and conducts the trial as if he were a pro secuting attorney, working tooth and nah to bring home to the accused one of the most inhuman crimes heard of since Medea of Colonis slaughtered the calldren she bore to

Jason.

(Phis extraordinary Judge, whose method would under almost any other judical procedure than that of France furnish grounds for a new trial, broke forth in angry expletives, saying: "This is how this murderer entered the room; this is the way he cut his children's throats. If you don't believe it, why, I do; and that is enough for you to convict him." And again: "Oh, oh! Your pretended robbers only wounded you, and did And again: "On, on: Your pretended robbers only wounded you, and did not kill you. Well, had I been in their placed would not have missed killing you. you may feel sure of that." Strange to say, the conduct of the Judge caused great delight among the townsfolk of the accused, and when counsel for the defence objected to the ruling of the bench, and ob-served that his client had a right to express his indignation and that he went each time that his dead children spoken of, the audience in the house began to yell with fury at the prisoner, shouting, "Kill him." And a venerable, mild-man-mered gentleman with white moustache called out, "Enough, enough Let him be guillotined right away." e Belat smiled, rang his bell, and udge Belat smiled, rang his ben had mally restored order, and the trial was continued in the stuffy little out house within a stone's throw of Chartres Cathedral.

A Ghastly Scene. A brief visit yesterday to Char-res, which is only two hours by rail from Paris, showed one of the most graesome and tragic features of French criminal procedure. Brierre, the prisoner accused of murdering his five children, was led from the court-room and stripped; in an anteroom they reclothed him with all the garments which he wore when found lying helpless in farmyard the day after the wretched man was with tears in his eyes, bench in blouse, shirt, ers, all besmeared with and trousers, perts, raised his arms, bared his blood-stained undershirt. At last the judge himself walked down from the bench, got on his knees before the prisoner and began fingering him all over for the disease, and tried many remedies for it. A few days ago she said she had been told that to wash the entire body in alcohol would effect a cure. It is not known overhead electric rallways of the disease, and tried to dispert the idea from her mind, but she persisted that she was a victim of the disease, and tried many remedies for it. A few days ago she said she had been told that the disease, and tried to dispert the idea from her mind, but she persisted that she was a victim of the disease, and tried many remedies for it. A few days ago she said she had been told that the disease, and tried many remedies for it. A few days ago she said she had been told that the disease, and tried many remedies for it. A few days ago she said she had been told that the disease, and tried many remedies for it. A few days ago she said she had been told that the disease, and tried many remedies for it. A few days ago she said she had been told that the disease, and tried many remedies for it. A few days ago she said she had been told that the disease, and tried many remedies for it. A few days ago she said she had been told that the disease h dried and crystallized blood, while

brions, a large table stool in the court-room, upon which were displayed, as in a chamber of horrors of some dime missum, the blade of a plough, with which the judge declares the prisoner cut his chillren's throats, and the huge mallet with waich he is charged with hav-lag betten out their brains. Both al causes.

splattered with blood and Also on the table were blood-

hair. Also on the table were blood-stained pieces of wrapping paper and other stage properties of this extraordinary crime.

The expert evidence, as usual, was negative, but still created doubt in favor of the accused, which in an American court the prisoner's coun-sel would have been able to turn to his client's advantage. Not so, however, at the Chartres Assizes.

### FARMERS' HOUSE BURNED

Four Persons Lost Their Lives in the Flames.

AN OVERHEATED KITCHEN STOVE

Dubois, Pa., Dec. 30.-Word reached nere to-day of a terrible holocaus that occurred about three miles from Summerville, Jefferson county, yesterday morning. The home of John Ashbaugh, a farmer, was destroyed by fire and four persons were burned to death. One other is burned in such a manner that recovery is very doubtful, and four others are seriously burned and 'njured. The dead are:

William Ashbaugh, 22 years of age a brother of the owner of the Ash-baugh home.

Mabel Ashbaugh, a 12-year-old laugnter.

daugnter.

Harry Ashbaugh, a 10-year-old son.

James Ashbaugh, a 9-year-old son.

that recovery is doubtful.

Mrs. Ashbaugh, beverely burned;

leg broken, and injured internally by jumping from a second-story window.

John Ashbaugh, the husband and father, severely burned and suffering from exposure.

Two young children painfully burners

d. The affair happened at an early hour in the morning, and the fire was undoubtedly caused by an over-

was undoubtedly caused by an overheated stove.

