Peasant Found Guilty of Murdering His Children.

### KILLED FIVE OF HIS FAMILY

Surviving Child Pleaded for the Life | AN OVERHEATED KITCHEN STOVE of Her Father Though She Barely Escaped Losing Her Life-Realism Too Horrible for the Stage-An Extraordinary Judge.

Chartres, Dec. 30 .- After a week's trial, which has attracted the attention of the whole of France, Brierre, the farmer of this vicinity, who, April 21st, murdered four of his daughters, aged respectively 14, 11, 5, and 4, and his son, 7 years age, stabbing and beating them to death while they were in bed, was found guilty to-day, and was condemned to be decapitated by the guillotine. Briere persisted in declaring himself innocent, and defended himself with the habitual cunning of the French peasant. But the circomstantial evidence was overwhelm-

tle daughter, who, the police declare, children by not responding to Briere's | from exposure. invitation to go to see him, went on the witness stand sobbingly, and protested that her father was innecent, and begged the court to restore him to her.

An Extraordinary Judge.

This is the first time a man has been tried in France for murdering his five little children, beginning with the eldest, by successively cutting their throats while sleeping, in order, as the judge himself proclaims, to marry his mistress, a woman of reputed wealth, who did not want to wed a man with a family. Brierre, the accused, is a hard-neaded, reticent peasant, the owner of a small farm near the picturesque Village of Corancez. He emphatically declares his innocence, stacing that he is the loik, who, at the instigation of another peasant, one Lubin, the father the real murderer of his five children -concealed in his stable the bloodstained blade of a plough with which the crime was committed, and placed other blood-stained objects on the ter the room. The flames were so premises, thereby providing a chain of circumstantial evidence.

secuting attorney, working tooth burns. one of the most inhuman crimes and the three children further away practices had thrown her neighbors lead us in a few years at her preheard of since Medea of Colchis from the burning house, the walls into a state of intense fear and sent rate of building unless liberal slaughtered the children she bore to of which were now falling in. He

judicial procedure than that of France own feet, which were badly burned dren. furnish grounds for a new trial, and cut, in sacks, and with nothing don't believe it, why, I do; and that neighbors and gave the alarm. is enough for you to convict him." And again: "Oh, oh! Your pretended PIDI robbers only wounded you, and did not kill you. Well, had I been in their | UillL place, I would not have missed killing you, you may feel sure of that." Strange to say, the conduct of the Judge caused great delight among Put Alcohol on Her Body and the townsfolk of the accused, and when counsel for the defence objected to the ruling of the bench, and observed that his client had a right to express his indignation and that he wept each time that his dead children | WAS IT ACCIDENT OR SUICIDE were spoken of, the audience in the court house began to yell with fury nered gentleman with white moustache called out, "Enough, enough, Let him be guillotined right away." body with alcohol and was burned finally restored order, and the trial of her companions. Whether the girl was continued in the stuffy little was mentally unsound and set fire to court house within a stone's throw of Chartres Cathedral.

A Ghastly Scene. from the court-room and stripped; threw blankets over her, but the in an antercom they reclothed him | flames continued to burn, and she fell. his farmyard the day after the and it was impossible to save her. crime. The wretched man was She died in five hours without re- Strange Disaster to an Elecbefore the beach in blouse, shirt, It is said at the college that Miss and trousers, all besmeared with Vickers has recently had an idea that dried and crystallized blood, while she was suffering from leprosy. Her Dr. Dudefoy and other chemical ex- friends tried to dispel the idea from perts, raised his arms, bared his her mind, but she persisted that she sleeves, and disclosed his blood- was a victim of the disease, and tried stained undershirt. At last the judge many remedies for it. A few days himself walked down from the bench, ago she said she had been told that got on his knees before the prisoner to wash the entire body in alcohol and began fingering him all over would effect a cure. It is not known and pointing out to the jury what | whether she had applied the spirits stains were, in the opinion of ex- before to-day, but after the accident perts, those caused by the blood of a bottle partly filled with alcohol was his dead children, and those which found in the bath-room. self from his alleged assassin.

critic remarked: "Good heavens! ately with the intention of ending this is too frightful! If such a her life or of burning out the disscene were put on the stage of the ease. This theory the college authorstand it."

