OMAHA'S METEORIC MERCHANT

Litigation Over the Purchase at Loyal L. Smith's Special Sale.

WHAT DAVE MILLER COULD DO.

Another Whole Page Display Added to His Brilliant History—Skull and Cross Bones Scare—The Fitzgeralds' Team.

[FROM THE BEE'S LINCOLN BUREAU.]

The counsel for the defense in the Cole vs Miller suit, which was set for trial at the present session of the United States court, have filed affidavits in support of a motion for continuance, and the case will probably go over the term. The plaintiffs are anxious to try it outside of Omaha, and Judge Dundy is known to be of the opinion that it would perhaps be as well to do so, but in face of the showing made by the defense it will hardly be pushed. Lewis Cole, the plaintiff, is the son-in-law of Haiman Lowy, and claims to be the owner of the stock of dry goods left behind by Loyal L. Smith, Omaha's missing merchant. The defendant is David N. Miller, ex-sheriff of Douglas county, who in his official capacity plastered the stock with attachments after Smith's flight, and prevented Lowy and Cole from taking possession. The case was removed from the state to the federal court, and the stock sold and the proceeds, nearly $80,000, paid in to Clerk Frank to be held subject to the decision of the present suit. Should Cole win he will get the money, and the defense will be left "holding the bag." Should Cole be beaten, however, the $80,000 will be divided among the creditors in the order that their attachments were filed. And here, as pointed out by Judge Dundy the other day, comes in a curious contingency. Miller, while ostensibly the defendant, is really only the agent of the creditors, but none of them are named with him as co-defendants. Should the matter be decided in his favor the money would have to be paid over to him. As his bond is only for $10,000 he could if he felt so disposed put the money in his pocket and calmly tell the creditors to go to—Canada, and their only resource would be to sue his bondsmen, whose liability is limited to $10,000. People who know Dave Miller understand that there is no danger of anything of the kind happening, but the situation is cited to show what might be. Judge Dundy suggests that in order to put the case in proper shape, all the attaching creditors be named as co-defendants, which will probably be done.

In connection with this litigation there is an hitherto unwritten romance full of interest to all Omaha and Lincoln people, and especially those who knew Smith in his high rolling days. When the sharper found it convenient to go to Canada, he left behind him in Omaha a handsome young brunette, with whom he had been wont to pass his leisure hours. A mashing son of Blackstone, whose residence is in Lincoln, happened in Omaha shortly after, and meeting this dark-eyed damsel, became well acquainted with her. In a confidential mood one day, she told Mr. Blackstone that Smith had left her penniless, but that she was possessed of secrets which he would pay well to have kept quiet. Blackstone, with an eye to speculation, supplied the girl with money, and bringing her to Lincoln, installed her where he could gradually work the alleged secrets from her. This done he went to Canada, met Smith and cooly asked $10,000 as the price of keeping still, conducting the negotiation of course in such a manner as to shut out a charge of blackmail. Smith refused point blank to buy his silence, denied the charges entirely, and Blackstone returned to Lincoln. Having no further use for the girl, and thinking that, perhaps after all she had been "working" him he turned her adrift and settled down to muse over his busted speculation. The girl and Blackstone still live here, but it's satd "they never speak as they pass by."

SKULL AND CROSS BONES.

The crusade waged by the Law and Order league, and the promise of the leaders to strike still harder blows for moral reform, has made many residents of Lincoln engaged in not strictly legitimate callings a little apprehensive as to when and how they would be put on the rack. Consequently when Thursday's mail bore to some thirty saloon and billiard room keepers mysterious blood-red postal cards with a ghastly skull and cross bones on the back, accompanied by the warning, "Beware! The eye of the mystic league is on you!" there was a general rush for counsel and advice. Jones, the Tenth street furnished room man, flew to Mayor Burr demanding protection against an unholy censpiracy beside which the southern Ku Klux Klan was a school boy organization and crew of merry fellows. The saloon men were especially unnerved and fearful that some converted plan to drive them out of business had been adopted. Quick's sale of his barroom business to Hood & Co. was taken as an indication that the veteran had snuffed the impending danger, and wisely "stepped from under." Finally the matter grew so serious that Marshal Beach and Officer Smith were called in, and given a copy of the mysterious card with instructions to discover by all means the senders and their intentions. Their first and all sufficient discovery was that every man who had received one of the blood-red cards was a retail dealer in cigars, and that among them were many reputable citizens such as John T. Cochrane, and Sewall, the grocer, against whom no breach of law could be urged. This satisfied the officials that it was an advertising scheme and they dropped the case. The BEE man, determined to go a little further, learned from Postmaster Watkins that the cards were mailed in a bunch in the local drop Wednesday night, and that the distributing clerk referred them to the assistant postmaster before sending them out. They were found to be mailable, and much against his personal wish, the postmaster was compelled to allow them to pass. The scheme, even as an advertising dodge, is highly reprehensible and scandalous, as many of the recipients being nervous and excitable men, have been caused a severe mental strain and suffering. In the case of the veteran Cochrane it was even cruel, for his afflictions in the past have been sufficient for one man to bear, and he, at least, should be secure from such wild and uncanny pranks.

