# EXCITING EXPERIENCE OF A PARTY OF NEW YORKERS, WHO ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO A COON HUNT IN JERSEY.

were the only witnesses who were allowed to testify to the alibi. Assistant District-Attorney Weeks, who prosecuted the case for the people, attempted to prove on the cross-examination of Martha Martin that she had lived with Freeman, which she indignantly denied. As Freeman had only two or three days' notice before his trial began, he was unable to bring witnesses to impeach the testimony of Perry, who has been tried for grand larceny in New York and arrested charged with thefts from Freeman himself

**No Clemency Shown.**

Freeman was found guilty, and was called before Judge Newberger for sentence on April 28. A petition urging clemency for Freeman, signed by some of the most prominent electricians in the country as well as several judges and other men of standing, was presented to the Judge, in spite of which he sentenced the prisoner to the extreme penalty—ten years at hard labor. About that time the same Judge sentenced a man named Mertz, who had pleaded guilty on five charges of the same crime, to one year's imprisonment.

Freeman was defended on his trial by the ex-Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost. After his conviction he retained Lawyer Abraham Levy, who obtained a stay of proceedings from Justice Pryor, of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, on the ground of reasonable doubt, on May 12.

Mr. Stewart, of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, became interested in the matter three weeks ago, through a chance encounter with Freeman in the Tombs. He reported the case to Frank Moss, the counsel of the society, and at once set to work to ascertain whether Freeman was the victim of a conspiracy or an innocent man. Mr. Stewart asserts emphatically that, as a result of his investigation, he believes Freeman to be absolutely innocent of the crime of which he has been convicted, and says he has obtained sufficient evidence to at least indicate collusion on the part of the persons most interested in putting Freeman behind prison bars.

On Tuesday last Stewart appealed to Police Magistrate Simms for a warrant for the arrest of perjurers. One of these affidavits was from Louis Inman, the janitor of the Electrical Exchange building, at No. 136 Liberty street, where Perry swore that he and Freeman had an office together in January, 1894. Inman makes affidavit that in January, 1894, neither Perry nor Freeman had offices in the Electrical Exchange building, but that Freeman took an office there in April of that year.

**Evidence Disputing Perry.**

Another affidavit by the president of the Electro-Chromo-Chemical Company, whose offices are in Pearl street, Brooklyn, states that, during January, 1894, Perry was in the employ of that concern, and on duty daily in Brooklyn. Perry swore on Freeman's trial that he had never been convicted of disorderly conduct in Brooklyn, while a certified record was obtained by Agent Stewart from the Adams Street Pc. showing that Perry had been [illegible] that offence in September, [illegible] Stewart applied for a [illegible]'s arrest to Magistrate [illegible]eman referred him to [illegible]ttorney Weeks. Weeks [illegible] the Magistrate issued [illegible] would apply to [illegible]eased on his own recognizance a necessary witness for the people against Freeman, and this, in spite of the fact that Weeks had himself prosecuted Perry for grand larceny in February, 1893, and charge of having stolen a gold [illegible] on the complaint of Marion De [illegible].

Stewart further ascertained that [illegible] had caused the arrest of Perry in [illegible]05, charging him with stealing [illegible] of electrical apparatus from his [illegible] office. On this occasion Benjamin Barker, counsel for the Westinghouse Company, had appeared in court on behalf, and deposited $1,000 cash [illegible] him. Agent Stocking, of the Gerry Society, appeared in court on this occasion [illegible] Barker, as did also Assistant District-Attorney Battle. Perry's case was brought before the Grand Jury and was dismissed on the recommendation of the District-Attorney's office without Freeman's witnesses against Perry being called to testify.

The significance of this incident, so Mr. Stewart says, he believes is that the Westinghouse company and the District-Attorney's office needed Perry to testify against Freeman in the case in which he now rests under conviction and sentence.

Agent Stewart's story of the case, in brief, is this: Mr. Freeman became acquainted in Boston, in the Summer of 1891, with a girl who was then playing in the Thayer Opera Company in Boston, named Anna Ward. She was the daughter of Mrs. A. Mott Knight, a spiritualistic medium, who gave fake performances throughout the country, and who is also the mother of Sarah E. Work, the complainant in the case against Freeman. Freeman afterward met Miss Ward, who is now a member of "A Midnight Bell" company, that is playing in Wheeling, W. Va., this week, in New York. Freeman is a divorced man, and he fell in love with Miss Ward. He sent her to school in Brooklyn, and afterward employed her in his office. He was foolish enough, because of his regard for the girl, to take rooms where she lived with her mother and sister, in the flat in East Fourteenth street, where the sister swears the crime for which Freeman is now under sentence occurred in the Fall of 1891.

