THE CRIMINAL'S DEFENCE

Trials in Which Attempts Were Made to Prove Alibis.

CASE OF GORTON TWINS

Where Lives Have Depended Upon Accuracy or Inaccuracy of a Clock—Striking Resemblance Between Two Persons—Criminals' Favorite Defence.

The alibi has always been a favorite defence with calculating crim
inals. It has, on the other hand, in
hundreds of cases, extracted the innocent from the meshes of a net of circumstantial evidence which must
otherwise have inevitably dragged
them to unmerited doom.

Clocks have played an important part in these defeaces. Lives have depended on their accuracy or inaccuracy. In the case of a man named Hardy, who was accused of having taken part in a murder with others, one of the murderers, after the crime was committed, made his way home as fast as possible. It was night and there was no one in his house but a servant. Putting the clock in the hall back two hours, the man went to bed, and rising shortly afterward awoke the servant and ordered her to go cown stairs and see what was the time. The girl did so, and once more letired to her room, when the murderer, stealing softly downstairs in his bare feet, once more put the clock The unsuspecting girl's evidence that the prisoner was in bed at the time when the crime was committed secured his acquittal on his The truth was made known trial. oy a deathbed confession some years later,

Witnesses who come forward to prove allibis by the clock sometimes prove very unsatisfactory. In a murder case at the Central Criminal Court two witnesses swore most persistently to the prisoner having been in their company at the hour when the prosecution contended he was engaged in the crime.

"Are you quite certain of the exact time?" asked the counsel for the prozecution.

"Certain," replied the first witness,
"How are you so sure about it?"

**Sked the barrister.

"We were in the Bear public house, and I saw the time by the clock in the bar," replied the witness. "It was 27 minutes past 9."

"You saw t'nt time yourself?"

"Yes."

One of the detectives engaged in the case here whispered something to the barrister, and he turned to the witness once more.

"You see that clock," he said, pointing to the clock in the court. "What is the time by it?"

The witness turned ghastly pale, scratched his head, gasped, and was silent. He could not tell the time. The alibi bubble was burst. The prisoner was condemned.

young girl who lived with her palents in a lonely part of Kirkeudbright was one day left alone in their cottage while her father and mother were harvesting. On their return the girl was found murdered. A surgical examination revealed the fact that the injuries inflicted must have been the work of a left-handed man, and the police discovered in the soft ground around the cottage the imprints of the boots of a running man. These impressions corresponded exactly with the boots of a young laborer named William Richardson, who was acquainted with the dead girl, and who also was left handed. Richardson, on being asked where he was on the day of the crime, declared that he was employed the whole day in the work of his master, a farmer, some distance away. This fact was borne witness to by the farmer and Richardson's fellow servants, and the police were baffled.

The alibi, in spite of all the other suspicious circumstances against the prisoner, appeared so strong as to be unassailable. But the police persevered, and at last one of the detectives discovered that Richardson and his fellow servants had that day been employed in driving their master's carts. These carts had been driven in a direction which took them close to the scene of the crime, and while they had been passing through a wood Richardson had requested his comrades to stop a few minutes while he ran to a smith's shop and back. They did so, and one of the drivers remembered that Richardson, when he re turned, had been absent half an hour ty his watch. This was ample time for him to run to the cottage, commit the murder and run back again. He had not been to the smith's shop. The alibi thus broke down, Richardson was found guilty, and, before his execution, he confessed the justice of his

An ingenious system of proving an aibi was that of a man named Gorton—at least, that was one of his 20 names—convicted of various clever frauds in the north of England. He had a twin brother, and while he was ongaged in a robbery the twin kept himself in prominent evidence in another far removed place. When Gorton was arrested, the persons who had met the twin trooped into the witness box.

Their evidence was of course given in all honest belief that it was perfectly correct. The arrangement broke down at last, however, through one of those little oversights that even the most cunning rogues will fall inot, and the ingenious twins came to their teserts.—New York Sun.

IMPURE FOOD IN NEW YORK.

