

White man in the party as we started, which I organized on the basis of all my previous expeditions, or just as few white men as possible, with natives to do about all the work of transportation, i. e., etc., etc., with which they are so familiar in their own country.

The Indians were very hilarious, evidently stimulated by the enthusiastic departure given us, and they showed their appreciation by "spurting" ferociously every little while instead of settling down to steady work.

We stopped about 2 o'clock in the afternoon in a pretty little sheltered cove for lunch, and really enjoyed ourselves for an half hour, protected from the beating rain. Robert impressed me with the fact that the tide was then out, and asked me to note that when it was in, not a landing place was to be found anywhere along the shore for probably stretches of many miles. In a bright green prairie of a few acres in this ceaseless timber tract and bordering the shore was picturesquely perched a Tahku town of ten houses, Ahk-kwan by name. It is not often a graveyard is the most cheerful part of a place, but here the only enlivening thing in a view of dismal green, rendered doubly doleful by the rain, was a bright red flag that fluttered from a high staff at the corner of a grave. I was told it indicated that that particular native had just recently died.

About 4 o'clock we swung around into the Tahku inlet, and our change of course, now allowed us to set sails. Along we bowled, wing and wing, the ice-cakes we had met at the mouth of



IN TAKON CANON.

the inlet, growing larger as we ascended it towards the glacier, until they could well be dignified with the name of icebergs; certainly so, in comparison with those from the Muir glacier that are thus styled. The Tahku glacier ice is the bluest I have ever seen either in or out of the Arctic or Alpine regions. It was really a deep bluish-black in many places though clear as crystal.

It was quite dark when we got to the mouth of the Tahku river, at a half-completed salmon fishery, the white men sleeping in it and the Indians in the smoke-house, all of us stiff as poker.

FREDERICK SCHWATKA.
Com'd'g N. Y. Ledger Expedition.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 29.—An important conference of the leading Democrats of the State is being held here to prevent a threatened split in the party over the Presidential candidacy of ex-Governor Gray.

FRENCH FEMALE CONVICTS.

French female prisoners and convicts are treated with more kindness on the whole than persons of their class in England. Their matrons and wardresses are Augustine nuns, whose rule, though firm, is gentler, more merciful and more steadfastly equitable than that of laywomen could be. The female convicts are allowed the same privilege as the men in the matter of earning money and buying things at the canteen; those of them who are young also enjoy a privilege not granted to female convicts in other countries—that of having husbands provided for them by the state—only these husbands must be convicts.

Every six months a notice is circulated in the female penitentiaries calling upon all women who feel minded to go out to New Caledonia and be married to make an application to that effect through the governor. Elderly women are always very prompt in making such applications, but they are not entertained. The matrimonial candidates must be young and exempt from physical infirmities. Girls under long sentences readily catch at this method of escaping from the intolerable tedium of prison life, and the pretty ones are certain to be put on the governor's list, no matter how frightful may be the crimes for which they have been sentenced.

The only moral qualification requisite is to have passed at least two years in the penitentiary. The selected candidates have to sign engagements promising to marry convicts and to settle in New Caledonia for the remainder of their lives. On these conditions government transports them, gives them a decent outfit and a ticket of leave when they land at Noumea. Their marriages are arranged for them by the governor of the colony, who has a selection of well behaved convicts ready for them to choose from, and each girl may consult her own fancy within certain limits, for the proportion of marriageable men to women is about three to one.

Of course, if the girl positively declares that none of the aspirant bridegrooms submitted to her inspection has met with her approval, the governor can only shrug his shoulders in the usual French way. It has happened more than once that pretty girls have been wooed by warders, free settlers or time expired soldiers and sailors instead of by convicts. In such cases the governor can assent to a marriage only on condition that the female convict's free lover shall place himself in the position of a ticket of leave man and undertake never to leave the colony. Love works wonders, and there is no in-

stance on record of a man having refused to comply with these conditions when once he had fallen in love.—Boston Courier.

DEATH OF FRANK H. DYER.

The suddenness of the death of Ex-United States Marshal Dyer at his residence, 144 south Sixth East street, in this city, at a few minutes past 7 o'clock last night, was a matter of profound surprise to the public, as it was not generally known that he was afflicted with any serious ailment.

Several months ago Mr. Dyer had a severe attack of peritonitis, and was confined to his room for two or three weeks. A consultation of physicians was held to consider the advisability of performing an operation. It was, however, decided that the use of the surgeon's knife at that time was not absolutely necessary and with the application of the usual remedies the disease was apparently broken up, and Mr. Dyer returned in a short time to his regular business, but always entertained grave fears that the dreadful malady would return. Early in February of the present year he went to Washington with a delegation of prominent Democrats of this city, to advocate before the Congressional Territorial committees the passage of the "Home Rule" bill. Subsequently he visited his birthplace, relatives and friends in Mississippi, and returned to his home in this city on the 6th instant. On Tuesday last he was again attacked with his old complaint. From that time until his demise he became steadily worse, but it was not until yesterday that his recovery was doubted. A second council of medical men was called by Dr. Ewing, the family physician. It consisted of Drs. Allen, Fowler, Pinkerton, Meacham and Plumber. After a careful diagnosis of the case it was decided that but one alternative remained, and that was to perform an operation. It was conceded that the experiment was a most dangerous one and would probably result in death, but as it meant death in the other case as well, Mr. and Mrs. Dyer both willingly and heroically assented to the operation being performed. Before this was done, however, Mr. Dyer called in his legal advisers, Messrs. P. L. Williams and Judge Henderson, and gave directions as to the disposition of his property in case that the operation should be unsuccessful. He remained cheerful and talked freely while the necessary papers were being prepared.

At 5:30 Mr. Dyer was placed under the influence of an anesthetic and the operation commenced, Dr. Pinkerton using the knife. As soon as the incision was made the physicians announced that recovery was impossible and the sad intelligence was communicated to Mrs. Dyer and family. At 6:30 o'clock the patient showed signs of returning consciousness, and opened his eyes and looked at the watchers at his bedside. He was, however, unable to speak and again sank into a comatose condition and at 7 o'clock he expired without a struggle.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Mr. Dyer was born in Yazoo county, Mississippi, on September 5th, 1854. His father was killed in the service of