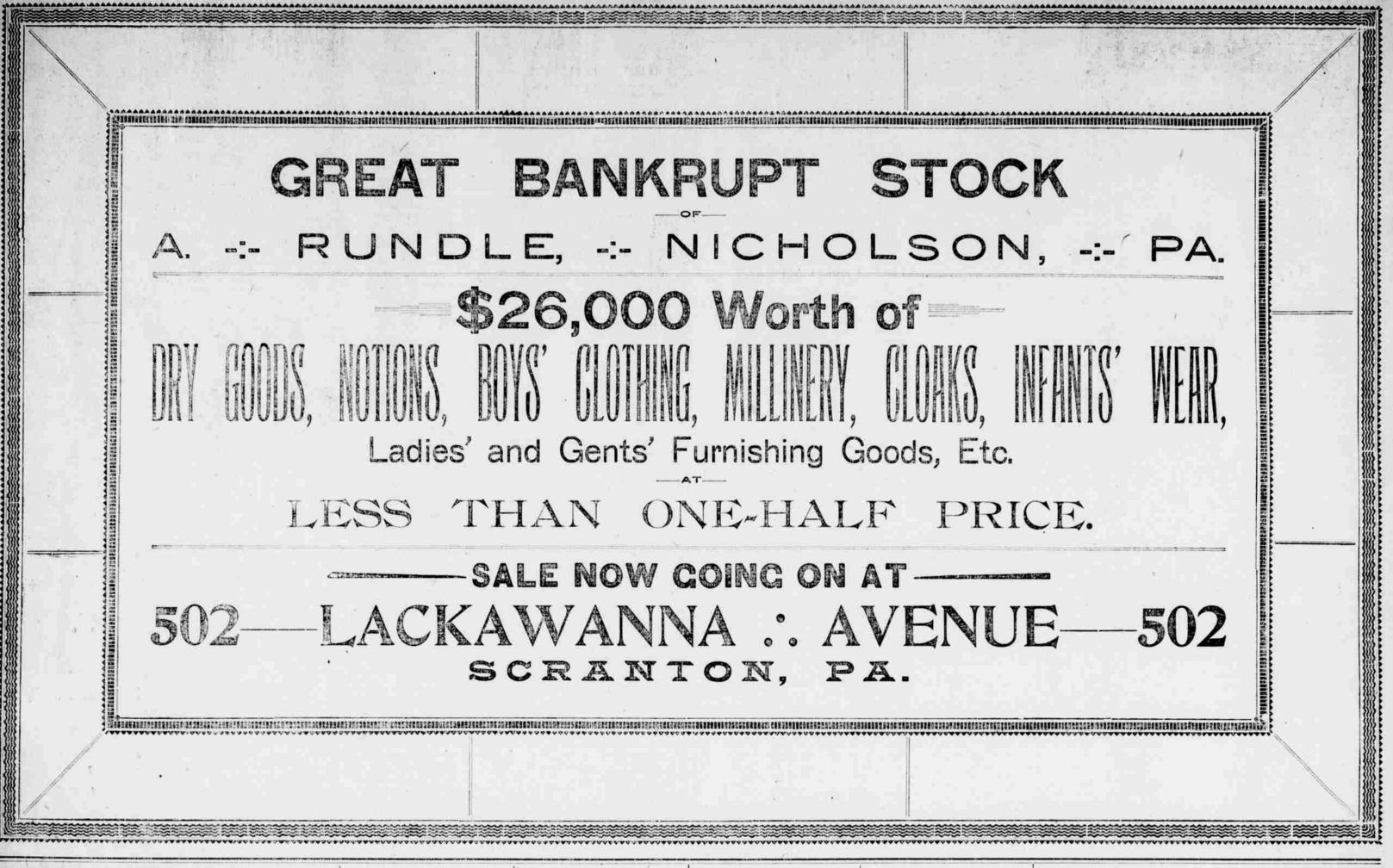
THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE---THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1895.



and steal it,' 'raid Preble, calmly. He had confided in his partner partly he was all right, till, all of a sudder "Very well. What's it worth?" Wery well. What's it worth?" through friendship, but chiefly, as he I tumbled. I saw what he was up to. "Whatever you think is right, Mr. had confessed, because he had feared It was good-bye with him, and he was one other rascal in the case so farexcept myself."

reble

Fraudulent Claim. By HOWARD FIELDING.