Chamber of Horrors.

The make matters still more lugubrious, a large table stood in the court-room, upon which were displayed, as in a chamber of horrors of some dime museum, the blade of gen's throats, and the huge mallet bed by a neighbor. She was aged out by the smoke. It is hoped that the correspondent says, the German quire into cases of violation of duty the Town of Goderleh with which he is charged with hav- 65 years. Death was due to nature some of the passengers escaped by Government will be prepared to re- which come to their knowledge, against the Elevator Company was ing beaten out their brains. Both al causes.

hair. Also on the table were bloodstained pieces of wrapping paper and other stage properties of this extraordinary crime.

The expert evidence, as usual, was egative, but still created doubt in favor of the accused, which in an American court the prisoner's counsel would have been able to turn to his client's advantage. Not so, however, at the Chartres Assizes.

# FARMERS' HOUSE BURNED.

Four Persons Lost Their Lives in the Flames.

Dubois, Pa., Dec. 30.-Word reached here to-day of a terrible holocaust that occurred about three miles from Summerville, Jefferson county, yesterday morning. The home of John Ashbaugh, a farmer, was destroyed by fire and four persons were burned to death. One other is burned in such a manner that recovery is very doubtful, and four others are seri ously burned and injured.

The dead are: William Ashbaugh, 22 years of age, a brother of the owner of the Ashbaugh home.

Mabel Ashbaugh, a 12-year-old Harry Ashbaugh, a 10-year-old son. James Ashbaugh, a 9-year-old son. that recovery is doubtful.

Mrs. Ashbaugh, severely burned A pathetic incident of the trial leg broken, and injured internally by occurred when Briere's surviving lit- jumping from a second-story window. John Ashbaugh, the husband and only escaped the fate of the other father, severely burned and suffering | victim pleaded when the case against | Naval League and the press to de-

Two young children painfully burn- to speak for me."

hour in the morning, and the fire in a kindly tone of voice. was undoubtedly caused by an overheated stove.

Mr. Ashbaugh got up in the mornng, replenished the fuel in the kitchen stove and then went back to bed. ant. He is with me at all times. He ness rather than the strength of the terwards by smoke entering the I have prayed to Him to be near me curing additional ships through mislower part of the house ablaze. He | not fail." ran through the house and awakened everyone, and then made his way outside with his two smallest children. He hurried back and looked for his wife, brother and four children, who were still in the house. He succeeded in reaching a room that had been occupied by the children, but only one, the 8-year-old boy,

Herman, was there. He could hear the screams of the four others in a room across the hall, where it is supposed they were lured in their bewilderment, supposing it to be a way out of the house. Mr. Ashbaugh could not enfierce he was compelled to fight his way from the house. Meantime Mrs. The Judge refused to allow the jur. Ashbaugh had jumped from an upper ors to examine the premises where story window, and was lying on the the crime was committed, and con- ground, with a broken leg, and sufducts the trial as if he were a pro- fering from internal injuries and

carried bundles of hay, straw and

Set Fire to it.

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.-Miss Lillian at the prisoner, shouting, "Kill him, Vickers, a student at Bryn Mawr Colkill him." And a venerable, mild-man- lege, met death in a horrible form yesterday. She covered her nude Judge Belat smiled, rang his bell, and to death before the eyes of a number herself or whether the alcohol was

ignited accidentally, is not known. A brief visit yesterday to Char- | The girls roommate said that Miss tres. which is only two hours by Vickers arose about 8 o'clock and rail from Paris, showed one of the went into the bath-room, which was most gruesome and tragic features near their apartment. Half an hour of French criminal procedure. later she ran out into the corridor Brierre, the prisoner accused of mur- all aflame, screaming for help and dering his five children, was led crying from pain. Several students with all the garments which he Medical assistance was summoned, wore when found lying helpless in but her body was charred all over

were supposed to have been made | There was no light in the bathby his own blood in defending him- room, and how the alcohol caught fire is a mystery. It was said by one of The scene was so appalling that the students that Miss Vickers may an eminent Parisian dramatic have set fire to the alcohol delibertheatre no Parisian audience would lifes do not believe. The young woman was about nineteen years old, and had been at Bryn Mawr nearly three years. Her home was in Los Angeles, Cal. She was a bright girl, with jolly disposition, and an excellent student.

