THE EVENING NEWS.

Friday, . . . December 8, 1871.

MAN'S PERFIDY AND WOMAN'S TRUST.

Mary Rechtien a young girl in the humbler walks of life, was arrested a short time ago on a charge of murder. She had, in a moment of desperation, destroyed the life of her illegitimate child—not to hide her shame, but because she was homeless and without the means of providing for the rearing of the babe. Her case came up yesterday in the Criminal Court, and by advice she pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the second degree, with the understanding that her sentence would be five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. In entering this plea, she handed to Judge Prim the following statement, which is doubtless true. It cannot fail to excite the sympathy of the charitable for the sufferings and misfortunes of the unfortunate girl:

THE STORY OF A YOUNG GIRL'S WRONGS.

To the Hon. the Judge of the St. Louis Criminal Court:

I stand indicted before your Honor for the murder of my infant child on the 4th day of April, 1871. At the instance of personal friends I have decided to plead guilty to manslaughter in the second degree.

I have been induced to take this course, because, although not morally responsible for the act which I committed, and which I have never disavowed, I have been advised that under the peculiar circumstances surrounding me, it is difficult, if not impossible, to establish by *legal* evidence in court the temporary insanity under which I labored at the time.

With a view of invoking the exercise of that mercy which has hitherto marked your Honor's judicial career, I beg leave to present, in a connected form, a brief, true, and candid account of my life, and the facts of my case. I propose thus to furnish the reason for that leniency of judgment which it is my privilege to ask, and your right to extend.

My mother died in this city when I was but a child. Bereft of her loving care, I received from my father such meagre support and education as his limited means afforded. At the tender age of five (now some fifteen years ago) I was subjected to the control of a step-mother. While I do not wish to say aught against her, it is but too true that she did not (as, indeed, she could not) adequately fill my own dear mother's place.

During ten years preceding the date of my great misfortune, I lived in my father's humble home, assisting in household duties, in the care of my little brothers and sisters, and aiding him as a saleswoman at his "stand" in the market. From early morn till dark of nearly every day of those ten terrible years—years to me of hunger, cold, humiliation, and suffering—I stood faithfully at my post, endeavoring, as became a dutiful daughter, to relieve my father of the blight and burden of poverty.

Throughout all this time, and until the present hour (excepting the one sin which caused my fall), I preserved my womanly purity and virtue. About two years ago, while engaged as I have stated, I met a gentleman some seven years my senior, of seemingly good character and habits, who won my heart. He proposed marriage and I accepted.

Pending the time for the happy consummation of my girlish hopes and ambition, and confiding in his love and truth, I became a victim to his lust, and fell, alas! to rise no more.

The natural result having soon become apparent, I implored him to restore my good name by making me his wife. This he repeatedly promised to do, yet postponed the ceremony on one pretext or another until I was near my accouchment, when he fled the city, and left me ruined, wretched and disgraced.

Can your honor wonder that then, I, a simple inexperienced girl, so foully wronged and betrayed by the very man to whom I had surrendered body and soul, should despair even of God's justice, and long for death even as I once longed for the sweet sound of my false lover's footfall? But hope yet remained. He might return and wed me, as he often swore to do. This gave me courage, this saved me from self-slaughter. But he never came back, and I was left alone to bear my great woe, and hide my shame as best I could.

I concealed my dishonor from every one. I had few friends and no confidant. My step-mother began to suspect the nature of my condition. She accused me of my error; I denied it. Instead of sympathy or kindly effort to win my love and confidence, I received abuse, and was threatened with violence. My misery was complete; I could bear no more, I resolved to leave my father's house, and did so. I obtained employment as a domestic in the home of a respectable family of this city, where I remained, doing such work as I could, until the hour (once looked forward to as one of supreme happiness and joy) when my child was born. You, sir, who are husband and father, can appreciate far better than my poor words can express, the anguish, the agony of mind and body which I then endured.

Overwhelmed with shame, worn and exhausted by the loss of strength consequent on child-birth, my brain distracted and my heart broken, I arose from my bed *a few hours after confinement*, took my babe in my arms to a foundling hospital on O'Fallon street, and besought the lady in charge to take and keep it for me, offering such compensation as I was able to give. This she refused to do. I left this institution, still carrying my child. I thence proceeded to another, though of a similar kind, on Cass avenue, nearly a mile distant, hoping to find an asylum there for my little one.

The gloom of night had gathered round me. My steps were slow, faint and tottering. The stars shone bright and true, as of old, yet I saw them not; the lamps shed their accustomed light in vain; the streets were filled with happy children; I heard not their merry voices; their joyous laughter; mothers, folding smiling babes to their loving bosoms, touched me, pressed me, as I passed along; I felt them not; darkness, the blackness of despair, was above, around me, beneath me, expelling every ray of reason from my soul.

