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ST. JOHN, N B. SATURDAY AUGUST 17

THE SPY SYSTEM.

The spirit of the times is opposed to the employment of spies, and license inspector VINCENT probably realizes the fict by this time. The statement made by PROGRESS last week in regard to the employment, by the inspector, of a fellow named RIGGS, to secure evidence of the sales of liquor | without license, provoked much comment. Outside of those directly interested few had been aware of the resort to such methods, and the general opinion is that the spy system is a disgrace to the municipality.

The municipal council appears to be free from blame in the matter. It was not consulted, and some of the members, including the warden, had no idea that Mr. VINCENT was engaged in that kind of work. He did it of his own accord, and the pay of the spy comes out of his own pocket, or rather the fees he charges the county for attending prosecutions are reduced by whatever percentage or other; remuneration he pays his informer. It is a simple matter of arithmetic, however, to figure that the loss to the inspector in this way is more than made up by the additional amount of business Riggs brings in by his unsavory industry.

Were there a number of disorderly places which could not be reached by ordinary means, there might be some shadow of just fication in underhand methods to procure evidence, but the houses of most evil repute are not those upon which the informer exercises his talents. The most notorious places are let alone by him, and when they are fined once or twice a year, it seems to be done in a friendly sort of a way, as a partial equivalent for the money which the county should get for license. As was pointed out last week, some road houses which do a flourishing business got off last year for less than it would have cost them to take out license. On the other hand, the effort this year seems to be to search out the smaller places, doing so little business that all kinds of sneaking tricks must be employed to get evidence that will seem to warrant a

The license inspector has all the constables of the county at his disposal, if he needs them, and they should be sufficient for all purposes, provided they do their duty. If they will not do their duty, let others be put in their place. Under the inspector's direction they can get all the evidence that is required, and the ends of justice will be served much more decently than by the present method. The idea of a fellow being engaged in the work of an informer as a business is one that should be condemed by the public in unmistakable terms. The county cannot afford to be disgraced for the sake of adding to the emoluments of Mr. VINCENT's position.

The license law is not fully or fairly enforced in the city of St. John, but imagine Chief CLARK making an arrangement with somebody outside of the police force to act as a pimp on hotels and restaurants. There would be an immediate and general outcry it he should attempt such a thing He is rot likely to do so, not only for the reason that it would add nothing to his tees, but because he is believed to be above such contemptible methods. That the law is not enforced, however, is found by the use of the regular torce, were the really earnest preacher of the Gospel the proper methods adopted. Matters would have to be much worse than they are now, however, before the employment of spies would be tolerated. Precisely the same reasoning applies to the county, and Mr. VINCENT stands there in the same position as Chief CLARK would stand in the city.

The question of how far Riogs is chargestand?

Another feature of these prosecutions been a thing of the past in that and other church.

of evidence, and the clerk peace is ex-officio but a small chance of escaping conviction. a salaried license inspector, somebody who was neither the legal adviser of the court, nor had anything to gain by charging five dollars or more for every attendance at the hearing of a case.

In the meantime, Mr. VINCENT will do well to cancel his contract with RIGGS, the informer.

RECREATIONS OF A PARSON. "Can a minister of an evangelical church

be a christian and frequently spend evenings over the card table, with tobacco and wine as part of the entertainment, the cleric indulging in all three?" Tais is a question which comes from a citizen of Halitax, and it may be assumed that he is disposed to answer it for himself in the negative. A good many people will so answer it. Are

As the question is put, it is entirely too limited in its application. It a minister cannot do these things and be a christian, none of his flock can, nor can any outside of his flock. There is not on; standard for him and another for them, in the sight of the Almighty. The practices in question are either morally wrong or they are not If wrong, nobody can indulge in them and be a consistent christian; if right, why not the minister as well as other people?

At the risk of shocking som : readers, PROGRESS ventures the opinion that a minister can play cards, smoke and drink, and still be a christian. Waether he ought to do so is another matter.

