

VICTIMS OF CHEAP LITERATURE.

(Associated Press.)

SINCE the morning of July 31 last two prominent members of the "Prairie Rangers," a juvenile society organized for the purpose of hunting buffaloes and grizzly bears and killing Indians, have been missing. The "Rangers" have usually met in the vicinity of Eleventh and Buttonwood streets, Philadelphia, every night to compare notes, lay plans for future action, and make exchanges of "nickel libraries," which delectable literature they eagerly purchase and greedily devour. There have been only a few meetings of the "Rangers" this month, and they were clandestine. On the last day of July little George Hughes, a "Ranger," twelve years old, who lives with his mother at No. 1, 031 Nectarine street, bade the latter good bye before she left for her work in an up town carpet mill and went around to the house of his particular friend and fellow "Ranger," Master Mark McCloskey, thirteen years old, who lived with his widowed mother at No. 21 Gossamer avenue. Mark worked in an Eighth street shoe store, and his chum waited for him at the head of the avenue. When he finally came out they were joined by another "Ranger," Master Freddy Snyder, who lives at No. 1 043 Buttonwood street. The three walked toward Eighth and Market streets, and on the road Ranger Hughes displayed 100 50cts., and invited his fellow-scouts to accompany him on a grand holiday jaunt to New York to take in the Grant funeral, after which they would catch bluefish at Cape May and tumble among the breakers on the beach at Atlantic City. "It's too hot to kill grizzlies and buffaloes," said Ranger Hughes argumentatively, "and the Indians are all quiet. You fellows come 'long with me and we'll have a bully time." Ranger McCloskey, who worked hard every day and was obliged to hand in his weekly wages to his widowed mother, thought favourably of the scheme, and after some hesitation consented to accompany Ranger Hughes. Ranger Snyder had several times before started out to seek his fortune, and his ventures had always resulted disastrously. He shook his head when invited to be one of the party, and positively declined to leave Philadelphia. His fellow-Rangers therefore swore him to secrecy and started upon their journey.

"I didn't want to take in no 'scursion to New York on a dollar and fifty cents for three fellers," said Ranger Snyder. "When I start out I want plenty of money to buy rations and things. Mark and George were just dead set on going though, and it was no use trying to talk 'em out of it. They made me swear to keep mum about it, and I did until that piece come out in the papers about Georgie this morning. Then I told all I knew about it."

When they did not return to their homes that night their mothers made an anxious and fruitless search for them. The next day the search was renewed, and the day following Mrs. McCloskey advertised her son as missing in one of the morning papers. "Mark was always a good boy," she said to a reporter, "and so well liked by the people at the store where he worked that I could not imagine what had become of him. He went away that morning in good spirits and kissed me good-bye. I'm afraid my poor boy is dead, and I shall never see him again. I have hunted for him everywhere and last week went to New York and Brooklyn to see if I could not find some trace of him." Ranger Hughes's mother was obliged to work at the factory every day, but she shed tears over her absent boy and prayed for his safety. This morning she received a letter from Chief of Police Murphy, of Jersey City, informing her that the wandering Ranger had been found, and was in custody there awaiting her orders. She took the first train for New York, and to-night returned with the truant. He was picked up in Jersey City by a police officer last Monday morning, from whom he inquired the most direct road to Philadelphia. When interrogated Ranger Hughes gave his correct name and his mother's address, and in addition related a most thrilling tale of kidnapping, of which he was the victim, claiming that he and an elder brother had been forcibly abducted from Camden on Thursday morning last by two strange men. He is a brazen and sly little chap. When asked why he told so many lies to the Jersey police he said: "Well, I thought I'd give 'em a stiff." He says Mark McCloskey went off with a sailor to be a pirate.

The fact that Carter and Co., of George street, are the only Drapers in Dunedin doing a strictly Cash Trade who import their own Goods direct from Home Markets, is the one cause of their being able to sell cheaper than any other firm. Carter and Co. have just opened, ex s.s. Coptic and Kakoura, 16 cases Men's and Boys' Clothing, and in consequence of the desperate scarcity of ready money, they have decided to offer the whole lot, for a few weeks, at landed cost. Therefore call, inspect, and judge for yourselves. Carter and Co., 60 and 62 George street, Dunedin.

Cardinal Sanfelice, Archbishop of Naples, has had the happiness, lately denied to the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, of receiving the dying recantations of a great soul. Veia, senator, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Naples, and holder of several professorships elsewhere, had spent a long intellectual life in disobedience to the teaching of the Catholic Church. Hearing of his dangerous illness, Cardinal Sanfelice went unbidden to his house, was readily admitted, and found that the insistent presence of death had forced the mind of Veia to an intimate reconsideration. The sick man died in great peace in the Cardinal's arms.

