

PROGRESS.

EDWARD S. CARTER, EDITOR.

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THE TRIAL OF WHEELER.

In the intense excitement of the general election PETER WHEELER'S trial was almost lost sight of except by those who from the start were deeply interested in the case. That he had a fair trial there is not the slightest doubt, and that no defence was brought forward by his counsel is sufficient evidence that all hope of proving him innocent, or securing dismissal, had been abandoned. While WHEELER was surrounded by a web of circumstantial evidence from which it was impossible to extricate him there are several things that do not seem quite convincing to an unprejudiced mind. If the murder was committed at the hour claimed then the imagination or the eyesight, of one or two of the natives of Bear River has played them false.

At the time of the murder Detective POWER and several of the provincial papers acted in a most unprofessional manner; the detective especially, who gave to the papers without a moment's hesitation his theory of the crime. If WHEELER had by any chance been proven innocent Detective POWER would perhaps not have felt so exultant; and there is always the chance of a mistake. It is to be sincerely hoped that the loquacious detective and the sensational papers will be more guarded in future when dealing with such grave matters. A detective's theory is no concern of the public until it is quietly worked out to a successful issue, and in the case of WHEELER Detective POWER has not distinguished himself very signally.

GREATER NEW YORK.

So far as an act of the legislature can effect it the "Greater New York" is now an accomplished fact. The bill uniting the municipalities of New York city and Brooklyn and adding to them Long Island city and Staton Island, which lies in New York harbor, has passed the New York assembly and received the signature of Governor MORTON. The aggregate population of the new metropolis will be about three millions and there is plenty of unoccupied territory within the limits of the new city to admit of a vast growth still without overcrowding, if the population is properly distributed. This consideration will undoubtedly serve the highest ends of municipal progress and be of vast benefit in the matter of economy and efficiency of government. The union will exist, however, for some time to come in little more than name. A scheme of government must still be provided for the consolidated cities. Thus it will be the duty of a commission to devise and reduce to a practical working form.

Much opposition was made against the bill in the form it finally passed; though such opposition was not opposed to a greater New York but simply to the method of accomplishing it. It was thought by many that a charter for the proposed city should be first drawn up and submitted to the voters for approval or otherwise; but that order was reversed. The consolidation was first made and the charter is to follow. Greater New York is now the second city in size in the world.

AN IMPORTANT WORK.

The lease just made by Mexico of her new inter-oceanic railway between Coatzacoalcas and Salina Cruz may properly be regarded as the final stage in the development of this great enterprise. The completion of the road was announced by President DIAZ to the Mexican congress some time ago; but it remained to provide costly harbor and terminal facilities at the first named city which is on the Gulf and to build a pier at the last which is on the Pacific. It also remained to establish fully the system of operating the road and to provide for trans-shipment by lighters until the pier should be ready. In the arrangement now made with the London lessees for fifty years, as described by Consul General CRITTENDEN, the Mexican government will furnish \$150,000 per month during three years for the remaining construction required, and at the expiration of that time the lessees are to have the whole road in solid running condition, while a schedule of the division of receipts between the government and the lessees thereafter, during the remainder of the lease, is established. The Isthmus of Tehuantepec has long

been regarded as a promising route for travel between the two great oceans. Cortes himself examined it for that purpose and surveys were made of it afterwards by Spain. Mexico on achieving her independence took up the subject and when afterwards steam railways came into vogue the question as to the relative advantages of a canal arose. Finally came the famous prospect of a ship railway.

The first actual concession for a commercial route was made in 1841 but a few years later this was interlarded with by a war with the United States. A company was later on organized and had a survey for a rail road but the project came to nothing. The important enterprise has been baffled, during its long progress by many delays and failures in contracts; and in addition has contended with the fact that nearly half a century ago the much shorter Panama railroad was completed and of course became an established route between the two oceans.

A NEW POWER.

