

LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 19, 1908

Divorce Made Easy.

Judge Elcock, of the Philadelphia courts, is reported to have declared from the bench that divorces are more readily obtained in Pennsylvania than in any other state. This will doubtless be surprising information to Pennsylvania people, who are accustomed to regard the marriage bonds as very binding. But it is not news to those who administer the laws. In this county divorces are obtained so readily that it is not easy to see how the facilities for securing them can be greater in any other community. When the divorce is mutually desired there is no impediment at all that is not found in the honor of the parties or of their attorney, and there are always plenty of lawyers to be found who are not disposed to inquire whether or not there is guilty collusion between those who desire to be relieved of their legal bonds. Where the proceeding is undertaken by only one party to the marriage contracts there needs to be a fraudulent concealment of it to make it effective, but this is not difficult because the notice required by the law may be made by publication and need not be personally served. We do not know that fraudulent divorces of this kind are common, but those secured by the collusion of the parties are exceedingly so. If the state proposes that those who are tired of their marital relations may sever them by mutual agreement, it had better say so in its statutes; for certainly it is not creditable that its judges should go on year after year annulling marriages because the parties are discontented with their condition, when the law does not sanction this as a valid reason for divorce. If it be true that people who desire to be divorced cannot be kept from gratifying their disposition the lawmakers had better recognize the fact and keep the law from contempt by permitting that which it is powerless to restrain. But there can be little doubt that the public sentiment is averse to such excessive facility of divorce; and it seems quite possible to effectually prevent it by requiring both parties to appear for examination before the court. If a general law of divorce prevailed all over the country it would be more creditable to it; and as Congress claims the power to interfere with the marriage relations of Utah the same logic would give it authority to regulate the matter of divorce in any of the states.

Lady Dixie's Assault.

The assault upon Lady Florence Dixie reported from England is very remarkable in view of her preservation from injury when she was apparently at the mercy of her assailants. She attributes her escape to the assistance of her St. Bernard dog, who flew at the assailants just as she lost consciousness. Probably her faint induced the belief that she was slain, and the men or women thought their work was done. She thinks they were men, though in this she may be mistaken, as it is just as likely that such a dastardly assault upon a woman would be women's work. She repudiates the idea that it was the work of Irishmen, whom she claims to be the friend. But in the present excited state of Irish feeling, the people do not seem to be able to tell their friends from their enemies, and it is certain at least that Lady Dixie has been the opponent of some of the Irish champions, and has been the free critic of the Land League. The assaults that are becoming so frequent in England, and that are attributed to Irish hostility, are evidences of a state of feeling that is likely to lead to a speedy determination of the question as to whether England is strong enough to subdue Ireland. Apparently it has come to this. Conciliation and arbitration cannot be effected to settle the differences between the people. England will have to prove her title to Ireland by force, and the Irish will disappoint reasonable probabilities if they come out of the struggle more independent than they went in. They have a fondness for bloody heads, which is likely to be gratified, but beyond that their qualifications will hardly extend.

As was forecast by this journal, a private publishing firm in Philadelphia has undertaken to reprint the entire set of Pennsylvania state reports of cases decided in the supreme court. The first sixty-five volumes, from Dallas to Barr, which are now selling at \$120, are to be furnished as a whole for \$420, and the succeeding 101 volumes are to be reprinted at \$1 per volume, whereas most of them were sold at \$4.50 each. This announcement relieves the state from any necessity for going into the publishing business, and if it is made in good faith, as there seems to be no doubt it is, the proposed bill to provide for the reprint of these reports under the auspices of the state may be held in abeyance.

Heavy Losses by Fire.

The lead works at Washington, Pa., were burned on Saturday night; loss, \$250,000. Fifty men are temporarily thrown out of employment. The woolen mills at Mexico, Missouri, were damaged by fire on Friday to the extent of \$50,000. The Washburn road round house and two engines in Detroit, were burned on Saturday morning; loss, \$35,000. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of causing the fire. Capelle's tannery in St. John, Quebec, was burned on Saturday. Loss \$20,000. The steamer Grand Isle was burned last Thursday at Wilson's landing on the Black River, in Louisiana. No lives were lost. Her cargo of 300 bales of cotton and 2,000 sacks of cotton seed was destroyed. In Richmond Benjamin Bates, known as Sergeant Bates, officer in charge of the soldiers' home during the late war committed suicide by shooting himself through the breast. As the commandant of the soldiers' home, which was used to incarcerate straggling Confederate soldiers unmanly they could be sent to their regiments, he was known to almost every man in the Southern army. The deceased had been employed for several years as a drummer for a Richmond regiment.

THE DAYS DOINGS.

VARIOUS PHASES OF LIFE AND DEATH.

