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THE BOCUS AGENT OF PATTI.

Frison Life of Benson at Portsmouth and Elsewhere.

THE OFFICIALS AFRAID OF HIM.

Bow the Shrewd Swindler Made Miscrable the Lives of His Keepers-**His Attempted Cremation-A** Radical Revolution.

Chronicle of a Crook.

[Copyright 1888 by James Gordon Bennett.] DRTSMOUTH, Jan. 19.- [New York Herald Cable-Special to the BEE.]-The news of Benson's arrest in the United States was received by the prison authorities here with this comment: "Thank heaven his offense was not one to bring him back here." This induced the Herald correspondent to interview a veteran warden, whose name cannot be mentioned, whose, instead of writing a diary like inspector Byrnes, memorizes events in a kind of of peripatetic cyclopædia for the home office. His recollections I have reduced to a narrative and these Bensoniana may serve as guides to the keepers who may hereafter have this remarkable convict in charge.

Upon the 9th of April, 1887, at the central criminal court, London, he was sentenced to fifteen years penal servitude. After serving his probationery period at Pentonville he was, being a Hebrew, sent to Portsmouth in June, 1878 to complete his sentence. In May, 1883, however, he had proved such a troublesome prisoner that he was sent to Darmoor, where he remained until entitled to his ticket of leave. During his imprisonment Benson was at no time a favorite among the prison authorities. He was always regarded with suspicion and kept under rigorous surveillance. There was never any likelihood of his trying to escape, but the officers could never be sure he was not hatching mischief such as to cause anxiety and annoyance. He first came under notice during the Franco-German war, when he obtained £1,000 from the lord mayor of London ostensibly for the relief of sufferers from the bombardment of the Chateau d'Un. He was arrested immediately and sentenced to fifteen months.

only

Soon after his arrival at Newgate he broke up his cell furniture which he set on fire and then sat on the flames, apparently with a view to suicide. By the time the fire was discovered Benson had sustained such injuries as to produce permanent lameness. His father, whose offices were in the Faubourg St. Honore, occupied a prominent position in Paris. Sufficient influence was brought to bear on the home office so that before the fifteea months had expired, Benson was liberated.

Then he developed those greater schemes of fraud which ended in his being sentenced to penal servitude. He took up his residence in the Isle of Wight and passed himself off as Count Posino. He started the Isle of Wight Journal. The newspaper still exists, but he made many enemies by the personal character of his articles. It was at this time he made the acquaintance of William Kerr, with whose assistance the great turf frauds were concocted. Kerr was in the habit of supplying him with the matter and Benson edited the sporting paper through which the frands were worked. The suspi- had established a branch office of a frauducions of the police were aroused and Inspector Clark frequently visited Shanklin in the interests of Scotland Yard. Benson then removed to London, where the turf frauds were matured. Benson, hearing that Kerr had divulged the secrets of the conspiracy, proffered himself as queen's evidence, but though he was allowed to appear in the witness box the home office consistently refused to reconsider his case or grant him special privileges. On the other hand Kerr was treated with marked leniency. When the case was concluded he was removed to Chatham and allowed to work out his marks. Further, he was allowed to make ten marks a day, whereas ordinarily the best conducted convict can make no more than eight, and thus every six days of his imprisonment counted as ten. The rough and dangerous plan of breaking out of his cell was the only means that Benson did not employ to secure his liberty. There was one long struggle between him and the authorities. First he was granted a ticket of leave. There are some convicts who work as conscientiously as if they were on piece work. Benson was never one of those. His lameness was always a valid excuse for avoiding laborous work, consequently the authorities made a tailor of him, but he never got beyond the patching stage. At length he obtained admussion to the hospital, and in his memorials to the home office adroitly magnified the importance of this event to show that his health was being permanently injured by continuous confinement but the home office was obdurate. He next tried what could be done on medical grounds and carried his point to the farthest limit. After staying in bed over two hundred days he was naturally weakened and his complexion grew deathly pale. Knowing as he did the great powers yested in the hands of medical officers in recommending for remission of sentence or discharge, he pressed his case with great assiduity, but the medical officers were convinced he was feigning, and when he saw no chance of success in this direction he got out of bed and soon regained his strength. Benson's own warden had no more difficulty with him than any other. While there was never a showing of violence, the principal officers lie so harrassed that, no matter at what prison he was, the officials were always glad to have him removed, for if he was not complaing of sickness, he was forever making formal complaints to the governor or memorializing the home office. His verbal complaints were artfully prolix, and so purposely ambiguous that it war often difficult to discover his grievance, while his written memorials are quoted as evidence of the best diction and best penmanship that ever emanated from a convict in prison. But, with such suspicion was he always regarded, that no officer from the governor to the youngest warden would ever speak to him or be spoken to by him except in the presence of witnesses. But, while he was a thorn in the side of the officials, he was the admiration of his fellowprisoners, by whom he was looked upon as a polished blade, and as soon as he entered the prison his black, flashing eyes, long, thick cyc-lashes and swarthy complexion drew upon him the regard of his brother convicts, so that the freemasonry among prisoners by means of which one man can communicate with another, he brought to perfection and he had a code of signs made by eyes, ears, mouth and hands which was only understood by his confederates. He thus was enabled to keep himself informed of all that was going on in the prison. He somehow so fascinated the other convicts that all were ready to serve him at the risk of infringing the prison rules, yet he would never lose selfrespect and even in the exercise ground not the choice of the lifigant, but simply instead of walking with the other prisovers would amble around the county | Whether he performs his duty or neglects it,]

