THE THREE BILLS.

I.

A gas-bill lay on a table green—
The prettiest gas-bill ever seen;
Patrician was it, puffed with pride;
It reposed at ease on its paper side,
A pink young thing, with a margin wide.
The figures on it in a row
Made a stunningly handsome little show;
They were four in number, small and sweet;
The cost of many a thousand feet.
You may wager your all, they were there complete!

II.

A plumber's bill on a mantel near
Looked down on the sheet with a covert sneer;
It dryly said: "You look so queer,
Puffed out in your pride while I am here!
Really, now, were it worth my while,
I'm not quite sure but I'd try to smile!—
I am way above you—can't you see
You're of no account by the side of me!"
A wrangle ensued between the two,
As troubles from pride will often brew.

III.

An ice-bill grinned as it watched the fun,
Not seeming to care for either one;
It glanced at both as they fiercely swelled,
And then remarked that it felt compelled
To interfere in the quarrel there.
And frowned on each with a savage glare.
"You quarrel for the foremost place,"
It said with a sneer on its clammy face;
"The summer's coming, and then you'll see
Where both of you stand by the side of me."
—*Tid-Bits.*

PUBLIC EXECUTIONERS.

Men Who Have Held the Office in France and England.

Readers familiar with that most curious and interesting work, "The Memoirs of the Sanson Family," are aware that the bearer of that lurid title, Monsieur de Paris, was a person of no small consideration. The first of the Sansons, in which family the office of public executioner to the metropolis of France was hereditary for nearly two hundred years, was a man of noble family and an officer in a cavalry regiment. Quartered in Dieppe in 1662, he was thrown from his horse and carried wounded and stunned into a cottage on the outskirts of the town. Tenderly nursed by the only daughter of its owner, he fell in love with the pretty Marguerite. He had rivals for the girl's affections, and quarrels and duels resulted. Finally a cynical friend took the young soldier to the place of execution and showed him the father of his sweetheart engaged in his ghastly professional duties. Getting into trouble with his military superiors because of his infatuation for the headsman's daughter, young Sanson de Longval broke his sword across his knee, tore up his commission in the face of his colonel, and, hurrying to the executioner's house, demanded that functionary's permission to wed his daughter and carry her away to a foreign land, the father abandoning his grim profession and accompanying the pair. But the executioner demurred to emigration, and would consent to the match only on condition that Sanson, wedding the executioner's daughter, should become an executioner himself, and a few days after the marriage the young patrician was helping his father-in-law to break a criminal alive on the wheel. So uncongenial was the work that, to quote a contemporary record, "the said son-in-law fell in a fit and was hooted by the mob." However, he became reconciled to his functions, and in 1685 he "exchanged his provincial jurisdiction for that of the capital of the kingdom," and became Monsieur de Paris. It was his grandson, Charles Henri Sanson, who was the executioner during the fell revolutionary period. His first professional duty, at the age of seventeen, was to assist his uncle in carrying out the ghastly details of the execution of Damiens, which culminated in dismemberment by four wild horses. It was in his time, 1792, that the guillotine was substituted for the halter and the block. Of that instrument the medical gentleman after whom it was named was not the inventor; that grim honor belongs to a German musical instrument maker named Schmidt, who used to practice duets with Sanson. One evening, after the performance of an air in "Iphigenie en Aulide," Sanson spoke to his friend of his anxiety for an amended instrument of execution, and Schmidt on the instant drew a sketch plan of the contrivance which drank so much blood in the revolution. Its name was not inappropriate, for it was Dr. Guillotin's enthusiastic advocacy of it in the Assembly which procured its adoption. In the fervor of his devotion he protested that the culprit dying by it would "only feel a slight freshness in the neck." Rising with his subject, he addressed the President: "With this machine I chop your head off in a twinkling, and you do not suffer." There is nothing apocryphal in the story that King Louis XVI. inspected the plan of the new machine, and that it was his suggestion that for the crescent-shaped knife edge which was the original idea was substituted the oblique edge, which practical experiments proved to be the true shape. Ten months later King Louis' head fell under the instrument the improvement in which he had suggested.

