

NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER

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A Tragedy of Souls.

There are certain main strands in the story of the Thaw case which have contributed much to its notoriety:

These are, the social prominence of White, the wealth of the Thaw family, and the persistence and ability of Attorney Jerome. But for these three conditions we should have heard of the killing of White as a local incident only. The courts would have speedily determined the destiny of Thaw and that would have ended it. But Jerome was persistent and Thaw was rich. So long as the prosecuting attorney would pursue the prisoner, other lawyers could fatten on the wealth of the Thaw family.

Thus the importance or notoriety of the case had nothing to do with the character of the slayer or slain.

Two Grave Questions.

But the unusual publicity given to the proceedings has raised two important questions, viz: what can be done to deprive money of its power to block true justice and swift judgment—and what shall be the basis of an unwritten law that justifies or excuses a citizen in the defense of his dearest interests.

These considerations aside, we have in this case a tragedy which has not a single feature to redeem it, unless it be the unwavering and sacrificing support of the mother to her son.

Not one of the four main characters affords any relief to the moral view of this unique soul tragedy. All of them are doubtless types of certain gross phases of modern life and they are thrown upon the canvas for our gaze—the world sees them. The long drawn judicial trials are as moving picture shows, presenting all conceivable and unconceivable forms of vice. Flocks of human birds of prey feast upon the nakedness of corruption; vultures, some of them, literally fattening upon the blood of human souls.

White a Composite.

White was a composite man of whom it is difficult to find a parallel in history. He was brilliantly talented. He was possessed of social qualities and wealth that gave him ready access to the most distinguished people. His great gifts and artistic tastes made him the envied of a large circle: with these he could have graced a king's court or have corrupted a princess. He was an intellectual genius wedded to a perverted soul. He was brilliant enough to win the proudest and vainest, and vile enough to corrupt the purest and innocent. And to accomplish these things he was without love or conscience. In the whole length and breadth of this tragedy he was the only one who, thus far, has met physical death.

Harry K. Thaw.

His slayer was a weakling. There is a crack in his dome. The bell does not always ring

right; at times it sounds so clear that we pronounce it sound; but occasions tell a jar of discordant notes. He was hardly less a sexual pervert than White but he was many times his inferior in intellect. Fitful, unbalanced, uncertain. A rich fool, he could and did, waste his substance and corrupt young life.

But he had in him a touch of the divine spark of love. In the firmament of his life there was one little star which has never been wholly eclipsed. He pitied where he loved, and by these he wedded one who had been sacrificed on the altar of White's lust.

The Girl Wife.

That young wife was not so much a natural pervert as a born victim. She was cradled in an immoral atmosphere. Like the daughter of Herodias she was early trained to regard her physical beauty as her fortune and that she must set it at the highest price. Salome danced in voluptuous attire and her mother sold her to public disgrace for the head of the Baptist. So Evelyn's mother trained her child and sold the young girl for a price into the gilded saloon of the seductive White.

Attorney Jerome.

The fourth leading character in this drama is the state's attorney of New York.

With a persistence and skill that marks him a prosecutor without a thread of human tenderness or mercy, he pursues his victim as though the whole state of New York depended upon the conviction and commitment of Thaw to the electric chair. That failing, he opened again every festering sore—uncovered the grave wherein was buried the carrion of long courses of vice, and saved neither age nor sex—virtue nor honor, in his insatiable thirst to send his victim to a life-long maniac's cell. That Jerome counted White as an esteemed acquaintance seems, at first view, to afford sufficient reason for this persistent attack, but on reflection one may say that to a normal man this would have led to a desire to retreat and leave, such of the work as could be, to others.

Victor Hugo's Picture.

Victor Hugo has drawn a picture of an official character that serves a purpose here:

"Javert personified justice, light, and truth in their celestial function of crushing evil. He had behind him, around him, authority, reason, the legal conscience, the public vindication, all the stars; he protected order, he drew the lightning from the law, he avenged society, he rendered assistance to the absolute. There was in his victory a remnant of defiance and contest: upright, haughty, and dazzling, he displayed the superhuman bestiality of a ferocious archangel. The formidable shadow of the deed he was doing rendered visible to his clutching fist the flashing social sword. Happy and indignant, he held beneath his heel crime, vice, perdition, rebellion, and hell; he was radiant, he exterminated, he smiled, and there was an incontestable grandeur in this monstrous St. Michael. Javert, though terrifying, was not ignoble. Probity, sincerity, candor, conviction, and the idea of duty, are things which, by deceiving themselves may become hideous, but which, even if hideous, remain grand. Without suspecting it, Javert, in his formidable happiness was worthy of pity, like every ignorant man who triumphs."

