

EDITORIALS.

THE BILLINGS MURDER CASE.

The Billings trial, which has been a subject of great public interest in the east for several weeks, came to a conclusion on the 14th inst. As it will be numbered among the remarkable criminal cases of the times, we briefly relate its chief incidents, for the benefit of those who have not access to the leading eastern journals, which have fully chronicled the history of the case and the progress of the trial.

On the evening of the 4th of last June, Mary Eliza Billings, wife of Jesse Billings, Jr., while sitting in company with her daughter Jennie and the hired girl, Maggie Mahoney, in her own house in the town of Northumberland, New York, was shot in the head with a gun or pistol, by some person outside the house, the ball passing through a pane of window glass, crushing through her skull and lodging in the brain. She died instantly, without a cry and without falling from the chair. Her husband was informed of the occurrence less than half an hour afterward, at the house of Mr. Washburne, five-sixths of a mile distant, and rode home manifesting great grief. But his daughter Jennie at once used expressions indicating her suspicion that he was the murderer. Several circumstances combined to create an unfavorable impression towards Mr. Billings, and he was finally arrested and tried for the crime, at Ballston.

The defendant is a prosperous business man and banker, and is the son of Dr. Jesse Billings, a respectable and opulent physician of the old school. His wife was the daughter of Mr. Harris, a well-to-do trader, and all the parties are well connected and well known in their neighborhood. The marriage was an unhappy one. Mrs. Billings was one of those jealous, suspicious women who magnify the veriest trifles into monstrous proofs of guilt, and led her husband an awful life in consequence. Her chief object of jealousy was Mrs. Curtis, who, with her husband, Mr. Curtis, occupied rooms in the bank building, which she kept in order. Mrs. Billings had twice accused her husband of attempting to destroy her, first by chloroform while she was in bed, and the other time by trying to burn the house. But it appears that in the first instance Mr. Billings was using some chloroform for the toothache, which troubled him, and on the other occasion upset a lamp by which the skirting board of the room was burned.

But Mrs. Billings had managed to impress the mind of her daughter Jennie with the belief that her father was unfaithful to his marriage vows, and desired to get rid of her, and Mrs. Harris, the mother-in-law, a vinegary old lady, joined heartily in the accusations. Jennie had become engaged, unknown to her father, to his clerk Sherman, and on this fact becoming known, Mr. Billings discharged the young man, who became an ally of those who incited the prosecution.

The case against the prisoner was as follows: Tracks were traced outside the house after the murder, made by some one wearing rubber boots, which Mr. Billings admitted having on that evening. Tracks of a horse and wagon were also discovered along the river side leading to Washburn's. A carbine was found in a well adjacent, said to belong to Mr. Billings, and containing the shell of a discharged cartridge. These facts, added to the motive found in Mr. Billings unhappy relations with his wife, his suspected intimacy with Mrs. Curtis and former alleged attempts to rid himself of an uncongenial partner, made a chain of circumstantial evidence against him very difficult to break.

He accounted for his tracks by showing that he had gone from the house on the evening of the murder into a field near by to salt some cattle—traces of the salting being found next day—and for the horse and wagon tracks by his visit to Washburn's where he heard of the murder. The gun, he declared he had not seen for several months. He scouted the idea of any improper relations with Mrs. Curtis, that lady's husband joining him in his statements.

The trial lasted from September 10th to October 14th, and was characterized by intense bitterness on the part of N. C. Moak, of Albany, one of the counsel for the prosecution, by the spectacle of the prisoner's daughter aiding, all that was in her power, to fasten the crime upon her own father, who had always been kind and indulgent to her, and by the manner in which she was supported by her lover and mother-in-law. The inner life at the Billings house was shown up with disgusting detail; it was shown that Billings could have perpetrated the murder and reached Washburn's with ease by the time stated, and the circumstances of the tracks and the gun were brought up in startling prominence by the four able lawyers who were retained to assist the District Attorney.

