

A BUNGLING EXECUTION.

The Hangman Loses His Nerve, Causing a Fearful Scene.

Groans and Contortions of the Dangling Victim.

Joseph M. Hillman, convicted of the murder of Herman Siedeman, a Hebrew pedler, has been executed in a corridor of the Gloucester County Jail at Woodbury, N. J. James Vanhise, the professional hangman of Newark, furnished the gallows and conducted the hanging. Sheriff Ridgway merely pulling the rope which operated the fatal drop.

The gallows was of the sort which requires no scaffold, but by weights and a rope running over pulleys jerks the criminal upward and lets him drop the length of the slack. This was the thirty-sixth execution of the kind performed by Vanhise, but notwithstanding his experience the execution was badly managed and caused a sickening scene in the jail.

The extraordinary nerve displayed by young Hillman during the trial in court did not forsake him in the closing ordeal. He slept well during the night and in the morning ate his breakfast with relish. During the morning hours he was visited by Rev. W. Nobles and Rev. George Carter, the two ministers who acted as his spiritual advisers since he was sentenced; his cousin, Messrs. Harris and Seccombe, and by his father and brother Ephraim, the latter remaining to witness the execution.

In bidding his father farewell Joe broke down and wept freely, but soon recovered his composure. To the ministers and his counsel he adhered to the statement he has repeated often, that he did not do the killing, alone, but was assisted by another man. To that alleged accomplice he has at different times given different names. He expressed himself as not only fearless of death, but entirely willing to die, as he was sure he had been forgiven.

The persons designated under the law to witness the execution, about twenty-five in number, assembled in the jail corridor at 10:25 A. M. Hillman was led from his cell at the further end from the gallows, his arms pinioned, the black cap placed on his head, and the noose with a steel piece, which he held in his mouth, fastened to the neck of the gallows, and the two ministers, he walked with firm step to the gallows, and the end of the rope on his neck was attached to the rope hanging from the upper beam. The ministers, Messrs. Harris and Seccombe, and by his father and brother Ephraim, the latter remaining to witness the execution.

Speaking in a voice loud and distinct, Hillman said: "Dear friends, I am about going to heaven. All I have got to do is, to say to my wife had nothing to do with it. I am the only Hillman that touched him. I have forgiven you all, and I hope you have forgiven me, and some day I hope to meet you all in heaven."

The cap was drawn down over the face. Vanhise adjusted the noose, Joe saying as he slipped it up: "Don't draw it so tight," and Sheriff Ridgway pulled the rope. The body shot upward to the top of the gallows, about fourteen feet high, dropped until the feet nearly touched the floor, fetching up with a sharp rebound, and then hung for a few seconds entirely motionless.

Then the arms and legs began to twitch, the hands were raised as high as the strap fastening the arms would allow, and heart-rending moans, some of them almost similar to articulate utterances, escaped from the wretched man.

The noose had loosened instead of tightening, and the knot having slipped from the side to the front of the head, there was no pressure on the front of the throat. The executioner seized the rope to readjust the noose, two officers lifting the body to aid in doing so. The knot was slipped down again held in place, and as the weight of the body again rested in the noose the throttled man's hand that had clutched the hangman's coat relaxed, and all the struggles ceased.

The scene was too painful for many of the spectators, who turned their faces away from the sickening sight, and some of them left the jail as hurriedly as possible. "Horrible!" "Outrageous!" "Brutal!" were words heard on every hand. In eight minutes from the drop the pulse ceased to beat. Six minutes later pulsation at the heart stopped, and the man was pronounced to be dead at five minutes to eleven.

Vanhise's explanation of the unsuccessful execution was that he became unwell when Hillman asked him not to make the noose tight, and yielded too much to the request.

W. S. GILBERT is enraged over a decision of two English Judges which permits the manager of a music hall to introduce in his place verses from his "Les Brigands."

"THE PRINCE AND PAUPER," the new play which has been written for little Elsie Leslie, is to be produced at the Park Theatre in Philadelphia during Christmas week.

"THE CANDIDATE," which Justice McCarthy wrote, and which was played in New York city for the first time by Mr. Wyndham and his Criterion Theatre Company the other night, is a very witty and amusing performance.

A CATHOLIC CONGRESS.

Celebrating the Centennial of Catholicism in the United States.

