

BEAT THE BELMONT

THEY CASHED MENDOZA'S SPURIOUS SIGHT DRAFT.

One of the Most Anarchic Swindling Operations That Has Occurred in New York in Years—He Was Employed as an Undersecretary.

New York, April 1.—A suave, middle-aged foreigner, professing complete ignorance of the English language and describing himself modestly as a tourist, arrived here from Cuba on March 11. He traveled alone, carried no baggage except a scanty respectable looking satchel and registered at the Hotel America in Irving place as Manuel Gonzalez Mendoza of Havana.

Although a stranger in a strange land Mendoza instantly made himself very much at home. On the afternoon of his arrival he employed Mr. Gentini, a professional interpreter, as secretary and companion.

That night Mendoza and his secretary occupied a box in a variety theater and the latter noticed with surprise that his employer apparently enjoyed every joke cracked by the English-speaking comedians as if they spoke his mother tongue.

Observing Mr. Gentini's wonder, Mr. Mendoza smiled inscrutably and remarked: "I laugh at everything. It's a harmless habit of mine."

Later in the evening the light-hearted Mendoza emptied two quart bottles of champagne and sampled a variety of American mixed drinks. He was finally taken from under a table in the Hotel America safe and carried, still laughing, to his room.

Early the next morning Mendoza reappeared as fresh as a daisy. Accompanied by the faithful Gentini, he entered a coupe and was driven to the office of Albert Belmont & Co., 33 Nassau street.

The stranger, with two Spanish gentlemen, presented a sight draft drawn on the bankers bearing the ostensible signatures of Hidalgo & Co. having an amount of \$25,000.

Presented at Belmont's. Of what followed Mr. Gentini alone of the interested parties will talk.

According to the interpreter, the presentation of the draft was met with a demand for identification by Belmont & Co.'s chief clerk.

Mendoza was unfrustrated at this and explained that, anticipating the difficulty, Hidalgo & Co. had written a letter inclosing his (Mendoza's) signature, and asking that the matter of personal identification be waived.

"I am surprised," murmured the plain Mendoza, "that the letter is not already here. It was precisely arrived by the steamer on which I came."

As if in providential vindication of his truthfulness, while this conversation was still in progress a talk of letter appeared. It was precisely the one which Mendoza and bore the seemingly genuine signature of Hidalgo & Co.

Reaching for a pen, the smiling and triumphant Mendoza carefully examined a slip of paper and handed it with a bow and flourish to the still doubtful Belmont clerk.

"Observe," he remarked, through the medium of Mr. Gentini, "that this writing is an exact reproduction of my signature, inclosed to you by Hidalgo & Co. Now, kindly oblige me with the money."

"It is probably a forgery," replied the hesitating clerk, "but as the amount is a large one I must trouble you to satisfy me still further."

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Thursday, March 26.

Mr. Booth-Tucker has sailed from London for New York to take command of the Salvation Army.

The Rev. W. H. Brown, the Congregational clergyman, of Madison, Conn., who was tried on the charge of heresy, has been pronounced innocent.

The Bermuda Militia, with the care of arms and ammunition, are now in the Cuban insurgent camp, with General Calisto Garcia at their head.

The counsel for Dr. J. C. Moore of Manchester, N. H., appeared in the supreme court and asked for a continuance of the case, owing to the illness of Dr. Moore.

The consecration of the Rev. Dr. Henry Yates Satterlee as the first bishop of Washington, which took place at Calvary church, New York, was attended by a large number of ecclesiastics from different parts of the country.

Governor Griggs has sent to the New Jersey senate the following nominations: Clerk of chancery, Lewis A. Thompson; state prison keeper, David A. Peil of Bergen; inspector of work-houses, John C. Ward of Salem.

The Old Dominion line steamship Yorktown went ashore on Sewell's point, on the Virginia coast, during the fog.

Hon. Alonzo P. Carpenter has been appointed chief justice of the New Hampshire supreme court to succeed the late Hon. Charles Doe, deceased.

The greater New York bill passed the New Jersey senate by a vote of yeas, 91; nays, 56. It had previously passed the senate and now goes to the governor.

Governor Atkinson of Georgia has given Alexander Carr, the murderer, whose sanity is questioned, and who recently committed the murder of a woman, a respite of 30 days.

The Old Colony mills of Wilton, N. H., operated by Messrs. C. J. Amidon & Sons, were shut down indefinitely owing to dull times. Several hundred men were out of employment.

A terrible explosion of fire damp has taken place in a mine at Brunerston, N. York, about five persons were killed outright and 60 more are entombed with no hope of being rescued.

