

PROGRESS.

VOL. XIII., NO. 646.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

COUNTY JAIL CONDITON.

This Place of Incarceration Tersely Described—The Condemned Cell and the Place where Murderers Are Executed.

Much has been said and written within the past week of the condition of the county jail. On Sunday last the sanitary condition of the jail was the subject of a pulpit discourse in this city. Some startling statements were made in regard to the hygiene of that public institution.

It is remarked during this dissertation that this place of incarceration was, as a whole, totally unfit for habitation. This is very true in some respects, at least, but there are points upon which the public have not as yet been enlightened.

PROGRESS is not publishing this article in order to condone any of the shortcomings of this abode of some-time absentees, but rather as a matter of truth, and as a statement of fact. That the public may judge for themselves by following the accompanying illustration of the existing condition of the jail and jail life would, perhaps, be the best way to take our readers into the inner circle of jaildom.

On first entering the jail office one is met with a cheerful fire. Here Turnkeys Clifford and Cunningham are in charge, the visitor is sometimes met at the door by Deputy-Sheriff Rankine. The books relating to jail affairs, prisoner's commitments, debtor's detention bonds with other miscellaneous matters, are here kept with all that care and method which goes to make up a feature in criminology.

After a few minutes conversation with the turnkey in charge the visitor is next ushered through the iron-barred door which leads into the jail proper. This is what is called the first floor. On this floor are found the female prisoners. There are here two cells allotted to St. John's recalcitrant Amazons. Here the frail females of the population are detained for their law-breaking propensities. At the present writing but one of these cells are occupied, so there can be no overcrowding charge made against this portion of the jail.

The women prisoners in the jail are always kept busy, there time is occupied in the "kitchen" cooking the meals of the other prisoners; twice a week they scrub the floors and cells in the jail; they wash the blankets and other paraphernalia of the institution.

The male contingent of the jail enjoy the greatest recreation. They have no labor to perform; they simply lounge away, laying off in their beds, smoking pipes, playing cards, telling tales of adventure outside and inside the bars. There are a few of the "faithful" who have some little menial labors to perform, such as sawing wood, carrying up coal to the other prisoners. These men have the run of the "yard," another prisoner is in charge of the "hall." This man is generally an old-timer. His work consists in carrying water from one cell to another.

There are three cells for men on the first floor. On that floor also is found the "black hole." The "black hole" is simply a closely-locked cell, with an iron door, minus a wicket in the door, minus any windows to throw the welcome lustre of light on the lonely inhabitant. This place of punishment has been very seldom used of late years.

On looking over that portion of the jail the visitor is next taken up stairs to the second floor. Here are found four cells for men. The cells on one side of this floor are intended for those who have been placed under restraint for drunkenness, assault, theft and kindred crimes. On this side one comes face to face with what is called the "condemned" cell. This famous iron-grated structure is intended for those who are charged with murder and criminals over whose heads hang the sentence of death, of late years there have not been many occupants in the murderer's cell.

Adjoining the "condemned cell" is what is called the "wash-room." The wash room is a place about the size of one of the cells; it contains three portable basins. Here the prisoners are enabled to make their daily ablutions. In this room is a bathtub, hot and cold water and other adjuncts of a toilet room. Everything is kept clean and neat in this portion of the jail. Of course the equipages of the place are not at all modern, much is wanting in this line to meet the requirements of this advanced age.

On the opposite side of the top floor of the jail one can see the "debtors cells." They are four in number and face on King street east. The cells are large and spacious and are defined by the prison paraphernalia as "double-headers" this term means that one debtor's cell is as large as two of the ordinary kind. The doors of the cells are not locked against the debtor, he is allowed freedom in everything, excepting a passage through the street door of the jail.

The centre cell on the debtors side of the top floor is now used for a "store-room." Here are kept blankets, soap, mattresses and other materials in the prison fare. This "store room" has a somewhat reminiscent history, which many of the present generation of PROGRESS readers know anything of. In the early days of the jail from the window of its room the prisoners condemned to death expiated their sentence; here the hanging took place, in full view of the public. Today all that is changed; the people of these times have lost that semi savage tinge and are not so eager to witness a hanging.

On the top floor of the jail there are two ventilators placed in the ceilings, these are in good working order, the iron braced windows at the jail extremities are open to admit the air; inside the various cells the windows are worked by pulleys in order to admit the cool and refreshing breezes through the musty cells.

"Church" is held on the top-floor of the jail on Friday afternoons. Here whites and blacks assemble to hear the gospel propounded. It is said that the occupants who are at present sojourning in this well-guarded county institution have inaugurated a "strike" and refuse to attend "divine service," claiming that aspersions have been thrown on their characters, etc.