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The Catholic Centennial Congress began its sessions a few days ago in Baltimore. The delegates, to the number of 1200, assisted at a solemn Pontifical mass in the morning, celebrated by Archbishop Corrigan, of New York. The sermon was preached by Archbishop Gross, of Oregon. He welcomed the Congress, gave a brief outline of the history of the Church in America for the past 100 years. At the conclusion of the sermon the delegates marched to the Concordia Opera House.

Mr. Onahan was called to order by William J. Onahan, of Chicago. Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul, prayed that the light of the Holy Spirit might be shed upon the deliberations of the Congress. Mr. Onahan read the following message, with the whose name was greeted with tumultuous applause:

"Having made known to the Holy Father the expressions of devotion conveyed to him on the part of the Catholic Congress to be held in Baltimore, his Holiness graciously bids me to say that he most affectionately imparts his blessing to all the members."

Ex-Governor John Lee Carroll, of Maryland, was elected Temporary Chairman, and six Secretaries were appointed. A long list of Ex-Presidents from each State was also read.

In taking the chair ex-Governor Carroll said that in Maryland the American Church was practically founded, and it was proper that the Congress should meet upon this hallowed ground and renew their allegiance to the doctrines they profess, and show to their fellow-countrymen the true relations between the Church and this Government.

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THE NEXT CENSUS.

The Superintendent's Report of the Preliminary Operations.

Important New Features That Have Been Projected.

The report of Robert P. Porter, Superintendent of the Eleventh Census, to the Secretary of the Interior, concerning the operations of the census office since June 1, 1889, which has just been made, explains in detail the vast amount of work that has already been done, preliminary to the active field work that will begin next year. For the purpose of the enumeration of population, the division of the country into supervisory districts has been made, and the result published in Census Bulletin No. 1. The work preliminary to the enumeration is well in hand, and a considerable amount of it is already done.

The population of the country is now being more completely than ever before. Owing to improvements in the records of some of the States, and to the active co-operation of 80,000 physicians, quackdoctors and osteopaths. The classification of occupations will be more complete than ever before. Owing to improvements in the records of some of the States, and to the active co-operation of 80,000 physicians, quackdoctors and osteopaths.

Among the important new features of this work is a special study of the birth and death rates, and of the principal causes of death in every county, city, town and incorporated village in the country at the end of each fiscal year since 1880, with a full analysis of receipts, expenses and assets.

The clause in the law relating to recorded instruments and operating entirely new field of inquiry and a problem as to methods without precedent in census work. The report goes on to say: "The manifest and manifold difficulties in arriving at the debt represented by the apparent records of the country, are, at first thought, almost insurmountable. Further, the cost of such an investigation, if pursued by the direct method of visiting to whom the records would doubtless be greatly in excess of any sum contemplated by Congress in making its appropriations. Under these circumstances, some preliminary and local inquiries have been instituted in the States of Illinois, Iowa, New York and Massachusetts, and within a short time the results of the investigation will be given to the public in a census bulletin."

The statistics of agriculture, it is expected, will be more complete than ever before. The information to be secured in relation to irrigation, dairy and poultry products, ranch cattle, and the number of animals other than those on farms. The preliminary work in the division of manufactures indicates that their statistics will be more complete and accurate than the country has ever had before. The field work methods of the tenth census will be improved upon, and all the schedules of that census, in this division, have been revised. The information to be obtained about the business of railroad, telegraph, telephone and express companies, and of water-ways, will be of the highest interest. The Superintendent suggests that it may be necessary to ask for additional legislation early in the course of the year to be empowered to secure such information.

THE SERBIAN Government has arranged with the Vienna Landerbank for a loan of \$5,000,000.

THE ST. LOUIS World's Fair Finance Committee claims to have pledged subscriptions to the amount of \$4,000,000.

THE most interesting exhibition in Europe next year will be the loan exhibition of tapestry at the Austrian Museum.

IN Germany the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Protestant religion among the German speaking peoples has been celebrated.

A COMPANY has been formed in London for the purpose of carrying live stock, dressed and in hogs direct from Galveston, Texas, to London.

THE Canadian fishing season has ended, and before another opens the modus vivendi between Canada and the United States will have expired.

THREE new ironclads will, as soon as possible, be in Italy's fleet of 14,000 tons and all are to be made in Italy.

