

WILCOX UNDER A STRONG GUARD

Feeling Is High Against Him, but the Authorities Will Prevent Violence

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 28.—Special.—The jail has been closely guarded during the day by the naval reserves, but there have been no demonstrations indicative of violence on the part of the populace. Rumor, however, says there will be a thousand men in the city tonight from Camden and adjoining counties. Little credence is put in the report. A stronger guard will be placed on duty and the prisoner will be protected at all hazards.

Wilcox weakened considerably when placed behind the bars and gave signs of a complete collapse. Later he slept soundly and when he awoke seemed refreshed and self-possessed and assumed his old-time nonchalance. He chatted glibly about different matters, but kept mum in regard to the dead girl. His oldest sister visited him this afternoon. She left bathed in tears, and after her departure Wilcox appeared nervous and restless. She evidently reported to him the finding of the coroner's jury which had been kept from him.

Mr. A. G. Cropsey of New York, arrived on the 11:30 train. He was met at the depot by the citizens committee. He held a lengthy conference with Solicitor Ward this evening. No definite date was fixed for the preliminary hearing. Postponement is probable in consequence of the excited state of the populace.

DRAGGED TO THE RIVER

An Official Says That Proof Will Be Forthcoming

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 28.—Special.—An official said today that evidence that Miss Cropsey was dragged from her gate to the river would be produced. A friend of Wilcox discredited the statement.

As one result of the finding of Nell Cropsey's body and the subsequent excitement three people are totally prostrated, but Jim Wilcox is not one of them. Former Sheriff Wilcox, his father, has been ill all day and his mother, not strong before, is suffering greatly. Mrs. W. H. Cropsey, Nell's mother, is regarded in a critical condition. She has not been just herself since the daughter disappeared and the finding of the ghostly remains yesterday has had a serious effect on her condition, mentally and physically.

The casket holding the remains of the dead girl tonight lies in a closed vault at the Episcopal cemetery. The morbid company which today marched out in hopes of seeing Nell's face was disappointed, for the vault was closed. A large crowd is expected to attend the funeral Sunday.

The end of the second day since the finding of Miss Cropsey's body marks a subsidence of popular demonstrator against James Wilcox, the suspected lover; but if private expressions from representative citizens may be taken as an index the feeling against him is as deep and bitter as it was last night when a great crowd stood together and muttered suppressed threats. Tonight the county jail is still guarded by the naval reserves, not to prevent the escape of Wilcox, who is a weak and resourceless fellow, but to guard against possible attempts to do mob violence. The whole company is not on at once.

Justice Cropsey was not in a good humor when seen this afternoon. "That was a h— of a verdict," he said, in referring to the jury's finding. He thought the declaration against Wilcox should have been stronger. He thinks Nell was clubbed with a blackjack and that she was not thrown into the river on the night of her disappearance.

There was a report in town tonight that Guy Hall, who has been suspected in the case and who is a close friend of Wilcox was to be run out of town. "That only came from two or three hot-headed men," Hall said. "Since I was suspected of the abduction the finding of the body ought to vindicate me."

When asked about the time of the trial lawyer Aydtett, counsel for the defendant, said its time had not been set, but that the case would be called soon. Mr. Aydtett said that Wilcox's printed statement sent to The Post covered all he knows about the case. Justice Crop-

sey is indignant about a published statement intimating that he faked a letter, and in the absence of apologies a suit may be brought.

Lawyer Andrew G. Cropsey, of No. 3 Chambers street, New York, who is here, gave out a signed statement at 11 o'clock tonight:

"The long vigil of my sister-in-law was repaid," it began. Lawyer Cropsey then described the finding of the body, its being carried by Justice Cropsey in his arms, the excitement and the inquisition. Continuing, he said: "The autopsy revealed that Nell had been killed by a blow on the left side of her head above the ear by a blackjack or club and that she was dead before she was thrown into the river." After reviewing the verdict he says: "This verdict amounts to holding Wilcox on a charge of murder in the first degree."