Mrs. Duffy, a respected resident of ing his cash. When they learned of comes to a definite and satisfaca plough, with which the judge de- Pittsburg Township, near Kingston, the accident, the officials returned tory arrangement with her German duty towards his slave. The compe- destroyed. clares the prisoner cut his child- who lived alone, was found dead in and tried to help, but were driven creditors within a very short time, tent authorities shall officially en-

Chicago Woman Said God Would Send Defence.

### AND A LAWYER APPEARED.

Neighbors Say She is a Witch-She Breaks Down and Tells of Her Struggles for Her Family-Hypnotism in the Case.

Chicago, Dec. 30 .- Because she had prayed for assistance in her trouble Mrs. Helen Roth, 1911 Cortez street, efficient condition than the Continsay's Attorney Miles J. Devine was sent by the Lord to the Court of Justice James Dooley to defend her against the charges of witchcraft | made little impression in British brought by her neighbors.

The scene, a dramatic one, occurred in the Court of Justice James Dooley yesterday, afternoon. On the benches sat almost a dozen witnesses who had sworn that the defendant had attempted to hypnotize day to that of any three Continental pean costumes mingled with the them. Weird tales of witchcraft, Powers and was never in a more bright oriental dresses made the hypnotism and other mysterious efficient condition. The British ser- scene varied and vivid with colors, things were told His Honor by the vice has been severely criticised, but while in the throng were seen many

Put Faith in the Lord,

He was awakened a short time af- will send somebody here to help me. British service, with a view to se-

. She had hardly finished her state- its importance to the nation. ment when Attorney Devine walked | "Here our policy seems to be to into the courtroom, being interested overestimate rather than underestiin another case.

ed," declared Mrs. Roth. "The Lord has sent my protector already." Then the woman approached Attorney Devine and declared that it was the Lord's wish that he appear as her counsel without any pay or compensation.

Attorney Devine gazed in surprise at the pale, careworn-appearing woman before him. Suddenly he was seen to throw off his overcoat and a moment later the ex-city attorney announced that he was there to defend Mrs. Roth.

Say She is a Witch.

Mr. Ashbaugh dragged his wife hypnotic powers, and that her weird the United States and will probably excitement.

This extraordinary Judge, whose feed sacks from the barn, with which own behalf. She told of her strugmethod would under almost any other he wrapped them up. Then tying his gles to bring up her family of chil-

broke forth in angry expletives, say on but his night clothes, and they corners for hours," she said, 'selling while, of course, reckoned as a naval ing: "This is how this murderer en. having been partly lurned off him, flowers so that I could bring up my power, cannot be said to be counted tered the room; this is the way he he ran over a mile through the snow children and provide for them a in any combinations that nations cut his children's throats. If you and zero weather to the homes of home. I am at the present time might make against others. The paying off monthly dues on my home, | Spanish war did much to enhance and as the result of my present trou- our standing before European nable I have been ordered to leave my val powers, but we are still regard-

> and wept several minutes despite the | nearly alongside of Japan. efforts of a representative of the | "Britain to-day is stronger than Woman's Protective Association to any two of the most powerful contin-

plea that defendant, complainants upbuilding of the British navy, with for adultery shall a relationship of coffin. She once got a permit to have and witnesses all shake hands. Mrs. branches throughout the British Is- slavery be henceforward established. the sarcophagus opened, but another K. Donovan, the complainant, how- lands. In fact, the admiralty will ofever, refused, saying she feared the ten refuse to officially deny state- ered to terminate his state of slavery improbable that the outside world will woman, and the case was finally con- ments of reported defects in the Bri- by payment of a sum of money for ever know what that tomb contains, tinued ten days with the understand- tish navy, and rather encourages a his redemption. The amount of this While the Probate Court decision ing that Mrs. Roth confine her hyp- feeling of depreciation of its strength sum shall be decided by the com- has failed to raise the veil that cov notic efforts to her own family.

tric Train in a Tunnel.