By the death of a brother in Providence, R. I., Augustine Steers, an inmate of the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea, Mass., has fallen heir to \$338,000 in cash and real estate.

IT is stated that at least a dozen persons were killed in the Eiffel tower elevator since the opening of the Exposition, but that the managers suppressed the accounts of several deaths.

ARMY DESERTERS.

The Annual Report of Major-General Schofield.

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The annual report of Major-General Schofield, commanding the army, to the Secretary of War, has been made public. He pays special attention to the desertion question. He says: "The causes of desertion which lead to desertion from the army are numerous. They have been sought diligently for years, and many of them have been removed. Some of them are probably beyond the reach of any remedy. One of these is the naturally discontented disposition of the men who are led by that feeling alone to seek change from the monotony of bread winning in any civil pursuit, by entering the supposedly less arduous service of the United States. When such men find that soldiers, no less than civilians, must work, their feeling of discontent returns and they resort to the only means which they can make another change. These men rarely desert when engaged in an active campaign, however great the hardships and privation or severe the discipline may be. It is the ordinary laborer who is more likely to desert, and in addition to the information called for by the tenth census schedule, will ascertain what language is spoken by every person ten years of age and upward; how long adult males of foreign birth have been in the United States, and whether they are naturalized; how many children each married woman has had, and how many of such children are living, and the classification by race will include military, quackdoctors and osteopaths. The classification of occupations will be more complete than ever before. Owing to improvements in the records of some of the States, and to the active co-operation of 80,000 physicians, quackdoctors and osteopaths. The classification of occupations will be more complete than ever before. Owing to improvements in the records of some of the States, and to the active co-operation of 80,000 physicians, quackdoctors and osteopaths.

FOUR MINERS BURNED.

Their Comrades Make Heroic Efforts to Save Them.

A frightful accident occurred at Middle Creek colliery, Penn., which four men were fatally injured. A blast fired in a breast cut and ignited a "leader" and this fired a large quantity of loose coal and threatened the destruction of the mine. A force of fifteen men was put at work to extinguish the flames and while they were at work a man fell, burying four of their number at the face of the burning breast. The remaining seven went heroically to work to rescue the bodies of their comrades, which were now threatened to be consumed by the hot and falling coals. The men, however, were overcome by gas, they continued at work until reinforcements went to them and finally reached the poor fellows, who were buried beneath the coal. To their astonishment they found that all alive, but so badly burned and injured that they could not recover. The names of the victims are Francis Klein, John Jones, Henry Kneuber and Thomas Jones.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

GEORGE HANCOCK is the oldest living graduate of Harvard.

JOHN C. CALHOUN, of Portugal, is anxious to modernize his country.

BISMARCK has attended but two operatic performances in twenty-four years.

HENRY FIELDING DICKENS, third son of the novelist, is a very successful lawyer in England.

ROSA BOSNER, the famous artist, says that she painted her best pictures since she was fifty.

JOHN G. WHITFIELD says he expects to live to see the age of 105 years, though he is not anxious to do so.

SECRETARY PROCTOR, since taking up his residence in Washington, has earned the title of "The Silent Man."

MR. GILBERT has written a paper on "The Indefatigable Rock of Holy Scripture," to be published next year.

EX-UNITED STATES TREASURER SPINKER is engaged upon a book on American finance. He is eighty-eight years old.

MISS LINCOLN, daughter of Minister to England Robert Lincoln, has become the acknowledged belle in London.

GENERAL JOHN JOHNSTON is President of the Atsee Club, a society composed of officers who were in the Mexican War.

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

SOAKING GRAIN FOR HOGS.

A floating item declares that the most careful experiments which have been made show pretty plainly that cooking grain feed for hogs is not only unprofitable, but an absolute waste. On the other hand, the same experiments show that soaking the grain is an advantage. In these experiments the grain was all ground, and was in all cases fed before it soured. Sour slops are not good for hogs, and a great waste of the most nutritious qualities occurs in the process of souring.—Weekly Witness.

SECOND BLOSSOMING OF TREES.

Fruit trees that have had a portion of their leaves destroyed sometimes start in the fall the leaves that should appear the following spring, and with them the blossoms of fruit buds have formed. Cherry trees too roughly handled when cherries were picked are the most frequent examples of this second blossoming freak, though sometimes branches of apple, pear and plum are affected in this way. The branches that thus blossom prematurely do not bear the following season. It is not good for the tree to have its regular habits thus disarranged. Sometimes green shoots put forth with the blossoms, and are killed by the cold of winter, and this more or less injures the vitality of the tree.—American Cultivator.