A great deal has been said about using compressed air in street car propulsion but nothing satisfactory, or promising any large degree of success, has been discovered in that line recently. Now however much has been done and there are indications of much more. A company has been formed in New York and several millions have been subscribed for the purpose of constructing machinery adapted to the use of compressed air. It is very likely that soon the larger cities will adopt compressed air as a motive force for street car purposes. Under the system likely to be adopted the compressed air is put in storage reservoirs under the car the air being compressed to about two thousand pounds to the square inch and in various capacities yielding a speed of from five to twenty miles an hour. Station reservoirs are placed at proper intervals along the road and long distances from which the car reservoir may be replenished when exhausted. In the matter of cost, compressed air is not believed to be cheaper than electricity as a propelling force for street cars; but it would have the advantage of doing away with overhead wires and the live wire so destructive to life. In the city of New York overhead wires are under the ban and that is one reason why attention is being so persistently turned to compressed air as a substitute for electricity in street car propulsion.

It is pleasing to see that bicyclists are able to look upon their old canine comrades with an air of friendliness. Whether for the wobble or the novelty of the bicycle, the dogs had a very decided dislike to it. They would get in front of the wheel and snap at the shins of the rider who was obliged to kick the animal in self defence. The dog couldn't trot along under his master's wheel as he could under his wagon and when he attempted anything of the sort a general upset was the result. At one time wheelmen carried revolvers or devices for throwing nitric acid at unfriendly dogs. But that day has gone by and it is not uncommon nowadays to see a dog frisking along beside a wheel and in place of carrying children on the handle bars, it is now the thing for men and women to take their pet dog out for a spin. In the re-established relations though between the man, the wheel and the dog, there is still nothing to encourage hope for the horse. He is still out of it.

Is there a promise of peace for Europe in the rumor that Emperor WILLIAM no longer curls his mustache ferociously at the ends, but wears it benignly straight. One thing is certain however and that is, there has not been quite so much blustering talk from the war lord since he began winning peaceful victories with the Meteor.

As a Result of the Election.

HALIFAX, July 2.—Some results of the liberal victory are already apparent, at the meeting of the board of school commissioners Ald. Redden and Ald. Lane two uncompromising liberals, moved that Dominion day be a public holiday for the city schools. Dominion day has hitherto been like a red rag before a bull to most liberals in Halifax, and especially to such party men as the two mentioned. But they felt so good on account of Tuesday's voting that they walked down to the school board and did the previously unthought of act of having July 1st made a holiday for the children. A good tory was heard to remark that if he had known that a liberal victory could have so beneficent an effect on the opposite side, he would have been willing to be beaten at the polls five years ago. Well done, Redden and Lane!

Time Flies When no Man Pursueth.

The man whose work keeps him out of doors in winter must have a hearty welcome for Spring. It is hard in bustling way-below-zero weather to believe that shortly the birds will sing, the flowers be in blossom and overcoats, windy days and chilled body be things of the past. The trouble is that all too soon the weeks go by and another winter is at hand. The question of clothing is always important and the new idea of using Fibre Chamois in ready made clothing is bound to have immense popularity. From the standpoint of health as well as comfort, it commends itself strongly as it adds no weight and yet keeps out the rain as well as the wind, and such advantages are highly appreciated by all men.

The White Camellia.

The sweet bud nurtured here in love, And watched with sacred care; In perfect loveliness above, Our Father needed there. Snow white her cold resemblance lies, The sweetest flower of all; So pale and still with night closed eyes; No answer when we call.

O lovely form, O baby bright; Sweet mother in her sleep; Do angels from their realms of light, Their watch beside her keep? How cold she is, how damp her brow, How white her folded hands; Will that sweet smile her lips have now Be here in brighter lands?

Dear mother on your patient breast, No longer can she lie; But sweeter far will be her rest, Where death is never sigh. The hallowed words she learned to say; Amid the scruph throng; In those celestial fields of day, Will be an angel's song.

O could we see that spirit pure, Her angel in that place; The Saviour said that they for sure, Behold our father's face. How sweet to hear this silent voice, These eyes in darkness sealed; With children's angel hosts rejoice, In glory light revealed.

To think, these little feet so cold, With some bright angel band; Shall walk where distant scenes unfold The clear sea crystal sand. Though death in silent sorrow moves, And mother's heart must break, 'Tis but the sleep of those He loves, They in His arms awake.

