

The Lancaster

Intelligencer.

VOLUME XXII—NO. 187.

A REMARKABLE CRIMINAL.

CHECKED CAREER OF A GERMAN CONVICT IN THIS COUNTRY.

Incorporated Originally in Germany for Robbing His Employer. He Comes to the United States and Is Convicted of Poisoning a Carlisle Woman.

Some weeks ago the New York *Neats* published an article denouncing a German woman as a bough, and stating that its promoter, who shot himself dead John G. P. Smith, was in reality Paul Schaepe, a man who is guilty of almost every crime in the statute books. Smith at once instituted a criminal libel suit against Editor Ottendorfer, and the first hearing was had before Judge Gorman on Tuesday. It did not last more than a few minutes, for in that time Smith's counsel withdrew from the case and he was exposed as one of the greatest and most daring scoundrels outside of prison walls.

Schaepe, a lousy working about town as a reporter for two years past. He is about 40 years old, and during the seventeen years he has lived in this country he has served terms in five different prisons. He was incarcerated in Germany for robbing his employer, the Count Von Blankenburg, of 90,000 thalers, and while in jail had the letters "P. S." branded on his back. He came to this country in 1859 and began practicing as a physician in Carlisle, Pa.

He was a matchmaker—a match lady over 70 years old, named Miss Steinbeck, who died a few weeks after he became acquainted with her. After she was buried he produced a will showing that she had bequeathed her property to him. This was a suspicious circumstance, so he disposed of it, and he was convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

He was sent to Germany throughout the state to aid him and got some money from New York as well as on the plea that he was being persecuted because he was a foreigner. His friends went so far as to get a special act of the legislature passed in order to give him a trial. This was secured and the jury disagreed.

On his release Schaepe went to Chicago, where he assumed the title of Count Von Schauburg. He forged several large drafts there, and, when caught, was sentenced to the penitentiary for life. He was paroled and soon got out on good behavior, however, after two years. Then he came East, and settled in Port Jervis, N. Y., where he began to study law. He went into politics and was elected to the same time. He was engaged at all conventions and became engaged to a daughter of a wealthy tanner named Gilman. The marriage would have taken place had it not been discovered that Smith had forged a special letter from his wife, which he had obtained from his lawyer. He was indicted for mail robbery and was sentenced to five years imprisonment. He was sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

Since then Schaepe, or, as he called himself, J. G. P. Smith, has lived in New York, doing what he could for different news papers. He was on the *Herald* for some months, and while there led that paper into printing a bogus interview with John Roach, the shipbuilder, which created a sensation. When Ferdinand Ward was taken to Sing Sing, Schaepe was detailed to go to New York to accompany him. He chatted with the reporters on the train, and took a seat in the carriage from the station to the prison.

When he tried to enter the keeper refused to allow him. "Why not?" he asked. "I am innocent, and have spent all my life in your yard, in here," was the keeper's reply.

Schaepe grew red in the face and ran out of the building. This was the last seen of him in the reporter's circles until he turned up as a German in a German cable news agency some months ago.

His career shows that he is one of the coolest and most persistent of criminals. He has no fear and is not afraid to meet any danger. His apparent innocence and candor disarm those who are not familiar with him. His lawyer advised him to quit the city at once, as Mr. Ottendorfer contemplated having him arrested for fraud, and he has probably taken to flight.

A Claim for 10,000 Acres.

Valentine Brobst was one of Reading's wealthiest citizens fifty years ago. He owned 10,000 acres in Schuylkill, Columbia and Northumberland counties, comprising land upon which the towns of Ashland, Mount Carmel and other smaller places now stand. About 5,000 acres were in the very heart of the anthracite coal region. He died in 1838 and, now, after half a century, comes the sequel. One of his daughters, an aged woman, recently died in Reading, leaving her entire estate to her son, Valentine Brobst, who is the effect that at her father's last illness she, then a young girl, at the instance of a neighbor who was somewhat interested in the estate, abstracted from her father's desk drawers, bonds, etc., amounting to his entire estate, and gave them to her. She received \$5,000 in cash. After Brobst's death these papers were all missing and could not be accounted for.

The allegations are that a bogus transfer of the land was made, and that the daughter, with the connivance of the son, defrauded the heirs under the will never having signed any papers of conveyance. The county records show that no clear title can be traced to the land, and that the grand-children of the dead man are living in Reading and vicinity. They have employed counsel and will push their claim to the property. Millions of dollars are at stake.

