THEY WERE TWIN BROTHERS.

One Suffered for a Crime that the Other Had Committed—A Resemblance So Striking that Even the Sweetheart of the Innocent Man was Deceived and Testified Against Him—He was Imprisoned, was Pardoned, and Now His Brother is to be Tried.

An Omaha, Neb., despatch says: Morrison Wilcox, Deputy Sheriff of Cattaraugus county, New York, passed through the city this morning *en route* to Olean, having in custody James Gregory Lafler, a prominent stock raiser, whose ranch is located near Watrous, N. M. The prisoner was handcuffed and huge steel shackles were clasped about his ankles. The crime for which Lafler is now under arrest is robbery and assault with intent to kill. The story of the terrible affair, as told to your correspondent by the officer, was a strange one.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason Lafler, parents of the prisoner, are respectable people living near Olean, N.Y. Twin sons were born to them, and when they grew to manhood their resemblance was so great that few people could tell one from the other. Both of them were sent to college, James choosing Cornell, and his twin brother, William, Yale. Both, after three years, left college and returned home. William took the management of his father's farm and James began the study of law in the village of Olean. It was the habit of the latter to spend Sunday at home, and on the evening of that day the brothers invariably spent a few hours at the house of a neighbor named John Clifford, a rich lumberman, who had two lovely daughters.

One Sunday night in June, 1882, a gentleman called at Mr. Clifford's and paid him nearly $8,000 in cash. This was done in the presence of both the Lafler brothers. Shortly after the twins departed for home. Between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock next morning Mr. Clifford was attacked by a masked man and beaten into insensibility. The $8,000 which were hidden between the mattresses of the bed was taken and the robber started to make his escape. He was met in the hall by the youngest Miss Clifford, Wm. Lafler's sweetheart, and the girl with unusual bravery snatched the mask from the robber's face and exclaimed: "My God! Bill Lafler, what have you done?" The would-be murderer struck and then fled.

The next morning William Lafler was arrested and held without bail, charged with the burglary and attempted murder. Mr. Clifford finally recovered, and William was placed on trial. The main witness was his old sweetheart, who swore positively to identifying him as the robber. She was sure it was William and not James, as the robber was dressed in the same clothes William had worn the night preceding the crime, and which in material and style were radically different from those worn by his brother. In his own behalf William testified that he was innocent, and all he knew was that he had retired an hour after leaving the Clifford mansion on Sunday night. He had awakened in the morning with a terrible nausea and felt queer for two or three days. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty as charged, and the prisoner was sentenced to ten years' hard labor at Sing Sing.

While nearly every one believed William guilty, there was one firm friend who doubted it and tried to find out the truth. His investigation lasted nearly a year. His discoveries in brief were as follows: James at Cornell contracted many debts, which were paid shortly after the robbery. He had sent $2,000 to a Mrs. Coates, in Ithaca, as hush money for an assault on her daughter. On the Sunday night preceding the robbery James had purchased two ounces of chloroform at an Olean drug store, with which he undoubtedly drugged his brother. A hundred minor things were found out that proved the guilt of James Lafler.

Before the investigation was complete James left for a trip to New York. About two months later a report reached Olean that he had been drowned off Long Branch while yachting and that his body could not be recovered. A week afterwards a respectable looking man, giving his name as Alfred Thomas, appeared at the Lafler farm and confirmed the news. He brought with him certain papers that bore out his statement, and James was given up as dead. One day, about three years later, Olean and the surrounding country were electrified by the action of Gov. Hill, who issued a pardon for William Lafler, stating that he was convinced of the convict's innocence, and that he was positive that the crime was committed by his dead twin brother. The years passed on and the crime would doubtless have become only a memory but for the appearance of a man in Olean five weeks ago, who had a secret interview with the District Attorney. He informed that official that he was the man who had brought the news of James' death to the family six years before, and that he was paid by James to do it. He said that James was living, and was a ranchman located near Watrous N.M. A warrant was issued and the fugitive apprehended last Thursday. He stoutly denies his guilt, and says that he will be able to prove his innocence.

News Nutshelled.