Mr. Cropsey promises to assist Solicitor Ward. He says another military company has been sent for and that the committee has gone in the rain for a twenty mile ride after evidence.

After the funeral at the Methodist church here Sunday the remains will be forwarded to New Utrecht Dutch church burying ground, Brooklyn, where they will arrive Tuesday morning.

SENTIMENT AGAINST WILCOX

The Public Believes Him Guilty of the Murder

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 28.—Naval reserves patrol the streets of this place today. Saloons are closed by order of the mayor and every precaution is being taken to prevent the angry citizens from carrying into execution their threats against Wm. Wilcox, the lover of Ella M. Cropsey, whose body was found in the Pasquotank river yesterday. The jail where Wilcox is held a prisoner until further investigation regarding the girl's death, is closely guarded.

Public sentiment is strong against Wilcox, now that the coroner's jury has decided that Miss Cropsey met her death by foul means, and no stock is taken in the story of suicide. All point to the fact that Wilcox was with the girl when she was last seen alive, five weeks ago. This fact is the only real evidence at hand to connect Wilcox with the crime. Wilcox heard the clamor of an angry mob outside the jail last night, but he displayed the same indifference that has characterized him since the girl disappeared and during the long search for her. All he has to say is that he left the girl on the veranda of her home on the night of her disappearance and that she was crying because of a quarrel that she and Wilcox had indulged in earlier in the evening. Wilcox, though he does not say so in so many words, sticks to the theory that the girl drowned herself.

Mrs. Cropsey, the mother, is prostrated with grief. Mr. Cropsey has nothing to say further than to declare that the whole matter is now in the hands of the officials and he will let the law take its course. It is planned to hold the funeral at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon. The interment will be in Brooklyn, N. Y., the former home of the Cropsey family.

A threatening crowd hovered about the jail last night. Cool heads in the crowd advocated waiting for the public statement of the physicians, which was not given out until this morning.

The girl had been missing for thirty-seven days, but the body is in such a good state of preservation that no one believes it could have been in the water all that time. There is a discoloration on the left temple, but this has not yet been shown to be the result of a blow received in life. The coroner's jury, which met yesterday afternoon, took the responsibility of saying that the girl met her death from a blow and not from drowning, but the physicians' report says that there are no signs of violence.

QUAY WILL RETIRE TO PRIVATE LIFE

Washington, Dec. 28.—It was stated on good authority at the capitol today that Senator Quay will never return to his seat in the Senate, that he is preparing to retire from active politics in the near future. In a letter received at the capitol today it was positively ascertained that the Pennsylvania statesman has decided to resign from the Senate.

Mr. Quay has been unable to attend the session of the upper body except for one day since the Fifty-seventh Congress convened. He has remained in Florida and his health, instead of improving, has gradually grown worse. To return to Washington, it is said, would be but to imperil his life.

Senator Quay has stated that he would have liked to remain here to attend to legislation in which he is specially interested, but that he found this impossible. His friends say that even under the most favorable circumstances he would hardly be able to serve out his term as United States senator.

Mr. Quay has at present, it is claimed, no desire to remain in public life and will resign as soon as he can do so and do justice to his friends. He can no longer take an active part in legislation, and he has won all of his battles; he is content to retire with present honors. It was admitted this morning by a senator who is close to Mr. Quay that the resignation will be sent to Senator Frye before many weeks.

ITO IN LONDON

His Home Government Gives Him a Delicate Task

London, Dec. 28.—Marquis Ito, who is now in London, loses no opportunity of making it known that his visit is entirely one of pleasure, and that when he left Japan he had no intention of coming to England. The latter statement is undoubtedly correct, for it is now learned that he altered his plans while he was in the United States, on receipt of a cable request from the Japanese government to go to London and see what could be done to bring imperial influence to bear on the Australian commonwealth government to agree to exclude the Japanese from the scope of the colored immigration legislation.