SEVERAL INJURED—NONE KILLER

Liverpool, Dec. 31-A terrible disaster occurred this evening on the overhead electric railway. A train of three cars was approaching the southern terminus at Dingle Station. It is understood that it had unloaded a majority of its passengers at the Herculaneam dock, which is the preceding station. It is now stated that | Africa with their reg ments. the motor of the rear car failed in its fusing mechanism, firing the woodwork of the car. The strong air cur- in the House of Lords as Lord Hadrent through the tunnel, which is a don. fifth of a mile long, caused the entire train to catch on fire, thus igniting by June it is possible that some of the thousands of piled-up creosoted the elder sons of marquises will be other points which may appear im- the wreck. The three-months'-old sleepers, and filling the tunnel with | chosen in their places. dense smoke. Simultaneously the lights were extinguished, and Dingle Station was quickly filled

The officials, not knowing the cause, fled, the ticket clerk abandonrunning.

The fire brigade is flooding the tunnel from both ends.

The Times' Liverpool correspondent says it is believed that all the passengers escaped through the station, except two, who were taken to a hospital. They were severely, but not dangerously, burned. About five others were slightly burned. The motorman, who was severely burned, was also taken to a hospital. The train was completely destroyed.

Opinion of Clover, Naval Attache at London.

WAS NEVER MORE EFFICIENT.

Washington, Dec. 30.-In an interview this evening Commander Richardson Clover, naval attache at the American embassy in London, who is here on leave of absence, declared that the naval forces of Great Britain are in a far more effective and ental Powers believe, and that never in her naval development has Brit- this year celebrated in the Holy Land. ain been stronger on the seas. Recent torpedo boat accidents have naval circles, he declares, and their mas. At an early hour crowds comprogramme cails for the continued advance of the highest class of boats of the swiftest possible speed. Com- and all the neighboring towns. Many Druce was not and could not have mander Clover added:

"The naval force that Great Britain is capable of exerting is equal tomuch of this criticism as to its effi- Bethlehem women. "I am a defenseless woman," the clency is due to a policy of the her was called. "I have no witnesses | Preciate in the mind of the public Britain's strength, in order that "Have you not even a lawyer to large appropriations may be secured tracted the thousands were those at nobility and the Druce property. The affair happened at an early appear for you?" asked His Honor for expanding the navy and to continue the policy of maintaining it equal to that of the combined nificent Church of the Nativity instrength of any two world Powers. closing the cave, believed by scholars "I have nobody but the good Lord The policy in Britain seems to be to to be the actual birthplace of Christ. to help me," answered the defend- impress the public with the weak- It was brilliantly illuminated. room he occupied, and he found the and I know He will apprehension in the public mind that covering the housetops on every side. result will be otherwise than in the the force is not keeping pace with The procession then appeared, the Probate Court.

> mate our naval strength, which is "Ah, my prayer has been answer- not right. The people here seem impressed with the strength of the navy, especially since the Spanish-American War, when actually better results might be obtained before Congress were the impression conveyed that we are not so strong. Abroad the United States is reckoned as the seventh naval power, being outranked by all the Continental the church was well filled with Thomas Charles Druce, who kept a navies, including Italy. But this view is not accepted in the United States, and figures of ships building and tonnage indicate that the United all was hushed. Then on the stroke Druce frequented. At times he would States is now either fifth or tied with Germany for fourth place, outranked in profound adoration to usher in Then began a further effort to by Great Britain, France and Russia. convince Justice Dooley that Mrs. Germany, however, has a more ex-Roth was possessed of extraordinary | tensive programme of increase than appropriations are made here for Mrs. Roth took the stand in her | naval development. Ship for ship the new vessels of our navy equal in every respect those of the foreign services, but we have comparative-'I have stood on the cold street ly few. Abroad the United States, ed as entitled to no higher rank than At this point the woman broke down seventh place, which would place us Paving the Way for its Total that the Duke left Welbeck Abbey to

> ental Powers, and stronger than "I am not a crazy weman. Neither | these with another power included. women would have the court believe," | though her naval reserve is not so said the defendant. "I was born in strong and perhaps well drilled as Germany, and my father was a that of France, the real strength of for years, and a successful one. I am | constantly increased. Her channel | East Africa has been published. witch. In their ignorance they mis- condition, and reports of weaknesses cluded in the code: construed my efforts to benefit them and rottenness are without the "Neither by sale of a man's self, and have brought disgrace upon my- slightest semblance of truth. These nor by sale effected by relations, nor reports are circulated by the Naval as payment for debt or fulfilment of Green, and Mrs. Druce alleges that Attorney Devine made an earrest League, an organization for the other obligations, nor as punishment there is nothing but lead pipe in his than magnifying it.