Mr. Alex. F. Pirie, late of the Toronto *Telegram*, has accepted a position on the editorial staff of the Montreal *Star*.

On the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture the members of the Legislature will visit the Agricultural College and Experimental Farm at Guelph on Wednesday next.

Mr. Garson, of Lincoln, has a Bill in the Legislature to enable municipalities to buy out cemetery companies and to substitute municipal control for that of companies.

A new charity to be established in Toronto, called "The Community of St. John the Divine," is applying for incorporation. Its objects are education of the young, care of the sick and needy and fallen, and other works of mercy.

A Kingston despatch says: The circumstances attending the arrest of Geo. Austin, commercial traveller, are sad in the extreme. His wife is seriously ill and confined to bed, and she still thinks he is on a trip, but wonders why she does not hear from him.

Provoking a Dude's Anger.

Twining—How can I provoke the anger of that dude Wilkins? Smith—Strike a match on his corrugated shirt.

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

TORONTO, Feb. 15.—The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Blyth moved for a return of copies of all Orders in Council with respect to the investment of sinking funds of municipalities under the provisions of the Municipal Act. He said that a few years ago, when the craze for railways was at its height, many of the municipalities granted large bonuses. These bonuses were secured in too many cases with little regard for the interests of the people, but with regard rather for the interests of the speculators who were concerned in the schemes. The sinking funds on these loans were coming in and it was difficult for the municipalities to find means of investing the money safely and profitably. An Order in Council gave authority to place the money in banks, and a good deal of money so invested by municipalities had been lost. By a change in the law power was given to invest in mortgages. But in making these investments the municipalities had to come in contact with the loan companies. It was well known that these companies had executive officers of great experience to manage the investment of their funds. But Municipal Councillors were elected from year to year and necessarily could not have the same experience to guide them in investing. Therefore, as a rule, they did not take advantage of this means of investing. He thought it would be well should the Government of the Province agree to receive the funds collected for the repayment of these loans, paying interest at 5 per cent. This would overcome the difficulties which at present existed. The information he sought by this motion, he believed, would furnish strong arguments in favor of the suggestion he made.

Hon. A. M. Ross said he supposed the motion was called forth by the unfortunate locking-up of the funds of the Township of Bentinck in a bank which had recently failed. He pointed out that there were several modes of investing county funds, and a very large latitude was allowed to the Councils to enable them to make safe and permanent investments. He believed, notwithstanding the hon. gentleman's statement, that Municipal Councils had availed themselves to a large extent of the proviso allowing Municipal Councils to invest money on first mortgages on real estate. The difficulty of looking after a sinking fund might be obviated by having the debentures payable in yearly instalments, and this plan he believed would save both expense and trouble. He did not think it necessary for the Government to establish a sort of saving bank for the investment of municipal funds.

The motion was carried.

Mr. French, in moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the law respecting mortgages, said he had every confidence that the Bill was a good one, and would receive the approval of the House. It is well known, he said, that if I were to borrow money from you, Mr. Speaker, on my promissory note——

Mr. Meredith—You would never pay it. (Laughter.)

Mr. French—If that note was overdue, I would have the privilege of paying it at any time with interest for the time overdue. But if I gave you better security by a mortgage of my farm—if I had one—and the loan were three days overdue I would be obliged to give you notice of six months or pay interest for that time before I could compel you to take your money. This is a grievous burden upon the poorer class of borrowers, and, as you can see, must often work great injustice. There ought to be some simple machinery by which these "reasonable terms" could be arranged between the parties.

Hon. Mr. Mowat agreed that in practice the law worked harshly, and it did not seem fair that a mortgagee desiring to pay off a mortgage should be compelled to give six months' notice or pay interest for that time. If this Bill was referred to a special committee doubtless that committee would frame a clause fixing a time to meet the general opinion. Perhaps even a shorter period than three months might be fair in the case mentioned by the member for Hamilton (Mr. Gibson). He believed it quite proper that there should be some legislation on the subject, and suggested that the Bill should be sent to a special committee

The Bill was read the second time.

