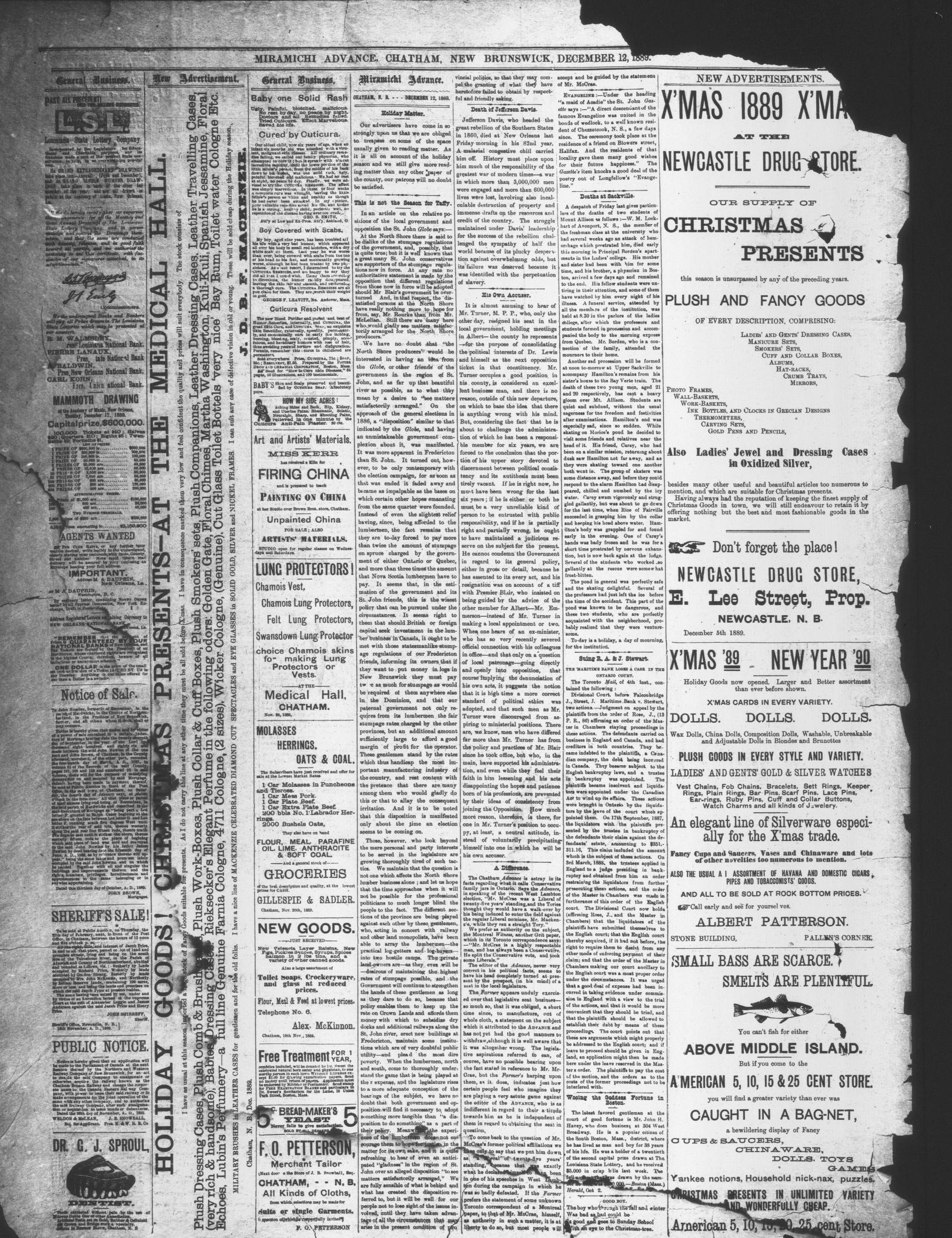






, Maria

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anud from 1st Page. is that the mur rder and ren from

small threads do matters er had for some time the city to a disat least three we eks, in the

and of a client, small that morning informed him-the contingency had arisen. His impulse was immediately to pre-for his departure. His second the was, if he went the coroner not have him for a witness, and atter of public duty he ought to

main Then he thought that while the client as a valuable one, nevertheless the heist character-the superintending of he signing of papers and contracts al-ready drawn—so be called in a neigh-boring young lawyer to whom he often bendered business, and who consented tendered business, and who consented tendered business, and who consented tendered business. Hard Helbrook gone this story would Had Helbrook gone this story would the have been written. During the morning Holbrook received note from a lady in whose good graces a wished to stand high, asking him to it upon her. Was the third man connected with the attack? I have he was arrected."

