

THE FAMILY TRAGEDY.

Sad End of a Man Through Liquor.

TERRIBLE STATE OF WRETCHEDNESS.

A Napanee correspondent, writing on Saturday, gives the following additional particulars in reference to the alleged murder of Edward Nevin, found dead in his house with his skull split open with an axe: When the coroner and other gentlemen who accompanied him entered the hut on Saturday, Mrs. Nevin, who appeared to be under the influence of drink, made the following informal statement regarding the affair: The deceased had gone to Bath in the forenoon of Friday for provisions, and returned towards evening with the provisions and a bottle of whiskey, out of which he had been drinking rather freely. After finishing the bottle he ordered her about 9 o'clock to go to Bath for another bottle of whiskey and she had to obey orders. When she returned the deceased, wishing to replenish the fire, proceeded inside the hut to split up a piece of wood, and told her to go outside and fetch some more. She went for this purpose but had only gone a few steps when their eldest boy came rushing out of the hut crying out that his father had fallen on the axe. She immediately went back and found the deceased lying on the floor in an insensible condition and bleeding freely from a cut in the head. He expired about half an hour afterwards without regaining consciousness. The woman's statement is not credited, and it is believed she had something to do with her husband's death.

A LIFE OF MISERY.

Mr. and Mrs. Nevin, with their four children, had lived in the small log hut before mentioned, which is situated on the farm of Mr. Fred. and Miss May Ham, about two miles northeast of the village of Bath, since November, 1879. The hut consists of one room on the ground floor occupied by the Nevins, and an attic room with access by a ladder on the outside, generally occupied by a farm servant of the Hams named John Stewart. The moral and social reputation of Mrs. Nevin has for years been exceedingly bad. She was very much addicted to drink—in fact a confirmed drunkard. She would sell everything she could lay her hands upon so as to satisfy her morbid craving for that terrible curse. The deceased is generally spoken of as having a quiet inoffensive disposition, and when under the influence of drink was quite docile. He was a native of Ireland and about 36 years of age, but very little is known here of his antecedents. The wife's maiden name was Simpson and she has relatives in Napanee. Mr. and Mrs. Nevin previous to taking up their quarters on Ham's farm resided in Napanee for several years, and it is said that during all that time she led her husband a most wretched life through her disreputable and drunken habits. She was several times in prison for her drunken and disorderly conduct. All the natural instincts of a mother seemed to be destroyed by her love of drink, and her poor helpless children suffered in consequence.

A SCENE OF WRETCHEDNESS.

I visited the scene of the murder or accident, whichever it may be, yesterday, which is about eleven miles from Napanee, and a more shocking spectacle could scarcely be conceived. The interior of the hut is almost devoid of furniture—two or three old wooden chairs, a deal table and two old bedsteads with very little covering comprising the whole. On one of the beds lay the corpse of the unfortunate husband, cold, stark and stiff, with the open wound staring one in the face, and immediately opposite in the other bed lay the wife, soundly asleep, it is to be hoped with a sleep not caused by other than natural causes, with an old jacket thrown over her as a covering from the cold. The poor children, almost naked, seemingly unconscious of their terrible position, chatted away to a few friends who were present, with the exception of the youngest, a girl, who is a cripple and almost blind, caused it is said by the mother's neglect. This poor thing was lying huddled up in a small crib close to the stove, with nothing on but a thin calico nightgown, and when one looked on her wan and pinched wee face it was almost with a sense of relief that she thought entered one's mind that she would soon be relieved from her poverty, suffering and misery. There are two boys and two girls, and the oldest is between 7 and 8 years. The clothes on all the children would not have made a complete suit for one. It is a matter for wonder and surprise that the neighbors do not look after the children and relieve them, as far as they are able, from their poverty-stricken and helpless condition. There was a good deal of blood on the floor where the deceased's head had lain, and also upon the shirt sleeve on his left arm. It appears that Mrs. Nevin, sometime after the accident, changed the clothes of the deceased and also her own. These clothes worn by both on Friday night are said to have been in a tattered condition, but whether there is blood upon them or not has not come to light. The out is not what may be termed a dangerous one, being about an inch long by about a fourth of an inch in depth, and I cannot possibly conceive how this of itself could have caused the man's death, as the skull does not seem to be touched. Much sympathy is expressed for the poor unfortunate and helpless children, for what they have lived upon is a mystery. They must have been living constantly in a starving condition. The only food the special constable found in the hut on Saturday night was about half a loaf of bread, but there was nearly a full bottle of whiskey, and this gives an idea of how these people have subsisted for years.

