

SHREWD WOMEN CROOKS.

In Criminal Walks the Sex Is Keeping Well Up with Men.

"Women are making progress along more than one line," remarked an old member of the police force. "A recent example shows that they are quite as efficient as men in the matter of safe blowing." Woman in the role of safe blower is new to the police. The fact is that the operation of female offenders has heretofore been confined to offenses of the daytime or of the early part of the night. But here comes a story from Tennessee of the arrest of several women who belong to a gang of expert cracksmen, and who actually took part in a safe blowing in a small town near Nashville, where they robbed a bank and got \$1,700.

"Women have often developed into expert forgers, as, for instance, in the recent case of an American woman abroad, who succeeded in conducting a forgery scheme for a considerable length of time, and until she had fraudulently collected a vast sum of money. They make high-class pickpockets, and, in fact, infinitely more successful in this line of work than men.

"One curious fact in this connection—despite the frequent announcements publicly made of offenses of this kind committed by women, men are never on the lookout for the female pickpocket unless they find themselves in a questionable resort, or in bad company. For this very reason women find it much easier to pick a man's pocket. They can get closer to men, too, without becoming offensive, and can lift the diamond pin out of his scarf, nip his watch and chain or any other valuable thing he may have before he will ever dream of anything wrong.

"In that kind of pilfering, too, peculiar to kleptomania, she is more successful because in this instance of the way she dresses and woman's peculiar demeanor around the counters in dry goods stores. If a man, for instance, should go into a dry goods store and begin to pick up little things and fumble over them, apparently for the purpose of inspection, he would at once arouse the suspicion of every clerk within visual range. On the other hand, a woman may do exactly the same thing without exciting the least suspicion. It is simply looked upon as a matter of comparative ease for the kleptomaniac.

"But the woman safe blower is a new type, as far as my experience goes, and I suppose it simply means that the police of the country will soon be confronted with many new problems in dealing with the female offender."—New Orleans Picayune.

Two Indians in Navy.

There are two Iroquois Indians in the United States navy. They grew up together on a government reservation and spent their boyhood days in hunting and fishing. They were great friends and constant companions. Ten years ago they left the reservation to seek their fortunes after the manner of the white man. Separating, they wandered over the country in different directions, and by a singular coincidence each enlisted in the navy a few years ago without the knowledge of the other.

Several days ago they unexpectedly came together again on the gun deck of the receiving ship Minneapolis at the League Island navy yard and renewed the friendship of their youth. There was no doubt of their joy at meeting, notwithstanding the greeting consisted simply of a grunt, a hand shake and a few words in their native tongue. To their tribe these men were known as Leaping Deer and White Feather, says the Washington Star. In Uncle Sam's navy they bear the names of Thomas France and John Johns, respectively. They are described as good sailor men.

A Butcher of Taste.

There is a butcher in one of the New Orleans markets who has built up an immense family trade entirely by reason of his taste in doing up parcels of meat. His modus operandi is very ingenious. If he is handling a porterhouse he places it between two squares of pasteboard, uses a sheet of pearl gray manilla paper as a wrapper and ties it up with baby blue string. The result is a neat rectangle which has every appearance of having come from some fashionable drug store or confectioner's. Chops and such like he stows away in neat little cardboard tubes, and he keeps a supply of one pound candy boxes especially for chicken livers and chopped sausage. The system is very effective.

Those Who Read Novels.

"But," we object, speaking to the author who has written a historical novel, "this historical data is absolutely wrong. Why, it's ridiculous to have George Washington fighting three duels, fighting battles he was never in, etc."

"I know I took some liberties with George and history," the author says naively, "but what's the difference? He'll never know and it won't hurt his feelings."

"But the people who read your book," we again object.

"Surely you know that people who read historical novels know nothing of history!" he exclaims in just scorn.—Baltimore Herald.

The Policeman Knew.

The Accused—But it was a case of absent-mindedness, yer honor. I did not know what I was doing when I took the coat.

The Judge—But, unfortunately for you, the officer did.—Boston Transcript.

True Christianity consists of deeds rather than words.

LONG TRIAL ENDED

Fate of Mrs. Lillie is Resting With Jury Argument Well Advanced

SAYS SHE IS VERY PECULIAR

Elaborate Summery Made of State Evidence --Denies Evidence of Guilt

David City, Neb., March 3.—T. Stimony in the Lillie murder case was finished in short order yesterday and arguments by attorneys on either side are well advanced. County Attorney Evans made an unusually strong presentation of the case for the state, as did counsel for Mrs. Lillie.