THE FITZGERALD HOSE TEAM.

The team that will represent the Fitzgerald Hose company at the New Orleans tournament has at last been decided upon, and on Saturday morning the boys will start on their journey southward. There will be twenty-six people in the party, including the wives of Messrs. Benson, James, Austin, Henick, Franklin and Carpenter, all under charge of Manager Hohman. The runners comprise William H. James, William C. Austin, Frank Parkington, C. M. Benson, Harry Franklin, C. M. Carpenter, Frank Austin, J. B. Henick, Henry Small, Alex Mustine, B. H. Floyd, A. Dillon, Forey Ensign, Si Gould and Taffield and Warner. Besides these these there will be a cook, a rubber, and a man of all work to look after the wants of the crowd. The team is one of the best ever picked to represent the Fitzgeralds, and will make a hard run for the championship. They will be captained by James, and led in the races by Parkington. The coupling will be done by James and Austin (W. C.) Mr. John Fitzgerald has secured a special car for the party, and they anticipate a pleasant time, the route, as given in Wednesday's BEE, being via the Union Pacific to Omaha, Wabash to St. Louis, and Illinois Central to New Orleans.

A CURIOUS VERDICT.

The jury in the combined Reed and Pheasant case vs the Minneapolis & Omaha railway, after five days deliberation, brought in a verdict yesterday, and were discharged by Judge Dundy. They award $3,500 to Pheasant's family, and shut Reed's off without anything. The cases were of the personal injury class, and were ably tried in United States court last week, General Cowin and a Norfolk lawyer appearing for the plaintiffs and Messrs Ogden, Brome and Deweese for the company. It was shown that Reed was engineer and Pheasant brakeman on a train which was wrecked on the 8th of May, 1883, near Wayne, by the washing out of a bridge, and that both lost their lives. This the defense did not deny, and after the cases were called, offered Reed's family $2,500 and Pheasant's $1,500, with attorney fees and costs, to settle. As the most that could be recovered was $5,000, General Cowin advised the acceptance of the offer, but it was refused, and the trial proceeded with the result noted. For some days the jury stood 8 to 4 for the defense, then changed to 6 to 6, and finally yesterday morning made a compromise verdict. How they justify it, except upon the theory that Reed was drunk, is difficult to understand. They held the company guilty of negligence, gave Pheasant's heirs $3,500, and left the family of Reed, who lost his life at the same time and in the same way, without a cent.

WANTS HIS ERRING DAUGHTER.

Last week John Gross, a bookbinder employed at the Journal office, was arrested on a charge of unlawful cohabitation. Gross was a new arrival from Ottawa (Ill.), and was stopping at the Tremont house with a young woman whom he represented as his wife. The Illinois authorities sent on word that Gross' family was still there, and that the woman with him was Mary Pembroke, with whom he had eloped. Yesterday Sheriff Melick received a letter from Mary's father, asking that his girl be sent home, or if it was necessary to hold her as a witness, that she be well taken care of. Gross' arrest left Mary without money, and after giving her recognizance to appear when wanted she left the hotel, saying she must look for work. Since then she has not been heard from, though it is safe to presume she is not far from Lincoln, and will show up when court meets.

BRIEF MENTION.

The old Wymore & Blue Springs Street Railway company has transferred all its rights and property to the Wymore & Blue Springs Railway company for the sum of $64.70. The new company consists exclusively of the Reynolds family, who have put $15,000 into the scheme.

The secretary of state has issued a certificate to the American Detective Association of Omaha.

Samuel Anderson is suing David Hazard in the district court to obtain title to lot 2, northeast quarter section 36, township 10, range 6, which Anderson alleges was wrongfully conveyed to defendant while held in escrow by an unnamed party in 1876.

A project to incorporate and endow the Nebraska State Teachers' association will be considered at the annual meeting next month. Mr. Jones proposes to secure 200 life members at $5 each, the proceeds to be used as an endowment, the interest of which will pay expenses of conventions, etc. Circulars are being sent out to teachers asking their opinion on the enterprise.

The attention of the police is respectfully called to the gang of loafers who infest the B. & M. corner at Tenth and O streets, and also to the city ordinance against such gatherings.

THE PRAIRIE WAIF.

A "Standing Room Only" Audience Witness the Performance.

Boyd's opera house was not large enough to contain the great throng of people who rushed to that place of amusement last night to witness the presentation by Buffalo Bill and his company of the sensational drama, "The Prairie Waif." Long before time for the curtain to rise on the first act, there was "standing room only," and fully 300 people were turned away, unable to gain admittance. The audience was not only large, but also enthusiastic, and from the beginning to the end of the performance the applause was frequent and demonstrative. At times it almost seemed as if the galleries had gone wild when Buffalo Bill appeared in the direst emergencies and rescued the "Prairie Waif" from her impending fate.