IMPORTANT LEGAL DECISION.

Married Woman—Liability of Husband. The liability of the husband for that species of wrongful act called torts has been defined by the Court of Common Pleas. A wife had uttered a slander, for which an action was brought. Her husband was made a defendant along with her. To this the husband demurred. The court decided that he was not a necessary party in such an action. The position of a married woman was said to be essentially different as regards liability for her separate contracts and for her torts during coverture. She is bound by her civil torts just as if she was

discover, and whether she has separate property or not. But her contracts, though valid as against her property, cannot be sued upon at law or in equity, either during or after her coverture, so as to bind her person. (Page 202.) In other words, that while her liability for civil torts does not depend upon her possession of separate property, her liability on contracts is dependent upon her possession of it, and if she has none no judgment will be given against her, as it would then be against her person, which the law does not allow.—*Amer vs. Rogers*, 81 U. C. C. P., 195.

CHILD DESERTION.

Frustrated Attempt of Toronto Parents to Desert their Child.

KINGSTON, Nov. 19.—On Wednesday, November 3rd, a man and woman went to the St. Lawrence Hotel, Cape Vincent, N. Y., and engaged rooms, registering as J. E. Parker and wife, of Toronto, Ont. They had with them an infant about 5 or 6 weeks old. They remained until Saturday, November 6th, when the man left for Kingston, stating that he would return the following Monday. He did not return, however, and did not make his appearance until last Monday. On Tuesday he again visited Kingston, returning to the Cape the same evening. Yesterday morning they both prepared to leave on the morning boat, walking to the depot, and soon afterwards it was discovered that they had left the child behind. Search was made about the hotel, and the little one was found entirely covered up in a bed. Mr. Bishop hastened to the depot, and was enabled to thwart the heartless pair in their endeavor to abandon the child. They succeeded, however, in getting Joseph Yagor to adopt the child, and left for Canada. The couple came to Kingston on the Maud yesterday, and after the Maud left for Cape May they departed and have not since been seen.

SPECULATIVE INSURANCE.

A Girl Supposed to be Murdered by Her Relatives.

READING, Pa., Nov. 19.—Recently Mrs. Emma Reinart died in Amity township of consumption. It is learned that her life was insured for \$20,000, mostly in favor of Samuel Shirey, her cousin. It is stated that the policies were fraudulently obtained and the companies concerned refuse to pay. Several arrests will probably be made. The affair has created a sensation. The newspapers here also give startling accounts of heavy insurances effected upon the lives of old, poor people in this vicinity, showing that speculative insurances of a questionable character are largely practised.

The Horrors of Delirium Tremens.

"One who has been there" writes: Delirium tremens! Snakes! Jim-jams! Yes, I've had touches of them. You want to know how it feels? I'll tell you. You have drunk maybe a week, maybe more. At last liquor ceases to excite, brace up or tranquilize. You drink a half pint of brandy and it has no more effect than so much water. Then you are close on the horrors. Food won't help you. Your stomach rejects it. Now your punishment commences. You can't sleep. You are weary. Oh! so weary, but there is no rest. You are tired of thinking, yet the tired brain will think. You lie down, drop into a dose for a moment and wake up with a shock as if touched by an electric wire. You are covered with perspiration. You get up and walk the room, walk the streets—walk, walk, walk, and then fling yourself down, praying for ever so few minutes' sleep. All this for days with people about you, and through nights. But no Chinese torturer employed in keeping some miserable criminal awake till he dies was ever more full of relentless vigilance than your abused nerves. Dreads indescribable seize upon you. Your hands have a sensation of being of enormous size. They do not look it; they feel it. Your head, in like manner, feels as if enormously puffed out. Then your breath comes spasmodically, hot flushes strike at the region of the heart, all the blood seems at times to rush in that direction, and you fight aimlessly for life and expect to fall dead. This is the commencement of the horrors. Now you are fixed for seeing rats and snakes and vermin.

