

# The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

## A Bogus Child Saves Thirteen From Gallows

Band of Russian Criminals, Courtmartialed and Sentenced to Die by the Hangman's Noose, Concocted Successful Scheme for Softening the Hearts of Their Judges—The Youngest of Their Number Asks to Be Allowed to Marry Before He Dies—Sweetheart and a Borrowed Baby Who Weep at Psychological Moment and Death Sentence of the Prisoners is Commuted to 20 Years' Imprisonment.

Special Correspondence.

WARSAW, March 21.—To the clever acting of a young girl, the sweet heart of one of the number, and the assistance of a baby borrowed for the occasion, 13 precious young Russian scoundrels owe their escape from the hangman's noose. The men were members of one of the worst and most daring gangs of thieves and highway men that ever infested this part of the country. They were found guilty by court martial and the penalty is death, a fate, by the way, which they richly deserved. At the psychological moment, however, just before sentence was passed upon him, the accommodated sweetheart and the bogus baby were brought in and the former was married to the youngest of the prisoners. A few tears on the part of the wife, a prolonged scream on the part of the baby, who thus showed his objection to having a playmate, and the hearts of the judges were melted. Instead of the death penalty the sentence of the 13 was commuted to 20 years' imprisonment each.

The funniest part of the whole business is that neither the police nor the judges suspect to this day that they were bamboozled by an ingenious plan concocted by the prisoners. The real facts of the case were told to me by the mother of the child which played so large a part in the comedy.

**TYPICAL CASE.**  
Stanislas Lukasik, the youthful prisoner, who married under the shadow of the gallows, was the son of a respectable workman. He was apprenticed to a locksmith and worked in that capacity for some time. When the revolution broke out in Russia, Stanislas, like most young men, dragged into the vortex of strikes and demonstrations. He, with many others, was placed in the hands of the government, determined to become a bandit. He joined a bandit society which styled itself "The Working Men's Union" to disguise its nefarious purpose. There were 13 members, whose ages ranged from 18 to 25. They had no political aim but exerted all their energies to robbing the rich wherever they could. Being well armed and very successful. More than one death is laid at their door as their victims often offered resistance. For over three years these 13 youths were the terror of the country. They had no fixed offices and private people of upwards of 100,000 rubles. It was while he was a member of "The Working Men's Union" that Stanislas met Maria, a Polish girl, who was eventually to save him and his companions, and became engaged to her. He did not, however, tell her how he got his money and when she learned the truth she eventually was, and taken to the city of Warsaw, she had not the slightest idea that he was guilty of the charges laid against him. Stanislas and his 12 companions were tried by court martial and the lawyer they employed assured them that sentence of death was inevitable. The 13 then turned their heads and, with a defiant upon some means of getting this sentence commuted. Fortunately for them life imprisonment does not exist in Russia. The sentence of death was commuted, but the harsh punishment, at the end of that time the oldest of them would only be 45 and there was always the chance that a change of rulers would be the means of cutting off another five years. But the officials who preside over court martials are particularly hard upon bandits and Stanislas and his 12 companions were sentenced to be hanged by the gallows. One night, since these men were arrested, as many as 13 were hanged. To the members of "The Working Men's Union" this coincidence of numbers was a bad sign.

**HAD A BRIGHT IDEA.**  
Suddenly, one of the men, known by the name of "Lanky" in prison, had an idea that immediately appealed to all except Stanislas. "Stanislas is going to save us all," he exclaimed, and unfolded his plan. "You've got a girl to whom you're engaged," he said. "She's got to do the trick." Lukasik remarked despondently that being engaged to a girl did not help him any of them much when he was likely to be hanged by a rope within a few hours.

**PART PLAYED BY GIRL.**  
"Before you hang by the rope, you've got to be married to that girl," said Lanky. "The president of the court martial, Gen. Uversky, looks a good old bluffer. We'll try and play on his feelings. You've got only today to do it in because the trial will be over tomorrow before dark and it will be all over with us before the next day dawns. You must ask permission to see your sweetheart and tell her to get hold of somebody's baby—the younger it is the better—and be ready to come here with it tomorrow afternoon. You must speak to the lawyer tomorrow morning as soon as he comes to the citadel and tell him you want to marry the girl you've lived with before you're hanged so that your child shall have civil rights and not be a nameless outcast."