For Mr. Cody himself there is no need of praise, as who has not witnessed his marvelous powers. His fancy rifle shooting last night was witnessed with the same breathless interest that has always accompanied it. Miss Denier made a charming "Prairie Waif," and received her full meed of praise. As the Dutchman, Jule Keene in his recitations brought down the house. John Pendy as "Captain Russell," and Miss Jeff Pendy as "Sadie," in their songs and dances, were immense, and created the wildest enthusiasm. In fact, every member of the company is deserving of mention, and the performance to-night will undoubtedly be greeted with a packed house.

A PERSUASIVE GUN.

How Some of South Omaha's Bad Men Jumped the Town.

In conversation with a resident of South Omaha, named Fox, yesterday afternoon, a BEE man was informed that there was great rejoicing in that burg over the removal of Dug Johnson to Omaha.

"He's a bad man," said Fox, "and you may be sure the community will miss him, but no one will mourn. If he'd stayed much longer somebody would have done by him the way I did with Crow. Crow was another bad man, and I made up my mind that we didn't want him to stay in town. So I went up to his house one day and told him he had better get out. He didn't go, and the next day I went down with a shotgun. Crow locked the door on me, but I kicked it in and I says: 'Now you git.' I kept the gun covering him, and he got. I accompanied him out of town for a ways, and he never come back. That's about the best way to rid the place of toughs."

Questioned about Mrs. Barrett, who has been accused of being a firebug, Fox said that while the woman was bad enough, still he did not believe she was guilty of the offenses charged. "We've got too many bad men out there to be looked after now," he remarked, "without pitching onto wimmen."

Mr. Fox is of the opinion that the morals of South Omaha will improve rapidly now that the hard characters are being rooted out.

Put in an Elevator.

"I wish you would call the attention of the commissioners to the fact that the best thing they could do now is to construct a tunnel from Farnam street into the basement of the court house and put in an elevator," said a county official to a BEE man yesterday. "It has been all that a man could do this winter to climb the long steps in the condition they have been, and an elevator and a tunnel is the only remedy. They will have to do it before long, and the sooner the better."

NEBRASKA'S SUPREME COURT

Business Transacted and Cases Considered at Yesterday's Session.

TEXT OF THE OPINIONS FILED.

A Young Lady's Mysterious Disappearance—A Baby's Miraculous Escape From Burning to Death—State News.

Nebraska Supreme Court.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 11.—[Special.]—The court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following causes were submitted: Mattis vs Boggs; Horn vs Miller, on motion; Thomas vs Thomas.

The following causes were reversed by consent: Omaha vs Beindorf; Sproule vs Omaha.

The court adjourned to Tuesday, February 16, at 8:30 o'clock a. m.

The following opinions were filed:

McPherson vs Wiswell. Error from Gage county. Reversed. Opinion by Cobb, J.

There being evidence before the jury, tending to prove a rescission by W. of the contract between him and M., an instruction stating the supposed facts of the case, and telling the jury that if they believed such facts from the evidence they should find for the defendants, but which instruction is ignored and left out of the question of rescission and the evidence thereof—held, erroneous, and a new trial awarded, although in other and former instructions the court had properly instructed the jury upon the law of rescission and its application to the case before them.

Boyd vs State. Error from Douglas county. Reversed and dismissed. Opinion by Cobb, J.

1—An order of injunction only restrains the defendant, or defendants, to the action in which the same is issued, and such persons acting in, or occupying a subordinate position to him, or them, as may be named, described, or in some manner designated in such order.

2—Proceedings in contempt are in their nature criminal, and the strict rules of construction, applicable to criminal proceedings, are to govern therein. Van Zant vs Arg. Ming. Co., 2 McCray, 644.

State ex rel Meckling vs Jaynes. Mandamus. Writ awarded. Opinion by Cobb, J.

1—Upon an application for a mandamus by a person who has duly received a certificate of election to the office of justice of the peace, to compel the delivery to him, by the late incumbent of said office, of the dockets and papers pertaining thereto, the cause of action necessary and proper to be set out in such application, consists solely in his having been canvassed in, declared elected, awarded a certificate of election, taken the oath, and given the bond required by law, and the respondent having refused or failed to deliver up to him such dockets, papers, etc., on demand.

2—To such application or relation, nothing may be properly pleaded in answer which does not deny, or put in issue, some or all of the above facts.

Hubbard vs Walker. Error from Lancaster county. Affirmed. Opinion by Cobb, J.

1—Land conveyed by H. K. to W., May 13, 1869, deed remained in the hands of W. unrecorded until May 23, 1880, when the same was duly recorded.

2—On the 4th day of August, 1873, L. & B. filed a transcript of judgment in the office of the clerk of the district court of the proper county, against McK. Execution issued thereon February 7, 1876. Levy made on land the same day. March 11, 1876, sold by sheriff to G. Sheriff's deed on said sale June 20, 1881. Deed to G. supposed to have been recorded the same day. Deed from G. to H. In ejectment by H. vs W. et al—held, that W. holds the land by the title conveyed to him by McK., absolutely unaffected by the judgment of L. & B. or the legal proceedings thereon under which plaintiff claims. Judgment for defendants upheld.

Washburn vs McGuir. Error from Gage county. Reversed and attachment restored. Opinion by Cobb, J.

