

IN THE TOILS OF THE LAW.

Two B. & M. Clerks Arrested for Altering Railroad Tickets.

FUNERAL OF H. L. WILKINS.

A Young Girl's Misfortune—Father O'Connor's Will—Local Odds and Ends—Police and Court Pickings, Etc., Etc.

Railroad Clerks Arrested.

At about 8 o'clock yesterday morning the heavy portals of the county jail swung open and a young man, well dressed and rather prepossessing in appearance, was taken in and formally handed over to Jailer Joe Miller.

The prisoner was Mr. John L. Gideon, formerly a clerk in the general ticket office of the Burlington & Missouri, under General Ticket and Passenger Agent Eastis. The charge preferred against him is a grave one, that of altering and forging railroad tickets and disposing of them to different brokers. The complaint on which he was arrested was filed with Police Judge Stenberg and was placed in the hands of Detective James Davis, who at once took him into custody.

The complaint, which deals with but one instance of fraud, charges that Gideon "did falsely, fraudulently and feloniously utter and publish as true and genuine a certain forged counterfeit and altered railroad ticket, bearing the same forged, counterfeited and altered which ticket was of the purport and value as follows, to-wit: Said ticket was issued by the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad company good for the first class passage from Kansas City, Missouri, or Atchison, Kansas, to Hastings, Nebraska, over the Burlington & Missouri River railroad in Nebraska. Said railroad ticket was numbered 2,712, for the sum of \$1.50, and had been used over said ticket in Nebraska and cancelled by the company's agents and conductors, by punching same twice in the body thereof. After said ticket had been so cancelled and made valueless, same was falsely, feloniously and fraudulently altered and forged, by tearing off a portion of said ticket containing one of said punch marks, the entire said ticket was then used and cancelled, and by falsely changing, oblitterating and altering the other of said punch marks by changing same to the semblance of a letter 'B' which said punch mark cancelled said ticket, which was afterwards altered, and changed by tearing off the portion thereof, containing one of said punch marks and altering the other to the semblance of the letter 'B' which said letter 'B' punched in same indicated that same had been presented by the holder thereof to the said railroad company's baggage agent, for the purpose of having said baggage checked on the form, appearance and similitude of good and genuine ticket of said railroad, of the value of six dollars. Said ticket, so as aforesaid, falsely forged, altered and counterfeited, said ticket was then altered and published by him as true and genuine with the intent thereby, to unlawfully defraud."

Mr. Eastis could not be seen in his office and hence his statement of the affair could not be secured.

It is understood, however, that Gideon has been engaged in this sort of business for a long time. He held an important position under Mr. Eastis, and through his hands passed all the old tickets and coupons which were handed in by the conductors. He has been suspected of crooked work some time since. A detective was engaged to work up the case. The result of his investigations, the company's lawyers claim, is that conclusive evidence of Gideon's guilt has been obtained. In several instances he has been known, it is claimed, to have disposed of "fixed" tickets to local brokers.

ANOTHER CLERK IN THE TOILS.

The belief that Gideon was not alone in this scheme, but that he is one of a number of "bookers" who have been strengthened last evening by the arrest of another man on the charge of altering and forging railroad tickets. This was Donald B. Allan, a young clerk in the B. & M. office. He was arrested on the same charge as Gideon. Judge Stenberg issued the warrant for the young man's arrest about 6 o'clock, and at 7 o'clock he was behind the bars at the county jail.

Allan's arrest is a great surprise to his friends here, where he has resided all his life, and been held in high esteem. He is one of the best men in the office, and has occurred only a short time ago. Two of his sisters, Mary P. and Jessie C. Allan, are librarians of the public library and greatly respected. He is only about 20 years old.

Both Allan and Gideon protest strongly that they are innocent. The date of their hearing has not yet been fixed. The amount of the fraud is not yet known.

THE LAST RITES.