**A Remarkable Affidavit.**

[illegible]ndition of affairs at this period [illegible]tained by Mrs. Helene Shepard, [illegible] residing at No. 202 West Forty-[illegible]eet, who visited Anna Ward at [illegible] Fourteenth street flat during Mr. [illegible]nn's alleged absence in the West, at [illegible] time when Sarah Work swore that he committed the crime. Mrs. Shepard's affidavit is as follows:

State of New York, }
City and County of New York } ss

I, Helene Shepard, being duly sworn, make oath, depose and say I reside at No. 202 West Forty-sixth street, New York City.

I became acquainted with Mrs. A. Matt Knight between Christmas and New Year's day, in the years 1893-94. She was then living in a flat apartment on the first floor of the houses 123-125 West Twenty-eighth street in the city of New York.

The following week, i. e. the first week in January, 1894, I met her two daughters, Anna L. and Sarah E. Work, and it was during the last part of that week I visited Anna at No. 227 East Fourteenth street, where Anna and Sarah were living alone. From conversations with them and Mrs. Knight I for the first time learned that there existed a person by the name of Walter K. Freeman, and that there was a feeling of animosity on the part of Mrs. Knight toward the said Walter K. Freeman, because he did not approve of Mrs. Knight's conduct and had so expressed himself. From what I heard talked over from time to time between members of the Knight family it became known to me that Mr. Freeman possessed a deep affection for Anna, and that he was greatly concerned about her associating with persons of bad repute, and he was striving to prevent as far as possible either of the girls visiting the house in Twenty-eighth street, which bore a bad reputation.

I became interested in the welfare of Anna and Sarah, and especially Anna, who appeared to me to be a girl of intelligence, truth and innocence, and finding that they were living alone in the Fourteenth street house, at the request of both Anna and Sarah, I went there often between the last of the first week in January and the middle of January, 1894, when the girls went to live at the Twenty-eighth street flat.

During this period of about ten or twelve days I was at the Fourteenth street flat almost daily, and had access to every part of the flat, including the rooms that I was told were rented by Mr. Freeman, who was then out of the city, and Sarah told me that he was in Minneapolis, Minn.

I recollect this fact distinctly, because I had and have many friends living in Minneapolis, Minn., and I mentioned to Anna and Sarah this fact at the time. I am satisfied and morally certain that Mr. Freeman was in Minneapolis, Minn., at the time mentioned, and I know of my own knowledge that Anna and Sarah were the only occupants of the Fourteenth street flat between the 4th or 5th and the 16th or 17th of January, 1894. After the 17th of January, 1894, I saw [illegible] the Knight family at the Te[illegible] [illegible]ary, 1894, it was about the [illegible] when I first met [illegible] Freeman, and I talked to him [illegible] about Minneapolis and the persons we k[illegible] there.

I knew the se[illegible]nt girl, Alice Ward, who was employed [illegible]rs. Knight, and familiarly known as [illegible] and I am positive that from the [illegible] first met Mrs. Knight until M[illegible] moved away from the Twen[illegible] flat in "Topsy" lived an[illegible] at the Twenty-eighth street flat [illegible] was not at the Fourteenth street [illegible]ng the time I visited or slept there.

[illegible]ding the period of time extending from January until May or June, 1894, I had many conversations with Sarah on various subjects, and I learned to know her to be of a vicious and revengeful disposition, and totally unworthy of belief. She has lied to me often respecting both serious and trivial matters, and I would not believe her under oath.

During the time that I have known Walter K. Freeman I have learned to know him as a temperate and generous man, and that his feelings toward Anna as expressed to me at different times were pure and it is convincing to my mind that his only purpose respecting both Anna and Sarah was to keep them from evil associates, and he solicited my aid to this end.

My motive and interest in the Knight family arose from a feeling of pity for Anna, who was unfamiliar with the ways of the world and easily persuaded by her mother, whose surroundings were anything but fitted for a young moral girl, conducting a fake spiritual medium business (which she acknowledged to me to be a fake and a fraud) and renting furnished flats in the Twenty-eighth street house that were generally understood to be disreputable.