No such official recognition and position as belonged to the successive Sansons adheres to the office of hangman in England. Our insular executioner, indeed, is an accident rather than a functionary. The duty of effecting the accomplishment of the law's dread sentence devolves in the provinces on the high sheriffs of London and Middlesex. As a matter of obvious convenience the city of London selects and pays a retaining fee to a person having the will and the skill to carry out the repulsive duty of executioner. It is the practice to employ him in that service all over the country, but this is merely a matter of expediency, and "country practitioners" have occasionally enjoyed a considerable share of patronage. Calcraft was hangman so long that his name had passed into a synonym for his office. He was a quiet, shy, retiring person, of rather weak physique, of practiced dexterity on the scaffold, and of good nerve until advanced age began to tell upon him. He was a cobbler in a small street off the New North road. He was very fond of fishing on the river Lea in its higher reaches, about the New Forest, and the old fellow's chief anxiety seemed to be ever to shun recognition. It is told of him, whether truly or not, that the infamous Mrs. Manning was a distant connection of his, and that when he was drawing the white cap down over her face on the scaffold, she bit him on the ball of the thumb. Of the wretched Binns, who was Calcraft's temporary successor, nothing need be said. At once clumsy and intemperate, his career as hangman was short-lived.

James Berry, the present executioner, is a man of quite another stamp from either Calcraft or Binns. A Bradford man, by trade a shoemaker, he was a member of the Bradford police force, from which he was invalided because of severe injuries he received in the execution of his duty, having been wounded on the forehead and elsewhere with a knife by a man whom he was engaged in apprehending. His hurts confined him to bed for sixteen weeks, and enforced his discharge from the police with a gratuity of twenty-eight pounds as compensation for his wounds. Mr. Berry regards it as a matter for legitimate pride that he should have been the selected candidate out of a host of two thousand one hundred applicants for the office.

On one occasion, while pinioning the ankles of a criminal, he was kicked by him so severely as to have been rendered senseless for several minutes, to the horror of the high sheriff in attendance, who foresaw for himself a ghastly prospect, but that the executioner "came to" in time to fulfil his duty. Berry is a square-shouldered, compactly-built man of middle height, with rather strongly-marked features, dark hair brushed high, and a fringe of dark beard round his face. There is nothing of Calcraft's habits of self-effacement about him; he seems to have a genuine pride in what he styles his "profession," and has no hesitation in avowing himself. When he reached Carlisle for the execution of the Netherby burglar-murderers, he walked from the railway station to the jail, followed by quite a crowd. Between his arrival and the execution on Monday morning he was freely *en evidence* about the town and gave no heed to the cautions given him to the effect that Rudge's brother was in the town and had given hints of ominous intentions. A person who may have the felicity of an interview—an unofficial interview—with Mr. Berry may enjoy the additional gratification of having the honor to be presented with that gentleman's visiting card. This weapon is of more than ordinary dimensions and substantiality. A deep gilt edging surrounds a considerable expanse of highly-glazed surface, chastely colored a delicate light mauve. Across the face of this trails gracefully a spray of maindenhair fern in gold, under the foliage of which is blazoned the legend in gold (Roman) characters:

MR. JAMES BERRY,
Executioner,

with his Bradford address in the corner.

A somewhat curious and embarrassing incident occurred during Mr. Berry's late residence on professional duty in Carlisle. The triple execution occurred at eight o'clock on Monday morning, the bodies, according to law, hung for an hour, when it devolved on the hangman to cut them down, and the time arrived for him to give his attention to the acquisition of his ghastly perquisites. At ten o'clock, while ladies and gentlemen resident in the principal hotel of the city were at breakfast, Mr. Berry entered the apartment and attacked with a fine appetite the meal set before him. This world is a world of compromises, but the lady and gentleman breakfasting in the coffee-room of the "County" were not endowed with sufficient philosophy to recognize that truth in the conditions which confronted them. There is a popular, if captious, prejudice against the hangman at close quarters; there was now an irrepressible revulsion against the hangman, reeking from his "professional functions," troubling this gentleman for the mustard and handing that lady the salt-cellar. The occupants of the coffee-room rose and precipitately left it to the sole occupancy of Jack Ketch. The hotel officials professed their inability to interfere towards an alteration of the situation—a supineness against which some remonstrances were made with a certain emphasis. Mr. Berry leisurely finished his meal, sauntered out into the hall, where an old gentleman was acting as spokesman of the exiled breakfasters, proclaimed himself a public officer of credit and responsibility, denounced the old gentleman violently as a "blackguard" for objecting to his society, expressed a burning anxiety to kick him out of the house, and wound up with a fervent hope that he might some day experience his professional attentions. Sir Bernard Burke does not allot the hangman a place in his table of precedence, which is an obvious omission.—*London News.*