Enough Destroyed Annually to Feed

The food condemned by the board of health and destroyed in this city in a year, if accumulated in one spot, would make a pyramidal hill two hundred feet broad at the base and three hundred feet high. In quantity it would be sufficient to feed 5,000 persons throughout the year, supplying them with meat, fish, game and poultry, vegetables, groceries, all yarieties of fruit and confectionery.

There is a censeless vigilance in New York to insure pure food for its inhabitants. This does not mean that thousands of tons of adulterated and harmful foods are not eaten yearlyfor the channels by which they may reach the tables of rich and poor are many, and the carclessness of housekeepers and cooks are responsible for much. But at the gates of the city where food is admitted by rail and by water, at the wholesale markets, at stores and among the push-cart venders of edibles the inspectors of the health department are always at work. During the ripe-fruit season they are most active, and their work is the heaviest. Their authority is almost supreme, and they can order the destruction of a train load or a ship load of fruit or vegetables, or a hundred head of cattle infected with disease, involving a loss to the owners of thousands of dollars

In the last twelve months 7,172,347 pounds of food stuffs were condemned seized and destroyed. Some of this—especially fruit brought in by ships—went out to sea and was dumped in the briny deep. The entire shipload was a loss through a delayed voyage in hot weather, causing fermentation to set in among the perishable cargo. Many a shipload of bananas have gone that way.

Of the more than 7,000,000 pounds of food destroyed in the last year, 4639,090 pounds were fruit. Meat came next—more than a million pounds having been deemed unfit to use. Vegetables were a close third, 771,100 pounds.

In addition to this, solid food, the amount of milk destroyed in the year has been 31,000 quarts. This, seen at once in all its bulk, is a lot of milk it is, however, but "a spoonful" out of the great river of the liquid food that pours into the metropolitan city, in a year 550,000,000 quarts of milk are consumed in New York, 1,500,000 quarts a day.

The effort to protect the city from Impure or innutritious milk has resulted through years of legislation and careful Inspection in making the dealers careful that the milk they bring to the city meets the legal requirements. These requirements in one way place a premium on poor milk while guarding the city from milk that is unhealthy or entirely worthless. The law calls for not less than 3 per cent of butter fats in all milk sold in New York. This is not a high standafd, and many dealers avail themselves of the small percentage required to reduce the nutritive quality

of their milk to this low standard. Many consumers of milk in New York pay dearly for milk that is above the legal standard of purity and nutritiousness. It will surprise some people to know that milk-not cream -is sold in this city as high as 90 cents a quart. A sworn statement accompanies this milk, as to its freeness from injurious qualities-bacteria, etc .- and as to its richness in butter fats. The cows from which this milk is taken are selected registered Durhams and Holsteins. The sanitary arrangements for the care of the cattle and the milk are as perfect as expenditure of money and scientific skill can make them. The milk is kept and delivered at a proper tempera-

Milk left uncovered in the living room of a tenement house for a few hours has been found to contain as many as 50,000,000 bacteria per cubic contimetre. The expensive milk served by the expert dairymen may contain less than 500 bacteria to the centimetre. This milk is bought chiefly for feeble and ailing children.

Of the food condemned in this city by the health department but a small proportion is of adulterated food. Less than a hundred tons of groceries and confectionery have been selzed in the last year because of harmful adulteration.

In addition to this vast amount of food condemned and destroyed by order of the city's health department, the people of New York are notoriously wasteful in the food they throw away—the refuse from dining rooms and kitchens that goes to the garbage barrels. This adds some hundred thousand tons to the condemned foods that find their way, in the iron tanks of the garbage boats, to Barren island. There this huge mass is "tried out," its oils extracted and its fertilizing elements reduced to powder and sold.

In the year 1904 half a million tons of food stuffs from the kitchens of the city and of the foods condemned by the health department were fed to the busy machinery at Barren island.

Bird Skins for Hats.

A London dealer last year received from India the skins of 6,000 birds of paradise to adorn the hats of the feather wearing British women and to meet the export need. At the same time he got about half a million humming bird skins, and an equal number of those of various other tropical birds. There is an auction room in London where such things are sold, and its recent record for a third of a year was close to 1,000,000 skins, all told, coming mainly from the East and West Indies and Brazil.

RADIUM INFECTS CURRIES

Hounted by Sort of a Mineral Frankenstein.