I became acquainted with Mrs. Knight through Alexander Grant, a newspaper reporter. I went with him to her house to a seance and to investigate Mrs. Knight, who claimed, as a spiritual medium, to be possessed of the gift of communicating, by means of slate writings, with the dead, and during my investigations as a reporter I made the acquaintance of Anna and Sarah, and I continued my association with the Knight family because I learned to know Mrs. Knight's rear character.

I advised both Anna and Sarah to leave the Twenty-eighth street house and assured them that I would try to get them employment, and after I met Mr. Freeman I had several conversations with him and he expressed a willingness to co-operate with me and later on, about March 1, 1894, Anna did leave the Twenty-eighth street house and went to live at Mrs. Wagner's, No. 245 East Fourteenth street, where I visited her often, and, to my satisfaction, I learned that she was living a respectable and virtuous life.

I continued to visit Anna, at 245 East Fourteenth street, until she went West in April, 1894. From conversations with Anna I learned that the object Anna had in going West was to wean herself from the influence of her mother, which Mr. Freeman believed would ruin her if continued. I lost all interest in Sarah because I thought she was naturally depraved and could not be relied upon.

I have heard conversations between Sarah and her mother wherein both have expressed very little feeling toward Mr. Freeman, as they claimed his influence with Anna prevented Mrs. Knight from using Anna as an attraction in her business, and that they therefore would get even with Walter Freeman if they could.

From the knowledge I possess, I feel sure that Walter K. Freeman is a victim of a plot conceived and conducted by Mrs. A. Mott Knight and her daughter Sarah in a spirit of revenge for his endeavoring to remove Anna from the influence of her mother.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of October, A. D. 1896.

MRS. HELENE SHEPARD.

A. F. Dennett, Notary Public, New York County.

**Other Alleged Conspirators.**

Agent Stewart does not believe with Mrs. Shepard that Mrs. A. Mott Knight and her daughter were the principals in the conspiracy against Freeman. Freeman has a brother named Warren P. Freeman, according to Mr. Stewart, who has gone under the alias of Frank Putnam, and who was in the employ of the Westinghouse Company at the time the charge was brought against Walter K. Freeman. A Mrs. Gray, who was an intimate friend of Mrs. A. Mott Knight, was also an intimate friend of Warren P. Freeman, and Mr. Stewart says that he has reason to believe that it was Warren Freeman who, through Mrs. Gray, put Mrs. Knight up to making the complaint before the Gerry society against Walter K. Freeman.

Freeman was arrested on September 10, 1894, and held in $2,500 bail, charged with committing the crime in May, the date being afterward changed to January, as he was able to prove a conclusive alibi on the other occasion. After pleading not guilty Freeman remained in New York until the last of September or the first of October, when patent litigation against the Westinghouse Company required his presence in Racine, Wis.

Before notice was served on the company, Mr. Stewart says, Mr. Freeman obtained the assurance of his attorney, Pentecost, and Assistant District-Attorney Battle, that the case would not be called for at least sixty days. The records show, according to Mr. Stewart, that the day after Freeman had notified the District-Attorney in writing that he was about to leave town his case was put on the calendar and he was cited to appear on a second indictment changing the date from May 30 back to January 13, and his bail was forfeited. Freeman knew nothing of the forfeiture of his bail until he reached Los Angeles, about January 10, 1895. When he came back to New York he at once reported to the District-Attorney's office, and in the street met Agent Stocking, of the Gerry society, and neither institution made any move [illegible] arresting him.

He [illegible] began to take testimony in [illegible] concerning the Westinghouse Company in Brooklyn, and continued to do so until August 29 of that year, when he was suddenly arrested and confined in the Tombs, immediately after John B. Perry, who had previously testified in the patent suit in his favor, shifted to the other side. Perry testified afterward, according to Mr. Stewart, that Charles A. Terry, secretary of the Westinghouse company, had employed him to prove cases against Freeman.

When Freeman was arrested in Brooklyn, August 29, 1895, and arraigned for pleading, he learned for the first time that the second indictment had been found against him, changing the date of the alleged crime to January. No mention of the former case was made in court at this time, and nothing was said about the forfeiture of his bail. He was promised a speedy trial, and, after lying in the Tombs for nine weeks, during which time his case was frequently put on the calendar, it became necessary for him to find bail and go to San Francisco to defend his suit against an attack of the Westinghouse company, who had taken witnesses from New York to San Francisco to prevent his appearance in court.