Victory rests with the sturdy men of Limerick! They have fought a good fight and won a signal triumph. On Tuesday Sir R. G. Hamilton, on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant, wrote to Mr. Charles Dawson, M.P., as foreman of the Grand Jury of the city of Limerick, informing him that, after giving the matter due consideration, Lord Carnarvon found himself able to revoke the proclamation of the city. The revocation involves, we suppose, the withdrawal of the extra police, so that we may take it that the next question of the police-tax is now at an end. We would not be surprised to hear that Earl Spencer failed to find any pleasure in reading this announcement.—*Nat. n. August 8.*

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

It is understood the Government have received further letters from King Mahetoa, urging the annexation of Samoa to New Zealand, and stating that unless New Zealand intervenes a serious civil war is almost certain to break out in the kingdom at a very early date.

The *Daily Times'* Criffel correspondent writes under date September 17:—With the exception of a paltry find or two, the report of which is scarcely credible, though scores of shafts have been sunk and bottomed, no fresh finds are reported. Though many come, as many go. The intense cold has struck terror into many of the new comers, causing them to beat a hurried retreat, while others leave the field, so they say, from sheer disgust, for the gold on Criffel needs finding. Many parties have vigorously prospected, but with no result, and they have been watched by others, and all agree that things look blue. As I said before, the gold on Criffel runs, in narrow strips, leads, and runs, sometimes but a few feet wide, and is very hard to pick up and trace. It is far too cold yet to think of prospecting Pi-a, but miners are of opinion that the gold came off its northern slopes. There are all sorts of opinions afloat about the claim of the Salvationists—some pronounce it a duffer, but the holders are very reticent. Though duffer shafts have been bottomed on three sides of them, Moylan's rich claim is on the other; their shaft is much the deepest, so they may have struck a gutter. A lot more country has been riddled with duffers since I wrote my last. The firm of M'Dougall and Sons and Mr. Monticoh, of Albertown, are erecting stores on the field. There are plenty of storekeepers and other residents of the locality to supply the miners on the field, and, according to present appearances, likely to be for some time; and I should advise business men from a distance who intend to build upon this field to count the cost beforehand, and to do nothing rashly.

It is considered likely in official circles that His Holiness the Pope will be asked to arbitrate on the Caroline Islands question.

Sixty thousand Russian troops are at Kars in Armenia.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran is now at Naples. He will have further interviews with His Holiness the Pope, and is expected to sail for Australia about the end of the month.

The disturbances which have been rife in some parts of Sicily owing to the precautionary measures to guard against the cholera are diminishing, and the attitude of the populace is becoming calmer.

Intelligence is at hand stating that a force of Abyssinian troops numbering 8000 started on the 15th inst. to the relief of the garrison at Kassala.

The Turkish Government have issued a circular to the European Powers protesting against the action of Prince Alexander of Bulgaria in recognising the revolutionary party in Roumelia. The Porte further refers to the clause in the Treaty of Berlin, which allows the Turks to use military force to suppress disorder within their boundaries. It is announced that a considerable body of troops is assembled on the Turkish-Roumelia frontier, but in deference to the wishes of Germany and Russia, they have not as yet been brought into action. It is announced that the Servian army is being mobilised. Considerable disaffection exists among the population of Albania, and symptoms of rebellion have been manifested. The Czar has forbidden any of his subjects to enlist as Volunteers, and has also ordered all Russian officers at present in the service of Bulgaria to resign their commands forthwith. England advises the Porte to endeavour to amicably arrange the matter. The Austrian Government are willing that Turkey should suppress the revolt.

SATURDAY.

Another victim to cran was reported to the Auckland Education Board at its last meeting, in the death of a district scholar, Miss Ann Browning, aged 12 years. The young lady won a scholarship last year. Immediately after passing her annual examination this year she was attacked by brain fever and carried off.

Arrangements are proceeding in the matter of competing by road carriage against the railway for shipping goods from the Bluff to Invercargill. The County Council have let the work of renewing culverts on road in view of the traffic, and as the road is a sound one, and little used hitherto, the combination of merchants to oppose the high railway rates are sanguine of being able to bring goods cheaper than by rail. Numerous offers to do the cartage have been received.

Mr. Porteral, a dairyman at Auckland, was attacked by a large dog, which caught him by the throat and forced him backward to the ground, where he was severely bitten. He struggled for 15 minutes, until the dog, foaming and biting, fell dead, and Porteral, in an exhausted state, was removed to his residence. The owner of the dog has not been discovered.

It is announced that Germany and Spain have mutually agreed to accept the mediation of His Holiness the Pope in the settlement of the difficulty which has arisen as to the occupation of the Caroline Islands.

24,000 Christians have been massacred in Anam.

The Bulgarian National Assembly, which is sitting at Sofia, has voted 5,000,000*l.* for the purpose of sustaining the action of Prince Alexander, and a state of siege has been declared throughout Bulgaria. Troops de-patched by the Sultan to restore order have appeared at Philippopolis.

England has proposed to the European Powers that matters in regard to Turkey and the revolutionary States shall be restored to the *status quo*, and a conference on the subject has been virtually arranged. The Turkish Ministry has been remodelled. Kaimil Pasha has been appointed Grand Vizier and President of the Council in place of Said Pasha.

MONDAY.

The Round Hill correspondent of the *Riverton Star* writes:—Sluicing operations are in full swing, and taking the average of all the claims