Mr. Ashbaugh got up in the morning, replenished the fuel in the kitchen stove and then went back to bed. He was awakened a short time afterwards by smoke entering the room he occupied, and he was a the lower part of the house a He lower part of the house a He ran through the house at akened everyone, and then make wa outside with his two smallest chi dren. He hurried back and looke for his wife, brother and four chi

dren, who were still in the house. He succeeded in reaching a room that had been occupied by the children, but only one, the 8-year-old boy, Herman, was there.

He could hear the screams of the could bear the screams of the screams of the screams.

four others in a room across the hall, where it is supposed they were lured in their bewilderment, supposing it to be a way out of the house. Mr. Ashbaugh could not enter the room. The flames were so fierce he was compelled to tight his way from the house. Meantime Mrs. Ashbaugh had jumped from an upper story window, and was lying on the ground, with a broken leg, and suffering from internal injuries and

burns,
Mr. Ashbaugh dragged his wife
and the three children further away from the burning house, the walls of which were now falling in. He carried bundles of hay, straw and feed sacks from the barn, with which he wrapped them up. Then tying his own feet, which were badly burned and cut, in sacks, and with nothing on but his right clothes, and they having been partly furned off him, he ran over a mile through the snow and zero weather to the homes of neighbors and gave the alarm.

Put Alcohol on Her Body and Set Fire to it.

WAS IT ACCIDENT OR SUICIDE?

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—Miss Lillian Vickers, a student at Bryn Mawr College, met death in a horrible form yesterday. She covered her nude body with alcohol and was burned to death before the eyes of a number of her companions. Whether the girl was mentally unsound and set fire to herself or whether the alcohol was ignited accidentally, is not known.

The girl's roommate said that Miss Vickers arose about 5 o clock and went into the bath-room. which was mear their apartment. Half an hour later she ran out into the corridor all aflame, screaming for help and crying from pain. Several students hrew blankets over her, but firmes blankets over her, but the fiames continued to burn, and she fell. Medical assistance was summoned, but her body was charred all over and it was impossible to save her. Sae died in live hours without re-

gaining consciousness.

It is said at the college that Miss Vickers has recently had an idea that she was suffering from 1 prosy. Her friends tried to dispet the idea from

Mrs. Duffy, a respected resident of Pitt birg Township near Kingston, who lived alone was found dead in bod by a neighbor. She was aged 65 years. Death was due to natural courses.

## CHARGED WITH WITCHCRAF

Chicago Woman Said God Would Send Defence.

#### AND A LAWYER APPEARED.

Neighbors Say She is a Witch-She Breaks Down and Tells of Her Struggles for Her Family-Hypnotism in the Case.

Chicago, Dec. 30.-Because she had prayed for assistance in her trouble Mrs. Helen Roth, 1911 Cortez street, says Attorney Miles J. Devine was sent by the Lord to the Court of Justice James Dooley to defend her against the charges of witchcraft brought by her neighbors.

The scene, a dramatic one, occurred in the Court of Justice James Dooley yesterday afternoon. On the benches sat almost a dozen nesses who had sworn that the defendant had attempted to hypnotize them. Weird tales of witchcraft, hypnotism and other mysterious things were told His Honor by the witnesses.
"I am a defenseless woman," the victim pleaded when the case against

victim pleaded when the case against her was called. "I have no witnesses

to speak for me."
"Have you not even a lawyer to appear for you?" asked His Honor in a kindly tone of voice. Put Faith in the Lord,

"I have notody but the good Lord to help me," answered the defend-ant. He is with me at all times. He will send somebody here to help me. I have prayed to Him to be near me and to assist me and I know He will not fail." She had hardly finished her statement when Attorney Devine walked to the courtroom, being interested

another case.

Ah, my prayer has been answer-"declared Mrs. Roth. "The Lord has sent my protector already." Then the woman approached Attorney Devine and declared that it was the Lord's wish that he appear as her counsel without any pay or compensation.

attorney Devine gazed in surprise at the pale, careworn-appearing woman before him. Suddenly he was seen to throw off his overcoat and a moment later the ex-city attorney announced that he was there to defend Mrs. Roth.

Say She is a Witch. Then began a further effort to convince Justice Dooley that Mrs. Roth was possessed of extraordinary hypnoite powers, and that her weird practices had thrown her neighbors into a state of intense fear and

excitement.