**A Memorable Trial.**

Mr. Freeman arrived in San Francisco a time to protect his interests, and the subsequent litigation is historical in the Pacific slope. It resulted in William Summerhayes the foreman of the Federal Grand Jury, being sentenced to a term [illegible] imprisonment on conviction of criminal [illegible]racy, and in H. S. Mackaye, counsel [illegible] for the Westinghouse Company, leaving the State.

Walter K. Freeman returned to New York December 4, 1895, and again presented himself at the District-Attorney's office. He visited the office at least twice a week, Mr. Stewart says, until the Wednesday preceding the 13th day of last March. On that day he left word at the District-Attorney's office that he was going to Philadelphia on business, and asked if there was any objection to his doing so. That same day his case was put on the calendar and his bail was again forfeited without notice to himself, his attorney or his bondsmen. The business on which Freeman was to visit Philadelphia being postponed, he remained in New York, where he read on the following Saturday, in a newspaper, that judgment for $5,000 had been taken against him for forfeiture of bail. He at once called on his bondsman, S. Bonfield, of No. 150 Broadway, and was arrested in his office. His case was called on April 17, he was convicted and sentenced, as before related, and has since been in the Tombs prison.

**New Trial "with a String."**

It was after Agent Stewart began his investigations that Mr. Levy made a motion before Justice McMahon for a new trial for Freeman. A week ago Friday Justice McMahon issued a document which is something new in the history of criminal courts, granting Freeman a new trial "with a string tied to it," as Mr. Stewart says. The document is as follows:

**Court of General Sessions of the Peace, held in and for the City and County of New York, at the Criminal Court Building, in said city, on the 30th day of October, 1896:**

**Present, the Hon. Jno. I. McMahon, Justice.**

**The People of State of New York vs. Walter K. Freeman.**

**The above-named defendant having moved for a new trial, upon the ground that upon such new trial the defendant can produce evidence discovered since the trial and not commutative, such as, if before received, would probably have changed the verdict, and failure to produce which on the trial was not owing to want of diligence, and the said motion only coming on to be heard.**

**Now, after reading and filing the affidavits of Walter K. Freeman, Henry Seltner, Helene Shepard, Frank M. Ashley, Alice M. Freeman, Tracy L. Freeman, Louis Freeman, Kate E. Wagner, Benjamin Freeman, Charles H. Freeman, J. S. Mott, John Houlett, John A. Brown, Martha Martin, Evangeline Martin, George F. Underhill and Mabel T. Hester, whereby it is made to appear to the Court that upon a new trial the defendant can produce evidence discovered since the trial, and not commutative, such as, if before received, would probably have changed the verdict, and failure to produce which on the trial was not owing to want of diligence; and after hearing Abraham Levy, Esq., of counsel for the defendant, in support of said motion, and John B. Lindsay, Assistant District-Attorney, for the people, it is**

**ORDERED, That the same motions be and the same is hereby granted, and that the defendant have a new trial, on condition, however, that the defendant shall on or before the 5th day of November, 1896, stipulate in writing:**

**I. That upon such new trial either party shall be permitted to read in evidence the testimony of any witness who testified on the first trial with the same force and effect, as though such witnesses were personally sworn and re-examined, provided after due diligence the personal attendance of such witness cannot be secured;**

**II. That the defendant shall concede that at the time of the alleged offence charged in the indictment herein the female Sarah E. Work therein mentioned was under the age of sixteen years.**

**III. That the defendant shall consent to the dismissal of the appeal now pending in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, from the judgment heretofore rendered by this Court herein; and it is further**

**ORDERED, That, in the event of the defendant's failure to so stipulate, the said motion be and the same is hereby in all things denied.**

**M. T. McMAHON.**

Mr. Freeman signed this paper an hour before the time limit expired on the 5th, and there the matter rests at present.