Our white camellia's earthly bloom We could not keep alive; Has deathless life beyond the tomb With love 'tis vain to strive, O mother weep not so nor call, Her back to this wild shore; The dear Lord gives his children all, A home forever more.

So will we keep her early grave, All fresh and green with flowers; For her sweet self our Father gave From His own Eden bowers. Through all the summer's golden prime, A requiem they will sing; And like a holy evening chime, The sweetest memories bring.

The innocent field daisy's truth, Will bend to God in prayer; Pure snowdrops tell us hope and youth Are in His tender care. We left some in her hands when last, Farewell in tears we said; How lovingly when winter's past, They bloom above the dead.

O, Muriel, sweet Muriel, Canst thou give us no sign; O heavenly genius, or softly tell Our hearts what joys are thine? What cherub's souls on shining wings, Fly through that vast domain; What splendid hymns their thousands sing, The distant sweet refrain.

CYRUS GOLDBERGER

Laurel Woods, June, 1896.

NOT A VERY PAYING BUSINESS.

Novi Scotia and P. E. I. Owe Bishop Courtney \$3,000.

HALIFAX, July 2.—The church of England people of the diocese of Nova Scotia and P. E. Island do not seem to be able to pay their bishop's salary. The fact that they are in arrears to Bishop Courtney nearly \$3,000 is a peculiar condition of affairs. His lordship is supposed to receive \$6,000 per year, \$4,000 of which comes from church funds invested in England, and \$2,000 of which is raised by assessments on the various parishes. The deficit on the assessment amount is increasing yearly until now the arrearages amount to about \$3,000. Not only that, but there is a shortage in the investmen's income, for instead of yielding \$4,000 a year not more than \$3,700 is realized. A whole day was spent by the synod wrestling with this problem of arrears. The shoe pinches in two points: First, the parishes who think themselves too poor to pay have irrevocably got behind, and secondly, those who do pay refuse to put their hands any deeper into their pockets to meet the shortage of the delinquents. Three of those delinquent churches are in this city—St. Luke's Cathedral, St. Mark's and St. George's though Rev. Mr. Crawford stated that it was a mistake to charge his church with being in arrears. A section of the synod proposed to increase the assessment in order to make both ends of the salary meet, but a large contingent of country rectors came to the synod with the sole purpose of opposing any such "increase in the tariff." There was a section in the synod, also, who held that the church is responsible for the whole \$6,000, and that they would have to make up the shortage on the \$4,000 to be derived from investmen's. Judge Ritchie, of Halifax, indignantly combated any such view, holding that all that the synod was responsible for was the \$2,000 they should raise by assessment. Rev. Mr. Bowman and the judge had a lively tilt over this point, but the judge had the best of the law and the argument.

The matter was finally disposed of, not by making up the deficiency, but by referring the question to a special committee of nine, who are to meet with the finance committee, and to report to the executive of the Synod next March.

It is a question who feels most badly about this sad financial embroglio—the 50 parishes that are behind in their assessment, the remainder who have paid up, or the bishop who had to endure a whole day of this kind of discussion, ending without one cent of the shortage being paid.

The Organist of St. Anthony's Church. Miss M. A. Donovan, organist of St. Anthony's church, has selected and purchased a Pratte piano for her own use.

Umrellas Made, Recovered, Repaired by Duval, 17 Waterloo Street.

BY GALLOWAY AND MORGUE TO LIBERTY.

Queer Circumstances of a Condemned Murderer's Escape from Prison.

The condemned murderer, Noble Shepard, broke jail at the Four Courts one morning about 4 o'clock. Shepard recently is the confessed murderer of Thomas Morton and Lizzie Leahy, and the only reason why he was not hanged April 22 last was because he took an appeal to the Supreme Court and was granted a respite ending the final disposition of his case by that tribunal. It was generally conceded by all who were familiar with Shepard's bloody deeds that the appeal could not save him from the gallows. And at the Four Courts the jail guards would point Shepard out to visitors as "the next one to go off."