No reasonable min can content that any more than are any other games of chance and skill. Trey may be, and most frequently are, occasions of sin. They tend to a misus: of time that should be employed to better purpose, they encourage the spirit of gambling, and at the best, in a mixed company, card playing is a selfish recoration in which a few enjoy themselves, without contributing anything toward the general fund of amusement. Nevertheless, it is quite possible for sincere christians to play cards, and it would be presumption to say that the fact of card playing, in itself, is any evidence of a lack of sincerity. Many christians do play, but many others feel that their time and their energies can be employed to better purpose. Others again may be deterred by the rules of their church, and these latter would un doubtedly be wrong in violating the principles of the body whose faith they

So, too, with the accompaniments of wine and tobacco. Many earnest christians drink wine and smoke, because they believe that the drinking of wine is no more morally wrong than it was in the days of our Saviour. It is forbidden by the rules of some denominations, but when it is not, only a Pharisec dare assert that a min cannot drink it and be a christian. As to smoking, it is at best, a habit which is neither food nor drink, but which no one can presume to assert will exclude a min from the Kingdom of Heaven. It alayman who smokes and drinks wine can be a christian, why not a minister?

All things were lawful unto St. PAUL but all were not expedient, he declared. While a min who has devoted his life to God's service may do many things which are not sins of themselves, it is better that he should avoid being in a remote degree the occasion of sin to others. The example of a minister who plays cards, drinks and smokes, is not a healthful one, even though he may do all three and be a christian. What he may safely do, may not always be safely done by others. There are some who cannot take wine, for instance, without being led to excess, and to these the minister's example may mean much. A minister should stand as a light on a hill, doing nothing that he eannot advise others to do. It is better for him to deny himself things which he may do without sin rather than to be the means of making commit sin by attempting to do as he has done. A minister who plays cards may be absorbed in them to the neglect of higher duties; one who drinks wine may do so to excess; one who smokes may do so to the detriment of his not due to the fact that evidence cannot be health. These are all possibilities, and cannot afford to ignore them. What he may do is not always what he should do. For all that, the man who plays, drinks and smokes in moderation may be a christian even though his usefulness is limited, and even though he is tar from the high ideal of what a devout christian ought to be.

The St. John school trustees should able with having counselled and procured make a note of the facts stated in the another to commit an offence, and thus ren- Boston letter to Progress this week. dered himself criminally, hable is elsewhere | They will learn from it that the meetings discussed in this issue. Should he be so of the school board there are as open as liable, in what position does Mr. VINCENT | the meetings of the common council here, and that the star chamber system has long

deserves attention. The idea of making public departments. The theory there is VERSES OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY the clerk of the peace the license inspector | that the peop'e pay the bills and have a does not, in theory, seem objectionable, but | right to the fullest information, and the it may possibly prove so in practice. The same theory holds good in St. John. The average rural magistrate has very crude people have a right to know how their ideas of legal procedure and the law money is spent, and the meetings of the trusof tees should be open to them and the press. ad- The board is not a private corporation, viser. This practically makes a judge but a public body, and its members are of the prosecutor, and if the accused can- not independent of the public, however not afford to employ a lawyer, gives they may have been appointed. The doors should be thrown open, and they will be It would seem to be a better plan to have in due time. It would be as well for the board to recognize the inevitable and submit as soon and as gracefully as possible.

> There are some redeeming features to many things which are not popular in the abstract. A New York lady was recently saved from drowning by wearing balloon bloomers, which became inflated with air when her boat upset and enabled her to float in safety. On the same day, in Jersey city, a bicycle rider, rushing at recklessly high speed through the streets knocked down a child just in time to save it from getting under the wheels of a trolley car. For all that every woman should not feel encouraged to wear bloomers nor will the rackless wheeler be adjudged any less of a nuisance than in the post.

There seems to be an epidemic of unrest among literary and scientific men this year. Not only have the poets of Canada been fighting with one another, but JAMES CORBETT has pulled the nose of Bob Fitz-SIMMONS, spit in his face and called him a very improper name. Considering that these gentlemen are matched to give an exhibition of slugging in the interests of science and the manly art, their encounter in a bar-room in advance tonds to give the impression that they are just as common brates as Sullivan and his crowd ever

One would think that the last place in the world for a thief to break into was a prison, but two men did so last week at Wea hersfield, Connecticut, and got away with a pair of horses and a carriage becards, of them selves, are morally wrong, longing to the warden. The team was of breaking into prison in the old St. John penitentary, years ago, but all the burglir got was a sentence, when he was afterwards tried and convicted.