A Bad Harvest in the Northwest.

A despatch from Ottawa says bad news comes from Battleford, Northwest Territory, to the effect that the harvest has failed in that vicinity, which must retard settlement. Mr. Dewdney, superintendent of the Indians, has exceeded his powers by issuing an advertisement forbidding settlers purchasing farm produce from the Indians. The settlers snap their fingers at his manifesto.

Down on the Illicit Dealers.

A despatch from London says Detective Wm. Smith, inspector of the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Colleges of Ontario, has just had the following persons fined for a violation of the Ontario Medical Act: Wm. F. Shaw, of Gravenhurst, \$25; Luke Elcoute, of Mildmay, \$59; Wm. Sparks, of Stayner, \$25; George Wheatly, Mildmay, \$25; John Taylor, of Innerkip, \$25; Lawrence Sparks, Milton, \$50; Stango Lawrence, Orillia, \$50. The following were fined in less sums for violating the Pharmacy Act: George Shaw, London; W. Henry, Galt; Wm. C. McLan, Barrie; Jas. L. Darling, Penetanguishene; J. H. Truman, Hamilton; Francis S. Kule, Gravenhurst; Geo. Preston, Harriston; Dentist Jas. Martin, Aylmer.

Life Saving Stations a Necessity.

The Kingston Whig says mariners are united in their advocacy of the erection of life-saving stations. The only question upon which there is any difference of opinion is where they should be located. After many interviews with the lake captains, we are disposed to favor the place of one at Long Point, near which more wrecks occur than anywhere on Lake Ontario. A station here would be contiguous to Presque Isle, Wellington Bay etc., and besides more help would be got from the mainland than could be expected if the station were fixed at the Ducks. One captain says after sailors pass Long Point they feel safe from all storms. An old tar thinks there should be not one station, but several of them along the Canadian shore, especially at Pigeon Island, Nine Mile Point and Long Point.

HOW THEY LEFT CANADA

A Remarkable Exodus from the Northwest.

EFFECTS OF BAD LAND REGULATIONS.

OTTAWA, Nov. 20.—A gentleman in this city has received a letter from a friend now residing in Pembina county, Dakota, in which the following remarkable passage occurs: "I went to the land office the other day and asked the agent to let me have the books for a short time. I found from them that from January 1st to November 1st 956 heads of families (Canadians), every one of them (representing with their families nearly 5,000 persons) had taken the oath and settled in Pembina county. The majority of these men had gone to Manitoba, but between insolent office-holders and land sharks they became so disgusted that they left for a country where they found that instead of the finest land in the country being placed at the disposal of and reserved for the Mennonites, half-breeds, Indians and Icelanders, every man who came here had the right and privilege of choosing his own land, and where no rogue or land-grabber could step in and take it from over his head. Here we have a proof of the disastrous effect of the land policy of the Dominion Government, which is driving Canadians out of Canada to find homes in a foreign country, while our own land is given up to foreigners and a rapacious horde of speculators."

EXTRAORDINARY TRAGEDY.

Most Remarkable Death of a Laborer.

WAS THERE FOUL PLAY?

NAPANEE, Nov. 20.—A sad affair took place last night two miles from Ernestown, on a farm owned by Fred Ham. The particulars are: On the farm is a small frame house, which is occupied by Ed. Navin, Ham's hired man, with his wife and four children. This morning his wife went out to one of the neighbor's and informed them that her husband lay dead in the house and stated that he had fallen on the stove and so off on the axe and split his skull open. They proceeded to the house and found Navin lying on the floor on his face with his head split open as stated and quite dead. Both had been drinking during the night and are said to have had a bad reputation. Ham has been trying to get rid of the family for the last six months, but is not implicated in the affair in any way. The coroner holds an inquest this afternoon.

A MILLIONAIRE'S FORTUNE.

