

The Weekly Star. WILMINGTON, N. C. \$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE. VOL. XXXIII. WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1902. NO. 15

Subscription Price. The subscription price of the Weekly Star is \$1.00 per year in advance. Single copies 10 cents. Entered at the Post Office at Wilmington, N. C., as Second Class Matter.

CURRENCY REFORM. When Mr. Carlisle was Secretary of the Treasury he was a zealous advocate of "divorcing the Government from the banking business," and Secretary Gage has been quite as zealous. He is really more of a currency reformer than Carlisle was because he is a more trained financier, knows more about banking, and has a better conception of the financial needs of the country than Secretary Carlisle had. But with all his urgent advocacy of currency reform and a better banking system he has not met with very much success.

At the last meeting of the Bankers' Association of New York in his address he dwelt with emphasis on some of the defects of our banking system and remarked that while phenomenal progress had been made in our manufactures, commerce, railroad management, &c., little or no progress had been made in our banking system, which is not adequate to the business demands of the country at all times nor able to adapt itself to sudden changes.

As far as supplying currency is concerned there has been some improvement since the passage of the act authorizing the establishment in small towns of banks with a capital of \$25,000, but while this has increased the volume of currency it has not improved the system in other respects.

If we understand Secretary Gage's ideas he favors a banking system possessing the advantages of the old State banks with the national feature of the present banking system, that is a system under United States law and supervision but not based on government bonds, nor otherwise connected with the Government. In his advocacy of something else than government bonds as a basis of circulation, something which would provide a more elastic and flexible currency, he simply anticipates the time when this will become a matter of necessity, when the decreased volume of bonds will be insufficient to supply a basis for a currency that would amount to anything. This must be the case as the bonds mature and are redeemed, or the volume of bonds must be kept up and made perpetual. This was never intended, but on the contrary the national banking system was originally intended to be only temporary. By the refunding system, the issuing of new bonds for new loans, etc., the life of the banks has been prolonged beyond the period originally contemplated. In some respects it is a good system, in communities where the requirements of the system can be readily complied with. The merchant or other business man in cities where the banks are established enjoy the benefit of them, but outside of the large cities they do not meet the requirements or furnish the volume of money the people need, notwithstanding the fact that the per capita volume in circulation is now greater than it has ever been. The bulk of this circulation is in the large cities where those banks are located. Whatever the per capita may be in the sections where these money centers are, there are sections of the country where the per capita in circulation doesn't amount to one-fourth of this alleged per capita circulation.

This is the case in much of the South and much of the West, and as a result the business men and farmers of those sections, if they secure the money they need, have to pay rates of interest that no ordinary legitimate business can stand. This per capita circulation, of which there has been so much boasting, is a delusion. The money may be in existence, but it is not in circulation, and a very small portion of it is in circulation in some sections of the country, in sections, too, which have a good deal of use for it, and are very much cramped from the scarcity of it. There isn't for many years, when the South and West have not had to call on the Eastern banks and on the U. S. Treasury for money to help

move the crops, and sometimes the crops have been delayed in their movement for weeks for want of this money, resulting in congestion of freights at freight centers, and in loss to producers from clogging the markets when the crops did begin to move.

There must at some time be a change in the banking system, a change that will let each State provide its own paper currency in such volume as its business may demand without being dependent upon the banks of other States, banks which can utilize something else than fluctuating bonds as a basis of circulation. There was such a banking system before the national banking system was established and it was destroyed because it was in the way of the national banks. Speaking of this the New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin, a strong advocate of a better and more flexible currency system, says:

"One of the most pernicious delusions in the public mind is that the National Bank Act was a remedy for the defects of State banking and a deposit of Government bonds was required on account of the losses through wild cat and red dog bank notes. Between 1830 and 1840 there was a great deal of reckless banking, more particularly in the West. Most of the States remained afloat in their banking systems soon after 1840, and long before the Civil War this State, New England, Indiana, Louisiana and many other States had admirable banking systems. The National Bank Act was passed late in the Civil War, when it was difficult to float bonds, and it was hoped by this means to get a good share of the banking capital of the country into the Treasury. The hope was not realized so long as State banks could issue notes. These notes were so readily taken that it was complained in Congress that the National banks did not have a fair chance, the real trouble was that there was not sufficient inducement for banks to enter the National system. It was then that Congress imposed a prohibitory tax upon bank notes that were not secured by a deposit of Government bonds. The superiority of the National banks over the State banks was purely an afterthought.