A large number were greatly disappointed when the defense rested their side of the case in that the defendant, Mrs. Lena M. Lillie, did not go upon the stand and affirm or deny the numerous statements it is alleged she made to different persons on the morning of the murder and subsequent thereto.

After fourteen days of testimony taking court convened this morning. The large district court room was well filled. The housewives, chambermaids and servant girls postponed their customary wash day and came out to witness the closing of the most important trial in the history of Butler county. The jury when brought into court presented the appearance of having enjoyed the Sunday rest.

Mrs. Lillie had the appearance this morning of one who is undergoing a severe mental strain, and who no doubt appreciates the fact that the trying ordeal is nearing the close.

In the rebuttal testimony for the state Arthur Pepper was the first witness this morning. He said:

"I live about one hundred feet south of the Lillie residence. On the morning of the shooting I arrived at the Lillie house about 5:30 and assisted Mr. Heath with the bloodhounds. After they left the Lillie house they went south, part of the time on the sidewalk. The dog where the campers were barked and the hounds went over to the camper's wagon. I do not think they had any trail. They acted as if they were glad to get out. I was present when the dogs were started out on the second trip, and held one of them. They went down the center of the street this time, about twenty-five or thirty feet from where they went the first time. They went to the campers' wagons again. The dogs wanted to turn in again and Heath would not let them. There was a dog tied under the wagon and this seemed to be the reason they wanted to stop."

W. D. Westover and I. J. West gave some rebuttal testimony contradicting Witnesses W. R. Heath and Arthur Warren.

At 10 o'clock the state concluded the introduction of rebuttal testimony, and the argument of counsel was commenced. By agreement the arguments were not limited.

County Attorney A. J. Evans opened for the state. He congratulated the jury on their patience in listening to the testimony introduced taking into consideration the fact that they had been practically in close confinement for more than two weeks. He impressed upon their minds that they alone were the judges of the testimony and in quoting the testimony he would give it as near correct as he possibly could. He said in part:

"Regard your oaths, remember your responsibilities, and render a verdict in accordance with the evidence, that in after years you will not regret what you have done. The witnesses in the case have all been before you and you are the sole judges of their evidence. The attorneys for the defense have criticised some of the evidence for the state, but they were employed by the officers of Butler county, and their acts in running down the person who committed the crime were perfectly legitimate. I believe that Mr. Ren and Mr. Derby have been in Butler county too long, their reputations have been too well established and there is no reason why they should be attacked as they have been by the defense in this case."

"The principal witnesses for the defense have testified that the domestic relations of Mr. and Mrs. Lillie were pleasant, affectionate and loving. I do not know how it affects you, gentlemen of the jury, but to me it is not sufficient; the fact that they did not quarrel in the presence of hired help and visitors is not sufficient; the evidence shows that the defendant was living a double life; the letter in evidence proves this to

be an absolute fact. When has the defendant shown one act of affection, of love. I have failed to discover it. The ordinary wife would not be transacting business and the husband know nothing about it.

"Mrs. Lillie, it seems to me, is a peculiar woman. No doubt her business relations were unknown to her relatives. Her relatives and friends are here, and have been during all of this trial, and not one of them have been on the witness stand to tell of her transactions. On the 23d day of October she telephoned to Mr. Runyon about the deals she had with him. She knew about \$200 or \$300 in margins were due. She met Mr. Runyon that evening but said nothing to him about paying this. She went home and told the sewing girls about having a large amount of money in the house. There is a circumstance that is very peculiar. Another circumstance on this same day is that she spoke to her husband about the dogs being poisoned. She knew she owed Runyon at least \$200. Why was it that she departed from her usual custom of putting the money in the postoffice that evening, saying she wanted to deposit it in the bank. Another circumstance is that the door across the hall on that particular evening was closed."

Mr. Evans here discussed in detail the shots that were fired and the statements made by Mrs. Lillie.

"She walks across the room," said Mr. Evans, "tells the girls to get up and light a lamp, walks down stairs, without returning to the room where Mr. Lillie lay, and is found at the telephone. She tells Mr. Ren that the reason the burglars could see to fire the shot in a vital spot was that the moon was shining on Mr. Lillie's face. This was at an hour in the morning when wagons were upon the street, people were on the sidewalks. Do you believe, gentlemen, that a burglar would wait until this particular time in the morning to commit this crime?"