This graphic picture of Javert—plus higher functions and greater knowledge in the realm of law, may almost stand for Jerome.

The Wreck of Souls.

The whole ghastly show which has been spread before our gaze for than two years is a flaming reflex of the hideous fire of human lust.

Only one physical death is recorded but the lifting of the veil in the criminal courts has brought into the limelight this unholy and

wholly unhealthy picture of the wreck of human souls. In it we have been compelled to see men whose own souls were already bartered to the vilest devil from hell, to corrupt and damn young souls—not one or two—but scores of them, bought and sold, doomed to a perdition on earth if not to the cry of lost souls in hell.

—WM. BURGESS.

Sources of Public Revenue

Some time ago we called attention in the NEWS-LETTER to the fact that the town of Faleida in Norway did not impose any taxes on its lucky inhabitants. This happy condition comes about in this way. The town owns a tract of timber land from which they have been cutting the timber annually, but as fast as it was cut over it has been judiciously replanted. The result is in the last thirty years the town has sold over \$5,000,000 worth of trees, making an annual revenue of about \$167,000. Beside the fact that the inhabitants are not taxed, the local railways and telephones are free and education is free. But Faleida is not the only European town thus favored. The village of Anpen with 220 inhabitants has all its expenses paid out of the annual revenue from 163 acres of timber land. Heidelberg from 6,860 acres receives a clear profit each year of between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

The village of Brannlingen after allowing firewood to the citizens and 100,000 board feet of lumber to churches, schools and other institutions, and establishing electric plants, waterworks and other public improvements, has a net income of \$21,600 from 4,500 acres of forest. Freiburg from a little over 8,000 acres receives an annual income of about \$5.80 per acre. Athens derived a valuable revenue from her silver mines at Laurium, Fairhope, Alabama, owns a wharf from the fees of which the village receives a large revenue; and Chicago still owns her sixteenth section set apart for school purposes, from which she receives a substantial revenue. If the recent long drawn discussion in Congress on the tariff question should lead us as a nation to study some of the old world methods of deriving a revenue the \$500,000 which the session cost us may prove a good investment.

National vs. Individual Prosperity.

Some twenty-five or thirty years ago we began to hear a great deal said about "national prosperity". The idea was quite attractive. The term had a charming sound. But the writer a few years later from the stand point of the educator took exceptions to the idea. It became apparent that the term was a misnomer; that the trend was not in the direction of national prosperity at all, but rather in the line of individual prosperity or wealth, and that instead of proving a national blessing it would prove a national curse, or at least a national menace.

We believe that to-day a large proportion of the thinking voters of this country would frankly admit that the unprecedented increase of individual wealth during the last few years has bred greed, graft, and gross corruption both in public and private life. We may not be able to change what has been done, but we can and should change the future trend by checking the individual accumulation of wealth at the expense of the masses.

The frequent national conference composed of our state governors and others of wide experience and clear foresight is certain to end in preventing our national resources and public utilities from falling so extensively into the hands of the few, and at the same time will give some protection to those that come after us.

Our Outlook

The New Tariff Bill.

The mountain in labor has brought forth a mouse.

There has been a maximum of talk on the tariff with but a minimum of results. So far as the common people are concerned it would be difficult indeed to discover what real benefit is provided by the tariff bill.

It has been said many times during the discussion of this measure that it would be impossible to pass a tariff bill to please everybody since the man who has something to sell wants it protected and the man who desires to buy wants it free.

But this is not a statesmanlike answer to a question affecting the whole people. The real question at issue was not the placing in the hands of a glove maker or a steel trust an instrument with which to plunder the American people, but how to adjust matters so that all necessary and really desirable things might reach the masses without a tax tacked on.

From this point of view the result is a miserable fiasco.

It is true that the passing of this measure has given congress something to do and it is also true that it has cost the country a good sized bill of expense. But we are waiting for some one to tell us—not how much this or that manufacturer is going to make by it, but just one thing that the country is going to gain by it.