DELICATE DAIRYING.

No matter how pure the dairy is kept, or how carefully the milk is strained, to secure absolute cleanliness it is necessary to strain the cream. Use a large square of linen cheese-cloth. It will catch the hair from the cow, or the tiny speck which occasionally gets in the milk while set cooling. Straining the cream makes it smooth, and seems to facilitate churning. If the churn is a kind which cannot be set in ice-water, and it is necessary to use ice to change the temperature, tie the ice in a thin piece of cloth before putting it into the churn. This will keep the grains of sand or other impurity frozen in the ice from getting in the butter. Having thus secured clean, firm butter, work it well, adding a little sugar to the salt, and then pack in new stone jars and deposit in the cold-storage rooms where ice is manufactured, until such time as needed for home consumption, or when there is a market demand at good price. Always make brine, when possible, of distilled water. If there is no ice manufactured near, where the price for storage is a mere trifle, the next best plan is to dig holes, deeper than the butter-jars, in one corner of a cool, clean cellar, and bury the butter until cold weather or such time as the butter is needed.

DRAINAGE IN THE FALL.

It is not good economy to allow water to stand upon growing crops, meadows, orchards or land intended for spring crops. This is rather worse in what may be termed the winter months than in the summer. And trees or plants in the orchard or small fruit plot are seriously injured if not killed outright by carelessness in allowing water to stand around them during the winter, often freezing up and forming a coat of ice over the soil and roots. Grass both in the pastures and meadows is often entirely killed out by a failure to provide sufficient drainage to get rid of the surplus water.

With the cultivated fields it is nearly always an item to get the greater portion of them properly fitted for the soil as early in the spring as the soil can be worked into a good condition.

Fall plowing is one valuable assistant in this work, yet it is impossible to fully derive all the benefits of fall plowing unless good drainage is provided. With the surface water out of the way fall plowed land will dry out and work up much earlier than if this is neglected, so that if earliness is an item with the crops care should be taken to see that it is provided.

The work should be done in the fall before the ground freezes. In planning the work care should be taken to avoid washing as much as possible. There is, of course, a considerable difference in land in this respect, as some is much more easily damaged than others. When the land is broken and is easily washed the furrows or ditches should be sufficiently winding to allow a gradual descent. On more level, where there is less danger of washing, straighter furrows can be made. The character of the soil and the way it lays should determine the way the furrows are run out. In the majority of cases a good plow and a team will make the ditches large and deep enough for all practical purposes. The better plan is to look carefully over the ground and determine where the furrows can be run out to the best advantage and then run them out. A little time spent in a careful survey of the field will not only lessen the work but secure better results. Securing good outlets is necessary so that the water can flow off easily, and the furrows should be made clean so that they will not be easily obstructed. By doing the work in the fall, whether the land is plowed or not, will be found quite an advantage in the spring so far as the work if concerned, but the damage to land will also be avoided. Moisture is an essential item in plant growth, but an excess of moisture is as detrimental both to the soil and the crops as a deficiency, while with a little care at the proper time a good share of the damage can be avoided if good drainage is given.—Nebraska Farmer.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Spent tan bark is an excellent mulch for fall set cuttings of currants, grapes, etc.

Burn at once all piles of brush, weeds and other stuff which afford a harbor for insects.

Poultry growing on the farm is as a rule more profitable than when it is made a specialty.

It is suggested that cold stables may be cheaply made warmer by lining them with building paper.

Let the white clover come in. It thickens the bottom grass and is good food for most animals.

first with straw or hay, then with earth, till secured against freezing—that is, too much or hard freezing.

We ourselves, however, practice a simpler method still, and which we find answers well. Take the cabbages up, roots and all, and pile them just anywhere on the ground without any excavation where they grew, and where water does not stand; pack them closely together, tops turned down on the ground or even slightly upon one another so to that matter, the roots standing above, and if desired, extend in long narrow rows or put into broad beds, then a light covering of straw, where it is preferred, may be put on—we, however, dispense with it—but cover with the clean, fresh earth that lies at hand, and our cabbages come from this dirt covering firm, crisp and bleached white and tender as celery. Of course it must be understood that in all these out of door storing the cabbages are to be taken up by the roots and the leaves, except decayed ones, left on.