Mercer vs. the Attorney-General of Ontario.
An Ottawa despatch says the appeal case of Mercer vs. the Attorney-General of Ontario, which comes before the Supreme Court this week, is one possessing great interest for the province, not only because of the peculiar circumstances and long litigation surrounding the question, but because of the large sum of money already expended by the province in permanent institutions out of proceeds of this estate. Hon. Edward Blake, Q. C., appears for the province, and possibly the Attorney-General of Ontario, now in Ottawa, will remain over, but it is not probable. Mr. Macdougall appears for the appellant. The latter's contention is that the power of escheat is a prerogative of the Crown, and that the Lieutenant-Governors do not represent the Crown; also that the Crown is represented in Canada by the Governor-General alone; therefore the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario could not legally direct the Attorney-General to escheat this property. The Dominion Government have taken this view of the question, and the Attorney-General for Canada will be represented probably in the person of Mr. Lash, Deputy Minister of Justice. It has been agreed between the different parties to argue the appeal solely upon the question whether the Attorney-General of Ontario has jurisdiction in the matter of escheats, and the appellant will waive for the purpose of this appeal any advantage he might derive from technical or other objections to the proceedings hitherto. The appellant and the Dominion Government appear to rest their contention upon the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Lenor vs. Ritchie*, involving the right of Provincial Governments to appoint Queen's Counsel, in which it was decided that the right rested with the Crown alone, and that Lieutenant-Governors did not represent the Crown.

A ROMANCE OF THE TRAPEZE.

Strange Love Adventures of a Female Gymnast.

CHICAGO, Nov. 19.—A marriage occurred yesterday which has been the cause of much gossip for the past few days, the gentleman being Ernest Grunebaum, of Vienna, Austria, and the lady Leona Evaline Stuart, formerly known in western cities as Leona Darg, a trapeze performer. The story is, that Leona, when a girl at Charleston in this state, ran away with a circus and became a tight-rope performer, adopting the above name. Subsequently she married Frank Hall, a banjo player, but alleged that he deserted her and she sought her fortune in Europe. There she met Grunebaum, a wealthy young Austrian, who became infatuated with her. At Hamburg she met with an accident which caused her retirement from the trapeze. Grunebaum's suit was continued and she was married in England last spring, having learned that her previous husband Hall was dead. She then came to America. She spent the summer in Chicago, and also visited her old home in Charleston, where she learned to her sorrow that Hall was not dead. She at once proceeded to get a divorce from him, which was granted on the 12th of November. She then returned to Chicago, procured a license, and was re-married according to the laws of Illinois.

—On Tuesday night, at the residence of Mr. Gourlay, Edinboro' road, a coal oil lamp exploded and the oil running over the floor set fire to the carpet, burning it up and destroying other ornaments. The fire was smothered out with blankets before much damage was done.—*Guelph Herald*.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

Canadian.

THURSDAY, Nov. 18.
George May, of London, has been arrested on a charge preferred by his wife of attempting to kill her. He was remanded for examination.

Daliff English arrived in London yesterday with a young man named Clancy, of Belleville, who became insane while serving a term in the central prison. He was removed to the asylum.

On Tuesday night the leading members of the Orange societies in Montreal met for the discussion of the platform for the new party of politics and appointed a committee to confer with the committee in Toronto.

An old gentleman of Kingston named Tracey drank a quantity of belladonna and opium by mistake for another medicine. Three doctors attended him during Tuesday night, and finally succeeded in counteracting the effects of the narcotic.

The by-law submitted by the Mitchell Council to raise \$4,000 to perfect the system of water works was carried by 21 majority. There was a majority of 13 in favor of the purchase of the old Tucker & Beer shops. There was not much interest taken in the matter.

An application was made to the Crown authorities for the appointment of a constable to look after the Indians on the Delaware and Caradoc reserve. Squire Gordon, who makes the application, says that drunkenness and riot greatly prevail among the tribe, and there is no constable nearer than six miles off. It is probable the request will be granted.

At the next session of the Essex county grand jury, the district attorney will apply for indictments against Dr. C. S. May, late superintendent of the Danvers insane asylum, for alleged criminal intimacy with some matrons of the institution. The particulars of the scandal were kept from the public till it gained serious proportions. May is now supposed to be near St. John, N. B.