The Demands of Justice.

"Say, mister," said a small boy pulling on the coat of an Estelline man who was in the back part of the crowd at a justice court dog trial.

"Hey, what d'ye want?"

"Yer house is a-fire, you'd better run home.

"My house burnin', you say?"

"Yes."

"Blazin' up all 'round?"

"Yer bet 'tis—burnin' lively."

"Probably have ter go, hey?"

"I reckon it will."

"Well, I can't git away myself, I think I'm li'ble ter be called at any minute as a witness on this 'ere case and I wanter see that justice is done 'bout that dog. You run back and tell my wife ter git out what things she kin and I'll be up after court adj'urns."—*Estelline (D. T.) Bell.*

—A gentleman who saw a meteor recently in Surry, England, described it as being apparently so near him that he thought he could hit it with a stone.

In the Peshawur cemetery, in India, is the following amusing epitaph: "Sacred to the memery of Rev. ——, Missionary, aged —, murdered by his chowkidar. 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'"

CONGRESSIONAL.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC REPORT.

A Synopsis of Measures Introduced in the National Legislature.

SENATE.

The consular and diplomatic appropriation bill was taken up and passed.

Senate confirmed the nomination of Governor Swineford of Alaska.

Berry, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported favorably Senator Stanford's bill granting Seal Rocks to the city of San Francisco, in trust, with an amendment identical with that reported by the House Committee to Representative Felton's bill for the same purpose. The amendment gives the United States the right at all times to control or limit the number of seals taken, to protect fisheries, and provides that whenever any of the rocks or space occupied by them shall be required by the United States for erection or maintainance of any public work the United States shall be reinvested with full control, title and possession of such rocks or space.

After a long debate a bill was passed providing for a commission of three persons, to be appointed by the President, with the consent of the Senate, to investigate the truth of the alleged discovery of a specific cure of yellow fever.

Logan introduced a bill in the Senate to provide for the location and erection of a branch home for disabled volunteer soldiers west of the Rocky mountains. It appropriates $150,000 for the purpose.

Among measures passed were the following: Bill to relieve the State of Colorado from charges on account of ordnance stores furnished to the Territory and State, amounting to $33,081.

Bill providing for the purchase of a portrait of General Geo. B. Thomas.

Bill to establish a new Land District in Wyoming. The bill constitutes the counties of Johnson and Crook, in that Territory, a new Land District.

Bill to legalize the incorporation of national trades unions.

Bill amending section 3,893 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the transportation of obscene publications through the mail. The bill extends the scope of the old section.

Bill authorizing the payment of $2,500 to Mrs. Louisa A. Jackson, and $2,500 to the legal representatives of Mrs. Martha Vaughn for patriotic services rendered and hazards and losses incurred in conveying information of great value to Union officers in Kentucky in 1863.

Bill relating to the Supreme Court of the Territory of Montana and providing for the establishment of Judicial Districts in that Territory. The bill makes the Court to consist hereafter of a Chief Justice and three Associate Justices, to hold office for four years. The Territory is divided by the bill into four Judicial Districts.

Bill to create two additional Land Districts in the Territory of Dakota. This bill authorizes the President to appoint a Register and Receiver for each District.

Bill referring to the Court of Claims claims for property seized by General Johnson in the Utah expedition of 1857.

The Chair laid before the Senate a message from the President, with a letter from the Secretary of State, in relation to the distribution of the fund for relief of the owners, officers and crew of the boat Gen. Armstrong.