Descending to the first floor one finds that in one of the cells a boy is placed with adult prisoners. This is not the fault of the jail officials, they have to provide the means of their disposal. In no one cell at the present time is there confined more than three prisoners.

Another part of the jail not yet visited is the basement. Here is the "Kitchen," and a model one, too, presided over by some of the unfortunate women, who are better off in this place than they would be exposed to the contempt and contemely of a cold and ill-judging world.

Everything in the "kitchen" looks bright, home-like and is in apple-pie order, the stoves are nicely polished, floors clean, furniture dusted, in fact everything irreproachable. The workers in this part of the institution have sleeping-apartments of their own abjoining their work place.

Deputy Sheriff Rankine lives in the front part of the jail and says that for over 35 years he has not known of a half a dozen cases of sickness in the jail. This is truly a great record. Turnkeys Clifford and Cunningham claim that everything that is possible with the means allowed to them is done for the inmates. The cells and halls are kept clean, the prisoners are allowed "walks" in the hall twice a day; they can wash themselves and their clothes as often as they desire; friends are allowed to bring them any little delicacies. The turnkeys claim that the prison is not a modern one by any means, but on the other hand everything in the line of modern usage they are supplied with in turn furnished by them to the prisoners.

There are existing evils, the need of up-to-date sanitary arranged seats, finding work for the idle criminal, the separation of prisoners, etc. These matters should be dealt with by the municipality, they do not come within the province of the jail officials, hence these officials who are painstaking in their efforts should not be blamed for something which they are incapable of controlling. Reform is needed; it can come none too soon.

Police Promotion.

Some changes have been made in the personnel of the police force during the present week. Officer Garnett, one of the best liked men on the force has retired. He will enter into the saloon business,

lately vacated by D. J. Walsh, Main street. This necessitated the appointment of another "regular" policeman from the already slim force. Now an appointment is made and Napier is still kept in the background. The Chief must have something "up his sleeve" against Napier, or else there is something radically wrong in the way of police promotion. Will PROGRESS tell the story or will the chief himself. In any case the public will be made acquainted with the real facts before long.

Local Boxes' Souvenirs.

As an inducement to secure a larger amount of business the local Chinese laundrymen are not behind the age by any means. Within the past few weeks some

A SCENE OF SPLENDOR.

The Decorations in the Production of Zephra an Artistic Success.

The decorations of the Opera House for the production of Zephra were on an elaborate and gorgeous scale. The sides of the stage were banked with spruce bearing the letters R. K. Y. C. in red, surmounted by potted chrysanthemums.

The stage front and boxes were draped with white crepe paper and festooned with smilax. Flags were tastefully arranged all

and anchor in gold, and a small yacht model.

"Kathleen," red ground, painted scene in centre and name in gold.

A very gorgeous shield was of white, draped around the edge with red and blue and had a large maple leaf and name "Bluenose" in gold.

The "Canada's" shield was made to represent the Canadian ensign, with natural varnished maple leaves, crown, and paper roses, and was especially beautiful.

The "Kelpie's" was a red and blue shield with British coat-of-arms, and name in gold.

A shield covered with white wool, bearing a Jack and name "Jubilee" in silver was very pretty.

A very attractive shield was one with dark red and blue ground, and a good sized yacht model, it bore the name "Victoria."

The "Graying" red, white and blue shield, silk flag, name in gold.

Red and blue shield with name "Edna" in red on white band.

"Tanawa" shield was most unique, covered with red and gold and bore a fiend's head from which trickled gory drops.

A Script That has Travelled.

Mr. Chas. Lilley, son of the well known Main street vicar, spent three months travelling on the Continent last spring. One day while in Venice, he found among some loose money in his pocket a twenty-five cent script and thinking it would be a good souvenir to send home from that place, he asked a lady of the party to sew it on a postal card for him, which she did. Mr. Lilley then addressed it to his sister, here in St. John, and mailed it. There was considerable joking, and surmising among the party as to the possible bringing up place of the monied bit of pasteboard. That was on the twenty-seventh of May, and up to a short time ago nothing had been seen or heard of the missive, and Mr. Lilley had ceased to wonder about it. One day last week however, the post man handed Miss Lilley, the long-looked for card. Though somewhat travel-stained it was remarkably well preserved the face being completely covered with continental postmarks. Mr. Lilley wished to send the little script home, but apparently it was of another turn of mind, and it certainly "died" Europe for almost six long months. The card is quite a curiosity and Miss Lilley is much more pleased than if it had reached St. John, when her brother intended.

He Attracted Attention.