# ELDER SONS AT CORONATION.

Fathers Must be Dukes to Entitle Them to Carry King's Train.

London, Dec. 30.-There is a certain amount of curiosity to know who will be the elder sons to carry the King's train at the coronation. They should be elder sons dukes, and will most probably be Lord Euston, elder son of the Duke of Grafton; Lord Tavistock, son of the Duke of Bedford; Lord Percy, son of the Duke of Northumberland; Lord Dalkeith; son of the Duke of Buccleuch; and Lord Hamilton, son of the Duke of Abercorn.

These are all of this rank at present in England, Lord Douro and Lord Tullibardine being in South ness. Lord Granby, son of the Duke of Rutland, is not eligible, as he sits

If the present ones are not home

The Berlin correspondent of the London Standard learns that Germany is about to despatch an ultimatum to Venezuela. Unless Venezuela sort to forcible measures.

How the Day Was Spent in Bethlehem.

### CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY.

cene of a Wonderful Gathering to Honor the Day-Order of the Procession and Services-Many Altars Occupied.

New York, Dec. 31.-The World prints a cablegram from Bethlehem, showing the manner in which Christmas eve and Christmas day were According to the despatch from

menced to stream in from Jerusalem travelled from Europe, even from America. The Euro-

At the Church of Nativity at Bethlehem, the Latims, Greeks and Armenians each have a place of worship, but the ceremonies which atthe Catholic Church. Throughout the morning crowds flocked to the mag-

patriarch escorted by Turkish sol- Throughout the trial Mrs. Druce diers, preceded by the Kawassesv or acted in an extremely eccentric official guard of the Patriarch and manner, and she has left the impresconvent, advancing to the church. sion that her mind is unbalanced; Following the sacerdotal procession but, then, her friends and supportcame that of the French Consul and ers say that her domestic troubles his staff, in uniform, with an escort | and her legal contests and disapof mounted guards, he taking pre- pointments have been sufficient to cedence as representing France, the | render erratic the average human recognized guardian of Catholic in- | understanding. terests in the Holy Land. Following | The claims set forth by Mrs. Druce crowds of worshippers.

and a few minutes before midnight with underground passages, which of the hour the "Gloria" arose-all not be seen for weeks, and then Christmas morning. Immediately afterward the Patriarch ascended the high altar and began to celebrate high mass. Thenceforward throughout Christmas day every altar in the sacred edifice was occupied by priests saying masses. Many devotees who took their places at 10 o'clock on Christmas eve kept their vigils till 11 o'clock on Christmas day, anxious not to miss one moment of the ceremonies on the site of the birthplace

Abolition.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—The text of an Imcolonel in the Germany army. I was her personnel is in the trained, dis- perial edict dealing with the quesnurse in several hospitals in Holland ciplined men affoat, who are being tion of domestic slavery in German familiar with hypnotism and know | fleet is a magnificent aggregation | In order to pave the way for the how to use it. It is the mysteries of of fighting force, constantly kept at abolition of domestic slavery in Gerthis science which puzzle my neigh- sea and ready for any assignment. man East Africa, it is decreed that bors and make them believe I am a The ships are always in excellent the following regulations shall be in-

"Every domestic slave is empow- legal barrier was raised, and it is now

"Every slave who has paid the while scores of people in England beransom appointed shall receive a cer- lieve that the Baker street merchant tificate of emancipation from the au- and the eccentric nobleman of Welthorities.

mitted to work for himself during son will now never be declared the two days in the week, or to use for rightful heir to the great Dukedom his own purposes the corresponding of Portland. proceeds of his labor. In so far as existing custom is in this respect more favorable to the slave, it shall DIED ON BURNING STEAMER. continue in force. In this matter, as tween master and domestic slave, the decision shall lie with the competent authorities.