Funeral of H. L. Wilkins Yesterday—A Biographical Sketch.

The body of Mr. H. L. Wilkins, whose sad death in Boston last week has been recorded in these columns, arrived here yesterday, in charge of Mr. A. F. Wilkins, brother of the deceased and Mrs. Wilkins, the widow. The remains were at the undertaking establishment of Drexel & Maul during the forenoon, where they were witnessed by a large number of friends, including the employees of the City Steam Laundry.

The funeral took place at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon from the late residence of the deceased, 1429 North Nineteenth. The services both at the house and grave were conducted by the Rev. Willard Scott, of the St. Mary's Avenue Congregational church. Interment was made at Prospect Hill cemetery. The following named gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Mr. S. P. Morse, T. J. Rogers, B. E. B. Kennedy, D. H. Wheeler, Geo. Gray and John Fields.

Mr. Wilkins was well known in this city, and during his stay here made hosts of friends, who will sincerely mourn his sad and untimely death.

He was born in London, England, in 1850. He came to America in 1870, and his parents, living during his youth at Toronto, Canada, where he attended the model schools. In 1867 he came to Omaha and was employed by the U. S. R. B. and Missouri river steamship company as engineer till 1876, when he opened the City Steam Laundry. He conducted the business alone till the spring of 1881, when he was associated with him Mr. J. J. Evans, and from that time until last July they have carried on the business jointly. At that time he retired from the firm and decided to travel for the benefit of his rapidly failing health. His brother, who was home from Mrs. Wilkins in Pennsylvania, soon after proceeded to the coast, intending to visit Europe in quest of medical aid and the benefits of a decided change of climate. He was advised by physicians not to attempt the passage across the ocean, and acting upon their warnings, he abandoned the trip. About two weeks ago he was taken with a violent attack of insanity in a Boston hotel, and since that time he never regained his right mind. His brother, who also resides in Omaha, upon

hearing of Mr. Wilkins' serious condition hastened to him and was present with him when he died. He was a man of means, having acquired a property at Twenty-third and St. Mary's avenue, valued at \$25,000. Three years ago he married Miss Lizzie Quiggle, of McElhattan, Pa., who survives him. Mr. Wilkins was possessed of a marvellous inventive faculty, which was utilized to the very best advantage, he taking charge of the mechanical department and Mr. Evans of the business portion of the laundry business while they were in partnership.

AN INNOCENT WOMAN.

Deceived by a Lecherous Pierce County Man, Made a County Ward.

A demoralizing case was witnessed yesterday in the county building. H. M. Haushild brought to the commissioners a girl named Emma Boettcher, whom he found at the St. James hotel Wednesday night, friendless and without money. She had come from the Bluffs, where she had been in the care of the sheriff of Pottawattomie county, who recommended her to come here. She was put in custody of the latter by Wm. Sweeney, sheriff of Pierce county in this state, who had brought her from the Bluffs. There she was put in custody of Sullivan by a German named Wm. Fox, who runs a saloon in that town. Fox had betrayed the girl and finding that she was pregnant he means about to entreat to get her off his hands. The scheme worked successfully, so successfully that his duped victim has been dropped among strangers to care for her and without a cent of her betrayer's money in her possession. In about a month the girl, who is about 19 years of age, will become a mother. She feels keenly the misery of her situation, and were it not for the intention of her betrayer to marry her, she would bring up her child, would be likely to feel that life perhaps was scarcely worth living. The commissioners feel keenly the insult inflicted upon their county by the conduct of this woman, and they are determined to see that she is cared for, otherwise it may go hard with them.

HIS LAST BEQUESTS.

The Will and Testament of Father O'Connor.

The will of Father T. W. O'Connor, the deceased pastor of St. Philomena cathedral, has just been filed in the probate court.

From this document it appears that the deceased left little or no realty or personal property, two life insurance policies constituting his estate. One of these taken in 1882 in the Continental Life Insurance company is for \$5,000; the other, issued in 1884 by the Mutual Reserve Fund Life association of New York, is for \$10,000.

