

SHERIFF TAMSEN DEFENDS HIMSELF.

Believes That He Has Been the Object of a Conspiracy.

Escape of Russell, Killoran and Allen a Put Up Job, He Says.

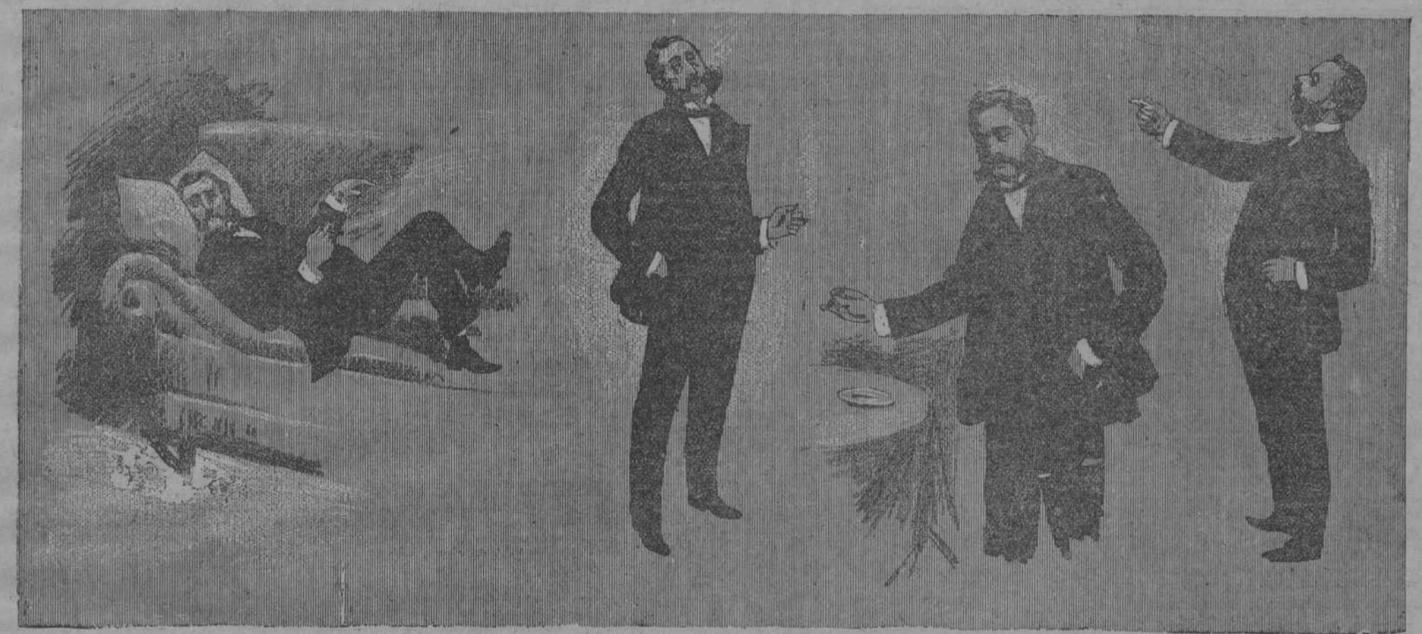
Declares Vosburg's Story of Smuggled Pistols in the Jail to Be False.

SAYS ARCHIBALD WAS DRUGGED.

Discusses the Charges Now Pending Before the Governor and Expresses His Faith in Mr. Morton's Fair Dealing.

For the first time since he assumed the direction of his office, Sheriff Edward J. H. Tamsen yesterday spoke freely to a newspaper man of his official life, and the troubles that have environed him, and still exist to worry him. The interview was held in the parlor of the Sheriff's house at No. 331 East Eighteenth street, and for nearly two hours he rehearsed the various incidents that have made his incumbency of office unusually sensational and memorable.

CHARACTERISTIC ATTITUDES OF SHERIFF TAMSEN DURING AN INTERVIEW.



"Yes, there was bribery." "I never had any political ambition."

"I wish to say, positively, that I believe the escape from Ludlow Street Jail of Russell, Killoran and Allen, the post office robbers, last Fourth of July, was the result of a put up job. No, I do not care to explain that remark, but I am convinced that a well laid conspiracy was at the bottom of it, and some of those involved were more desirous of injuring me than aiding the prisoners. Why I should have been selected for such a despicable act I cannot conceive. I have been a reputable business man and citizen of this city for many years, and I believed that I had earned the good will and esteem of the community.