# HACKENSACK GIVES A COON HUNTING SOCIAL.

## Guests Are Drawn from New York and Other Unwary Points.

## Entertainment Begins Promptly at 8 P. M. and Ends at Early Dawn.

## By the Light of Lanterns the Sportsmen from Gotham Find Every Bog in Bergen County.

## BRING SAMPLES HOME WITH THEM.

## Only One Coon Rewards the Vigilance of the Hunters and, It, Alas, Turns Out to Be a 'Possum.

**Tally one for Hackensack.**

At last the little place tucked away in the wilds of New Jersey has balanced its account with the outside population at whose hands it has been a long sufferer. For at least twenty years songs have been written about Hackensack for the variety stage, unkind remarks have been made concerning its honest farmer population, vast and varied crimes have been attributed to its peace-loving inhabitants, and from all points of the compass it has received vigorous abuse and been made a by-word of.

Saturday night Hackensack gave a coon hunt. Several sportsmen (who do not live in Hackensack) were invited to attend, and a delegation of sport-loving enthusiasts immediately hastened over from New York.

As per agreement, those who had been invited to hunt the coon met at the Morton House, in Hackensack, at 8 p. m., where a colossal carry-all stage was in waiting. The cards of invitation to the chase were signed "Trav," and mentioned something about wearing old clothes, etc. Nobody in attendance had ever heard of "Trav," but the anxiety to be on hand was stronger than caution, and the crowd numbered about ten.

At 9 o'clock the carry-all, loaded to the guard rails, moved off into the night, and the suburbs of Hackensack knew that something was up. The latest popular songs were yelped up the road, and the whole world seemed to be merry.

**Matching for the Trail.**

About every two miles the driver got out and used up a bunch of matches looking at the signboards to see where he was. Four times he back-tracked and ran out into a swamp. But that is one of the merest incidents of coon hunting and nobody complained. Farmers, half awake and dazed by alarm, poked their heads from bedroom windows and wondered at the passing show. They also made several loud remarks about crazy city folk and slammed the windows down with a bang as the coon hunters disappeared over the hill.

"Now, boys," said "Trav," after the road had been lost eight times and something like ten miles had been covered, "we are to meet Jake Van Buskirk at the white bridge. He will be on hand with his pack of ten hounds, and then, you take a tip from me, we will have the greatest picnic ever heard of in Bergen County. Did any of you ever hunt coons? Greatest sport in the country. Ought to be at the white bridge now any minute."

"Trav" thrust his head out of the stage. "Well, by thunder," he exclaimed, "we've gone two lines into New York State. We'll have to go back to New Jersey again. Driver, take the next road on the left after passing Hamuses and go up the hill. All in. Let her go." It was now nearly midnight.

In another half hour the stage stopped in the middle of the road and a pack of hounds came bounding across the open, followed by three men—Van Buskirk, Jackson and Captain Pool. They have the reputation of being the three greatest home-made coon hunters in the world. They were properly introduced to the crowd that tumbled out of the wagon.

Pool looked at the stars and excited the crowd by remarking that it was a perfect night for coons. "Are you all ready?" said he to the New Yorkers, and upon receiving prompt reply in the affirmative he struck across the fields for a dark line of woods to the westward. The dogs took up the lead, and the three great coon hunters soon sprinkled themselves in the crowd so that the lanterns they carried might help to guide the feet of all novices in coon hunting.

All of a sudden one of the city chaps, who had gone on a little ahead, stumbled, fell and went slam-bang into a puddle of water. "Is this the kind of a country you hunt coons in?" he cried. "Bring a lantern! I'm stuck in four feet of mud."

"Look here, young fellow," answered Captain Pool, in a contemptuous tone of voice, "did you expect you were coming here to hunt coons on a bill of fare. Come on. There is only a little water to go through."

**At Last the Dogs Give Bay.**

By this time every one of the visiting delegation had run himself into a pool, and half of them were shambling over the scene with ten pounds of mud on each foot. The men with the lanterns trudged on, and the boys had to follow them. There was no alternative. Finally the entire party brought up under some trees, and Van Buskirk suggested that a rest be taken until the dogs strike a trail. A bonfire was made and somebody started to tell a story.

"Did you ever hear that yarn about the man whose step"——

"Shut up," came the pleasant rejoinder, "you will scare every coon out of the country. Listen. What's that?"

A long, dismal howl came across the open, followed by what seemed to a thousand short yelps. "The dogs have treed a coon," yelled Jackson, and in another instant he and his two companions were on the dead jump through the brush. The shin-warmers, fired by the bay of the pack, started after the coon hunters and tried to keep up with the lanterns, which were rapidly disappearing across the swamp as the coon hunters with records made for the howling pack.

