Fitchburg Sentinel.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1887.

SLEW HIS MOTHER

THE CRIME OF LUKE CROWTHERS OF CLAREMONT.

HORRIBLE DEFEATIT IN A NEW HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE.

A Drunken Young Cigarmaker Choked and Pounded His Mother Fatally—Brother Comes Home and Finishes the Assailant for His Crime.

CLAREMONT, N. H., Dec. 14.—This community was startled yesterday by the report that Luke O. Crowthers, a cigarmaker, 18 years old, living in West Claremont, had brutally murdered his mother. Crowthers had been in the employ of F. C. Bailey for some time and is said to have been a habit to return from his work about 5 p. m. It is said that on Monday evening he came home as usual, and not finding his mother in the house there, he went to the crawled in through a window and procured his own supper. Some time later his mother came home with a Mrs. Hardy from Windsor, Vt., who was intending to stay at the Crowthers' cottage over night. Yesterday this Mrs. Hardy had mysteriously disappeared and the officers say they have tracked her toward Windsor.

Just what occurred in the Crowthers' house only Mrs. Hardy and young Crowthers can tell. It is reported, however, that during the evening, probably a little after 9, a dispute arose, and Mrs. Crowthers struck the son, who was more or less intoxicated, with a small basket. High words followed and the result was, it is said, that a scuffle ensued, in which it is claimed that the old lady was thrown to the floor. It is also said that after she was choked by her son he thumped her head against the floor several times.

Opposite the scene of the disturbance lives a Mrs. Leavitt, who was sitting with her family in the sitting-room. Mr. Leavitt heard groans, and on going to the door saw Mrs. Crowthers' son beating her about the head. The woman was groaning as if in severe pain. Mr. Leavitt asked her what was the matter, and she replied: "Oh, my God, Luke has killed me." Mr. Leavitt then assisted the woman into the house, where she remained groaning and holding her head.

Mrs. Crowthers remained in Leavitt's house during the entire evening. She was conscious up to within a few moments of her death, which occurred at 12:30. Before she died she told Mr. Leavitt that her son Luke had come home drunk and abused her. She also stated that she had had a quarrel with her son and that she had pleaded with him for mercy, but he threw her on the floor and pounded her.

Mr. Leavitt suggested that she send for her other son, James, who is a cashier grocer in West Claremont, and she assented, saying, "Don't do that, James will kill him if you do; go and get an officer and have Luke arrested."

James, however, had heard of the tragedy and soon came upon the scene. Going into the house, James saw his brother asleep on the sofa smoking. He asked him what he had been doing to his mother, when Luke replied "Nothing." "Do you have," said James, "You have been licking mother, and now I am going to lick you." James gave a severe beating to his brother, the fight lasting a considerable time. It was interrupted by Mr. Pressley and neighbors.

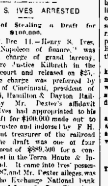
Then James went across the street to Leavitt's house, where he broke down at the sight of his mother's corpse and wept piteously. The manner in which the murder was committed caused, of course, a considerable stand at this time, but it is supposed that when, as it alleged, her son pounded her head on the floor, it produced concussion of the brain or fracture of the skull.

REVOLT OF THE KNIGHTS.

Proposed Rules for a Reorganized Order.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The provisional committee of Philadelphia, formed in the revolt of the Knights of Labor, has sent out a circular to the members of the order with it to communicate with the committee, by addressing Provisional Committee K. L., postoffice box 684, Philadelphia. The circular says that attempts within the order the aboves... den to stigma it have proved unavailing. A reorganization of the administrative machinery is necessary, and in that it is proposed to enforce the following rules:

The autonomy of trades and districts in management of men over trade affairs, free from interference by general or district officers; the general officers to have only advisory or supervisory powers in disputes between workmen and employers, but to have power to settle disputes between the organization, general or district officers to have no power to order a strike; and no contract entered officer shall ever be created; nobody shall be paid except for work done and expenses incurred, duly vouched for by items, and pay to be at the rate of wages he or she could earn at ordinary employment; no special or extra collections from members except on a vote from the general officers for purpose of assistance; shortcoming for dues; to facilitate the educational features of the order to be permanently established; free discussion of labor topics to be encouraged; independent political election in the line of the principles of the order always to be encouraged; no personal political ambitions to be gratified; stricter financial audit of all accounts by auditors, in whose selection the accountable officer shall have no voice; the organization never to make war on any other legitimate labor organization, but to cooperate with them in ever respect.



SAMUEL GOMPERS.

NATIONAL OPERA TROUBLES.

The Troubles of the Prestidigitateur Company.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Nine Parsede Madi, Mlle Sophie Trudeau and the tenor, E. Spiro, have left the National opera company. L. M Bialen, the operatic agent, said: "I was not surprised when I heard that they had left the company. I saw by papers from the cities where the company had been that they were not drawing to poor houses. The company is not as expensive as it was last year," said Mr. Bialen, "but it is a very costly one, and while it may not have suffered unusually by the loss of Theodore Thomas, his absence has made a weaker bill with the public."