Marquis Ito discussed the question with Lord Lansdowne at the foreign office yesterday. He doubtless referred to it in the course of his long audience with the king, but the most important interview the marquis will have in this direction will be with Colonial Secretary Chamberlain, the date for which has already been fixed. The marquis expresses great admiration for Mr. Chamberlain's character and ability. He will find him sympathetic enough, no doubt, but certainly too astute to interfere directly with the Australian commonwealth in such a delicate business.

MADE A BOTCH

A Suicide Ashamed of His Bungling Work

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 28.—William B. Cox was found lying in the smoke house of his sister, Mrs. McAlpine, near Nimmo, Princess Anne county, yesterday. His throat was cut from ear to ear, he was shot and upon his head were fourteen gashes, evidently axe wounds. When searching for him his relatives heard his groans and found him sitting upon the smoke house floor in a great pool of blood. He told the finders that his wounds were self-inflicted, that he was sorry he had made such a botch of the job of killing himself, that he wanted to die and they must do nothing to prevent his death. He assigned no reason for desiring to die and none is known.

He was removed to his sister's house, a doctor was summoned and his wounds were dressed; but death followed soon. Before dying, however, Mr. Cox said he wanted the fact that he killed himself kept out of the newspapers lest it be thought he did the deed because of drunkenness. He was a bachelor, 68 years old, owned, it is stated, large orange groves in Florida, and was recently killed by a woman, a school teacher of Southampton county, Va.

RELIEF TO ITALY

Rift in the South American War Cloud

Rome, Dec. 28.—The reported settlement of the dispute between Chile and Argentina has aroused the sincerest satisfaction here. After much debate and many inquiries in the foreign offices of Europe the Italian government had to recognize that it was bound to break out Italy would be bound to assume a leading part as an interested outsider, with all the risks which such a role involves. Orders were issued consequently to prepare a squadron for service in Argentine waters and preparations were actually commenced to that end. While keeping short of openly waging war on Chile, the Italian policy would have been to help Argentina in every possible way. This was Signor Crispi's policy and was approved by the late King Umberto and his cabinet when the Chilean-Argentine situation last seemed threatening.

Imprisonment for Debt

London, Dec. 28.—There is a popular impression that imprisonment for debt has been abolished in Great Britain. The county court returns for 1900, which are just published, show that 4,000 debtors were imprisoned during that year.

Six Killed in a Shaft

Harshorn, I. T., Dec. 28.—A very disastrous accident occurred at shaft No. 1 of the McAlister Coal Company here today. While the cage was ascending with eight men, and when about ten feet from the top of the shaft

it jumped its guidings and six out of the eight men were immediately killed. They were horribly mangled beneath the cage and their bodies were dropped to the bottom of the shaft. Two men held to the cage and were hurt very little. They had to be drawn up with ropes as the cage had stuck about midway of the shaft.

White House Functions

Washington, Dec. 28.—The following programme of receptions and dinners to be given at the White House has been announced:

January 1 (Wednesday)—new year reception, 11 a. m. to 1.10 p. m.
January 2 (Thursday)—cabinet dinner, 8 p. m.
January 7 (Tuesday)—diplomatic reception, 9 to 10.30 p. m.
January 9 (Thursday)—diplomatic dinner 8 p. m.
January 14 (Tuesday)—judicial reception, 9 to 10.30 p. m.
January 16 (Thursday)—Supreme Court dinner, 8 p. m.
January 23 (Thursday)—congressional reception 9 to 10.30 p. m.
January 30 (Thursday)—army and navy reception, 9 to 10.30 p. m.

