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FRESH FROM GOTHAM

Latest Events in the Gay Eastern Metropolis

New York, Dec. 29.—Under the very eyes of the customs authorities smuggling is carried on to an enormous extent in New York harbor. The recent seizure of a quantity of valuable Lyrian lace in a bag of peas recalls the seizure of over fourteen pounds of opium some years ago in four bags of rice imported from Japan. The retired quartermaster of one of the well known liners told me a few days ago that on his ship an assistant steward each trip smuggled upwards of \$10,000 worth of uncut diamonds from London. An hour before the sailing of the ship in London, a man who purported to be his father would come on board with some underclothing wrapped in a piece of brown paper. This the assistant steward would carelessly throw on the deck and would receive from the man a small jar of shaving paste, and, to disarm suspicion, a razor strop. The diamonds were concealed in the paste, but the strange part of the story is that the jar was always left carelessly on the man's bunk and occasionally used by his birth mates. On arrival in New York, a shoemaker used to come on board looking for orders for repairs. The assistant steward had always made work for the supposed shoemaker and it was in the false heels of the shoes that the stones found their way ashore. This game was carried on for five years so successfully that the man was able to retire last year and purchase a fashionable hotel in the west end of London. My informant describes how opium is now smuggled into this country by several sailors who are making money at the business. A tin of this opium is half packed with the sugar to keep it from being detected here. The opium is smuggled out of London in a tin done up with the aid of a "rigger" fish which it is not until its arrival in London, when the "rigger" have some ink on it, that it is transferred to the ship and so finds its way here.

make it hot for him. He was brought to court and committed to the workhouse for six months. The court-keeper, after his conviction, questioned him and when he found the poor man was actually starving gave him a double portion of food. Sheely disposed of it ravenously and was very soon taken ill. Before the ambulance arrived he was dead, and the hospital doctor who made a post-mortem examination has stated that Sheely's stomach was so utterly deranged by starvation that the hearty meal he ate had been the cause of his death.

Two explosions, another murder, and hundreds of blackmailing letters have at last aroused Police Commissioner Bingham, who now announces that he will rout out the Black Hand from every corner of the city. The campaign commenced with the arrest of fourteen suspects, all of whom were found to be armed with either pistol or stiletto, and in some cases with both. A large force is to be organized and all houses suspected of harboring the suspected Sicilians will be raided.

The heirs of an ancient Van Horn have commenced proceedings against the city to recover property roughly estimated to value \$500,000,000. The claim affects half the city in the Bronx direction and its revival by the descendants of Van Horn will give work to lawyers innumerable. The family bible on which the Van Horn heirs are pinning their faith is now in the possession of Dr. S. W. Lamereux of Stroudsburg, Pa., who

worked in the city with great success. In one case the operators keep their eyes on the society columns of newspapers and make notes of the names and addresses of persons who are visiting out of town. When a woman returned home she was called on by one of the grafters, who said he was a relative of an intimate friend of the person whom she had been visiting. He is generally received and finds opportunity to confide to his hostess that he was short of traveling expenses and would return the amount of a loan as soon as possible. Those men who live on the credulity of the people to make a fat living are a great menace to society, as they are well educated and dress in the height of fashion. The second system has worked even better. Two men with slightly foreign accent have visited all the fashionable Roman Catholic houses up town soliciting subscriptions for the feeding of the poor. They produced a forged authority from several high church dignitaries, and so successful were their operations that the police estimate they collected over \$14,000 in six weeks.

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MABEL STANDISH WITH THE JOHN GRIFFITH COMPANY.

took it for a debt thirty years ago, having doctored a Van Horn, and it was only recently discovered that the bible was worth half a billion, as patents granted in the year 1666 were found in it. The patents show that the land was granted to Abraham Van Horn, who died in 1700, by Richard Nicolls and Thomas Dongan, governors of the colony.

Prof. J. G. Adami, a scientist of this city, states that he will in a short time conclusively prove that man is not dust, but is made entirely of soap. Prof. Adami is in dead earnest. There are scattered throughout the human body, he says, an unknown number of globules called "myelin," which are now believed to be the primitive form of true soap. It is the only pure type of soap on earth and the scientist says it may be that man was originally constructed on a self-cleaning principle. The soapy nature of human beings has been discovered by means of the polarizing microscope. Professor Adami gives a history of the curious researches which led up to the great "find." Fifty years ago Vichrow stumbled on the presence of myelin globules in nearly every tissue of the body. They were plentiful in the brain and dissolved in hot alcohol, but strong alkalis caused them to shrink. It was not until 1898 it was discovered they possessed peculiar refractive power. Finally, Professor Loblet of Karlsruhe made an elaborate study of globules, and showed under the polarizing microscope they had queer cross markings and were in reality "liquid crystals" showing precisely the same markings as soap globules. This was considered sufficient to demonstrate their identity with soap. The myelin, or soap globules, seem to contain a remarkable substance indeterminate between fluids and crystals.

A Natural Result.

It is very reasonable to suppose if the foundation of a structure was removed that the building itself is bound to come down. This same principle can be applied to disease. Take medicine into the system that will remove the cause of sickness, and illness will leave itself. Dyspepsia, indigestion, sick headache and biliousness have their foundation in stomach disorders. Remove this weakness and the other symptoms are no more. There is one cure for all this that all druggists sell for 25c per box, it is Dr. Gunn's Improved Liver Pills. They get right at the beginning of these diseases and make the cure by taking away the cause.

American Wedding in Japan.

Tokio, Dec. 29.—Pines, palms, bamboo and plum and cherry blossoms festooned and decorated the American embassy here today, the gala occasion being the marriage of Miss Hallie Erminie Rives and Mr. Post Wheeler. The ceremony was performed by Dr. McKim, the American bishop of Japan, and was attended by the elite of Tokio. All the guests received invitations from the American ambassador in Japan and Mrs. Wright. Miss Rives is a conspicuous figure among Southern American authors, and one of her books, "Hearts Courageous," was dramatized in Philadelphia a few years ago. She has occupied a prominent place in American society, and has traveled extensively. Though born in Christian county, Kentucky, she comes of old Virginia stock, of which she is very proud, the Virginia Rives having been settled in the old dominion since 1645. She was brought up to the "simple life" outdoors, hunting, fishing and shooting, almost like a boy, by her father, Col. Stephen Rives, and is as fine a

Cold Weather Ahead!

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horsewoman and shot as she is a writer. Many of the pictures of Miss Rives which have found their way into print depict her on "L'empire," her favorite horse. She owns a hunting lodge in the Virginia Alleghenies which she has christened "Moonshine," since a United States marshal, mistaking it for an illicit still, rode down the hillside to raid it. Miss Rives' literary career commenced when she was 15. Then she wrote "Fool in Spots," which netted \$1,000. Her next work was "Smoking Flax" in 1896, a novel of southern life

dealing with the question of lynch law. In 1900 appeared "A Furnace of Earth," a sex problem story, and in 1902, "Hearts Courageous." This historical novel had colonial Philadelphia for the setting of many of the scenes, and old maps and documents in the library of Pennsylvania were closely studied by her. Mr. Wheeler is second secretary of the American embassy. He studied medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, but abandoned it for literature. He spent some time among the Gudakh Indians in the Arctic re-

gions and has written interesting descriptions of them. He is a well-known magazine writer and amongst his works are "Reflections of a Bachelor." For his best man, Mr. Wheeler had a Japanese count, who is a member of the house of peers, and who was a college chum of his in America. The embassy was draped with American and Japanese flags, while the windows were decorated with camellias and white ivis. After the ceremony Ambassador and Mrs. Wright held a reception at the embassy.



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