

bill was introduced. This provided for districting to the best advantage of the party in power. Little regard was paid to natural or divisional lines. Counties and even townships were sliced and whoestrung so that the party would profit. The charge cannot be laid solely to any one party. The decision in the Wisconsin case said that both the old parties were equally corrupt in this matter.

There is one reassuring feature in these decisions. The Supreme Courts of both Wisconsin and Michigan are composed of Democrats and Republicans, and in both cases the decisions were unanimous. This indicates that both parties are desirous of abolishing the hated "gerrymander" by which strips of territory wholly disconnected were often joined together to make a legislative district in the interest of some party movement.

RENEWAL OF RUSSIAN ENCROACHMENT.

THE wires bring news to the effect that Russian troops have re-occupied the Pamir region as far down as Hindu Koomb, from which Col. Yanoff, of the Russian army, was compelled to retire over a year ago. The Pamir is, owing to its great height, sometimes called "the roof of the world." It is contiguous to British India, and the Russian encroachments are in line with the Muscovite intention to some time invade and conquer that country.

Previous to the late British elections this journal stated that in the event of Gladstone being successful the result would be followed by encroachments by the great powers upon British prerogatives and interest. Dispatches giving information about the latest Pamir incident state, in connection with the facts, that it is believed that in taking the step Russia is encouraged by Mr. Gladstone's recent success. Indicating the correctness of our view.

The basis of this situation lies in the fact that Lord Salisbury—who is a statesman of the Beaconsfield school—believes in operating what Disraeli was wont to call "a spirited foreign policy." Besides, a Conservative government is, on general principles, much more watchful of the outside interests of the empire than is a Liberal administration. If we mistake not the near future will develop numerous inroads upon the interests of Great Britain, in the event of a Gladstonian government being established, as they can be made with comparative impunity under Liberal rule, which tends in the direction of the dissolution of the British Empire, while the effort of Conservatism is to hold it together intact. It is difficult to understand how an intelligent English patriot who is anxious to see the prestige of his country preserved can be a member of the Liberal party.

A ROBBER MET HIS MATCH.

Highway robbery is fast becoming a flourishing industry in this country. Exploits connected with this pursuit make up a formidable daily record. As a rule the artists engaging in them are

successful in making large hauls. Instances of their being baffled by the courage and intrepidity of proposed victims are rare. A case of that kind occurred, however, near Virginia City, Nevada, on August 2nd. The details are interesting and we therefore present them as given in a San Francisco *Chronicle* dispatch:

"James H. Kinkead, superintendent of the Occidental mine, accompanied by a driver, while en route this afternoon in a buggy with \$10,000 in coin to pay off the employees for the month of July, was suddenly ordered to halt at a turn in the road leading to the mine by a man wearing a black mask and a rubber coat and holding a pistol in his hand. Mr. Kinkead had a shotgun charged with buckshot across his knees, and replied by firing at the highwayman, the charge entering the latter's right arm and disabling him.

"After receiving the wound the highwayman ran and was pursued by Kinkead, who succeeded in capturing him after a race of half a mile, and brought him to town in his vehicle and placed him in the custody of the sheriff. While endeavoring to escape the highwayman discarded his rubber coat and mask, and Kinkead discovered on capturing him that he was an employe of the Occidental mill named William Hurd and aged 24 years.

"Hurd had inquired of Kinkead a few hours previous to the attempted robbery at what time he would pay off and was told at 2 o'clock. Hurd had the sum of \$100 due him for wages for July. Included in the effects left by Hurd was a gunny sack double lined with canvas, evidently intended to carry away the coin he expected to secure.

"Although of medium stature and slight physique, Mr. Kinkead has a record of being one of the gamest men in the State, which he acquired while deputy sheriff of Washoe county, in 1871, when he captured, single-handed, Parsons, Gilchrist and J. H. Squires, leaders in the Verdi train robbery in that year. Prior to that event he arrested two desperadoes near Steamboat Springs for a robbery at Reno, both of whom fired at Kinkead, without effect, and in returning the shots Kinkead wounded one of them.

"Subsequently he captured a man at Peavine, Washoe county, charged with stealing diamonds valued at \$2500 from Truckee. While seated at a dinner table the night of the arrest his prisoner leaped through an open window and was followed by Kinkead. As the prisoner jumped into an open mine shaft and attempted to drown himself in four feet of water at the bottom, Kinkead leaped into the shaft after the prisoner and kept the latter's head above water until both were rescued."

A PECULIAR CASE.

MISS MITCHELL of Memphis, Tenn., who murdered her friend and companion, Freda Ward, was declared insane by a jury in the Shelby county criminal court, on the 30th ult. The verdict does not absolve Miss Mitchell from trial at a future time should she be declared sane. The question at issue was her sanity at the time of the trial, not at the time she killed Miss Ward. The law prohibits the prosecution of any person not of sound mind for any offense, hence by reason of the insanity of Miss Mitchell the indictment against her for murder stands until she is pronounced sane.

The story of this remarkable case dates back to January last, when Alice Mitchell murdered her friend Freda Ward on one of the principal streets

of Memphis. Both young ladies were fairly educated, and both were of good parentage. The former was twenty years of age, the latter only eighteen. The friendship between the girls originated at school. Miss Mitchell was a pronounced character, impulsive and sanguine. Miss Ward was modest, retiring and even timid. By her force of character the Mitchell girl assumed a sort of protectorate over her weaker sister. The girls became inseparable, so that at school the teacher endeavored to disrupt the association but failed.

In 1890 both girls left school, Miss Ward going home to Arkansas, and Miss Mitchell going to her father's place in Memphis. They corresponded, and the letters which passed between them savored more of the feeling and sentiment of opposite sex lovers than of two young school girls. In 1891 Alice Mitchell visited Freda Ward in Arkansas. The intimacy of school days was again renewed. Miss Ward's brother noticed the peculiar character of the Mitchell girl. He saw that she became insanely jealous when his sister conversed or joked with any male person, young or old, single or married. He spoke to his sister about the strange conduct of Miss Mitchell, and advised her to sever her association with her.

It appears that during the time of their intimacy it was agreed that they should get married, Miss Mitchell assuming the role of bridegroom. Whether the Ward girl entered into the scheme merely as a sort of romance, or in earnest, was not clearly shown. However, she accepted an engagement ring from Miss Mitchell and wore it in the usual way. This ring she subsequently returned to the donor. After the Arkansas visit the association between the girls was entirely sundered. Miss Ward, when visiting Memphis, ignored her former companion, who resented the abandonment with almost insane fury.

On January 25th last Miss Ward and her sister visited Memphis. Miss Mitchell learned of their presence in town. She took a buggy, called on a young lady named Johnson, and asked her to ride. They went towards the river, Miss Mitchell telling her that she wanted to say good-bye to the Ward girls, who were to depart on the Arkansas steamer. Miss Mitchell, when she saw the Wards, left her buggy. Drawing a razor from beneath her cloak, she attacked the girls. The sister retaliated with an umbrella, but a slash from the razor soon disabled her. Miss Mitchell then pursued Freda and catching her struck her three times with the keen-edged weapon, laying her throat open. Miss Ward bled to death. Arrest followed.

The case attracted the wildest attention. Learned doctors of all the sciences have since written about it, and among the German medical specialists it is still a subject of curious consideration.

Ever since the time of the terrible tragedy Miss Mitchell has been in jail. During the trial nothing was developed beyond the fact that she cherished an insane love for Miss Ward, and finding that the latter did not reciprocate her love, murdered her by reason of pure jealousy and rage. Such attachments are not love but ebullitions of irrational passion and disordered sentimentality.