"I never had any political ambition. After I had, by close attention to business, accumulated a competency, I indulged my tastes in public affairs by taking an interest in politics, and regularly contributed to campaign funds. That was not done, though with the hope of any reward.

"To return to the famous escape from Ludlow Street Jail, I want to say that the charges that I was neglectful in not personally supervising its administration are unfounded, and possibly are malicious. The visitors' book will show that I have visited the jail at least fifty times, and not one of my predecessors ever went there half a dozen times during his incumbency of the Sheriff's office, and some of them did not visit it even once. When I appointed Raabe warden I considered him an honest man, and I believe him to be so now. McCabe, who was a Tammany man, was the only old keeper retained. I wanted to get rid of him, but Raabe begged me to let him remain, as the man had been there for nine years, and thoroughly understood all the details of the management of the place.

"No Pistols Used." "Now, as to that escape, I will say to you, for the first time, that the robbers had no pistols. All the stories about pistols being placed at the head of the keepers I am convinced are false. All that part of Bill Vosburg's story about bringing in pistols to the prisoners was made up out of whole cloth.

"Then there must have been bribery?" was suggested. "Yes," replied the Sheriff,

leaning back on the lounge, "there was bribery." Instantly straightening up and throwing out two fingers of his left hand, he added:

"I can place my hand on the two men who took the money. A thousand dollars is a tempting sum to a prison keeper whose year's salary is only that much."

Schneer and Schoen were the two keepers on duty when the robbers escaped, and McCabe was in another part of the jail.

"You remember," continued the Sheriff, "that the door entering from the reception room, through which the prisoners escaped, was a wooden one, with glass panes, and all they had to do to smash the glass and open the door. That is all changed now. I have placed an iron grating there running to the ceiling, thus preventing any similar escape in future.

"There is not one person in Ludlow Street Jail to-day who was there last July. I have taken other precautions by readjusting the entire system of management. All prisoners, those confined on civil process and those sent by the United States authorities, are now locked in their cells at 7 o'clock every evening, and there are no boarders. Heretofore the boarders and the civil prisoners claimed that it was their right to remain up until 10 o'clock at night, if they so desired, and they were permitted to do so. No card games, no revelry are allowed in the jail now. I examined the law carefully before I took this move.

"There are now in the jail fifty-six prisoners, forty of whom are United States prisoners—a larger percentage of the latter than the jail ever contained before, I presume, except possibly during the war. Some of these men, I understand, are

ed him warden. I had never heard of his being a drinking man, and I don't believe now that he was drunk that night when he was arrested. I am convinced that he was deliberately drugged as I am that I am talking to you.

"Let me say, that I hope I am not conveying the impression that the series of circumstances that have occurred during my administration are the results of plots or organized conspiracy against me individually, and that I am complaining. I do believe that some of the incidents were occasioned by conspiracy, but I am not of the whining kind. I am perfectly able to protect myself, and shall do so.

"My trial before Judge Allison wiped out my first year's salary. That, however, I accept as the fortune of war, or politics, as you may see fit to describe it. This bother and the worry was worse than the cost.

"Now there comes these accusations against me by a few up-town gentlemen, led by Henry Grasse, a lawyer whose acquaintance I do not enjoy. As I understand it, he induced some of his fellow members of the Lenox Republican Club to sign the petition to the Governor, and when he found that he couldn't get a respectable number of members to join him, he went outside of the club for recruits. As those charges include the escape of Russell, Allen and Killoran from Ludlow Street Jail, that question will have to be gone over again, I suppose. But I will be able to introduce testimony and facts before a commission that I could not do before a jury. I haven't the slightest idea of ever being tried again on that indictment for misdemeanor. It will most certainly be dismissed.

"Discusses Auction Fees." "The other specifications in the petition to the Governor do not trouble me a particle. These gentlemen ask for my removal because the auctioneer of the Sheriff

charges 5 per cent for his fees instead of 2 1/2 per cent. Half a dozen court decisions have said that 5 per cent was the legal fee, and there is only one decision, I believe, making it 2 1/2 per cent. The final determination rests with the courts, and I do not consider that I have violated any law or any rule. Mr. Grasse once said in an interview that I had refused his representatives of himself access to the Sheriff's books. All there is to that is that the auditor of the office saw a man at his books one day and asked him what he wanted.

"None of your business," replied the man. "These books were not for public inspection, but the auditor, without leaving his temper, said:

"If you will tell me what you want, I'll try to find it for you."

"None of your business," again replied the man, and the auditor quietly took possession of the books.

