

ONLY SEEMING DEATH.

ELECTROCUTION DECLARED TO BE A BRUTAL FRAUD.

A Distinguished French Scientist Denies That Such Shocks Kill Criminals, but Says They Die Under the Surgeon's Knife—Can This Be True?

One of the most distinguished scientific men in France, a man with regard to whose honor and consummate ability there is no question, has just asserted that the electric shock of our penal laws does not kill. He maintains and insists that the current simply brings about apparent death, and that the person subjected to it may be revived by artificial respiration. In other words, the criminals who have been subjected to the electric chair in this state have not been killed by the current, but by the knives of the physicians who conducted the autopsy upon them.

These extraordinary statements are hardly credible, but he must be a bold man who would attempt to assert the contrary of any views to which M. d'Arsonval puts his name and stamp with his high authority. A remarkable summary of the labors of Professor d'Arsonval in regard to electricity and its effects upon the human system, has just appeared in the *Moniteur Industriel*. The conclusions deduced are strongly confirmatory of those formulated by M. d'Arsonval since 1887. Electricity is shown to kill in two ways.

By producing mechanical lesions of the vessels and nervous system.

2. By inhibiting the great functions only or partially stopping of respirations, of the heart, of the exchanges between the tissues and the blood, etc.

The first kind of death is attendant on lightning and the static discharges of powerful batteries. It is seldom encountered in cases of industrial electricity. The second, on the contrary, is nearly always the rule. The practical bearing of these facts is that, while the first brings about definite death, the effect of the second may be a state of apparent death, from which the person may be made to revive by practicing artificial respiration immediately after the accident.

D'Arsonval holds that a person struck by an electric shock should be treated exactly as one drowned, and the formula which he has given to electricians has since his publication. M. d'Arsonval and Biraud stigmatize the putting of criminals to death by electric shock as a complicated, barbarous and unreliable proceeding, and they dare American doctors to practice artificial respiration upon the criminal after his so-called "death." D'Arsonval maintains that the use of dynamic electricity produces in man a kind of anesthesia, under cover of which he is mangled alive, and must be so in order to really become a corpse.

It is needless to say that d'Arsonval's earnest exposition of the results obtained in his recent experiments has attracted public attention to France and created a profound sensation. The experiments of M. d'Arsonval go to show that while in New York method is far from being certain, it is also brutal in the extreme, and is open to the doubt that in no case does it ever accomplish its purpose, namely that of killing the man or woman upon whom the law has passed the sentence of death. If M. d'Arsonval is to be believed, every man who has been subjected to the process in this state has probably been killed at the instant.

With a view to the raising of the question here raised, a reporter called upon several electrical and medical authorities and has submitted to them the views and experiments of M. d'Arsonval.

Joseph Wetzler, editor of the *Electric Engineer*, said: "I believe that d'Arsonval's statements are thoroughly well founded. I believe, further, that the death by electricity is horribly cruel. The opinion is based on the statements of those who have received shocks of electric current of the strength used by the state, and who describe their sensations under the ordeal as 'the tortures of hell.' How long the victim is subjected to these tortures before he succumbs is a matter of the slightest doubt. The characterization of electrical execution as a humane method of killing is based on entirely insufficient promises and is in the highest degree misleading and inaccurate. It is hoped that the results of M. d'Arsonval's investigation will be brought to the attention of the legislature and that this mode of capital punishment may at length be regarded in its true light and abolished."

Other experts seen held substantially the same views.—New York Cor. Chicago Herald.

A Contrast.

I was much struck on looking over a recent exchange by two articles having reference to the habit of saving. The first detailed the passion for hoarding possessed by the late Duke of Bedford, who died an miserably rich man. My readers will perhaps recall the death of His Grace, which was a surprise to everyone, one of those sudden calls into Eternity which are made on peer and peasant alike. His chronicler says he had no studies or hobbies or tastes, but one passion, that for saving up money. This was a trait that declared itself when he was very young. At Balliol he had, of course, a very handsome allowance from his father, and his joy was to save as much as possible of it, and every penny he saved he invested in safe, steady, riskless securities. This passion for saving remained with him to the day of his death. A few days passed without his saving something and reckoning how much he had saved. After his accession to the dukedom and the enormous wealth accompanying it, the passion increased as means of gratification had increased. His one absorbing thought was to save, to pile up further hoards of wealth, to find how much he could possibly save, to find new possibilities of retrenchment, of new ways of increasing the unneeded surplus. And every penny he continued to invest by the best advice procurable in the soundest undertakings.