yards always supported by a walking stick, whether he does well or ill, he is under no his excuse being that owing to his lameness legal liability to the man by whom he is paid. he was unable to walk as fast as the others. The brief may not have told him all the facts; About 1883 it became known that Benson was he may not have read it; he may be in in the habit of receiving supplies of tobacco. another court when the case is being Searching inquiry was set afoot. It was obtried; but the client is absolutely vious he could only obtain his supplies in his hands and cannot sustain any legal through the warden and later it was discovclaims, even for return fees which have not ered that he had succeeded in exchanging been carned. Yet there are now solicitors who would make great advocates, there are tobacco for the food of his fellow prisoners. All along he denied the barristers who would do thoroughly well charges and he was strapped and solicitors' work, and by letting each do work scarched but as the searching proved for which he is best fitted we should give the futile these proceedings furnished Benson litigant a larger area of choice and save him with capital chances for memorials and it is from the useless burden of being bound to employ two persons instead of one. needless to say that he made the most of the hardship. Ultimately the prison authorities The English barrister who goes to practice in the colonies or India has to act were put upon their mettle. They were conboth as solicitor and counsel, and finds no vinced that their suspicions were right though their conduct appeared to place them difficulty in doing so. Again, in the United in the wrong. They determined to bring the States the system has been long established matter to an issue. Without a moment's and while the incomes of the leaders of the warning Benson was ordered to his cell for legal profession there are not, I believe, in solitary confinement. As soon as he got ferior to those earned in this country and there it was noticed that in stripping he stood partaken of by lawyers in public life very awhile on one of his leggins. Having considerably, all who have read reports of completely disrobed he was ordered legal proceedings in the States recognize the to the farthest corner of the cell where his ability of their advocates and the sound clothing, article by article, was handed to learning which is found on their judicial him after being closely examined. The legbench. The young man now coming to the gin upon which he stood persistently, was bar, if he find no clients to intrust him with briefs, can earn no money at all in subjected to special inspection, and in it was found a small flannel bag containing two his profession. If he were allowed to do solicitors' work and receive solicitors' remunerounces of tobacco. The authorities were thus able to justify their suspicions and Benation, he would almost certainly be able, if son was sentenced to a dietary punishment he had made himself known for his capacity. for the offense. and industry, to earn at least that small income which would enable him to wait pa-Benson, though a man of great intellectual capacity was not remarkable as a student. He tiently and safely for an opportunity for drew a book once a week from the library, but indulged in only casual reading. Often

higher distinction. I think the work of advocacy would be very often more thoroughly when supposed to be at work or reading he and intelligently performed if the advocate was discovered standing on a stool looking into had a closer practical knowledge of the conthe corridor to see what was going on. duct of his cause in its earlier stages and a For this offense he was frequently punished. clearer appreciation of the importance and While in prison he often expressed his intenmeaning of the different steps that have been taken. The struggle of the man who comes tion of writing a book that should contain his prison experiences, and he frequently apto the bar without very powerful patrons to plied for materials to enable him to keep force him into a practice has always been a nemoranda, but the application was steadily hard one, but I believe it becomes harder of refused. Benson is a tinguist and a musilate years. Many barristers go to the ranks cian, and at Porismouth prison the harmonof literature, others seek secretaryships, ium in the synagogue has not been opened agencies or some small appointments in the since he last touched the keys. Not colonial service. Others, having sacrificed did he play accompaniments years of their lives in compulsory idleness because no man gave them anything to do, at the services, but he trained the twentyturn away to the other branch of the profive or thirty Hebrews who were fellowfession, and in so doing abandon with a sigh prisoners, and formed the best choir in the all the generous ambitions with which they establishment. Having a tolerable acquaintance with every European language it is started. There are other subjects to be consingular that when he went to Portsmouth sidered and the matter of legal education is one of the most important at present. So far he knew nothing of Hebrew. He, however, placed himself under the tuition of an honoas the bar is concerned it is left entirely to the inns of the court. Now the inns are rary Jewish visitor and grasped the language venerable, interesting institutions, but their in a short time. He also composed a number of Jewish melodies. All are still in the staunchest admirers hardly contend that prison and are remarkable evidences of his they do any substantial work in the way taste and skill. Benson's father died in 1884 of legal education. It is hardly and, though he often boasted that his frauds likely that the anomaly will long had been sufficiently successful to ensure be allowed to continue him a settled income of £1,200 a year, he admission to practice in the courts of justice went to Paris immediately after his liberashould be practically in the discretion of the tion only to find his brother had been left the whole of his father's wealth in the early part of his prison career. Benson was visited by Mr. Franklin, of the firm of Montague & Co., bankers, Broad street, London, as it was believed the convict could furnish valuable information of some frauds that had just

