A Startling Confession.

CINCINNATI, December 24 .- A special dispatch from Steubenville, Ohio, says that Stephen D. Richards, who has been placed in fail at that place, charged with the murder of the Harelson family at Kearney. Nebraska, has made a full confession, acknowledging the commission of nine murders within the last three years. The first murder was committed near Sand Hills, Nebrasks. He had an altercation with a man unknown to him, and shot him through the head. The next was that of Mrs. Harelson and three children in October last, He met Mrs. Harelson in jail, she having been arrested on a chaage of aiding ber husband to escape justice. When she was released Richards visited her, staying two weeks, when he concluded to murder her and take charge of her farm, which he had pre-empted. He broke her jaw and smashed in the back of her head with a smoothing iron, and then killed her two oldest children with the same instrument, and seizing her infant he dashed its head against the floor. He then gave out that Mrs. Harelson had gone to Texas to join her husband, but suspicion having been aroused, search was mide and the bodies found under a straw stack. Richards fled.

Before the Harelson murder, Richards was assisting a Swede, named Peter Auderson, in putting up a building. Anderson told some neighbors he believed Richards had poisoned him. The neighbors called the next day, but Auderson 'could not be found. Richards was in possession of Anderson's horses and wagons, and while the neighbors were searching the and he made his escape. Richards admits he killed Anderson with a hammer. He states he committed two other murders, but refuses to give the names of the victims. The sheriffs of Kearney and Buffalo counties take Richards to Nebraska to-day. They think he is a member of an organized gang of outlaws and cut-throats in that

Severe Weather in Europe.

LONDON, Dec 24th .- The weather is severe throughout Great Britain. There has also been a heavy snowfall here and in many parts of the continent. In Scotland it is especially severe, and all the railways in the north are blocked. Two London mail trains were at the last accounts snowed up ten or twelve miles from Aberdeen. Altogether seven trains are snewed up and the traffic is suspended. The snow was still falling last night. In some places it is over twelve feet high. It is the heaviest snowfall in thirty years.

A telegram from Geneva, Switzerland, says: "No post has arrived from Germany or from German Switzerland. The railway communications between Berne and Lausanne were interrupted until late last evening, and the service between Bouveret and St. Maurice is entirely suspended."

London, December 23 .- A Geneva dispatch says 400 men and 120 horses and carts are constantly occupied in clearing the streets of snow.

A Paris dispatch states that the wolves have penetrated as far as the gates of Metz. There is more snow on the Vosges than the oldest inhabitants remember.

Dying With a Pardon in His Hands.

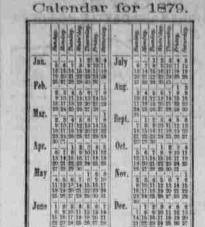
COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 15 .- John Smith was pardoned by Gov. Bishop, Friday. Smith came from Wood County three years go with a sentence of fifteen years hanging to his neck, and a future dark with the gloom of despair and death staring at him from the portals of the prison. During the past year he had suffered much from consamption, and it was for the reason that he had not long to live that the Governor pardoned him. On Friday evening, when Warden Mc Whorter handed the poor fellow his pardon, he read it, kissed it, and then died, with a smile on his face, and the long-looked-for pardon clutched in his hand. Yesterday his body was put in a rough pine box, and buried in the O. P. graveyard. Last evening a lady, richly dressed and heavily veiled, called at the prison, and excercising her right as the wife of the deceased convict, had the body disintered, and departed with it.

A Nice Pair of Deacons.

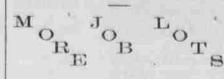
Burton and Aikens, deacons in the same Campbellite church in Robard, Ky., loved each other's wife. They did not hide their sentiments from each other, but endeavored to settle the difficulty amicable by exchanging wives. An agreement to that effect was made in writing and signed. The wives were away on a visit when this bargain was made, and were informed of it on their return. Mrs. Burton readily assented, and it is suspected that she had advised the trade; but Mrs. Aikensobjected, and the plan failed.

Another Bank Winds Up.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., December 28 .- At a meeting of the stockholders of the Wilkesbarre savings bank to-day it was decided to wind up the affairs of that institution. The directors say this step was taken because of the ruinously excessive rates of bank taxation and the duliness of business. The depositors will be paid in full and the stockholders will be reimbursed in the near future.



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