Loud yells mingled with blasphemy arose in all quarters of the morass until the lantern brigade finally returned and led the New York hunters out of the wilderness to high ground and to the vicinity where the treed coon was supposed to be at bay. The excitement rose to fever heat and Jackson shinnied up the tree with the agility of a monkey. He took with him a dark lantern to facilitate finding the coon. Presently he came down, got out his gun and invited all hands to take one shot at a certain spot said to be the "offending critter." After about six charges of bird shot had been poured into the animal, something dropped and a five pound possum hit the earth with a hard bump. The dogs jumped on his remains and almost devoured them, while the New Yorkers screamed with delight at the slaughter. When that highly exciting incident was over, the dogs were sent again and again into the woods and the visitors were hauled around in search of coons until daybreak.

Not a swamp in Bergen County was overlooked and ten suits of clothes were spoiled with a coat of rich New Jersey mud spread on and carefully rubbed in. Barked shins, scratched faces and tired limbs were the only returns from the trip, and when the crowd came into the Morton House on the following morning a delegation of the leading citizens of Hackensack smilingly shook hands with them.

Hackensack is square with its traducers up to date and not a single coon was sacrificed.

# HER FUNERAL ON TUESDAY

## Mrs. Vanderbilt to Be Buried from St. Bartholomew's Church, of Which She Was a Member.

The arrangements for the funeral of Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt were completed yesterda yafternoon, when a family council was held at her late residence, No. 640 Fifth avenue.

As announced in yesterday's Journal, it will take place on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock from St. Bartholomew's Church, of which Mrs. Vanderbilt was a member. The services will be conducted by the rector, the Rev David H. Greer, assisted by the Rev. Robert C. Booth. It was said last evening that Bishop Potter and the Rev. Dr. John Wesley Brown, of St. Thomas's Church, would be asked to take part in them. The Rev. Dr. Eggleston, for forty years rector of the church on Staten Island, which Mrs. Vanderbilt attended when she lived there, will be present, either at the church or at the grave.

There will be a full choral service at St. Bartholomew's. It will be rendered by the regular quartet, composed of Mrs. Theodore J. Toedt, soprano; Mrs. Hattie Clapper Morris, contralto; McKinley Gordon, tenor, and Frank Remertz, bass, and the full choir of mixed voices. Mr. Richard Henry Warren, the organist, will play Chopin's funeral march as a prelude. The burial psalm, "Lord, Now Let Me Know My End," will then be sung to Gregorian music. This will be followed by the hymn, "At Thy Mercy Seat," the creed, and another hymn, "Softly, Now the Light of Day." "I Heard a Voice from Heaven," by Walter, will be sung after the committal, and Mrs. Toedt will sing "I know That My Redeemer Liveth." After the recessional hymn, "There Is a Blessed Home," Mr. Warren will play Gounod's "Sanctus."

There will be six pall-bearers, D. O. Mills, S. F. Barger, Chauncy M. Depew, George Crocker, James A. Burden and John Sloane. The coffin will be of black cloth, heavily trimmed with silver. The body will be dressed in black.

After the services at the church, the family and friends will be driven to the foot of West Forty-second street, where a special ferryboat of the Staten Island line will convey them directly to New Drop. They will drive from there to the Moravian Cemetery, a distance of several miles. The interment will take place there in the Vanderbilt mausoleum.

Although Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt's health continues to improve, and his complete recovery is only a question of time, Dr. Depew said last night that he would not accompany his mother's body to Staten Island.

**Beggars at Vanderbilt's Door.**

Three roughly dressed men were arrested in front of the residence of Cornelius Vanderbilt, at Fifty-eighth street and Fifth avenue, yesterday morning, for begging. They stationed themselves there and began accosting the numerous friends of the family who called at the house on account of the death of Mrs. W. H. Vanderbilt. The men gave the names of John Kenny, Frank Sullivan and John Doe. They were all committed to Blackwell's Island.

# WILL IT PROVE A MURDER?

## Husband Arrested on Suspicion of Fatally Injuring His Wife.

Policeman Charles Baxter found Bridget Ahearn lying unconscious with a fractured skull at the foot of the stairway leading to her apartments in the flat house at No. 459 West Eighteenth street at 9 o'clock last night. She was sent to the New York Hospital in a dying condition and her husband, William, was arrested on suspicion of having thrown her downstairs.

