

A CRUEL FATE.

Rochester (N.Y.) Union.

GEN. H. W. SLOCUM recently delivered a lecture in Brooklyn, on events of the great struggle, during the course of which he expressed the opinion, always held by the *Union*, that Mrs. Surratt was a murdered woman. He said:—

"I am going to speak to you one word about the execution of Mrs. Surratt at the close of the war, for I think some good lesson can be learned from the story of her trial and death. I believe any people situated as we were ought to be cautioned against placing implicit confidence in evidence given at a time of high excitement. I could stand here to-night and relate to you fifty incidents that would serve to caution everybody against taking evidence against others when the people were all in a state of intense excitement. There never was a day, there never was an hour, that I did not believe that Mrs. Surratt was an innocent woman as there is in this hall (applause). She was the keeper of a boarding-house in Washington. She boarded Wilkes Booth and half-a-dozen other rebel sympathisers, and she had a son, John H. Surratt. Wilkes Booth was guilty of shooting Mr. Lincoln, and this poor woman was brought to trial in connection with Wilkes Booth, and, through the excitement of the times, her neck was brought to the halter. Her daughter, a young girl, eighteen or nineteen years of age, on the morning of the execution, went to the President's room and begged permission to speak to him on behalf of her mother, and a United States senator from our own State, who acted as door-tender, repulsed her, saying, 'No, no, you cannot go in.' Worse than that, meaner than that, the poor girl, three or four years afterward, married a clerk in the Treasury Department. No charges were made against him, but because this clerk had married the daughter of Mrs. Surratt, he was discharged. Let us brag of our achievements, but, at the same time, let us learn to look our faults and errors fairly and squarely in the face, and acknowledge them when we have cause to.

The murder of Mrs. Surratt was the most cruel and cowardly act ever committed in any civilized country. It is a curious and suggestive fact that all who were chiefly responsible for the execution of that innocent woman, have felt the unseen hand of the Great Avenger. Stanton, Secretary of War, who was, perhaps, the worst of the number, committed suicide in a fit of remorse, although the fact was sought to be concealed. Preston King, the senator from New York, who repulsed Annie Surratt, at the President's door, in like manner ended his own life by deliberately jumping from a ferry-boat into the North River at New York, and drowning himself. Andrew Johnson, who signed the death warrant, and despotically suspended the writ of *habeas corpus* that had been granted by the court, was stricken suddenly with death upon his return to the senate, after he had left the presidency. Judge Advocate Holt, who conducted the prosecution, long ago disappeared from public view, and whether dead or alive nobody knows and nobody cares. And John A. Bingham, who assisted Holt, was driven from Congress in disgrace, as one of the Credit Mobilier bribe-takers, and sought refuge in Japan, where, we believe, he now is."

HONESTY OF DUBLIN CABMEN.

In the criminal statistics of Dublin, recently published, there is an item which deserves special mention. It records the extraordinary honesty of Dublin cabmen, a class of men who are hard worked, poorly paid, and much abused. The Dublin Jarvey usually gets credit for being a sharp deceiver, and extorting unlawful fare from passengers; the following figures, however, will prove much in favour of the honesty of the men:—

More than three-fourths of the articles lost in Dublin cabs in the year were brought to the Castle-yard police office by the drivers, and the articles thus given up included gold rings, bracelets, guns, revolvers, opera glasses, and other articles of much value. More than this, thirteen sovereigns and sixteen half-sovereigns, given by fares, in mistake for shillings and sixpences, were brought to the Castle by the drivers.

In the year 1878 there were within the police district 2,703 licensed vehicles, being an increase of 382 as compared with the year 1877; these vehicles consisted of 1,112 hackney carriages, 864 cabriolets (including 64 phaetons), 131 job carriages, and 96 stage carriages (90 of the latter are tram cars). There were 2,830 licensed drivers, being an increase of 260 as compared with the year 1877.

During the year there were 1,088 articles of property surrendered to the police by drivers, of which number 601 articles were claimed by and given up to the owners at the police office, and 5 at the different station houses, making a total of 606 articles claimed. The remainder were sent to the police store, Lower Castle Yard. The articles surrendered included 477 umbrellas, 3 clocks, 2 gold rings, 3 bracelets, and other articles of jewellery, 2 guns, 1 revolver, 1 case of surgical instruments, 4 hand muffs, 14 shawls, and 19 opera glasses; 13 sovereigns and 16 half-sovereigns were received by drivers in mistake for silver coins, and were surrendered; 5 of the sovereigns and 1 half-sovereign were claimed by and given up to owners; the remainder were sent into store. In twenty-five instances, bank notes, gold, and silver, amounting in all to £54 11s. 9d. (exclusive of the foregoing, were found in vehicles), and surrendered by the drivers. These were all claimed except £4 3s. 8d., which was sent into store. Recipients of property left rewards for drivers surrendering same to the amount of £16 15s. 9d., during the year. The police on carriage duty, in the course of their inquiries after property, ascertained that the drivers had surrendered direct to owners 1 diamond bracelet, 1 gold locket, 1 opera glass, 9 umbrellas, 3 portmanteaus, 10 hand bags, 2 boxes, 6 coats, 1 sword, 1 shawl, 1 rug, 1 clock, 1 writing case, 2 cases of furs, 1 purse, containing 10s., and 11 other articles which had been forgotten in their vehicles, in addition to those above mentioned.