Saturday, March 28. D. Joseph Beals, a leading spiritualist, died at Greenfield, Mass., aged 75.

The steamer San Brown of Pittsburg, owned by the Wheeling Iron Works, was burned on the Ohio river at Louisville.

Governor Morton appointed Dr. T. K. Tutbill a coroner in New York city in place of William O'Shaughnessy, deceased.

Charles J. Woodcock has signed the bill appropriating \$75,000 for finishing and equipping the newly erected prison buildings at Sing Sing.

Governor Morton sent the nomination of Francis B. Kilburn to be superintendent of banks to the New York senate, and it was unanimously confirmed.

Judge Laurer of Fargo, N. D., has granted an absolute decree of divorce to Henry Woodcock from Ellen Woodcock on the ground of desertion.

A DEED OF A DEMON.

AN AGED COUPLE BRUTALLY MURDERED IN OHIO.

They Were Fearfully Mutilated—An ex-Convict Under Arrest Charged With the Crime—Revenge Was the Apparent Motive.

AKRON, O., March 25.—A masked man entered the farmhouse of Alvin M. Stone near Tallmadge, a few miles from this city, and in the brief space of half an hour committed a horrible butchery. When he took his departure, Stone and his wife, both aged people, were lying dead in bed, horribly mutilated, and fra Stillson, the hired man, and Emma Stone, the eldest of three daughters, were unconscious from blows dealt by the murderer.

The murderer entered the house by means of a ladder, which he raised to an upper window. He first passed through the room in which Hattie and Flora Stone were sleeping without awakening them. Going quietly down stairs to the room in which Mr. and Mrs. Stone slept, he attacked them with a blunt weapon of some sort, hitting both on the head. They were probably rendered unconscious and possibly killed by the blows, but the fiend, not satisfied with this, proceeded to mutilate their bodies with a knife. He cut off one of Stone's ears, slashed him across the face and stabbed him in the back. Then he held Mrs. Stone's cheek open with a knife.

An ex-Convict Arrested. AKRON, O., March 25.—Arson B. Strong was arrested here on Saturday morning and charged with the murder of Mrs. Alvin M. Stone at Tallmadge on Saturday night.

The crime on which the charge is based is largely circumstantial. Thirteen years ago Strong was sent to the penitentiary for horse stealing, his conviction being secured by the testimony of Stone. Several years later his release from prison, he was arrested again for the same crime and again convicted on the testimony of Stone.

He gained his liberty the following year by a stroke to the neck and was at once suspected of the murder of Stone and his wife. When taken into custody, Strong said he was at the home of his sister, Ravenna, all of Saturday night and that he had returned on Sunday morning. A search of the sister's house, however, resulted in the discovery of a suit of clothes and an overcoat which had been taken by a woman and was at one time suspected of the murder of Stone and his wife.

Strong was brought here and placed in jail. The news of the arrest soon spread and a big crowd assembled. There was no disorder, but Mayor Harper decided to prevent a riot by ordering Battery A of the light artillery to march in its armory and await developments.

Threatened to Lynch Strong. AKRON, O., April 1.—A crowd of 1,000 men and boys surrounded the city prison and many threats were made against Arson B. Strong, the suspected murderer of the Stones at Tallmadge. The militia is still under arms at the armory, and a large force of police is ready for action.

Two People Killed in an Elevator Accident in Boston. BOSTON, April 1.—The double fatality occurred in the elevator shaft of the new Mess Button Hole Machinery company building, corner of Randolph street and Harrison avenue.

Pedestrians, hearing a crash and cries coming from the second floor, rushed in and saw a terrible sight. Looking up the elevator well could be seen the head of a man completely severed from the body and lying at the base of the shaft. A body came from below, and lying at the bottom of the shaft was John Reese, the owner of the building. Mr. Reese was carried to the hospital, where he died.

Waterbury Fire swept. WATERBURY, Conn., March 30.—The worst fire that Waterbury has experienced for years broke out in the mammoth works of the City Lumber and Coal company, near the depot of the New England Railroad company, practically in the heart of the city, and burned fiercely for ten hours.

The Harrington elevator, the property of the National Lined Oil company at Burlington, Ia., was burned to the ground. The loss is \$50,000.

Charles W. Owens of Rochester, convicted of grand larceny in the first degree, was sentenced to state prison for eight years at Canandaigua, N. Y.

The Manufacturers' club of Philadelphia is in session at the Hotel Marlborough in Washington and declared for a single gold standard.

