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THE

ILLUSTRATED POLICE NEWS.

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THE

ILLUSTRATED POLICE NEWS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1896.

TERRIBLE SHOOTING AFFRAY IN A THEATRE.

FIGHT BETWEEN ARTISTES AND AUDIENCE.

[SUBJECT OF ILLUSTRATION.]

A DESPATCH from the thriving little mining town of Tictor, Colorado State, gives a graphic account of a desperate affray that took place on the 31st ult. at what is known there as the "Union Theatre of Varieties." The manager had received information early in the day that a number of local rogues intended to create a disturbance and "wipe out the company" during the performance in the evening. When the performance had commenced in progress, about half the "troupe" on the programme went through with Mr. Smith, manager of the theatre, walked down the aisle and applied a table at which four men were seated. One of them, named Pascoe by name, was the reputation of being the man in the neighbourhood, and of being the leader of the gang of who had threatened to break up the performance. The two men lost their temper, and some hot words passed. At last Pascoe gave Mr. Smith the lie, and at the same time drawing his revolver, fired five shots at him, several of them passing through his head and chest. Smith had fallen to his knees at the first shot, but from that position fired four shots at Pascoe, one of which penetrated the latter's breast. Both men dropped dead to the floor, their bodies lying across each other. The friends of the parties were by this time "taking sides," and the firing soon became general. Four of the performers on the stage threw pistols and opened upon a portion of the audience, who, in return, sent a hail of bullets around the people on the stage. In the confusion someone turned out the gas, leaving the theatre in darkness, but the artists and their faces were the thing in the dark. The din continued unabated, while amid the rattle of the shots and shouts of the combatants might be heard the shrill screams of women in the audience. During the early part of the battle one of the performers, a girl in tight, stood on the stage with a pistol in each hand, which she emptied into the audience as fast as she could pull a trigger. The firing stopped after a while, when the lamps were relighted, and a horrible spectacle presented itself. More than twenty dead were lying on the floor wounded. Of them three were in the agonies of death. Many of the wounded were taken home by their friends, so that it is difficult to accurately ascertain the number injured.

A SHOOTING HELL FOR BOYS.

[ILLUSTRATION.]

On Sunday, December 8th, William Lewis, of High Road, Willesden, was using his shop to be used on Sunday, December 8th, when he kept observation seven o'clock. He said, "The sound of dice was heard in the room." When a boy came in with the other partition they found a which was strewn. There was a great deal of disorder in the shop, and many of the boys were numerous complaints.

SHOCKING MURDER OF A FAMILY.

FRENCH FAMILY MURDERED IN TURKEY.

[SUBJECT OF ILLUSTRATION.]

It is reported from Constantinople that a terrible crime has been committed at Otrank, a place in the Balkan Peninsula, now in course of construction. A house occupied by a Frenchman, a Frenchman engaged in directing the work, and his family was attacked last Thursday night by a band of marauders. The native servants, who attempted to defend the entrance, were slain, and the assassins then murdered M. Bertault, his wife, and their daughter, aged eight years, and ransacked the house and made off with all the articles of value they could find. Another child managed to hide itself, and escaped the murderers. Acting on the information it gave, the police have arrested a portion of the gang.

SCENE IN A POLICE CELL.

ASSAULTING A FEMALE SEARCHER.

[SUBJECT OF ILLUSTRATION.]

SUSAN FOSTER, twenty-seven, of Cornwall Road, Lambeth, a heavy and impudent young woman, was charged at Southwark with disorderly conduct in the Waterloo Road at one o'clock in the morning, and with subsequently assaulting Mrs. Barber, the female searcher at Kennington Road Police Station. According to the evidence of Police-constables 63 L and 52 L, the prisoner behaved with great violence. She had a stand-up fight with a man in the street, and having vanquished him she was taken into custody. On the way to the police-station she continued her obstreperous conduct and had to be strapped upon the stretcher. Being placed in a cell she stripped herself stark naked and defied the female searcher with blows and foul language. Two constables had to put her clothes on, and when before she could be brought to the court. Mr. Slade sentenced her to a month's hard labour.

A NUISANCE TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

[SUBJECT OF ILLUSTRATION.]

NELLY CRUTCHER, twenty, was charged before Mr. Slade with assaulting Rosa Jacobs and Fanny Levy in Stamford Street by striking the former on the nose with a dorkie, and beating the latter with an umbrella. Evidence having been given by the two complainants the prisoner called a witness to state that she was first assaulted. Inspector Crawford, L division, said all the parties were bad characters, and belonged to a mob of English and foreign women who were a great nuisance to the public in the neighbourhood of Waterloo Station. The police were now taking measures to abate the nuisance. The Magistrate: Quite right. The prisoner must find a surety in £10 for three months, or go to prison for twenty-one days.

