

## A VISION OF THE CENTURY. The Toiler dreams ; with restless, burdened

heart Still hopes and dreams-his rugged face and

brow Turned to the century that trembling waits. Trembling yet purposeful, restive and strong She waits ; how large and strenuous her part If step by step she walks with labor now And with her virgin hand unbars the gates Behind which poverty has lain so long.

So dreams the Toiler ; wooes her as his bride She shrinking yet, but queenly : will she yield To this grim pleader from the people sprung? (Or, true to race and ancient heritage, Wed the soft-handed suitor at her side ?) He waits her answer ; toiling in the field He waits-or where, the tired nerves wrung By factories' din, worn youth is turned to age

And lifting weary eyes from day to day He dreams that even now the word is said Grim labor walks with love for evermore ; Dark brows are crowned that were in dust howed low :

While they who have gone far along the way With the old century, see the starving fed, And for the prisoned ones an open door That leads into the sunlight's happy glow

Thus tensely listening, his face grown pale With visions whiter than the prophets saw Amid the din he hears a wondrous cry, "At last ! oh, Lord !" that drowns "Oh, Lord

how long?' Ab, blissful dreamer ! if before the veil Has fallen--labor and love and law Shall lead a multitude that, passing by, One-hearted lifts to Heaven a mighty song. -Harper's Weekly.

### HER POLYGAMOUS IDEAL.

They sat facing each other in the dining room of the St. Denis. Pain, entreaty, pathos, auger, consternation and doubt were compositely depicted on his features. Hers shone with calm resolution, fearlessness and defiance. Between them, on the table, nothing remained but the coffee. The room itself was almost deserted, for the hour was late and nearly all of the guests

had departed. "Can there be a higher, nobler career for any woman than that of wife and moth-er?" he demanded.

"There are careers and careers. Just now I cannot see my way clear to adopt the matrimonial one. I will not marry now. Perhaps never! I do not know. All that I do know is this--the thought is repugnant. My mind is bent upon other things. I have ambitions." Then she raised her eyes, and, looking him squarely in the face, said half quizzically and yet with earnestness, "If you were five men in one instead of one man in ten thousand, I might marry you and try it."

'Good heavens !'' he exclaimed, but without raising his voice. "You are entirely beyond me tonight. I cannot understand you. It is that you doubt my love ?"

"No," she replied calmly, while with delicate precision she balanced a sugar cube on the handle of her spoon. "I do not doubt your love, but I do doubt the adaptability of the love of any man through all the circumstances and conditions of married life. You are nearer my ideal, or rather my idea of what a man should be, than I ever hoped to realize until I knew you, but if I should consent to take you down from the pedestal where my fancy

himself. "What, already ?" "Quite convinced." "What do you think of my theory?"

"I think it quite worthy of a purpose-less woman who has no room in her heart for any other love than self. It is a theory of a thoroughly heartless, selfish woman said yes. Shall we go now?" "At once-if you please-at once."

Somehow they did not meet again. He scowled upon the world, and applied every energy of his life to his professional work. She tossed her head in anger and chagrin and sought for extra force and pith with which to impregnate her literary work. The ambitious hopes which he had entertained prospered and were at last fulfilled, for he attained the height if not the zenith of his profession. The career for which she had prayed fell upon her like a mantle when least expected and most unsought. In a way both were famous; each was prosperous. They had traveled as the letter Y is formed, parting in anger where the arms lead off in either direction, each too proud to inquire concerning the other. Neither

married. They met, apparently by accident. in the dim library of a mutual friend. Exactly how the friend had managed the meeting she never confessed. From the distance came the murmur of voices, the ripple of laughter. The mutual friend was giving a literary evening. He and she were expected to appear as lion and lioness for the oc-But the hostess closed the door on casion. them, and they stood face to face in the rose colored light. The hostess was noted for her clever arrangement of general effects.