benches of the different inns, who are only anxious to attract members to the inn to which they respectively belong and are alike unable to enforce any real course of legal study or attract a sufficient number of real students, even by offering substantial scholarships and prizes. I think that in previously been perpetrated on the bank, but these inns we have material for a much bet though the interview was protracted beyond ter system. Let the whole profession the period allowed by the regulations, Benson be one body alike in the requirements of education-alike in its privileges, refused to give any information. Benson's next imprisonment was in Brussels, where he alike in its opportunities for the achievement of public distinction and obtaining professional rewards; and the inns of the court, with their stately halls their excellent libraries, and the large re sources they possess, might fitly be colleges in which the work of real legal education could be carried on." The Americau lawyers who read this will naturally ask: "Can the reform be carried ?" He may read the barometer in this fact That to-day's tory Globe, which believes i the rigid tory maxim, "Let ill as also well alone," relentlessly proceeded to attack the the reform. Progress to a strict tory is as a red rag to a bull, and the answer is found, in the fact that Lord Charles Beresford, like Lord Randolph Churchill, has resigned because his tory colleagues and associates refuse to sanction his aims and progress and reform in the navy and an old fogy admiral of the time of the Crimean war has been selected in his place to bar the attempt to make English war ships equal to Britain's mercantile marine. Per haps Sir Edward Clarke will now be hunted out of his office by the Salisbury ministry.

RIFLES FOR TRAIN ROBBERS. Disastrous Failure of an Attempt Upon a Wabash Express. THE LEADER FILLED WITH LEAD. One of the Gang Gives Away the Job and a Red-Hot Reception is

Prepared For Them-Full Details.

The Missouri Method.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 19.- [Special Telegram o the BEE. |-News reached here this morning of the attempted robbery of the eastbound Wabash express train which left this city for St. Louis at 8:30 last evening, at a point near Cooley's Lake, a fishing resort, and one of the loneliest places in winter. When the train stopped at Missouri City on the platform was a band of men armed with shotguns. The conductor was informed that they were under command of an official of the county, who had received word that an attempt would be made to raf the St. Louis express at a lonely spot a little ess than two miles cast of Missouri City. One of the officers got in the cab of the engine with the engineer and the others distributed themselves throughout the train. None of the passengers of the train were notified of the danger. At 9:30, as the point of attack was neared.

a red light was seen gleaming ahead. As the rain slowed up the engineer saw three masked men, armed with rifles, standing on the track.

"Get out of there," said the leader of the three men to the engineer.

Morsey climbed down out of the cab Just as he reached the ground the officer in the cab pointed his shot gun out of the window and fired. As soon as the shot was fired he and Morsey dropped down out of sight. The shot from the cab was answered with shots from the guns of the three robbers, which rattled about the engine, but did no harm. The three men retired in a demor-

alized state. As they moved back a part of the posse came up from the woods, where they had been in concealment for some time, and opened fire on them. These men had been sent out from Missouri City in advance of the train and had concealed themselves to be in readiness whenever they should be needed. About twenty shots in all were fired, and in a very few moments the four robbers were captured. Barney Swinny, the leader of the robbers, was wounded at the first fire. He was taken to a house near by and a guard placed over him. Swinny several years ago served a two years term in the Missourl penitentiary for having sent threatening letters to the late A. A. Talmage, at that time general manager of

the Gould system of railroads. The plot was given away by one of the gang named King, who told Grant Arnold, gang named King, who told Grant Arnold, station agent at Missouri City, what was going on. Arnold in turn informed the sheriff of Clay county, and the latter immediately gathered a posse. Arnold was one of the posse, and it was he who shot the leader from the cab. King remained with the gang and signaled the train to stop, but took no other part in the affair. [Press.]—Train robbers were foiled last night in an attemut for rob the express frain on

that

night in an attempt to rob the express train on the Wabash road at Cooley's lake, twenty four miles cast of Kansas City. The regular Kansas City & St. Louis express train left Kansas City at 8:20 p. m. At Missouri City a band of armed men boarded the train and informed the conductor they were under command of an official of the county, who had received word that an attempt would be made to rob the express. One of the officers got into the cab of the engine with the engineer and fireman and the others distributed them and nremain and the others distributed them-selves through the train. Cooley's lake, a fishing resort, was the place where the at-tack was to be made. At 9:30 as the point of attack was neared a red light was seen attack when the train the train the gleaming ahead. As the train slowed up the engineer was ordered to leave the engine by three masked men, who were armed with rifles. Just as he reached the ground the officer in the cab fired his shot-gun out of the window. Whether he hit the leader of the band he does not know, but thinks he did. The shot from the cab was answered with shots from the robbers, which rattle around the engine, but did no harm. The three men then retreated. As they moved back part of the posse came up from the woods, where they had been in concentiment for some time, and opened fire on them. These men had been sent out from Missouri City in advance of the train and had concealed themselves to be in readiness when they should be needed. About twenty shot were exchanged. The men on the train joined in pursuit of the robbers. The posse continued in pursuit of the rob-bers, and when the train reached Moberly there was a report that two of them had been captured, and in the struggle one of them had been killed. The robbers are known to be farmers living in the neighbor hood of Missouri City. One of them is said to have been a member of the James gang. Telegrams to General Manager Hays say that all of the would be robbers were cap Three men were overtaken by the tured. posse and the fourth, the leader, a man named Barney Swinny, who received a load of shot in the breast, was found in the woods, of shot in the breast, was found in the woods, where he had crawled after being shot. The names of the would be robbers are: John B. Swinny, leader, John Hargrave, Noah Dresi and W. H. Hartis. From the best information at hand, John King, who has figured all day as an informer, is Noah Dresi. The men have been taken to the Clay county jail at Liberty, the county seat. Har-grave has made a full confession and will toll grave has made a full confession and will tel his story on the witness stand next Wednesday when the men will have an examination. It is not known here how badly Swinny is wounded, but from brief telegrams from Missouri City it is said that there is an intense feeling against him at that place, and that he will probably be lynched.