Affidavit for attachment contained, among others, the following allegation: "And that the defendant, D. McGuir, is about to convert his property, or a part thereof, into money for the purpose of placing it beyond the reach of his creditors." On motion to discharge the attachment on the ground, and for the reason, that the facts stated in the affidavit for attachment were untrue; and, it appearing by affidavit, that, on the day of the issuance of the attachment the defendant executed and placed on record two deeds to his wife, by each of which he conveyed to her a lot of land for a nominal consideration, respectively; and one of said conveyances being explained and shown not to be fraudulent by the respective affidavits of defendant and his wife, but, the other conveyance, not being explained, nor in any manner accounted for, or even alleged to have been made in good faith, or for a valid consideration, the order of the district court discharging said attachment is reversed.

School District 42, vs Bank of Xenia. Error from Pawnee county. Affirmed. Opinion by Cobb, J.

1. The bonds sued on purport to be signed by Peter Robertson, moderator; John G. Winckler, director, and William Richards, treasurer. They were dated October 16, registered October 23—and negotiated and issued by the district after the latter date. The said William Richards having been appointed director, and having accepted said office October 22 held, that he will be presumed to have signed the said bonds after his appointment, notwithstanding the date of the bonds.

2. There was evidence to the effect that the name of John G. Winckler, director, was not placed on the bonds by his own hand; that he being of advanced age and feeble health had, about that time, always made use of his son as his amanuensis to write his name to all papers, and the bonds were signed in that way; and there also being evidency that Mr. Winckler treated the signature, purporting to be his to the bonds as his own, by participating in the negotiation and sale of the bonds—held, that the bonds are the valid bonds of the district.

3—There being evidence that the county commissioners levied taxes on the taxable property in said school district for the purpose of paying the interest on said bonds, and to provide a sinking fund for the final redemption of the same; that such taxes were collected by the county treasurer and paid on said bonds, within five years next before the commencement of said action—held, that such payment was sufficient to take the bond upon which it was paid and endorsed out of the statute of limitations.

Post vs School District 10, Gage county. Error from Gage county. Affirmed. Opinion by Maxwell, Ch. J.

1—Where it is sought to prove by a member of a law firm, after its dissolution, that he has made search for certain instruments sent to the firm, and that he cannot find them, in order to admit secondary evidence of their contents, it must be made to appear that he retained the possession of the same, and that search was made in such places as the instruments, if in existence, in all probability would be found.

2—Where the execution and validity of certain school bonds were denied—held, that unless there was some proof of their issue, sale and satisfaction by the district the court should direct a verdict for the defendant.

Aultman etc. Co. vs Jenkins. Error from Richardson county. Affirmed. Opinion by Maxwell, Ch. J.

1—Under the homestead law of 1879 a mortgage on the homestead of a married person to be valid must be executed and acknowledged by both husband and wife.

2—A mortgage to secure an antecedent debt was signed by both husband and wife, and afterwards acknowledged by his wife before the proper officer, but not by the husband—held, there being no countervailing equities, that the mortgage did not create a lien on the homestead.

McMurtrey vs State. Error from Lancaster county. Reversed for new trial. Opinion by Maxwell, Ch. J.

1—Affidavits used in the trial court, to be available for a review of the question in the supreme court, must be embodied in a bill of exceptions.

2—Where an answer, or other pleading of a defendant is properly on file, no judgment by default can be entered against him.

3—An answer filed in the district court, but entitled "in the county court" is amendable, and if applicable to the petition, cannot be disregarded.

State ex rel Sage vs Bennett. Mandamus writ allowed. Opinion by Maxwell, Ch. J.

1—Cities of the second class have authority, under subdivision 8, of section 69 of the act of 1879, entitled an act to provide for "the organization, government and powers of cities and villages," to impose an occupied tax upon liquor dealers, in addition to the amount paid for license to sell liquors.

2—The payment of such tax, however, cannot be made a conditon precedent to the issuing of license to sell intoxicating liquors.

3—The findings of referees, like verdict of a jury, will not be set aside unless they are clearly wrong.

State ex rel, Omaha Horse Railway vs Judges. Mandamus. Writ denied. Opinion by Maxwell, Ch. J.

Where a peremptory writ of mandamus was granted by the district court against a street railway company to compel it to run cars over a certain portion of its line, and the railway company sought to have judgment reviewed in the supreme court and to compel the district court to fix the amount of the supercedeas bond—held, that there was no provision of the statute requiring such court or judges to fix the amount of the undertaking in such case.

Burlington & Missouri Railroad Company vs Crockett. Rehearing affirmed. Opinion by Maxwell, Ch. J.

1—Where the under boss of a gravel train gang was directed by his immediate superior to take men and dig out a car, which had been partly covered and derailed by a fall of gravel from a high bank near by, and in pursuance of such order did proceed to dig out the car, and while so employed was killed by the embankment caving in. Prior to that time, the custom had been to station watchmen to give notice to the workmen of danger from the falling bank, which was omitted on that occasion—held, that the company was liable.

2—The conductor of a gravel train on a railroad with a gang of men under his immediate control in the employ of the railroad company is as to such men the vice principal of the railroad company, and not a fellow servant.