But the defence showed that on the night of the murder Jennie declared she saw a man in grey clothes run across the street and hide in a wood pile, which she repeated until stopped by Mrs. Harris. Several witnesses testified to seeing a man of this description, and bareheaded, running away just after the shot, and a hat was picked up near the wood pile and produced in court. The shot was fired between 8.35 and 8.50 p.m., according to the testimony of numerous witnesses, whose watches and clocks seem to have differed as usual. At 9.03 Mr. Billings left the Washburn House to return home. One of the Washburns declared he reached there at 8.40, and a man named Jones swore he was in the boat on the river, and saw the prisoner tie up his horse outside Washburn's house a few minutes before the shot was heard. Experts were also examined in regard to the bullet which was extracted from the murdered woman's head, and which, if fired from the Billings gun, originally weighed 220 grains, but was found to weigh only 165 grains, and it was contended that it should not have lost more than ten grains in the passage through the glass and the skull. It was therefore claimed by the defence to be a pistol shot and not a carbine ball.

The prosecution threw doubt and dirt on the witnesses for the defence, and brought forward the persons who loaned Jones the boat to claim to have had on the night of the murder, who declared he did not have it after three weeks before that date.

The utmost acrimony was displayed by the prosecution, principally by Mr. Moak, and "lying and perjury" were freely charged by him against the defence, including the attorneys, of whom General Hughes was the chief. A very impartial charge was given by Judge Landon, and the jury, after being locked up from the 11th to the 14th inst., failed to agree and were discharged, standing eleven for acquittal and one for conviction, the juror who would have hung Mr. Billings if it had not been for those eleven obstinate fellows, and who bears the ominous name of Blood, declaring that his mind was made up by the strong plea of Mr. Moak.

Mr. Billings was remanded to jail, much to the joy of the Harrises, but it is expected that bail will be accepted, and it is very doubtful if the case will ever again be brought to trial. Previous to the conclusion, Mr. Billings, it is said, made his will, leaving his property to his daughter, notwithstanding her course towards him. In contrast to the heartlessness of his child was the fidelity of his father, who, 85 years old, attended to the cases under his care and then rode to the court room every day, sustaining his son by his presence, counsel and encouragement.

It is probable that the question, Who killed Mrs. Billings? will never be fully answered until that great day when "the things done in secret will be revealed upon the housetops," when the earth and the sea shall give up their dead, and all shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body.

FIRST ACQUITTED, THEN INDICTED.

ON the 4th inst. we gave particulars of the Stannard murder, and the examination and acquittal of the Rev. Herbert Hayden, who was charged with the crime. Since the proceedings then recorded, the grand jury at New Haven have found "a true bill" of indictment against the preacher, on the

strength of new evidence produced by the District Attorney. Mr. Hayden is now in jail, bail having been refused.

The new points produced by the prosecution are these: The preacher purchased an ounce of arsenic on the morning of the murder. The druggist who sold it did not know Mr. Hayden, but remembered seeing him talking to a Dr. Bailey on the street corner, after the purchase. Dr. Bailey says he did converse with Mr. Hayden, and answered some questions on the subject of pregnancy. The body of the girl Stannard was disinterred, and a large quantity of arsenic discovered therein.

The theory of the prosecution is, that Hayden, believing Mary Stannard's confession to her sister Susan, that she was with child by him, was true, purchased the arsenic as the "quick medicine" which the girl told her sister Mr. Hayden was going to procure for her; that he met her in the woods, according to agreement, having told his wife he was going to the swamp to throw out firewood, the woods and the swamp being contiguous, gave the girl the arsenic, which, causing her great agony, caused her to suspect he was poisoning her; that, stung by her reproaches, he struck her on the head with the rock that was found covered with blood, then opened her jugular vein with his penknife. An old man was engaged to throw out of the swamp the same quantity of wood, the handling of which Hayden claimed to have occupied the two hours he was absent from home at the time of the murder, and the work was done in a very few minutes.