erable old_woman but to end her existence a pauper. What disposition will be made of the three little daughters has not been de-

Held For Murder. RAFID CITY, Dak., Jan. 19.- [Special Tele gram to the Brr.]-Some weeks ago, near Fairburn, two farmers, Gnibb and Raridan George Rowell went to bring her some. The by name, quarrelled over the possession of a former has been found dead but the latter house owned by the first and rented by the has not been found, though he is supposed to be certainly lost. Adolph Koeckivitz and his hired man went forty rods from the house to bring in a load of hay and perished. Mrs. Emmulson, going home from Oterville, froze to death. latter named. Both drew pistols and several latter named. Both drew pistols and several shots were fired. Gnibb fell dead with a bullet through his heart, and Raridan had a severe fiesh wound in the leg. The coroner's jury at the time exonorated Raridan, on the grounds of self-defense. The dead man's friends, however, caused his arrest, and to-day he had a lengthy hearing before a justice of the peace at Hermosa. He was bound over to answer in the Custer county court to the charge of murder. began at 10 o'clock last night is raging furiously to-night. Trains on the Milwaukee road have been abondoned. The Northern

SALE OF COAL LANDS. A Kansas City Syndicate Disposes of

Its Holdings at Leavenworth. KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 19.-[Special Tele gram to the BEE.]-The sale of \$13 acres of coal lands adjoining the city limits of Leavcoworth on the south was consummated to day, the purchasing parties being a syndicate composed of Vinton Skillings and others, of Leavenworth. These gentlemen have or ganized a company and will proceed to sink shafts and develop the coal fields. The price paid for the land was \$160,000. The land was owned by a Kansas City syndicate, headed by J. A. Frost. These gentlemen purchased 1,600 acres just south of the Leavenworth city limits about a year ago and have made a neat sum on the investment already. It is said that the Rock Island road (Chicago, Kansas & Nebraska in Kansus, recently made an offer of \$200,000 for the Riverside coal mine at Leavenworth, owned by J. A. Bovard & Co., of this city, which was refused. The Rock Island has no coal mines. Those who pretend to know say the Rock Island will lease the Leavenworth. Topeka & Southern from Leavenworth to Topeka after February next, giving it a line through Leavenworth. The old Rock Island bridge at Leavenworth, which burned about a year ago, is being repaired and strengthened and will be finished about February 28. In connection with Leavenworth's coal interests a movement is on foot there to form a barge line to bring coal into Kansas City as soon as the river opens.

The Blaines in Milan.

BOSTON, Jan. 19 .- [Special Telegram to the BEE. |-The correspondent of the Boston Transcript writes from Hotel Cavour, Milan, under date of Christmas : "The first night I arrived here I was much pleased with the looks of two ladies who sat near me at the table d'hote-mother and daughter, both fine look ing, with charming manners. We soon found that we had mutual friends, and the mother told me a great deal about Bar Harbor. The daughter, a fine, stylish, lovely girl, made herself agreeable to me. The father, it seems, is very much troubled with rheumatism, and keeps in his room. Imagine my surprise when the proprietor of the hotel told me this morning that the ladies I sat near at dinner were the wife and daughter of J. G. Blaine, and the proprietor added: 'I can't quite make out who he is, as he never shows himself.' I told him that Mr. Blaine might be our future president, but that failed to convey any idea to his Italian brain, and he only shook his head and said: 'I cannot make him out.'"

Monopoly Methods in Canada. OPELANSAS, La., Jan. 19.-The coldest weather experienced here for years has pre-OTTAWA, Jan. 19.- Special Telegram to the BEE.]--Telegrams received from all parts of vailed for the past few days. Sleet and rain the Canadian northwest report that wheat fell alternately on Monday and Tuesday, is down 10 cents a bushel below the prices in covering trees with ice an inch thick. The the ruling markets on the American side of ground has been frozen ever since. Business the line. The loss is having a serious effect has been practically suspended and travel on the Canadian northwest, and is due almost

CONFESSION OF A MURDERER. Further Reports of Fatalities in Da-

BLIZZARD VICTIMS.

kota and the Northwest.

A Storm Raging in Dakota.

A Mile Barefooted In the Snow.

'Another Blizzard Predicted.

The signal officer at Fort Sully predicts an

The Mercury Falling in Iowa.

VALPARAISO, Neb., Jan. 19 -| Special to the

BEE.]-There was no loss of life and no very

great suffering reported in this county as a

result of the recent storm. There were sev-

eral narrow escapes but everyone got safely

housed before the blizzard began, School

children, a great many of them, remained in the school houses during the night.

At Sieux City.

mometer is 15° below at midnight and all

railroads are tied up except the Sioux City & Pacific, because of drifting snow.

Last Night's Cold.