"Bert Hall tells you what he did that morning; this is reasonable and natural. Mrs. Lillie told the girls across the hall that some one had shot Harvey. She told others the same. Mrs. Lillie says that the man stood on the west side of the bed and north of the stovepipe. Again she says he was just south of the stovepipe and again that he was standing close to the head of the bed. She gives a complete description of the man to several witnesses. The girls across the hall heard the shots. They did not hear Mrs. Lillie fall on the floor or the man run down stairs. They did not hear Mrs. Lillie come out in her stocking feet and walk across the hall, saying nothing to Harvey. She did not shake him. She said he breathed heavily. I tell you she knew what had happened."

"Harvey Lillie was lying on his back. Grant that his head was turned to the west, his head buried in the pillow, no man could stand where Mrs. Lillie says he did and shoot Harvey Lillie in the head as he was shot."

Mr. Evans exhibited to the jury the curtain, window and screen, and from the experiments made argued that the state had proven that it was impossible for a man to stand where Mrs. Lillie says he did and powder burn the curtain and glass as they were in the Lillie bedroom.

"I say," said he, "the shot that killed Harvey Lillie and the shot that went through the window was fired from the east side of the bed."

When court convened this afternoon the large court room was crowded to its utmost capacity and the halls leading thereto were filled with people unable to gain admittance. The argument of Mr. Evans continued:

"When Mr. Hall said to Mrs. Lillie that she was suspected she laughed and said they could not prove it. I say that Mrs. Lillie was the only one that had the opportunity to commit this crime. We do not know the extent of her dealings on the board of trade. On the 28th of October she returned from the coroner's jury and told her sister-in-law that they were inquiring about her business and she wrote a letter to Mr. Runyon where in she asked him to stand by her and be careful what he said. This letter was written four days after the murder.

Nebraska Notes.

John Reese has been appointed receiver of the Broken Bow land office.

Louie Werner, one of Beatrice's oldest citizens, started for Germany last week.

St. Patrick's Catholic church at McCook burned with a loss of \$4,500, and insurance \$3,000.

Miss Elizabeth Kay and Eugene E. Tracy were married by the Rev. Walter E. Matthews at Loup City.

Verne Fowler pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing hides from a Rock Island freight house at Fairbury.

Plans are being completed for the erection of a \$20,000. Young Men's Christian association building at Beatrice.

A lodge of fifty charter members has been organized by the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Burwell, Neb.

George W. Kinsor, who has lived at Plattsmouth thirty-five years, died at the age of 79. He leaves a widow and a grown son.

The Louisville mill, owned by C. D. Tappan, was discovered to be on fire and in an hour was a ruin. The loss may reach \$16,000.

C. E. Bowlby has been appointed county treasurer at Wilber, to succeed J. H. Douge, who will remove to the state of Washington.

It is reported that a steam laundry will be built at Tecumseh by a number of eastern capitalists, who have been looking over the ground.

The Grand Island public library board is advertising for bids for the construction of the Carnegie library, which is to be completed November 1.

Peter Miller of Fremont has been arrested on the charge of cruelty to animals. He left an old horse tied to a tree without care for several days.

The Rev. M. D. Burg, pastor of the Lutheran church at Beatrice, has resigned and will go to Ponca. He has been pastor at Beatrice for three years.

The Papillion schools have closed until March 16 on account of an epidemic of scarlet fever. There are a number of cases of this malady at that place.

Summer parks near Grand Island are inundated. Wood river being out of its banks. Still further damage is anticipated from floods caused by melting snow.

Frank Braid, who resided in Plattsmouth for several years, and who was implicated in a bold robbery committed at Hamilton, Ia., on New Year's eve, was sentenced to eighteen years in the penitentiary at Knoxville, Ia.

The Farmers' Co-operative Grain and Live Stock association is to be incorporated with a capital stock of \$500,000. The charter will be filed as soon as \$25,000 has been subscribed. The headquarters will be at Lincoln.

The Commercial State bank of Barneston is opened for business. The concern has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$6,000, the incorporators being J. M. Howe, president; Henry J. Neft, vice president; A. R. Stahler, cashier.

The following is Cass county's mortgage record for February: Farm mortgages filed amounting to \$89,923; released, \$44,143; city mortgages filed, \$41,68; released, \$5,732. If farm mortgages there is an increase of \$45,000 in comparison with same month last year.

Several head of horses belonging to Ambrose Jacobs, a prominent farmer residing near Wymore, died suddenly one day last week. It, first was supposed they had been poisoned, but the supposition now is that they were fed hay which was mixed with a poisonous weed.