In contrast to this horrid picture of a dominant idea, the very next gave an account of what was called Short Closures for Charity's sake, and related the experience of a poor country clergyman and his family who desired to help the cause of London missions to the poor and degraded. Here is his story: "I put it to the members of our small community."

wealth in they were willing to go on 'short common' to aid the London Missionary Society in the Forward Movement. There being no dissenters we determined: 1st, To go without meat; 2nd, to go without tea; 3rd, to go without jam; 4th, to go without sugar; and sundry small savings, which I calculated, as fairly as I could, not at 'store prices,' and the result was a saving of 24s. for the London Missionary Society. Bread and vegetables we did very well upon. As we are teetotallers and non-smokers, there was nothing to save on those two items. Totalling up each day our saving was amusing and a joy. I think it would do anybody good to 'graze on this picture and then on that,' and that the soundest business heads would rather risk the income from the latter than the former. Poor Duke of Bedford! rich little country parson—Lady Gay, in Saturday Night.

PREVENTION OF SEASICKNESS.

One of the Things Which Must Be Attended To on Ocean Ships.

For a long time the improvements in transatlantic steamers have had mainly for their object the shortening of the trip between America and Europe, and the latest Cunard ship, the *Campania*, is to cross in five days and possibly may reduce the record to four and one-half days. She is the longest and most capacious steamship afloat, her 600 feet length between perpendiculars being only 80 feet short of the departed *Great Eastern*, and her beam of 65.7 feet being 17 feet less than the *defunct Leviathan*. Her length over all is 620 feet; extreme breadth, 65 feet 8 inches; depth to upper deck, 43 feet, and gross tonnage about 13,500 tons. Her displacement will probably be 13,900 tons. She is fitted with two sets of the most powerful triple expansion engines that have yet been constructed, each set, it is believed, capable of indicating from 14,000 to 15,000 horse power. A fair idea of her speed may be gathered from the fact that the *Pittsburg Dispatch* states that her funnels are each 21 feet in diameter and the monkey-bridge is 60 feet above the level of the water.

While every possible modern resource is thus being exhausted in the attempt to shorten the Atlantic ferry trip, there are signs that attention is being directed at length to the securing of greater comfort during the passage, especially to prevent seasickness. It has lately been suggested that no good means of registering the motions of ships in riding on the waves has yet been devised, and that such an appliance would be useful in helping shipbuilders to discover the best way of making steady vessels—such as would diminish the risk of seasickness. Probably a seismograph might serve. The germ of another apparatus is perhaps to be found in a photograph recently obtained at sea. An eclipse of the moon took place and a photograph was made of it from the deck of the vessel. Of course the camera partook of the ship's indescribable motions, and the photograph represents this curiously tangled line of the sea, and the photograph is a seismograph. Possibly the photograph of a star of low altitude, with the horizon of a datum line, would give a diagram of a ship's movement on the water. At all events, it is more than probable that before long the desirability of traveling in certain ships will be determined by their seagoing form as much as by their speed.

While, however, scientific men are tugging in hand the extermination of the theories on which such a reformation is to be based, a most successful attempt has been made to attain the same end by practical means. The newest steamers of the Atlantic Transport Company, plying between New York and London, are provided with two extra keels, which run three-quarters of their length. No other Atlantic liner has the advantage of this special construction of hull, which reduces the rolling motion to a minimum. Every cabin is kept constantly supplied with pure air, and the odors of the galley are rendered innocuous. In these ships seasickness is the exception.

Blowing Up Condemned Criminals.

Near Monaca, Pa., parties were recently engaged in the novel business of breaking to pieces with dynamite the monster steel guns made by the manufacturers of cannon for the government, which, after being cast, are found to be imperfect. The slightest flaw, abrasion or crack in cannon is sufficient to cause the inspectors to condemn them. These discarded guns cannot be remelted unless they are reduced to small pieces. The cannons are taken in an out-of-the-way place, where holes are drilled into them and then set off with dynamite, of which material a ton is used per month. Nearly all the guns are shipped to Monaca station and Birba, whence the dynamite is carted to the place where the dynamiting is done. They weigh all the way from four to twenty-five tons and eighteen to twenty-five horses are frequently required. From a half to three tons of dynamite is used per blast. Some days as high as 200 blasts are made and none of the blasted pieces must be larger than a cubic foot. After being reduced to pieces they are sent back to the gun foundries—Philadelphia Ledger.