Why They Came to Lancaster.

From the West Chester News.
Here we go again. This time it is the Media *Advertiser* that says:

"The Chester County commissioners have been called upon to explain why they went to a Lancaster county bank to borrow \$10,000 when they could have procured the money from a home institution for 1 per cent. less. This would seem to be a pertinent question to the average taxpayer, who, we may say, that Mr. Beamer, the Democratic member of the board, justifies the action of that body in getting the money in Lancaster because they could not be accommodated by the West Chester or Chester county banks at terms less than one per cent. It might be urged that the commissioners, when they came to Lancaster county, they wouldn't have lost anything by negotiating the loan affluence, besides the transaction would have had a more domestic appearance about it."

Mr. Tilden's State of Health.

In some recent depositions with regard to his present health, Mr. Tilden said: I have an affection of the larynx, which impairs the elasticity of what are called the vocal chords so that they will not come together, and air passes through without their helping to form words, and so nothing more to a whisper. There is no soreness nor appearance of inflammation, but it makes me talk with great difficulty, and generally in a whisper excepting when I have a cold, under which the chords approach each other better."

The Tax On Drammers to Be Abolished.
The House committee on commerce has agreed to a favorable report on Representative James' bill to reduce the annual sales of goods and merchandise. The bill is agreed upon, reads as follows: "The residents of each state and territory and within the District of Columbia, shall, from dealers or merchants ordering goods and merchandise, for example, catalogues, lists, descriptions or other representation without payment of any license or mercantile tax."

Will Open Another Branch Store.

Frank S. Eagley and Mr. E. M. Sheets, of this city, will open a candy and confectionery store at 16 North George street, York.

PROMINENT MEN'S SUICIDE.

Dennis G. Wilcox, Millionaire Manufacturer and Broker, and the Earl of Shaftesbury.

Dennis Wilcox, the millionaire manufacturer and broker, shot himself dead Tuesday morning at his residence, 3 West Fifteenth street, New York. It is believed that before he went into Wall street in 1882 he had a fortune of \$2,000,000. His first blow was received in the big wheat deal which resulted so disastrously for James L. Keene. He was at all times an uncompromising bullion wheat and the decline in May wheat of nearly fifteen cents a bushel during the month of March was the final blow. On one occasion he bought 2,000,000 bushels within a few hours, and sold them during three days, a loss, or a loss of \$60,000. It is stated that at the time of the great Wall street fizzle Mr. Wilcox lost \$500,000. His losses in the produce exchange are set down at \$1,000,000.

The Earl of Shaftesbury died himself Tuesday afternoon, while riding in a cab through Regent street, London. He fired the first shot at his right temple, but missed his aim. The cabman descended from his seat and refused to proceed, but he forced his way through. Lord Shaftesbury tried to persuade him to continue the drive and offered him a £5 note, but the cabman was immovable. A constable who had heard the shot fired approached the cab just as the moment when the shafts of Shaftesbury were in the temple. The constable had tried to seize his arm but failed. Lord Shaftesbury was driven in haste to a hospital. He did not speak after the shooting and became insensible during the night. The hospital authorities were in the minutes after his arrival. The earl was within about two months of being fifty-two years of age. He was the eighth earl, succeeding on October 1, 1885, to the title on the death of his father, the noted Earl of Derby. He left a widow, Lady Mary, daughter of the third Marquess of Donegal, one son and five daughters. Earl Shaftesbury had latterly been unwell and had complained of mental depression.

Coming Over to Lecture.

Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace, the celebrated English naturalist, who shares with Darwin the honor of an independent discovery of the law of "the survival of the fittest," is coming to the United States on the invitation of Mr. Augustus Lowell, of Boston, to deliver a course of eight lectures before the Lowell Institute, in that city, beginning in October.

It will be remembered that it was on a similar invitation (from Mr. Lowell's father) that Professor Agassiz first came to America, in the autumn of 1846. The scientific school of Harvard college was founded by Mr. Abbot Lawrence the next year, when Agassiz accepted its professorship of zoology and made our country his permanent home.

Mr. Wallace will lecture in other cities under the management of the William lecture bureau, of Boston, and propose to return to England in the spring of 1887. His subjects will be chosen from the history in which the character of his wife as a writer are well known to all scientific students. A private letter from Edinburgh, where he has recently delivered before the Philosophical Society on "The Performance of Oceans" and "The Origin, Nature and Teaching of Life," which doubtless will be enlarged and repeated here, speaks of "the clearness of his style," as a lecturer as well as writer, of "the distinctness of his views" and of his ability to "hold his audience."