Shepard is a desperate criminal. He is brave as a lion, cunning as a fox, and restless as a tiger. As a prisoner he was obedient enough, but he always seemed sulky. The guards who watched him day and night say that he seldom slept. He seemed to be awake at all hours, but he never showed the slightest signs of uneasiness. He was just the prisoner to make the escape that he did. Shepard occupied a cell in the ground tier and located about the centre of the south end of the great dome-shaped prison. Its number is 33, and Shepard shared it with George Reed, the wife murderer. Between the cells in this section of the jail, which reach in three tiers to the roof, and the south outer wall of the building is a passage about four feet in width, commonly called the "bull ring." This passage leads along the cells in the shape of a crescent, so that when standing at either end of the passage nothing that may be going on in the centre of the bull ring can be observed. In this passage two guards are supposed to patrol constantly day and night. The rear ends of all the cells in the south part of the jail abut against the bull ring and open upon the court inside. The rear of the cells is constructed after the pattern of their doors—that is, made of steel grating half way from the top, and below that point to the bottom there is a heavy steel plate. At the lower part of this plate and in the centre is another plate of steel bolted over an opening about 11x8 inches. There are in each small plate about fifteen heavy steel bolts which are clinched on the inside of the cells, the plates being on the outside. These covered openings in the ground tier of cells are about two inches above the stone floor. It was through this opening that Shepard escaped.

The sewer pipe which drains the jail and other buildings of the Four Courts is laid in bull ring, leading along its full length. About ten feet from Shepard's cell is a manhole to the sewer below, and the pipe at this point is tapped by another sewer, which leads out through the south wall and into the pipe which is buried underneath Spruce street. About ten days ago Jailer Wagner found a leak in the sewer pipe beneath the bull ring, and he set a force of men to work to repair it. They dug a ditch, and found the pipe in such bad condition that it could not be repaired. Then the jailer decided to have all of the pipe relaid, and the men unearthed it to the manhole, and from that point they made an opening under the jail wall, and continuing the ditch across the jail yard. Two days ago they disconnected the pipe that leads to the street, and since then there has been an unprotected opening through the manhole to the yard.

It was while the men were at work on the sewer that Shepard began work to effect his escape. With a fine steel saw that Shepard had hid away in his cell he began to cut the bolts that held the steel cap that covered the small opening near the floor. Shepard worked slyly while the men on the sewer worked. The noise they made was a protection for Shepard against the jail guards hearing the grating of his saw. Reed, the cellmate of Shepard, says positively that he never once noticed the fugitive at work with his saw, and if Reed's statement is true, Shepard was sly enough to keep his work from the prison guards. Reed's statements about the whole affair are, however, not given much credence by the officials. They say that the only reason Reed did not escape with Shepard was because he was too large a man to squeeze through the small opening.

The indications are that Shepard had the plate over the opening in readiness for his escape by Saturday night, and then awaited his opportunity to get away, having learned from some source in the mean time that the hole in the wall at the manhole was unprotected.

Shepard's opportunity came yesterday morning. The guards in their rounds at 3 o'clock noticed nothing unusual about the cell he occupied. There were four men on duty at the jail—two in the court and two in the bull ring. Shepard awaited his opportunity. From his bunk he saw the guards pass by his cell and disappear in opposite directions to the ends of the bull ring. He had got a match from one of the guards only a few moments before and lit a cigarette.

About the time the guards disappeared around the turns of the bull ring Shepard was upon his hands and knees. He pushed the little steel plate away and crawled with great difficulty out into the bull ring. It only took him a minute longer to put the plate against the opening, and then cover it with two pieces of stone flagging that the sewer diggers had removed from the floor. With one leap he was in the sewer manhole and in another minute he was into the yard. In the sewer outside he removed his

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder ABSOLUTELY PURE

trousers and he must have replaced them with a suit of clothes some one had laid in the yard for him. It was only about fifty feet from the sewer to the scaffold on which Shepard was to have been hanged. But the instrument of death had no terror for him now. It is located in the southeast corner of the jail yard near the Morgue, and to this he hurried. Running up the stairs which lead to the platform from which the trap is sprung and murderers are shot into eternity, the escaping murderer climbed upon the roof of the scaffold.