The fact is the State banks which would have continued to supply the currency needed in sections where there would be few if any national banks were legislated out of existence to give the national banks a monopoly of bank notes, and they got it. In that same article, speaking of a paper published by Mr. L. Carroll Root, of Boston, on the New England State banks and what they did in supplying currency up to 1860, it says:

"Mr. Root has summarized the experience of the New England States from 1840 to 1860. The systems of the several States differed in many respects, but the following are the points in which they were alike. They issued against the general assets of the bank. The noteholder was not always preferred to the depositor if the bank failed. The maximum circulation was limited to the amount of the State's bonds. The average circulation for the twenty years was \$3,000,000; the average loss to noteholders was \$42,000 a year. Mr. Root remarks that a tax of 1 per cent on circulation would have made a good deal of difference. Even the panic of 1857, when sixteen banks failed, and the State fund of 5 or 6 per cent would have paid all the losses and 80 per cent more.

In proportion to the population and the average loss to noteholders, the New England States were better supplied with banks for twenty years before the Civil War than they are now, and Mr. Root contrasts a summary statement of the Vermont and New Hampshire banks in 1855 with what would have been their statement had they been operating under the National bank law. Their loans and deposits were \$1,740,000 and their bonds \$280,000. Under the National banking system, with the full amount of circulation issued to them, their loans and deposits would have been \$7,700,000 and their bonds \$7,800,000. That comparison presents the whole question in a nutshell: shall the banks lend their capital to the Government or to the business community?"

We had previous to the war a good banking system in North Carolina and other Southern States, where, while the per capita currency in circulation was not as large as the alleged per capita now, the volume was elastic and flexible, and supplied all the money the people needed on easy terms. Something like this is what the country needs now, whether the national banks continue in existence or not.

It is said that eight or ten years ago John A. Bunting, who lately rode into New York in his own parlor car, and can draw his check for \$1,000,000, was a brakeman on a California railroad. He happened to have a little money saved and lent \$170 to a fellow-workman, taking as security a cheap watch and a mortgage on forty acres of poor land in California. The debt wasn't paid and the mortgage was foreclosed. Later oil was struck, that land was in the oil belt and J. A. B. was in it. Then he threw up his job as brakeman.

A New York electrical inventor promises to soon give us telephone talk across the Atlantic. He says he has worked out the problem and got it down to a dead certainty. That Kentucky man who has been talking to his neighbors half a mile away says it is just as easy to talk all around the earth.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

The New York Journal of Commerce, which keeps pretty close track of the industrial progress in the South, recently published some statistics, which Congressman Richardson used in a speech in the House which the Dallas, Texas, News quotes as follows. He said:

"In spite of the circumstances that have operated to discourage the investment of capital in the South, its cotton mills represented in 1900 a money value of \$120,000,000 against \$61,000,000 a decade earlier; the consumption of cotton in these mills is 1,677,112, against 846,694 bales in 1890. The number of spindles employed in 1900 was 6,300,000, against 1,712,880 bales in 1890. The railroad mileage in the South has increased in the same ten years from 49,828 miles to 83,000 miles. The amount of coal which is mined has increased from 21,800 to 49,198,068 tons, and the amount of pig iron produced from 1,483,459 to 2,904,671 tons. The same ten years saw an increase in value of the agricultural products of the South from \$66,000,000 to \$1,200,000,000, and in the value of exports from Southern ports from \$315,021,008 to \$830,317,545. To these figures he added some statistics of later date. Among them he stated that the consumption of the mills 45 per cent of the cotton bales used by the factories of the United States. Northern mills in the year ending last August consumed 1,956,897 bales; Southern mills used 1,630,931. The significance of these figures is understood when it is added that ten years ago the Northern mills took 3,160,740 bales and the Southern only 686,080."

There has been much said and written about the South eventually becoming the center of the cotton manufacturing industry in this country. The rapid increase of consumption by Southern mills compared with the consumption by Northern mills, should leave very little room for doubt on that question. Of course, this will take time, but it is about as sure to come as anything is that is still an unaccomplished fact.

Another thing, is almost as certain and that is that the South (with the main output in North Carolina) will eventually, and at no distant day, either, be the center of the furniture manufacturing industry and will control not only the domestic trade but the exports of furniture. From the rapidity with which furniture making plants are multiplying, they will be compelled to seek foreign markets.