Hayden claimed that he bought the arsenic for rats, and that he left it in a barn. The arsenic has been found where he said he placed it, and, it is stated, only lacks four grains of the ounce. This is thought to be strong evidence in his favor, as so large a quantity was found in the girl's body. The preacher still maintains the cool and unimpressible manner which he has assumed throughout his difficulties, but visibly blanched and shuddered when he was informed of the action of the grand jury.

The trial will be watched with intense interest in the east, as the case has attracted general attention, and the public is agitated as well as divided on the question of his guilt. Present appearances are made darker for the preacher than at the examination before Justice Wilcox, and if the testimony of the murdered girl's sister and that of others to whom she made statements of her relations with the defendant, and which were ruled out at the examination, should be admitted at the trial, it is probable that the case will go very hard with the Rev. Herbert Hayden, Methodist minister at Madison, Connecticut.

FATAL PANICS.

THE terrible consequences attending a panic in a crowded building should be thoroughly impressed on the public mind. This has been illustrated by several recent occurrences, notably among which are the dreadful affair at the Coliseum Theatre in Liverpool, and the awful scene at the Colored Baptist Church, in Lynchburg, which have both been recorded in our telegraphic dispatches.

Most persons who have crossed the plains have witnessed the extraordinary cattle-panic called a stampede. It is often inexplicable, always uncontrollable. The scared animals rush forward pell mell, as if maddened to frenzy, and sweep onward in a raging mass like a sudden tornado. A human panic seems to be of a similar nature. The most trivial circumstance answers for a cause. At the Lynchburg catastrophe, a small piece of plastering fell from the ceiling while a marriage ceremony was in progress, and in an instant all was confusion and insanity. People in the galleries threw themselves out of the windows, and the crowds which blocked egress at the doorways were rendered denser by men and women who jumped upon them from the stair-tops. There was not the least real cause for alarm, and yet thirty persons were seriously injured and ten women were crushed to death.

People should endeavor to culti-

vate calmness and presence of mind; to accustom themselves to the contemplation of danger and the proper course to take in case of a sudden alarm, which is liable to arise at any time in a public assembly. The fatalities which have attended the breaking out of fire, in crowded buildings, have always been more in consequence of the headlong rush of the panic-stricken than from the original cause of the trouble. Danger in such cases is always increased by a rush and a clamor, and safety will generally be secured by calmness and the exercise of quiet common sense. If people would try not to yield to the first impulses of terror which is occasioned by a sudden alarm, these fatal panics with their attendant sufferings and frightful consequences might be entirely avoided.

THE "JUNCTION."

WE notice in last evening's Ogden Junction the prospectus of the "Junction Printing Association." This newly incorporated company having purchased the material and business of the newspaper which has been sustained in Ogden since Jan. 1, 1870, propose to enlarge and improve it, and change the daily from an evening to a morning paper, publishing the dispatches and general news, and making it a secular and non-partisan journal.

The members of the new association are all men of practical experience, and eminently qualified to make the enterprise fully successful. Ogden needs a paper of the description promised, and its business men will find such a journal one of the very best means of building up the city and their own material interests.

We wish the new company a large subscription list, full columns of paying ads., and the hearty support, not only of the citizens of Ogden and Weber County, but of the people of Northern Utah generally, whose welfare has ever been sought and sustained by the lively little Junction.

DOCTRINES OF THE DRUIDS.

THE Druids were an order of priests that existed and flourished among the early Celtic races of north-western Europe. The word Druid is supposed to have originated from two Celtic words "De," and "rouyd," signifying God speaking. Much of the history and teachings of the Druids is lost to the present age, because their doctrines and regulations were not committed to writing, but were communicated orally. To the Welsh bards the people of modern times are chiefly indebted for what is known of these devotees, but relics of their wonderful works in masonry are to be found to this day at Stonehenge, Avebury and many other parts of Great Britain, as well as in western France.