General News.

The Black Hills have a newspaper called *The Up Gulch Shorter*. Mgr. Capel, it is said, has had an offer to go on a lecturing tour through the United States, during which he will preach in aid of his pet scheme of higher Catholic education.

Of the twenty-five Generals who hold the highest appointments in the French army thirteen served in the infantry, eight in the general staff, two in the cavalry, and two in the engineers; the artillery being, therefore, the only arm of the service which is not represented among the officers filling the most important post in the army. The average age of the twenty-five Generals is between fifty-eight and fifty-nine years, the oldest being General de Cissy, who is sixty-nine, and the youngest two being General Davoust, chief of the general staff, and General de Gallifet, commanding the Ninth Corps, neither of the latter being yet fifty years of age. Altogether, the officers holding the highest appointments in the French army are, as a body, younger than those in a like position in any other European force. The youngest officer, General de Gallifet, is one of those who have seen most service. In the Crimea he was mentioned in an order of the day for his gallant conduct at the capture of the Russian redoubts before Sebastopol. In the Mexican war he was again mentioned in an order of the day for his gallantry at Puebla, when he was severely wounded, and at Sedan he led the famous charge of cavalry, which is said to have excited the warm admiration of King William.

There is a terrible famine in many villages in the valley of the Nile. Where it is worst nothing seems to have been done. At Belyaneh, Bagour Han, and such towns, the people have been and are starving in utter neglect. Sitting in the fields and the open streets, many of them have been supporting themselves for days on sorrel and the foul refuse from the cane factories. All human feelings are lost, and in trying to distribute a few morsels of bread at Belyaneh, the stronger tore it from the lips of those weaker than themselves, and struggled till exhausted for the merest scrap. At Idfoos there lay an old woman by the bank, with the water washing half over her, too weak to move or speak. Her eyes were sunk into her head, and her whole skin was like dried parchment from the sun. Her body was shrivelled to the size of an apple. She could not swallow, except by outside artificial friction, while another woman forced the food down her throat. This was no uncommon case, women and children, from their smaller strength, affording the most ghastly spectacles of the march of famine.

The facility with which divorce can be obtained in Germany has seldom been more strikingly shown than in a case lately before the courts, a short time ago a young lady, being desirous of finding a husband advertised for one in a newspaper, stating, as an inducement to a any suitable man who might come forward, that she possessed a fortune of 6,000 marks, or about £300. A young man who had been educated for a mercantile career, read the invitation and answered it; but being shrewd and cautious, he refused to marry the young lady until the 6,000 marks were produced, as it was his intention to buy with them a business, on the proceeds of which he and his intended wife would live. Ultimately, however, the wiles of the young lady appear to have prevailed against the caution of the young man, for the marriage took place without the money being produced, but not until the lady had solemnly promised that the 6,000 marks should be paid to her husband eight days after the wedding day. The day of payment arrived, and then the newly married husband received from an old friend of his wife the dowry, consisting, however, not of 6,000 but of 600 marks only. Deeply hurt, the husband determined to appeal to the law for redress, and prayed that his marriage may be declared null and void because of the deceit which had been practised upon him. Evidence having been given to prove that had the plaintiff known that his wife had not 6,000 marks he would not have married her, the judge decided in his favour, and the marriage was declared to be null and void.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

The following is an extract from an article which appeared in the *Paris Pays*—M. Paul de Cassagnac's organ—in reply to an attack made in the Chamber of Deputies by M. Jean David on the validity of M. de Cassagnac's election:—"Tall, thin, bony, with a yellow beard, prematurely bent, the grimaacing head of a non-liberated convict, he moved about for an hour his long arms and his stooping spine. . . . Jean David perspired, turned pale, gesticulated. His mouth seemed full of gravel. From time to time, with despairing air, he turned towards the President, claiming the help of his bell, and the president was deaf to his prayer. People chatted, whispered, laughed, and Jean David frantically drank two or three draughts of water. . . . Nobody replied to M. Jean David. His ironmonger's talk excited only disdain. This Jack-pudding. . . . though he had read his speech, gave himself the air of going after the sitting to correct his proof, as if he had indulged in an extemporization, of which he is incapable. His sole object was, no doubt, to correct his mistakes in spelling.

Cavalier Michel Steffano de Rossi has perfected some instruments useful for the study of volcanoes. His microphone has lately proved most valuable in Naples. Professor Palmieri, the Vesuvian specialist, says the apparatus was so delicate and complete that truly remarkable results were obtained. Cavalier de Rossi went to Naples this autumn, to compare with the records at Vesuvius the results he had obtained during the summer in his Sismico observatory at Rocca di Papa, where with his own especial microphone he could hear the agitation produced by the interior forces of the earth during the bursting forth of the eruption at Vesuvius. De Rossi also visited the solfatara at Pozzuoli, and by his microphone the internal labour of the volcano was heard in such a surprising manner and with such noise that every one present during the examination was startled. Cavalier de Rossi will give an account of these interesting facts in a publication which he is preparing, "*Bulletino di Vulcanismo Italiano*." In this work he will show to the scientific world how well he has made the old earth talk to him.