"Parishan Aspect of Charges." "There is one element of danger, it is true, in these present charges presented to the Governor. I refer to their parishan aspect. I am not a Republican, and Mr. Grasse has said that he thinks that as the State administration is Republican, and responsible for good government, a Republican should be placed in the Sheriff's office in New York. It being a State office, that is a candid admission of partisanship, but it does not alarm me. I believe Governor Morton to be a high-minded, conservative man, and am perfectly willing to have him adjudicate upon my case. All I ask is fair and impartial treatment. That, I am sure, the best element in New York will accord me."

"HAD BLUE LAWS THERE, TOO." New York Contractors Forced to Stop Sunday Work in Connecticut.

New London, Conn., Jan. 19.—Ridgeway & Chapman, of Broadway, New York, ran up against the Connecticut Blue laws to-day when they put a gang of men to work upon an excavation for the Munsey building.

The site of the building is on State street, close to the Common, and the First Baptist Church is fully one hundred feet in going to other churches. A complaint was made to the Mayor that the work was contrary to law, and he appeared on the scene and stopped the work. The contractors agreed to have a seven-story building ready by May, and they are rushing the work day and night.

"A MYSTERY IN HER DEATH." The Body of an Unknown Woman Found on Willow Island.

Middletown, Conn., Jan. 19.—A fisherman found the body of a woman on the north end of Willow Island to-day. The woman was about forty-five years old and was dressed in coarse clothing, without shoes or stockings.

She had evidently been in the water three weeks, as she was covered with ice chips and bits of wood. Her hands were clenched and held over her face as if warding off a blow. The clothing had been washed over the head and frozen. An autopsy will be held to-morrow to determine whether or not she was murdered.

VENGEANCE OF THE MAFIA.

Another Victim Murdered Because He Was Supposed to Be an Informer.

Thomas Delesky the Fourth to Suffer a Traitor's Death at the Hands of the Order.

NINE MEN JAILED FOR THE CRIME. The Little Village of Luzerneborough, Pa., Started by Another Brutal Killing—The Victim's Head Chopped Off.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 19.—The recent arrests of several members of the Mafia in the lower end of this county have caused friends of the gang to deal out summary vengeance on men they suspect of giving information to the officers. Three have already been killed, and a fourth was brutally murdered this morning at Luzerneborough, near here. The victim is Thomas Delesky, and nine men have been arrested and jailed for complicity in the crime.

In Luzerneborough is a Hungarian settlement known as "Red Row." One of the houses in the row is kept by Mike Rejana as a boarding-house, where sometimes Hungarians and Italians live. Rejana and some of his particular friends were celebrating yesterday and sat drinking and talking far into the night. Shortly before day-break this morning one of the half drunken men told Rejana that he suspected Thomas Delesky, a new boarder, of being one of the informers. Delesky had gone to Rejana's house a few days ago from the

lower end of the county and this fact, together with the quiet manner of the young man, lent color to the suspicion.

The men had been drinking polinsky all night, and were just in the humor for a fight. Added to this, Rejana's brother had been arrested and jailed with some of the Mafia gang, and Rejana had more than once expressed the wish that he could get his fingers on the throat of an informer.

When his friend suggested that Delesky was one, Rejana swore to kill him. The young man was dragged from his bed and pulled downstairs with scant ceremony. There he was kicked and buffeted around, and finally accused of running away from the lower county because he was afraid he would be killed by friends of the Mafia for giving information to the constables.

Delesky protested his innocence, but the men were in no humor to believe him. These are all the facts the police have from evidence of occupants of the house, the rest they gleaned from circumstantial evidence.

SEVERED HIS HEAD IN TWAIN. About 7 o'clock in the morning the body of Delesky was found lying in the road. His head was cut nearly in half by two cuts commencing at the forehead and extending to the ears, and there were cuts on his face and shoulders. The body lay on the road for three hours, until the Luzerne constable, bearing the news from some boys, took the body away, and an hour later they pulled the place. At Rejana's house eight men besides the proprietor were arrested. Rejana was in bed, slowly dying. Under the bed was found a blunt and rusty hatchet, covered with fresh blood, and Rejana's shirt and trousers were spotted with blood. Blood was also found on the clothes of the other men. They all refused to speak, and were jailed without bail.

It looks as if he was held by one while another dealt deadly blows with the hatchet.

GOTHAM'S GUESTS. H. Sellers McKee, of Pittsburg; H. W. Watson and John J. Miburn, of Buffalo, and Robert C. Pruyn, of Albany, are registered at the Hotel Waldorf.