ST. PAUL, Jan. 19.-Dispatches indicate

that to-day's storm in southern Dakota and

Minnesota, while severe and accompanied by

extreme cold, is not to be classed as a genu

ine blizzard, and is not likely to be followed

by the disastrous consequences of its imme-diate predecessor. It has, however, had the

effect of again filling up the cuts and tem-porarily suspending railway traffic, just be-ginning to be resumed.

lowing conditions at the points named: St. Paul, 18 below, cloud; St. Vincent, 32 below,

clear: Huren, Dak., 20 below, fair; Yank-ton. Dak., 16 below; Bismarck, 26 below, cicar; Helena, 12 below, snow; Qu Appelle, N. W. T., 34 below; Ft. Garry, 36 below,

Extreme Cold in the South.

Red club, and to-day the

In Halifax.

Suffer From This Cold Wave.

temperature falling from 40 above to 8 below

deep on the ranges and the warm days of the

Weather Indications.

O'Neill and His Wives.

has instructed her attorney to proceed with

to death.

mg in.

clear.

To-night's weether report shows the fol-

ther

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Jan. 19.-The

other terrible blizzard from the north, mercury is 15° below and still falling.

ture is 33° below.

BIG STONE CITY, Dak., Jan. 19.-In Roberts Charles E. Meyers Acknowledges county Ernest Zerible and August Zielke, farmers, perished in the late blizzard. Miss the Killing of James Weir. Little, of Geneva, was at her school and

THE INDEPENDENCE TRAGEDY.

After Vainly Endeavoring to Procure Work He Commits the Crime at the Instigation of His Companion. WAPPETON, Dak., Jan. 19.-A storm which

A Clean Breast of the Crime. KANSAS CITY, Jan. 19.-[-[Special Tele-gram to the BEE.]-Charles E. Meyers, the Pacific branch is closed. Manitoba trains are two and a half hours late. The temperaman arrested yesterday for the murder of

James Weir at the Liberty street depot in Independence two weeks ago last Monday DULUTH, Jan. 19.-The house of August night, confessed the crime this morning in the corridor of the Second street jail in the Wintross burned yesterday morning. His family were obliged to trudge nearly a mile presence of County Marshall McGowan. The barefooted in their night clothes to a neighstory Meyers told is as follows: 'I am bor's house. All were badly frozen. Fartwenty-three years of age and was born at Chambersburg, Franklin county, P., on mer Wintross will probably lose his feet and logs. A school teacher living in the house was also badly frozen. December 5, 1861. My parents are now liv-

ing in Altoona. My father is employed in the car works at that place. I have a mar-PIERRE, Dak., Jan. 19 .- Trains have been ried sister living in Milwaukee. All of my ordered to await the abatement of the storm. connections are respectable people. On October 27, 1887, I arrived in Leavenworth, north. The and, being a musician, I associated myself with the band at the soldiers' home.

I came to Kansas City and went about the city looking for work, but could get none. Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 19 .- The mercur has been steadily falling all day, and to night On the evening of December 3 I went to the Delmonico hotel and slept in the basement. promises to be one of the coldest of the sea-I there became acquainted with John Boson. In northern Iowa a blizzard has been raging. All trains have been abandoned at gard. Bogard the next day suggested to me Mason City. The thermometer is 25° below there to night. that we go to Independence to look for work. as he was well acquainted there. We walked Little Suffering From the Blizzard.

to Independence and arrived late in the afterneon. We begged a supper and then went to the depot. Afterwards we crossed the track to a flour mill, where there was an electric We begged a supper and then went to light, and remained there until it became cold, the furnace fires getting low. Then cold, the furnace fires getting low. Then we returned to the depot waiting room. A man was sitting in a chair tilted back against the wall, asleep. Bogard said to me: "That man has got a pile with him. Let us hold him up and take away the swag." At first I objected to this, but Bogard persisted in asking me to do it. He suggested that I get a coupling pin for a weapon. I tried to get a pin out of a freight weapon. I tried to get a pin out of a freight car, but it was fastened tight. Bogard went to the other end of the car and said: 'I've got a pin,' and handed it to me. We went into the depot again. The man was still asleep. I refused to attack the man and Bogard said: 'You're a coward; you dare not do it.' There was a dim light in the depot from a kerosene lamp. I told Bogard I was no coward and struck the man on the right side of the head. He moved a little and I struck him twice afterwards After the first lick Bogard came up and put his hands in the man's left pocket and pulled out a wallet. We went over to the electric light and divided up the money. gave Bo gard \$22.50 in silver and I took the greengard \$22.50 in silver and I took the green-backs. We went on the outskirts of the town and separated, promising to meet each other in a street, the name of which I do not remember. We met there and Bogard promised ito write to me to Kansas City under the name of George Washington. I came to Kansas City, walked to Argentine, took a Santa Fe freight train for Topeka and the next day went to Leaven-worth. I there re-encaged with the band of for Topeka and the next day went to Leaven-worth. I there re-engaged with the band of the soldiers' home. I was hard up and cold and did not mean to kill the man when I struck him. I was surprised when I learned that the man was dead and I don't care what becomes of me. I shall plead guilty to the charge of killing him "

the charge of killing him. Meyers is a very mild-looking man. He

lent news agency. Your correspondent found among the

prison authorities several who predicted that considering the general laxity of American criminal jurisprudence Benson would be cleared enough by delays, writs of error and the like to get the best of its process in the end.