It was the first time they had seen each other since that last dinner at the St. Denis. She had made her career and had discovered that it could not confer all the happiness which her feminine nature re-

quired. He had gratified ambition, attained wealth, was socially popular and had be-come a patron of athletics. But when the door closed behind their hostess he knew that his love for this woman had alone made his quartet of successes possible. He told her so in calm, straightforward words

"Ambition, wealth, social pleasures and even sports," he said, "I have pursued only because I knew that somewhere in the world you lived, and I found a selfish pleasure in pleasing you, even though it were without your knowledge."

And she, smiling through tears of hap-

piness. replied : "I have lived long enough to know that the one man who truly loves possesses more real worth than any composite being might. If you love me, it is all I ask, for by love and through love all things are possible." Presently the hostess returned and, peering into the room, said : 'Well?"

"We are to be married to-morrow," he replied, "quietly, here in your parlors." And the hostess again said : "Well ?"

#### BIDDLE BROTHERS.

The Notorious Pittsburg Murderers Escaped from the Allegheny Jail on Thursday Morning Through Aid of Mrs. Soffel-The Warden's Wife Captured Near Prospect on Friday Afternoon and Died Saturday Night In the Butler Jail.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 30.-Edward and John Biddle, waiting execution in the county il for the murder of Grocer Kahney, of Mt. Washington, overpowered the guards at 4 o'clock this morning and escaped. Both prisoners had been provided with saws with which they cut the bars in their cells, and were ready at any moment to make an opening sufficiently large to pass through. The prisoners occupied adjoining cells on the second range. They had evidently been preparing for escape for some time, and had assistance from the outside, as both were armed with revolvers. Shortly before 4 o'clock one of the Biddles called to James McGeary, who had charge of the outside gate, and asked for some cramp medicine in a hurry, saying

warden's overcoat is also missing. It is reported that the Biddles took a train at the Fourth avenue station of the Panhandle railroad, which is within a block of the jail, and left for the west. Warden Soffel is broken hearted. He is completely unnerved and with difficulty could repress his tears. It has been known for several weeks whose career is already attained, and I tremble when I think that you might have the Biddles and it is said that she frequently furnished them with daiuties outside their usual prison fare.

The county commissioners met this af-ternoon and offered a reward of \$5,000 for the re-capture of the murderers.

A report is current that the Biddles es-caped from the city along the Pittsburg and Western railroad. Scores of people at Etna, Pine Creek and Sharpsburg claim to have seen them. Whether they caught a train is not known. The friends of Mrs. Soffel believe that

she could not have been in her right mind when she aided in the escape of the Biddles. For some years she has been an invalid and about one year ago she was sent to a sanitarium. She came back very much improved, but the long and painful illness is believed to have weakened her mind. Her husband devoted time and money

for the relief of the suffering of his wife, but it is said that she has never fully recovered her health and at times was melancholy

Warden Peter K. Soffel, in discussing the escape of the Biddles today in the office of the jail: said, I believe my wife furnish ed the weapons to the Biddles and assisted them to escape. This is an awful thing, but am only telling the whole truth. My wife was not in bed when I was awakened this morning and I have not seen her since She is gone-God only knows where. I said I would lay everything bare and I am doing it. This is the worst blow of all, but I believe it is true. I did not suspect her and hence was off my guard. But she is gone and the suspicion of assisting in the delivery by furnishing weapons rests upon her.

He broke down and wept when speaking of his wife's actions. "Think of my children," he said, "their

future will be blighted. I would rather have died than come to this. To think that my wife, the last person in the world whom I would suspect, should act so."

Mr. Soffel has two girls, 15 and 13 years of age, and two boys, 10 and 7 years. The prison board began an investigation this afternoon and announced upon ad-journment to night that Warden Soffel, at his own request, had been relieved from duty pending the result of the investiga-tion. Deputy Warden Marshal was placed in charge temporarily. Nothing else was given out. James Francis Burke and J. D. Watson, the attorneys who defended the Biddles at the trial and the former of whom was instrumental in securing their

respite, have announced that their connection with the case is ended and Attorney Burke has telegraphed the governor that the application for a hearing before the pardon board is withdrawn.

Up to a late hour to-night not the slightest clue as to the whereabouts of any of the fugitives has been discovered.