Mr. Lees (Lanark) moved the second reading of his Bill to amend the General Road Companies Act. It provided that on the application of one hundred ratepayers the Council shall appoint an arbitrator and the County Judge a second, and if a third is necessary he shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. These three are empowered to decide the bounds of the municipalities or parts of municipalities that shall be taxed to buy up the roads. If the County Council cannot agree with the road companies as to the value of the roads to be purchased, another arbitration is to take place under the Municipal Act.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Waters moved the second reading of a Bill to amend the Assessment Act. He explained that its objects were to abolish the poll tax, to abolish statute labor in certain cases, and to provide that the sum paid for commutation of statute labor should be paid to the overseers of highways, and by them expended for the improvement of the roads. He argued that it was unfair to impose the poll tax upon young men who paid taxes indirectly by paying their board and lodging.

Mr. Meredith said that the poll tax was a reasonable thing, and that there had been no demand for its repeal.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Phelps moved the second reading of a Bill which provides that the salaries of police magistrates in Scott Act counties shall be $700 where the population is over 40,000, and $800 where it exceeds 50,000. The present salary is $600, irrespective of population.

Mr. Meredith opposed the Bill, arguing that it would retard the progress of the Scott Act to compel County Councils to pay an increased salary to police magistrates.

Mr. Smith, moving the second reading of his Bill to amend the Municipal Act, explained that it was intended to extend the local improvemement system to township municipalities. But it was believed that the frontage tax would not be just as a means of assessing for the cost of the works constructed. It was proposed, therefore, to authorize the assessment on a basis of acreage, those lands which received the benefit from the improvement to be assessed according to the benefit they received. He believed that the Bill was a good one and would receive the approval of the House. In reply to objections by Mr. Waters, he said that the Bill could be taken advantage of to promote selfish ends if a man could secure control of the Township Council, but he thought that that was a matter that might be left with the Township Council and the people.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) expressed fear that this measure would introduce in the townships the difficulties which had made themselves felt in this city over the local improvement question. He thought it would be better to depend upon the equity of the Council for the making of improvements

Mr. Phelps opposed the Bill and thought it should be withdrawn, as it was a bad Bill.

The Bill was read the second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

The Bill to amend the Act incorporating the William Hall Peterborough Protestant Poor Trust (Mr. Stratton) was read the second time.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, Mr. Harcourt in the chair.

On the item covering the salary and expenses of detectives employed in the Attorney-General's department,

Mr. Meredith accused the Government of sending some of its detectives to work up cases of breach of the election laws against some parties for partizan purposes while leaving the gross corruption of their political friends in Glengarry and other places untouched.

Hon. Mr. Mowat said that it was the duty of officers under the department—the county attorneys—to prosecute in cases of breaches of the election law. But there was difficulty in securing the evidence. He was not in favor, however, of the Government detectives being employed in looking up this evidence unless there was special reason for it. Perhaps the hon. gentleman knew of cases of detectives being at work such as he spoke of. It was lamentable, no doubt, the extent to which bribery had been practised. It seemed that the supporters of Liberal candidates had sought to learn a lesson from friends of gentlemen opposite. But he hoped that they would have learned that it was not only right but politic to avoid transactions of that kind.

On the grants for schools.

Hon G. W. Ross (Middlesex) explained that the increase of $3,000 to schools in new and poor townships and unorganized territory was deemed just and advisable after careful consideration, especially in view of the extension of settlement in various directions. The money would be allotted to Public and Separate schools in the same proportion as the grant to other schools.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) expressed regret that the amount was not made larger.

Hon. G. W. Ross said there did seem to be a tendency to allow the Common School education to terminate with the fourth class, and the department could only resist that by pointing out the importance of maintaining fifth forms. Where they were required, as a rule, the advanced pupil obtained a better education in the High School than in the fifth form of the Public School. It had been said that the grants to Public Schools had not increased since 1876, while the grants to High Schools had increased 25 per cent. But it was to be remarked that the Public School attendance had decreased from 490,000 in 1876 to 487,000 in 1886, while in the same period the High School attendance had increased from 8,451 to 15,344.

The remainder of the items under the head of education were passed. The committee rose and the House adjourned at 9 p.m.