MANUFACTURE OF ARMS.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The report of the ordnance office as to the manufacture of arms for 1886 and 1887 shows a remarkable difference. The following are some of the figures as to the Springfield and other armories: Manufacture of arms at national armories, 1886, $407; manufacture of arms at national armories, 1887, $1271; 638; ordinance service, 1886, $720; ordnance stores manufactured, 1887, $1423. Springfield armory, 1886, $1663; Springfield armory, 1887, $11,972.

The Civil Service Rules.

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Adulterated Lard.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—A bill introduced by Senator Ingalls imposes a tax of two cents $1000 per annum upon manufacturers of adulterated lard; $500 upon wholesale dealers in the same and $50 upon retail dealers. Adulterated lard, it provides, shall be sold only in packages branded and labeled so that all persons may know what they are buying. Any act of fraud or deceit practiced in the domestic adulterated lard and a duty of 5 cents per pound on imported adulterated lard. Penalties are provided for violations of the law.

A POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

The Scheme Which Senator Cullom Proposes for Adoption.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The postal telegraph bill introduced by Senator Cullom establishes the "United States postal telegraph" as a part of the postal system of the United States, and for the purpose of following telegraph trunk lines shall first be constructed:

From Washington to Portland, via Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia, Camden, Trenton, Newark, Jersey City, New York, Brooklyn, New Haven, Hartford, Providence and Boston.

From Washington to Minneapolis, via Pittsburg, Cleveland, Toledo, Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, La Crosse and St. Paul.

From New York city to Cleveland, via Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo and Erie, Penn.

From Pittsburg to Topeka, Kas.

From Toledo to Detroit.

From Washington to Charleston.

From Chicago to New Orleans.

From Chicago to St. Louis.

From Chicago to San Francisco.

From Cheyenne to Denver.

Postal telegraph offices are to be opened at the places named and at all intermediate points at which first, second or third class postoffices are established. Rival lines shall be constructed from time to time as appropriations therefor are made by congress, the intention being to connect the telegraph with all cities where the postal lines undertake free delivery, and as additional facilities are to be provided in states already connected with the trunk lines above. postal telegraph officer have been established in every state and territory.

The system is to be constructed in straight lines as near as practicable, and regard is to be taken of cities that will afford the best telegraphic facilities to the public.

The lines are to be operated by the engineer corps of the army and then transferred to the control of the postoffice department. The rates are to be 10 cents for 10 words or under, and all other messages of the last character. Eight wires are to be strung on the first line, two for use, two more or less intoxicated, with a small basket. High words followed and the result was, it is said, that a scuffle ensued, in which it is claimed that the old lady was thrown to the floor. It is also said that after she was choked by her son he thumped her head against the floor several times.

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THE PROSECUTION'S TESTIMONY AGAINST MRS. ROBINSON.

WILLIE ROBINSON'S SYSTEM SATURATED WITH ARSENIC.

Testimony of the Doctor Who Attended Him—Thomas E. Smith's Acquaintance with the Family—Mrs. Robinson's Anxiety About Life Insurance.

BOSTON, Dec. 14.—Testimony for the prosecution was put in in the trial of Mrs. Robinson, the alleged poisoner of many persons, as follows:

Alice B. Clough testified yesterday afternoon to boarding with Mrs. Robinson in West Somerville in August, 1886, and to the number of the family. Was present when the ten that made Willie sick was dressed in that drank it; but it was made in a brittania pot. Willie was taken sick that night, but worked the next day. Willie sent for a doctor Friday; he was sick, and was there; Willie was sick Saturday Sunday and Monday; a woman named Marshall was there on Sunday; she more bees of the Pilgrim Fathers were there two times before he died on Thursday. lived in the family when Thomas Arthur Freeman died. Upon cross-examination, witness said she had drunk the tea that something ailed the tea when he drank it; the tea was brown and dark; the doctor came to house; was a frequent visitor; Bacon an occasional one.

Miss Josephine Macdonald did housework for Mrs. Robinson in August, 1886; remembered when Willie was taken sick. She gave the nausea him so bad as to make her regret that she was there. Mrs. Robinson was not at home when she went to the tea. Mr. Smith came at 6 to dinner; Willie lay down on the sofa until 3 o'clock; he said he felt as if in pain in the evening; he seemed to be better on the evening of the second day; the house all quiet. Thursday, Mr. Smith was absent; Mrs. Robinson, Willie and witness were alone. Willie grew worse; he acted more nervous; he had very violent pains; witness went to the telephone for a doctor, but Mr. Smith did the errand and she was called back; was told not to go into Willie's room, as he was sick; Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Smith took care of Willie Friday. Mrs. Robinson was not in the room when Willie died. Telegram came to Mrs. Robinson late on Saturday. Mr. Smith was there later, and remained all night. Witness did not see Willie on Sunday nor on Monday, when she returned to the house. Mrs. Robinson was at times stepped all night, and went to church with witness on Sunday morning. Mrs. Robinson made the tea without help; set it upon the table as usual, on the day of Willie's death, but worked the next day. Mrs. Robinson ask what was the matter with the tea. Mrs. Robinson sent for Willie the next morning by request of Mr. Smith; was present all night, also on Friday night.