HOLLAND HOUSE—General S. E. Marvin, Albany; John A. Thompson, Chicago; D. C. Bull, St. Louis; A. W. Shaw, Chicago; G. Gordon Knox, St. Louis; B. C. Hawkins, Chicago; G. L. Bradley, Washington, D. C.; F. H. Hoy, Chicago; L. Rehrman, Cady, St. Louis; J. T. Hayden, New Orleans.

IMPERIAL HOTEL—W. G. Purdy, Chicago; Miss A. M. Wren, San Francisco; Maurice Seffrine, Mexico; W. D. Oliver, Chicago; A. A. Noble, Buffalo; C. B. Wing, Cincinnati; R. H. Warren, Baltimore; Daniel Stern, Chicago; J. S. Moody, Buffalo; W. H. Chamberlain, Chicago.

GILSEY HOUSE—H. C. Sibley, Elmira; A. Baxter, Grand Rapids; Miss I. Christo, Galveston; F. P. Thomas, Cleveland; G. W. Horne, Chicago; C. H. Goodrich, Chicago.

BRENSWICK—W. T. Andrews, Boston; M. C. Byers, Pittsburg; W. A. Lutz, Buffalo; J. M. Rogers, Chicago; G. E. Bates, Syracuse.

ALBEMARLE—H. Calver, Washington, D. C.; L. G. Bastedo, Chicago; E. L. Parker, Boston; H. May, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. F. May, Washington, D. C.

ST. JAMES—H. H. Plant, Boston; C. D. Curdler, Chicago; J. D. Martin, Boston; G. W. H. Chamberlain, Chicago; L. Hodges, Philadelphia; J. Bigelow, Boston; A. T. Martin, Boston.

HOFFMAN HOUSE—E. Hughes, Syracuse; W. W. Parry, St. Louis; H. Friend, Milwaukee; H. Johnson, Chicago; H. Lauer, Cincinnati; L. Franklin, Pittsburg; E. P. Jones, Boston; T. Darmon, Brussels, Belgium.

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And in our other show windows we exhibit a more Elaborately Furnished Four-Room Flat, Complete, at \$150.00.

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EVERYTHING FOR HOUSEKEEPING. FURNITURE, CARPETS, BEDDING, LAMPS, BABY CARRIAGES, OILCLOTHS, STOVES, PICTURES, CLOCKS, PORTIERS, CROCKERY, REFRIGERATORS, TINWARE AND LACE CURTAINS. We Allow the Railroad Fares Both Ways to Out-of-Town Purchasers WITHIN THE RADIUS OF 75 MILES FROM NEW YORK.

J. & S. BAUMANN'S, 8th Ave., Cor. 19th St. OPEN SATURDAY EVENINGS UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK. OUR NEW CATALOGUE, EMBRACING EVERYTHING FOR HOUSEKEEPING AND QUOTING PRICES WHAT YOU CAN BUY ON CREDIT, IS NOW READY, AND ON RECEIPT OF 6 CENTS POSTAGE WE WILL MAIL YOU ONE.

ISELIN'S TRIP ABROAD. Rumor That He Took a Copy of the Findings in the Dunraven Case with Him Not Credited.

The rumor that when C. Oliver Iselin sailed for England on Wednesday last he carried a copy of the findings of the New York Yacht Club's investigating committee with him and would present it to the officials of the Royal Yacht Squadron, although not absolutely denied by the members of the Yacht Club, is generally believed to be untrue. If information from London can

be relied upon the Royal Yacht Squadron also views the matter in the same light. The Secretary of the squadron informed the New York Yacht Club, some months ago, that it could take no action in the matter of the charges preferred by the Earl, and, although the races were sailed through arrangements beginning with a challenge, issued by their club, they regarded the contents and the subsequent charges of fraud as a private matter between Dunraven and the New York Yacht Club.

The secretary also implied that any communication referring to it would not be received by them unless presented through one of the members of the committee, and even then it would be doubtful if any action would be taken.

It therefore seems hardly probable that the Board of Officers of the New York Yacht Club should be impelled to the extent of allowing Mr. Iselin, principal in the controversy, to represent them before the squadron.

It may be stated on excellent authority that the actual mechanical labor of the printer was not completed Saturday night, and unless Mr. Iselin had been informed by one of the members of the committee, or had seen advance proofs of the book, it is safe to say that he knows nothing officially of the findings of the committee. The evening before Mr. Iselin sailed he declined to discuss the matter.