Mr. Tooley moved for a return of copies of the evidence taken by Mr. Æmilius Irving, Q. C., with reference to the Ontario Grain & Seed Company, and of the report, if any, made by him with regard to the said company, its formation or operations. He said that the farmers had been defrauded of large sums of money, and that the Government deserved credit for appointing a commission to inquire into the matter.

Mr. Ingram said that farmers in his section had suffered severely from frauds in connection with grain seed.

Mr. Woods (Hastings) said the wonder was that anybody could be found so ignorant as to accept the promises which were made in connection with these seed grain transactions.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said he had noticed a case in which a person who had bought these receipts by wholesale had sued upon some of them and had been successful. He had been a little surprised by this result, as he had supposed that in such a case notice would be imputed to the party. It was not only ignorant persons who were deceived by these agents. He knew of a case where a very intelligent farmer had gone into the transaction, hoping to profit by it, and he must say that he did not consider him free from blame.

Mr. Meredith said he believed there was actually a case in which an agent for agricultural implements had been taken in. (Laughter.)

The motion was carried.

Mr. Ingram's motion for a return of fees paid to county officers in 1887 was withdrawn.

Hotel Customs in Japan.

"A friend of mine told me to-day that the hotels of Japan never have any hooks or nails for the patrons to put their clothes on," said a dissipated husband to his wife.

"Indeed? Well, you would feel perfectly at home there," she replied.

"How so?"

"Because whenever you come in at night you always hang your cloths up on the floor."—*Hotel Mail.*

—The Princess of Wales pefers light colored dresses, even in winter. Her cashmeres and serges are trimmed with fur, but they are of some soft gray or brown tint, even in December. While at Sandringham she comes down to breakfast at a reasonable hour, and dispenses the tea herself—she is said to perfer this beverage to coffee even in the mornings—out of a handsomely chased tea service. The china, which is of the choicest, is all inscribed with the heir apparent's motto, "Ich Dien," and the table is always gay with flowers.

TRICKS IN ALL TRADES.

How a Quack Awed a Crowd and Sold His Patent Lung Healers.

A short time ago a quack experimented in Lambeth with considerable success upon the pockets of an awe-stricken crowd. After a preliminary harangue and a terse little lecture on the viscera, which the charlatan sketched in with colored crayons upon a blackboard on which the human skeleton was outlined in white paint, the fellow came to business. "I am going to demonstrate to you," said he, "by a startling experiment upon one of you bystanders that my miraculous remedy can cure all diseases of the lungs and chest. Now, whoever's got a bad cough or cold on the chest, let him stand forward." There was a little hesitation and a good deal of giggling. "Don't be afraid, my friends," said the quack, "it's all free gratis, for nothing. Let any afflicted person come forward and I'll show him the nature of his disorder and give him a packet of my lung healers for nothing." At last a man with a violent cold and cough came forward. The quack doctor pretended to sound his chest with a stethoscope of almost pantomimic proportions, and informed the staring crowd that the patient was in a galloping consumption.

"My friend," said the quack to the unfortunate victim, "so terrible is this disease that you can actually see it." He handed a glass tube to the patient and poured a pint of clear water into a large tumbler. "Just you blow into that water, my friend," he cried. The man obeyed, and the water grew discolored, turbid, and at last as white as if it had been mixed with milk. The patient became as white as ashes. "This unhappy man, my friends," said the quack, as he held the glass on high, "if he hadn't had the good fortune to come across me to-night wouldn't have been long for this world. I should have given him about a fortnight; that's all. Now a packet of my lung healers will cure him. What you see in the glass of water are his vitiated humors, the products of corruption. My magic lung healers destroy these humors in the body or out of the body. Observe, my friends, watch me carefully, there is no deception here." The quack dropped a pinch from one of a packet of powders into a glass and directed the patient to stir it with the tube. The water became immediately clear. Then he reaped his harvest. The water was lime water, and the carbonic acid in the man's breath naturally threw down the carbonate of lime at once and rendered the water turbid. And the miraculous lung healer was simply a little citric acid and sugar, which instantly redissolved it.—*Saturday Review.*

Latest From Scotland.

Primroses, daisies and other flowers are in bloom at Saltcoats.