The department store of Diers Bros. at Fullerton was burned causing a loss of \$10,000. The Blake building in which the stock was located suffered to the extent of \$1,000. Defective wiring is supposed to have caused the fire. The loss is almost entirely covered by insurance.

At the regular meeting of the Plattsmouth Board of Education Prof. E. L. Rouse was re-elected superintendent of the city schools at a salary of \$1,350, being a raise of \$150 over the previous year. His services having been entirely satisfactory to the board and to the citizens.

As the result of an article published in the Nebraska City High School Times reflecting on the principal of the school, the board of education has suspended the editors of the paper upon the refusal to apologize to the principal. The paper will hereafter be under the censorship of the principal before publication.

A committee of the Federation of Labor made a request of Manager McCuaig of the National Starch company and of Manager Stafford of the Great Western Cereal mills at Nebraska City for an increase of 2 1/2 cents an hour for the employees of the two plants. Manager McCuaig has referred the matter to headquarters. Manager Stafford said he would pay no attention to the request until the employees ask it.

UP TO MR. MARSH.

Senate Charges Him With Misconduct in Office—Unauthorized Purchases.

Secretary of State Marsh is charged by the senate committee of abuse of authority and gross overcharging in the purchase of nearly \$10,000 worth of supplies ostensibly for the legislature. Claims to the amount of \$2,718 filed with this committee have been investigated, but bills amounting to \$7,000 filed with the house for similar supplies have not been looked into. The report on the comparatively insignificant claims filed with the senate committee for approval is that the prices should not be allowed. The committee was not instructed by the senate to make further investigation and to pay only such part of the claims as seem to be just.

Secretary Marsh was in a rage over the turn of affairs. W. H. Clark, who has been Mr. Marsh's chaperone since he came into state office and who has been appointed for the second time as custodian of the supply room and superintendent of purchases, has countermanded many of the claims. Mr. Clark has also held an appointment under Postmaster E. R. Eizer of Lincoln. Mr. Marsh has approved the claims as just and correct.

The other members of the board of public lands and buildings had nothing to do with the purchase or with the auditing of claims, as such bills go direct from the secretary of state to the committee of the two houses. The abuse of authority in the purchase of supplies by Mr. Marsh's predecessor caused the legislature a few years ago to pass an act limiting the amount that can be bought before the session opens and requires subsequent purchases to be made by resolution of the branch of the legislature desiring to buy. Mr. Marsh admits that he had violated this law.

Some of the supplies, notably 111 yards of Wilton velvet carpet at \$1.65 a yard, could not be found by the committee. Mr. Marsh said he had not bought it and that it was not in the state house. Later to a reporter he said he was mistaken that it had been bought and delivered. A janitor, W. L. Nauslar, still later in the day, said he had informed Mr. Marsh several times that the carpet was rolled up in a closet on the top floor of the building, that Mr. Marsh replied when so informed that he had repeatedly told Mr. Clark to have it returned to the dealer as there was no place for it and that it was not wanted, but that the dealer had not come for it.

The janitor made his statement during the afternoon after Mr. Clark had announced that he had found the carpet. This search was made after W. E. Hardy, the dealer, had stated positively that he had delivered every particle of goods ordered. It was then up to Mr. Marsh and Mr. Clark.

One of the committeemen when informed of the discovery of the mysteriously missing carpet, said:

"What do you suppose would have become of that missing carpet after the legislature had adjourned if our committee had not made its report? If it was not ordered as was first stated, or if it was not needed and there was no place to put it, as Mr. Marsh is said to have told the janitor, or if it was ordered as later stated by Mr. Marsh, why was it rolled up and put in a dark closet and why did Mr. Marsh approve the claim?"

Secretary of State Marsh, when asked to make a statement in reply to the committee report, said the report was made up of a pack of "4-d lies," and he believed it was instigated by persons outside of the legislature for "personal reasons." The committee making the report comprises leading members of the senate, men prominent in the state. Senators Cox of Hamilton, Harrison of Hall, Norris of Pawnee, Anderson of Saline and Saunders of Douglas.

Mr. Marsh said:

Wilton carpet was bought. It was purchased and supplied in fact."