Mrs. Roth took the stand in her own behalf. She told of her strug-gles to bring up her family of chil-

dren.
'I have stood on the cold street corners for hours," she said, 'selling flowers so that I could bring up my

own to use it. It is the mysteries of this science which puzzle my neighbors and make them believe I am a witch. In their ignorance they mis-construed my efforts to benefit them and have brought disgrace upon my-self and family."

Attorney Devne made an carnest

plea that defendant, complainants and witnesses all shake hands. Mrs. K. Donovan, the complainant, how-ever, refused, saying she feared the woman, and the case was finally continued ten days with the understanding that Mrs. Roth confine her hypnotic efforts to her own family.

# ELECTRIC TRAIN ON FIRE

Strange Disaster to an Electric Train in a Tunnel.

aster occurred this evening on the overhead electric railway. A train of three cars was approaching the southern terminus at Fingle Station. It is understood that it had unloaded got on his knees before the prisoner and began fingering him all over and began fingering him all over and pointing out to the jury what stains were, in the opin on of experts, those caused by the blood of his dead children, and those which were supposed to have been made by his own blood in defending his self from his alleged assassin.

The seene was so appalling that an eminent Parisian dramatic critic remarked: "Good heavens! this is too frightful! If such a general were put on the stage of the theatre no Parisian audience would stab it."

Chamber of Horrors.

The make matters still more lugabrious, a large table stool in the court-room, upon which were displayed, as in a chamber of horrors

Was puffy a respected resident of the displayed, as in a chamber of horrors.

Was puffy a respected resident of the course fleit the disposition, and an excellent student.

Was puffy a respected resident of the course fleit the disposition and an excellent student.

The officials set in we not the standard of the purity fleet with all body in alcohol delact a cure. It is not known to would effect a cure. It is not known the stain to known the spirits before to-day, but after the accident at the southers the spirits before to-day, but after the accident at the southern terminas at Fingle Station. It is noderstood that it had unloaded a majority of its passengers at the Hercukhaean dock, which is the precommand that the holath-rood.

There was no light in the bath-rood.

There was said by one of the students that Miss Vickers may have set fire to the alcohol deligeration of the rear cur failed in its fusing metantism. It is now stated that the motor of the rear cur failed in its fusing metantism at Fingle Station. It is noderstood that the motor of the rear cur failed in its fusing metantism at Fingle Station. It is not stated that the motor of the rear cur failed in its fusing metantism at Fingle Station. It is not stated that the motor of the rear cur failed in its fusing metantism. It is not stated that the motor of the

running.

The fire brigade is flooding the tunnel from both ends.

The Times' Liverpool correspondent says it is believed that all the passengers escaped through the station, except two, who were taken to a hospital. They were severely, but not dangerously, burned. About five others were slightly burned. The motorman, who was severely burned, was also taken to a hospital. The train was completely destroyed. CHRISTMAS IN

### BRITAIN'S NAVAL STRENGTH

Opinion of Clover, Naval Attache at London.

WAS NEVER MORE EFFICIENT.

Washington, Dec. 30.-In an interview this evening Commander Richardson Clover, naval attache at the American embassy in London, who is here on leave of absence, declared ain are in a far more effective and efficient condition than the Continental Powers believe, and that never in her naval development has Britain been stronger on the seas. Re-cent torpedo boat accidents have made little impression in British naval circles, he declares, and their programme calls for the continued advance of the highest class of boats of the swiftest possible speed. Com-mander Clover added:

"The naval force that Great Britain is capable of exerting is equal to-day to that of any three Continental Powers and was never in a more efficient condition. / The British service has been severely criticised, but much of this criticism as to its efficiency is due to a policy of the Naval League and the press to de-preciate in the mind of the public Britain's strength, in order that large appropriations may be secured for expanding the navy and to continue the policy of maintaining it equal to that of the combined strength of any two world Powers. The policy in Britain seems to be to impress the public with the weak-ness rather than the strength of the British service, with a view to se-curing additional ships through mis-apprehension in the public mind that the force is not keeping pace with its importance to the nation. "Here our policy seems to be to overestimate rather than underesti-