A BIG PLANT.

We have made frequent reference in these columns to the electric power plants projected in this State and to the admirable facilities the State, with its numerous power-furnishing streams, offers for the establishment of these plants. Already two have been completed, one on the Yadkin, which transmits power to Winston and Salem, and another on the French Broad river, which transmits power to Asheville. Work is also in progress on another colossal plant at the "Narrows" on the Yadkin, of which the Salisbury Sun speaks as follows:

"The Whitney Reduction Company is developing at the narrows of the Yadkin river, and within two days of Salisbury, a water power of forty-five thousand horse power capacity, will be installed. It will distribute its central home power to the cities of Salisbury, Charlotte, Concord, Lexington, Thomasville, High Point and several smaller cities, with Salisbury as a central point of distribution. The cost of installing this plant will be in the neighborhood of twenty dollars per annum for twenty-four hour service. The cost of installing this plant will be in the neighborhood of four million dollars."

There are many streams besides the Yadkin capable of furnishing power that might be transmitted from twenty to fifty miles. There are the Roanoke, capable of furnishing a practically unlimited amount of power, Haw river, the Dan river, Smith river, Deep river, and passing the Yadkin, the Catawba, the French Broad and others, every one of which are power-furnishing streams and some of them of practically unlimited capacity. Many of them, if not all of them, will in time be utilized to furnish electric power to the surrounding country.

Salt Lake City is one of the best watered towns in this country. There is clear, cool water flowing through every street, fountains at nearly every corner, while many yards have little streams of their own emptying into the gutters. The water comes from the adjacent mountains, carried down by pipes.

Miss Constance Cavendish, of England, the 17 year old daughter of Lord Chesham, runs a farm and draws the color line on it. She will not have anything but black cattle, horses, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, rabbits, &c. Everything must be black. But she hasn't succeeded in raising black grass to feed to her stock.

Wm. J. Bryan refused to be kissed by a lot of emotional school ma'ams in a Pennsylvania town. He said his wife reads the papers. He doesn't propose to have any trouble at home.

NORTH CAROLINA NAVAL HERO.

Capt. Johnston Blakeley, Intrepid Sea-fighter, Spent His Childhood Here.

[Charlotte Observer, 31st.]

The last of the North Carolina Book-let series contains sketches of "A North Carolina Naval Hero and His Daughter," by Dr. K. P. Bartle. The naval hero was Capt. Johnston Blakeley, a native of Ireland, in his childhood and youth a resident of Wilmington, a student of the University of the United States navy. As commander of the *Wasp*, second ship of that name, in 1814, he captured and burned in the western entrance of the British Channel the British warship *Zetland* having repelled her attempt to board his vessel and then boarding her, after her officers were killed or wounded and the captain's clerk surrendered, he captured the *Zetland* and her crew. Blakeley afterwards captured the *Acorn* and the *Atlanta* and otherwise distinguished himself and his ship. The *Wasp* and her crew were never afterwards heard of and their mysterious fate is still a secret of the sea.

A daughter, Maria Udny Blakeley, was born in 1816, the year of her father's disappearance made the babe the centre of universal sympathy. The North Carolina Legislature, at the request of the people of the State—her mother lived in New England—and annually voted \$600 for her education until 1837, when Mrs. Blakeley died. Her mother, Mrs. Udny, married a Danish nobleman in 1841 and died with her infant son in 1842. A son of her father's, James Johnston Blakeley, was an intrepid sea-fighter. He was only 35 years old when he met his mysterious fate.

THE CAROLINA NORTHERN RAILROAD.

Mr. Augustus Meiler, the President, Says Extension Soon Contemplated.

This week's issue of the *Manufacturers' Record* says: "The Carolina Northern railroad, recently completed between Lumberton, N. C., and Marion, S. C., a distance of 41 miles, it is reported, will be completed to the Carolina Central at present year. In a letter to the *Manufacturers' Record*, Mr. Augustus Meiler, president of the company, wrote that extension will terminate at Charlotte, N. C., and will be built between Lumberton and Fayetteville, N. C., forming a new route between Charlotte and Fayetteville, and connecting with the Carolina Central division of the Seaboard Air Line at Lumberton. It has been reported that the Carolina Northern railroad was closely associated with the Seaboard Air Line, and that the latter another outlet at tidewater. The length of the road, it thus completed, will be 178 miles."