Mr. J. P. Merritt, of St. Catharines, is around with a numerously-signed petition, asking His Worship the Mayor to call a public meeting at an early date for the purpose of discussing the state of the country. It demands an investigation into the exodus from Canada; a consideration whether our tariff should not be further increased or reduced, or made differential towards the United States; and many other matters of great importance.

The following particulars of the sad drowning accident on the Gatineau, near the Kazabaza, have arrived at Ottawa. It appears that Mr. P. McCormack, a farmer, was crossing the river on Paquet's scow with a steer on board, when the animal became unruly and attempted to jump into the water. He endeavored to prevent this, and in doing so caught the steer by the horns. A moment later the animal made a sudden movement of its head, and striking McCormack in the side, knocked him into the river. The current was very rapid at this spot and the unfortunate man was swiftly carried away from the scow and drowned before Paquet could give him any assistance. The body has not yet been recovered, although a gang of men have been dragging the river ever since the accident happened.

FRIDAY, Nov. 19.

Within a few rods of a church in the township of Pittsburg, near Kingston, it is said an old man is slowly starving for the want of the necessities of life.

Mr. Macdonald, a school teacher in Ross township, near Portage du Fort, was accidentally killed on Wednesday night by the discharge of a gun.

It is reported at Kingston that one of the men arrested some three years ago in connection with the death of Garde, at Sharbot Lake, and who was afterwards discharged, has been recently hanged in the United States for a murder of which he was convicted.

A parcel containing \$75 was stolen from the express office at Brantford. Suspicion rested on Frank McMullen, a young man who drives the express wagon. McMullen was accused of stealing the money, but denied knowing anything of it. He has now cleared out, showing that the suspicion was not unfounded.

SATURDAY, Nov. 20.

The epizootic is decreasing at Montreal. A carter was fined in court yesterday for driving a horse afflicted with it.

The name of Petersville will be changed to West London, London West or Kensington. The petition for a change is being signed by nearly all in the village.

A stove in the house of the Rev. J. S. Black, 93 McKay street, Montreal, exploded yesterday morning. The servant narrowly escaped being killed. The hot water pipes were the cause. The damage is slight.

James Hicks, who arrived in London yesterday from the north with a flock of 85 sheep, was arrested on attempting to sell the same, on suspicion that he had come by them dishonestly. The sheep were purchased at \$5 apiece, the money to be paid over when the bank opened. Hicks, however, was arrested. It was found that on driving through the toll-gate yesterday morning Hicks had no money to pay the toll and asked the gate-keeper to collect the amount from his wife, who would shortly come up. The keeper took one sheep as security. The man has been remanded till Monday next.

European.

THURSDAY, Nov. 18.

An additional reward of £500 has been offered for the discovery of the murderer of Lord Mountmorris.

Limerick advices state that it is rumored that a landlord owning an extensive estate in county Cork has been shot.

Rome advices state that the Pope has signed a brief appointing Cardinal Jacobina Pontifical Secretary of State. It is expected that the appointment will make a great change in the policy of the Vatican.

A Rome despatch says the Pope approves of the views of the Irish bishops stated in a memorial explaining their conduct in regard to the agitation in Ireland. It is expected he will shortly make a public announcement to that effect.

A St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs that immediately after the execution of the Nihilists, six suspected women

found in the crowd were taken into custody. Upon searching them there were found concealed in their clothing charts of the principal Russian prisons and a chart and full description of the Czar's new yacht, the *Livadia*. The prison plans were drawn by a German artist, and the sketches of the yacht by an Englishman.

FRIDAY, Nov. 19.

The Russian fleet now in the Pacific has been ordered to winter at Vladivostok. Prince Eugene of Sweden is dangerously ill with scarlatina.

Notwithstanding the snowstorm, over 100 families of strikers at the Southmore colliery, Durham, have been evicted and great suffering must ensue.