When taken to the station house Ahearn said: "My wife and I were sitting in the room together all evening, and had been talking over different matters, when she left the room and went out into the hallway. That is the last I saw of her, and I believe that she fell downstairs. That is the only way I can account for her being injured. We had no quarrel." The man did not seem to worry over his wife's condition

**To Cure a Cold in One Day.**
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.—Adv.

# FREE CUBA.

Continued from First Page.

Executive. Mr. Cleveland is in possession of facts gleaned from the verbal report made by Consul-General Lee, which are satisfactory to him, and upon which he is believed to have made his decision that if the Spanish Government is unable to put down the rebellion in Cuba within the next six or seven days, as stated in yesterday's Journal, he will recognize the belligerent rights of the Cuban revolutionists and, if supported, as he probably will be, by the present Congress, issue a proclamation giving the island due recognition of its independence.

**De Lome Not Talkative.**

While the facts in this connection have been well established by thorough investigation in Washington, Minister Dupuy de Lome to-night declined either to verify or deny the rumor that the powers at Madrid had notified him that unless they are unable to put down the revolution within a stated period Minister de Lome could state to the United States that no further objections would be made to any course that President Cleveland might see fit to take in reference to a definite settlement of the pending controversy.

Secretary Olney would vouchsafe no opinion whatever regarding the climax in the Cuban situation. Private Secretary Thurber, who to-night represented President Cleveland, was equally non-communicative. Consul General Lee said to-night that he had seen the President and Secretary of State yesterday, and the latter again to-day, but he declared that no intimation had been given him of the reported early settlement of the struggle in Cuba.

Concerning the limit of time within which Cuba will achieve her independence there is not a unanimity of opinion.

"By this time next Fall the seat of the Cuban Republic will be in Havana," said a prominent official of the State Department to-night. "The Spanish Government will have yielded up Cuba to the natives of the island and the republic will be straightening out its affairs and striving to bring prosperity and happiness back to war-stricken Cuba. I base this prediction on what I know of the condition of affairs in the island. The breaking strain has almost been reached and it will be impossible for Spain to keep up the unequal fight much longer. The result cannot be left long in doubt. The insurgents, while not striking a blow, are gradually breaking down the Spanish opposition to their independence.

**At the End of Her Resources.**

"Spain is at the end of her resources. Blood and treasure are both nearly exhausted. Her coffers are empty, and she is recruiting her Cuban army with children. Day by day the drain upon her treasury continues, and every twenty-four hours brings her nearer defeat. Her credit is gone, and the inevitable success of the insurgents is recognized by the bankers and capitalists to whom Spain has appealed, and from whom she has had refusals of assistance.

The commander of the Spanish army on the island can do nothing to force an issue. The insurgents retreat to their hills and cannot be followed. The seersucker-clad Spanish youths die of fever beside the Trocha, and each setting sun marks a step nearer victory for the Cubans. This will end before another Summer is over. If Spain is not victorious before the rainy season sets in the Spanish forces will be withdrawn, and the President of the Cuban Republic will establish headquarters in Havana. There is absolutely nothing, however, on which to base the assumption that Weyler can grasp victory within sixty days. Five times the present Spanish force could hardly accomplish such a result.

"The Cubans will never storm and carry Havana," continued the official. "They have heretofore outgeneralled the Spanish and have made victory possible in their own way with only 30,000 men against 150,000. When they enter Havana, it will be through open gates into a city deserted by soldiery. The Spanish forces will have been withdrawn and the island relinquished to the Cubans. This result will be brought about within eight months by silent forces now at work, the increasing poverty of Spain and her lessening military power.

# CONSTITUTION FOR CUBA.

## Local Leaders at Work Upon a Plan of Government for the Looked-for Republic.

Anticipating the early evacuation of Cuba by Spain, the Cuban leaders of New York are taking steps to form a constitution for the republic. A preliminary organization with this work in hand has already been formed and in a few days the organization will be made permanent. The call for the first meeting was issued by Enrique J. Verona, Francisco Figueras, Nicolas Heredia and Emilio del Junco.

About fifteen prominent Cubans of this city attended the meeting. The four men who issued the call were authorized to prepare a plan of permanent organization so that the work can be carried on systematically. They will be ready to report within a few days, but while the formal steps are being taken the leaders in the movement have considered the various plans of government under which free Cuba could best act and the sentiment of all, it was stated yesterday, is that nothing better than the Constitution of the United States, with slight modifications, could be adopted.