The sum total he has bequeathed as follows: To his father, Dennis O'Connor, of Queens County, Ireland, \$2,500. To his mother, Bridget O'Connor, \$1,000. To each of his brothers, Francis, Richard and Charles, \$1,000 each. To his younger brother, Dennis O'Connor, Jr., \$500. To his sister, Mary O'Connor, \$1,000. To the Right Rev. Bishop O'Connor, \$1,500. To St. Philomena's cathedral, for education, \$1,000. To E. E. Smythe, as legatee in special trust, \$1,500.

Bishop O'Connor, according to Father O'Connor's wish, acts as executor and representative to see that all the bequests are carried out.

The document was drawn in October, 1885, just before Father O'Connor's departure for Ireland, and was witnessed by Richard P. Muleahy and Geo. H. Hess.

BASEBALL AFFAIRS.

Ted Sullivan and the Northwestern League—The Western League.

Mr. Geo. Kay has bought out the interest of John Hitchcock and C. J. Canan in the lease of the Athletic park, on Sherman avenue, and the buildings thereon. During the coming summer he will be the sole manager of the concern.

In speaking of baseball prospects yesterday Mr. Kay remarked that he had not received any further communication from Ted Sullivan concerning the proposed Northwestern league. "I account for that in this way," said Mr. Kay. "The National league has made overtures towards admitting Kansas City into its organization, and may do so. I think Sullivan has been given a pointer to drop the Northwestern league scheme and await developments. Of course in the event that Kansas City is admitted into the National league, the Northwestern league will fall through. I still believe, however, that the latter scheme is a good one and can be carried through with success."

For several days the business men of the city have been greatly annoyed by the elevators in many of our down town buildings which seemed at the same moment to be inoperative. Those in the Wildcat, Granite, and Omaha National buildings were among the first noticed.

The elevator in the latter building, which contrivances had become epidemic. In inquiry developed the fact that the annoyance was occasioned by sewers. All these, in fact most of the elevators in town are run by water, the escape from which flows into the sewers generally in the nearest alley. During the cold weather people to save themselves as much trouble as possible have been using pumps for all purposes. As a consequence the latter have been clogged as to require the attention of Superintendent McClain. During this work of course it was impossible to accommodate the elevator escape, while the shutting down of the elevators, which are so much depended upon for the carrying of the mail, has been a great annoyance.

Run Over.

Yesterday morning, about 1:30 o'clock, while C. N. Butler, of the mailing department of the Bee, was going home from the Apollo social, he was struck at Fifteenth and California streets by a horse and driver, which caused him to be carried to Dr. Galbraith's office, corner Thirtieth and Howard streets.

A Sprained Ankle.

J. E. Kessels, an employe in Shop No. 1 of the Union Pacific yards, yesterday climbed upon some of the machinery to oil the pulleys over his head and adjust the belt. He slipped, fell to the ground, and sprained his ankle. He was carried to Dr. Galbraith's office, corner Thirtieth and Howard streets.

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS.

The Mother Superior of the Westphalian Branch, Now in Omaha.

Something About the Order and Its American Institutions—The Two Crowns.

At a quarter past six o'clock last night a reporter for the Bee found himself seated in the reception room of St. Joseph's Hospital, engaged in a conversation with the mother superior of the Franciscan Order of Sisters, from Olipa, province of Westphalia, Germany.

This lady who is known to her subordinates as Mother Theresa, is the head of a particular branch of the third order of St. Francis, which has its headquarters in Westphalia. Of course there are other branches of the order entirely distinct from this one.