We may admit that it has developed some statesmanship. Had there been no fight we should have had a much worse law to face. It looks, indeed, as though this is to be our only consolation, that while the relief is not what was promised we should have had new and added burdens but for the fight put up against it and in this matter Wisconsin has had a fair share of the fight.

The provisions of the tariff bill which is now about ready for the president's signature are altogether too extensive and complicated for review in a single newspaper article. We shall have occasion to refer to many of its details and working in the near future.—W. B.

Mr. Norris, republican senator of Nebraska, discussing the question yesterday of providing an automobile for the vice president, objected that if congress gave an auto to the vice president who did not need one, it ought to give one to the speaker, who did not want one. He further said that the speaker's natural inclination to run over people might make an automobile in his charge a very dangerous vehicle, and Mr. Barnett (democrat) said if as had been said on the floor of the house that the speaker bought underwear at \$1.50 a suit, it would be a royal diadem of ridiculousness to try to force a man of such simple tastes into a \$6,000 automobile.—W. B.

Among the new arrivals at the Moraine are Dr. and Mrs. Frank Lydsto, Dr. and Mrs. A. W. McCandless, and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Woolley of Chicago; Mr. Eli Slaughter, of Dallas, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Post of Pasadena, Cal., and Mr. B. J. Butler of Minneapolis.

Highland Park News

(Continued from first page.)

Sues For Divorce.

Mrs. Ernest C. Reider filed papers Thursday afternoon suing for a divorce from her husband. The chief complaint is that Mr. Reider is so bone lazy that he will not support his wife, and with this laziness comes a list of cruelties.

At present Mr. Reider is away, no one seems to know where and has been gone since June 28th. It is not thought that he will show up to contest the suit.

Hurrah for the Irish.

The mayor is Irish, the police a c Irish and patrol box No. 1 is Irish too. Anyhow, the old box has been moved from the corner of St. Johns and Central avenues and is now on Central avenue opposite Kline's shoe store and an Irish painter gave it a beautiful coat of the national color.

Miss Towner of Laurel avenue left Friday for several weeks stay at Charlevoix, Mich.

Mrs. B. A. Fessenden gave a large dinner last Saturday evening in honor of her guests, Mrs. J. Dent and daughter Miss Edith, and Miss McKinley, a relative of the ex-president. These friends have been visiting Mrs. Fessenden for over a week.

Thursday was Ladies' Day at the Exmore Country Club. Several ladies entertained at luncheons, and the afternoon was given to whist.

The Moraine Hotel is to have one of the largest dances of the season Saturday evening. The affair is to be informal, and although it is the weekly dance, a number of guests from Lake Forest, Ravinia, Wilmette, and other North Shore suburbs will be there. The patronage at the hotel this year is the largest in the history of this fashionable resort.

Miss Catherine Culin returned Wednesday from a short visit to friends in Valparaiso, Ind.

Miss Laura Muhle and her mother left today for Naperville Park to attend the camp meeting.

Men are at work in the buildings of the Northwestern Military Academy making some improvements preparatory to the opening of school in the fall.

Central Avenue, between the tracks and St. John's Ave., has been improved this week, and is a vast improvement over its past condition.

Miss Priscilla Carver will appear with the New York Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia Park, Thursday evening the 26th. She will play the Tchaikowsky Concerto Opus 23.

Miss Beulah Cummings of Highwood will spend Sunday at Twin Lakes, Wis.

Rev. George Snelton is supplying the pulpit at the Episcopal church during the absence of the Pastor, Rev. P. C. Wolcott.

What She Enjoyed.

Mr. Crimsonbeak—I wish to gracious you'd take that bunch of hairpins out of your mouth when you're talking to me. I can't understand a single word you say.

Mrs. Crimsonbeak—There you go! You hate to see me have the least bit of pleasure!

Rough on Rats.

"Yes, the dye in her false hair caused her to have blood poisoning."

"Sick from rat poison, ex?"—Houston Post.

Look for Chas. M. Schneider's ad. in this issue relating to a new stock of hole-proof socks.

Please remember that Chas. M. Schneider can repair your clock just as well as any firm in Chicago. You are safe in leaving the most delicate work with him. Bring your tubular chimes and Hall clocks. All work guaranteed, called for and returned. Can you beat this proposition in Chicago?