The agricultural appropriation bill was taken up and passed. It includes an amendment offered by Dolph, appropriating $5,000 to aid in reclamation of the arid region in Washington Territory by sinking artesian wells.

Among memorials presented was one by Miller, from the Congress of Workingmen's Clubs of the United States, praying for the passage of the bill establishing postal savings banks.

Beck called up his bill to prohibit members of Congress from accepting retainers or employment from railroad companies which have received land grants or pecuniary aid from Congress. The bill passed—ayes, 37; noes, 11.

HOUSE.

Cobb moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill repealing the pre-emption, timber culture and desert land Acts. Cobb and Payson supported the bill, and referred to frauds which had existed, as they averred, in entries of lands under the Acts which it was proposed to repeal, Payson declaring that during the past four years 90 per cent of the entries had been fraudulent.

Henley of California, opposed the bill, on the ground that while the desert land should be amended it should not be absolutely repealed.

Springer of Illinois said that under the pre-emption, timber culture and desert land laws vast areas of the public domain were being fraudently appropriated by cattle syndicates and foreign land grabbers. An English lord had recently acquired 6000 acres in Este's Park, Colorado, and this was but a sample of the manner in which the public domain was being taken up. If this bill were passed, the people's land would hereafter be held for people's homes.

On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill was agreed to, yeas 183, nays 40.

Delegate Voorhees of Washington Territory has introduced a bill which gives the Olympia Improvement Company the right to build a dam across Budd's Inlet, in the city of Olympia, on plans to be approved by the Secretary of War. The dam is to be provided with locks and draw for the passage of vessels, with a waste-weir for the passage of logs, and a fish-weir. It provides that Congress shall make an appropriation of $20,000, to aid the enterprise.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

Oregon.

Adams expects to erect a Baptist church before long.

A large number of buildings will be erected in Eugene City this summer.

Mr. Biddleman, of Yamhill county, has been taken to the insane asylum.

Nebraska sheep men have recently purchased 10,000 head of sheep in Crook county.

The John Day country is rapidly settling up, and there is but little government land left.

Wm. Fry, a 12-year old boy, had his leg broken at Aurora this week by falling off an embankment.

E. M. Savage met with a severe accident at Brooks last week by falling from a scaffold sixteen feet high.

Crops look well in Lane county, but are beginning to show the need of rain, especially late sown grain.

Ed Clinton disappeared from Salem between two days, taking with him property that did not belong to him.

The Heppner and Castle Rock telegraph line has been completed and communication is now open between the former place and Portland.

Chris. Hinkle died suddenly, while sitting in a chair, on Snake river, Baker county, last week. Some six years ago he received a gun shot, and it is thought his death was caused indirectly from the effect of the shot.

J. S. McCord, of Oregon City, has just received information that his daughter Blanche passed a brilliant examination before the teachers of the conservatory of music in Leipsic, Germany, at the commencement of the Easter term.

The Oregon Agricultural company has begun suit against Wallis Nash, second vice president of the Oregon Pacific railroad, in the United States circuit court, for its rightful half of about 60,000 acres of land. The land in question is situated between Corvallis and Yaquina bay.

East Oregonian: W. H. Babb's stable of horses arrived last Tuesday, and have gone into training on the E. O. A. A. track. The following horses comprise this stable: Bogus, Tom Daley, Duffy Winters and Diavolo. The last named is a two year old, lately purchased from the celebrated stock farm, Palo Alto, owned by Leland Stanford.

The Indian war veterans of Benton county organized and elected the following officers to serve one year: D. Carlisle, captain; John Moore, 1st lieutenant; Norm Lily, 2d lieutenant; E. Marple, orderly sergeant; A. Emrick, commissary sergeant; I. Kelsay, Carlisle, Marple and Archibald Johnson were chosen to attend the grand encampment at Oregon City, June 15, 1886.

Washington Territory.

Engineer Waller died suddenly at Seattle.

Walter Singer, aged 28, was drowned near Puyallup.