The Broad Trail of Crime and Disaster. Mrs. Cartlon, a respectable lady living near Norwood park was brutally murdered on Saturday morning by a man whom she had never seen before. It has been learned that a man rang the bell at 7:30 p. m., and that Mrs. Cartlon went to the door, the man stepping inside. The murder was undoubtedly committed immediately afterwards, as Mrs. Cartlon's daughter, coming downstairs, found the victim lying at the foot of the stairs. The murderer used a large piece of rock, beating in his victim's skull in a horrible manner. Mrs. Cartlon's husband is a liquor dealer in the city. There has been trouble between him and his wife and he has not been home for ten days. A Murderer Poisons Himself. At Evergreen, a station of the Norfolk and Western railway. It appears that Spencer Page and a woman, named Martha Page, colored, lived together and a few days ago the woman died, as alleged by Page, from injuries sustained in falling into a fire. Burial followed. Subsequent events led to the belief that the deceased had been murdered and the remains were disinterred. An examination of the body revealed the fact that the woman's death had been caused by her throat having been cut. Page is charged with the murder of the woman. When an officer went to arrest Page he was found dead in his cabin. The supposition is that he committed suicide by taking deadly drugs, shortly after committing the murder, for which no cause is assigned.

A Woman's Leg Stolen.

The people of Friday Lake, near Erie, are greatly interested over a ghastly outrage, by which the remains of an honored woman have been disturbed in their final resting place. A year ago Mrs. Findley fell and broke her right leg. She never fully recovered, and as her friends were distressed with the condition of the limb action for alleged malpractice was brought against the attending physician two months ago, but before the suit could be tried Mrs. Findley died and was interred in the family lot. On Saturday last the grave was thought to have been disturbed. In consequence of a ghastly discovery the grave was opened, and to the horror of the family it was found that the body of the lady had been taken up and the injured leg had been chopped off. Near the casket were discovered the disarticulated parts of the leg.

Found Dead in His Bed.

A stranger entered the New York and Brooklyn Bridge hotel, in Chatham street, gave his name as Malkey and was assigned a room. During the day the employees failed to arouse him and the door was forced. He was found dead in his room with the gas valves turned on, but, strange to say, the body was not disturbed in the room, though the window and door had been tightly closed. The belief prevails, however, that he was asphyxiated by the escaping gas. On his person were found \$50 notes and a double-edged razor with a large guard, and one key. Two cards were found on him; one was "William Mulcahey, 1435 Filbert street." The other was a business card of Browning's clothing store, at Ninth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia.

NEWS NOTES.

Condensed from the Morning Mail. Near Danham, Hunsdon county, N. J., Thomas G. Greenleaf, a young farmer, that place, died in great agony after taking some pills prescribed for a tape worm by a herb doctor, named Mrs. McKinney. Regular doctors pronounce it a case of vegetable poisoning. The doctor refuses to say whether his medicine was made of an insect which was made of an insect which was made of an insect.

THREE NOTED INVALIDS.

President Arthur, Senator Cameron and Secretary Folger on a Trip. Preparations have begun aboard the steamer Dispatch, now lying at the navy yard, for the reception of President Arthur and several guests on Wednesday for the proposed trip to Fortress Monroe, Virginia. Senator Don Cameron, having made rapid progress since the operation performed upon him several days ago, has been invited by the president to accompany him and will accept the invitation if his physician still insists upon his delay. Secretary Folger, too, will probably be one of the party, but will not stop at the fortress. He intends to keep on to Norfolk and there board a steamer bound for Bermuda, as his doctor thinks that a sea voyage will prove beneficial.

CRIME AND CALAMITY.

Recent Happenings of a Tragic Character. Herman Klion, a farmer, left a kettle of coal tar on the stove in his house and walked out. The tar boiled over and Mrs. Klion tried to remove it but dropped the kettle and the clothes of herself and child caught fire. Klion returned in time to drag out his wife and the child, but the flames. The child died that night, and Mrs. Klion, who has since given birth to a still born child, is not expected to recover.

ACQUITTAL IN THE DUKES CASE.

Popular Indignation Against the Jury. N. Y. Sun. If the question on trial in the Dukes case in Pennsylvania had been whether the defendant was an infamous blackguard or not, the popular indignation at a verdict of acquittal would be easily justified. The jury in this case was not asked to pass a judgment on that question as any jury. The case was proved by the defendant himself.

Another Surprise Party.

Mrs. Abraham Erisman of No. 555 South E. 17th street, was 67 years of age on Saturday, and in the evening a large number of friends surprised her by calling. The evening was pleasantly spent and there was the best of music both vocal and instrumental. The singing of Mr. and Mrs. Wood was especially fine. About 10 o'clock Mrs. Erisman was taken to a restaurant of handsome and valuable furniture.

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