The mother superior nowise differs in appearance from her subordinate sisters. She wears the same loose flowing habit of black serge, the same white and black bonnet, the same knitted cord hanging from her girdle, which are distinctive features of the dress of the Franciscan sisters. Her face, somewhat wrinkled with the furrows of 60 years or more, has a shrewd yet kindly appearance, which is very prepossessing. As she was able to speak but very little English, the reporter carried on a conversation with her through the sister superior of the hospital, Sister Alphonsa, who acted as interpreter.

The branch of Franciscans of which Theresa is mother superior has but 350 sisters, some of them in Germany and the rest in America. It is estimated that 170 of the number are stationed in Germany. It is a peculiarity of the branch of Franciscans that its work is confined to these two countries alone. The first institution in this country in charge of the Franciscan nuns was opened at Lafayette, Indiana, in 1852. Since that time several institutions, hospitals, orphan asylums and convents have been founded from time to time, for the most part in the west, until they now number eleven. Each one of these institutions, be it hospital, school or convent, is known as a "house," and the sisters in charge constitute the "family."

The head of the "family," of course, is the sister superior, who controls and regulates the affairs of the household. Each sister superior is in turn subject to the Mother Superior, Theresa, to whom she makes her reports and submits all questions of grave importance, and to whom she is fully accountable. For the sake of convenience, Sister Superior Hyacintha, of the Lafayette, Ind., institution, has been vested with power as provincial, or acting mother superior, and she controls all matters of minor importance are referred.

As already intimated, the first American "house" of this branch of the Franciscan order was opened at Lafayette, Indiana, in 1852. The second was at Columbus, Neb.; the third at Omaha, and the fourth at Terra Haute, Ind. The other "houses" are at Cleveland, Denver, Emporia, Kan.; Humboldt, Neb.; St. Joseph, Mo.; St. Mary's, Neb. and Platte Center, Neb.

"I have been in this country for the past few months," said Mother Theresa to the reporter, through the interpreter. "I have visited all the houses of our order in this country. I shall not return to Germany before spring. Everywhere I have been pleased and astonished with the work that the sisters are accomplishing. All of our institutions are in good order in good condition and are doing well. I am particularly pleased with the work of the sisters in Omaha. The hospital here is doing good; your people must be very generous and kind to me. I have to find it that the building is too small for the work there is to do. I trust and believe that it will be enlarged before long."

"The growth of your order has been rapid in this country?"

"Yes, I was in this country some years ago; then there was but one house here, and there are eleven now. We have a large number of sisters. Nothing could be more gratifying than such an increase."

THE CROSS OF FLOWERS AND OF THORNS.

Very few people who pass through the streets of Omaha quietly moving about on their errands of love and mercy, stop for a moment to think of the toil, self-denial and suffering, which make up their life. One notes the expressions of their compassion, but he does not reflect that back of it are years of prayer and fasting; the coarse black habit and the knitted girdle and cord, too, are seen, but do not remind him that the prioress, who wears the life of the Nazarene whose raiment was of the plainest and whose only ornament was humility.

Full seven years and a half are required for the novitiate, the year of probation, and claim sisterhood with the order of Franciscan nuns.

First, as explained by Sister Superior Alphonsa to a reporter, the young girl, who must be between 16 and 18 years of age, is determined to become a Franciscan sister, is given a crown of flowers, in token that her period of trial or probation has commenced. She wears this crown, which is made of white ribbons, and is intertwined, for one day, during which with solemn prayer and the ceremony of the feast the sisters celebrate her admission as a novice. After six months if she still determines to enter the order, she has chosen, she puts the white veil on and takes new vows—more solemn than those of the "flower-crown." For two years the white veil is worn, at the end of which time her superior, who is now a sister, and her purpose is still unchanged, the black habit is put on with new rites of consecration. This is worn for a further period of five years, when the period of novitiate has fully expired.

Then comes the final, most impressive ceremony of putting on the thorn-crown, which is taken with the celebration of the feast, and with rites especially appropriate to the occasion. The sister then becomes a fully admitted Franciscan nun.