NORTH CAROLINA STRAWBERRIES.

Growing More Popular Each Year—The Points of Shipment.

This week's issue of the *Carolina Fruit and Truck Growers' Journal* publishes an interesting statement of the points to which North Carolina strawberries were consigned the past season. The *Journal* says: "A comparison of the points with two years ago shows a most gratifying increase in the territory covered by shipment. This increase is going on all the while and the present year bids fair to show a far greater expansion of territory covered by shipment than any previous year in the history of the business. This is due in part to the heavy increase in acreage of strawberries this year over last and the further fact that the flavor and quality of North Carolina strawberries is generally superior to that wherever they are introduced. Further comparison of the figures show that while some of the Eastern points fell off last year, others in the West and Middle West gained."

ADMIRAL SCHLEY AND WIFE.

Will Leave Knoxville for Washington Friday via Asheville, N. C.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. KNOXVILLE, TENN., Feb. 1.—The official programme for the entertainment of Admiral and Mrs. Schley during their stay in Knoxville, during Tuesday night to Friday morning next week, was given out today. A reception will be held at the Southern Railway station on the arrival here at 8 o'clock by the general reception committee. Admiral and Mrs. Schley will then be driven to the Imperial Hotel. Wednesday morning a grand parade will be led and reviewed by Admiral and Mrs. Schley. At noon the address of welcome will be delivered by W. Blockett, president of the Chamber of Commerce, after which a formal public reception will be held. Friday morning at 8:30 o'clock Admiral and Mrs. Schley will leave for Washington on the Southern Railway via Asheville and Salisbury, N. C.

AWAITING REQUISITION.

Man Wanted in Durham, N. C., and Under Indictment at Various Places.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. CINCINNATI, Feb. 1.—The case of U. Grant Baumgardner, under arrest here on several charges, was continued today until February 5th, awaiting requisition papers. Among the complainants is Mrs. J. H. Freedland, who affidavits charge that he took \$400 from her while boarding at her house in Durham, N. C., and \$2,800 from her trunk while she was with him in Richmond, Va., having previously caused her separation from her husband. The police say he is wanted also at Lynchburg and Alexandria, Va., and other places, on similar charges. Baumgardner is under indictment in Durham, N. C., and Richmond, Va., and a reward has been standing for weeks for his arrest.

FIRE AT GOLDSBORO.

Pritchard & Winstead's Tobacco Stemmer Destroyed—Loss Over \$40,000.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. GOLDSBORO, N. C., Feb. 1.—A great fire with a loss of from \$40,000 to \$50,000, with insurance of about thirty thousand dollars, took place here tonight between 7 and 8 o'clock. Pritchard & Winstead's big tobacco stemmer, having in it a large quantity of leaf tobacco, was totally destroyed. The Goldsboro Buggy Company's large factory was in great danger, but heroic work and the drizzling rain saved it. The loss of the tobacco stemmer throws one hundred and fifty hands out of work.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT.

Vessels of 90 Tons and Over That Arrived During January.

The monthly report of Capt. Edgar D. Williams, harbor master, for January shows arrivals of vessels of 90 tons and over at the port of Wilmington as follows: American—Ten steamships, 15,448 tons; 1 bark, 1,600 tons; 11 schooners, 3,807 tons. Total vessels, 22; total tonnage, 18,855. Foreign—Two steamships, 3,716 tons; 5 barques, 2,543 tons; 1 schooner, 191 tons. Total vessels, 8; total tonnage, 6,449.

The grand total number of vessels was 30, with a combined tonnage of 25,004. The report compares very favorably with that of January, 1901, and shows an increase of about 8,000 tons.

COTTON AND NAVAL STORES.

Increase in Receipts of One Product, But Sharp Decrease in Others.

The monthly statement of receipts of cotton and naval stores at the port of Wilmington is published in the commercial columns of the STAR today.

From the statement it is noticeable that there is an increase in the receipts of cotton from January of last year amounting to about 9,000 bales. The yearly receipts are also correspondingly larger this season than last. There is a shortage in the receipts of naval stores for the month, the greatest—about 50 per cent—being in spirits (turpentine). Crude and tar have, however, about held their own as compared with Jan. 1901. The prices for the most part during the past month have been quite satisfactory.