At first Lukasik said he would not consent such a slur on his girl's name for any of them. But the others soon persuaded him that it would be far better than hanging and that, if he were hanged after all, his sweetheart would be



## Wonderful Work for the Blind Accomplished by Blind American

British Claim as Finest in the World the Great Institution for Training the Sightless Created by Dr. F. J. Campbell, Who Was Driven Forth from His Native State of Tennessee Because He Was an Abolitionist—Rumored That Knighthood Will Be Conferred Upon Him—Heroic Story of the Man Who Has Won for Himself the Proud Title of "King of the Blind" in the Land Which Has Adopted Him—Early Struggles Against Tremendous Obstacles to Obtain an Education—How He Won the Coveted Prize, Though Pronounced by His Teacher Incapable of Receiving Instructions.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, March 26.—There recently was published in the American newspapers an interesting article about America's famous living blind men. It contained no reference, however, to Dr. Francis Joseph Campbell, an American who is the head of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind at Norwood, one of the suburbs of London. So far as it is possible for such an institution to be the work of one man the college is Dr. Campbell's own creation. Englishmen believe it to be the best of its kind in the world.

Dr. Campbell may not be the world's most wonderful blind man. Certainly he never would claim that distinction for himself. But a still greater distinction may be claimed for him. He has done more for the blind than any other blind man. When destiny has a great work in store for a man who usually prepares him for it by giving him a particularly rough time. That almost invariably is the case when the work required of him is the helping of others. He must suffer that he may know the great obstacles before he can show others how to surmount them. It was so with Dr. Campbell.

**BLINDED BY A THORN.**  
He was not born blind. But to qualify him for his life's task it was essential that he should lose his sight. Playing in the yard of his parents' home in Franklin county, Tennessee, one day, when he was between three and four years old, he ran into an apple tree and a sharp thorn pierced an eyeball. Under proper medical treatment it is probable he would have suffered no permanent injury to his eyesight. But the worst he would have lost the sight of only one eye. But an incompetent doctor was at hand to see that he should be properly fitted for his future sphere of usefulness. By doing the wrong thing this doctor set up a dangerous inflammation in the injured eye, spread to the other eye and before it subsided the sight of both eyes was gone forever.

**SENT TO NASHVILLE.**  
Tennessee had no school for the blind in those days. Not until the boy was ten years old was a small one opened in Nashville. Thither young Campbell was sent. He had a passion for learning. Within three weeks of an hour after his arrival he had mastered the alphabet. But it was no part of the scheme of destiny to make things easy for him. A terrible disaster threatened him. When he turned up for his first lesson in music he made such a wretched failure of his attempts to sound his notes and showed such an utter incapacity to learn even a tune that his teacher decided then and there that musical instruction would be wasted on him. The man who has done more than any other man to make music the chief solace and support of the blind was forbidden to touch the piano.

**MASTERSHIP MUSIC.**  
He fired one of the boys to give him lessons secretly. Three months later the music master, also blind, who had none the worse as she would be free to marry whom she liked. Prisoners under sentence, or even likely to be put under sentence of death in the near future, were not to see visitors. Maria happened to come that same day to the citadel and agreed to the young bandit's proposition. She even said she would go to her lawyer and had connected and induce him to see the president of the court-martial that same day.

The lawyer fell into the trap—Maria went with the borrowed baby to her attorney and posted off to the citadel, where he saw General Uversky and obtained that astonished man's permission to see Maria and a priest to the citadel next morning. The following day the trial of the 13 bandits was continued. The proceed-

pronounced him hopelessly incompetent to enter the room where young Campbell was playing. "Who is that doing the new lesson so well?" he asked. "I, sir," replied the boy. "I have learned all that you have taught the other boys." Fifteen months later he gained the prize for pianoforte playing. He worked hard for it. As there were only two pianos in the school he had to get up at 4 in order to get his turn for practice. In the second winter the cold was intense. To make matters worse the coal gave out. But he still kept up his practice. He would play for half an hour, then, rushing into the playground, would run a mile at top speed by way of thawing his freezing limbs. By running ten miles a day he was able to generate the bodily warmth needed to carry him through five hours' practice at the piano. When he was barely twenty he was appointed teacher of music in the very institution where, he says, "I had first been told I never could learn music."