On last Saturday, sixteen young girls at the hospital took the first step toward joining the order, that of putting on the flower-crown. By July next they will have completed the first part of the novitiate and will put on the white veil.

American and European national character masks at MAX MEYER & CO'S.

Room and Light.

These essentials have lately been given the gentlemen's waiting room in the B. & M. depot. The stand and cases of the agent which formerly occupied an alcove on the eastern side of the room have been transferred to the north end and inserted into what was formerly the baggage room. As a consequence of the change, passengers may now look out upon the track and learn of the arrival and departure of trains without braving the cold.

Will Take the Veil.

Miss Mary Morgan, formerly of Omaha, the daughter of Frank C. Morgan of this city, will on Tuesday, February 2d, take the veil and first vows of the Order of the Sacred Heart, at the convent in St. Louis. She has for two years past been attending the convent school in that city, and has determined to remain there for the remainder of her life. Quite a number of friends here will go to St. Louis to witness the solemn ceremony.

THE NAIL WORKS.

What Has Been Done Towards Their Purchase—The Prospects.

In conversing with Mr. G. T. Walker yesterday in regard to the purchase of the Omaha nail works, a reporter learned that a considerable part of the capital for the new company had been secured. There is not sufficient as yet, however, to organize the new company which must be placed upon a sound and substantial basis.

"In carrying out the programme," said Mr. Walker, "it would be necessary that the whole of the \$100,000 capital be subscribed and that the amounts equalling the perfecting of the organization."

"Do you think you will be able to secure that amount?" asked the reporter.

"I am somewhat encouraged and will of course carry it through. I have spent too much time on it to run away and leave it, but I am really disappointed. I suppose you have seen the very interesting proposition to the people of Omaha, that I could secure enough capital to join in the enterprise in two or three days. Why, just think: the people of Omaha could raise in a few days \$50,000 for the Wire, Nail and Lock company, which, while a good thing perhaps in the future, is largely an experiment to them; while here in Omaha is a plant all in readiness to commence, as a steel mill, the production of steel nails—an article that has now an immense demand and for which there is a very great scarcity."

"What is the state of the nail market just now?" asked the inquisitive newspaper man.

"Well," replied Mr. Walker, "from all our sources of information I find that on January 1, 1885, there were but 260,000 kegs on hand, and against a stock of nearly 5,000,000 kegs on January 1, 1885. We will start off on March 1 with a stock of less than 1,000,000 kegs to supply a season's demand of nearly 7,000,000. On March 1, 1885, there were only 9,000 kegs on hand, and the price which commenced on June 1, 1885, stopped over 3,000 machines, and stocks ran out almost entirely."

"How are the eastern factories running now?" asked the reporter.

"The eastern factories have got a few machines in operation, with apprentices, or 'hand feeders,' as they were termed, and some of the nailers have started on the co-operative plan; but these efforts are of no account as against the supply next summer's trade."

"You think nails will be a good article to have, then?"

"Certainly. If this strike continues it will result in a high figure—perhaps like those of 1872 and 1883."

"What is the tendency of nails? Are they more uniform in price than other iron or steel goods?"

"No, for many reasons they are very sensitive. In 1872 they ran up to \$5.85 in New York wholesale market. In 1880 they were \$5.30, while in the spring of '85, a year ago, they were as low as \$1.80, the lowest since that made."

"You contemplate making steel nails solely in Omaha?"

"Of course, the day for iron has passed, except as now that steel cannot be had. Manufacturers generally are arranging to change their iron business to steel. Does it require many expensive changes?"

"That depends upon the manner of working. In iron ore or pig iron is used and steel is made in a Bessemer converter. In steel, more expensive plants are necessary, involving an outlay of perhaps \$100,000 to \$500,000, but when old rails and scrap are used, the changes are not so great. There are here but a few mills working such material in the western district."

"How is it with the Omaha works? Are any changes needed here?"