The chief significance of the action of the Cuban leaders is that they regard defeat of Spanish forces as an immediate probability. They are so confident of an early victory that they talk of the Spanish army sailing for home before the dawn of the New Year. When the island is evacuated it is intended that a constitutional convention shall be held immediately, and in order that there may be no long delay with intervening controversies among the victors, it is planned that a form of government prepared by the Cubans in this country and made legally correct by able American lawyers, shall be ready for submission to the convention of free Cubans.

TREASURER GUERRA'S VIEWS.

Senor B. J. Guerra, treasurer of the Cuban Junta, is one of the leaders in the movement. He said yesterday that he considered it an important part in what is now being done to achieve Cuban independence.

"We are sure of victory," he added. "The Spanish army will evacuate Cuba before the end of the Winter campaign. We have information concerning the news in the Journal this morning that if General Weyler does not defeat the insurgents before the first of the year, the United States Government will take action. In any event we are sure to win, but after victory what?"

"It is necessary that there shall be a government formed immediately on lines that will give Cuba a standing among nations, and in which all her people will have confidence. The present Cuban Government is but provisional. After the Spanish army evacuates the island, a constitutional convention will be held. It will be best for the convention to have something to work on, a plan of government that it can adopt immediately. What we now do will be simply for the guidance of the free Cubans in convention.

A SENATE NOT IN FAVOR.

"The discussions that have already arisen indicate that all the Cuban leaders believe the basis of our new government should be the Constitution of the United States, with a few modifications. We think, for instance, that it would be inadvisable to have a Senate. In all structures the body corresponding to the Senate of the United States is for the aristocracy. We will have no aristocracy in free Cuba. We want a Congress elected by the people to frame the laws, and a President elected by popular vote, rather than an electoral college, to execute them. It is possible that the constitution we prepare will provide for a longer Presidential term of office than there is in the United States. That is to be considered. The Cabinet will probably be formed on the same lines as in this country, and so will the judiciary.

"We will study the forms of government of all American countries, and make use of the best features of such. The object that will always be kept in mind will be to form a government in which the people will have everything to say. There will doubtless be six States, as there are now six Spanish provinces. Probably the same lines will be followed. When the island was divided during the Ten Years' War four States were created, but now it forms itself naturally into six divisions. It is proposed that each division shall have a say in the government according to its population. I, for one, do not believe in giving a small State equal representation with a large State, as is done in the Senate of this country.

"The question of the United States Government's attitude toward Cuba after the war depends to a great extent on how the war is ended. There may be a protectorate in fact, if not on paper. We are preparing a plan of government, however, on the theory that Cuba will stand alone."

Mr. Guerra explained that the present constitution of the Cuban provisional government is intended only as the basis of a form of government during the military period. It provides for a President, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of War. It will continue in force after Spanish evacuation until a new constitution is adopted.

# BUSTLE AT THE NAVY YARD.

## Men Were at Work on the Indiana, Although It Was Sunday.

The officers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard say that they do not attach any particular significance to the unusual display of haste in the work of repair there. Yesterday nearly 200 men were put at work on the Indiana, and the noise of their hammers as they fell upon the turrets of the battleship was new to the quiet that usually prevails in and around the yard on Sunday. The work will be pushed as rapidly as possible and it is expected that all repairs will be finished by December 1. The monitor Puritan is now ready for service and will soon be launched. Naval Contractor Francis T. Bowles said:

"We are only acting according to orders. The Puritan was one of four monitors left unfinished years ago, and which William C. Whitney, when he became Secretary of the Navy, decided to put into service. Bessemer steel was specified in the appropriation, and it was necessary to wait until this steel could be secured before the vessel could be completed. We are merely taking advantage of the good weather, we shall have to put the Indiana in order by the end of the month."

# DR. HALL BAPTIZES HEBREWS.

## Eleven Converted at the American Mission to the Jews in Grand Street.

Dr. John Hall, of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, last night baptized eleven converted Hebrews at the American Mission to the Jews, No. 424 Grand street. In speaking of the dislike manifested by Hebrews for the Christian, Dr. Hall said:

"I do not blame the Hebrews for feeling unkindly toward the Christian, for in the Dark Ages their fathers were maltreated and degraded by Christian nations. They were not allowed to become land owners, but under this Government the Hebrew has the same right as any other citizen, and the missions are doing noble work, as they enable the Hebrew to gain an insight into the Christian character."

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