FOR A LEGAL REFORM. A Radical Revolution Urged in Eng-

lish Law. [Copyright 1888 by James Gordon Beanett.]

LONDON, Jan. 19 .- [New York Herald Cable-Special to the BEE.]-A radical revo lution now moves here not only in politics but law. No less a person than the solicitor general, Sir Edward Clarke, Q. C., M. P., has thrown his conservative influence in favor of a union of solicitor and barrister in one person the same as in the United States. Presiding at the annual dinner of the Birmingham law students' society, which was attended by a large number of solicitors and barristers, he took the boldest ground yet taken in England for this reform. He has a great majority not only of solicitors, but of influential barristers him. The junior barristers against are with him because they can, while awaiting to become gray, do much solicitors' work. The evil to be redressed is an expensive and tedious one. English solicitors get no retainers or counsel fees, and must do something at court in order to earn costs, hence these favor litigation. There is no pecuniary inducement for English solicitors to compromise, or negative, or settle, and the temptation is to bring or defend suits nilly-willy in order to get business and make costs. But let the solicitor general state and discuss the evils, and what he said will certainly interest the thousands of lawyers and litigants among

your readers. He began: "Let us see how a private petitioner, having ground of complaint to enforce his rights by law, is affected by the system. He goes to the solicitor and explains the case and asks if he ought to bring an action. He is advised to do so. A writ is issued and an action launched. The pleadings, presenting no difficulty, are prepared in the solicitors office, summonses are heard at chambers, orders are made, and the solicitor or clerk, who is always in communication with him, does the work. Then comes the trial. It may be pers. that the case is sent down to county court for trial. If so, the solicitor may appear. He has his bundle of papers containing all the notes taken and all the suggestions made. He knows the whole case and he conducts it in this inferior court. But if the trial is in the superior court counsel has to be instructed, all the facts set down in writing, all proofs of witnesses written out with such fullness that a person who has never seen them and who comes fresh to the case shall know exactly what they can say in the matter. Then general observations are added by the industrious clerk and it goes to the law stationer, who puts it upon paper most inconvenient in size and shape. The statement of facts, pleading, correspondence and observations are fully written out in a round hand. The observations are not very often read by any one after the first draft is made, but they go at 21 d the folio for the draft, and 4d the folio for each of the brief copies, and then counsel is instructed, the brief fees are paid and at an enormous cost the knowledge which the solicitor had has been conveyed to another person in order that he may put before the court the matters which probably the solicitors know much better and could explain as well. In most cases the counsel is

AND THE R. P.

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The German Military Bill.

BERLIN, Jan. 19 .- The military bill as mended and passed at the first reading was before the reichstag committee to-day. The committee approved the right to formulate several proposals on the second reading. M. Stowdazi, member of the Roumanian cabinet. came to Berlin to obtain an insight into Bis marck's views on political and military con-tingencies involving the interests of Roumania. Advices from the frontier report th further arrival of Russian troops. One in antry division arrived at Doubno, another at Royno. The work of fortifying Doubno goes on without cessation. The condition Russian troops on the Galician frontier growing worse. Typhus fever is raging especially at Camp Gzentoschan. The Warsaw commissariat is hastily forwarding provisions.

Arrested For Treason.

BERLIN, Jan. 19.-Karl Streisguth, a mar ufacturer, was arrested at Strasburg to-day The arrest was due to a confession made b Dietz, a spy recently arrested, to the effect that Streisguth had received money from the French government for revealing the in-structions given to the Alsatian authorities

with reference to the operation of lines in the event of the mobilization of the German forces. The police are searching houses in Strasburg and seizing all compromising pa

The Cork Scandal. DUBLIN, Jan. 19.-United Ireland alleges that the government had arranged for the arrest of Canon O'Mahoney, who charged Major Roberts, Governor of Cork county all, with corrupting young girls, and Canon Keller, but had been deterred from enforcing the measure by the intimation that every Catholic constable in Cork ordered to tak part in the arrests would throw down his

Isabella Leaves Spain.

MADRID, Jan. 19 .- In consequence of an intimation from the government that she must not allow her name to be connected with the intrigues of the opposition, ex Queen Isabeila has left the country.

Wholesale Drowning of Chinamen. SHANGHAI, Jan. 19 .- While 4,000 workmen

under the command of several mandarins were making a breakwater to stem the Hoang Ho floods they were engulfed by the sudden rush of the waters. Only a few escaped.

Heavy Rebel Losses. SUAKIM, Jan. 19 .- The rebels lost 180 men in the recent battle. Cololel Kitchener, who

was wounded in the fight, has been obliged to go to Cairo for rest and treatment. Victoria Will Not Open Parliament. Loxbox, Jan. 19 .- The queen will not open counsel usually employed by the solicitor. parliament in person. She will start for the continent after the opening of the session.

W. Wale

MASONS ASSASSINATED.

Mexican Members of the Order Made Victims of Fanaticism.

CITY OF MEXICO, Jan. 19.-Public indigna tion has been aroused in the state of Pucblo over the assassination, within a few months n that state, of several Free Masons whose political and religious ideas were repugnant to the fanatical clericals. The Free Masons throughout the republic support the re-elec-tion of President Diaz, and this fact partly explains such acts. The clericals in the disrict mentioned have declared that they would kill every Free Mason.