"Not whatever the process adopted here for working iron rails and scrap is exactly suited to the production of a first-class steel nail."

"I understand you have said that steel nails can be made at a less cost than iron?"

"Yes, sir, it is owing to the cost of the material. For a keg of steel nails it costs less than for iron by perhaps 25 to 35 cents, which is a really a good profit in ordinary times."

THE LAUER CASE.

What the Cleveland Leader has to Say About It.

As the time approaches for the trial of John W. Lauer, interest is being revived in the mysterious tragedy, whereby Mrs. Lauer lost her life on a moonlight night, within the glare of a parlor gas-burner, in November last.

The friends of Mr. Lauer in Cleveland as well as in Omaha are beginning to show a great deal of nervous activity. The story which Mr. Lauer has told about the fatal shot fired "by the light of the moon" and the glimmer of a big horse-burner," appeared on Wednesday in the Cleveland Leader, and was carefully revised and embellished for effect upon the former associates and friends of Mr. Lauer, who on the strength of it are ready to vouch for his innocence. The mixture of facts and fiction which the Cleveland Leader has compounded for home consumption is herewith given for what it is worth.

In a few days Mr. John Lauer, once a resident of this city, will be placed upon trial in Omaha, Neb., upon the terrible charge of killing his wife. His case is now receiving the attention of the grand jury. The shooting occurred on November 21 last, at a time previous to the burglary in which Mr. Lauer lived had been operated by burglars. One of them broke into his house and Mr. Lauer shot at him. On the night of November 21, Lauer was in bed, and was awakened by a loud knocking at his door. He was nervous and ill. He was awakened by the sound of whispered words, and saw a figure at the foot of the bed. He was not at all alarmed, and called out to the burglar, who was just entering the room. Instantly taking his revolver from beneath his pillow he fired. He then instinctively reached out with his hand and found his wife gone. Then, he says, and not until he realized what he had done. His sister-in-law, in another room, heard the shot and supposed that the burglars had come again. The charge against Lauer was made when it was learned that more than a year previous he had quarreled with his wife. Since then public feeling in Omaha has been against him—his friends claim by unfair means. Threatening letters have been received by his wife, and the charge, and wild talk of lynching has been heard. All this has caused great pain and anxiety to the relatives and numerous friends of Lauer in this city. Lauer left Cleveland when he was 20 years of age, and had a wide acquaintance here. Not a person in this city who knows his character believes that the faintest shadow of guilt rests upon him. They believe that if the facts are sworn to as they are, the evidence received as it is given, and further criticism upon distorted misrepresentations stopped, he will be fully and honorably acquitted. So strong is this feeling that thirty of the business men of Cleveland and prominent men and clergymen of the West side, whose position in society and influence in public affairs have made them well known throughout the city, have signed a lengthy and noble declaration of their belief in Lauer, under the circumstances in the case, is almost impossible. More than the same number of equally well-known citizens have signed a similar declaration, and formally to his excellent character. Aside from this, one of Lauer's sisters in this city received only a day before the shooting, a letter from him speaking in the most glowing manner of his wife, and of the happy life they had been leading during the preceding year."

Shannon Letter Bill Filing Cabinets and Cases. Schlicht's Standard Indexes. 219 12th street, opposite Neb. Nat'l Bank.

A ROLAND FOR AN OLIVER.

A Herald Mistake Does Injury to County Clerk Needham.

The "Herald" yesterday morning in a local paragraph speaking about county reports and officials, said that "Mr. Needham's accounts are still in confusion. At present he owes the county about \$80, which he received for depositions and failed to credit it to the proper source."

Mr. Needham has been in office about a month. Eighty dollars shortage in that time would be a bad moral showing—if it could be proved against him. But the fact is, nobody has examined Mr. Needham's accounts, and found such a deficit—not even the "Herald" reporter. Mr. Needham's books, however, are open to inspection and may be examined by anybody, and Mr. Needham says he does not care for any discovery which may be made. The Herald, however, has made a bull. It did not intend to refer to Mr. Needham, but to his predecessor, though it has made a bad break in making such a mistake.