"The master of a domestic slave wheel steamer Sun, plying between is under obligation to maintain him this port and Fuiton, Tenn., burned and provide for him in old age and to the water's edge at 5 o'clock toin sickness. This obligation is not day, at her moorings at the wharf cancelled by emancipation granted on the city front. during the period of old age or sick- The boat arrived from Fulton about

"The transfer of the rights of own- sengers, all of whom were asleep on ership can be accomplished only with | board when the fire broke out. the consent of the slave, and before | Of these three are known to be lost. the competent authorities, upon D. H. Rainey and wife, of Old River. whose assent it shall be dependent. Tena., and Mrs. G. M. Tims, of Rich-Before according such consent, the ardson, Landing, Ark. Their charted authorities shall, besides deciding remains have been recovered from portant, carefully test the legality child of Mrs. Time is missing. It is of the ownership, and shall take heed believed that all the other persons on that members of the same family be board escaped. The fire or ginated in not separated from one another a pile of seed cotton on the boiler

without their consent.

effect the liberation of the slave by lesuing a certificate of emaccipation. and in such cases the former owner shall not have any claim to compen-

"Offences against the provisions of the edict shall be published by a fine not exceeding 500 rupees or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, except in those cases where a heavier penalty is incurred by virtue of other law."

## MRS. DRUCE LOSES CASE.

Duke of Portland Can Now Rest Easy.

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REJECTED BY PROBATE COURT.

London, Dec. 30 .- Another claim to a British peerage and dukedom has collapsed. The case of Mrs. Florence Anna Maria Druce, affecting relatively the tRle and estates of the late Duke of Portland, has just been settled in the Probate Court.

After a trial lasting several days, before Justice Barnes and a special Bethlehem the sky was clear and jury, the finding was officially made the air chilly on the day before Christ- that Thomas Charles Druce died Dec. 28, 1864. Inferentially, the verdict carries with it the declaration that been the fifth Duke of Portland.

Loses Both Fights.

Though the estate of Druce was also at stake, it is considered of little importance when taken in connection with the contest for the title. By the jury's maning the will made by Druce in 186), and a codicil written in 1864, are declared valid. Thus the plaintili loses the right to claim for her son both the coveted title of

Not a few great families in England breathe easier over the result, for the connections of the Duke of Portland are so many and so influential that the trial had ramifications throughout the kingdom. Though a During the forenoon a multitude of threat has been made that the case people crowded the great square will yet go to the House of Lords fronting the Church of the Nativity, for final decision, no one believes the

his entry into the church came the are the most sensational that were beautiful service of vespers and the ever given publicity in England. She benediction. Throughout the evening is the widow of the illegitimate son of large bazaar in Baker street, Lon-At 11 o'clock matins were sung, don. This store was honeycombed would suddenly emerge into his counting-room and resume business as if he had been absent for only an hour.

Prying Eyes Shut Out.

About the same period the fifth Duke of Portland lived in baroniai spiendor at Welbeck Abbey, and at times occupied his town house in London. The latter place was surrounded by high walls that effectively shut out prying eyes into his movements. But things were different at Welbeck. There the eccentric nobleman had constructed subterranean passages, maze-like in character, and it was his custom to disappear and reappear in a mys-

terious way. become plain Mr. Druce in the Baker street establishment, and that when His Grace grew weary of trade he retraced his steps to his country home, washed off the stains and am I insane nor a witch, as these She has 80,000 men affoat, and, al- SLAVES MAY BUY FREEDOM. stigma of commerce, and-presto, change! became again the high and

mighty Duke of Portland. The Duke died Dec. 6, 1879, and was succeeded in title and estates by a distant relative, but as Druce, the merchant, had expired some years earlier-or, according to the decision just rendered by Justice Barnes, Dec. 28, 1864-Mrs. Druce asserts that the shopman simply abandoned the mercantile house forever and remained Duke the rest of his days.

His Grace was buried in Kensal petent administrative authorities. ers a mysterious double life, and beck were one and the same person, 'Every domestic slave must be per- it is certain that Mrs. Druce's sailor

well as in all other differences be- Several Lives Lost in Fire Started by

Furnace Spark. Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 31.—The stern

midnight last night with fifteen pasdeck, and probably was started by a "The rights of ownership shall be spark from the furnace. The boat forfelted in the event of the owner's was valued at \$10,000, and was about committing any grave breach of his half insured. The cargo was totally

and are in such cases entitled to settled at Woodstock Assizes.