

THE DAILY FREE PRESS.

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Punishment of Rathbone Et Al.

In convicting Rathbone, Neely and Reeves for postal frauds in Cuba and sentencing them each to ten years' imprisonment and heavy fines the audience court at Havana has done itself credit. It has taken a long time to accomplish this end, which is attributed to the difficulty of obtaining affidavits in the United States and the involved procedure of the Spanish law under which the defendants were tried; but now that justice has been done honest people here and in the island will rejoice.

There were peculiar reasons why these men, if proved guilty—and there has never been much doubt on that score—should not escape severe punishment. They were sent as the trusted agents of the United States to organize and put in operation a postal system in Cuba, introducing American methods in place of those which had prevailed under Spanish misrule. They were selected not only for their supposed integrity, but for their apparent business ability, one of them, Rathbone, having served as fourth assistant postmaster general at Washington. They were to give the Cubans, yet unschooled in self government, an object lesson in the management of postal affairs, teaching them superior methods and instilling principles of integrity, thrift and enterprise. Instead of this they gave almost from the start an exhibition of extravagance and incompetency and finally looted the Cuban postal department of something like \$125,000. Much was expected of Rathbone, Neely and Reeves, and their betrayal of their trust was measurably a reflection upon the government which had undertaken to put the Cubans in the pathway of intelligent, prosperous and righteous self government. Had they escaped their just deserts it would have been almost a national disgrace and would have set before the young republic a most deplorable example. It is therefore gratifying to Americans as well as to Cubans that these malefactors have been fined approximately to the full amount of their pecuniations besides being condemned to penal servitude for terms of ten years.

Now and then we are reminded in that delicate and tactful way characteristic of the French people that there are still such things as Franco-American ties. It is noted that the Parisians are now busy in arranging a performance at the Grand Opera House which will excel any dramatic entertainment ever given, even in that home of the drama. The proceeds will be given to the McKinley monument fund. The government is giving its active support, and every social and artistic organization is sharing in the work. In the circumstances it is not pleasant for us to recall that when President Carnot was assassinated our sympathy was shown only in a few formal official messages. That, however, should serve only to double our appreciation of the present attitude of the Parisians.

There seems to be rather a dearth of sensations in New York these days. Florence Burns has been set free and gone into retirement; the Patrick poisoning case is ended with conviction of the accused; nobody has yet appeared to claim the reward for telling who killed McAuliffe, and District Attorney Jerome is talking for publication less fluently and forcibly than formerly. Of course there may be a tunnel explosion or a cave-in almost any moment to kill a dozen people or drop a Fifth avenue palace into the subway, but the Gothamites have got used to such little occurrences and don't mind them. The metropolitan newspapers should resume the discussion of the Raines law sandwich and the open side door and liven up the sleepy old town.

Cambridge is still behind Oxford in the long pull. This year's race was the fifty-ninth between the two universities, Cambridge winning handsily by five lengths, despite the fact that there were a couple of sturdy American lads in the Oxford shell. Oxford last year won her thirty-third victory, and previous to 1901 Cambridge had been the winner twenty-four times. The race in 1877 was a tie. The institution on the Cam must keep up the pace if it is to be regarded as the leading English university.

Two years ago woman suffrage passed the Iowa assembly and was defeated in the senate. This year it passed in the senate and was defeated in the lower branch of the legislature. Isn't that a rather ungalant way for the gay masculine legislators to trifle with the political affections of the ladies?

The agricultural department has sent 800 bushels of seed corn to farmers in Arkansas who are without funds to buy, owing to the failure of their crops last season. This is a form of seed distribution highly commendable.

BREVITIES

NOTES OF NOTABLES.

Joseph Gruenhut, Chicago's first city statistician, has just died. He was born in Kandıtz, Bohemia, in 1840.

John H. Wessling, who died in Cincinnati the other day, made and exhibited the first arc lamp operated in the United States, taking the first medal awarded at the Cincinnati exposition in 1874.

Dr. John Ingils of Colorado Springs, Colo., who was in charge of the Presbyterian hospital at Peking at the time of the siege, has been asked to return and take charge of a new hospital which is to be built there.

Miss Louise B. Pierson, a daughter of Rev. Arthur T. Pierson, editor of The Missionary Review of the World, has gone to India to take up work in Calcutta in connection with the Woman's Missionary society of New York.

Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire sent to the library of congress the other day for a Bible, which, one of the oldest employees says, in forty-two years is only the second time such a request has been made by a member of congress.

Henry K. Sheldon, the noted Brooklyn philanthropist, who died several days ago, was an enthusiastic collector of rare and valuable books, having in his library 4,000 volumes, nearly every one notable by reason of binding, rarity or antiquity.

Archibald Bard Darragh, a congressman from Michigan, and Thomas Robert Bard, a senator from California, great-grandsons of Richard Bard, a soldier of the French and English war of 1756-1760, met for the first time in Washington recently.

Bishop Doane of Albany was one day talking to a druggist and a surgeon, while near by stood an undertaker's wagon. A friend hurried along, and as he shot by he murmured: "Priest, druggist, surgeon and undertaker's wagon. I'll pass."

D. E. Reardon, a Boston architect, is totally blind. Nevertheless he has designed many of the handsomest buildings in that city and has just completed the plans for a six story apartment house to be erected by the Perkins Institute for the Blind.

General Henry B. Carrington, who celebrated his seventy-eighth birthday a few days ago at Boston, was in 1875 granted access by Great Britain and France to all Revolutionary archives, through which he was able to survey and map the Revolutionary battlefields.

Senator Hear received word the other day that a friend who had been supposed to have appendicitis was suffering not from that ailment, but from acute indigestion. "That is good news," said the senator. "I rejoice that the trouble lies in the table of contents rather than in the appendix."

A self supporting community of consumptives is established near Denver, backed by Denver business men and twenty local physicians. The members of this community live in tents and engage in light remunerative occupation, which keeps the enterprise going and provides healthful employment for the afflicted.

The new English stamps just issued and which represent the king crowned with a wreath will undergo a change immediately after the coronation, when the wreath will be replaced by a crown. It was considered inappropriate to represent the king with a crown on his head before the actual coronation had taken place.

The expenses of the New York coroners' office do not decrease as the demand for the abolition of the office as unnecessary becomes more general. This year's appropriation for the coroners' office in Manhattan is \$61,200, in Brooklyn \$32,900, in the Bronx \$31,000, in Queens \$23,000 and in Richmond \$16,150, a total of \$165,150.

Clyde Fitch's physicians have ordered him to write no more plays until next fall. This will make it necessary for a score of stars to look elsewhere if they wish to bring out anything new during the summer.

The London dispatches give an account of another American being presented at court. He got two years for forgery.

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G. E. LINCOLN,
Manager Kinston Office.

Stevenson Property!

By order of court we will on the 26th day of April, 1902, offer for sale at the court house door in Kinston, N. C., at the hour of 12 o'clock noon, to the highest bidder for cash, all of that property situated on the north corner of Queen and Gordon streets in the town of Kinston, N. C., better known as the John H. Stevenson property. Fronting Queen street with one hundred feet, running back one hundred and ten feet, making a frontage on Gordon street one hundred and ten feet. The object of the sale is to make division between E. H. Stevenson and Mary A. Stevenson. Sale will be made subject to approval of court.
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