PERPETUAL LIGHT PLANT

Famous Discoverers of Wonderful Element So Permeated with Its Rays They Live in Constant State of Radiation—Necessary to Build

Another Laboratory.

The celebrated chemists, M. and Mme. Currie, are suffering from an embarrassment of too much radium. The famous chemists of Paris, whose discovery of this wonderful element plunged the scientists of the world into grave doubt as to the soundness of the atomic theory, have become the victims of this mineral Frankenstein and, having been driven from their laboratory, are now likely to be driven from their home.

M. Currie and his wife, who had aided him in every step in his researches, are suffering from what Mme. Currie characterizes as a "radium pest." Incidentally they have developed the fact that with radium in use in sufficient quantities the extortions of the gas trust would become a thing of the past and the establishment of municipal ownership too simple to require more than the impregnation of all parts of the city with radium rays.

The laboratory of the Curries has been turned into a perpetual lighting plant by the abundant use of metal in experiments, and even the room in which they sleep has become so thorcughly impregnated that it has become necessary to surround the bed at night with heavy black curtains on the sides and across the top.

There is radium everywhere about the house and laboratory of the Curr'es, and there is but little hope of relief for many years yet to come, as they have estimated that the power of the light from the impregnated walls will have diminished less than 50 per cent in forty years.

The radium follows the two chemists everywhere. There is no way of getting rid of it; no way of cleaning the place or their clothes of the mysterious light that clings to and follows them. Every piece of apparatus, every article in use about the laboratory becomes in time a separate fountain of light, giving off the weird and setting up a new point of brilliance, to remain such for decades.

In discussing the strange misfortune that has overtaken her husband and herself, Mme. Currie said today:

"We will have to build another laboratory in our garden. The old one is so impregnated with radium as to render all our apparatus useless. The delicacy of all the old apparatus was destroyed by the influence of the radium, and if we put new apparatus in the radium infected rooms it soon acteriorates.

"The finest electroscopes it is possible to buy work less accurately in a room where radium has been exposed than the clumsy article consisting of a cork, tin foil and the mouthpiece of an old pipe. My husband and myself have found it impossible to work in a room where radium has been exposed for any length of time. The rays infect not only the room, but the whole building. It has become, 'n tact, a radium pest. Some of the apparatus that has been exposed, the new as well as the old, has acquired the property of throwing off radium rays and cannot be used.

"The building will have to be torn down, for even if every particle of radium is removed, the rays will keep on increasing in intensity for two or three years, and after that, although losing in intensity, will deteriorate less than 50 per cent in 50 years.

"What would occur if you exposed an article continuously to radium rays for any length of time?" was asked. "It would continue to give off rays for a hundred years, at least," was the answer.—New York Journal.

Many Bibles Sold.

Popular novelists will be surprised to hear that the most popular book is not a novel at all. In the course of a talk with a writer in the Book Monthly, Henry Froude of the Oxford University Press says:

"So far as I can calculate, the whole output of English Bibles in the course of a year is about 2,000,000 copies. Moreover, the Bible differs from novels in having a steadily increasing sale. Just thirty years ago the Oxford University Press alone sent out half a million copies. By 1896 the sale had doubled."

Big Pay for Judges.

There are now no fewer than eight ex-judges in England in receipt of total pensions amounting to \$121,662.50 a year. A judge who continues on the bench after completing fifteen years' service really does his work for \$7,299.75 a year, the difference between his salary and pension. The lord chancellor is entitled to a pension of \$24,32.50 a year for life, however short the tenure of the chancellor-

The business of college education in one of the greatest businesses of the country. The 426 colleges and universities, in which are enrolled 175,000 students, represents an invested capital of \$250,000,000 and give employment to 25,000 persons as teachers and officers.

At the present rate of crumbling England will have been swallowed up by the sea in the year 12184, according to the calculations of a correspondent of the Frankfurter Zeitung. GREAT TEST OF ENGINEERING.

Simplen Tunnel Twelve and a Half

Miles Long—Lives Lost in Work.

