

between the two Japanese battalions at the river Taku-Kausi, but the attempt failed. A squadron of Japanese cavalry, who were suddenly attacked by a superior force of the Chinese, was cut to pieces, only three troops escaping. Junction of the two battalions was effected on July 16.

LONDON, July 19.—When the chief steward of the National Line steamer France, now on her way to New York, reaches the United States, he will receive terrible news. His sons, Robert Combs, 13 years, and Nathaniel, 11, murdered their mother at Plaisow, an eastern suburb of London, on July 8. The boys stabbed her while she was asleep and kept the body nine days in the house in which the crime was committed. When the remains of the woman were discovered, the boys were playing cards. The only reason given by the lads for the crime is that Mrs. Combs whipped the younger of them. The boys in court this afternoon told the whole story of the crime. The Combs are well-to-do people.

BUZZARDS BAY, Mass., July 19.—Marion, a French rendition of the musical name Mary, has been decided upon by President and Mrs. Cleveland as the name of the baby born to them about two weeks ago. The fact was officially announced by Private Secretary Thurber this afternoon. There was no unusual ceremony attendant upon the naming of the baby, except that which occurs in any household on such occasions.

CHICAGO, July 19.—Another appalling crime will be laid at the door of H. H. Holmes, the notorious insurance swindler and the alleged murderer of the Pletzels. That Minnie Williams, of Fort Worth, Tex., met her death at the hands of Holmes there is scarcely a doubt. That she died in this city in a violent manner has been proven almost conclusively.

Late tonight the police found in a stove in the brick building at 701 Sixty-third street, which was built by Holmes, and in which both he and the Williams girl lived, a quantity of charred bones; buttons known to have been on a dress owned by Minnie Williams, and a partly melted portion of a watch chain, which was positively identified as having been the property of the girl. The chain was instantly recognized by C. E. Davis, who occupies a portion of the store formerly occupied by Holmes when in the drug business, as one that he had seen Miss Williams wear and which he had on two separate occasions repaired for her. Davis also claimed to recognize the buttons as those he had seen on a dress worn by Miss Williams.

The ghastly discovery was made late tonight by a force of detectives who had all day been at work searching the building from cellar to garret. The floors were taken up in parts, the walls were sounded, and the big iron vault carefully inspected. The walls of the vault were found to be heavily packed with asbestos, which the police think was placed there for the purpose of deadening the sound.

The search of the house was undertaken when the police this morning received a communication from the Philadelphia authorities. The building was carefully gone over and the dummy elevator, which ran from the floor of the building, where Holmes

had his office, to the basement without exit. An intervening floor was tried in every possible manner.

On the top floor, in the room which was used by Holmes as an office, stood an immense stove fully eight feet in diameter, with a door sufficiently large for the admission of a human body into the interior. This stove had, in the former examination of the house, never been looked into. Inspector Fitzpatrick opened the door and poked carelessly among the debris with his cane. Almost the first thing he turned up was a human bone, badly charred. He hastily jerked it out and found it was beyond all question a human rib of an adult.

The contents of the stove were then quickly dumped, and other portions of bones, too badly burned to admit of possible identification as belonging to any particular portion of the body, were also found. A number of small buttons, said to have been worn on the front of Miss Williams's dress, were picked up, as was also about six inches of a gold watch chain which she wore.

All of the ashes and debris removed from the stove were carefully preserved and taken to the police station, where a more careful examination will be made of them tomorrow. The police are now of the opinion that not only Minnie Williams, but her younger sister, Anna, and the boy, Howard Pletzel, met death in this house.

TORONTO, Ont., July 19.—Today Mrs. Pletzel identified the bodies of the two children found in the cellar on St. Vincent street, as those of her girls, Alice and Nellie. The latter she identified by her hair, and the former by a peculiarity of the upper front teeth. She was not allowed to see any other part of the bodies. Both were in such advanced state of decomposition that it was thought the shock would derange her. As it was, Mrs. Pletzel broke down completely, and sobbed throughout the trying ordeal and long afterwards. The detectives and the doctors were perfectly satisfied with the identification.

The case which the Canadian authorities now have against Holmes is very complete, and much stronger than that made out against him in Philadelphia, which fact leads a great many here to believe that the prisoner will certainly be extradited.

Summed up, this is the case: Holmes has been traced from the United States to this city with the children. His identity was established at the Palmer House, and that of the children at the Aiblon. Then both murderer and victims were recognized at the very scene of the crime, not by one witness, but by several. An immediate motive for committing the deed is also clearly shown, being due to the fact that Mrs. Pletzel was in the city and might at any time meet the children on the street. Holmes borrowed a spade on the last day that the girls were seen alive at the cottage, or anywhere else, giving as his reason for doing so that he wished to make a bin for some potatoes, which statement was shown to be palpably false. All this, and his going away the next day, are strong corroborative facts, from which Holmes will find it hard to escape.

CHICAGO, July 20.—The search for the body of the missing Williams girl was begun early today in the house at

Englewood, formerly occupied by the alleged murderer, H. H. Holmes. Yesterday's developments led to the belief that the evidences of the supposed crime were concealed somewhere about the house, and the suspicion of the neighbors and detectives pointed strongly towards a large cellar in which a disgreasable door had been detected. Every inch of ground will be dug up.

The examination of the large grate in Holmes's stove today resulted in another startling discovery, when two charred bones, resembling human ribs, were found among the ashes. The finding of the supposed ribs, with the burned woman's shoe buttons and pieces of cloth, was considered by the police practically proving at least that a portion of the body of the woman had been cremated. The stove is about six feet high and four feet in diameter, and would easily hold a body.

Late this afternoon a bunch of human hair was found in the chimney of the Holmes house by the newspaper reporters. The police were notified and upon examination the hair was pronounced that of a woman. The appearance of the locks led to the belief that they had been burned from the head and drawn up the stove pipe.

The workmen digging in the cellar encountered an obstruction which exploded with terrible force, seriously injuring four men. Two of them are thought to be fatally hurt. Search was resumed by another force.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 20.—The police claim to have found a woman who will prove a very important witness in the trial of Theodore Durrant for the Emmanuel church murders, which will begin next Monday. It will be remembered that even the detectives of the police department were at a loss to explain the absence of bloody clothes if Durrant were guilty of the murder of Minnie Williams.

The condition of the body of the murdered girl made reasonable the inference that her murderer had spattered his clothing with blood. The blood which had spurted to the walls of the book closet indicated that there had been a struggle. With unusual diligence the police searched in every nook and cranny of Emmanuel church for some trace of clothing. They found none, and no better results attended at Durrant's home. This failure was construed to mean a flaw in the prosecution's chain.

In a singular way it is said to have been repaired. If Durrant be the murderer and be did with Minnie Williams as he did with another member of Emmanuel church, there would be no blood marks on his clothes. The prosecution has secured a witness who will swear to the actions of Durrant on another occasion than that of the murder. Her story will possess the utmost significance in the case.

ST. LOUIS, July 20.—The *Globe-Democrat's* special from Sofia says:

A serious fight has taken place on the Turko-Macedonian frontier between a force of insurgents stated to have numbered 5,000 and a body of Turkish troops. The latter were defeated with a loss of 800 men.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 20.—The Porte has requested the powers to insist that the Bulgarian government suppress the revolutionary committees of Macedonia at Sofia and elsewhere.