STRANGE DEATH IN LAMBETH.

HAIRDRESSER AND HIS WIFE.

MR. A. BRADSHAW HIGGS, an inquiry at Mr. Justice's Court, with reference to the death of Elizabeth Thomas, the wife of a hairdresser carrying on business at Cornwall Road, Lambeth, and lately residing at Wadlock Buildings, who died in St. Thomas's Hospital from the effects of injuries sustained under suspicious circumstances. John Thomas identified the deceased as his wife, and said she had fairly good health. On Friday, December 27, she was at his shop during the day, and left between three and four o'clock to go home. She was the jolly and laughing and quite sober. As she had not returned at 5.30 he went to look for her, and found her in a neighbour's house. He swore at her for not bringing his tea, but he did not know what he said. He afterwards returned home, when he found the woman lying face downwards on the floor. Without turning her over, he took off his coat and told her to get up, but she did not answer him. With that he took off his braces and thrashed his wife with them as she lay on the ground. He was told that his braces she started abusing him, and he swore at her in return. He might have threatened to kill her, but he did not remember doing so. He was positive that he did not turn her over. He did not recollect jumping on her chest, and a man named Diver telling him that he would kill her if he did not leave off.

Richard Diver, an assistant to Thomas, stated he saw the latter beat his wife with his braces. He did not jump on her chest and kick her, but witnesses did tell him he would kill her if he did not leave off.

John Thomas, the ten-year-old son of the deceased, then stated that his mother came home drunk, and fell across a rocking chair in the kitchen.

One of the jury said he believed the boy had been "coached" as to the times he had mentioned. In reply to the coroner the little witness said he had not been told that his mother had died from an injury to her chest. At this juncture the coroner adjourned the further hearing of the case for a week.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM HOLLAND.

MR. WILLIAM HOLLAND, an active and well-known caterer for the amusement of the public, died at Blackpool on Sunday week of congestion of the lungs. Mr. Holland was born in 1837. Later in life he managed the well-known Winter Gardens at Blackpool. Thousands of people were present on Thursday at the funeral of the deceased. The cortege was joined by the mayor and corporation and a large number of the Masons of the town and district, the ceremony at the graveside being conducted with full Masonic rites. Wreaths were received from all over the country. A subscription has been organised at Blackpool with a view to erecting a monument to Mr. Holland's memory. For many years he was connected with London places of amusement, including the Alhambra, the Surrey Theatre, the Royal and Canterbury music halls, North Woolwich, &c., &c., and the Albert Arms, who died on Sunday. The deceased was 5ft 10in high, weighed 211lb, and aged 70in round the waist, and 70in round the chest. The door being locked, the body was lowered from a window, and it took twelve men to carry it down to his grave.

A CAREER OF CRIME.

At the Croydon Quarter Sessions, Joseph Dell, alias Lyons, thirty-two, a shoemaker, who had been brought up under a writ of habeas corpus, was indicted for receiving the proceeds of two burglaries committed at houses in Auckland Road, Upper Norwood. He pleaded guilty to receiving the goods, but not with a knowledge that they were stolen. The jury convicted him, and Detective-sergeant Stemp stated that in 1890 the prisoner was sentenced at those Quarter Sessions to five years' penal servitude for housebreaking, and to six months' hard labour for uttering counterfeit coin. At that time he had already served ten years' penal servitude. Six weeks ago he was found at midnight in the garden of a gentleman's house at Norwood, and was sentenced to three months' hard labour. Detective-inspector Fox, P Division, stated that although the prisoner received a gratuity upon his discharge from penal servitude he returned to his old habits within four days.

Prisoner: I only had 10s, and when a man comes out of prison he is almost forced to steal. I am a very well educated person, and I can talk, but what would they do if they had no boots on their feet? I hope you will be lenient with me.

The Recorder: Have you anything else you wish to say? The prisoner said he wished to remind the court that the goods he "received" were only worth the paltry sum of £6, and so far from knowing that they were stolen, he was merely misled by them for a discharged prisoner who was with him on the night that the goods were stolen. He also wished to say that he had now fourteen months of his unexpired time to serve.

The Recorder said it was evident that the prisoner was determined to follow a career of crime, and the least sentence he could pass was one of five years' penal servitude on each charge, the sentences to run concurrently. The Prisoner: Then I have got to do five years for £6. Well, I shall make a noise of a night.

THE "EARL" AND THE LADIES.

SENSATIONAL SCENE.