The joining of the two ends of Simplon tunnel marked the completion of one of the greatest engineering feats of the time. The boring of a tunnel 12¼ miles long is in itself a large undertaking, but the engineers

in charge of this work have had to contend with many extremely difficult problems, among the worst being the springs of hot water, which finally became so troublesome as to necessitate the abandonment of one end of the work. Now the tunnel is complete; in a few months trains will be running through it, and a most important link furnished in the line of communication between Italy and Central Europe.

The Simplon tunnel pierces Mont

Leone, in the Alps, making a straight line from Brig, in Switzerland, to Iselle, in Italy. The boring was carried on from both sides of the mountala, the work beginning in August, 1898. The work consists of two tunnels, a main and an auxiliary, parallel, with 50 feet from axis to axis, and at one point the borings are one and a half miles below the surface, so that great heat had to be contended with. The tunnels are heavily arened from end to end, to prevent the blocking of the way by fragments of rock. From the Swiss side the borings rise at a grade of one metre in 500, and from the Italian side 1 in 143. The summit is 9.572 kilometres from the Swiss portal and 10.197 from the Italian end. By last November the main Swiss boring was carried over the summit, and when it had reached a point about 300 yards from the Italian end it had to be stopped because of the difficulty encountered in the

The Swiss boring was carried to

springs of hot water.

the summit without much trouble, as the grade naturally carired off the filtration of water, which amounted to ever 700 gallons a minute. When the turn was made the trouble began. In a distance of 1,000 yards between the summit and the face of the boring, the inflow of water was 1,608 gallons per minute, and with the brought in artificially for refrigerating, rock boring and other appliances the inflow was 3,672 gallons a minute, which had, of course, to be carried off by pumps. Then, in the last 600 feet of the main Swiss bore, thirteen springs of hot water were encountered, varying in temperature from 108 degrees to 117. In the Italian heading there was a grade to carry away the water and no hot springs were being encountered, though the men worked in waterproofs, knee deep in water, with cascades playing over them. The Swiss had a hard problem. The hot rock and water made the temperature unbearable for the workers. It was necessary to cool the water issuing from the hot springs by playing jets of cold water into them, and also to keep up a continual spraying of the hot rocks. This water had to be piped into the tunnel a great distance to the workings. and to keep it cool the pipes had to he covered with broken charcoal and cased in sheet metal. As the face of the heading was carried on, the problem of getting cold water necame more difficult, and naturally there came a time when the capacity of the boring became insufficient for the piping needed to carry on the work. Last May the engineers in the Swiss borine opened two hot springs yielding 420 gallons a minute. At the same time an Alpine storm and landslide cut off the water supply at the entrance. The Swiss boring was stopped after heavy iron gates had been erected at the lowest point of the work on the Italian slope to confine the water and protect the tunnels approaching

from Iselle.

The Italian borings, having the advantage of gravitational drainage continued rapidly without special difficulty until they reached last fall a point about 300 yards from the abandoned Swiss workings. Here the hot springs were encountered. The first of these discharged 960 gallons a minute and had a temperature of 114 degrees. The drainage problem was not so difficult as in the last part of the Swiss work, but the same system of cooling the rock, water and air had to be introduced, and, consequently

when a thin diaphragm of rock remained between the two main tunnels, the great volume of hot water which had accumulated in the abandoned Swiss workings between the summit and the Italian headway was drained off and the mountain was pierced. The dispatches show that the last blast that joined the two was followed by a rush of hot water in which several workmen lost their lives.—New York Sun.

Rivers as Factors in War.

Aside from the siege operations at Port Arthur, a large part of the heaviest fighting has been along river banks—at the Yalu, the Ai, the Taitse, the Sha, the Hun or the Liao. The positions defended have been either parallel to rivers or upon sites which owed their strategic value to their proximity to rivers.

The facts suggest in a striking way one of the reasons why the boundaries of states and nations from the earliest times have been determined so often by river courses, without regard to other considerations. The rivers, by affording natural advantages for defense, have fixed the limit not upon what conquering nations wanted to possess, but upon what they were able to take.—Chicago News.

Mexican mines turn out more silver money than those of any other country in the world.

