

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...

HER POLYGAMOUS IDEAL.

They sat facing each other in the dining room of the St. Denis. Pain, entreaty, pathos, anger, consternation and doubt were compositely depicted on his features...

"I am convinced," he replied, reseating himself. "What, already?" "Quite convinced."

Somehow they did not meet again. He scowled upon the world, and applied every energy of his life to his professional work...

They met, apparently by accident, in the dim library of a mutual friend. Exactly how the friend had managed the meeting she never confessed.

It was the first time they had seen each other since that last dinner at the St. Denis.

He had gratified ambition, attained wealth, was socially popular and had become a patron of athletics. But when the door closed behind their hostess...

"Well?" "We are to be married to-morrow," he replied, "quietly, here in your parlors."

BIDDLE BROTHERS.

The notorious Pittsburgh Murderers Escaped from the Allegheny Jail on Thursday Morning through the 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 jail for the murder of Grocer Thomas D. Kahney, of Mt. Washington, overpowered the guards at 4 o'clock this morning and escaped.

The only persons who witnessed the escape were prisoners, who could not interfere or give any 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 street.

The escape of the Biddles has been explained. Warden Peter K. Soffel has authorized 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.

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.

taken all of her best clothes with her. The 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...

The county commissioners met this afternoon and offered a reward of \$5,000 for the recapture of the murderers.

Warden Peter K. Soffel, in discussing the escape of the Biddles today in the office of the jail, said, "I believe my wife furnished the weapons to the Biddles and assisted them to escape."

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."

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 wound in the breast is the sequel of the sensational escape of the Biddle brothers 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 covered road two miles east of Prospect, Butler county, near Mount Chestnut, and the exact place was at McClure's barn, where two double teams sleighs, filled with officers of the Pittsburgh detectives, John Roach, Albert Swinehart and Charles McGovern, met the two Biddles in a one horse sleigh, stolen at Perryville, and at once opened fire on the trio.

Edward Biddle was shot in the left arm, in the breast and in one leg. John Biddle was riddled with buckshot in the breast and head.

The Pittsburgh officers were met at Butler this afternoon by Deputy Sheriff Rainer 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 at dinner at J. J. Stephen sons at Mount Chestnut, 5 miles east of Butler. They had made a detour of the Butler jail, and after going several miles east turned north and then west.

The two sleighs with the eight officers aboard started westward and met the Biddles 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 shot 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.

ward us on the road yesterday evening we knew it was all up. We did not fire a shot at the officers, but agreed to kill ourselves. I shot myself in the mouth. 'Ed' shot himself over the heart, and the woman shot herself in the breast. We knew we had no chance to get away, and we knew we would swing if taken back, and that is why we wanted to kill ourselves."

It has been discovered that John had two bullet holes through his mouth, instead of one, as at first thought. The Biddles when captured had on the same clothes they wore when they escaped.

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.

The testimony of all the officers concerned in the capture was taken except Rob Roy, the Butler policeman, who is sick in bed. The testimony of Dr. R. B. Greer, 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 out 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."

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

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.

"I wouldn't let them go alone," John said, "and as soon as it grew dark we went down the street and took a Perryville avenue 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."

"When we saw the officers coming to-

ward us on the road yesterday evening we knew it was all up. We did not fire a shot at the officers, but agreed to kill ourselves. I shot myself in the mouth. 'Ed' shot himself over the heart, and the woman shot herself in the breast. We knew we had no chance to get away, and we knew we would swing if taken back, and that is why we wanted to kill ourselves."

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St. Paul's Roman Catholic church, who ministered to the Biddles in their dying hours, spoke touching words to the members of his parish in both masses this morning. He touched briefly on their statements given out and it was for every person to decide for themselves as to 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 present but myself and Jack lying in the next cell. Jack did not confess until yesterday. There confessions were full and complete in every particular and they will never be revealed."

"While ministering to them almost every hour, they were brought to jail here, they would talk to me how they were wrongly accused of crimes. They denied positively 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."

Deputy Sheriff Hoon, 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 woman in leaving her beloved 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 Hoon Noon reflected severely on McGovern, one of the Pittsburgh 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 pull 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? A.—They both fell out. Q.—How many shots had been fired before 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 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. 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 buff 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. Owen Beason, a millionaire on 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 surrounded 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 interest 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 tried 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. On the handle of the basket was a note saying: "I have no parents; please take me to the next station."

The conductor telegraphed to the company's headquarters and was told to take the baby to the next station. Later he wrote an 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. MILLIONS PUT TO WORK.—The wonderful activity of the new century is shown by an enormous demand for the world's best workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. For Constipation, Sick Headache, Bilemness, or any trouble of Stomach, Liver or Kidneys they're unrivaled. Only 25c. at Green's Pharmacy.