

PROGRESS.

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A Woman With a "Pull."

The appearance of a paragraph in a morning paper to the effect that Nettie Kimball or Mrs. Newcombe had left the hospital and gone to Boston created some surprise. There was an idea that the woman was under police surveillance and would be brought up for examination on the charge of attempting suicide, but such does not appear to have been the thought of the authorities.

As there has been a good deal of comment on the facts of the case and it cannot be said that the result is at all creditable to the men who are sworn to do their duty as peace officers.

When the police officers met Mrs. Newcombe on Charlotte street she went up to one of them and showed him a bottle which she said had contained laudanum and told them that she had taken it as she wished to end her life. The police, noting the size of the bottle, soon found out where she had purchased the laudanum and went there to make enquiries if the woman's story was true. They found that it was and that two ounces of laudanum was enough to kill two or three people.

It seemed that the woman had gone into the drug store quietly and waited fully ten minutes for her turn to be waited upon. She was well and quietly dressed and when asking for the laudanum explained that she wanted it for poultices and that she used thirty drops at a time. It is not usual to sell the drug to strangers but with such a plausible explanation as that the clerk did not hesitate and gave her the laudanum.

The policemen rushed her to the station and as Dr. D. E. Berryman happened to be there he took the case in hand at once. The woman was kept moving, walked rapidly to and fro in the guard room and in a short time the ambulance arrived to take the patient to the hospital and they prepared to lose no time when the patient arrived. The stomach pump soon got to work and the result was, as every one knows, that the woman's life was saved.

The report book in the police have two statements, one from Officer Killen stating that he took the woman to the police station and the other by the police physician, Dr. Berryman, that he had examined her and sent her to the hospital.

Dr. Macaulay said the woman came from the police station in the ambulance. She was suffering from an overdose of laudanum and she was treated for that. They had been notified from the police station of this and made their preparations accordingly. There was no doubt that the woman had been accustomed to the use of opium or else she could never have survived the quantity of laudanum she took. This statement was the same as Dr. Berryman made to PROGRESS. Dr. Macaulay also said that the woman was not under police surveillance as he understood the term viz: there was no officer there to guard her. Still during her stay in the hospital she was visited by the chief of police and when she recovered she went away just the same as any other patient.

These are the main facts of the case and they do not reflect any credit upon the Police inasmuch as a woman who confessed that she had attempted to take her own life was permitted to go without any charge being made against her.

Section 238 of the criminal code says that "everyone who attempts to commit suicide is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years imprisonment."

There was no doubt about what Nettie Kimball intended and attempted to do. She tried to take her own life and she failed because such prompt remedies were used. The police knew this but no charge was made against her. Under these circumstances it is difficult to understand why the chief of police visited the woman in the hospital. There is no doubt that he did for the superintendent of the hospital says so but what passed between him and the patient can only be conjectured. It may be that he recommended a trip to Boston and if he did she took his advice because she started in that direction.

But might not the question arise, was not the woman actually in the custody of the police? She was sent from the police

station to the hospital, she was visited there by the chief of police. She had committed a crime that called for two years imprisonment in the penitentiary—well, if she was not in the custody of the police, was it not neglect of duty? It was the second time that day that she had been in charge of the police. The first time she was intoxicated and could not drive her horse in such a way as to avoid knocking down an aged citizen but the captain, with unusual leniency, let her go. The result was she had a chance to commit a crime. Now the chief let her loose again and there may be another report—only this time it will come from Boston!

In this connection it may be interesting to note section 166 of the criminal law which says:

"Everyone is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to five years imprisonment who being a peace officer having such person in his lawful custody or being an officer of any prison in which such person is lawfully confined voluntarily and intentionally permits him to escape therefrom."

Nettie Kimball may not have been a prisoner since there was no charge against her but when she surrendered to the police and charged herself with attempting her life there can be no doubt but that she should have been placed under arrest.

Suspicion has led to the arrest of lots of people for offences less serious than this and they have been detained for weeks waiting an examination. Only last year a poor girl from St. Stephen without friends and without money was arrested because her baby was born and died in the park. She did wrong but did not commit any greater, if as great, an offence as Mrs. Newcombe. Yet one was arrested and the other goes free.

THE AMATEUR OPERA.

St. John has Another Corps of Vocalists Highly Capable of Putting on a Show.

The production of Gilbert and Sullivan's tuneful opera Iolanthe in the Opera house Wednesday and Thursday evenings caused quite a little flutter in social as well as musical circles. It is not everybody that knows what it means to drill and stage a production such as Iolanthe, and none too much cannot be said of Prof. Collinson's latest achievement, which was brought about in so comparatively short a time. Quite true he had the advantage of Mrs. Lyman's stage experience, she being with the Gilbert Opera Co. for some years, also frequent "tips" in the histrionic art from Miss Annie Blanke of the Valentine Stock Co. These advantages of course worked wonders in the rank and file and a smooth running show, with exceptional good amateur acting was the result.