Red Hair and Freckles.

Science explains the phenomenon of red hair thus: "It is caused by a superabundance of iron in the blood. This iron imparts the vigor, the elasticity, the great vitality, the overflowing, thoroughly healthy animal life which runs riot through the veins of the ruddy haired, and this strong, sentient animal life in all their emotions than their more languid fellow creatures. The excess of iron is also the cause of freckles on the peculiarly clear, white skin which all ways accompanies red hair. This skin is abnormally sensitive to the action of the sun's rays, which not only bring out the brown spots in abundance, but also burn like a mustard plaster, producing a queer, creepy sensation, as if the skin were wrinkling up.—Analyst.

Efficiency of Labor at High Altitudes.

Mr. Lane the engineer in charge of the works of the Canadian Central Railway, has published some interesting data concerning the relative efficiency of his workmen at high altitudes. Up to the height of from 8000 to 10,000 feet he has ascertained that the natives perform practically the same amount of labor as at sea level, provided, however, that they have become accustomed to the altitude or have been brought up in South America. When 12,000 feet are reached efficiency diminishes, and at 14,000 to 16,000 feet there is a falling off of fully one-third compared with the quantity of work done on the flat. Nevertheless the percentage of labor at the greatest elevations is very good. Mr. Lane says, owing to the absence of malaria.

BRITISH SLAVE-TRADING.

Historical Sketch of the Traffic by Henry M. Stanley.

From the year when Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope (1487), to the year 1807, when the British government prohibited the exportation of slaves over the high seas, is a period of 319 years. During all this time Africa was surrendered to the cruelty of the slave-hunter and the avarice of the slave-trader. While its people were thus subjected to capture and exportation, it was clearly impossible that any intellectual or moral progress could be made by them. The greater number of those accessible from the coast were compelled to study the best method of saving the slave and escaping his force and his wiles; the rest only thought of the arts of kidnapping their innocent and unsuspecting fellow-creatures. Yet, ridiculous as it may appear to us, there were not wanting zealous men who devoted themselves to Christianizing the savages who were moved by such an opposite spirit. In Angola, Congo, and Mozambique, and far up the Zambesi, missionaries and priests were appointed, who converted and baptized, while at the mouths of the Niger, the Congo, and the Zambesi, their countrymen built slave-barracks and anchored their numerous slave-ships. European governments legalized and sanctioned the slave trade, the public conscience of the period approved it, the mitred heads of the Church blessed the slave gangs as they marched to the shore, and the tax-collector received the levy per head as lawful revenue.

But here and there during these guilty centuries words of warning are not wanting. Queen Elizabeth, upon being informed of the forcible capture of Africans for the purpose of sale, exclaimed solemnly that "such actions are detestable, and will call down vengeance on the perpetrators." When Las Casas, in his anxiety to save his Indians, suggests that Africans be substituted for them, the Pope Leo X. declares that "not only the Christian religion but Nature herself cried out against such a course."

One hundred and sixty-five years after the discovery of the Cape, Sir John Hawkins pioneers the way for England to participate in the slave trade, hitherto carried on by the Portuguese, the Spanish, and the Dutch.

A century later a king of England, Charles II., heads a party of West India undertakes to supply the British West Indies yearly with 30,000 negroes.

After the Asiento Contract, under which for thirty years England secured the monopoly of supplying the Spanish West Indies with slaves, as many as 192 ships were engaged every year in the transportation of slaves from the African coast. The countries which suffered most from the superior British method of slave capturing and racing and slave carrying were Congo land, the Niger Valley, the Guinea and Gold coasts, the Gambia, Cross, and Calabar lands.

The system adopted by the British crews in those days was very similar to that employed by the Arabs to day in their Africa. They landed at night, surrounded the selected village, and then set fire to the huts, and as the frightened people issued out of the burning houses, they were seized and carried to the ships; or sometimes the skipper, in his hurry for a crew, sent his crew to range through the town he was trading with, and, regardless of rank, to seize upon every man, woman, and child they met. Old Town, Creek Town, and Duke Town, in Old Calabar, are often witnesses of this summary and high-handed proceeding.