Rev. J. C. Fair, pastor of St. Peter's Episcopal church at Tacoma, has resigned.

Louis Hagan's furniture store at Sprague was destroyed by fire. Loss, $1500; insured for $500.

Bishop Paddock will erect a new hospital at Tacoma, as the one now in use has been found to be insufficient.

A two-year-old child of G. H. Holbrook, who resides on Penawawa creek, fell into a spring and was drowned.

Rev. E. R. Margatroyd, of Independence, has been called to take charge of the Presbyterian church of Tacoma.

Sergeant Smith's house, six miles from Walla Walla, was destroyed by fire last week. Loss $2000; insurance $1500.

Deputy United States commissioner at Juneau, Alaska, has been arrested and is on trial for not making proper returns of his office.

In Seattle last week, John Stone was married to Miss A. Chapman, just seven hours and twenty minutes after they first met.

Mark Teal, a Frenchman, committed suicide near Whitman station, recently during mental aberration. He was thrown from a horse the night before.

It is a common remark among old citizens of Colfax that the present year bespeaks more building and general prosperity and activity to that city than any previous year in its history.

Mrs. Leach, prominent residents of Coupeville, Island county, while out for a drive were thrown from their carriage. Mr. Leach is dangerously injured, and his wife's skull is fractured, making her recovery impossible.

The grand jury at Seattle, on the 4th, rendered a report completely exonerating Thomas Burke, F. Hanford, L. S. Banks and E. M. Carr, the members of the Home Guard who were charged with murder for having fired on the mob during the anti-Chinese riot last February.

Following are the officers of the Washington territory Pioneer's association for the ensuing year: President, H. G. Struve, of Seattle; first vice-president, J. G. Swan, of Port Townsend; second vice-president, C. H. Hale, of Olympia; secretary, Francis M. Henry, of Olympia; treasurer, G. A. Barnes, of Olympia; directors, Wm. McLain, of Olympia, and Hilory Butler, of Seattle. The society meets again at Seattle on the second Monday in October.

A portable military hospital, which formed part of the exhibit of Copenhagen at the New Orleans exposition, has been donated to the United States marine hospital.

Joseph F. Wilson, of Peoria, Illinois, who attained the rank of major in the union army, has been appointed on the soldiers' roll of the house of representatives, to succeed the late General Stannard of Vermont. He was disfigured for life at Fort Donaldson.

PITTSBURG, PA.—In an interview on the results of the Cleveland convention, General Master Workman Powderly stated that everything he asked was granted. Said he: "We had no law to limit the indiscriminate use of boycotts, and the entering into of ill-advised strikes. Now we have given to the executive committee or board power to intervene and ascertain the cause and effect of these moves before we sanction them. We reserve power to strike and boycott, because instances may arise when both are imperative, but they are the last resort, and are subject to limitation. There was no necessity of such strikes as the late outbreak in the southwest. That was without the consent of the executive board, but there was no legislation to enable it to act."

The public debt was reduced $8,828,556 during May.

IS IT REALLY CONSUMPTION?

Many a case supposed to be radical lung disease is really one of liver complaint and indigestion, but, unless that diseased liver can be restored to healthy action, it will so clog the lungs with corrupting matter as to bring on their speedy decay, and then indeed we have consumption, which is scrofula of the lungs, in its worst form. Nothing can be more happily calculated to nip this danger in the bud than is Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery." By druggists.

The military guard has been removed from Garfield's tomb.

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—Young artist—I think my picture is going to be accepted by the academy. Friend—You don't say so! Good. I am glad to hear it. Young artist—Jenkins told me to-day that while he was before the hanging committee my work was brought up for discussion. Jenkins said that the chairman, who has a great deal to say about these things, exclaimed very pronouncedly: 'O, hang that picture.' It looks very encouraging, doesn't it?"—*Tidbits.*

—De Jones—Miss Mimosa, who is that vulgar-looking woman over there by the mantel-piece? She looks like a regular firiffin. Miss Mimosa—Why, how you talk—that's my step-mother. De Jones—Oh, yes. Yes, to be sure. How silly of me. I ought to have been able to trace the family resemblance.—

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