A prominent member of the club is the authority for the statement that when the report of the committee was given out in England, which would be simultaneous with its publication here, it was Mr. Iselin's intention to be in London.

Absolutely nothing official has been declared by the members of the committee, nor will any announcements be made before the meeting of the club.

MENELIK'S TERMS OF PEACE. Italians Distrust the Abyssinians and Think They Only Wish to Gain Time.

Rome, Jan. 19.—A dispatch received from Masowah this evening states that the situation at Makalle, the Italian position which the Abyssinians have been trying for some time to capture, is unchanged.

It is reported that Menelik, King of the Abyssinians, has offered to treat for peace, but on what conditions is not positively known. It is alleged that he offers that the Italians shall not be harmed if they abandon the fortress at Makalle and retreat.

It is believed that the negotiations on the part of the Abyssinians are only for the purpose of gaining time in which to make preparations for another attack on the Italians. The Abyssinian force now with Remington rifles. Ten thousand of them are armed with lances.

A majority of the troops who were at Adiglat have advanced to Adagagan under the command of General Barattieri.

TWO THOUSAND DECORATIONS. Emperor William's Liberal Distribution Among His Subjects.

Berlin, Jan. 19.—Emperor William attended the annual ordensfest in the White Hall of the Schloss this afternoon.

A special edition of the Reichsanzeiger commemorates 2,000 decorations that were bestowed in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the German Empire.

The Beautification of Da Corte. Rome, Jan. 19.—An immense number of people this evening visited the Vatican to witness the ceremonies attending the beautification of the theologian, Da Corte.

AMUSEMENTS. FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.

H. C. Miller, Proprietor and Manager. BEGINNING TUESDAY, JAN. 21, 11 P. M. CRANE and his admirable company in a new play, THE GOVERNOR OF KENTUCKY.

By Franklin Fyles. Rehearsed under the direction of Eugene Presbury Secretary of the New York Theatre. ONLY MATINEES SATURDAYS. SEATS NOW ON SALE. HAMMERSTEIN'S OLYMPIA. Broadway, 46th St. Eve. 8:15. MUSIC HALL. Mat. Sat. 8:15. ENTIRELY NEW EUROPEAN. VAUDEVILLE PROGRAMME, and first appearance of FANNY WENTWORTH.

CARL HERTZ, Premier Prestidigitateur of the World, and 15 other European celebrities. Eves. 8:15. THEATRE. Wed. Sat. 8:15. RICE'S EXCELSIOR, JR. YVETTE VIOLETTE as YVETTE GUILBERT. 10th SOUVENIR PERFORMANCE, FEB. 17. CONCERT HALL. Promenade Concerts. 50 CTS. ADMITS TO ALL.

SUNDAY EVENING. SCHUBERT POPULAR CONCERT. ABBEY'S THEATRE. Sarah Bernhardt. To-night at 8 o'clock, every Eve. during the week, and Matinee Sat. Jan. 27. and her complete company, with all appointments from the Theatre de la Renaissance, presenting for the first time in this country and FOR ONE WEEK ONLY, IZEVY.

Drama in 4 acts, by Sylvester and Morand, expressly written for Miss Bernhardt, and performed by her for over 150 nights in Paris. Reserved Seats, \$1.00. Eves. 8:15. Last appearance in La Tour, La Dame aux Camellias, Adrienne Lecouvreur, Fedora, Phedre, L'Arlésienne, Madame Sans-Gene, Fanny Hill, etc.

MET. OP. HOUSE. GRAND OPERA. To-night, Jan. 20, last night of Romeo et Juliette. Tues. Eve., Jan. 21, Calixte last appearance in La Tour, La Dame aux Camellias, Adrienne Lecouvreur, Fedora, Phedre, L'Arlésienne, Madame Sans-Gene, Fanny Hill, etc.

MISS LILLIAN BLAUVELT. MR. MACKENZIE GORDON. MR. J. ARMOUR GALLOWAY. and a chorus of 40. ACHILLE RIVARDE. Tickets \$1.50 & 2. On sale at Astoria Co., 15th St. 2nd. PROCTOR'S PLEASURE PALACE. 55th St., near Lenox, ave. 12 to 12:30. Eves. 8:15. Stalls \$1.00. Seats 50c. PROCTOR'S. 55th St., near Lenox, ave. 12 to 12:30. Eves. 8:15. Stalls \$1.00. Seats 50c.