Ed. Sixsmith signed with Washington yesterday.

In his first game with the Rochester, in Baltimore, Frank Parker had one hit, two put outs and no errors.

The New York league defeated the Bridgeports, of New Haven, by the score of 3 to 1. The fifth club in succession

Ed. Sixsmith is playing on the Bridgeport club.

The Ironsides club have engaged the following players: Zecher, short stop; Gould, center field; Hains, right field; Wilson, left field; Hollins and Gibson, catchers; Hulley, pitcher, and Van Nostrand, fielder. Stevens, of the Lancaster club of 1884, will likely be secured for second base. Of the other players, too many to name, are leaders here. The last named will be given a trial at third base. The other players are all well known here, with the exception of Van Nostrand. He bats from Davy and is considered safe for him, when he does.

The cause of temperance.

Following is the full text of the declaration of presbytery on the temperance question:

To a body of Christian ministers the Bible is the highest authority. According to this authority strong drink leads to poverty, to sickness and death, and excessive use excludes from heaven. "No drunkard shall enter the kingdom of heaven."

To engage in the traffic in strong drink gives the grievous displeasure of the Almighty: "whoever drinks him that giveth him to drink will make him drunken also." The cause of temperance is therefore the cause of God.

The body of Presbyterians ministers the interests of their church, and the cause of temperance is the highest authority. Our general assembly has declared for the utter extermination of the traffic in intoxicating liquors."

It has stigmatized the saloon as "the sworn enemy of all that is best and pure in civilization." It has declared that the entire abolition of all intemperance abstain from intoxicating drinks as the only sure protection against drunkenness; and vigorous and untiring effort in arresting the progress of this tremendous evil, and in totally suppressing the traffic in intoxicating liquors."

We therefore, bearing these facts in mind, and realizing that intemperance is a vital evil in our nation, the prolific mother of a vast progeny of crimes, the abode of sorrow, a dismal swamp, where virtue, honor, modesty, and all that is right and beautiful, flourish not; and that the liquor traffic is an enemy of mankind, a despoiler of homes, a plunderer of the public, a despot to the government, as antagonistic to the church as satan—is strongly of the devil: as incompatible with honest labor, as the serpent was with the tree of knowledge of good and evil; as repugnant to the true spirit of Christianity as cannibalism—supporting itself on bread bought with blood; a mill that grinds to death annually 100,000 men, body and soul.

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The deposits, however, amounted to \$3,000 Harris was formerly a merchant, is 33 years of age, married, and has three children. His standing was high in social and religious circles, as for many years he was a trustee of the Methodist Sunday school. The bank received \$500 cash from the Tradesmen's National bank, of New York, to meet any sum that might be made.

The Custody of a Boy.

The Court Awards Him to the Man Given Charge on a Death-Bed.

Judge Livingston this morning heard the application of 1. Newton Bitzer, who petitioned for the custody of a boy who was living in the family of Henry Koehler, living near Heller's church. The following interesting story was developed by the testimony. Oscar Plummer deserted his family sometime ago. His wife was sick at the time and he did not care for her, so requested Mr. Bitzer to take her after her three children. Thus they agreed to do. During the illness of Mrs. Bitzer, one of the children, a boy ten years old, was given temporarily to a man named Weaver, and the boy remained with him until his mother recovered. Mr. Bitzer then agreed to do a week's work for Weaver, who had indentured the boy to Henry Koehler. Mr. Koehler had advanced the boy to Mr. Bitzer, and the latter employed D. McMullen, esq., to take out a writ of habeas corpus. The court directed the boy to be given to Mr. Bitzer.

Fraud on the Customs.

A Boston Dry Goods Firm Attracts to a Swindle and Fights the Bill.

BOSTON, Mass., April 14.—A Montreal special to the *Herald* says: "The customs authorities have discovered that the long established wholesale dry goods firm of McLaughlin Bros. & Co., has been systematically defrauding the revenue by making false entries of goods received from England in the custom house. The aggregate amount which the firm has had to pay to the department for their infractions of the tariff law including fine is \$36,000. The head of the firm, Mr. McLachlan, repudiates any knowledge of the frauds, as he has been unable for the past five years to attend to business from illness. He has dissolved partnership with his brother, who has admitted his personal liability for the frauds, and has paid out of his own pocket the whole amount claimed by the custom department.

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