PITTSBURG, January 31.-A telegram

from Butler to-night says : Edward Biddle is in jail dying, John Biddle, riddled with buckshot and in a precarious condition, and Mrs. Peter K. Soffel, lying in the hospital with a self-inflicted bullet found in the breast is the sequel of the sensational escape of the Biddle broth ers from the Allegheny county jail, aided by Mrs. Soffel, the wife of the jail warden, on Thursday morning. The scene of the shooting was a snow cov-

ered road two miles east of Prospect, Buter county, near Mount Chestnut, and the exact place was at McClure's barn, where two double team sleighs, filled with officers three of them Pittsburg detectives, John Roach, Albert Swinehard and Charles Mc-Govern, met the two Biddles in a one horse sleigh, stolen at Perryville, and at once opened fire on the trio. The Biddles returned the fire after jumping out of the sleigh. Mrs. Soffel was shot through the breast. Edward Biddle was shot in the left arm. in the breast and in one leg.

"I am convinced," he replied, reseating taken all of her best clothes with her. The side of the cutter. Mrs. Soffel was on the left side. "Hold up your hands and sur-render," cried Detective McGovern. Ed. Biddle jumped up from his seat and raising a shotgun fired it at McGovern. He aimed bedder we have a state officers, but agreed to kill ourselves. I shot myself in the mouth. "Ed.' shot himself over the heart, and the woman shot bedder we be detective members of his parish in both masses this morning. He touched briefly on their badly and the shot scattered on the road alongside of McGovern.

Detectives McGovern and Roach discharged their Winchesters at Ed Biddle. Both shots took effect. Jack Biddle raised from the seat and discharged his revolver at the three officers. Detective Swinenart Colt's revolver at Jack. The ball took effect in Jack's arm. Then the detectives opened fire on the boys in rapid succession. The shots knocked them out of the sleigh. Ed fell sprawling on the snow and Jack fell on top of him. Their firearms fell alongside of them. The Biddle's horse then became frightened and ran away across a heart. field. It was at this time that Mrs. Soffel

was seen to collapse in the sleigh. The detectives approached the wounded men and Detective Swinehart was rushing in on them, when Detective McGovern called to him to stay back, that the Biddles were only feigning. Detective Roach saw Ed Biddle reach in his pocket for a gun, and the detective shot him again. Then Detective McGovern ran up within five fest of the boys and emptied his Winchester in-to them. The Biddles then yielded.

After the Biddles yielded, Detectives Roach and McGovern handcuffed them hands and feet and they were taken to Butler

Mrs. Soffel, who had fallen out of the sleigh when the horse ran away, was pick-ed up and placed in the detectives' large sleigh with her companions and taken to the

hospital at Butler. At the jail tonight Ed. Biddle called for priest and made the following statement : 'I have been accused of a great many serious crimes. I admit that I could have committed many, the opportunities for them having presented themselves. I want to say now that I did not kill Detective Fitzgerald nor did I shoot Thomas Kahney nor was my brother implicated in the latter affair. Mrs. Soffel aided us in getting out of the county jail and had it not been for her we would have made our escape today. She gave up everything for us and I was bound

to back her. I did not shoot her. She shot herself. Oh, father bless me and tell me that my sins are forgiven. "Although I have been pictured to you as a desperate man, I still have some heart

and gratitude for the woman who helped us to escape. She merely did it out of good sympathy feeling for us. I persuaded her to do it. I told her I was guiltless of the crime for which I was about to be executed and she was impressed and yielded to my suggestion. I planned it.all.

'Looking up he saw several reporters and recognized them as the men who had reported all his nefarious crimes for which was tried.

'You blackguards, you are the cause of the bitter feeling that has been engendered against me. You created the public sentiment against us. Are you sorry? You are not? You are too heartless."