. . . 106 . . .

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The exceptional contract etween Mr. ("What did the company's doctor Horace Preble and the Detective bu- say?"

reau of the New York police allowed "He suspected polson, but the rateal that young man a month in every year was so infernally clever as to leave no when his time was absolutely his own. trace of his work. I tell you that a He was then at liberty to rest from all grain of acould distributed through a labor, or to use his talents for his per- man's system is mighty hard to find.' "It you know that he used neor sonal advantage. This blessed period had arrived, and Preble had begun to Itla-

"We don't; but that poinon would taste anew the joys of idleness, when he received a summons promising so have produced the results. We shall alrich a financial reward that he could leve its use when the case comes to trial." not afford to disregard it. "But you don't dars to go into

Vice President Hersch, of the Eurocourt on the medical testimony alone," pean and North American Life Assurand Proble. "Is that It?" ance society, was the man who desired Preble's services. He did not state the "That's it exactly." "Wint else have you." "We believe that he informal his case in his note, but he intimated that the society would not haggle about

the question of remuneration. It will be remembered, perhaps, that Preble was in the detective business for induced to testify."

money. He hated it from the bottom to a business associate." of his boots, and, as an abstract proposition, he would have declared death

to be preferable. But he had a false many pride which would not permit him to could be presented to the jury. e driven to the wall in the battle of

life, and the objectionable means of livelihood had come to him when his mack was very close to that wall. He had as little appetite for the investigation of an insurance fraud as any man alive, but he could be hired to do it. Men have written immortal verse for the same lofty motive.

Preble called upon Vice President Hersch immediately upon receipt of his note. The official received him cordially, in a cozy office in the society's blg building on lower Broadway. There was a cheerful grate fire in the office and the two men drew their chairs before it, and proceeded to business.

"This is the case of a fraudulent claim," said Mr. Hersch. "Mrs. Albert Monell"-he referred to some papers-"has given the usual legal notice of her demand for \$25,000, the amount of her husband's policies in this company. "Well," said Preble, "isn't he dead?" "Oh, yes; he's dead fast enough."

'Did the woman murder him?" "No. indeed."

"Then, what's the matter?" "Why, the man committed sulcide."

"How do you know?" "Now, that's business," said Hersch, rubbing his hands. "That's the ques-

tion I could have expected from you, Preble. How do I know? Well, witnesses."

The fact is, I don't know? I only sus-pect. It is because I want to know. that I call upon you." "It seems to me that I remember "The dat his club, didn't he? Doctor aid heart disease, I believe?" "Who is this rascal?" he asked.

"Yes; that was the ostensible cause."

"Go on. What's his name and adchair back from the fire. Iress? "John M. Lawrence. His office is in a railroad signal was one of them, I mortal doubt what's in it." "That's a good deal of money-

They were on the verge of failure." \$12,500." "Good afternoon." "So I inferred from Monell's sui-"Hold on, Mr. Preble; suppose w ay ten thousand?" "That's a point for the jury, cer-

"Good af----"Oh, very well! Just as you say," Proble looked into the fire for a mo "Put it in writing."

nent. He was wondering what sort f woman Mrs. Monell was, and what It was done with great reluctance hance she would stand in the strug- on the part of Hersch, who took the gle for existence when so strong a precaution to laboriously drum the tan as himself had so nearly failed. contract out on his typewriter and "How did you find out that Lawsign it in a disguised hand. Preble

ready sent to the house. But never

rence was willing to-to make a lit-tle money in this way?" pocketed the document. "That's all right," he said. "Not tell me how many detectives you've al-

"I don't know that certainly, but it appens that the agent who got Monell into our company was an init- mind; your whole staff has failed, or nate friend of both of them. He was you'd never have offered any such with them on the evening when, as the money as this. I'll go up there, and agent thinks, Morrell told his partner on the way I'll call on Lawrence,"

lieve. There was no money in it.

viat he was going to do. Of course, or agent did not hear the disclosure, then left the room. John M. Lawrence, who was born in but something, was said before he left them which stuck in his mind and ex. '69, and has grown over 40 years old eited his suspicion afterward. So he since that date, was sitting in his of-went to Lawrence and tried to get some. fice reading. The subject of his perus-

thing out of him, Lawrence would only at was a notification from his bank hint at what he knew."