3—A sub-boss, under the immediate control and direction of the conductor or the person in charge of a gravel train, is not as to such conductor or person in charge of a train, a fellow servant.

Business Bits From Blair.

BLAIR, Neb., Feb. 11.—[Special.]—The reports that reach us from the neighboring towns of proposed new industries and booms has finally awakened our citizens to a realization of the fact that it is time something was done in the direction of an industry that will be of general benefit to the city. Steps are being taken now for the erection of a canning factory. Representative citizens agreed at a meeting last night to subscribe a sufficient amount to put the same in running order. There is also a fair prospect for a pork packing establishment to be started here.

It is rumored to-day that the banking house of A. Castetter is to be made a national bank. Should this be done we will have two national banks and a savings bank here.

Brakeman Loses a Hand.

O'NEILL, Neb., Feb. 11.—[Special Telegram.]—Yesterday afternoon a brakeman named George McDonald, running on freight No. 24, lost his right hand while trying to make a coupling. He dropped the coupling pin, and hastily stooped to pick it up, but the approaching car was close upon him, and before he could get out of the way the wheels ran over his right arm at the wrist. The hand and wrist were fearfully mangled, and the unfortunate man had to have the hand amputated. The operation was successfully performed by Dr. Lease of Neligh, assisted by Dr. Conley of O Neill. The wounded man was taken to Neligh today, where he will remain under the care of Dr. Lease until he recovers.

A Young Lady Disappears.

BLOOMINGTON, Neb., Feb. 11.—[Special Telegram.]—Miss Angie Sherman, a young lady recently from Michigan with her parents, left her sister's house this afternoon at about 6 o'clock and has not since been seen or heard from, although careful search has been made. On leaving she bade her sister good bye, remarking that she might never see her again. No reason can be given for the act, as her parents are kind and indulgent. Miss Sherman is 19 years of age, rather tall, dark complexion, stoutly built. She has lost a front tooth, which would be noticed immediately. Her parents are nearly wild with grief, fearing that she has committed suicide.

Something Saved the Baby.

BLAIR, Neb., Feb. 11.—[Special.]—A rather remarkable fire occurred at the elegant residence of C. C. Crowell. While Mrs. C. and the baby were sitting in the library (the baby on the floor in front of the fire place) three successive explosions in the fire place chimney occurred, scattering the logs and cinders all over the room and around the child, but not injuring it in the least. The elegant curtains, rugs and chairs were damaged considerably, however, but the fire was extinguished before any material damage was done to the building.

Indicted for Attempted Murder.

RIVERTON, Neb., Feb. 11.—[Special Telegram.]—In the case of the state of Nebraska vs P. H. Williams, charged with assault with intent to kill James Ashburn, the defendant was placed under $1,200 bonds to appear at the next term of the district court to answer to the indictment as charged.

Attention Now to Human Kind.

RED CLOUD, Neb., Feb. 11.—[Special Telegram.]—W. N. Richardson and Miss Bessie Tangil were married this evening. The wedding was a quiet affair, only a few intimate friends being present. Richardson is an old Nebraska pioneer cattleman, and has doubtless handled more live stock in the past fifteen years than any man in the state.

Murders That Lack Confirmation.

KINGSTON, Ont., Feb. 11.—Friends in this vicinity have been advised of the killing of six mounted police near Regina. They await confirmation of the report. They have also been informed by their northwest correspondents that a rebellion is likely to occur in the spring.

Brevities.

Patrolman Mostyn yesterday recovered the cloak which was stolen from in front of J. L. Brandeis & Co.'s store a day or so ago. The thief, however, was not captured.

An alarm of fire last evening called the department to Twenty-fourth and Farnam street, where a chimney was burning out. No damage was done and the services of the firemen were not required.

Mrs. George Zettler, of Glenwood, Iowa, is in the city in search of her husband. He left her about ten days ago to come to Omaha, where he was to secure employment as a cook. She has not heard from him since, and is afraid that he has met with misfortune. The police have been notified to be on the lookout for him.

THE REFORMED GAMBLER.

Steve Holcombe, of Louisville, Who is Now Serving the Lord.

A Valuable Secret Which He Will Carry to the Grave—His Missionary Work in Louisville.

The Louisville correspondent of the St. Louis Republican says: High among God's noblemen stands Steve Holcombe, the reformed gambler of this city. From a life of success, plenty and revel, he has turned to one of beggary and brotherhood with tramps and thugs that he may do good to his fellowmen. For more than thirty years Steve Holcombe was known far and wide as one of the most successful gamblers in the country. In the old palmy days of river navigation he plied his calling in the gilded cabins of those magnificent floating palaces which ran between Cincinnati and the Crescent City, or rested at will in the cities along the way. Handsome, courtly, dressed like a prince, and as free as a king, it is little wonder that he was a general favorite wherever known. To sit at a gaming table was to win, yet he was never accused of cheating. Though a gambler by profession he bore the reputation of being honor and candor itself. His blue eyes ever wore a smile except when greeted by suffering, and then a liberal hand always went to an overflowing pocket to offer relief as far as possible. In all his career he was never known to injure a fellow being. Many reasons have been given in explanation of his uniform good fortune at the gaming table, but none have touched the secret. He is loth to refer to the old days, but he tells me his success was due to a system which he employed in gambling. Poker was his favorite game, and he says that by the aid of is system he can, in the end, break the best poker player who ever lived. Holcombe does not claim to have originated this system, but says he picked it up from the inventor, a gambler named Nash. The latter often said that Steve was the only man who ever discovered the secret, and the two pooled issues and traveled together, winning large sums of money. After a few years Nash died, leaving Holcombe sole possessor of the secret. Steve continued to use it up to the time of his reformation, and it is estimated that he has won and squandered nearly $200,000.