At this point Biddle showed signs of collapse and made a feeble effort to signal the priest. Father Welsh administered the solemn last rites of the dying and Biddle rolled over on his face and sighed. He was asked if he wanted any word taken to his brother and he shook his head "no." The tracking of the fugitives by the de-

tectives was very complete. Early this morning the Pittsburg police were notified that a horse and sleigh had

heen stolen Thursday morning from the barn of a Perrysville farmer. Frequently during the day reports were received at headquarters that two men and a woman, the description of which tallied with the Mrs Sc ing through different towns on the route. From the description furnished it was clear to the police that they were the fugitives, and detectives were immediately sent after them. The Butler authorities were at once notified, and by telephoning to the surrounding small towns it was learned that the party had turned away from the direct road into Butler and were going through the wooded country to the north of Butler. The Butler officials at once went in the direction in two good sleighs provided with fast horses. They soon found they were on the trail of the fugitives and at 3 o'clock wired the Pittsburg police that they had learned that they were only thirty minutes behind the sleigh, and that their horse was tired. From this time on it was only a question of a short time until the capture was made.

ward us on the road yesterday evening we St. Paul's Roman Catholic church, who herself in the breast. We knew we had no statements given out and said it was for chance to get away, and we knew we would

wanted to kill ourselves." It has been discovered that John had

two bullet holes through his mouth, in-stead of one, as at first thought. The Bidsteadied himself and fired his 45 calibre dles when captured had on the same clothes they wore when they escaped. John had, in addition, a light melton overcoat. Mrs. Soffel also had on the clothes in which she ent but myself and Jack lying in the left her home. Through "Ed's" coat there is one bullet hole, but through the dark blue velvet vest he wore are two holes made in every particular and they will never by the bullets that are lodged near his revealed 'Jack's'' coat and vest are literally

> of the coat and ten in the right sleeve. The would talk to me how they were wrongly latter appear to have been made by small "Jack's" pistol was a cheap 32bullets. calibre affair.

BUTLER, Feb. 2-The terrible fate of the Biddles is the sole topic of conversation here today and a curious throng of people have been defying the storm, hanging about the jail entrance in vain attempts to get in to see the bodies of the dead murderers. A great deal of sympathy for the boys

is expressed on all sides, and not a few of the female portion of the crowd expressed a desire to see what manner of man Ed. Bid-dle was that he should exert such wonderful influence over men, and particularly over women. The jail doors were closed all day and none got in but the doctors, who attended the autopsy, and the coro-

ner's jury, which organized at 9 o'clock this morning. Even the newspaper reporters were excluded from the inquest, which was held in the jail and nothing concerning their deliberations could be learned till late in the afternoon. Coroner John L. Jones arrived at 9 o'clock at the jail and selected

the following jury : Lewis B. Stein, W. A. Stein, A. M. Fleck J. A. Waiter, Jacob Keck and Harry Rattigen.

Ed. S. Riddle, court stenographer here, took the testimony and the commonwealth was represented by District Attorney John R. Henninger, A. M. Christley and W. Z. Murrin. The testimony of all the officers concern

ed in the capture was taken except Rob Rey, the Butler policeman, who is sick in The testimony of Dr. R. B. Greer, bed. who was one of the doctors who attended the Biddles, and of Sheriff Thomas R. Hoon, was also taken.

The verdict of the jury is that Ed. Biddle came to his death by a revolver shot fired from a 32 calibre revolver by himself, and that Jack Biddle met his death from a gunshot wound inflicted by the officers in the discharge of their lawful duty. Under the instructions of Coroner John

L. Jones an autopsy was held on both the Biddles this morning. The surgeons in charge were Drs. McCurdy Bricker and J. Clinton Atwell.

The evidence secured by the autopsy bears ont the statements that the Biddles intended to kill themselves rather than be taken alive, and that Ed succeeded in his attempt, while Jack failed, though his life was forfeited.

Dr. Bricker gave the following statement after the autopsy : "Jack Biddle was shot the worse of the