We have \$20,000 to loan at low rates in sums of \$1,000 to \$10,000 if taken within ten days. J. W. & E. L. Spire, Council Bluffs.

Greenbacks Traveling.

Max Barchevels, a sojourner at the Windsor, leaped from the dinner table yesterday, and with his heart in his mouth, rushed to the desk of the clerk. "Give me that bundle I left here before I went to dinner." The bundle had been placed under the desk, little importance being attached because it was known to contain nothing but a newspaper. Barchevels fumbled through it excitedly and finally picked from the bottom a roll of bills valued at \$100. "Golly, I thought it was gone," he exclaimed. "I had that bundle in my pocket, and it was there, and now it's passed through your hands, and that money's been in it all the time. But I guess I won't tempt either of you again." And the roll went down in his "jeans."

Masks and masquerade trimmings at MAX MEYER & CO'S, 11th & Farnam.

Ice on Telephone Wires.

The manager of the telephone system has been constantly annoyed by fears, since the advent of the snowy weather, that damage will be sustained by the breaking of his wires. In many places the wires run adjacent to large buildings, the water from which, in falling, strikes and freezes upon the wires. In some places especially in the rear of the Paxton block, as much as a hundred pounds of ice have formed upon the cluster. This strains the wires greatly, and to relieve and watch them, men are constantly engaged in knocking the ice off from all heights with poles and clubs.

Sioux City Route—Notice.

Tickets will be on sale Sundays and Wednesdays of each week during February, beginning Sunday, January 31, for persons desiring to attend the "Ice Carnival" at St. Paul, Minn. Fare for round trip, Council Bluffs to St. Paul and return, fifty cents and fifty-five cents (\$15.50).

Return tickets good seven (7) days from date of sale.

J. R. Buchanan, Gen'l Pass. Agent.

The largest and finest assortment of German and French masks is to be found at MAX MEYER & CO'S, 11th & Farnam.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Stray Leaves From the Reporters' Note-books.

"I would rather go to the opera house, on a big night," said a middle aged gentleman last night, "than to the fashionable reception that could be given on Capitol hill or off toward the park. The same people are always there it is true, but then they do not always occupy the same seats. The auditorium, therefore, presents the ceaseless combination of a kaleidoscope. Wealth, beauty, intelligence, ignorance, vanity, and age interminably mingle. Now and then one misses a familiar face, who has perhaps gone to eternal repose in one of our 'silent homes,' or perhaps, has been swept from his walk by the waves of financial misfortune. But then, a new one soon takes its place. And hence there is little opportunity to mourn a vacant chair. Three winters ago I attended the performance of 'The Two Orphans.' So did a very pretty young lady of this city. At nearly every performance she was attended by a different gentleman. I never see her in a theatre now. She is still in town, but I don't know what she has become of the young man. 'Who is she?' you ask. No, thank you. I'm not giving names."

Very few people realize to what an extent the habit of morphia eating is carried on among the lower classes of this city. A reporter who conversed yesterday, with a number of druggists on the topic, was firmly impressed with the idea that the opium habit is surely but slowly securing new devotees. Many of the drug stores have a regular list of morphia eaters, who come day after day to get their regular allowance of the drug. Many who are addicted to the opium habit decline to use the pipe, because to enter the dens of the Chinamen is highly distasteful to them. The morphia powder is more easily taken, and is just as agreeable and soothing in its effects. Hence it is principally confined to the lower strata, it is also true that the victims of opium are to be found among the better classes.