Justice Smyth, in the criminal branch of the District Court, refused to discharge the indigent against Mrs. Mary Alice Almont Livingston Fleming, who is now confined in the Tombs in New York on the charge of the murder of her mother, Mrs. Evelyn T. Almont.

Wednesday, April 1. The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough were welcomed to Blenheim castle. The president has nominated William A. Little of Georgia to be assistant attorney general for the interior department, vice John L. Hall, resigned.

FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

Summary of the Proceedings of House and Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—In the senate yesterday Mr. Platt introduced a resolution providing for adjournment until May 2. The legislative appropriation bill was considered. In the house the naval appropriation bill was taken up and most of the items approved. Personal explanations were made by Messrs. Boutwell and Bartlett.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—In the senate yesterday the Arizona statehood bill was favorably reported. Consideration of this bill was postponed until May 2. In the house the naval appropriation bill was passed. The Cuban conference committee decided to adopt the senate resolutions.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—In the senate yesterday there was a spirited colloquy between Senators Peffer and Hill over the former's resolution calling for an investigation of the recent strike. Only routine business was transacted. In the house 125 pages of the sundry civil appropriation bill were disposed of.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—In the senate Mr. George spoke against the claim of Mr. Dupont of Delaware to a seat. The post-office appropriation bill was discussed, but it was not completed. In the house consideration of the sundry civil bill occupied most of the session.

THE RESULT OF AN EXPLOSION IN AN EXTRACTING WORKS AT NEWARK. NEWARK, N. J., March 27.—By an explosion in the Nickerson & Spence green glass works a man was killed and two badly burned. The fire resulting from the explosion did several thousand dollars' damage. The killed are Albert Anfield, 22 years old, of this city, and Frederick Chester, a local boy, and three others.

RECH UNDER ARREST. PHILADELPHIA, March 30.—John Rech, the Estelville (N. J.) farmer who was arrested in Burlington, Pa., on suspicion of having murdered Mrs. Rech, was yesterday taken to Philadelphia in company with his little girl.

PERISHED IN FLAMES. NEWARK, N. J., March 27.—By an explosion in the Nickerson & Spence green glass works a man was killed and two badly burned.

FOUR PEOPLE BURNED TO DEATH IN A FIRE IN NEW YORK. NEW YORK, March 30.—Four people were killed and two were injured in a fire which started on the second floor of a three-story brick building 374 Hudson street, occupied for business and dwelling purposes. The dead are: Thomas Malloy, 22 years old, a fireman on the steamship line; suffocated; Archibald Grogan, 35 years old, a waiter; suffocated.

Mary McMahon, single, 22 years old; suffocated; died on the way to the hospital from injuries received by jumping from a window. The injured are: Kenneth Galt, 35 years old, leg fractured by falling.

Edward Walsh, 20 years old, fireman of local and ladder company 5, residing at 202 De Witt street, internally hurt by falling from a ladder.

KILLED BY AN AVALANCHE. HUNTER, Va., March 29.—Jim and George Hylan and Lucy Lawton, instantly killed by a rock crashing through the house where they were sleeping at Echo, a station 40 miles west of here. Two other members of the family were seriously wounded. The avalanche came from the foot of the mountain on the banks of the New River.

A MAJOR CLEVELAND DEAD. JERSEY CITY, April 1.—Word has been received from Manchester, Vt., of the death of Hon. Orestes Cleveland, former mayor of this city, who was slain by a bullet in the forehead at the residence of his wife in Jersey City in 1848 and became identified with the interests of the Dixon Creole works in this city. Mr. Cleveland served the city as an alderman, and at one time he held the position of president of the city. He was elected to the majority of the board of aldermen for the three succeeding years. In 1858 he was sent to congress and secured the passage of the act providing for the centennial exhibition at Philadelphia. Mr. Cleveland was first president of the centennial commission.

FATAL FIRE IN FRANCE. PARIS, March 30.—A dangerous fire occurred in St. Saviour church and hospital at Lille. All of the patients were rescued from the burning building, but three of them died from fright. Thirty-two soldiers who were employed in quenching the fire went to a druggists' shop and there drank some poison which they mistook for gin. Six of them died as a result of the draught.

MURDERED FROM AMBUSH. WILCOX, A. T., April 1.—A courier reports that Alfred Hand, a shot herder, was shot and killed by Indians at the head of Cave creek. Word was immediately sent to Fort Grant, and Lieutenant How, with a detachment of Indian scouts, started on their march to the trail leading toward Mexico. A troop of the Seventh cavalry station at Fort Grant is now in the field.

Colonel Lyman Appointed. ALBANY, March 31.—Governor Morton has sent to the senate the nomination of Henry H. Lyman of New York to be collector of the customs at the port of New York harbor under the Raitine liquor tax law. Colonel Lyman holds office of collector at Albany.