> There is sound sense in the proposition that HOLMES should be sent to Canada to be tried for murder. Not only is the strongest evidence against him to be found in Toronto, but if he is found guilty he will be hanged in due season, instead of being allowed to contest the verdict for two or three years, as BUCHANAN

> > For the Rothesay Colleges.

Rev. Geo. E. Lloyd, the rector of Rothesay and the energetic principal of the Rothesay colleges for boys and girls goes to Halifax on Monday in the interests of those two institutions. He is having printed a handsome collection of views of the colleges and their surroundings, and more comfort able homes with such beautiful environments would be hard to find. The selection of the staff for the girls college was made with the greatest care and with the utmost regard for those qualifications that are sure to leave the best stamp upon those attending the institution.

New Light for a Star. The Albert Star, published at Hillsboro, formerly conducted by John A. Beatty, is now under the control of T. Hammill Prescott, who promises to make it a very live paper. Mr. Prescott, who has been an ardent liberal, in Westmorland, for the last twenty years, has now espoused the conservative cause, and hits out from the shoulder. The first issue under the new management is bright and newsy. The Star bids fair to take high rank among the already live weeklies of eastern New

Here's a New Mosquito Remedy. An enterprising young man, who is part owner in a boat house down the river. claims to have discovered something that will be of inestimable value to mankind if experience proves its worth. The inhabitants of this down-the-river boat house were nearly torn to pieces by mosquitoes every time they attempted to sleep in the house at night. Screens seemed to be of no avail, and it looked at one time as if the house would have to be abandoned. Finally an old lady who lived in the neighborhood told them that she had not been troubled by mosquitoes for several years. Her remedy was astonishingly simple. She discarded all screens, and threw the windows wide open at night. Across the open space of the window she stretched a piece of red ribbon about 'wo inches wide. "A mosquito," said she a mot be induced the great British surgeon, testified before a 1892, it received very fluttering notice from to pass the ribbon. Why it is so I do not committee of the House of Lords on in- the American papers, and Miss Anderson know, but I know the natives of India temperance that such a thing as the spon- has many letters from those who have had take this means of baffling the viscious taneous combustion of a drunkard's body comfort and inspiration from her efforts. mosquito. It works to perfection here was neither impossible nor improbable. In also." The young man followed instruct- support of the theory he said: ions, and now declares that there has not been a mosquito in the boat house since suffering from difficulty of breathing, was has persisted in for many years. The exthe ribbon was stretched across the doors brought to Guy's Hospital. He died quisite poem 'Immanuel's Land' was not and windows.

the following anecdote in his Memoi's. On a co'd December night a man in a little vil- and a lighted match applied to the places lage in the Tyrol opened the window and stood in front of it, with hardly any cloth- with a bluish flame. * * Asminy is ing to h's back.

"Peter!" shonted a neighbour, who was passing, "what are you doing th re?" "I am catching a co'd." "What for ?"

"So that I can sing bass to-morrow a

The Sorrow Haunted Sea.

The ebb tide sobs along the shore, In the twilight still and clear; And friends are gone forever more, To home and memory dear. The waves weep on the silver sands, The wild woods on the lea; My soul is in the summer lands, Oh, sorrow haunted sea.

The surging ocean's whispered prayer, In music soft and low; Steals calmly round my world of care, As warm tide's ebb and flow. Still fondly to my heart it brings, Sweet voices hushed to me; O'er thy blue waves on silent wings, Oh, sorrow haunted sea.

My cradle rocked where sea winds walk, In mist fringed garments white; And on the crested billows talk, Into the dead of night. I saw them in their spirit forms, Mock all the gay world's glee; And heard them in the wintry storms,

Oh, sorrow haunted sea. The sea of time from shore to shore, Is sorrow's haunted deep; O'er its sad heart forever more, Wierd strains of music sweep. Thy gallant ships that sail away, With good winds fair and free; Return no more by night or day, Oh sorrow haunted sea.

The waves that sob, the hearts that break, The dear ones dead and gone: The forms our soul's can ne'er forsake, Sail far at last alone. But some bright day some shore more still, More beautiful shall be;

'Till then we all, but do His will, Oh sorrow haunted sea.' CYPRUS GOLDE. Madisco, Bay Chaleur July 1895.