mate our naval strength, which is not right. The people here seem im-pressed with the strength of the navy, especially since the Spanish-American War, when actually bet-ter results might be obtained before Congress were the impression convered that we are not so strong Abroad the United States is reckoned as the seventh naval power, be ing outranked by all the Continental navies, including Italy. But this view is not accepted in the United States, and figures of ships building and tonnage indicate that the United States is now either fifth or tied with Germany for fourth place, outranked by Great Britain, France and Russia Germany, however, has a more ex-tensive programme of increase than the United States and will probably lead us in a few years at her pre-sent rate of building unless liberal appropriations are made here for naval development. Shep for ship the new vessels of our navy equal in every respect those of the foreign services, but we have comparative-ly few. Abroad the United States while, of course, reckoned as a naval

corners for hours," she said, 'selling flowers so that I could bring up my shilled of course, reckoned as a naval power, cannot be said to be counted in any combinations that nations might make against others. The spanish war did much to enhance our standing before European naval powers, but we are still regarded as entitled to no higher rank than and wept several minutes despite the efforts of a representative of the Woman's Protective Association to comfort her.

"I am not a crazy woman Neither am I insan nor a witch, as these women would have the court believe." said the defendant "I was born in Germany, and my father was a colonel in the Germany army. I was nurse in several hospitals in Holland for years, and a successful one. I am for years, and a successful one. I am the woman increased. Her channel the forman increased in an arrange of Christ.

I'I lam not a crazy woman Neither am I insan nor a witch, as these women would have the court believe." said the defendant "I was born in Germany, and my father was a colonel in the Germany army. I was nurse in several hospitals in Holland for years, and a successful one. I am the second the said to be counted in any combinations that nations might make against others. The Spanish war. did much to enhance our standing before European naval powers, but we are still regarded as entitled to no higher rank than even the would place us nearly alongside of Japan.

"Britain to-day is stronger than these with another power included. She has \$0.000 men afloat, and, although her naval reserve is not so strong and perhaps well drilled as that of France, the real strength of her personnel is in the trained, disputed in any combinations that nations might make against others. The Spanish war. did much to enhance our standing before European naval powers, but we are still regarded as entitled to no higher rank than hat nations might make against others. The Spanish war. did much to enhance our standing before European naval powers, but we are still regarded as entitled to no hi The ships are always in excellent condition, and reports of weaknesses and rottenness are without the slightest semblance of truth. These reports are circulated by the Naval League, an organization for the upbuilding of the British navy, with branches throughout the British Islands. In fact, the admiralty will often refuse to efficially deny statements of reported defects in the British navy, and rather encourages a feeling of depreciation of its strength than magnifying it.

The following regulations shall be included in the code:

The throughout the specific payment for a man's self, and payment for deficted up relations, nor as punishment for admiring shall be included in the code:

The throughout the specific payment for a sum of man's self, and payment for deficted up relations, nor as punishment for admiring shall be included in the code:

The throughout the specific payment for admiring the state of slavery be nenceiorward established.

The following regulations shall be included in the code:

The throughout the specific payment for admiring the payment of a sum of money for his redemption. The amount of this sum shall be decided by the competition of the payment for admiring the payment for adm

ELDER SONS AT CORONATION. Fathers Must be Dukes to Entitle

Them to Carry King's Train. London, Dec. 30.-There is a certain amount of curiosity to know who will be the elder sons to carry

the King's train at the coronation.

They should be elder sons of dukes, and will most probably be Lord Eusten, elder son of the Duke Lord Eusten, elder son of the Duke of Grafton; Lord Paristock, son of the Duke of Bedford; Lord Percy, son of the Duke of Northumberland; Lord Dalkeith; son of the Duke of Buceleuch; and Lord Hamilton, son of the Duke of Abercorn.

These are all of this rank at present in England, Lord Douro and Lord Tullibardine being in South Africa with their reg ments.

Lord Granby, son of the Duke of Rutland, is not eligible, as he sits in the House of Lords as Lord Haddon.

Ween master and comestic slave, the decision shall lie with the competent and comestic slave, the decision shall lie with the competent decision shall lie with the competent and comestic slave, the decision shall lie with the competent authorities.

The master of a domestic slave is under obligation to maintain him and provide for him in old age and in sickness. This obligation is not cancelled by emancipation granted during the period of old age or sickness.

The transfer of the rights of ownership can be accomplished only with the consent of the slave, and before the competent authorities, upon whose assent it shall be dependent. Before according such consent, the

The Berlin correspondent of the Leadon Standard learns that Germany is about to despatch an ultimatum to Venezuela. Unless Venezuela compst to a lefinite and satisfactory arrangement with her German creditors within a very short time, the correspondent says, the German Government will be prepared to resort to fore ble measures.