The next feat was to jump from this point upon the roof of the Morgue, over which he ran to the Spruce street end. Then he leaped to the street, a distance of about twenty feet, and was off, in what direction nobody knows. It was 5 o'clock when the guards discovered that Shepard was gone. Reed, the escaped murderer's cellmate, was apparently asleep. He was aroused by the guards, and expressed surprise at Shepard's escape. In the bunk the latter had occupied was a dummy he had made with a small chip basket as a head and a blanket for the body.

THE CRAZE FOR OLD CHINA

China Collecting of Late Years is Becoming a Science.

The collecting of old china is rapidly becoming a science. The tendency of the present day is to specialize. Instead of gathering together odds and ends and trash of every description, because it possesses the single merit of age, the collector of today is paying more attention to the grouping together of pieces belonging to special branches of the potter's art and to the completion of some particular series of designs, the work of a special potter or the ceramic views of a selected locality. There are collectors of Delft ware, of tortoiseshell or Whieldon ware, of slip decorated pottery; there are others who confine themselves to pepper boxes, and still others who collect nothing but pitchers or beer mugs. Certain others are interested only in printed china containing views relating to their own localities, while many consider blue crockery the only ware worth preserving. This specializing has its advantages in bringing together many objects which would otherwise escape observation, and in furnishing the student with material of greater completeness than could be obtained by desultory collecting, which enables him intelligently to classify and arrange, to reach conclusions relating to the past condition and development of the art.

Collectors of old English china bearing American designs are perhaps in the majority in this country, and their number is constantly increasing. The demand for the limited supply of such pieces, which are becoming rarer year by year, has resulted in the rapid increase in values, and in many instances preposterous prices have been realized by dealers. Take, for instance, the design showing the first train of cars of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. A few years ago this pattern could be purchased for a couple of dollars or less.

Now it is sold at ten, fifteen, and sometimes as high as twenty dollars. This deep blue print, on account of its quaintness and historical interest, is exceedingly popular. Across the foreground extends a train of diminutive four-wheeled vehicles resembling old-fashioned coal cars, drawn by a primitive, cableless, six-wheeled engine, with tall, slender smoke pipe. The engineer stands on the side rail, while the fireman is seated on the front of the tiny coal cart or tender. In the background another train may be seen coming down the grade.

It is not uncommon for rural owners of such pieces to ascribe to them an antiquity of a hundred or even two hundred years, notwithstanding the fact that the Baltimore and Ohio railroad was not projected until 1828. This belief in the great age of inherited china is common and it is a hopeless task to try to set the owners straight as to the true age of such pieces. It was only last week that the writer received a letter from an old lady in the country who had some wonderful pieces of ancient china which she desired to sell. They were described as being fully five hundred years old, and more probably seven hundred. Investigation proved them to be nothing but cheap crockery of the period of 1830 to 1840. Imagine white china with gaudily painted flowers descending to us from the twelfth century!

Until quite recently \$10 represented the average price asked for dark blue American designs by high-priced dealers, but of late the prices of many varieties have advanced to \$40, \$50, and even \$75, and, strange to say, these exorbitant figures are sometimes realized, although some of the rarest designs may still be picked up through the country for a dollar or so apiece. Collectors seem to have gone crazy over their hobbies, and we may live to see the day when old china will bring as preposterous prices as postage stamps, one of which a 10-cent Baltimore "Provisional," issued about 1846, is said to have been recently sold to a New York collector for the fabulous sum of \$4,400.

By a curious hallucination china dealers and collectors are just now "bulling" the prices of some comparatively worthless blue china designs which have lately been brought into prominence. One of these is a view of an old French structure entitled Moulin sur la Marne a Charenton (Mill on the Marne at Charenton), the supposition being that it stood on the land belonging to Gen. Lafayette, and it is said that at least one collector has already paid \$10 for

a plate bearing this view. As a matter of fact, Charenton was situated a long distance from La Grange, the Lafayette estate and had no possible connection with it; consequently the view possesses no special interest, but may be classed with a hundred other designs which have never brought more than a dollar or so. These mill plates are quite abundant in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, two varieties being known, and the writer has frequently had them offered to him at 50 cents each, but declined them with thanks. As the design is uninteresting and possesses no special significance, the value can only be measured by what it will bring as a bit of blue coloring, of indifferent quality, for wall decoration alone. It is one of Enoch Wood's poorest efforts in the presentation of picturesque scenery on pottery.