**SLEPT ONLY FOUR HOURS.**  
Meanwhile by financial reverses his father had become greatly impoverished. The young man who was to accomplish such a great work in teaching the blind how to be self-supporting, had first to master that lesson himself. There were no limits to his energy. When he was appointed music teacher he took up other courses of study, which included mathematics, Latin and Greek. To keep pace with his self-appointed task, work while devoting much of the day to music lessons, he cut down the portion of sleep which he allotted himself to a minimum. He kept two readers going. The first read to him until 10 o'clock at night. The second was waked up to begin his lessons at 2 o'clock. The third, who kept him awake until dawn, was a complete nervous breakdown. Death or three months' hospital was the doctor's verdict. At first he would not tolerate the lynching of a blind man. For the death sentence a boycott was substituted. All his pupils deserted him. The necessity of earning a livelihood compelled him to leave his native state. The work required of him lay elsewhere.

**AN EXPERT CLIMBER.**  
With a brother and friend he started to the mountains, set up housekeeping in a cabin two miles away from anybody and went in for a hard year of wood cutting and hill climbing. In company with his brother, he says, "I could ascend almost inaccessible mountain cliffs. I became an expert climber. Once far from the cabin we decided to quit the path and descend the steep face of the mountain, swinging ourselves from tree to tree. I could climb any tree that I could grasp with my arms. It is small wonder that when many years later, Tyndall, the great scientist, meeting this indomitable man scaling a difficult Alpine peak he is the only climber who ever climbed Mount Planchon with all the vigor and assurance of one possessed of the full use of his eyes, exclaimed, 'Are you really blind, or are you only humbugging?'"

**COMPLETELY RESTORED.**  
By the time his three months' holiday had expired he was completely restored and he had learned a lesson to which he never forgot. The boy, who was to be the first of the great European institutions for the instruction of the blind, then with a head packed full of ideas for a model institution for the blind he turned his face toward London. He arrived in London on June 23, 1871. He was booked to sail from Liverpool three days later.

**THE HAND OF FATE.**  
The great life work for which he had undergone such a rigorous training lay close at hand, but he had not then the faintest idea of it. It was in the guise of an entire stranger that destiny intervened. He was staying in a hotel. The stranger was staying at the same hotel, and noting that Dr. Campbell was blind told him that he was going to a tea party for the blind next day and asked him if he would like to attend. The American said he would be very glad. But for that casual meeting and invitation

weep copious tears, for they had little hope of seeing each other again, and the baby, lapped with a pin at the proper moment, added his voice to the din. The 12 generals were visibly moved and so was the lawyer. Maria begged leave to be present during the rest of the trial and was allowed to take a seat in court. Lukasik was led back to the dock and the trial went on. In half an hour it was finished, and, in a hasty voice, the president passed sentence of death upon the 13 prisoners. Poor Maria fainted and Lukasik burst into tears. The court retired and the prisoners were taken back to their cell, to gloomily await the sequel. Soon the lawyer appeared. He said that the court, although obliged by martial law to pass sentence of death on them, felt strongly moved to recom-

which their lack of sight imposes on them. His insatiable thirst for knowledge led Dr. Campbell to Harvard. There he married. But his apprenticeship to hard times was not yet over. He lost all his savings. He returned to Tennessee and became musical director of a flourishing girls' school. At Harvard he had come under the influence of Lloyd Garrison and it was as an abolitionist that he returned to Tennessee. In those days—it was in 1854—public feeling against abolitionists had reached that inflammatory stage in which passion alone holds sway and the ordinary rules of judgment would not tolerate the lynching of a blind man. To this offense a worse one was added. It was discovered that he was teaching a negro to read.

**THREATENED WITH LYNCHING.**  
A deputation of prominent citizens waited upon him to convince him of the error of his ways. The deputation failed to convince him. He refused to abandon his abolitionist sentiments; he would not promise to give up teaching negroes; he finally accepted a ultimatum which launched against him. If he did not change his decision in 24 hours he would be swung into eternity from the nearest tree. Dr. Campbell was left with his young wife to look at life and death through the hangman's noose. Probably the committee never would have gone to the length of executing his threat. Popular feeling, however excited, would not tolerate the lynching of a blind man. For the death sentence a boycott was substituted. All his pupils deserted him. The necessity of earning a livelihood compelled him to leave his native state. The work required of him lay elsewhere.