Of the owner hip, and shall take heed that all the other persons on board escaped. The fire or ginated in the separated from one another without their consent.

"The rights of ownership shall be forefited in the event of the owner's forefited in the event of the owner's desk, and probably was started by a spile of seed cotton on the boiler desk, and probably was started by a committing any grave breach of his duty toward his slave. The competent authorities shall offe ally enquire into cases of violation of duty which come to their knowledge, and probably was started by a committing any grave breach of his duty toward his slave. The competent authorities shall offe ally enquire into cases of violation of duty which come to their knowledge, and probably was started by a committing any grave breach of his duty toward his duty toward his duty toward his slave. The competent authorities shall offe ally enquire into cases of violation of duty which come to their knowledge.

The owner hip, and shall take heed that all the other persons on board escaped. The fire or ginated in the occasion. The boiler desk, and probably was started by a committed in the event of the owner's pile of seed cotton on the occasion. The competition of weather and the occasion of the owner's pile of seed cotton on the occasion. The competition of the owner's pile of seed cotton on the occasion. The competition of weather and the occasion of the owner's pile of seed cotton on the occasion.

# THE HOLY LAND.

How the Day Was Spent in Bethlehem.

### CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY.

Scene of, a Wonderful Gathering to Honor the Day-Order of the Procession and Services-Many Altars Occupied.

New York, Dec. 31.-The World prints a cablegram from Bethlehem, showing the manner in which Christ mas eve and Christmas day this year celebrated in the Holy Land. According to the despatch from Bethlehem the sky was clear and the air chilly on the day before Christmas. At an early hour crowds commenced to stream in from Jerusalem and all the neighboring towns. Many travelled from Europe, even from America. The Euro pean costumes mingled with the bright oriental dresses made the sceme varied and vivid with colors, while in the throng were seen many

Bethlehem women. At the Church of Nativity at Bethheten, the Latins, Greeks and Armenana, each have a place of worship, but the ceremonies which attracted the thousands were those at the choice church. Throughout the

the tholic Church. Throughout the morning crowds flocked to the magnificent Church of the Nativity inclosing the cave, believed by scholars to be the actual birthplace of Christ. It was brilliantly illuminated.

During the foremoon a multitude of people crowded the great square fronting the Church of the Nativity, covering the housetops on every side. The procession them appeared, the patriarch escorted by Turkish soldiers, preceded by the Kawassesv of official guard of the Patriarch and official guard of the Patriarch and convent, advancing to the church.

Following the sacerdotal procession came that of the French Consul and his staff, in uniform, with an escort of mounted guards, he taking precedence as representing France, the recognized guardian of Catholic in terests in the Holy Land. Following his entry into the church came the beautifur service of vespers and the benediction. Throughout the evening

the church was well filled with crowds of worshippers. At 11 o'clock matins were sung, and a few minutes before midnight all was hushed. Then on the stroke of the hour the "Gloria' arose—all in profound adoration to usher in Christmas morning. Immediately afterward the Patriarch ascended the high altar and began to celebrate high mass. Thenceforward throughout Christmas day every altar in the sacred edifice was exempled by mich to sacred edifice was occupied by priest saving masses. Many devotees who took their places at 10 o'clock on Christmas eve kept their vigils till 11 o'clock on Christmas day, anxious not to miss one moment of the ceremonies on the site of the birthplace of Christmas.

constantly increased. Her channel that is a magnificent aggregation of lighting force, constantly kept at sea and ready for any assignment. The ships are always in excellent the ships are always in excellent the following regulations shall be increased.

rancom appointed shall receive a cer-

tificate of emancipation from the au-Every comestic slave must be permitted to work for himself during two, days in the week, or to use for his own purposes the corresponding proceeds of his labor. In so far as

proceeds of his labor. In so has existing custom is in this respect more favorable to the slave, it shall continue in force. In this matter, as the all other differences between master and domestic slave, the

don.

If the present case are not home by Jane it is possible that som of the elder sons of marquises will be chosen in their places.

whose assent it shall be dependent that the break the legality of the owner hip, and shall take beed that which may appear in the same family be

effect the liberation of the lissuing a certificate of eman and in such cases the form shall not have any claim to sation.