Your committee on accounts and expenditures has been handed the following bills for legislative supplies:

Omaha Printing Co., 12 bills aggregating	\$1,681.60
Hardy Furniture Co., carpet and carpet lining	690.15
Harley Drug Co.	40.00

These bills are all certified to by Secretary of State Marsh as being correct and as having been purchased by him for account of the legislature. Your committee was unable to find any authority vested in the secretary of state for making such purchases, other than that found in section 4 of article 2 of chapter 83 of the compiled statutes which provides that "he shall furnish the legislature and the officers thereof all necessary fuel and stationery when so directed by resolution of the legislature or either branch thereof."

Boy's Life Beaten Out.

Beatrice, Neb., March 7.—Nels Nelson, a boy who was employed about the elevator of the Central Granaries company at Filley, was killed in some manner as yet only conjectured. H. M. Miller, the manager, had occasion to look for Nelson, and was surprised and shocked to find his lifeless body on the floor of the engine room. Apparently Nelson's clothing had got caught in the belt and his life beaten out as the body was rapidly whirled about.

IN A PRISON CELL

MRS. LILLIE HAS LIFE OF CONVICT BEFORE HER.

JURY SAYS SHE IS GUILTY

CONVICTED OF HEARTLESS MURDER OF HUSBAND.

VERDICT QUICKLY SPREAD

Court Room Packed as Jurymen File In, But No Untoward Incident Follows Request For Life Sentence.

We, the jury in the above entitled case, being duly empaneled and sworn, do find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree, and recommend that she be imprisoned for life. (Signed)

A. C. Pool, Foreman.

David City, Neb., March 4.—This was the verdict rendered by the jury in the Lillie murder case at precisely 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

As soon as the jury had agreed upon the verdict the news spread rapidly and in a few moments people were seen running from all directions toward the court house, and before the defendant arrived the large district court room was completely packed with humanity. A large portion of the audience were men, with not to exceed twenty women present. Each person as he entered the court room door wore an anxious look, and loudly whispered: "What is the verdict?"

Mrs. Lillie, accompanied by her father, brother, Mrs. Grisinger, her sister, and Sam Lillie, brother of the murdered man, arrived at 3:20. They all took their usual seats in the court room. While Mrs. Lillie looked bright, she had the appearance of anxiety as to what the verdict of the twelve men was. As they marched in she looked at each one carefully.

When Clerk Starks read the verdict Mrs. Lillie sat motionless and when the word guilty was pronounced not even a quiver of the lip was noticeable. Counsel for the defense asked that the jury be polled. Clerk Starks called the name of each individual juror and when he arose propounded the question:

"Was this, and is this your verdict?" and the juror individually responded in clear and distinct tones: "Yes, sir."

In his instructions to the jury Judge Good, after giving, in legal language, the ground for prosecution, summed up the material allegations of the information in part as follows:

"That on the 24th day of October 1902, the defendant purposely and feloniously did make an assault upon Harvey Lillie with a certain pistol."

"That she made such assault of her deliberate and premeditated malice to kill and murder Harvey Lillie."

"That with such pistol at the time the defendant did inflict upon the head of said Harvey Lillie one mortal wound of which he died on the 24th day of October, 1902."

"That such assault was made by the defendant upon said Harvey Lillie in the county of Butler and state of Nebraska."

"It is provided by law that if any person shall, purposely and of deliberate and premeditated malice kill another every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of murder in the first degree, and, upon conviction thereof, shall suffer death or shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary during life in the discretion of the jury."

"The court instructs the jury that circumstantial evidence is legal and competent in criminal cases, and if it is of such a character as to excite every reasonable hypothesis other than that the defendant is guilty, it is sufficient to authorize a conviction."

"The court further instructs the jury that what is meant by circumstantial evidence, in criminal cases, is the proof of such facts or circumstances connected with or surrounding the commission of the crime charged as tend to show the guilt or innocence of the party charged, and if these facts and circumstances are sufficient to satisfy the jury of the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt then such evidence is sufficient to authorize a verdict of guilty."

"The jury are instructed that in order to warrant a conviction of murder on circumstantial evidence, each fact necessary to the conclusion sought to be established must be proved by competent evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, and all the facts and circumstances must be consistent with each other and with guilt of the defendant, and consistent with every other reasonable hypothesis or conclusion, and all the facts taken together must be of a conclusive nature."

Did Not Send the Poison.

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 4.—A jury in the circuit court at Ionia today brought in a verdict of not guilty in the case of Bailey Kreekas of Lowell, charged with attempting to murder George Meritt of Caranau, by sending him a poisoned headache powder. This case grew directly out of the killing of Mrs. Ada Klump of Lowell a year ago by a poisoned powder sent through the mails.