A Dream. Oh, it was but a dream I had While the musician played-And here the sky, and here the glad Old ocean kissed the glade: And here the laughing ripples ran, And here the roses grew That three a kiss to every man

That voyaged with the crew. Our si ken sails in lazy 'olds Drooped in the breathless breeze; And o'er a field of marigolds, Our eyes swam o'er the seas; have the eddies lisped and purled Around the island rim,
And up from out the underworld

We saw the mermen swim. And it was dawn and middle day

And midnight—for the moon On silver sounds across the bay Had climbed the skies of June-And here the glowing, glorious king Of day ruled o'er his realm, With stars of midnight glittering About his diadem.

The sea gull reeled on lanquid wing In circles round the mast; We heard the songs the sirens sing As we went sailing rast: And up and down the golden sands A thousand fairy throngs Flung at us from their flushing hands The echoes of their songs.

—James Whitecom bRiley.

A Kiss he took.

A kiss he took, and a backward look, And her heart grew suidenly lighter,
Trifle, you say, to color the day
Yet the duil gray morn seemed brighter, For hearts are such that a tender touch May banish a look of sadness, A small, slight thing can make us si g, But a frown will check our gladness.

The cheerless ray along our way Is the little act of kindness, And the keenest sting some careless thing, Toat was done in a moment of blindness, We can bravely face lite in a home where strife No foothold can discover, And be lovers still if we only will Thouga life's bright days are over.

Ah, sharp as swords cut the unkind words That are far beyond recalling When a face lies hid 'neath a coffin lid And bitter tears are falling, We fain would give half the life we live To undo our idle scorning, Then let us not miss the smile and kiss When we part in the light of the morning.

He Loveth Thee.

O child of God, wait patiently, When dark thy path may be; And let thy faith lean trustingly On him who cares for thee; And though the clouds hang drearily Upon the brow of night,
Yet in the morning joy will come,
And fill thy soul with light.

O child of God, he loveth thee, And thou art all his own; Will gentle hands he leadeth thee-Thou dost not walk alone; And though thou watchest wearily The long and stormy night, Yet in the morning joy will come, And fill thy soul with light. O child of God, how peacefully He calms thy tears to rest; And draws thee upward tenderly

Where dwell the pure and best! And he who bendeth silently Above the gloom of night, Will take thee home, where endless joy Shall fill thy soul with light. You said "Good Night." You said "good night" and the melody of your

voice Was as the music of rippling waters By flash of lover's oars from floating gondolier. The soughing, southern winds stealing o'er Banks of purpled violets, in dewy meads, Is not more gentle, nor stirs my senses to more gratetul fullness. This greeting, from

Than the cooing of the dove, or song of amorous soothed my wearied heart, like croon of mother song.

The golden moon looked down with gracious smile Whilst angels made one record more to your For kind and friendly sympathy.

Spontaneous Human Combustion.

The medical literature of this country, as well as that of England, France, and Germany, relates many instances of the spontaneous combustion of the human body. In the majority of cases, the victim has been a slave of the liquor habit. formed by overindulgence either in the way of using it as a beverage or in the form of a bath. In 1886 Sir William Gull.

How To Acquire A Bass Voice.

Ferrrari, the ce'ebrated comp ser, relates

How To Acquire A Bass Voice.

much distended, as if with gas. * * *

when punctures were made in the skin the dwelleth in Immanuel's Land."

Anworth, but by Annie B. Cousins, found and has been the proof of any of the same causes, but the vapor of alcohol could be plainly smelled, a dozen of these blue flames were burning on his body at one time."

There are several cases on record of drunkards going to bed to "sleep off a

tissues. Such cases always end in an its best recomendation. The book bears agonizing death. The British Annual Register of 1789 records the death by spontaneous combustion of the Countess Bandi of Cesna, Italy. In our country such cases have been rare indeed-the last occurring at San Francisco in 1887, when a drunkard who was lighting a cigar at a gas iet actually lighted his breath and died in a lew moments in great ag my.-St. Louis Republic.

FRIENDS IN THE GARDEN.

Important Helpers in Waging War Against the Injurious Insects.

Prof. R. P. Mason makes the following interesting and suggestive statements about the natural helpers of the gardener in his war upon injurious insects.