Big Diamond Robbery in Boston. BOSTON, March 30.—One of the most daring and successful diamond burglaries ever recorded in this city was made at the house of William Harris, the district manager, on St. Botolph street. The burglar secured 15 pieces of jewelry, many of them diamonds and combination settings, valued at more than \$3,000.

STRANGLERED HIS WIFE.

THE MAYS LANDING MURDER MYSTERY IS NOW SOLVED.

John Rech Wanted the Money His Wife Inherited—Bessie Weaver's Strange Life History—She Had Been Twice Divorced, They Borrowed a Baby.

MAYS LANDING, N. J., March 28.—What appears to have been a brutal murder was brought to light by the finding of the body of Mrs. John Rech in a strip of woods near Estelville, a small town, seven miles from Philadelphia. The body was found in a peculiar manner. Jones' curiosity was aroused, and he commenced digging in the pile of dirt. After removing a few inches of the soil he came across the naked body of a woman. Without waiting to investigate further, Jones hurried to this place and informed Sheriff Johnson of what he had found.

An investigation was made, and it was found that the dead woman was Mrs. John Rech, the wife of a prominent farmer who formerly lived in a little cottage about 200 feet from where the body was buried. Suspicion pointed to her husband as the murderer, but it was not until she had been buried for him, but it was ascertained that he had left for Philadelphia in company with his little girl.

Rech Under Arrest. PHILADELPHIA, March 30.—John Rech, the Estelville (N. J.) farmer who was arrested in Burlington, Pa., on suspicion of having murdered Mrs. Rech, was yesterday taken to Philadelphia in company with his little girl.

It is an interesting fact that the woman was not other than Bessie Weaver, whose troubles with her father and his housekeeper, afterward her stepmother, gained wide publicity a dozen years ago. She was a woman of considerable means and a wealthy but eccentric resident of Germantown, a suburb of this city. He died, leaving an estate of over \$50,000 entirely to his second wife. Soon after his death Bessie married William Hart of Germantown. She had previously instituted proceedings to break her father's will, but subsequently compromised on an arrangement under which the estate of her father was divided between Bessie and her stepmother during the remainder of their lives. In 1887 Hart procured a divorce, and the second wife married Henry W. Bachman of this city. Bachman also obtained a divorce.

Conspiracy to Get the Money. It seems that the couple were not lawfully married, although a ceremony was gone through before a justice of the peace in Jersey City in May, 1895. He is said to have confessed that he has a wife and daughter in Catawissa, Pa., but whether she ever obtained divorce papers is not known. It is claimed that she and Elizabeth Weaver conspired to let him become the beneficiary under the will of her father in case of her death. Under the terms of the will Bessie was to receive \$30,000, and \$50,000 left her, in trust. Should she die without issue, the money was to go to charity.

She is the first step in the conspiracy, the woman made a will leaving her estate and breaking through the house with the above results. Henry Law, one of the occupants who escaped, had the presence of mind to rush to the shore and catch an express train which was just due, and would have otherwise been wrecked on the rocks.

Says He Strangled Her. MAYS LANDING, N. J., April 1.—The coroner's jury has rendered a verdict finding John Rech responsible for the death of his wife Elizabeth. This was the direct result of the production by prosecuting Attorney Peffer of the letter written by Rech in Germantown to his attorney, Carroll R. Williams. After a number of witnesses had been examined the letter was offered and translated. [The inside here no date, but the envelope was stamped "Philadelphia, March 29, Station V," and had delivered March 29.] The contents read as follows:

"Mrs. Williams—On Sunday morning I heard something in the lower part of my house, and there was Bessie ready to go away. That made me so mad that I strangled her, and after that I did not know what I should do. Then I buried her in the field. The little one is in 514 Callowhill street, in board. I am miserable. Her body is paid for two weeks. You attend to him. JOHN RECH."

AN AMAZING STORY.

HOW THE GREAT AND RICH B. AND O. RAILROAD WAS WRECKED.

Chicago That Cost Millions—Robert Garrett, Flashed With Wine, Told His Secret—Thomas Scott Anticipated Him, Mary Garrett's Fine Loyalty.

The Baltimore and Ohio railroad has arrived in the hands of receivers. Its descent in that direction began when Robert Garrett opened a certain bottle of champagne. That was the doleful toast of champagne on record. It cost millions of dollars.