Boswell, the biographer of Dr. Johnson, called the slave trade "an important and necessary branch of commerce," and probably the largest section of the British public, before these antislavery champions as Clarkson and Wilberforce succeeded in persuading their countrymen to reflect a little, shared Boswell's views, as well as his surprise and indignation, when it became known that there were English people who talked of suppressing it. That the slave trade must have been a lucrative commerce there can be no doubt, when we consider that from 1777 to 1807 upwards of 3,000,000 Africans had been sold in the West Indies. All those forces which may be seen lining the west coast of Africa to-day were constructed principally by means of the revenue derived from the slave trade. From "Slavery and the Slave Trade in Africa," by Henry M. Stanley, in Harper's Magazine.

A Gift-Edged Risk.

Life Insurance President (in astonishment)—What under the sun ever made you take a risk on this man's life? Why, he swears he has been a confirmed invalid for five years!

Superintendent—One of the best of risks, sir. Confirmed invalids never die of anything but old age.

Patti's Method.

Mrs. Patti chooses her servants for Craig-Yon with reference to their vocal powers rather than to their domestic capabilities. Her castle is always crowded with guests and operatic performances in the little theatre are frequent, when it is necessary for her to recruit her troupe from the servants' hall.

A Sure Cure.

Von Blumer—You haven't another cigar like the one you gave me the other day, have you?

Willert—Yes, here's one.

Von Blumer—Thanks, old man. I'm trying to break my boy from smoking.—Clothes and Furnisher.

Her Sweetheart.

Carrie—"I think Hattie has gone out to moon."

Fannie—"What to moon?"

Carrie—"Don't you know what that is?"

Fannie (catching on)—"Oh, but why moon?"

Carrie—"Because there's a man in it."

Woman's Way.

"I'll never send a manuscript of another novel to a woman typewriter," said de Ryuter.

"Why not?"

"The last time I tried it she copied the last chapter first."

Saying It.

Nemo—Bah, that woman can't talk a little bit.

Noone—Why, I thought she talked incessantly.

Nemo—Well, isn't that what I said?—Godey's.

He Did.

She—You used to say before we were married that you would give up your life for me.

He—Well, didn't I? I haven't had any life since we were married.

Not Completely Intoxicated.

Holmes—Hewlet, let me be the most completely drunk man I ever saw last night.

Hewlett—No I wasn't. My better half was sober.

INTERIOR INTELLIGENCE.

News From the Ever-Increasing Up Country Papers.

LIVELY TIMES AT THE MINING CAMPS.

Important Discoveries of Daily Occurrence—Rush to the Duncan Country—Okanagan Railway Notes—Settlers Looking for Farming Lands.

(Kootenay Star.)

The machinery and type for the new paper was shipped to New Denver last Wednesday. It is to be called *The Prospector*. The first number is to appear on July 6th.

The work of clearing the right of way for the Revelstoke and Arbutus Lake railway will commence on Monday morning, Mr. J. J. Nickson of Vancouver being the contractor.

Jack Stauber has bonded the Silver Queen, on the Great Northern ledge, to Mr. Sasse for \$200,000, ten per cent. to be paid down. Jack is at present doing assessment work on the Pool lode.

Five packtrains are engaged carrying freight between here and New Denver, and two more enroute. Mr. Hughes would have brought his packing outfit here had the Duluth syndicate kept faith with him.

A. H. Holdich and J. H. Anderson left on Thursday morning on a prospecting tour. Starting from Illecillewaet they will work northwards towards Big Bend through a district in which no white man has ever set foot.

It is stated that work on the telegraph line from here to Nelson will commence at Nakusp on Monday and will be completed by October 15th. Poles will be cut along the route, and the wire is on its way from the east.

A number of German ranchers have visited Nakusp lately looking for land. But it is the same here as in other places in British Columbia. The good ranching land in the vicinity is owned by a few big game ranches, and it is not for sale at a reasonable figure.

A small screw steamer is being built at the smelter wharf by Mr. Vandermere of Nanaimo. She is 40 feet in length and 8 feet beam. The engine and propeller are ready for placing in position. She is for service on the Columbia river and will probably be launched this month.

(Golden Era.)

Mrs. Redgrave, wife of the sheriff, is again very seriously ill.

The government dredge will be ready for a trial run next week.

Shooting is good just now around Golden. Several black bears have been seen recently.

Miss Lucas, the much respected school teacher, went home to Victoria for her usual summer holiday on Sunday.

Dave Dickie and partner came in from the Duncan river country last Saturday. They brought some good samples of galena and quartz and encouraging accounts of the outlook in that section.