Mrs. Hemme Acquitted.

WATERLOO, Ia., Jan. 19.-Mrs. Hemme was acquitted of the murder of her husband and discharged. The result is a disappointment to most people here, who considered that Mrs. Hemme's complicity in the murder was clearly established at her preliminary examination, not alone by the testimony of Mundfrom, but by a strong chain of circumstantial evidence. When placed on the stand Mundfrom continued the tactics begun yesterday afternoon until it became a that he would tell nothing of what he knew He even denied his own guilt. Recognizing the fact that he could not convict the defend-aut without the testimony of Mundfrom, County Attorney Multon withdrew the suit der a verdiet of not guilty. Said Judge Couch: "This is a good illustration of the wisdom of the statute requiring that the tes-timony of an according shall be couch." timony of an accomplice shall be corrob-orated." Whoever committed the crime, the punishment has fallen on all alike. Mundfrom, yet a young man, will spend the re-mainder of his life behind the bars. The little property possessed by the Hemmer has been nearly all consumed by the expense of litigation, and nothing remains for the mis-

entirely to the refusal of the Dominion au thorities to allow re-entry certificates for wheat sent over American roads to Canadian and eastern points. The restriction of ship ments had the effect of confining the farmer practically to a home market. The ruling of the department rigorously shuts out from Canadian territory all cars sent over rails laid down to connect with the Northern Pa cific. This fresh attempt to create artificia traffic for the Canada Pacific at the expense of the producer is denounced everywhere throughout the Canadian northwest and i ausing considerable criticism in other parts of the dominion.

The Needs of the Soldeirs Home.

DES MOINES, Ia., Jan. 19 .--- [Special Tele gram to the the BEE.]-The board of trus tees of the soldiers' home at Marshalltown have been in session here for the past two days preparing their report to the governor. They ask the legislature for an appropriation of \$20,000 for additional buildings and for finishing up the work already begun. They propose to expend \$5,000 for cottages for offi cers, about the same amount for a building to be used as headquarters of the commissary department, and the other \$10,000 they wan to apply to finishing the grounds and build ings yet uncompleted. The home is rapidly filling up, and the sixty or seventy old vet erans thehe now express themselves as more than satisfied with the careful and generous treatment which the state has given them

Passengers at a Poor House.

DUBUQUE, Ia., Jan. 19.-[Special Tele gram to the BEE.]-The wreck of the west bound passenger train on the Illinois Central at Rockdale last night was not cleared till 9 o'clock this morning and trains due from the west last night and this morning were de tained. The hungry passengers, sixty-two in all, having no other alternative, marched in a body to the Dubuque county poor house, where they were served with an excellent breakfast by the stewart. They had an njoyable time and drank to his health for his hospitality.

Meeting of Nebraska Millers.

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 19.- Special Tele will freeze this too hard to break and unless gram to the BEE. |-The State Millers association held its second annual meeting at the Capital hotel to-night. There were present some sixty delegates and millers and they represented mills in the state having a tota capacity of 6,000 barrels of flour daily. White, of Valparaiso, was re-elected presi dent and D. H. Harris, of Bennett, secretary and treasurer.

Took Ammonia By Mistake.

BLUE SPRINGS, Neb., Jan. 19-[Special Telegram to the BEE.]-J. S. Riste, a farmer residing four miles south of here, took a large swallow of spirits of ammonia through mistake this morning and now lies in a ver-critical condition. His son had purchased the amonia as a wash for an eruption on his arm and had placed it on the shelf with medicine his father was taking for the same ailment. The old gentleman's throat and stomach wer severely burned.

A Clean Sweep.

OGALLALA, Neb., Jan. 19.-[Special Tele gram to the BEE. |-The official vote of Per kins county shows a clean sweep for the republican ticket by majorities ranging from 12 265. There was no selection for county seats.

Work of the Protective League.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.-The annual meeting of the American Protective Tariff league was held to-day. President Edward H. Ammidown occupied the chair. Secretary Garland presented the annual report, which stated hat the league correspondence had extended to thirty-seven states and six territories fillinois led the list with 335 correspondents; New York second, with 233. The objective point of the league's work is the west.

Beresford's Successor.

London, Jan. 19. -- Admiral George Tyron chairman of the Philadelphia & Reading will succeed Beresford as genlor least of the admiraty,

has been almost stopped on account of the impassible condition of the roads. JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 19.—Thin ice formed here this morning

wept bitterly as he related his story. Oregon Navigation Lease Batified.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.-The Northern Pacific BROWNSVILLE, Tex., Jan. 19 .- The weather directors at the regular meeting to-day forhere during the last week has been very severe. Telegraphic communication has been interrupted since Friday. Monday was the mally ratified the lease of the Oregon Navigation company. The only change made coldest day experienced on this frontier since 1830-81. On both sides of the river stock has suffered much and there has been considerable loss in cattle, horses and sheep especially. Poor and illy prepared people have suffered terribly. On Tuesday from the terms already announced was the elimination of the provision by which the Northern Pacific's liability was restricted to one-half the annual rental. By the terms of the lease as finally agreed to, the Oregon beeves were killed and distributed in the market by Senor Villareal, president of the Railway and Navigation company will be operated by the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific companies for ninety nine years. The Union Pacific and Northern Pacific jointly Blue club distributed nearly eight hundred large rations of and severally guarantee the payment of all charges, including the 6 per cent dividends on the stock per annum, and in case either eef and corn, and supplied wood to the poor. Three persons, Francis Hezzo, aged ninety two; Marcus Rajas, teamster of artillery, company fails to pay its provision of charges the other company will be liable for the full and an unknown man have been found frozen