Snakes, toads, and lizards, instead being injurious to the plants, are always invaluable helps in keeping down the injurious insects. Snakes may be repulsive in appearance, and poisonous ones very dangerous, but the ordinary ground snakes will not burt one, and they will keep down mice, bugs, and insects as nothing else can. As a rule the noxious insects are in the greatest numbers in our gardens, and hence toads, lizards, and snakes that eat all that comes near them destroy more of the foes than enemies. I should never think of killing one of these creatures in the garden, but would be more inclined to protect them and even to import them into the garden. I have seen a small, gray l zard clean off the worms from a field of cabbages as fast as they could multiply. Attracted by the fat feasts, the lizard returned every day, and he would make trips up and down the rows of cabbages until not a worm could be found.

A few toads in hotbeds and cold-trames are of inestimable value. They will keep down all insects that begin to show themselves, finding them under leaves and stalks that hide them from and ordinary observer. In Paris toals are regularly caught and sold to gardeners for insect hunting in their greenhouses.

The so-called lace-wing insects are near ly all friendly to us. They live on other insects, and do not eat any part of the plant. If a few can be turned loose in a green house, they will destroy all insects other than those of their own class. In this class are included the ant-lions, aphis-lions, and kill, we must expect a dozen enemies to spring into active existence that must be destroyed by spraying.

The tiger-peetles, as well as the longlegged ground-beetles, are all insect-eaters, and they go around the gardens in search of their prey continually. They will attack large grubs and other insects, as well as the very small plant lice that hide behind the leaves. These beetles must be distinguished from others that destroy the plan's. The large robber-flies are also great friends in the garden, and they will attack all kinds of grubs and insects to devour. They are particularly eager to destroy apnis, and in this respect their presence should be greatly encouraged.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

"Sick Room Thoughts and Gleanings" is the name of a little book now in its third edition. Apart from the fact that it contains choicest selections from christian literature and sweetest thoughts for all who endure the solitude of a sick room, another and pathetic interest attaches to the book. The authoress, Miss Maggie Anderson of St. John, is an invalid. Eight years ago she was attack ed by an illness which resulted in paralysis of the lower limbs and since then she has been confined to her bed. It was during the long weary night, when unable to sleep that the idea of writing down her thoughts and experience first suggested itself to her thought it was not until long after, that, at the persuasion of friends, she decided to have them published. A sister who shared her room was a devoted amanuensis, and when the invalids fingers were unable to grasp the pen she faithfully recorded the

words dictated to her. It may well be imagined that the task of making appropriate selections was no light ore to a person circumstanced as was the authoress of Sick Room Thoughts. She tells of her own moments of discouragement and despair, and "The Changed Cross," one of the prettiest selections, is particularly applicable to her own case and that of all other invalids. The first tew lines are

very touching. It was a time of sadness and my heart, Although it knew and felt the better part, Felt wearied with the conflict and the strife,

And all the needful discipline of life. Aud while I thought of these as given to me, My trial test of faith and love to be, It seemed to me as if I never could be sure, That faithful to the end I would endure.

And thus no longer tru ting in His might, Who says, "We walk by faith and not by sight; Doubting and almost yielding to despair, The thought arose, my cross I cannot bear.

For heavier my weight must surely be Than those of others which I daily see, Oh, if I might another burden choose
Methinks I should not fear my crown to lose.

Previous to her illness Miss Anderson was a very sweet singer, but her voice has been so affected that she in now unable to speak above a whisper. When the book was first published, in

The New York Advocate in referring to the book in terms of praise says "we note a "In 1876 a large bloated man, who was | very natural mistake which the public mind hat night, and at the post mortem on the | written by Samuel Ruthertord, rector of tollowing day the body was noticed to be Anworth, but by Annie B. Cousins, tound-

> The sands of time are sinking The dawn of heaven breaks The summer morn I've sighed for The fair sweet morn awakes, Dark, dark hath been the midnight But day spring is at han i And glory, glory dwelleth In Immanuel's land."

Every line of the poem unfolds comfortspree" only to awake to find themselves enveloped in alcoholic flames, the result this little volume a won lerful help and the would make morsels of gossip are supof spontaneous firing of the gases in their 'tact that it is in its third edition should be 'pressed."-Ex.

the imprint of PROGRESS Book and Job Press, is neatly bound and makes an attractive volume of 142 octavo pages. For sale by Miss Maggie P. Anderson, 109 Queen St. East, Sc. John N. B.

The Staff is Complete.