Celery may be similarly treated. For family use a very good way to store them is to stow the roots compactly in deep, narrow trenches on rising ground in the garden. Make the trench the width of the spade and deep enough to nearly take in the entire plants, roots and all, the tops remaining just above the surface. Take up the plants, leaving some earth adhering to the roots, and put them closely together in the trench. Slope the earth from the edges of the trench so that the water will flow from it. A temporary covering of boards should be placed over the trench to keep out rain and snow. And as the severity of winter approaches cover over the roof well with straw. So stored, it is an easy matter to open at either end of the trench and take out a supply and again replace the cover. Or, if it is preferred, celery may be kept in deep, narrow boxes, the plants put into them firmly, as directed for the trench, and the boxes stored in the cellar. In putting away in this manner keep considerable soil about the roots that the plants may commence growing, and then blanching takes place. On the other hand, if there be not enough soil about the roots to promote growth, there will follow a gradual withering of the stalks, and no blanching which is so essential.

Beets, carrots and turnips can be safely kept in cellars or in mounds in the open air, as they can be so well covered with straw and earth that frost cannot reach them, and if it should it would thaw out gradually with but little, if any injury.

Dig the roots carefully and cleanse them, and let them dry in the shade, throwing out all imperfect or decayed roots when storing. We find that they keep very well piled up in cone shaped mounds, without sand or dirt used between layers; then cover with dry straw, then with earth till secured against freezing. Then over all put a shelter of boards. Even where there are cellars for storing such products it is in some respects better to pile them out doors and cover with fresh earth; it prevents wilting and keeps them plump and fresh. Indeed, all roots and tubers preserve their natural taste and freshness much better if covered with earth than if exposed to a drying atmosphere.

As to storing apples, we put boxes—common goods boxes will do—of one size into others of a little larger size, filling the space between them with dry dirt, or anything that will serve to keep out frost. Then sort the apples well, handling carefully, and put them into the inner boxes, which we line with old papers, if new pine boxes, to prevent tainting the apples with a piney odor, then cover with anything that will serve to keep the apples from freezing. We find, however, fewer decayed apples in our bins when we go to the additional trouble of setting up in the middle of the boxes a frame of slats nailed together, by which the apples are ventilated and better preserved. The methods here pointed out are simple and convenient, and are adapted to the wants of most families where more expensive arrangements are inexpedient or not necessary.—American Rural Home.

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If meadows are to be top dressed with manure there is no other time so favorable as late autumn and early winter.

All the rules for feeding cows and caring for them are profitless, except as they are accompanied in practice by kind treatment.

Season the feed of chickens and all other fowls with salt. It is a preventive of disease and is good for the entire animal creation.

A stiff brush in the stable, judiciously used on farm horses, is a good deal better than a horse doctor, and not so costly or uncertain.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

The Annual Report of the General Superintendent.

Lowrie Bell, the General Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, has submitted his report of the operations of his bureau for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1890.

The report shows that during the year postal clerks were employed in the distribution of the mails on 138,110 miles, service on the remaining 1,797 miles having been performed by means of closed pouches, which were, while in transit, in the custody of the railway employes.

Upon the subject of city delivery Mr. Bell says: "The importance of effecting an early morning delivery of mails arriving at the great commercial centres has become so apparent that much attention has been given to the perfecting and enlargement of the arrangements and schemes. By extending the system of preparation, it has been made possible to send out by the first carriers a vast amount of mail, which, by the usual process of assorting at the postoffice, could not be delivered before noon, or during the afternoon. It is believed this system can be much enlarged upon with great advantage to the public."

DISASTER IN MONTANA.

Six Men Killed and Two Blinded by an Explosion.

An accident resulting in the loss of six lives and the blinding of two men was caused by carelessness on the construction branch of the Northern Pacific, fifteen miles east of Butte, Mont. The men were at work blasting rock in a cut. They had fired a blast of giant powder that failed to explode, and as it was the hour for quitting work for the day and the men were anxious to complete the blast before leaving off a quantity of black powder was poured into the aperture. Instantly a terrific explosion followed with the results stated. An inquest resulted in a verdict of accidental death, the victims themselves being held responsible.