amount. The Cold Spell in Texas. PARIS, Tex., Jan. 19.-The long cold spell

Sufferings of Shipwrecked Sailors. began to moderate to-day, and the snow is melting. Many stories of suffering are com-NEW HAVEN, Jan. 19.- [Special Telegram to the BEE.]-The three masted schooner, Ida E. Latham, Captain Thatcher, from Bos ton for New York, went ashore Tuesday HALIFAX, Jan. 19.-The first snow storm of night at Merwin's Point. The crew took to the season, now prevailing, is one of the a yawl, reaching shore after a hard struggle. heaviest for years. In the midst of the They made their way to a farm house, where

storm, a muil contractor at Arichtat, sent a shelter was refused them, but were confourteen-year-old boy named Gurnong with mail to Robbin's establishment. The boy has signed to a barn, where they remained until yesterday morning, suffering terribly from cold. Speaking of the treatment by the not been seen since and is supposed to have fallen through the ice, a large sheet of open water being apparent in his track. inhospitable farmer, one man said: "The barn was full of cracks and it was intensely cold. We were tired enough to sleep, but were obliged to keep walking all night. It is a wonder we were not frozen to death. One man had his stockings frozen to his feet. LOOKS BAD FOR THE CATTLE.

Indications That Dakota Stock Will If we had only been allowed to sleep on the floor of the kitchen we would have been RAPID CITY, Dak., Jan. 19.-[Special Telegram to the BEE.]-The third section of the grateful." cold wave reached here this morning, the

The Bell Telephone Victorious. CITY OF MEXICO, Jan. 19.-An important

in twenty-four hours. The cold wave flag is decision was rendered yesterday by the first flying from the signal station. This storm district court of the republic affirming the will be very hard on stock. The snow is validity of the Bell telephone and Blake transmitter patents under the laws of Mexearly part of the week melted this enough to allow a heavy crust to form. The cold now ico. The defendants in the case, a German mercantile house, are ordered to deliver their stock of instruments to the Mexican warm weather comes soon thousands of cattle and horses will starve. Grass is long on the Telephone company and make a statement of their profits and hand them over and to pay range and there is plenty of water, but every thing is frozen tight. all the costs. The defendants will appeal to the supreme court, but it is believed the de-

cision will be sustained.

For Nebraska: Colder, followed by Smuggled to the Other Shore, warmer, fair weather, followed by snow, TACOMA, W. T., Jan. 19.-Fourteen Chinafresh to brisk northerly winds, becoming men left Victoria yesterday morning in a small boat from San Juan island, hence to For Iowa: Colder, followed by warmer, sinuggle themselves on to the main land of fair weather, fresh to brisk northerly winds, Washington Territory. The boat upset when near the islands. All hands were drowned, and their bodies were washed upset For Dakota: Colder, fair weather, followed by slightly higher temperature in western portion, fresh northerly winds, beupon the shore.

A Swindled Spinister.

Cold wave signals are continued at the signal service stations in Dakota, Minnesota, lowa and Wisconsin until Saturday morning. NORRISTOWN, Pa., Jan. 19 .- Miss Mary A. Brown, a maiden lady residing here, possessed of considerable property, has been swindled out of \$30,000 by a Philadelphia Sr. Louis, Jan. 19.-[Special Telegram to woman who made investments for women. the BEE.]-Mrs. Moore, who claims to be She conducted a "ladies' bank," and prom-ised large returns for every dollar invested. Miss Brown was forced to make an assignthe wife of Congressman O'Neill, began Iuesday a suit for divorce from O'Neill, but ment to day. She was worth about \$150,000 but is now ruined. Judgments aggregating dropped it on being told by friends that she must have a residence in the state to obtain \$19,000 have been filed against her. a standing in the court. Learning that O'Neill's residence here was sufficient she

Suit For Damages.

Sr. Lotis, Jan. 19. -George W. Voisce

and Patrick O'Neill have begun suit at Beileville, Ill., for \$50,000 damages each against Detective Thomas Furlong and Frank B. Bowman for false imprisonment, in con-nection with the murder of ex-Mayor Bowman, of East St. Louis.

To Boycott Milwaukee Lager.

ALSANY, N. Y., Jan. 19 .- At the state vorkingmen's assembly, which commenced this morning, a resolution was adopted requesting all members of organized labor and chairman of the Philadelphia & Reading Employes' Executive board, has issued as appeal "to organized labor wherever found." their employes should be settled.

Arrested For Murder. VINCENNES, Ind., Jan. 19 .- Churles Parkurst was arrested at Sullivan this morning ostensibly on the charge of drunkenness, but in fact on the charge of having killed the depot agent at Marshall, III , nearly two years ago. Parkhurst betrayed himself to a com-

variable.

ecoming variable.

oming variable

panion while drunk. An Appeal to Organized Labor. PRILADELPHIA, Jan. 19.-John L. Lee.