Since he abandoned the green cloth many gamblers have tried in every conceivable way to wring Holcombe's secret from him, but to no purpose. It is said that Col. Dick Watts, member of the general council of this city, offered him $10,000 cash for his secret, but Steve quietly replied that he would carry it to the grave with him.

When this man was converted he walked out of the gambling house without a penny. Chief of the Fire Department Ed. Hughes believed Holcombe sincere in his desire to reform and offered him work in the department. The place was accepted, but not long afterward Holcombe gave it up and established a gospel mission for tramps and outcasts in a little dingy basement. He undertook to fill the stomach of these needy people preparatory to filling their hearts with the word of God. He asked donations of food, clothing and money to carry out this plan. It was up-hill work to win recognition, but he finally succeeded, and donations poured in daily from every quarter. Hungry and unclothed people came in even more rapidly, however, and it was not long before the little mission was feeding and caring for nearly a hundred people, on an average, daily. But the gospel on a full stomach plan proved an admirable one, and a little army of reclaimed drunkards, tramps and thugs soon began proclaiming the praises of Steve Holcombe, the reformed gambler. The work continued to grow, and now the little basement mission has the moral and financial backing of some of the most prominent and wealthy people of the city. As an illustration of his zeal it may be mentioned that Holcombe lives from the donations of the charitable, just as do the strangers who are dependent upon him. He has now grown gray and rough, and the honest blue eyes are pale and shrunken, but in them there is a light which tells of a heart contented and at rest.

Among those who first recognized the work of Holcombe and came to his support was Mr. J. T. Burghardt, a prominent business man of this city. Taking great interest in the progress of the mission, this noble man soon realized that it was sorely in need of better and more commodious quarters. Casting about, his eyes alighted upon the old, deserted mansion, which stands on Jefferson street above First, and he at once made inquiries about it. He found that it was owned by residents of Mississippi, and held at $15,000. Thinking the price too high he offered $12,000 with the express understanding that the place should be donated to the Holcombe mission. Through the advice of Maj. Geo. F. Downs, the husband of the celebrated Sallie Ward Armstrong, the owners held on for $15,000 until Mr. Burgardt withdrew his offer upon going east at the beginning of the year. Forty-eight hours after the offer was withdrawn word came that $12,000 would be accepted, but it was too late. Now, Mr. Holcombe, is trying to raise the amount by public subscription. It is more than likely that he will be successful.

The building is a very large and excellent one, and could not be replaced for $30,000. Owing to its location, it is unsalable as a residence or clubhouse. It has about forty large rooms and is furnished with every convenience. Upon securing this place Holcombe purposes to establish various industrial divisions in order that all deserving and needy persons may be given a chance to earn an honest living. Another feature will be a school for street waifs and orphans taken from drunken and immoral parents. He will also make a special department for the purpose of sheltering and retrieving outcasts who have been discharged from prison moneyless and friendless. Other features worthy of this noble man will be introduced.

Negro Superstitions.

Youth's Companion.

It the sun shines while it is raining it is a sign that satan is whipping his wife.

It is a bad sign for a cat to get in a cradle.

It is bad luck for a deformed cat to be born on the place, unless it is drowned at once.

When a dog dreams before a fire it is a sign that a witch is trying to get in the house. The way to keep the witch out is to throw salt in the fire.

A horseshoe nail stuck in a crack will keep witches out.

If sparks fly from the fireplace it is a sign that your enemies are conspiring against you.

If a chunk of fire rolls out on the hearth strangers are coming.

If a twig or bush gets caught in a woman's dress and is dragged after her it is a sign that she has a sweetheart.

Another Bite by the Same Dog.

Paris News: Good morning, Mrs. Gilligan. How is Patrick this morning?" "Sure he's no better, sir." "Why don't you send him to the hospital to be treated?" "To be treated, is it? Faith, an' it's the delirium trimmins he has already."

Sympathy Wanted.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Mr. Peck, the labor commissioner of New York, has just printed a report, which, while valuable for its statistics, is also interesting from its accounts of the condition of the working women of the metropolis. The commissioner seems to have given special attention to the female workers of the Empire state, and in addition to the statistics gathered from the census tables and figures collected from manufacturers and employers in the leading industries of the state, he has taken pains to go among the working women and ascertain, by personal observation, what are their wants and what the conditions under which they do their daily tasks. His investigations, are, however, particularly thorough with regard to one class, those who do contract sewing, taking the work home and returning it completed to the contractor. The condition of these poor creatures is really pitiable and the pen-pictures drawn by the commissioner of the distress and want which increasing toil is unable to alleviate, are likely to move the various women's associations of the country to still more earnest efforts in behalf of their suffering sisters.