dollars would fall due in the very near "Why didn't you have him down futuer. If he was wondering why "I prefer not to do that. It might when it had been possible to borrow so 10767

partner in business that he was going to do this, and that the man can be him somebody not connected with us

"Extraordinary confession to make "They had been intimate friends for at headquarters that I couldn't make "That any mistake in doing so."

olde.

tainly.

years," said Hersch. "I'm a thoroughly bonest man," said "I'm a thoroughly bonest man," said Proble, "That's way I think so well of find out whether you'll go on the stand "The jury," said Preble, "would want something to back it. Even a juryman this particular job."

Hersch eyed him askance, but the would know that a fellow who would expression of the detective's face re-

chair.

ruk

ssured him. "It seems to me," Proble said, after a pause, "that your case is weak. Unless you have something better than this you'll lose it." "There is something better, if we can

night at the club Monel wrote a long when he could transact that kind of letter to his wife."

"You're an impudent rascal."

city at the time? I see. A man, except on special occasions, doesn't note, or do you want it to go to prowrite long letters to his wife from the test?" Lawrence put the wrong end of a lub. He goes there to forget her, as a fresh cigar into his mouth and tried to light the other. Naturally there

"If that letter could be found-" "Are you sure he wrote it?" was no draught. "We know that he wrote a long letter, and a servant at the house where ing himself suddenly, he exclaimed: the Monells lived says that she took t from a boy. But we can't find the much time, I'll swear. Show me your

credentials," Preble folded his contract backward and showed Lawrence Hersch's name on the end of it. Of course that amounted to the same thing, but Lawrence was not in a mood to be too par-

Then there was a fencing match, in letter. Women always preserve danger-ous documents. And in this case it con-tained her husband's last words to her. Which point after point was scored by Preble. Twenty minutes later he had hought his man for \$1,200, and had learned all he had to tell. Albert Monell had committed suicide

ild suspect, and it giving The detective rose and kicked his was better he should be under a pledge member him by. From that time on the back from the fire. The nature of that pledge, Lawrence was rattled. I expected every second "Half what I save your company," did not disclose, but Preble noticed that to see something happen, the Storrow building. They were be said. "Without the letter you've no be shuddered when the conversation couldn't have told you whether I was working two or three patented devices. With it you win, for there's no drifted near it. The disclosure had been made at the first thing I knew for certain, his eye use when the insurance agent had sup-used it to have occurred. Monell had thing about friendship. It was a toast. ointed out that his affairs had reached I raised the glass to my lips, but my are brink of ruin; that he was utterly hand shook so that I choked myself orn out; that he had neither the with the wine. I coughed and turned trength to begin the struggles anew away. Then there was a crash and a for the heart to drag his wife down to the dull misery of squalor.

"He loved the woman," said Law- others round him. They said that he uce, "and by the eternal heavens, fell dead in an instant, and that he te's worth it. did not breathe after he touched the "Let us stick to business," rejoined floor."

"And that's all you know about it Thus admonished, Lawrence related said Preble.

stand.'

on your agreement?

noment. Then he said:

Grossman's back room?" (To Be Concluded.)

demanded, "and now you're going back

strengthen that story on the witness

Proble looked up at the ceiling for a

"Suppose we talk it over quietly in

vous; are getting thin and all

matic Wine will bring roses

Mothers, use it for your

regulator and corrector for

"What do you want me to say?"

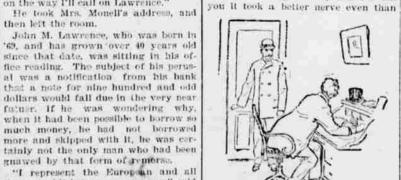
"Not at all, but I shall want you to

and 1

.....

e story of his friend's last night in "That's all. Isn't it enough?" he land of the living. "It's hardly worth the money." "As soon as I saw him," he said, "I Preble glanced at the billet doux enew that he'd made up his mind to from the bank which the other still

held in his hand. Lawrence swore a lo R. I saw him in the writing room. He was writing to her, and I'll tell round eath. "Have you got all this out of me," he