two men, although he was in better condition than Ed, when the men were brought to the jail on Friday night. He had two gun shot wounds on the right side in the region of the liver, the bullets passing up and around the body and doing no damage. They were removed on Saturday. A bul-let wound was found in the roof of the mouth, but it was slight and would not have caused his death. This wound was inflicted by himself with the evident intention of committing suicide. His right arm was shattered by five bullet wounds and the radius broken in the upper third. The wound that caused his death was made by 41.75 calibre bullet that passed through the crest of the illium on the right side and passed backed through the kidney, causing hemorrhage. In all Jack was suffering from nine wounds, but excepting the one that penetrated the kidney none of them would have been fatal "Ed's terrible sufferings were caused by bullet wound that struck him on the lef breast about an inch and a-half to the right of the nipple and passed down between the fourth and fifth ribs to the left of the heart and through the lungs. This wound was made by Ed himself, the powder marks be-ing visible on the skin. Death was caused by hemorrhages, and the man suffered untold agony to the last breath. Another wound found on his body was on the same side about an inch to the left of the nipple. but the bullet struck the fourth rib, pass under the skin and did no damage. Both bullets found were of 32-calibre and in the opinion of the doctors who held the autopsy there is no doubt that he killed himself After the autopsy the bodies of the Bidlles were taken in charge by undertaker W. P. Roessing, of Butler, who prepared them for burial. Arrangements are being made to take the bodies to Pittsburg to morrow morning. They will be in charge of sheriff T. R. Hoon. Since the officers concerned in the fight and capture of the Biddles have had time to cool off a little, there appears to be a disposition to be fair towards each other in the matter of the distribution of the prize money and an agreement to divide the \$5,000 equally among the four officers here, the driver, J. A. Snyder, and the three Pittsburg detectives, has been practically consented to by all of the men except detective McGovern, who is not here to-day. At 6 o'clock this evening the bodies of the Biddles were removed from the jail to one of the hallways of the sheriff's dwelling and the public was given an opportunity of looking at the two notorious criminals Hundreds of people to-day braved the worst blizzard of the year, besieging the jail doors for admittance, which was refused until this evening, when the doors of the dwelling house attached to the jail were opened and everybody given an opportunity to gratify their morbid curiosity. Late to-night a long line of people are standing in front of the door, the wind blowing about their cars and the driving snow stinging their faces like icicles, waiting their turn, number of women, who are curious, even saying: "I have no parents; please take me in death, to see Ed Biddle, the man who is to the next station." said to have had such a charm over women

every person to decide for themselves as to swing if taken back, and that is why we the innocence or guilt of the men. When seen at his residence this afternoon, Father Walsh said :

"Besides the statements given out by the Biddle boys to the newspapers and officers of Butler county, both Ed and Jack Biddle made confessions to me. Ed's was made on Friday night. There was nobody presnext cell. Jack did not confess until yesterday. There confessions were full and complete

'While ministering to them almost every riddled. There are four holes in the side hour, they were brought to jail here, they accused of crimes. They denied positive-ly that they killed Grocer Kahney in Mount Washington and Ed told me in the most emphatic terms that he did not shoot Detective Patrick Fitzgerald. "The poor boys died like dogs, literally

riddled with bullets, and some one should be held responsible for inhuman actions in shooting them when entirely helpless, unarmed and unable to make the slightest defense or resistance.'

Rev. Samuel Cronin Wett, of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran church, in his sermon to-night spoke at length of the criminal history made in Butler county in the past few days. He criticized severely the woman, who he held responsible for the whole affair. He said : "The Biddles and Mrs. Soffel made a

vain flight from justice and retribution came upon them. The blindness and infatuation of this women in leaving her be-loved husband and helpless little children for a gang of desperadoes is the worst criminal act thus far in the history of the

Twentieth century. The testimony taken at the inquest was voluminous, making about 11,000 words, and some parts of it quite sensational. The testimony given by Deputy Sheriff Rainey Noon reflected severely on McGovern. one of the Pittsburg detectives.

Deputy Noon, after describing the hunt for the fugitives and the final sighting of them coming over the hill, said :

"We put our teams in charge of Mr. J. A. Snyder. We then got in line and they came down the hill and the first thing I saw Ed Biddle pulled a revolver. When he pulled the gun, all began to shoot. I could not tell who fired the first shot. We all shot. I should judge we were 150 feet from them.

Q .- Did they fall out of the sleigh?

-They both fell out. Q .- How many shots had been fired be-

fore they fell? A .-- I have not much idea. I suppose forty or fifty shots. Q.—The Biddles fell out of the sled ?

A .- Yes sir; both boys fell out and the woman fell forward. She stayed in the sleigh and the horse ran off with her and passed into the field.