However discouraging several of the rehearsals may have been the chorus as well as principals buckled down to solid work at last and two bumper houses



MISS MAUDE McCLASKEY.
(Queen of the Fairies.)

greeted them with their unstinted plaudits. St. John is indeed a musical city, and musical out of its proper proportion as is evidenced by the fact that it now boasts at least two distinct opera troupes, capable of putting on any ordinary light opera. In Iolanthe a whole lot of talent has come to the fore in new roles. Miss Clara Brennan has established herself as clever at stagecraft as her voice is sweet. She certainly sang the title role admirably. PROGRESS regrets a photo of her was not procurable for

reproduction in this issue. Miss McClaskey is also new to the footlights in costume and it can be said she has added to her reputation as a singer greatly as the Queen of the Fairies. Of course Mrs. Lyman as Phyllis was the star and her part received all the attention that could be given it. Mrs. Lyman resumes her professional stage career in a year or so.

On the whole Iolanthe was a many-sided



PROF. GEO. COLLINSON.

Musical director of Iolanthe, and Finsfore some years ago.

triumph—financially, musically and from the standpoint of a not too exacting actor. The costuming could not have been better and now that a new band of vocalists have shown what they can do, St. John will soon again expect some more of Gilbert and Sullivan, or perhaps Olivette, as spoken of some months ago.

The humorist who adapted a lot of the "lines" of the opera to local and war affairs must certainly have been in fine fettle. Roy Thompson's encore verse perhaps caused the biggest uproar. It ran: "Aid now that our own boys are at it too. Says I to myself says I. I think that Prussia'll soon be in view. Says I to myself says I. When we get all the area on top of the 'deck' We'll dance such a breakdown on old Kruger's neck. The market in rubber'll be worse than a wreck. Says I to myself says I."

PROGRESS

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TODAY.

- PAGE 1.—This page speaks for itself.
- PAGE 2.—Portrait of Hon. A. H. Gillmor of Charlotte, soon to be a senator. Story "The Lost Child of Wyoming."
- PAGE 3.—Musical and dramatic items from all over—with an extra lot about the home theatre.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial—Do the police protect haunts of vice—Lottery gambling in this city—Civic representatives who should be charged—Letters on the Duty of the Evangelical Alliance to improve the morals of the South End.
- PAGES 5, 6, 7 and 8.—Society happenings in Halifax, Fredericton, Moncton, St. Stephen, Calais, Truro, Parrsboro, Sussex, Wolfville, Digby, Hantsport, Chatham, Sydney, Windsor, Newcastle, Yarmouth, Woodstock and smaller places.
- PAGE 9.—Another week with this page brimful of interesting articles pertaining to St. John and otherwise locally colored, including: Townspeople Who Read—The Public Library and its patrons. The "Surprise" party must go. Incurable "Meg" Sullivan. St. John man sees a vicious elephant killed.
- PAGES 10 and 15.—The first instalment of a new four week serial, "The Mystery of the Mountain Pass."
- PAGE 11.—Sunday Reading Page with appropriate poetry, another vigorous writing on "The Study of the Parables," and miscellaneous literature of a Sabbath Day nature.
- PAGE 12.—Some Vanished Diamonds—A detective's story of the value of small things.
- PAGE 13.—Chat of the Boudoir—Appropriate to this fascinating time when fashions are unfolding themselves in rapid succession. Truly a women's page.
- PAGE 14.—"Ordered to Africa"—Clifford Mills' now famous writing from Fall Mall Magazine.
- PAGE 15.—The Lost Picacho Mine—Characteristically western and a good story. Births, deaths and marriages of the week all over the lower provinces.

Two Obtrusive Agents.

Two men, whom all will agree were to say the least extremely audacious, made quite a fuss in the quiet and highly respectable home of Mr. Frank Melliday, Sydney street, last Monday evening, and on Wednesday Mr. Melliday sought legal sources for sufficient justice to remind the intruders that the quietude and peacefulness of his home was sacred, and further to straighten out some crookedness in connection with business dealings he had had with one of the men in question.

Mr. Melliday it appears was the St. John delivery and collecting agent for a tree and plant nursery firm in Auburn Me., the salesman of which, one B. J. Robinson, was the chief offender at the Melliday household during the early week. He, chaperoned and guided by a man named Jerry Quinn; a sewing machine agent, started in to enter Mr. Melliday's house about 9 o'clock in the evening without form or ceremony. In fact their entry was exceptionally boisterous, both inside and outside doors being burst open with all the force a big burly body could produce. After the men were well inside the hall one of them had sufficient sense left to remark, "Guess we should have knocked."