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rom Fifth avenue. When ushered into the richly furnished. when unnered into the richly furnished parlow he was made aware that it was the summer season. The furniture was covered, and so were the ornaments, statusry and most of the pioneth. Then he remembered he had wondered how it was that Miss Ashgrove was in the city at that time of the year. But one picture was exposed, and from

read an account of that shocking murder in Union square last night, and I also read that you were one of those who saw the frightful deed." "Yes," he replied shortly, and though annoyed and astonished he did not fail to appreciate that she was greatly agi-tated and seemed to make efforts at self represented. shall turn it over to the authorities." She handed it back to him and said: "I have seen" The door opened and her uncle, Mr. Witherspoon, entered.

"I knew the murdered man," she con d. "Indeed he was somewhat of a ive; I was much shocked."

"Very naturally." "Who committed the murder?" "Who committed the murder?" "Oh, that is wrapped in mystery. The suthorities are at a complete standstill; they have not a single clewof any value." "But you saw the man, according to the newspaper account." "Yes, at a distance. Indeed, I saw him closely, but did not then observe him with transies.

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commonplace in ts exactness and regularity. He attended strictly to business during busines hours, and stood well in commercia

CHAPTER VI.

A BIT OF RETROSPECTION

othing.

life was an open one and rather

circles. He took his pleasures soberly in his hours of relaxation. He had no vices

Lineard the cry from a third." Was the third man connected with the wished to stand high, asking him to and upon her The lady was young and handsome and rumor said rich. She lived with her mode, her parents being dead. Holbrook was greatly delighted with the summons. He had been attentive but as yet had received little encourage ment from the young lady. Her manner toward him, while cour-tions, was not different from that dis-played toward a dozen or more of the played toward a dozen or more of the rivelry. Notice and no entangling alliances. Neither the clothes cast off by the murderer in his flight, nor the diamond button found by Holbrook, nor the knife left in the body of the dead man, had proved to be clews of value to the

The verdict of the coroner's jury had. een: "Came to his death by being stabbed with a knife, in the hands of a

the murderer." "Its may have been the murderer." "Its may have been "Impossible," said Holbrook. "I saw the man strike his victim and then run into the park, and saw the other twenty person unknown." The police adopted the theory that the man had been struck in mistake, and that another victim had been intended. Why? That was a secret they guarded, and they worked on that line.

A large reward for the detection of the criminal was offered by the authorities. And the affair faded from the newspapers. The funeral had been a quiet one. There were but two mourners present-an elderly lady and a younger one closely

veiled, both evincing great grief. There were but few attendants from curiosity. Neither Mr. Witherspoon nor Flora Ashgrove were present. Holbrook, who was, noted this fact.

and contrasted her intense interest in the murdered man the day after the murder, with her absence from the funeral ceremonies.

A few of Templeton's business ac-quaintances, and the friends with whom he spent the last hours of his life made up the rest.

Apparently the tragedy was of one act, and the drop curtain was down. Holbrook's law office was on the sev onth story of one of those tall buildings which in recent years have become a conspicuous feature of lower New York. His private office was a corner room, and from the window his eye could roam

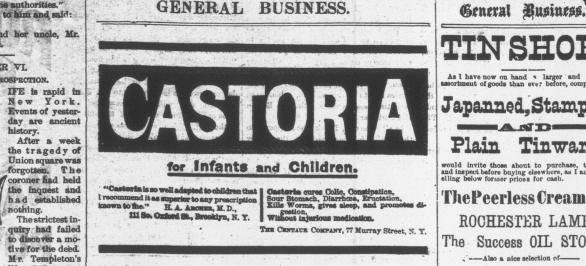
over the roofs of adjacent buildings, across the Hudson river and beyond the houses on the Jersey shore to the green hills back of them. One afternoon, two weeks after the murder, he was resting himself from his

labors and enjoying the extensive view spread out before him. In fact, he was reviewing that strange interview with Flora Ashgrove the day

after the murder.

ous wrong, and, as well, placing your-self in a false position. You forget that I saw the man run away after the bid throwing off his coat as he ran. Subse-quently the coat and other articles used for this disguise ware found." Flora tossed her bead incredulously. Holbrook continued: "The bitterness you manifest surprises me."

anything? What relation had existed between herself and the dead man? Why did she want to know so particularly the appearance of the munderer? What was at me. The lady shot an angry glance at him. "It is you who forget now. I told you that Mr. Templeton was a friend and a relative, though a remote one. Why should I not feel an interest in his murthe bottom of the intense anxiety she displayed? And for whom was this anxiety



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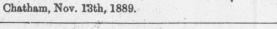
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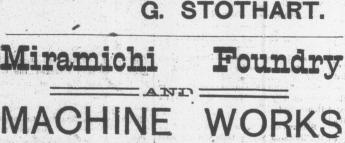




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