**SUCCESS IN BOSTON.**  
For a time he had a hard struggle to make both ends meet. He was a failure to make to Boston and there the Perkins Institution gave him the chance which put him on his feet again. He undertook to teach music for one term for nothing and so admirably did he succeed that he was installed as the head of the musical department, a position which he held for 11 years. It was in Boston that he laid the foundations in theory of the system which he was ultimately to apply so successfully at Norwood. That was the cultivation of the physical health and energy of the blind.

It was inevitable that he should overcome himself. In 1869 he was given a year's furlough to rest. His idea of resting was making an exhaustive study of the methods and appliances of the best European institutions for the instruction of the blind. Then with a head packed full of ideas for a model institution for the blind he turned his face toward London. He arrived in London on June 23, 1871. He was booked to sail from Liverpool three days later.

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ment them, and especially Lukasik, who was usually confirmed by the governor-general of Warsaw, who signs them almost as soon as the trial is over so that the prisoners are quickly disposed of. But General Uversky determined that these 13 should, if possible, be spared. He wrote a petition to the governor-general and presented it himself. The sentence was commuted to 20 years' hard labor in Siberia and perpetual exile in that country. All the bandits were delighted and "Lanky" took the credit of it to himself. There is no doubt that had Lukasik not married Maria at the very last moment of their trial, they would have been hanged before the next morning. But the ceremony broke the monotony of these daily court-martials and, Maria being young and

to have acquired some sort of sixth sense which rendered sight superfluous. There were none of those timid footsteps and faltering movements which one naturally associates with the blind—they moved with confidence and cheerful alacrity.

**WHAT GYM WORK DOES.**  
The gymnasium at Norwood is one of the best equipped in London. Whether male or female, there is no inmate of the college who does not spend a portion of every day in gymnasium exercises, which are so carefully graded as to bring into action every muscle of the body in turn. As the result of the attention paid to athletic exercise each pupil is said to develop about two inches extra around the waist in the first 12 months of his sojourn at the college. That means the accumulation of a very great reserve force of strength, energy and vitality. It accounts for much of the rapid progress they make in their studies.

**COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES.**  
In many respects the teaching is like that of an ordinary college. The curriculum is a comprehensive one and includes English and general history, composition, literature, natural history, botany, physiology, astronomy, physics, political economy, etc. But the beginning of all sound teaching of the blind is the kindergarten. It is one of the most interesting sights of the college to see the young people modeling clay, learning to draw by the aid of bent wires and taking their first lessons in painting. The difference between the children who have been taught in the kindergarten and those who have been put into the classes without having had these preliminary advantages is very great. After the kindergarten the next step which gives manual dexterity and accuracy in the manipulation of tools is the Swedish Sloyd class. The proficiency shown by the boys was amazing. With the aid of my two eyes I could not have produced anything like such exact workmanship as they were turning out without apparent effort.

**A PEN PICTURE.**  
First, however, I must record my impressions of Dr. Campbell himself, who should be the model of a blind man, now 24 years old, gray and grizzled, but brimful of energy and vitality. In his conversation there is a note of repining over the affliction which had made his life one long night. He had found abundant happiness in his work. It would have been pardonable if he had shown some vanity in speaking of it, but there was none. He was a more splendid monument than any of the statues which adorn the Crystal Palace. I have little space in which to describe the pleasant experiences of my life with him. But of such absorbing interest is the life story of the man to whom it was a more splendid monument than any of the statues which adorn the Crystal Palace. I have little space in which to describe the pleasant experiences of my life with him.

**THE SIXTH SENSE.**  
One visits an institution for the blind with the expectation of having feelings of pity aroused for the inmates who are laboring under such a terrible affliction. But it was impossible to feel that way at Norwood. The master had imparted his optimistic spirit to his pupils. They were the embodiment of health and happiness. "A healthy mind in a healthy body is our motto," said the doctor. "The blind have greater need of physical vigor and vitality than those who enjoy the blessings of sight. Because their affliction makes the struggle for existence and a living so much harder for them than for normal persons." As one watched the pupils laboring under such a terrible affliction, performing daring acrobatic feats in the gymnasium, dashing around the rink on roller skates or strolling about the grounds, the difficulty was to believe that they were really bereft of sight. By some miracle they seemed

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## Buys a \$50,000 Necklace for a Paltry \$20.00

Through the Mistake of a Clerk in an Imitation Jewelry Store in Paris a Woman Gets the Real Instead of Bogus Article—Surprises Her Friends by Wearing the Magnificent String at a Dinner Party—One Astonishes Her by Telling Her that It Is Worth a Fabulous Amount—Returns It to the Store, the Proprietor, Who Had Discovered the Mistake, Almost Fainting with Joy Over Recovery of Necklace.