ST. PETERSBURG PRISONS

Solitary Confinement, Slow Hangings, Eye-Hole Torture. CZAR SHOWS NO MERCY

Typical Horrors Perpetrated Within Fortresses of St. Peter and st. Paul and the Schluesselburg—Books Nor Anything to Distract the Mind Allowed.

A special refinement of the Russian prison system in the case of political prisoners and suspects, who are not given a short shift on the glacis or the gallows, is continued solitary confirement until, as in the case of that splendid intellectual reformer, Dmitri Pissareff, they can be reported as "harmless." Some prisoners here were relieved of their senses quite gently and almost politely. They were shut up in comfortable cells well lit with electric light, and for mental pabulum they were supplied with only religious and technical works. When insanity or suicide supervened, the appointed end had been secured.

But the doom of others presents even greater features of horror. Imagine a dark, damp cell, measuring about 10 by 6, beneath the level of the surrounding waters, in which the chained man or woman is condemned to lie in absolute idieness, studiously isolated from any intercourse with human beings. There is no bed, no sort of pillow, nothing whatever to cover the body but the prisoner's gray cloak. The amount allowed for food is five farthings a day, which provides bread and water, and three times a week a small bowl of warm soup. For ten minutes every second day the miserable wretch is allowed to see the light and breathe the air in the prison yard.

For the rest, intolerable loneliness, absolute silence, occupation of not the smallest kind, no books, no writing materials, no instruments of manual labor. Madness comes to such gradually with the passing years, not as it came to an unhappy young lady, a rising painter, who received such treatment at the hands of the bruitish prison police that she lost her reason instantly. In the majority of cases the mind rots gradually in the enfeebling body. Suicide and madness are the two great weapons in which Russian autocracy puts its trust.

Frequently, says one who has been a prisoner in one of these Russian hells, some poor wretches will make a feeble attempt upon a warder in the hope of at last being brought to trial. Shooting or hanging has been their lct. The scenes of suffering witnessed at a slow hanging, occupying at least half an hour, have been terrible. Within the courtyard of the prison is a hand hoist for lowering ropes depending over a gallows. To these the victims are attached and then slowly elevated into midair to struggle and gasp till death relieves them from their agony. Should the governor or superior present be desirous of getting through the business speedily a warder is ordered to seize the suspended victim's feet and hang on, swinging backward and forward. On previous occasions when there

has been a large number of political of enders insubordination has been deliberately manufactured to afford a pretext for indicial murd Polish nobleman, the husband of an English lady now in London, 1 learned details of his experiences in such a case. "We never knew." h said, "I and those who had been taken at the same time, until after our morning parade in the prison yard who would return alive to his cell or who would remain in the yard-upon his back on the stones. Every morning we were subjected to the grim sport of a lottery. After being brought from our cell to the yards we were placed in line, and a certain number being drawn-say five-that number of men told off from the right. The dcomed fifth was then marched with his back to the farther wall and a file of soldiers did the rest. I saw my own brother shot before my eyes one n orning. I was eventually exiled to Siberia, and from there I managed to escape."

Do you know what it is to have your sentence of death commuted by the czar? A little while ago Europe commented with satisfaction on the commutation by the czar of three death sentences out of five. Those "fortunate ones" were immured in cells in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul. Not only were these dens dark for twenty-two hours out of twenty-four, but the walls were running with damp and pools of water had gathered on the floor. Neither books nor anything that might distract the mind was allowed, and one prisoner having been found designing geometrical figures with his bread had it removed by the jailor, with the remark that hard labor convicts "were not permited to amuse themselves."

Another calculated torture in these cells is the eyehole, at which a warder or soldier is posed to watch the prisoner. By this means the quietest prisoner is soon moved to frenzy, and the slightest insubordination is at once punished by merciless flogging, if not worse. Thus it comes about that of the three men whose sentences had been commuted, one, after a year of these horrors, became a consumptive; another, a robust and vigcrous workingman, went mad; the third, also a man of powerful physique, was rotted with scurvy. Such is the "mercy of the czar.".- New York Globe.

To give money for a charitable object in Burma is supposed to imply that the giver has been very wicker and wishes to show his penitence.

ODD WAYS OF WALL STREET.

Some Lucky One Have Won in the "Street"—Thousands Have Lost.