The committee appointed to draw up a memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor complaining of the great loss of property in the lake country, were yesterday at the hands of the Attorney-General's department in the late prosecution met at Donald on Monday last. A well signed document will be forwarded to Victoria and probably some attention paid to the desire of the well thinking public.

Two young Englishmen, Brown and Hemmatt, are having a good time just now fishing and are proud of their first day's sport. Twelve fine trout in a morning, averaging two pounds apiece, is not bad, and speaks well for the Columbia and the sportsman. Mr. Brown says this is hard work on the muscle but a good advertisement for the maker of the rod.

Archibald McDermid and George Stark came back from the International and other claims in the basin last week. The snow is now going very fast; parts of the claims even on the summit are getting clear, and shortly the entire country will be open for the prospectors and in speculation. The trail from Carbonate Landing to the Middle Fork extremity is in first-class order.

(Inland Sentinel.)

As a proof of the increase of traffic at this depot, the C. P. R. has increased the length of their platform by 150 feet.

At the Number One they are getting fine ore with wire silver showing plentifully. "Steve" expects 200 tons averaging 200 ounces in silver per ton.

There was to be seen at the Grand Pacific stables yesterday an extraordinary natural phenomenon in the form of a colt with eight legs. The animal is the property of Mr. Edwards, and was foaled at his farm at North Thompson about ten days since, by a pretty black mare, its sire being a Clydesdale stallion, both owned by Mr. Edwards.

Mr. Stevenson, of Ainsworth, who bonded the Highland mine, is very much pleased with the prospects of the mine. His partners, Messrs. Clark and Slater, of Spokane, came in last week to inspect their property when they found in the Highland a four-foot vein of clean galena giving 65 ounces of silver to the ton and about 65 per cent. of lead. They decided to erect concentrating works at the mine and took Mr. Stevenson out to order the machinery.

A gentleman who has just returned from a trip to Adams lake district is loud in his praise of this newly developed mineral country. He says prospectors are still coming in, and numerous claims have been located and registered. Three parties are now fitting out here to go out there, and many others are likely to follow. Water power to almost any extent can be obtained at Lewis creek, and the district gives evidence of being full of minerals. The outlet from these mines will be by Lewis creek and the North Thompson, and there is an excellent site for a town at the mouth of the former.

(Kaslo Examiner.)

Men set to work on the Eureka mine last Wednesday.

The Great Northern railway company has bought the Spokane smelter.

A sawmill is expected to start up at Bear lake this week. It will be run by Mr. Finney, of Minneapolis.

A Montreal man in Kaslo got a telegram 20 days behind time informing him of the death of his wife.

It is current talk that the Minneapolis syndicate have forfeited their deposit of \$3000 on the option they held on New Denver comes to hand of the discovery

of a seven-foot ledge of galena, 10 miles out of town, on the Black Fox claim, which is an extension of the Daisy.

John Jackson is reported to have made a very rich gold strike in the Castle creek district, ore from which is now being sacked. The ore sacked assayed \$8000 per ton.

J. W. McIntosh and L. McLean have been awarded the contract for building the new Presbyterian church. The contract price is \$347 and the work is to be completed within 30 days.

Mr. Starchman sold, this week, a half interest in the Dolly claim on Spring creek to some gentlemen from the east. Consideration \$900. The Dolly is just across the mountain on Jackson creek.

C. D. Sweitzer came in on Thursday from the big snowslide on the Freddie Lee. Mr. Sweitzer's brother was one of the unfortunate victims of the slide which occurred on the 4th of January. His body has not been recovered yet.

Father Fayard, superintendent of the Catholic denomination in the absence of Bishop Durieu, was here last week; and inquired about the advisability of establishing a Catholic School and hospital at Kaslo. The Catholics propose to erect a school and hospital at a cost of between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Rand and Miller have offered a tract of land to build on, but they have not fully decided yet.

Nelson Tribune.

The assessment work on the California claim has shown an 8-foot vein of iron-copper sulphide ore, which assays \$20 per ton in gold.

Travel between Bonner's Ferry and points on Kootenay lake is very light, but the steamboat crews are kept busy, nevertheless—fighting mosquitoes.

Word was telephoned down from Kaslo last night that J. M. Burke & Co.'s private bank had closed its doors. It is not likely that depositors will lose anything.

Another new location, the Edith Morey, shows a large body, width unknown, of iron pyrites and galena, a small sample from which assayed \$32 in gold.