As every English manufacturer of "American views" had at least one special design for the borders of plates, it is possible to assign examples to particular makers, without referring to the names on the backs for no potter seems to have used the border design of another. The study of these marginal patterns is fascinating to a collector. Enoch Wood employed distinct border devices for different groups of subjects. For his American views he used a sea-shell border in at least two varieties. In one of these the echinus, or sea porcupine, was introduced as shown in the Baltimore and Ohio plate. In the other this detail was omitted. To the latter group belong the "Commodore Macdonough's Victory" print and the "Marine Hospital, Louisville, Ky." His series of Scriptural designs was characterized by a border containing four groups of Biblical emblems—a lamb, an altar, a cross, and an open book. Whether these are marked or not, they may always be recognized as being the work of Wood. A series of French views, including "La Grange, the Residence of the Marquis Lafayette" (of which there are two varieties); the "Moulin sur la Marne," mentioned above; the "Chateau Ermenonville," and others, were distinguished by a border of hollyhocks, grapes and iris, and still other groups had distinctive margins.

Subjects employed on his American productions a border pattern embodying the American eagle. The Ridgway brothers, John and William, in their "Benches of America" table service, used a set medallion pattern of large rose leaves, arranged in a circle, tip to tip, on each of which is a flower blossom. Mayer used on his series of arms of the original States a graceful trumpet flower, while R. S. & W. (supposed to stand for Ridgway, Son & Wear) produced the most beautiful, perhaps, of all, an artistic wreath of oak leaves and acorns. Of a later period are the pink, black and brown plates of Jackson and of Adams, with their handsome floral borders; the light blue and brown views of Goodwin, including a view of Baltimore and one of Fort Hamilton, encircled with convolvulus and nasturtium designs, and the Hudson River scenes of Clews, with their bird-of-paradise borders. Of course there were also some special engravings with their own individual border devices, such as the "States" pattern, the log cabin of 1840, the Erie Canal, and the landing of the pilgrims, but these are the exceptions which prove the rule.

The use of a common border on a series of views served two purposes. It identified the work of the manufacturer, and it saved much expense in having a variety of different views engraved. It also contributed to the uniformity required in a service for table use. Thus it was only necessary, in getting out new patterns, to engrave a central view, the least expensive portion of the whole design.

Many other handsome borders on old English china could be described but we spare. Mr. A. Truax of New York has in his possession a pair of dinner plates which are probably unique in American collections. These contain well-executed portrait busts in blue of Robert Burns and King George III., surrounded by most attractive wreath design composed of the Scottish thistle in bold proportions. Since these are not marked, the name of the maker is not known, but as Enoch Wood was the most prolific producer of printed wares of this character, they may, with some degree of probability, be attributed to him.—Edwin Atlee Barber.

Windsor Sait For Table and Dairy Purest and Best.

Bismarck as a Hand Organist.

It is related by a German journal that during the reign of the Emperor William I., when the present Emperor was a boy, Prince Bismarck, walking one day through a corridor of the royal palace at Berlin, came upon a strange scene. Hearing within a room which he passed a great racket, he opened the door and saw the young grandsons of the emperor dancing about, while their father, the Crown Prince, ground at the handle of a hand organ.

All were in high spirits, and, seeking the Chancellor, the young Princes laughingly invited him to join in the dance. Prince Bismarck declined, but offered to turn the organ if the Crown Prince would join in his sons. The Crown Prince consented, and the Chancellor turned the handle with great animation. The laughter and sport grew louder with the increased speed of the playing. Just then the old Emperor came in. He took in the situation at a glance.

"I see, my Chancellor, that you are beginning early to make the Princes dance to your music!" If the incident was accepted as prophetic, it was soon proved illusive. The eldest, at least, of the old Emperor's grandsons—the present Emperor—has never since then danced to any one's music but his own.

Bargains in Wall Papers at McArthur's King St.