"Street"—Thousands Have Lost.
"The Winning Ways of Wall
Street." This is a subject which has
bothered men in generations past, is
now a potent source of worry and bids
fair to affect master minds of future
generations seriously.

Much more easily might one write about the losing ways of Wall street, Many people have come to realize the fact that the stock exchange is not built for charity; that it is a business proposition, and some even go so far as to say it is a game of chance.

Few men in their lives have not been tempted to contribute a few dollars in order to either "bull" or "bear" the market. It is safe to say that a majority of these have been bitten.

A man who, probably toiling early and late, has managed to accumulate a few dollars, thinks perhaps there is a chance for him to become rich. He takes his money, goes down to a broker's office, and in 99 cases out or one hundred he finds that his money has been swallowed through manipulation of the market, or maybe through a legitimate rise or fall in stock values. But the man has a chance with his few dollars. He has a tip, probably, that his stock is going up, and, perchance, he may put his dollars on some particular stock that he has some information about,

He buys because the stock has jumped 10 points and is in a fair way to go higher.

"With a small sum of money the best way to do is to play the 'pyramid game,'" said a well known broker to a News reporter. This in horse racing circles is similar to "par-

laying a bet," he explained.
"Pyramiding" on the stock excharge, just like "parlaying" at the race tracks, would mean to the business man the investing of money at compound interest. The reader will understand that it is a case where both money and winnings are reinvested in a new venture.

There was a case just recently where a tip was received from Chicago that a certain stock would go to 45, and it might be well to buy.

Late the same afternoon an order was received and the one man who took advantage of the cue walked away with a small fortune, and the traders are now expecting to see him appear as one of the leaders on the exchange.

This man was of the small investor class and had pooled a ten dollar bill with friends, who could risk but similar amounts. He won. He had been led along by the "Winning Ways of Wall Street," but, unlike many other "little plungers," he walked away with goldbacks.

There is no authentic record of the

disgrace or unhappiness, the wealth and happiness brought to thousands who have "taken a chance" with Dame Fortune with small amounts, either to end their careers as great financiers, criminals or suicides.

For years bankers have employed private detectives to watch their employes, not especially doubting their honesty, but to prevent their becoming inoculated with the Wall street "get-rich-quick" disease.

From a telegraph operator the writer learned that \$14,000 had been taken by a small speculator on a single deal. This happened within six morths, when the investor put \$10 on one stock.

He permited the surplus to grow and finally invested in another stock. This went from 18 to 32. He was advised to close out at that point, but suggested that it might be well to let it go to 35. He finally took the advice of those to whom he had entrusted his money and thereby saved the whole amount.

From this one deal a "tipster" earned \$4,500. The "tipster" is one of the requisites in dealing on the 'change. He is as common as is his counterpart, the tout, at the race track, although at times it happens that even the "tipster" may be wrong.

He is no oracle. He simply follows the market as does the race track tout and gives expression to his opinions, which are generally subsidized.

Though the path of the "small investor" is beset by such obstacles as the unscrupulous "tipster" acting in league with irresponsible brokers, it does not follow that the small investor is wholly without blame.

The quick accumulation of wealth

is the ambition of so many that there must necessarily be a "moth and flame" story often.

"Small speculators," said the oldtimer on the street, do not comprehend the conditions of the market in a
most cases. "hey buy without studying the previous status of their stock,
and they cannot understand why it
should drop when it started to rise,
and they care nothing for national or
state legislation affecting quasi-public
corporations, which is a vitally important factor in the stock market.

"There are secure and insecure stocks," he continued. "and I must ray that our small investor is more apt to place his money on 'wildcat' schemes promising big and quick returns than in stable investments, which give slow but sure results.

"Oh," sighed the old-timer, "as he walked away, "I've been watching this game for thirty years; I'm nearly through, but I'm not rich yet...

"And I've sent some ten-dollar bills to the bad at that." he added, as he passed into the Broad Exchange.

Chinese newspapers, owing to the cheap quality of paper used and to the low price of labor, both literary and mechanical, are issued at an extremely small figure. The price of the ordinary Shanghai journal is four cash, or about one-fifth of a cent.