At Westminster Police-court on Thursday, in the case of the Norwegian, Adolf Beck, who has been several times remanded on the same charge of stealing valuables from young women to whom he represented himself as the Earl of Wilton, Mr. Sims, prosecuting on behalf of the Treasury, made an application for a further adjournment.

The prisoner was brought into court an extraordinary scene was witnessed in the courtroom. Beck was paraded with eleven other well-dressed men, and a number of stylishly-dressed young women were separately brought out by Inspector Walcock and other police officers for the purpose of identifying the defendant. stood, with a silk muffler round his neck and an overcoat on, almost the extreme left of the line. One after the other the ladies pointed him out, the fourth and last exclaiming in a loud voice, as she touched him, "That is the man who deceived me!"

On the prisoner being placed in the dock Mr. Sims said as recently as Tuesday afternoon they received a number of cheques which had been stopped by the bank on presentation by young women who had received them from the prisoner in a manner similar to the descriptions given by the other witnesses. There were seven of these cheques and three other independent cases, making in all ten charges of stealing jewellery from young women against the prisoner. The Treasury solicitor wanted more time to bring some of the young women.

A remand was granted.

THE CHRISTMAS DEATH ROLL.

CHILDREN SUFFOCATED BY TIRED PARENTS.

DR. G. DANDFORD THOMAS, Coroner for Central London, held inquests at Clerkenwell, South Hornsey, and Islington on the bodies of infants found suffocated in bed with their parents. There was a similarity in the evidence of all the mothers, which showed that they retired to rest late at night, during the Christmas holidays, and after suckling their babies fell asleep with their offspring lying either on their arms or nestled close to their side. When they awoke they discovered their children dead—aspixiated. The Coroner pointed out that in each case had hundreds of deaths of infants brought under his notice which were clearly preventable with the exercise of a little care on the part of the parents. Instead of placing the babies in cots after they were fed or high up on the pillow, with their bodies warmly wrapped and their faces left entirely uncovered, mothers persisted in having their offspring close beside them in bed. The result was an immense infant mortality in London from the effects of suffocation. In central London alone these cases averaged 300 a year, while in London's general district the number was 1,000. In Germany it was an offence at law for parents to have their infant children in bed with them, but in this country the practice was permissible and quite common. Repeated warnings of the consequences likely to ensue were unheeded.

Referring to the Coroner, one of the mothers said she never realised the danger of falling asleep with the baby at her side.

The Coroner: You do now, I suppose? The Mother: Yes.

In each case verdict of accidental suffocation was returned.

INGENUOUS THEFT OF GAS.

The Bristol magistrates, at a special sitting, concluded the hearing of the case against Henry Harris, for eighteen years a well-known tradesman, who was charged with stealing gas in 1887 and 1895. The gas company instituted the proceedings on the receipt of an anonymous letter from a discharged workman of the defendant's. They alleged continuous thefts, calling witnesses who saw inlet and outlet pipes detached from the meter in the defendant's cellar and connected by tubing, the gas used escaping the meter. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

A EG INNKEEPER.

CROWDS of people assembled at Leigh, Lancashire, to witness the funeral of Gerard Johnson, forty-nine, landlord of the Spinnaker Arms, who died on Sunday. The deceased was 5ft 10in high, weighed 211lb, and aged 70in round the waist, and 70in round the chest. The door being locked, the body was lowered from a window, and it took twelve men to carry it down to his grave.

FALL OF A CHIMNEY.

THREE PERSONS KILLED.

ABOUT seven o'clock on Saturday night a terrible accident happened at Burnley, involving serious loss of life and great damage to property. A disused factory chimney, just off St. James Street, the principal thoroughfare in the town, fell, without the slightest warning, with a loud crash, toppling over the shops and occupants of the street. By the fall, a baker and his wife, and Mr. Peter Grant, a shopkeeper. The chimney was a tall one built of stone, and the enormous mass of masonry crashed in the premises, rendering them a complete wreck. The street was crowded at the time, and the greatest alarm produced on the minds of the police arrived, and a large body of men arrived, and a large body of men arrived. As soon as possible portions of the wreckage were cleared away, and then the police discovered the body of Mr. Boys. Not long afterwards a lad, a son of Mr. Grant, was found terribly injured, and was sent to the hospital. A few minutes later the fireman came across the body of Mrs. Boys, who, with her husband, was serving in the shop when the crash came. Mr. Boys was known all over Lancashire as a prominent cricketer. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Boys, a girl, aged fourteen, lost her life. She was in the cloggers' shop waiting for her dogs to be mended when the crash came.