Q .- Describe your approaching the Biddle boys?

A .- McGovern and I walked up to them. They were both lying on their faces. I walked up first and McGovern swore at me for it. I had a revolver in my hand and had it loaded. I walked up to them and he walked up and hit Jack on the back of his head with the butt end of his Winchester when he was on his face. Then I turned Ed. over on his back. I was the first to touch either of the men and he was going to shoot them again. He stepped back and shot Jack again after he was on the ground I turned Ed. over and he said : "For God's sake don't shoot again; let me die." Mr.

has placed you I feel that it would be your undoing and mine. Let us remain as we are-I, to pursue my career; you, to climb to the top of your profession. You see," and she raised her eyes again and smiled brightly upon him, "you are not five men. You are only one man.'

He was silent, gazing through the window and wondering vaguely why the street lamp across the way flared so badly in the open air.

Shall I explain to you what I mean by five men instead of one man ?" she ques tioned.

"As you please," he replied moodily. "If I were five, one of us would poison the other four. However, let me hear this original polygamous doctrine of yours."

"Polygamous ! Gracious !" she ex-imed. "I had not thought of it in that claimed. light. However, to be thoroughly satisfied from waking to sleeping nothing short of five men could fulfill my ideal of matrimonial bliss. You must remember my childhood. I lived among five aunts. As a rule, I spent from six months to a year with each and then recommenced the circuit. By combining the good qualities, or what I at least conceived to be the good qualities, of the five men of those families into one man and eliminating the bad ones, the perfect husband would be created. But it is impossible of achievement. He would have to be in five different places at once almost every hour in the day; hence, there is only one solution-five husbands !"

She sipped her coffee complacently and. raising her clear eyes again to his, said

He to his face in a quick flush, then fled again, leaving it paler and more haggard than before.

She fixed her eyes upon his, smiling brightly, and she held his gaze until the anger died out of it. Then she proceeded calmly :

"As a single man you have ambition. If you should marry me and should love me as I want to be loved, there would be no room for ambition or for any other attribute than the one you give to me-love. Yet I would have you ambitious. If I were to become your wife and you undertook to fill to repleteness my ambitious dreams for you, love would wither and die, unclothed, unfed, forgotten. How would you provide that necessary and mighty dollar should we be man and wife if professional ambition stood between you and earthly gain-if love detained you from your daily business tasks-if social obligations rendered you heavy eyed and solemn brained at the beginning of each fiscal day? Do you know that every woman has a fad, and have you not discovered mine ?' "No. What is it ?" he asked coldly.

"How many hours daily, think you, I spend awheel ? Could you accompany me on one century run? How reconcile love, ambition, the social world, money getting and athletic sports and still find time among the duties of a husband to be what you would honestly define a man? Have you not yet discovered why I made that polygamous remark ?"

For a moment after she had finished speaking he made no comment. Presently he rose and took his hat and cane.

"Shall we go?" he said. "No," she replied calmly, not moving. "Sit down again. I want before we part to convince you of the unwisdom of any thought of marriage between us, at least for years to come."

his brother was dangerously sick. Geary hastened to the cell with the medicine, when John Biddle sprang through the

opening in the cell and, seizing the guard around the waist, hurled him over the railing to the stone floor below, a distance of sixteen feet. Edward Biddle join ed his brother immediately and both, with drawn revolvers, hurried to the first floor, where they met Guard Reynolds and shot him.

There were but three men on duty, and the third was on one of the upper ranges. He was ordered down at the point of a revolver, and the three guards were put in the dungeon. The keys were taken from Keeper McGeary, and the two desperate prisoners had a clear field. The only persons who witnessed the es-

cape were prisoners, who could not interfere or give an alarm.

The Biddles went to the wardrobe where the guards keep their clothing and each put on a new suit. They then unlocked the outside gates and passed out into Ross The escape was not discovered unstreet. til the daylight guards come on duty at 6

o'clock. They were informed by prisoners where the night guards had been put, and they were soon released from the dungeon sent to the Homeopathic hospital. The bullet wound sustained by Reynolds is not

regarded as dangerous. The physicians have been unable to ascertain as yet the full extent of McGeary's wounds. His head is badly contused, but there are no signs that his skull was fractured by his 16 foot fall.