The Baltimore and Ohio is the oldest steam railroad in this country. The first stone of its roadbed was laid in Baltimore on the Fourth of July, 1838, with elaborate ceremony. Over its original length of nine miles miles dragged its cars. Then Peter Cooper, a manufacturer of New York, took to Baltimore a steam engine—a curious concern, something like a boiler with a stovepipe in it. And Cooper's engine took down, and the horse express beat it. There came the grasshopper engines that were exhibited at the World's fair, the embryonic germs of the tremendous locomotives of today. So, historically, the Baltimore and Ohio is extremely interesting.

The road grew. It was the first to cross the Alleghany mountains and tap the great west. It grew, and, thanks to the energy, the executive capacity, the untiring labor of John W. Garrett, it thrived in time.

Garrett was of the type of Commodore Vanderbilt, who created the New York Central, and of Thomas A. Scott, the father of the Pennsylvania. Garrett knew everything about a railroad from the ties to the president's desk. Under his management the road rose to a prominence that even he had not dreamed of. The Baltimore and Ohio became the city of Baltimore and the state of Ohio controlled by him.

John W. Garrett died in 1884, and his son, Robert Garrett, succeeded him as president of the B. and O. Robert Garrett suffered the disadvantage of having a great father. Robert Garrett was a luxurious millionaire. The Garrett family was one of the old money families of Baltimore. He wished besides to rival his great father as a railroad man.

There was one railroad between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Robert Garrett wanted it for the Baltimore and Ohio. Thomas A. Scott wanted it for the Pennsylvania railroad. That railroad was the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore. Just at that time it was naturally the most desirable thing in the world to the Baltimore and Ohio and to the Pennsylvania.

Robert Garrett generally got anything he wanted. Wanting the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore, he looked around to see how he could get it. He learned that several of the largest owners of the stock lived in Boston. They owned almost half the stock, and with that in his possession Robert Garrett could easily get control of the majority.

So he went to Boston. His negotiations were eminently successful. His offer for the stock was accepted. Robert Garrett went to New York. Already in his mind's eye he saw the Baltimore and Ohio trains rolling into the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore depot at Broad and Prime streets, Philadelphia, for all that remained was to sign some papers.

on the nail spot each, and the P. W. and B. shares were handed over to him. When Robert Garrett awoke on what he firmly believed was to be the morning of his triumph, the newspapers were full of the deal between the Pennsylvania and the P. W. and B.

Inexpressibly mortified, outraged, Robert Garrett determined to build a line of his own to Philadelphia. First it was necessary to get legislative permission to enter Philadelphia. That seemed difficult. The Pennsylvania had the pull of all its locomotives with the legislature of Pennsylvania and with the Philadelphia city council. The Pennsylvania fought Garrett with all its strength.

But Robert Garrett, on his mettle, got permission for his road to enter Philadelphia in 40 days. It cost him \$500,000. He paid his secret agents well; he advertised liberally; he expended large sums in fees to counsel. There were those who insisted that it should be spelled c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i.

The Pennsylvania road, finding that Robert Garrett could get into Philadelphia, determined to patch up a trace with him. They agreed to pay him all the liabilities he had incurred looking to the construction of the road to Philadelphia. They made a deal, but one that would have profited the B. and O. and Robert Garrett decided not to build the road. He estimated that the project had already cost \$2,000,000. The Pennsylvania was ready to pay that.

It had really cost \$8,000,000. The Pennsylvania withdrew from the agreement. The game was not worth the candle to them. Robert Garrett built his road. It proved a fearful drain on the B. and O. The road floated \$17,000,000 of securities on the strength of that road between Philadelphia and Baltimore. But a large part of that money was diverted to other parts of the B. and O. system and was dissipated by peculiar financing.

The B. and O. found itself on the brink of insolvency in October, 1887. Drexel, Morgan & Co.—which is to say, J. Pierpont Morgan—advanced the money that delayed the day of reckoning. That, before landing a cent, Mr. Morgan demanded that Robert Garrett resign the presidency.

Perhaps he had heard that Robert Garrett, at that time, owned 140 pairs of trousers. It is extremely improbable that old John W. Garrett ever owned two pairs of trousers at one time.

Whether or not he knew about the trousers, Mr. Morgan surely knew of Robert Garrett's eccentricities. In a word, Robert Garrett's mind was unbalanced. He was a pariah.

Samuel Spencer, who was vice president of the Baltimore and Ohio, became president in Mr. Garrett's stead. Mr. Spencer is of the firm of Drexel, Morgan & Co., and he is a fine railroad man. He began to economize rapidly. He upset all the traditions of Robert Garrett management. He smashed Baltimore's gods. All the Garrett family, all Maryland, rose in protest.