A telegram received on Sunday states that the chimney had not been worked for about thirty years. For ten years the occupants of the adjoining shops had complained of the chimney rocking when the wind blew and crumbling away. There was a crack in the chimney, which was kept together by iron stays. Mr. Grant, who was rescued alive, lies at the hospital in a critical condition. It is feared that both his legs will have to be amputated. Mr. and Mrs. Boys leave four children—three girls, the eldest about twenty-one, and a boy, aged about ten. A public subscription is being opened on their behalf.

LIFEBOAT SERVICES IN 1895.

The worst gale of last year was that of October 2 and 3, during which twenty-seven lifeboats were launched on service, and were instrumental in saving fifty-four lives. During the year the boats of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution were launched 472 times on service, and saved 519 lives. In view of the very large number of lifeboats which were exposed to danger it is an extraordinary fact that until December 24 only one had lost his life. Unfortunately there was the terrible catastrophe to the large Kingsdown lifeboat on Christmas Eve. The list of services rendered by the lifeboats during the year included the saving of much valuable property, thirty-three vessels having been rescued from total or partial loss, and scores of fishing-boats would have been unable to make the harbours had it not been for the assistance of the lifeboats. Rewards were granted by the institution two the saving of 176 lives by means of shore-boats during the year, bringing up the total number of lives for the saving of which the society granted rewards in 1895 to 635, and to 39,340 since 1821. The cost of maintaining the institution is increasing heavily, and the amount received in annual subscriptions and accruing from assured income is insufficient for the purpose. Further help is therefore greatly needed.

CRUELTY TO PIGEONS AT A SHOW.

At the City Police Court, Manchester, J. Major, of Kingsdown, Bristol, was charged by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with cruelly ill-treating pigeons by "faking" them.

Mr. Hookin, solicitor, Manchester, conducted the prosecution, and proved by the evidence of the defendant and other witnesses that on December 3 and 4 last to a show at Manchester, when one of the judges detected a wire inserted under the skin of the pigeons' heads, causing pain, the "faking" being done to make the pigeons look fuller in the head, that being a point in judging.

The Bench, after hearing the case, fined the defendant £10 and costs.

SUICIDE THROUGH A DREAM.

REUBEN HILLIER, a hammerman, aged thirty-five, while out walking on New Year's Eve told his brother that he had seen their mother, who died two years ago, in a dream, and she beckoned him to come to her. He left his brother at nine o'clock, and went to his lodgings No. 9, Northend Villas, Erit, and talked rationally with his landlord until midnight, when he turned to the door to hear a knocking, sober, but at two o'clock in the morning was found with his skull battered in lying on the pavement in front of the house, having evidently jumped clean through a pane only 20in by 15in in his bedroom window. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of suicide by mentally deranged was returned.

ARREST OF AN ABSCONDING POSTMASTER.

CHARLES LUCAS, late postmaster of Royston, Cambridgeshire, was arrested at Colombo, he absconded on November 22 last, and it is alleged that his accounts show a deficiency of £300. The detective attached to the General Post Office traced him by the overland route to Naples, where he took a P. and O. steamer for St. George's Sound. At Colombo he had to wait a fortnight for another boat. In the meantime the Governor of Ceylon had been communicated with and Lucas was arrested as he was stepping on board a steamer. A warrant has been granted, and Sergeant Butler, of the detective staff attached to the General Post Office, will proceed to Colombo in a few days to bring the prisoner back to England. Lucas has been twenty years in the service, and was entitled to a pension.

FRAUDS ON YORKSHIRE CRICKETERS.

At Warwickshire Quarter Sessions two men, forty-three and forty-two, were sentenced to two months' imprisonment for stealing £200 from Horse and Jockey public-house at Rugby. It also transpired that the prisoner made the acquaintance of T. Emmett, the famous Yorkshire cricketer, who is a coach at Rugby School, and that he was with him at Rugby in the summer, and having obtained particulars of his career wrote begging letters in Emmett's name to Lord Hawke and other prominent supporters of Yorkshire cricket representing that he was a first-class cricketer, and that he was in a pecuniary straits. The prisoner was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

A CONFESSION OF MURDER.

At Exeter, Frederick Edwards, thirty-six, private of the 4th Battalion Devonshire Regiment, stationed at Exeter, was charged on his own confession with having, with another man, murdered Police-constable Atkins at the Knolls, Kingston Hill, Surrey, in September, 1881. On the night of Dec. 31 the prisoner gave himself up to the police. He stated that he and others were concerned on the ground of the Knolls for the purpose of committing a burglary. The constable made a search, and prisoner and another man fired at the officer with revolvers, and saw him fall. The police man died, and prisoner left a fortnight afterwards for America. In reply to the Exeter Chief Constable of Exeter said there was a murder about the time in the neighbourhood, and of the kind described. It appeared that the prisoner had been drinking, but was not drunk when he made the confession. He now said he was tired and acquitted of the murder twelve years ago when he made the statement his mind was rambling. He would rather, he said, suffer death than go back to barracks. Edwards was remanded for inquiries.