The escape of the Biddles has been ex-Warden Peter K. Soffel has auplained. horized its publication. It is the allegation that his wife is responsible for the furnishing of the revolvers and saws to the Biddles which enabled them to escape, In her infatuation for the handsome de sperado-Edward Biddle-it is alleged that she has left her husband and her four children, and, it is supposed, is to meet the escaped convicts at a place agreed upon. The story of the matter is brief : Mrs.

Soffel was the only person admitted to the jail since last Sunday. Yesterday afternoon she visited them during the warden's absence. Last evening when she retired at 9 o'clock, she told her husband that she was going to visit a sister at McDonald. Later when the details of the escape became known, he telephoned to McDonald, and was informed that Mrs. Soffel was not there. Warden Soffel immediately made a frank confession of his suspicions.

District Attorney John C. Haymaker had conference with Warden Soffel at noon

and the warden told him of his suspicions concerning Mrs. Soffel. The warden has made inquiries at the

homes of all his wife's relatives and he has been unable to find any trace of her. An investigation disclosed the fact that she had

John Biddle was riddled with bucksho in the breast and head.

The Pittsburg officers were met at Butler this afternoon by Deputy Sheriffs Rainey and Hoon and Officers Frank Holliday and Aaron Thompson, the latter under command of Chief of Police Robert Ray, of Butler.

The officers were certain that they were on the right trail. It was only a question of time when they could catch up to the escaping condemned murderers and their guilty companion. The Biddles and Mrs. Soffel ate dinner

at J. J. Stephen sons at Mount Chestnut, 5 miles east of Butler. They had made a detour of the town of Butler, and after going several miles east turned north and then west. The Pittsburg officers, only a few miles in the rear, took the wrong road for about eight miles, but when they found their mistake they made up for lost time by telephoning and telegraphing ahead for fresh horses.

They reached Mount Chestnut not less than half an hour after the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel. At this point William Wat-son, storekeeper, had fresh horses awaiting them, and the chase of life began anew. The two sleighs with the eight officer aboard started westward and met the Bid-dles and Mrs. Soffel at McClure's barn, two miles from Mount Prospect. The Biddles having learned that they were almost overtaken, and taking what they considered the only chance, they had, drove eastward and met their doom.

The officers were armed with Winchester rifles and revolvers of large calibre. They hot to kill and their aim was perfect.

When the detectives got within about sixty yards of the fugitives they opened fire. The Biddles promptly answered with revolvers. When Ed Biddle fell and Mrs. Soffel saw she was about to be captured, she fired a bullet into her breast. An examination by physicians shows that she will recover, as the bullet was deflected by her corset and the wound is comparatively slight.

Ed. Biddle got a bullet in the breast which penetrated his right lung and will probably end his life before morning. John Biddle may recover his wounds, though numerous, failing to reach a vital spot. The escape of the officers is miraculous. The Biddles have demonstrated on several occasions that they were good marksmen and why they should have failed to-day to bring down their men is a mystery.

After the Biddles fell to the snow-covered ground the officers picked up the apparently lifeless body of Mrs. Soffel and the Biddles and came back to Butler, bringing the stolen sleigh, patched up harness and worn out horse that the trio had tried so strenuously to get away with toward Cana-

da and liberty. The story of the fight as told by the detectives is as follows : The Biddles were sitting on the right

The entire party, officers and prisoners, are expected to arrived in this city some time to-night on a special train.

Excitement here has been intense all day and the pursuit and capture of the Biddles has been the burden of conversation on the streets and in homes generally.

One of the sensational developments of the day which the authorities have tried to keep secret was the finding on the person of Mrs. Soffel, when searched at the hos pital, a long letter from Edward Biddle, setting forth in detail the plan for the escape of the brothers from jail, and naming their destination afterward.