Zephra was not the only attraction within the four walls of the opera house for a few evenings this week. An elderly gentleman in a dress suit, well known around town, who sat in the first row of the orchestra seats, made himself a very prominent feature at all times. Between all the acts the irrepressible old gentleman went out, stopping to talk to different acquaintances on the way, and sometimes even making a circuitous course to do so. The gods, who are always first to notice anything out of the ordinary, seized him up, and whenever the old man made a move, he was greeted by laughter and whistling from the elevated onlookers. When the tea water was passed one night the self-conscious old gentleman found it necessary to rise and face the audience before he could quench his thirst by draining the glass. This however, he apparently failed to do as he went out for the fifth or sixth time, shortly after. The dress suit and the old man did attract considerable attention but it is doubtful whether he was quite the feature he intended to be. At any rate the sense of the fitness of things and the order which should be maintained throughout a performance; and which is strongly felt by a sensible audience, suffered a severe shock.

A Phantom Pursuit.

On Tuesday evening of this week an East end citizen, slightly under the "influence" became eccentric in his actions while passing through the King Square. His antics drew the attention of a passer-by who hurriedly went to his assistance. This led other pedestrians to follow up the chase. By this time the policeman on King Square beat, Rankine had his attention drawn to the fast gathering multitude. He followed up the chase, thinking no doubt of a chance to attain glory at a bound. The policeman's efforts, were, however, fruitless. The man with a "spasm" had recovered his equilibrium and betook himself far from the maddening crowd. As a result the policeman goes without his glory, and the crowd had a laugh at his expense.



MISS ELSIE McDONALD,

Of Yarmouth, niece of Mrs. John Lowry, who lost her life in the Monticello disaster.

of these almond-eyed disciples of Li-Hung-Chung have developed a decided Yankee tendency in the gratuitous gift business. One Celestiaite is giving his regular customers a Chinese lily as a slight reminder that he wishes to retain the washee-washee trade with which he is already favored. Another enterprising Mongolian is out with a present of the proverbial "pound of tea" to the man that will continue to get his collar starched at his establishment. Still another offers the inducement of a pound of genuine Chinese nuts that are guaranteed to be easy of mastication. The ways of the man from the Flowery Kingdom are divers and dark.

PROGRESS CONTENTS TODAY.

- PAGE 1.—This page is right before you. Read it.
- PAGE 2.—Helen Gould writes on riches. She tells how to make the most of wealth. Other bright miscellany.
- PAGE 3.—Musical and dramatic news of the week.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial poetry and many other matters of interest.
- PAGES 5, 6, 7, and 8.—Social items of the city and from all over the provinces.
- PAGE 9.—Life in a Boer hospital—How they took their victories and reverses. A Model Country—Some commendable features about New Zealand.
- PAGES 10 and 11.—Final instalment of the serial Giacinta.
- PAGE 11.—Sunday Reading—A budget of interesting articles for the Sabbath.
- PAGE 12.—To Marry a Prince—Sunshine glints through shadows in Gladys Deacon's life. Bright miscellany.
- PAGE 13.—Facts and fancies from the realms of fashions.
- PAGE 14.—He was with Kitchener—An American who fought for Britain in South Africa.
- PAGE 16.—A Unanimous Vote—A tale of schoolboy life. Births, marriages and deaths of the week.

over the house, immense "Jacks" drooped over the boxes while a large yacht model rested on the top of each box. All around the wall beneath the balcony were hung strings of signal flags, which might possibly have been read to some advantage by those who understood them. Each yacht vied with the other in making the shields which decorated the front of the balcony and gallery. The shields twenty five in number and alternated along the gallery fronts by brackets holding pots of chrysanthemums, were very beautiful and varied. As well as could be observed at a distance, the shields were as follows:

Blue shield with stars and name "Venus" in gold.

Gorgeous shield, solid with red and white paper roses, yacht scene in the centre, name "Sunol" in red at the base.

Cleverly gotten up shield with red and blue background, bearing the name Gladys in rope, to the end of which a gold anchor was suspended.

White shield, with three hand-painted flags with name "Mowgli", was very pretty.

Red and blue shield with name "Windward." Mounted like buoy bearing letters, R. K. Y. C. and surmounted by a crown was deserving of admiration.

A very unique shield was one of pure white with two crossed flags, crown and anchor and the name "Ethel M." in looking glass.

Pretty red shield with yacht scene in centre and hand painted maple leaves, name "Eulalie" in gold.

The "Wingene's" shield was a dainty white affair with a hand-painted yacht scene in centre and twined with rope.

"Phantom" shield was of dark blue, with silk flag and name in rope.

An elaborate shield of white with bands of red and blue velvet and named "Wahbewaws," cups, McLellan, Willis, Pugsley, 1900 in gold.

The "Armored" was a pretty red shield with gold crown and flag.

A white and green shield with the name "Robinhood" in gold, was very clear and attractive.

"Marjorie" was an original get up of blue felt and yacht model.

The "Lotus" shield was simple but attractive having blue background, red band and name across in gold.

"Gracie M." shield was blue, with name