We Are Going to 4 Mrs. Monell'

is to keep a stiff upper lip while he run down; Gilmore's Arodid it. There's nothing particularly the nature of the document escaped soft about me, but I own that the sight

of him gave me the shivers. I couldn't to your cheeks and restore stand it; and, by and by, when he had inished his letter, I got hold of him you to flesh and plumpness. Mothers use it for

"'My dear fellow,' he said, 'I've no more idea of killing myself than you daughters. It is the best have.' "Of course that was a bluff. He

smilled pleasantly, and went on into ailments peculiar to womanthe cate. There were several of his hood. It promotes digestion, friends sitting by one of the tables

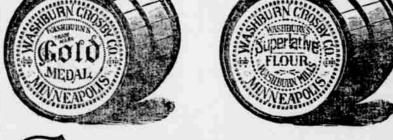
"We're not children," he said. "We're business men. Do you want to pay that note, or do you want it to go to pro-ling to all the fellows in the nicest sort ing to all the fellows in the nicest sort of way, making everybody feel good, Matthews Bros., Scranton.

you know. I made up my mind that

He laughed nerviously. Then, check-ing himself suddenly, he exclaimed: ing himself suddenly, he exclaimed: "By the Lord Harry, I like your way of going at a thing. You don't waste



TELEPHONE 422.



FION

TO OUR PATRONS:

Washburn-Crosby Co. wish to assure their many pat-rons that they will this year hold to their usual custom of milling STRICTLY OLD WHEAT until the new crop is fully cured. New wheat is now upon the market, and owing to the excessively dry weather many millers are of the opinion that it is already cured, and in proper condition for milling. Washburn-Crosby Co. will take no risks, and will allow the new wheat fully three months to mature before arising.

months to mature before grinding. This careful attention to every detail of milling has placed Washburn-Crosby Co.'s flour far above other brands.



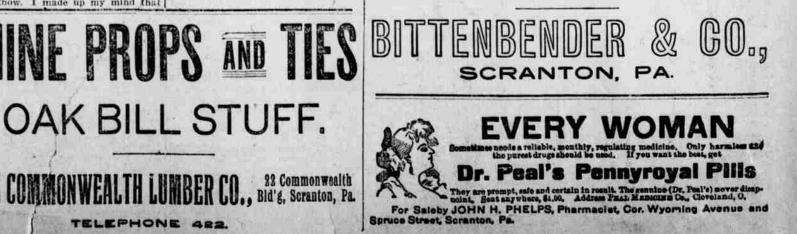
Wholesale Agents.

IRON AND STEEL

Bolts, Nuts, Bolt Ends, Turnbuckles, Washers, Rivets, Horse Nails, Files, Taps, Dies, Tools and Sup plies. Sail Duck for mine use in stock.

SOFT - STEEL - HORSE - SHOES,

And a full stock of Wagon Makers' Supplies, Wheels, Hubs, Rims, Spokes, Shafts, Poles, Bows, etc,





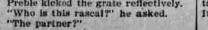
"II off What I Save Your Company."

be willing to pay. By the way, what would you be willing to pay?"

said Hersch. "Oh, that's all right! There are no

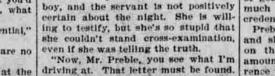
rise up against the widow of his intimate friend would lie for what you'd

"We are becoming very confidential,"



even if she was telling the truth.

it's a hundred to one that she kept the



It's ten to one that he told her all, and ticular.

It's a thing she'd never part with." "And you want me to go to her house

be injudicious, as you can readily see. much money, he had not borrowed if any bargain is to be made with more and skipped with R, he was cotainly not the only man who had been directly must do it. You see, Pm gnawed by that form of remorse, trusting you implicitly. They told me the rest of it insurance company," said "I represent the European and all Preble when he had closed the door behind him. "We are going to contest

> and tell what you know." Lawrence involuntarily clutched the

Neither the gesture not notification. Proble's eye.

"And if so," Preble continued, "for how much?" Lawrence was something of a busi-

ness man himself, but he had not find it," responded Hersch. "On that reached the stage of development

business so quickly. Desiring time to Proble suddenly sat up straight in his

collect his thoughts, he said: "Now, that's tangible," he said. "It Preble laughed. looks like business. She was in the