DALY'S THEATRE. Every Eve. at 8:15. Matinee Wed. and Sat. 2. THE TWO ESCUTCHEONS. Miss Barton, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Gilbert, Miss Elliot, Mr. Stevens. Also Thursday, 23d, Matinee Windsor Theatre.

KOSTER & BIAL'S. TO-NIGHT. CINQUEVALLI, MOSS, LA ROCHE, MARTINETT'S, PANTOMIME, THE CHANGES, MARYLON, THE BROTHERS, ROSIE HENDEL, WOODWARD'S SEA LIONS, ORIGINAL LIVING PICTURES. EVERY SATURDAY FAMILY MATINEE. PASTOR'S CONTINUOUS SHOW. Opens at 12:30. Continues till 11 p. m. Best seats 25c and 30c cents. Come any time. Stay long as you like. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN. THEATRE. Last 3 weeks. Engagement of JOHN THE SQUIRE. DUE TO THE SQUAD. Eves. 8:15 sharp. Matinee Saturday.

HERALD SQ. THEATRE. 1 way & 30th St. DAVID BELASCO'S. THE HEART OF THE MARYLAND. MATINEE SATURDAY ONLY. NEW THEATRE. H. C. MINNELL, Prop. IMPERIAL. GREATEST VARIETY SHOW. MUSIC EVER OFFERED. HALL. MATINEE TO-DAY.

SANFORD'S. 81st St. and 3d ave. Eves. 8:15. Mat. Sat. 2. FRANK BUSH—GIRL WANTED. HARLEM OPERA HOUSE. Eves. 8:15. Mat. Sat. 2. MISS NETHERSOLE as CARMEN. GRAND OPERA HOUSE. Mat. Wed. & Sat. PETER DAILEY. The Night Clerk. COLUMBIAN Theatre. Eves. 8:15. Wed. & Sat. Mat. Wednesdays MATINEE. POPULAR PRICES. PRIMROSE AND WEST'S MINSTRELS.

AMERICAN THEATRE. Matinee Saturday. Reserved Seats, Orchestra Circle & Balcony, 50c. LAST WEEK. NORTHERN LIGHTS. Commencing next Monday. BURMAH. The Drury Lane Success. H. C. MINNELL, Prop. PEOPLE'S. Wednesday—Matinee—Saturday. Wm. Calder's Production of Sutton Vane's Play. IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S.

CANARY & CASINO. Last 2 Nights. LEEDER'S. Last 2 Mat. Last 2 Nights. FRANK DANIELS' Comedy. 9 TIMES: THE WIZARD OF THE NILE. Feb. 3—N. Y. CASINO CO. in LADY SLYVEY. CASINO CHAMBERS. Every evening, 8:15. Nightly concert Sun. Theatre, 100th St. Mat. 10. Admission 25c. CABARET DU NEANT. Performance at the Hotel de Ville, Paris, 10th of March. ACADEMY OF MUSIC. 14th St. & Irving Pl. THE SPORTING DUCHESS. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2. Eves. 8:15.

STAR THEATRE. Eves. 8:15. Mat. Sat. 2. Last 6 Nights of the MOST FASCINATING FIVE CENTS WORTH ON EARTH. The Shortstory Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

FLINT'S FINE FURNITURE. YOU CAN SAVE TIME AND MONEY by selecting from our remnants of last season's styles whatever you desire this season in the furniture line. Now is the time to select, as all our fine goods are marked down. Every piece of furniture we offer is perfect, well made, and will wear as long as you want it to.

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2.00 DIAMOND RING. Not a rose or chip diamond, but a regular full-cut diamond, and two imitation rubies, set in solid gold ring. DE SOLA MIXED, Diamond Cutters, 51 and 53 Maiden Lane, New York. Sent anywhere on receipt of price, and money refunded in full if not satisfactory.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES. AT COOPER UNION, Monday, January 20, at 8:30 P. M. Rev. H. C. Dixon, of Brooklyn, will preach on "Turning Points in Life." Rev. S. Parkes of New York will preach at 10:30 P. M. in the same place. Miss Anna Park, organist; Miss Frosch, pianist. Doors open at 2:45. Admission free.

EXCURSIONS. ICE BRIDGE FORMED. IT WILL SURVIVE. The greatest natural spectacle in the world. Has not been equalled since 1852. Takes the pleasure of the country and the city. LEHIGH VALLEY RR. Stations foot of Corlis and Dearborn. Trains leave at 8:20 a. m., 6:10 and 9 p. m. Full particulars furnished at No. 235 E. way.