PARIS, March 25.—The joy of a woman who, through the blunder of a clerk in a jewelry store, is able to buy a \$50,000 pearl necklace for \$20 must be intense. But it is only a circumstance to the sorrow of the employer of the clerk whose innocence made the mistake possible. Luckily for the jeweler (and the clerk) the woman who purchased the string of precious stones was honest when put to this severe test and returned them when she discovered that a most amazing mistake had been made.

A story like this deserves to take its place side by side with the one that tells of the buying of Manhattan Island for a paltry \$14. It is more incredible to the present day readers. Yet it is just as true, for this comedy, which costs very much less than the visit of Mme. Rochelle to the jeweler, has just been enacted here.

Mme. Rochelle, the wife of a prosperous lawyer, wishing to purchase a high-class imitation pearl necklace for herself, repaired to a well-known establishment in the Rue du Louvre, No. 50. She happened to find the same store patronized by the rich and the poor who with clever imitations of their famous jewels made for public wear. This is a common practice, some owners of magnificent collections going so far as to have every stone in their possession duplicated in paste.

**WANTED IMITATIONS.**  
Among the customers in this way, the store, was a famous Russian princess, whose pearls are the talk of Paris, where she resides, and the envy of her fortune-hunting friends. Some days previous to the visit of Mme. Rochelle to the store the titled customer had left to be imitated a string of rare pearls, valued at \$50,000. In getting together the pearls, which were elsewhere had been running their legs off for many months and when it was finally delivered to its owner, it was pronounced worthy to take its place with the other strings of pearls worn on royal throats.

The proprietor of the store, into whose hands the Russian princess had delivered this valuable necklace, placed it in the safe, along with several imitation strings, but on a separate shelf. He did not, however, speak to the assistants about its presence there, as he was sure that no one else would be so foolish as to ask to see a number of necklaces, among the other strings brought from the safe for her inspection was one of the real pearls belonging to the Russian princess.

**TOOK THE REAL PEARLS.**  
Now this wife of a French lawyer was no judge of pearls. It is safe to say that she would not be able to tell the difference between the real jewel and the imitations sold by this excellent store in the Rue du Louvre. Yet it did not take her very long to decide that she wanted the real pearls in preference to the imitations. Imitations are all very well when compared with the ordinary pearls that reach the open market, but the man who can creditably wear the real pearls is a rare bird. She way into a \$50,000 necklace has yet to see the light of day.

With her "imitation" pearls under her arm, Mme. Rochelle paid cash and departed, leaving behind no clue to her identity.

A few days later, at a dinner party, she wore the necklace for the first time. Several of the guests admitted it. Mme. Rochelle's circumstance in life, that it was a very clever imitation of the real article. Finally, one who knew more about jewels than the ordinary run of society, remarked upon its beauty, saying: "It must be worth at least 200,000 francs."

**HE KNEW BETTER.**  
"But I assure you" the man persisted, "that it is worth much more than that. I know something about stones myself and am certain I am right. However, I have a friend here who is a connoisseur of pearls and he will know at once."

He accordingly fetched his friend who, after examining the necklace, confirmed his friend's opinion that the pearls were real ones, and of great value. Meanwhile, in the Rue du Louvre, the proprietor and his unfortunate assistant were having 57 years' worth of convictions. They never expected to see Mme. Rochelle again and the proprietor was making preparations for putting up the shutters and closing the business for good, for if he was compelled to pay the Russian princess for her lost necklace he would not only be ruined financially for the time being but he would lose all his titled customers thereafter. He determined, however, to keep the matter a secret until the princess demanded her necklace back, and he hardly took his eyes off the door-dressing as he did a call from that individual. "The day," followed Mme. Rochelle's driver, that estimate woman packed up the beautiful pearls and repaired to the store in the Rue du Louvre. He immediately called the clerk who had the necklace and several assistants rushed excitedly towards her. Imagine their surprise and joy when she handed the package towards them and heard her say that she had brought the pearls back.