Negro Accidentally Shot.

Eli Davis, colored, aged 29 years, and an employe of the Powers & Gibbs factory across the river, was accidentally shot yesterday afternoon while gunning with an associate near the fertilizer works and was removed to the Hospital here for treatment. A load of duck shot took effect in the negro's right thigh and just above his abdomen. He may be fatally wounded, but it will require several days to determine it. Particulars of the accident could not be learned. The negro was brought across the river to the Clarendon Water Works station and taken out to the hospital in the police patrol wagon.

Prominent Anson Citizen Dead.

News reached the city yesterday of the death at his home near Wadesboro, N. C., of John J. Dunlap, a prominent real estate owner and business man of Anson county. Mr. Dunlap had finished his dinner as usual and as he was about to leave the table he became violently ill and died within an hour. Mr. Dunlap was interested in several of the most important enterprises of the county and was universally esteemed by all who knew him.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Resolution Introduced Concerning the Itinerary in This Country of Prince Henry of Prussia.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The House after the transaction of some minor business which included the passage of the Senate bill to prohibit the sale of firearms, oil and intoxicating liquors in the New Hebrides, devoted the day to a resolution providing that the itinerary of Prince Henry of Prussia shall extend through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. This proposed route includes the great Atlantic chain and the Chickamauga park. The resolution provides that President Roosevelt shall duly consider this proposition, which is represented to curtail about twelve miles of the already arranged itinerary.

FATAL SHOOTING AFFRAY.

Daniel Harmon Killed by Dr. E. J. Daniels at Keystone, W. Va.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. ROANOKE, VA., Feb. 1.—Details were received here today of a fatal shooting affray at the little mining town of Keystone, W. Va., last night, in which Daniel Harmon and Dr. E. J. Daniels were the participants. The two men were engaged in a game of cards, when a dispute arose and the shooting quickly followed. After the smoke had cleared away it was found that Harmon had been shot and instantly killed. Both men were popular in the town. Harmon, who leaves a widow and two children, recently sold some coal lands by which deal he is said to have cleared up \$150,000.

ALABAMA'S ELECTION LAW.

Twenty Per Cent. of the White Voters Disfranchised Themselves.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb. 1.—Under the new constitution to-day was the last day in which voters could enfranchise themselves by paying poll tax. All who do not hold receipts cannot vote in any election in Alabama during the next year. From reports from various parts of the State it is estimated that at least 30 per cent of the white people have disfranchised themselves by failure to pay this tax.

JEFFRIES-FITZSIMMONS.

Arrangements for a Fight for the Championship of the World.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—James J. Kennedy met Robert Fitzsimmons here today and offered him terms for a fight with James J. Jeffries for the championship of the world. These terms suit the Cornishman and it is assumed that Jeffries will agree to them, inasmuch as William Delaney, Jeffries' manager, has been soundly defeated by Kennedy in a recent fight. Kennedy's object is to have the men fight a club in San Francisco in which he is interested. Jeffries will arrive in this city to-morrow from New England.

SPIRITS TURPENTINE.

Greenboro Telegram: By actual count High Point now has 45 factories, including the two in the course of erection.

—Smithfield Herald: A few days ago one lot of 1,235 pounds of tobacco was sold for \$400, averaging about 34 cents per pound.

—Monroe Enquirer: Mr. Thos. D. Helms died at his home in Marshville to-morrow on Sunday, January 26th, 1902, after being sick about two weeks.

—Maxton Scottish Chief: Last week two barns were burned over the line in Scotland county. Both entailed heavy and almost irreparable losses this hard winter. Both point strongly to incendiary origin.

—Durham Herald: News reached the city Thursday afternoon of the death of Mr. James H. Webb, of Granville, Va., who died Thursday at his home in that city. He was one of Granville county's best known citizens.

—Fayetteville Observer: John Henry Alexander, who on Monday night shot and fatally wounded Vina Brown, a prominent citizen, was captured at Cameron Thursday and is now in jail at that place.

—Littleton Reporter: The shuttle block factory opens a purse to those who own dogwood and persimmon wood, which will enable them to gather in during the next few months ready cash to assist in passing over the difficulties brought about by the unfavorable season of last year.

—Sanford Express: Mormon Elders were, until about two years ago very active in this section, but we have heard nothing from them of late. A few years ago they organized a church near Cameron, with some twenty five or thirty members, also one near Jones' Chapel, but it seems that these organizations have disbanded and renounced Mormonism.