A despatch from Paris says a meeting of the Society for the Protection of Consumers was held on Wednesday to discuss the present agricultural depression. The general view of the economists present was that American competition need not be permanently feared by the French farmers, because with the production of only ten hectolitres per hectare America could not continue to ship corn. Mandal, a promoter of emigration to America, combated this view. He showed that French production was only fourteen hectolitres per hectare as compared with twenty-five in England, and maintained that the almost virgin soil of America produced thirty hectolitres. Reinach dwelt on the drain of French gold to America.

SATURDAY, Nov. 20.

The American Union Telegraph Company has ordered the construction of two new Atlantic cables.

The British steamer *Mildred*, Captain Long, which sailed from New York on September 28th for Marseilles, has foundered in the Atlantic. The crew, twenty-three in number, were drowned.

The evictions at Durham continue to be carried out with great cruelty toward the families of the miners. Eighteen more families have been turned into the street. Snow was falling at the time and the suffering of the children was most intense.

An explosion of fire damp occurred in a coal pit near Mons, France, yesterday. Twenty-seven men were in the pit at the time, of whom fifteen have been rescued more or less injured. It is feared that the men still in the pit are dead.

Mr. Gladstone refused to support the scheme for the new Euphrates Valley railway line favored by the Jingoes as an important link between England and her Indian Empire. It was specially urged by the Marquis of Salisbury.

A despatch from Vienna says the noted Soudan traveller, Dr. Schweinfurth, has published a letter strongly denouncing the increase of the slave trade, stating that the resumption of the traffic dates from the deposition of Ismail Pasha, but has increased more especially since Gordon left the country.

Grave rumors of another Nihilist conspiracy, even more terrible and more carefully organized than any plot hitherto discovered, are afloat in Paris. It is feared that ere many days a catastrophe that may cost the Czar and many innocent people their lives will occur. The Czar has lost much of his popularity since his morganatic marriage. Several high officials attached to his person are believed to have relations with the Nihilists.

American.

THURSDAY, Nov. 18.

Daniel Burr, a watchman in a rail mill at Cleveland, O., on returning from work yesterday morning found the house locked and no signs of life. Climbing through a window he was horrified to find the whole family lying senseless, and a powerful odor of gas from the base-burner stove; his little daughter, who last kissed him as he left home, dead, and the mother and a 11-year-old daughter on the bed and infant on the floor unconscious. A neighbor's daughter visiting was also insensible, and a woman, a friend of the family, was sitting at the foot of the bed in the same comatose condition. The last named may recover, but the others will probably die.

SATURDAY, Nov. 20.

On Thursday an express train ran into a freight train at Edgewood, near Chicago, killing the conductor and fatally injuring a brakeman.

FOUR MURDERERS SENTENCED.

Justice Reaches Them After a Long Lapse.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Nov. 17.—The three McLean brothers, Charles, Archie and Allen, and Hare were found guilty today on all the counts in the indictment against them for the murder of Usher and Kelly, and sentenced to be hanged on the 17th January, 1881. Time will be given for their counsel to send in and petition against the usual report, in such cases, forwarded to the Governor-General. The prisoners took the matter quietly, and received their sentence quite unconcernedly. They refuse all religious consolation, and curse and swear. This is the second trial in which the four prisoners have been found guilty. The first one was upset on the ground that it was a special commission, and that the warrant authorizing the judge to hold it was not read at the opening of the court. The prisoners were charged with the murder of Constable John Usher and of a settler named John Kelly. The evidence was overwhelmingly strong. For two years they had been known as horse thieves and outlaws, and were the scourge of the Kanloop district.

AN ELECTRIC EEL.—A few days ago the barque *St. Lawrence* arrived at Baltimore, from Demarara, having on board a wonderful electric eel, which was caught in Demarara, and is three feet long and two inches thick, and is kept in a tub of water. The characteristics of these eels are well known. They are so heavily charged with the electric fluid that they can by contact knock down or stun, and in many cases kill the strongest man or beast. A gentleman who touched the one in question with his umbrella, the ferule of which is iron, felt the electric current very perceptibly.

The action brought by the widow Brodie against Dr. Scott, of Forest, for alleged malpractice in the case of the late Mr. Brodie, is said to be settled out of court. Inhaling the fumes of very strong ammonia, as in this case, is said to be a dangerous practice, more especially if the inhaler be a debilitated state.