From a statement made this morning by John Biddle, it is evident that the jail breakers and their accomplice had arranged to commit suicide in case capture became imminent. In addition John also told how they escaped. Their manner of get-ting out of jail, according to his statement, was as has already been published. Mo-Geary, he says, fell over the range when he jerked loose from the hold the prisoner had on him. He says Mrs. Soffel helped them to escape, but would not say she supplied the saws. The sawing of the bars of the cells, he says, was completed before Jan. 14th, but several times previous to the day on which the escape was made their plans failed through some little detail. After they left jail they went to a house near a railroad in Pittsburg. They re-mained there all of Thursday. The people in the house, John said, when they read of the escape from the jail, recognized them, and would only let them remain after the Biddles gave them a "bunch of money." They remained at the house until Thursday night, leaving it as soon as it grew dark. John says that he wanted to stay

there and that Ed was willing to stay, but that "the woman" was nervous and afraid they would be caught. "I wouldn't let them go alone," John said. "and as soon as it grew dark we went down the street and took a Perrysville ave-

nue car. We rode to the end of the line and from there walked until we reached the farm where we stole the horse. If it had not been for the woman we would not have been caught, for we could easily have got another horse and by this time been more than 100 miles away. It is certain that we would have escaped, but we could not let that poor woman go by herself. She did all she could for us, betrayed her husband, deserted her family, all to help us out, and we would not have been a great deal worse than we are thought to be if we

had left her. "When we saw the officers coming to-

# when he was alive.

Mrs. Soffel is reported to be spitting blood to-night at the hospital and her condition is not considered favorable. The track of the bullet in her breast runs close to the pleura and the doctors are not yet able to tell whether the hemorrhage is caused by the wound or is attributable to another cause which is not yet known.

The pastors of nearly all of the churches in Butler took occasion to-day to refer to the sensational capture of Mrs. Kate Soffel. and John and Ed. Biddle on Friday last, who died in the county jail last night. Rev. Father Daniel S. Walsh, rector of Green's Pharmacy.

Holliday turned Jack over and he coaxed him not to abuse him; to let him die.

Q.-The slugs that entered the sides and arms of Jack Biddle were the shots fired by McGovern while he was lying face down in the snow at close range?

A .--- Yes sir. I am sure of that. I was within a few feet.

Q .- Do you think the striking of Jack on the head with a gun had anything to do with the hastening of his death ? A .-- I could not say. He could still

speak Q .- Did he strike with considerable

force? A .- He hit him a good hard biff with the butt of the gun.

Woman Home Rich from Nome.

She Went Away as Miss Hefel and Came Back Mrs. Beason.

Miss Nellie Hefel, who left her home at Muncie, Indiana, four years ago to seek her fortune in the Klondike, returned today as Mrs. Colvin Beason, a millionaire in her own right and by her own business sagacity. She went from this State to Seattle and from there to the gold fields of the Yukon and arrived at Dawson city without a cent. She there secured a place as a waitress in a restaurant at \$50 a week and when the reports from Nome reached her she left for that place with her accumulated earnings. As soon as she reached Nome she went into the coal business and through certain agents got a corner on the entire supply

contracting for it at \$45 a ton. She immediately raised the price to \$150 a ton and investigation showed that she was the owner of all the coal to be had. A mob surround-ed her office and battered down the door, but Miss Hefel succeeded in making her escape and was protected. With the proceeds from her coal corner she purchased an in-terest in several mines and she is now a partner in fifty four claims, some of them. being the best paying properties at Nome. Colvin Beason, a rich miner at Rampart City, was struck with the girl's business methods and they were married just before she started back to her old home. She will return to Nome early in the summer.

Railroad Adopts a Baby.

Choctaw Managers Decide to Keep an Infant Abandoned in a Car.

The Choctaw railroad will rear a baby which was found abandoned on one of its cars east of El Reno, Oklahoma, on Friday. The child was left in a seat in a basket, which was well supplied with warm clothing and a nursing bottle filled with milk. and noticeable among the crowd was a On the handle of the basket was a note

The conductor telegraphed to the company's headquarters and was told to take the baby to the next station. Later he received a message ordering him to retain possession of the infant, as the road had decided to adopt it, raise and educate it. It is now in a hospital in Wichita.

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