"How much morphia can a fiend take in one day?" said a druggist last night, repeating the question put to him by a reporter. "As high as fifty or sixty grains a day, without much trouble. The biggest dose I ever saw taken by one person in one day, was twenty or thirty grains. This may appear to be a fishy story, but it is true, and I can prove it. Two or three years ago, while I was in the rear part of the store, a woman came in and asked for twenty-five grains of morphia. My clerk was instructed to wait on her and give her what she wanted, as I saw that she was accustomed to using the drug. The clerk handed her the paper containing the morphia. As she held it in her hand she remarked that she had no money and wanted a few days credit. I heard this request and instructed the clerk not to give her the morphia unless she paid for it. She heard me and she rushed to the door, and the entire dose, muttering at the same time, 'I'll get ahead of you, anyway.' Such a dose would have killed half a dozen ordinary men. The woman was not affected, and she returned to the store the next day, begging for more of the drug."

"Yes, I saw Salvini in 'Othello,' last night," sneered a natty young man to the reporter. "I sat in the circle, and I thought I saw every newspaper man in town. I looked in all the critiques, but failed to find a single reference to things on the stage which distracted me and which I know incensed the star. Twice there were sounds as if the property man were 'making' artificial rain. Three times a hammer of some other thing fell upon the boards, and I thought I saw Salvini. I think, like throwing somebody as he later did Jago. In four scenes I prayed for a 'deity' with a bean-blower and a Bogardus aim who shot every newspaper man in the 'series,' as well as some of the support. Throughout the play I was impressed with the fact that the new water gas works must have taken up a position on the stage. Certainly, I had not seen one of the few times in my life, I got gas for which I paid nothing. This is a liberal-ity which I do not commend, because, while it will not break the company, it will not do it to the manager's credit. I rather send him to me. When I paid the box-office \$2 for a ticket in the parquet, I had not expected to get so many more things than the advertisement promised. Don't you see, Tom Boyd's generosity will ruin him?"

Three contractors stood at the Wabash corner, Tuesday last, discussing the merits of the different kinds of pavements which will probably be laid in Omaha next summer. Each of them had ridden over the wooden pavement in Chicago. All agreed that it was worthless. One wouldn't ride his mother-in-law over it. Another said he knew a young man who lost his life and, consequently, his wife, by being shaken to death while driving with his best love over one of the rickety wooden pavements of that city. The third said there was no money in the stuff for a contractor, and the trio must have been of the same mind, because they shook hands and adjourned round the corner.

The Burlington & Missouri appraising commission, consisting of W. J. Mount, J. L. McCague, O. F. Davis, L. S. Reed, E. W. Wickley and George Smith, who took Mr. Hartman's job, yesterday put in considerable work in that city. The proposed line of that road to Lincoln. The route will be through Harris & Fisher's property, formerly Gen. Worth's. The course will be 100 feet, and require in the aggregate about three acres, which have been appraised at \$80 per acre. Besides this they will also consider the claims for damages to property made by the heirs of Ann Corrigan. C. D. Layton's property will probably be more injured than any other in that neighborhood. The road will divide his farm into two equal parts, require the moving of his barns and out-houses, and then leave his home within a few feet of the track. Besides, it will destroy some of his orchard and garden. He puts his damages at very near \$3,000, though the commission had not, at the last sitting, been able to raise the figure to more than \$1,000. They thought they might go a little higher.

A Sad Death.

Mrs. C. W. Thomas, wife of Mr. Thomas, of the Union elevator, died of an internal hemorrhage yesterday morning at 3 o'clock. She retired as usual Wednesday night, and was suddenly taken ill. Experienced physicians were immediately called, but no relief could be afforded. The child born at the time has not survived. The remains will be taken away from town.

A Sleigh Ride with Blocks and Tackle.

On last Tuesday night Moses O'Brien, of the firm of O'Brien & O'Brien, and H. N. Wandell, of the Nebraska and Iowa insurance company, took a sleigh ride to Bellevue. They entered a house on the way to look for refreshments, leaving their horses tied to a post about 300 feet away. When they emerged, satiated with interior satisfaction, their horses were not at the