But at the same time, while sympathy may be felt for the unfortunate women who earn a scant and insufficient living by arduous toil, it should not be forgotten that, bad as their condition is, they alone are responsible for it. They have made it what it is, and as long as they are willing to live in garrets and sew for contractors for one or two dollars a week, there is no hope of any improvement, either in their pay, their food or heir lodgings. If every other door but that of the clothing contractor were closed against them, their situation would be deplorable indeed, but the same report which paints their sufferings shows also the fact that domestic servants, such as cooks, chambermaids, and personal attendants, are not only fed and housed, but in addition are paid, on an average, a larger sum weekly than is received by these sewing women who, out of their scanty pittance, are forced to clothe and feed themselves, and pay rent for the rooms they occupy.

Nor is the occupation of domestic service in the least overcrowded. Servants, such as they are, are numerous, but competent servants are rare; and, in the language of a female reformer, "a girl who does not have to be told seven times a week to make the beds, twenty-one times a week to set the table, and a hundred times a week to answer the door-bell, is a treasure." Such a servant will receive exceedingly good wages for the service she renders her mistress, while even the great body of incapables get each from $10 to $20 a month, together with board, lodging, fuel, lights and other accommodations which the sewing-women are forced to provide for themselves. A feeling of false pride, however, prevents sewing-women from going out to service; and so prevalent in the idea that sewing or starvation wages in a garret is more respectable than doing the honest work of servant for good pay, that hosts of women are kept in competition for the work of contractors, and the wages are forced to a proportionally low figure. So, while tears of sympathy may flow for the sewing-woman, let it be remembered that she sews from choice and not of necessity, and let a little sympathy be spared for ladies who, with a house full of company, are forced to do all their work on account of the sudden and unexpected departure of every servant about the place.

A Word for Bruce.

CREIGHTON, Neb., Feb. 8.—[Correspondence of the BEE.]—I have just read in the Omaha Republican of the 3d inst. the accusations against Miner W. Bruce, of the United States land office at Niobrara, Neb.

One not acquainted with Knox county and its people will think Mr. Bruce the worst criminal now in the employ of the government, but those best acquainted with all the circumstances of the case know full well that the charges are made for personal and political reasons to have Register Bruce bounced from the United States land office.

Is it not strange that out of all the affidavits made to substantiate the charges preferred, only one is made by a democrat for "offensive partisanship?"

It is the old political fight continued, which has been kept up for the past twelve years, for personal spite or political gain, and their object is to destroy Mr. Bruce, both personally and politically, as they realize the fact that he has many friends throughout this land district. The parties to this fight are the anti-Van Wyck faction of the republican party, and comprise what is termed the Niobrara ring—who have sworn to destroy the Van Wyck faction. There are many of the charges made against Register Bruce that could not be substantiated before a court and the parties that make them are far from being saints, although they wear saintly robes sometimes. They even induced the poor old blind man to sign an affidavit not knowing the contents thereof. Knox county is the banner county for lies, liars and political affidavits, but when they commence to assail Miner W. Bruce, they have got the wrong man as he is a better man than any of the affidavit makers against him, and has got more friends in Knox county and this land district. Some of the affidavit men would like to recall their words as they did not expect them to go into print, but that Secretary Lamar would call an investigation immediately, and poor Miner would get the grand bounce. This is the same crowd that would bet money that Miner Bruce would never be register of the United States land office at Niobrara; yet in the face of the opposition of these same affidavit-makers he has been register nearly two years—and it will require more perjury than has already been sent to Washington to remove him—as he is without exception the most honorable and competent and best register that ever held the position in the land district.

He needs no defenders, as he has always been able to defend himself, but his defamers may rest assured that their malicious persecution will not win laurels for them when their great investigations are had, as their charges can not be substantiated, but are mere assertions and heresay—gotten up for political and personal gain.

Let them do their worst. The department knows whether Miner W. Bruce has done his duty or not. This is not a democratic, but a republican fight.

S.

F. M. Overbeck, for some time back one of the most popular attaches of the Chicago Lumber company, in a few weeks will remove his family from Cincinnati to this city and make his home in our midst.

V. P. Musselman, who for the past two years has been bookkeeper for Branch & Co., left last evening for his old home in Hollidaysburg, Pa., where he will spend a few weeks.

The skeleton of an ancient New Englander, recently dug up at Nantucket, still retained its clutch upon one of the first copper coins that came from the mint of the independent colonies.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BLUFFS NEWS.

THE POOR POLICE.

The Council Investigates the Charges of Charity Pilfering.

The council last night held an investigation into the charges made that the police force had helped themselves to the clothing contributed to the poor. The chief of police told the night men not to appear before the council to testify. This order of the chief was not regarded. Nearly all the officers appeared and were examined.