John R. Cook is having some development work done on the Cliff claim. He has lately had three sample assays taken from 12 feet in width of his claim, the lowest of which ran \$35 and the highest \$60 in gold.

A 4-foot vein of iron-copper sulphide ore containing some galena and antimony has been located on the mountain overlooking the town a mile and a half away. Assay returns have not been received as yet.

Several new finds have been made at Trail Creek lately, twenty locations being recorded last week. The Munsie, a new location, shows a 4-foot vein of galena ore carrying \$60 to the ton, about equally divided between gold and silver.

Angus McGillivray has sold one-half his interest in the New Denver townsite to W. H. Smith, the locator of the Mountain Chief mine, for \$12,500. Mr. McGillivray still has an eighth interest in the townsite.

On Friday last a large body of high-grade ore was struck in the No. 1 mine, in Ainsworth district, and the lessees of that property are beginning to believe they have one of the best mining propositions in the lake country. The machinery for their concentrator is on the way in, and it has been decided to put the mill on the Kaslo creek.

The Sloan Hotel Company has quit business, and its property—the Hotel Sloan at Kaslo—is now in the hands of the creditors, of whom G. O. Buchanan, G. A. Bigelow & Co., and James McDonald & Co. are the principal ones. It is not known whether the hotel will be kept open or not. The liabilities of the now defunct hotel company footed up to something over \$12,000.

The recent discovery at the foot of Shielike lake so promising that the finders have decided to work it themselves. "Bill" Springer says it is the best defined ledge that he has yet seen in West Kootenay; that it is in granite; and that it will go down. The assay had given a return of 920 ounces in silver and \$40 in gold to the ton. The ore also contains copper, but no lead.

(Kaslo Examiner.)

The Duncan country is coming to the front in great style. Rich strikes are continually being made and prospectors are going into the district by the hundreds.

The sawmill plant has at last been shipped from the Toronto works and is en route to Lardo, with a man trailing it up to see that it will get through in fast time.

Prospectors are rushing into the Healey creek section from all parts and many good finds are being made. Wednesday over 20 prospectors ascended the creek valley from Trout Lake and the rush daily continues.

The ferry connecting the main Lardo trail with the one leading from the forks of the Lardo-Duncan rivers to Howser lake is completed and the workmen are now awaiting the steel cable to stretch across the river to finish the job.

Thomas Ferguson and J. D. McLeod arrived in town Sunday from Howser creek, having with them small sacks containing specimens of ore from veins struck a few days ago. The ore is galena and looks as fine as this character of mineral bearing ore usually does. Both strikes were made about six miles up the creek and in a country possessing a decidedly favorable formation for the existence of good leads.

Joe Hornington and S. S. Simmons arrived Wednesday from Cooper creek, bringing with them the glad tidings of a rich strike made about four miles from its mouth and eight miles from Lardo. The lead where they struck it is high on the mountain side and exposes three feet of good ore heavily streaked with galena bands. It is in a contact between granite and shale formations and also carries iron in considerable quantities.

Two canoes filled with Songhees Indians left yesterday for Whatcom to participate in the races there on July 4th.

An attempt was made to break into John McNeill's house, 67 View street, between 12 and 1 on Friday evening. The burglar entered through the kitchen window, but was frightened away before stealing anything.

A letter purporting to be from Fredrick Day, who was accused of the provincial jail several days ago, was received in the city on Saturday from Chehalis, Washington, and was addressed to a friend for delivery to Mrs. Day. The letter set forth that Day had been found in an open boat after having been four days without food.

A Novel

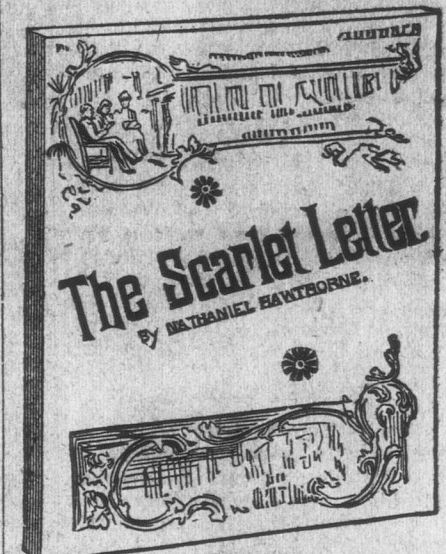
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