The Druids worshipped and performed their mystic rites chiefly in the open air, and frequently under the spreading branches of the lordly oak, the mistletoe twining around it being regarded as a sacred plant, possessing curative and prophylactic powers, and as an antidote to poisons. It was gathered with sacred ceremonies, and sacrifices were offered when the priest, clothed in white raiment, cut it down with a golden sickle.

The Druids originally came from Asia, and their doctrines and rites were evidently derived from the ancient Jewish law. Indeed we have no doubt that they were offshoots from those branches of the house of Israel which passed through Europe to the regions of the north, and have since been referred to as the lost tribes. Their vestments, their tenets and their festivals indicate their source, and though they departed widely in many things from the strict letter of the Mosaic code, there was enough left of its form and spirit among them to form good ground for this belief in their Israelitish origin. But though they retained many principles of the ancient faith, they also mingled with it much of the superstition and not a few of the occult rites of the heathen, which were strictly for-

bidden in the law. Astrology, divination and fire-worship entered into their ceremonies, and even human sacrifices are said to have been sometimes substituted for animal burnt-offerings.

They were organized into three orders, the priests, the prophets and the bards, and were presided over by an Arch-Druid, answering to the position of the High Priest of the Jews. But this official was elected to his office instead of inheriting it by birthright. Connected with the priesthood were also three female orders, who assisted in many of the ceremonies and acted in the prophetic office. Indeed the figure three was a mystic number with them, and the triads of the Welsh bards are traceable to those of the Druids.

The influence and rule of the Druids were overcome and ultimately destroyed by the Romans, both in Gaul and Britain, and though traces of their doctrines and ceremonies were distinguishable for many years, the organization perished before the Anglo-Saxons obtained dominion in England. Following are some of the doctrines of the Druids, as handed down from Welsh authorities:

"There is but one Supreme Being, the Creator and Governor of the Universe, of an eternal, mysterious, and immaterial nature, which pervades all space. In him consists the plenitude of life, knowledge, power, and love, which are sources of all his actions and dispensations. These being in themselves most beneficial and harmonious, necessarily tend to annihilate the power of evil, and bring man to everlasting happiness."

"All the knowledge that in the state of humanity we have of supernatural existence has been communicated by celestial beings, who of their own benevolence, subject to that of Deity, return for a while to this world to inform man of what is necessary for him to know of his duty, and of what constitutes happiness in this, and in future states, and which by perseverance in virtue he may hope for and be assured of."

"The last being that came into existence in this world was man. He appeared with the first rising sun, before that it was perpetual night. He is destined to fill a certain place in the creation, but a perfect liberty to act in such a character, or able to attach himself to either good or evil, as the impulses of his own inclinations shall lead him, accountable, rewardable, or punishable for all that he does. Humanity is, therefore, a state of liberty, and consequently of probation."

"One infallible rule of duty is not to do anything, or desire to do it, but what can eternally be done, and obtained in the celestial state where no evil can exist. The good and happiness of one being must not arise from the evil or misery of another."

And here are some of their triads: "There are three primeval Unities; and more than one of each cannot exist; one truth, one point of liberty, and this where all opposites equiperorate."

"Three things proceed from the primeval Unities; all life, all that is good, and all power. "God consists necessarily of three things; the greatest of life, the greatest of knowledge, and the greatest of power, and of what is the greatest there can be no more than one of anything."

"Three things evince what God has done, and will do; Infinite Power, Infinite Wisdom, and Infinite Love; for there is nothing that these attributes want of power, of knowledge, or of will to perform."

"The three regulations of God towards giving existence to everything; to annihilate the power of evil, to assist all that is good, and to make discrimination manifest that it might be known what should and what should not be."

"Three things will infallibly be done; all that is possible for the power, for the wisdom, and for the love of God to perform."

"Three things it is impossible that God should not perform; what is most beneficial, what all most need, and what is the most beautiful of all things."

Although many corruptions of the truth have become mingled with these tenets, yet it is evident to those who understand, that the main doctrines of the Druids emanated originally from a divine source. And this may be said of all the great religions that have held sway over large portions of the human