Sallie B. Hough was present when Mrs. Robinson had some conversation with Mr. Smith about life insurance; the conversation in getting his life insured. It was in March. Witness was a member of the household when Willie was taken sick; heard Mrs. Robinson ask what was the matter with the tea. Mrs. Robinson sent for Willie the next morning by request of Mr. Smith and a day; present all night, also on Friday night.

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Mrs. Potter-Bancker is 40 years old, and her husband, Mr. Strakosch, 48.

Booth and Barrett are going to Europe together next summer on a pleasure trip.

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"The Main Line" has been approved of by San Francisco people, and will have a long run there.

Lillie Langtry has written to Augustin Daly, has recovered with the loss only of her right eye, and has gone back to the stage.

Modjeska's new play, written by Boucicault, has received a warm welcome in Australia.

Beth Law of Brooklyn followed Dr. Mc-Glynn and spoke on the same subject. He limited himself to the special department of organized capital and labor. Every citizen, he said, is a voter, and every one can use the ballot to right what he considers the wrongs of capital and labor, in a candidation of the same forum. Managers of corporations as well as those of labor organizations have ridden rough shod over the rights of citizens and the church should be fearless in protesting, in the style of Nathan Hale when he dared to say to King David: "Thou art dared to Ribbey on the part of corporations and the boycotts of labor. He had no fear of intolerable zine against the very life of society, and the church should be fearless. When the employer is a corporation instead of an individual, there is no chance for ethical considerations to restrain selfishness. It does not matter what is the name of the labor, but of stockholders, and they should not tolerate at the hostility of labor to the life of society. The church has a great opportunity for the church to do as it did in April; and by Mr. Keegan, kills for a conference of American nations on the silver outrage organization, and they divide up in small bands and safety themselves by raiding ranches, running off stock and destroying fields.

In some instances they have reduced their communities to terror and want, and their wily ways baffle the troops and Indians who undertake their pursuit. A large band are committing robberies from the ranches of the Traders until now.

SINS AGAINST SOCIETY.

Corporations and Trade Unions Alike the Enemies of the Individual.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Rev. James McCosh of Princeton college read a paper at the Church Congress, on "Sins Against Society and Labor Question," at the meeting of the Theological Society in Epiphany church. The subject of the paper is one of old one and it is likely to continue for ages to come. He declined to judge in a strife about property. The church is not a court of law, and neither should usurp the functions of the state. It is not a debating society, he said, and the speaker, who resigned their views on the labor question and in this connection he denied the right to property in land and merchandise and in the products of human rights. It has been unjustly stated that the church favors the rich to the poor. Facts show her to be their best friend. The church is a society for the saving of souls. If the lower classes are elevated it will be by themselves and not by those above them. Their efforts and leaders are too, salvine, fanatical, violent. The church is a leader and teacher, to reduce the oppressor without a trample the laboring classes. The speaker said that he was invited Tuesday talks in this hall before he became citizen here. When a man is moving people, he asked. Two-thirds of the people furnish but one-fourth of the church attendants. The clerks and merchants are there more generally than the people of labor. He is jealous of the wall-to-do people and does not care to mingle with them. It is our duty to go to the workingmen, approach them respectfully and win with a patronizing condescension. Pastoral advice and galistic work is demanded. Ministers now preach to empty benches.

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"FOSTER" IDENTIFIED.

Mrs. Patten Takes a Look at the Man Arrested at Plymouth.

HANSON, Ma., Dec. 12.—Young Patten and wife, who were in the house at the time of the murder, left for Plymouth on Sunday, and Mrs. Patten is positive that the stranger of the two was the slayer of the name of James Foster, is the man she saw in her grandfather's room the night of the murder in Bangor. He was apparently sounding the bells and examining the doors and surroundings. He answers also the description she gave of him before the arrest.

Believed to be Incendiary.

BRIDGEPORT, Ms., Dec. 14.—William and Levi G. Reason's steam saw and grist mill was totally destroyed by fire last evening.

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Miss Flora A. Stanwood was called, and testified that she was a member of the religious colony of the United Order of Fifth Avenue. Upon Mr. Stevens asking her to be in regard to the articles of faith in which Mrs. Robinson had said that she was sorry Lizzie had ever joined the order, Mr. Goodrich, and before hearing argument on the question, the jury left the room. They were sent from the room. Mr. Stevens said that he would like to introduce a conversation between Miss Stanwood and Mrs. Robinson about the time of Lizzie's death, in which Mrs. Robinson had said that she was sorry Lizzie had ever joined the order, for every one of her family who joined the order died; he also desired to show that after saying this, Mrs. Robinson induced and urged her son Willie to join. It seemed to him that the evidence, the jury