—Wadesboro Messenger-Intelligencer: After a lingering illness, Mr. Frank Crowder died at his home in Morven Sunday, aged about 76 years. He was a native of North Carolina, and was a member of the Methodist church. He was a well known citizen of this county.

MURDERERS DIED OF THEIR WOUNDS.

The Biddle Brothers Who Escaped From Pittsburg Jail and Were Recaptured.

MRS. SOFFEL IS STILL ALIVE.

Has a Chance for Life, Although Symptoms of Pneumonia Have Developed.

Statement From Jack Biddle, Love Letter.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

BUTLER, Pa., Feb. 1.—At the close of a day of intense excitement and many conflicting reports concerning the changes for life of the wounded Biddle brothers and Mrs. Kate Soffel, the unexpected has happened. John Biddle, who until late this afternoon was thought the more likely to escape present death, died at 7:35 P. M. His brother, Ed., who has been unconscious practically all day and who was considered a dying man last night, survived until 10 o'clock and will, too, went over the great divide. Both men died without any apparent suffering at the close. Mrs. Soffel developed symptoms of pneumonia this afternoon after having come safely through an operation this morning for the extraction of the bullet.

The death of Jack Biddle was caused by the bullet wounds in his abdomen and bladder. Early in the day the physicians thought peritonitis was the principal danger in the case, but at night internal hemorrhages set in and the man died in a short while. As long as he was able Jack was extremely talkative and at times boastful. But as soon as the shadow of death began to fall upon him and he recognized it, he became repentant.

John Biddle's statement. "I know," said he, "that my time here is short, and you can say for me that I am a God-fearing man and a sincere believer in God and hope I have strength to say so at the last. I know I have taken part in many wrongs, but I have never killed any man and was never implicated with any one who did. I wish I could see Mrs. Soffel. I would tell her the truth about the killing of her husband. This life is a pretty tough one to me and I don't care how soon I get out of here. I am a member of the Biddle family in town this evening and I would like to see the jail, but Edward was unable to recognize her.

The principal subject of conversation on the streets to-day has been whether the Butler county authorities would permit the removal of the Biddles to Allegheny county in the event of either or both of them surviving their injuries. The Butler county authorities could since the Biddles were under arrest here for felonious shooting, they could not be removed. District Attorney John B. Henninger dispelled any such rumors, but he was emphatic in stating that it was the intention to turn the men over to the Allegheny authorities as soon as they were in a condition to be moved, and the same action would be taken in reference to Mrs. Soffel.

Case of Mrs. Soffel. After a consultation at the hospital in the case of Mrs. Soffel, this evening, District Attorney Haymaker decided to allow the women to remain here, under condition is such that the trip to Pittsburg to-night might be attended with fatal results. Mrs. Soffel is suffering from pneumonia, but the attending physician fear that her removal now would cause gangrene to set in. Attorney Haymaker said there would be no distribution made of the Butler county authorities, and that the Butler people had been heard, and the latter will take steps to notify the commissioners of Allegheny county of their claims.

The excitement was unabated to-day and a dense crowd of people hung about the jail doors all day, trying to get in to see the two criminals. The most persistent of the crowd were women, many of whom expressed the deepest concern and sympathy for Ed. Biddle and declared their belief in his innocence. This belief was deepened when it became known that Ed. Biddle made a death-bed confession to Rev. Father Walsh, of this place, last night, declaring his innocence of the shooting of the grocer, man Kabney and Detective Fitzgerald.

One of the sensational developments which the authorities have developed is the fact that the man who was the person of Mrs. Soffel, when she arrived at the hospital, a long letter from Ed. Biddle, setting forth in detail the plan for the escape of the brothers from the jail.

A Love Letter. A love letter from Biddle to his prison sweetheart, Mrs. Kate Soffel, found in the snow near the bloody scene of their capture, reveals the long and careful plot for their escape from the Allegheny county jail. The letter clearly shows the hazardous undertakings of the infatuated woman to secure the escape of the Biddles. Since December 2nd, 1901, they had been making preparations for escape. The discovered evidence tells how Mrs. Soffel carried the saws to the cells of the Biddles. It clearly shows the wonderful influence Ed. Biddle had over Mrs. Soffel.