Yet on I went. I reached the Convent, entered, told the sisterhood my sad story, asked the same relief I had begged for in vain before, and was denied. Repulsed in the only two places where I could hope to find help or sympathy, I knew not what to do. Whither could I go, where obtain aid or comfort in this, the deepest extremity of a woman's sorrow?

Home? I had none that I could call my own. The dwelling where my dead mother nursed and blessed me had been closed against me. Such as it was, I dare not enter its portals, for from its rude threshold echoed a father's angry curse! What then? Crazed, half dead, almost unconscious, I sought the rear of the building, and entered the closet; my child dropped from my nerveless arms and was dead. In my wild despair—in my wilder delirium—I cast my darling babe away, and destroyed its sweet young life.

How I reached the house of my friends I know not; nor can I now realize how or why I did the horrid deed.

For many weeks thereafter I oscillated between life and death. God alone knows the extent of my sufferings. I am sure He will pity; will pardon me, for *I knew not what I did.*

Such, your Honor, is the simple story of my life; such a faithful history of my crime. I am but a young girl—poor, helpless, friendless—who never did wrong to man or woman. Whether I am a fit subject for the law's vengeance, it is for you to decide.

It may be that society demands a victim; that the public good requires an example, and that I am the right character of person to furnish it. If so, I shall humbly submit to the sacrifice, trusting and believing, however, in the justice of God for a reversal of that law which consigns me to shame and infamy, while it tolerates, if it does not encourage and protect, the wretch (author of my ruin.—*Missouri Democrat*, Nov. 28.

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MILLINERY AND FANCY GOODS,
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We are now moving our
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SEWING MACHINES,
We are now making a specialty for More Room with all conveniences for the sale of the BEST
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TEASDEL & CO.
Have now more room for
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And are giving the advanced price.

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The Public are invited to examine before purchasing elsewhere,
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TO THE PATRONS
OF THE
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IN CASES where the health is not good and the blood is impure, it is wise to take something internally to rectify this, as the action of the Hair Restorer must of necessity be slower where the patient lacks in vitality or is troubled with foul stomach or impurity of blood. After consulting with some of our best physicians on this subject, I take pleasure in recommending THE
Epigœan Blood Purifier
As a most efficient remedy, containing the purest ingredients for giving tone to the stomach, purifying the blood and building up the system generally.
Please read the following testimonials:
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I can give plenty of testimonials concerning the Hair Restorer when requested.
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SOLE AGENT FOR UTAH.
For Sale at Calder Bros. Music Store:
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He also keeps PLASTERERS' HAIR for Sale, 60 cts. Bushel, one Block South and half a Block West of Court-house.
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ELECTRIC
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THE BEST IN THE WORLD
Strictly Pure!
No Sand! No Rosin! No Clay
No Adulteration of any kind!
Children can do the Washing
No Washboard Required!
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By the use of the Unequalled and unapproachable DOBBINS' ELECTRIC SOAP, clothes, money, fuel, labor, time and temper are all saved. Try it once, and use it ever afterward.
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None can do without it!
Be sure that the wrapper has on it the cut of Mrs. Fogy and Mrs. Enterprise, and that each bar is stamped with the name of the inventor and originator, J. B. DOBBINS, as none other is genuine.
Like everything of great value, it is extensively counterfeited, and the market filled with false and worthless "Electric Soaps," not worth house-room, and dear if even given away.

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TRIPLE-SCENTED
TOILET SOAP
No Toilet Table is Complete without
The Best Emollient in the Market
It is given the preference at every watering place in the country, and is for sale everywhere
Please ask for it
Don't be put off with any cheap common soap. Try it, and see how much BETTER it is than we say.

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Makes old Boots look like new ones!
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It is put up in a Patent Box, the greatest novelty of the age. The box alone is worth more to keep than the price of Box and polish combined.

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THE GENUINE
Turkish Bath Compound
Used in all Oriental countries, in the Bath and manufactured by royal license and royalty is paid on every pot, color and quality, from the original receipt, as that made in Constantinople, and import duties, premium on gold, etc., saved, thus enabling me to sell it at a very low price. Try it, like a Turkish bath indeed it is, very highly esteemed by the profession for its salutary effects upon the skin. It is really worth a trial.
If you want to enjoy one and drive away dull care, use the Kraughat.

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Use for your Boots
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Use the best
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Mink, Seal, Fitch, Squirrel!
Alaska Mink, Canada Sable,
American Sable,
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Also a Large Assortment of
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In Endless Variety, at
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HAVING MADE EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS TO THEIR PREMISES AND BOUGHT OUT the immense Stock of Zion's Co-operative Manufacturing Institution, also made large purchases in the East, are now prepared to show the
LARGEST and BEST STOCK of
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JUST RECEIVED.--A CAR LOAD LIGHT SPRING WAGONS!
All kinds of Repairing neatly and promptly executed.
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We will pay Cash, the Highest Price
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AGENTS WANTED, In every Settlement, to buy Fruit, to whom a Liberal Commission will be paid.
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