The staff of the Rothesay School for Girls, Netherwood, has been filled up by the appointment of Miss M. Grace Stone, B. A., of Wellesley, Mass., and is composed as follows: Principal, Mrs. J. Simeon Armstrong; senior assistant, Miss M. Grace S:one; junior assistant, Miss Muriel Robertson; special lecturer in literature, Miss Eleanor Robertson; elocution and physical culture, Miss Ina S. Brown; special teacher of modern languages, William Gunn; music, piano and singing, James S. Ford; second piano, Miss Dorothy Armstrong; art, Miss C. O. McGivern; matron, Miss K. M. Bingay. The chief aim of the school will be to prepare girls for the varied duties of life as well as for a college course. The home life will be made as bright and happy as possible. The surroundings at Netherwood are all that can be desired, and, as sisted by such a staff, Mrs. Armstrong will be able to carry out her intentions very fully. While it will continue to be a church school it will not be so to the exclusion of any who wish to take advantage of its intellectual and christian influences. See advertisement and prospectus.

Ill Usage of Horses in Halifax

Halifax, Aug. 15 .- Secretary Naylor, of the S. P. C. is an indefatigable worker in preventing cruelty to man and beast! He would have found a good field for the exercise of his kindly powers a few evenings ago on Robie street, where a young man, ignorant of his work, was trying to break in a Sable Island pony. What this big boy lacked in knowledge of how to train a wild Sable Island pony, he more than made up for in expertness in cruel methods. The Dominion government brings up 30 or 40 of those wild animals several times a year and they are sold at auction. The poor heasts often fall into very rough and cruel hands. dragon-flies. For every one of these we Doubtless this cannot be avoided but it is a pity that it should be so.

Does This Fit Riggs?

According to secton 61 of chapter 29 of the Criminal Code of Canada, "everyone is a party to and guilty of an offence who counsels or procures any person to commit the offence." When license inspector Vincent's informer, Riggs, goes about the county in lucing people to sell liquor to him on this and that pretext, he clearly procures them to commit an offence. Supposing this law to apply to Riggs, how does it affect Mr. Vincent, who employs Riggs to do the work?

DIVORCE IN PHILADELPHIA. Five Good Grounds for Sult and the Utmost Secrecy Assured.

Although there are, on an average, about five hundred divorces granted in Philadelphia county each year, and there are not less than five reasons on which divorce can be obtained in the State of Pennsylvania, there are many residents of the Keystone State, and some few Philadelphians. who have gone to other jurisdictions in order to obtain a separation (which is not always recognized here) from their better or worse halves, as the case may be.

Fully that number of divorces are granted by the Common Pleas Courts of this city every year, but the nunber of the suits of this character which are commenced during every twelve-month more than treble it.

Why a man, or a woman either, who has been married in Pennsylvania, or has ever lived here in the married state, should go West to some of the now notorious communities where divorce and practically ground out to order, for the purpose of securing what he fon lly imagines is a legal divorce, is almost beyond understanding. Here are five cases, upon proof of any of which he or she can get a divorse. New Jersey is practically the only State in which so great a latitude in matters of this kind is allowed. South Carolina has no divorce law, and such a thing as a legal separation of man from wite is unheard of within her borders.

New York comes next best. There an absolute divorce can only be obtained upon the statutory grounds, unfaithfulness to the marriage tie, but a l mited divorce, with alimony, can be s cured upon proper proof of several causes of

Out West things change considerably It is true that in most of the Wester States there are only three causes on which a divorce can be obtained, but the laws, from the standpoint of a prominent attorney, are so lax that a man or woman, by the exercise of the least bit of fraud, can obtain what they desire in from one-eighth to one-quarter of the time required in this State, provided they are piloted by a lawyer who knows how to go about a case when he is well paid.

In Pennsylvania the causes on which a divorce can be obtained are "cruel and barbarous treatment," "desertion" for two years, giving either party the right to gin suit after six months' desertion, although no degree will be made until two years have elapsed; "unfaithfulness," "duress and fraud," and "telony," where either party has been convicted of crime and has been in prison for two years or applicant for the separation must first be a resident of the State for at least one year.

In Pennsy'vania every paper in a divorce case is jealously guarded and practically impounded, thus securing to the parties interested almost absolute secrecy. "All the general public usually hears," said a lawyer, "is the announcement that a decree