The letter in part follows: "When I first started writing to you I did not love you. Now I have learned to love you and I would like to see you very much. But what I want to say is this: "We were searched pretty close to-day and I feel as if I had worn out a stack of Bibles text book that we could not have had this stuff on us since Saturday. So that you nearly clear yourself of all suspicion, without the help of the law, I would have risked all that you have given me right back for you, to screen and protect you. Yes, darling, if I did not love you as dear as life, I would have left this place last Friday night."

"It would be, of course, darling, but for you to stay at home until I could come and get you. Of course, it would be no use for me to go to see that I have to do so, but I would risk more than that for you, if possible. You must not think I don't love you. If you have any reason, as I know you have, you must not fail to see that I have risked all that you have given me right back for you, to screen and protect you. Yes, darling, if I did not love you as dear as life, I would have left this place last Friday night."

"It would be much easier for us to get away if you stayed at home, on account of the way the wardens, you know. In

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The death of Jack Biddle was caused by the bullet wounds in his abdomen and bladder. Early in the day the physicians thought peritonitis was the principal danger in the case, but at night internal hemorrhages set in and the man died in a short while. As long as he was able Jack was extremely talkative and at times boastful. But as soon as the shadow of death began to fall upon him and he recognized it, he became repentant.

John Biddle's statement. "I know," said he, "that my time here is short, and you can say for me that I am a God-fearing man and a sincere believer in God and hope I have strength to say so at the last. I know I have taken part in many wrongs, but I have never killed any man and was never implicated with any one who did. I wish I could see Mrs. Soffel. I would tell her the truth about the killing of her husband. This life is a pretty tough one to me and I don't care how soon I get out of here. I am a member of the Biddle family in town this evening and I would like to see the jail, but Edward was unable to recognize her.

The principal subject of conversation on the streets to-day has been whether the Butler county authorities would permit the removal of the Biddles to Allegheny county in the event of either or both of them surviving their injuries. The Butler county authorities could since the Biddles were under arrest here for felonious shooting, they could not be removed. District Attorney John B. Henninger dispelled any such rumors, but he was emphatic in stating that it was the intention to turn the men over to the Allegheny authorities as soon as they were in a condition to be moved, and the same action would be taken in reference to Mrs. Soffel.

Case of Mrs. Soffel. After a consultation at the hospital in the case of Mrs. Soffel, this evening, District Attorney Haymaker decided to allow the women to remain here, under condition is such that the trip to Pittsburg to-night might be attended with fatal results. Mrs. Soffel is suffering from pneumonia, but the attending physician fear that her removal now would cause gangrene to set in. Attorney Haymaker said there would be no distribution made of the Butler county authorities, and that the Butler people had been heard, and the latter will take steps to notify the commissioners of Allegheny county of their claims.

The excitement was unabated to-day and a dense crowd of people hung about the jail doors all day, trying to get in to see the two criminals. The most persistent of the crowd were women, many of whom expressed the deepest concern and sympathy for Ed. Biddle and declared their belief in his innocence. This belief was deepened when it became known that Ed. Biddle made a death-bed confession to Rev. Father Walsh, of this place, last night, declaring his innocence of the shooting of the grocer, man Kabney and Detective Fitzgerald.

One of the sensational developments which the authorities have developed is the fact that the man who was the person of Mrs. Soffel, when she arrived at the hospital, a long letter from Ed. Biddle, setting forth in detail the plan for the escape of the brothers from the jail.

A Love Letter. A love letter from Biddle to his prison sweetheart, Mrs. Kate Soffel, found in the snow near the bloody scene of their capture, reveals the long and careful plot for their escape from the Allegheny county jail. The letter clearly shows the hazardous undertakings of the infatuated woman to secure the escape of the Biddles. Since December 2nd, 1901, they had been making preparations for escape. The discovered evidence tells how Mrs. Soffel carried the saws to the cells of the Biddles. It clearly shows the wonderful influence Ed. Biddle had over Mrs. Soffel.

The letter in part follows: "When I first started writing to you I did not love you. Now I have learned to love you and I would like to see you very much. But what I want to say is this: "We were searched pretty close to-day and I feel as if I had worn out a stack of Bibles text book that we could not have had this stuff on us since Saturday. So that you nearly clear yourself of all suspicion, without the help of the law, I would have risked all that you have given me right back for you, to screen and protect you. Yes, darling, if I did not love you as dear