A DIVE FROM TOWER BRIDGE.

At half-past one o'clock on Wednesday morning a man named Thomas Burns, who lives in the neighbourhood of the Minories, and has gained considerable notoriety by his dives and jumps from high bridges, dived from the drawbridge of the Tower Bridge, a distance of 29ft 6in from the water. A boat in waiting at once picked him up, and he seemed none the worse for his adventure. Burns has previously leapt from London Bridge. He dived from Runcheon Bridge in October, 1893, the distance to the water in that instance being 85ft.

STARTLING INCIDENT IN A DETECTIVE OFFICE.

ABOUT 3 a.m. on Tuesday, December 31, a sailor named Daniel McKie Deas, belonging to Invergordon, walked into the Detective Office, Liverpool, and reported that he had been robbed by a woman of £5 in the street. The report was taken from him by Inspector Collingwood, the inspector on duty. The man then wanted to stay in the office all night, but was told it could not be allowed. He went, and he seemed none the worse for his adventure. Burns has previously leapt from London Bridge. He dived from Runcheon Bridge in October, 1893, the distance to the water in that instance being 85ft.

Collingwood heard a click, and before the man had time to pull the trigger a second man had crawled the revolver from him. It was found that the first chamber was empty, but that the next in turn contained a loaded cartridge. Two other chambers were also loaded. Inspector Collingwood had the man locked up for attempting to commit suicide, and when being taken round to the Main Bridewell he made the remark, "I wonder how it was I did not do it?" Deas, who was drunk when he went into the Detective Office, was paid off from his ship on Monday.

He was brought before Mr. T. E. Simpson at the City Police Court and remanded for a week.

SCENE AT A LONDON THEATRE.

An extraordinary scene was witnessed on Thursday night at the New Olympia Theatre, during the performance of "Cheer, Boys, Cheer!" During the presentation of a tableau entitled "The Last Stand," founded on the massacre of Captain Wilson's party in Matabeleland, a man in the gallery shouted out towards the stage, "The blood is on the table." "That is the Englishman's cue. To— with the Boers." The effect of this interruption was electrical, and the post-up excitement of the densely-crowded house found vent in hearty cheers, risings, and shouts. During the tableau, Mr. Henry Neville had mentioned the name of Dr. Jamieson, and this called forth a fresh demonstration from the audience.

A DEATH SONG.

MR. J. TROUBRECK held an inquest at the Charing Cross Hospital on Monday week respecting the death of John T. Smith, twenty-eight, who was employed at the Hotel Metropole. The evidence showed that during the afternoon of Christmas day the deceased, immediately after dinner, went to the servants' room to participate in some merrymaking. He was called upon to sing and dance, and continued to do so until he was seized with a violent fit of vomiting, and, falling from his chair, expired. Dr. Samuel Minns, of 8, Suffolk Place, who was summoned, and who made an autopsy, found that death was due to suffocation during a fit of vomiting. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

KINGSTOWN LIFEBOAT DISASTER.

LARGE DONATION TO THE RELIEF FUND. MR. ADAM FINLAYSON, J.P., Chairman of the Kingstown disaster relief committee, has received the following telegram from Mr. Charles Dibden, Secretary of the Lifeboat Institution, London: "The Lifeboat Institution will contribute £2,200 to the widows and orphans relief fund." To this Mr. Finlayson replied: "Doubly grateful for magnificent donation, which will be well administered. The donation was announced publicly at the Mansion House after the inauguration of the new Lord Mayor."

SHOCKING DEATH OF A CHILD.

As inquest was held at Brighton on a child named Freda Sarah Sanders, aged four years, who met with a dreadful death on New Year's Day. He was running along the passage in his mother's house, when he fell and a dinner knife, which he held in his hand, entered his neck, inflicting a deep wound, which reached the spinal column, causing death. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

A BLESSING.

THE most wonderful medicine ever discovered for all irregularities and all long-standing, nervous, or constitutional diseases, relieved by this preparation, ready, having obtained particulars of his career wrote begging letters in Emmett's name to Lord Hawke and other prominent supporters of Yorkshire cricket representing that he was a first-class cricketer, and that he was in a pecuniary straits. The prisoner was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.