Officer O'Brien was the chief witness. He testified that Captain Walters took three coats and a girl's cloak; that Chief Skinner laid out a pair of boots and said he was going to take them. H. H. Field identified a coat which was worn by Officer Kirk as one given by him for the poor. Kirk admitted having taken it, but claimed he exchanged his own coat for it. Captain Walters admitted taking some of the clothing but only for distribution to the poor people, and denied appropriating any of it to his own use. Several other witnesses were examined, but little additional light was thrown on the case. The investigation was a secret one, and was continued until after midnight. An adjournment was taken until this evening.

The chief of police ordered Officer O'Brien to give up his star, claiming that he had fifteen distinct charges to prefer against him. The mayor pro tem instructed O'Brien to retain his star and continue on duty until the mayor returned and further investigation could be had.

Personal Paragraphs.

Patrick Egan is at the Millard.

W. A. Spencer, of Pierce, spent yesterday in Omaha.

Mrs. E. L. Darrow, of Beatrice, is a guest at the Millard.

Mrs. J. C. Morrow who has been ill for some time past is recovering.

Mr. R. S. Daly representing the Dobbins Electric soap company is in the city.

W. F. Prindell, of Columbus, and F. P. Wigton, of Norfolk, are registered at the Paxton.

Col. J. L. Curby, of St. Louis, is registered at the Paxton, having arrived in the city last evening.

Hon. William F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill," and the leading members of his company are registered at the Paxton.

W. H. Pound and C. B. Finch, of Kearney, arrived in Omaha last evening and are registered at the Paxton.

W. W. Wilson, Lincoln; S. P. Davidson, Tecumseh, and W. H. Hoag, Tekamah, were registered at the Millard last evening.

Miss Nellie Townes, for some time back one of our widely known and respected young ladies, left yesterday for Baltimore, Md., where she will hereafter reside.

Hon. H. F. Cady, one of the managers of the Chicago Lumber company, and now of Nebraska City, will shortly move to Omaha and take up permanent residence here.

Women Who Work in England.

Pall Mall Gazette.

According to the latest official statistics the number of working women in England and Wales is 7,706,545. These are employed in about 280 different branches of work. In the series of articles of which the present is the concluding one I have attempted to collect some information as to the training for and the nature of some new employments and of those in which large numbers of women find their daily bread, and, according to their own words, their chief interest in life. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to give more than a very general sketch of the chief spheres of women's work in the limited space of a newspaper.

The assertion which is frequently made that no woman who earns her own living does so for the love of work, but merely because she is compelled to work, has, as far as I have been able to ascertain by coming in contact with workers of all classes, no foundation whatever. The factory girl and the laundress who understood their work have told me without hesitation that they would rather work than do nothing; and all up the social scale it has been the same; but the more intelligent and intellectual the working woman, the more in earnest and enthusiastic about her work have I invariably found her to be. But once more I would say what has been said again and again, that without training no woman will ever succeed in doing her work to her own or to her employer's satisfaction, and if this fact is well understood by parents and teachers of girls, the chief difficulty in the advancement of women will be removed. All other difficulties may in time be overcome, as the employments for women during the last thirty years been, and still are, ever increasing, the work need be no drudgery, there being a sufficient number of different employments open to every class of women that each may choose a department for which she is best fitted by natural gifts and idyosincrasies.

There are still a great many men and women who, having never by experience known what it means to have life stretched out before them with but the one clear fact standing out of the dark future that they must earn their own living or perish, speak of some sphere of women's work as "unwomanly." The only possible explanation of this assertion is that those who make it have no idea of the meaning of true womanliness. There will be unwomanly women in high and in low life as long as the world stands, but no work will ever increase or diminish their number. What the extension of work must needs bring about is the solution of one of the greatest social problems of our time—namely, that of the equalization of the sexes, and after the barrier of inequality falls, which is now put up at almost every step against women whose qualifications and capacities are second to none, the way is clear enough.

Carlyle, in "Past and Present," that grand exhortation of true labor, which ought to find its place by the side of the Bible on the book-shelf of every working man and woman, says: "There is a perennial nobleness, and even sacredness in work. * * * Blessed is he who has found his work, let him ask no other blessedness." Oppression, difficulties and obstacles there are still many to overcome; days of discouragement and hours of weariness will still come, but one bright ray will never be absent, even though the sky be dark; the consciousness that the cause of woman is rapidly progressing; that there is yet no sphere which having once been opened to woman, has been shut on them again because they failed in it, and from the consciousness that each day of individual labor furthers the cause of the whole sex will spring new courage and inspiration, and should in a gloomy hour, such as comes even to the most hopeful worker, when body and mind are weary from earnest, whole-hearted work, the temptation draw near to compare the quiet, apparently monotonous life of toil with the changeful, easy life of the sister whom fate has destined to be an idler, then let it be remembered what the great spirits of all ages have never ceased to proclaim—that the happiest life is a life of work, of whatever kind the work may be; and not only is it the happiest, but the noblest life as well—incomparably higher than the existence of the idler, with its glittering surface, its disappointments and its narrowing influences, for "Labor, wide as the world, has its summit in heaven."