"Offences against the provi "Offences against published the edict shall be published fine not exceeding 500 rupes imprisonment for a period net seed in the edition of th ceeding three months, except in cases where a heavier penalty curred by virtue of other law

### MRS. DRUCE LOSES

The Duke of Portland Now Rest Easy.

REJECTED BY PROBATE CO

London, Dec. 30.-Another cla a British peerage and dukedon cllapsed. The case of Mrs. Flor Anna Maria Druce, affecting rela ly the trie and estates of the Duke of Portland, has just been tled in the Probate Court.

After a trial lasting several before Justice Barnes and a sp jury, the finding was officially that Thomas Charles Druce died 28, 1864. Inferentially, the ve carries with it the declaration bruce was not and could not b been the fifth Duke of Fortland.

Leses both Fights. Though the estate of Druce w also at stake, it is considered of the importance when taken in co nection with the contest for the title. by the jury's much the will made by Druce in 1869, and a codicil written in 1864, are declared valid Thus the plainth loses the right to claim for her son both the coveted title of nobility and the Druce property. Not a few great families in long-land breathe easier over the result, for the connections of the Duke of Portland are so many and so influential that the trial had ramilications throughout the kingdom. Though a threat has been made that the case wilf yet go to the House of Lords for final decision, no one believes the result will be otherwise than in the

Probate Court.
Throughout the trial Mrs. Druce acted in an extremely eccentric manner, and she has left the impression that her mind is unbalanced but, then, her friends and supporters say that her domestic troubles and her legal contests and disappointments have been sufficient render erratic the average human

are the most sensational that were are the most sensational that were ever given publicity in England. She is the widow of the illegitimate son of Thomas Charles Druce, who kept a large bazaar in Baker street, London. This store was hone combed with underground passages which Druce frequented. At times would not be seen for weeks, and then would suddenly emerge into his counting-room and resume business as if he had been absent for only as if he had been absent for only

Prying Eyes Shut Out.

About the same period the fifth Duke of Portland lived in baronial spiendor at Welbeck Abbey, and at times occupied his town house in London. The latter place was sur-rounced by high warls that effec-tively shut out prying eyes into his movements. But things were his movements. But things different at Welbeck. There eccentric nobleman had constructed subterranean passages, maze-like in character, and it was his custom to disappear and reappear in a mys-

terious way.

In fact it is the claim of Mrs. Druce that the Duke left Welbeck Abbey to become plain Mr. Druce in the Baker street establishment, and that when His Grace grew weary of trade he retraced his steps to his country home, washed off the stains and stigma of commerce, and—presto, change! became again the high and

mighty Duke of Portland.
The Dake died Dec. 6, 1879, and was succeeded in title and estates by a distant relative, but as Druce, merchant, had expired some y earlier or, according to the deci just rendered by Justice Barnes, Dec. 28, 1861—Mrs. Druce asserts that the shopman simply abandoned the mer-cantile house forever and remained

Duke the rest of his days.

His Grace was buried in Kensal
Green, and Mrs. Druce alleges that
there is nothing but lead pipe in his
coffin. She once got a permit to have the sarcophagus opened, but another legal barrier was raised, and it is nov improbable that the culfile world will ever know what that tomb contains. While the Probate Court decision has failed to raise the veil that covers a mysterious double life, and while secres of people in England be lieve that the Baker street merchant and the eccentric nobleman of Wel-beck were one and the same person, it is certain that Mrs. Druce's sailor rightful heir to the great Dukedom

DIED ON BURNING STEAMER.

Several Lives Lost in Fire Started by

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 31.-The stern wheel steamer San, plying between this port and Funton, Tenn., burned to the water's edge at 5 oclock today, at her moorings at the wharf on the city front.

The boat arrived from Fulton about

midnight last night with fifteen pas-sengers, all of whom were asleep on board when the fire broke out. sengers, all of whom were asleep on board when the fire broke out. Of these three are known to be lost, D. H. Rainey and wite, of Old River, Tenn., and Mrs. G. M. Tims, of Richardson, Landing, Ark. Their charred remains have been recovered from the wreek. The three-months-old child of Mrs. Tims is massing. It is selleved that all the other parsons on board exempt. The fire or clanded in

quire into cases of violation of duty which come to their inowledge, and are in such cases entitled to settled at Woodstock Assizes.