Rev. J. Allan, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire, died recently, aged 80 years. He had been minister of the parish for 44 years.

Mr. James Tenant Caird, senior partner of the shipbuilding and engineering firm of Caird & Co., Greenock, died suddenly on the 30th ult.

An epidemic of measles has broken out at Shotts, and Calderhead School has been closed. Out of a roll of 300 children nearly 200 are affected.

Miss C. F. Gordon Cumming has received a British Civil List pension of £50 in consideration of her many and valuable services to literature.

The electors of Tradeston Division of Glasgow have by an overwhelming majority passed a resolution declaring that their representative, Mr. Cameron Corbett, M.P., by his conduct both inside and outside the House of Commons, had forfeited the confidence of the electors of Tradeston, and calling upon him to resign the seat.

A statement that Abbotsford is for sale is incorrect. Mrs. Maxwell Scott, the great-granddaughter of the novelist (who has taken great care to preserve Sir Walter's rooms in the state he left them), is willing to let the house and estate "upon a lease of one to five years' duration," which is a very different thing from selling Abbotsford outright.

On Jan. 30th, says the *N. B. Mail*, Marion Paul Aird, one of the best local poets, died at her residence, Kadakoi, Kilmarnock, in the 73rd year of her age. Her memory will live longest and she herself be best remembered as the writer of the beautiful hymn, "Had I the Wings of a Dove"—a hymn familiar as a household word to every Sabbath scholar.

By the lamented death of Mr. John Waddell, of Inch, Linlithgowshire, the Clydesdale horse interest has lost one of its most enthusiastic supporters. Mr. Waddell was for many years a large purchaser at Merryton sales, and his name will ever be associated in Clydesdale annals with the famed 100 guineas colt, Duke of Hamilton, 2,074, purchased by him at the sale of 1878.

Mr. W. F. Skene, Historiographer Royal for Scotland, was on the 31st ult. presented with his portrait by a number of gentlemen who wished to show their regard for his worth and esteem for his personal character. The Lord Justice General made the presentation. In reply Mr. Skene gave some interesting details regarding the production of his great work, "Celtic Scotland."

The Evil of Chewing Cloves.

When I first smell cloves on a man's breath my first thought is: "That man is a fool." He thinks he is concealing the smell of whiskey or some other vile smell, and he is only advertising it. There is another reason also why he is a fool. The oil of cloves, which is expressed from them by chewing them, is an active solvent of the enamel of the teeth. Any one who chews cloves will soon notice that it makes the teeth tender. That means that their enamel is disappearing, and the next step is a mouthful of decayed teeth, which all the odors of Araby the blest can never sweeten. When will people learn that the sweetest and rarest smell of all is no smell at all?—*Chicago Journal.*

Mrs. Jacob Condon, of Reed, Pa., dreamed that her baby was burned to death, but in the morning when she told her husband of the dream he laughed at her fears. Late in the afternoon the child's clothing took fire at an open grate, and before the flames could be smothered the infant had been so badly burned that it died soon afterward.

MARRIAGE.

It Seems to be Going Out in Europe and Great Britain—Some Startling Results.

The numbers who marry seem to be steadily decreasing. The figures supplied under the head of International Vital Statistics, which are tabulated from returns furnished by the authorities of various European States, show an all-round fall in the proportion of marriages.

The falling off in 1886 below the average of the twenty years in 1861-1880 is very marked, although not so great as the difference between the rate of 1866 and 1886. Here, for instance, are the three sets of figures:

	England.	Scotland.	Ireland.	France.	Belgium.
1886	17.5	14.7	10.8	16.0	15.7
1861-80	16.4	14.2	9.8	15.8	14.8
1866	14.1	12.4	8.4	14.8	13.4

There are three notable exceptions to the uniform decrease of the marriage rate, but they are easily explained. In Prussia, in Austria and in Italy the marriage rate of 1866 was distinctly below that of 1886. The secret, of course, is that in 1866 the three States were at war and campaigns and matrimony do not go well together. Italy alone of the great European States keeps up her marriage rate. It averaged 15.2 for eighteen years; it was 15.6 in 1886. In this she resembles Sweden. But the other States show the same phenomenon:

	Denmark.	Switzerland.	Austria.	Germany.	Holland.
Average 20 years	15.3	15.1	17.1	17.4	16.2
1886	14.2	13.7	15.5	15.8	13.9

These figures all point in one direction, and all tell the same tale. Europeans are not such a marrying people now as they were twenty years ago, and among the marrying peoples we are nearly at the bottom of the tree. The Irish marriage rate is in itself enough to account for much of the misery and unrest of Erin; and the Scotch rate is lower than that of any nation in Europe. Our marriage rate is now lower than it has ever been since 1838, when the statistics were first collected on a scientific basis. The average for quinquennial periods which fluctuated from 15.6 in 1838-40 to 17.2 in 1851-5 has gone down steadily since 1871-5, and is still tending downward.

Another fact which no doubt explains one cause of the falling away in the marriage rate is that people, if they do not postpone marriage altogether, postpone it as late as possible. That is to say an increasing proportion of the years of human existence are spent outside matrimony. The mean age has been steadily rising since 1873, and the mean age of 1886 is the highest yet recorded, being 28.2 for men and 25.9 for women. The average age at which the professional and independent classes marry is 31.22 for the man, 26.40 for the woman.

Of course the meaning of the postponement or the rejection of marriage is the increase of prostitution. No one will pretend that the average man in these latter years has become more ascetic, more continent, more evere in holding his senses under control. The tendency has rather been the other way. A celibate population is not, as a rule, a chaste population, but rather the reverse. To postpone marriage is to increase prostitution, and that often of the worst kind. For it is interesting to note that the postponement and partial abandonment of marriage has not had, as might have been expected, its natural result in the increase of illegitimate births. If marriage had been succeeded by concubinage of the higher order, where the union, although not permanent, has still sufficient human relationship about it to surround the partners with the redeeming influences of children, the falling off in the marriage rate would have been accompanied by the rise *pari passu* of the number of children born out of wedlock. The very reverse is the case. The marriage rate in 1845 was 17.02, and the illegitimate births 2.3 per 1,000, while in 1886, with a marriage rate of 14.1, the illegitimate birth rate had fallen to 1.5. The proportion of illegitimate births in every thousand births was 65 in the ten years between 1851 and 1860. It was only 47 in 1886. Putting it roughly, prostitution is elbowing matrimony out of the field.

Apart altogether from the question of vice, and looking at the subject solely from the point of view of human happiness a more melancholy conclusion could hardly be arrived at by the pessimist than that which—born optimists as we are—seems to be deducible from the Registrar's figures.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

McGarigle Enjoying Himself.

A correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* tells all about McGarigle's goings on at St. Catharines. The despatch says: Mac is enjoying himself these cold wintry days sleigh-riding. On one occasion he was accompanied by Capt. Wm. McEvoy, formerly captain of St. John's boat, the schooner Blake, but now proprietor of the livery stables where McGarigle gets his horses for sporting around. Another way McGarigle has of enjoying the freedom which Canada affords to American boodlers is shooting. He, with Fred. St. John and A. Woodruff, was enjoying a rabbit hunt in the swamps and lowlying districts around the village of Marshville, some thirty-five miles southwest of this place, a few days ago. The report that McGarigle presided over a banquet of his friends at the Welland House a few nights ago is prettly well founded. The fact that Capt. J. Irving, skipper of the Blake; Fred. St. John, barrister, of this city; Mr. Patterson, one of the counsel for the defendant in the Dr. St. John trial; a friend named Woodruff, and two Chicago men, supposed to be lawyers or friends of McGarigle from that city, were all seen at the Welland House on the night in question coincides with the rumor, and it may reasonably be supposed that Mr. McGarigle was present.

Well Worth the Pain.

Gus—What is that red mark around your neck, Jack; somebody been trying to choke you?

Jack—No; I was tobogganing last night with a college girl.

Russian observations have shown that teeth decay in a quite regular order, the lower third molar being the first attacked, then the upper, then the lower fourth molar and so on, the lower incisors and canine teeth being the last affected. Upper teeth, as a rule, are more durable than lower, right than left, those of dark persons than those of blondes, those of short persons than those of tall.