"Yes, I should think so," returned Mr. Melliday, just then entering the hall from an inside room, and not a little put out by so brusque an entrance to his home by blank strangers. His wife was lying ill in an adjacent room and such noises as the intruders made greatly disturbed her.

Robinson at once started in bulldog fashion to "settle up accounts," as he termed it, with Mr. Melliday. His attitude was everything else but friendly and his words of the dominating stamp. Mr. Melliday said he was fully prepared to meet him in their business relations and at once set about to produce papers etc., for a general signing off.

Matters were becoming more and more strained as the tree agent's uncouth entry and forwardness were grinding hard upon the mental sensibilities of the well known masonry contractor. However, he held his temper admirably and not until insults had been further heaped was the climax reached.

It was in going over the collected accounts that Mr. Melliday called Robinson's attention to the fact that in some cases people in this city had been billed twice for one order of goods. At this the brawny nursery agent became very wroth and towering above the slender form of Mr. Melliday asked in louder tones full of command, if he would stick by what he said. Mr. Melliday calmly asserted that he would, whereupon Robinson asked him to quote an instance. Mr. Melliday did so, mentioning the case of a Prince William street insurance agent.

The book was referred to and the number of the order found. It mentioned the

stand it further, ordering both Robinson and Quinn from the premises. They refused to go, and Mr. Melliday started to put them out. His first tackle with Robinson was ineffectual and when in the second his sailing wife jumped from her bed and threw herself between the men. Naturally enough such a scene in a well-ordered home was as bad as an earthquake. The children were frightened beyond tears and a severe shock was administered to their frail mother. Still the intruders refused to leave and Mrs. Melliday and her children plead with them. Robinson arrogantly persisted in his "having business" with Mr. Melliday, who being prevailed upon by his wife and children, had held himself in check. After the burly visitors had added more to the confusion by their doggedness, they shrunk toward the door, terming Mr. Melliday "lunatic" etc.

Consequently no business was done at that meeting of salesman and collector, but surmising some pressure for a settlement would result from the fracas, Mr. Melliday sent his collected money to the nursery people direct. Since he has received a lawyer's letter from Mullin & Mahoney, Robinson not knowing of Mr. Melliday's remittances. The whole case at the time of writing (Thursday) was to be thrashed out on Friday in Court.

Candidates for the Mayoralty.

Count deBury is out for Mayor. He is bound to run and thinks with five in the field he is bound to win.

Candidate Moulson and the Count met at the head of King street Thursday and chatted pleasantly on campaign matters for a few minutes, in the presence of the writer. Mr. Moulson said he had been around the city a good deal and was well satisfied with his reception. He found that Dr. Daniel had been canvassing and the Count, but he had not met the canvass of His Worship. "I suppose" he added with a smile "he is so sure of election there is no need to canvass."

"I have been around a little" said the count "and almost everywhere I go I find that my friend, Mr. Moulson has been there ahead of me. He seems to have been everywhere. I find a good many people who say that Mr. Moulson was the first to see them and they have promised him but then I find many others who say that I am the first to ask them and so I get the promise. Dr. Daniel is over in my end of the town today and I am doing some work here. Mr. Wallace is around too. I meet his canvass quite often."

Mr. Moulson hurried away as he had to be in Carleton to go the rounds with a friend. From what he said one would gather that he was on the move most of the time.

The election will be held the 17th of April.

An Insurance Agent Skips.

A young man for some time engaged in the insurance business, and although not very big in stature one who never failed to let the people know that he was still on top of the earth, has gone. Where, is only a matter of conjecture; why, because it is supposed some men who were injudicious enough to trust him for goods or with money were [trying to persuade him to settle up. So, empty is that circuit of St. John atmosphere in which it was his wont to exist. His diamond rings will no longer light his friends home dark nights, his elaborately "chased" gold watch is not now ticking off the hours for the convenience of time-inquiring friends in dear old St. John by the sea, or will the boastful voice and affability of its possessor for some time weary townfolk. Getting policies was like breaking sticks to him, the town was "dead easy," he said but he'd think differently now if he would only serve a habes corpus on himself. His employer is not wearing a red, white and blue badge in honor of this gay young man's exit.

Patriotic Neptune Boys.

The Neptune Club boys never lose an opportunity of bursting forth into the strains of "Soldiers of the Queen," and Thursday night at the Opera house they entertained the vast audience between the acts in this wise. There were some good singers among them too which shows all the local talent is not yet used by in opera choruses.



MRS. LYMAN.

Of Moncton, who sang the leading role, Phyllis.

goods and price, seven dollars. With exulting words the agent waxed warm and then thundered threats as to what he would do if the good name of "his firm" was impeached etc. Nothing daunted Mr. Melliday asked him to refer to order number so-and-so for the alleged duplicate, or fake order. It was found also and it was now the St. John man's turn to get good and angry which he did with a righteous indignation.

He said he had been brow-beaten and insulted in his own house and would not