SUICIDE WITH FRILLS

Young Woman Takes Carbolic Acid in a Theatre

Washington, Dec. 28.—Miss Mary Louisiana Benner, 28 years old, committed suicide tonight at Chase's Theatre by drinking the contents of a two-ounce bottle of carbolic acid just as the curtain rose on the act of David Lozelle, the sensational gymnast, better known as "Lozelle the Great." Unrequited love is given as the cause, Lozelle being the man the young woman was in love with. As the curtain rose Miss Benner, still standing in the aisle on the left of the orchestra circle, waved a letter in the air and, after tearing it up and throwing it on the floor, took the bottle of poison from her bosom and drank it. She was taken to the Emergency Hospital where she died a few minutes after being received. She purchased the poison late in the afternoon after Lozelle had failed to keep an appointment with her.

PERRY BELMONT THE REGULAR CANDIDATE

New York, Dec. 28.—Perry Belmont is the regular Democratic candidate for Congress in the Seventh district, according to the decision rendered by the board of elections tonight, and his name goes on the official ballot "Under the Star." The name of Croker's candidate, Councilman Joseph F. O'Grady, will not appear on the ballot at all under this decision which, however, is subject to revision by the courts.

OFF TO SEE BRIGANDS

Hope for Release of Miss Stone Near at Hand

London, Dec. 28.—A news agency dispatch from Constantinople says that W. W. Peet, treasurer of the missionary society in Constantinople, and M. Gargulo, dragoman of the United States legation, who left Constantinople December 17 to meet the brigands who held Miss Stone captive, and tender the ransom fund which had been raised to secure her release, have started from Salonica for the interior. No news of their movements is to be expected for some days. The government, on representations made by the legation, sent instructions to the provincial authorities to render the United States negotiators for the release of Miss Stone, every assistance in their power.

TERRY AND ABE

Featherweights Matched for the Championship

New York, Dec. 28.—The challenge of Abe Attell, the California featherweight, to meet Terry McGovern, which was accompanied by a deposit of \$1,000, has been accepted by McGovern. McGovern through his manager, says that he will take on Attell at 122 pounds weight. This is the weight proposed by Attell and upsets the prevailing impression that McGovern can not get to 122 pounds again and be strong. McGovern states that he is still the featherweight champion, as he fought Young Corbett at 120 pounds, and that his mill with Attell will be for the featherweight title.

Witnesses Against Neely

Washington, Dec. 28.—A number of post office officials left Washington today for Havana to testify against F. W. Neely, whose trial begins January 2, 1902. In the party were W. F. Cochran, Chief Inspector, Inspectors W. T. Sullivan, J. D. King, W. B. Smith, A. R. Holmes, W. T. Fletcher, W. R. Keys, F. M. Hamilton, J. C. Coates and C. M. Waters. All of these mentioned have been investigating the postal frauds in which it is charged that Neely played such a prominent part.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 27.—Representatives Pollock of Stark, and Beal of Harrison, heretofore counted doubtful, came out for the Foraker slate today, and the weight of opinion is that Foraker will organize the legislature.

Four Assistants May Go Out With Smith

Good Positions Which the New Postmaster General Will Fill with His Friends

Washington, Dec. 28.—Probable retirements from office, growing out of the resignation of Charles Emory Smith as postmaster general, are as follows: William M. Johnson, first assistant postmaster general; appointed from New Jersey August 23, 1900; salary \$4,000. W. S. Shallenberger, second assistant postmaster general; appointed from Pennsylvania, March 29, 1897; salary \$4,000. Edwin C. Madden, third assistant postmaster general; appointed from Michigan, July 1, 1899; salary \$4,000. Joseph L. Bristow, fourth assistant postmaster general; appointed from Kansas, March 22, 1899; salary \$4,000.

The opinion prevails here today that the assistant postmasters general will retire with Postmaster General Smith. This belief seems to be based on the supposition that Mr. Payne, the newly appointed Postmaster General, would naturally like to have as assistants men with whom he is more or less personally acquainted and upon whose hearty and entire support he could rely in his policy of readjusting and placing the postal service in the South on an improved basis and less subject to political influence. President Roosevelt, it was stated today, selected Mr. Payne to be postmaster general because he believed that the

latter possessed the ability and tact necessary to bring about changes for the betterment of the service.

It is recalled that in most cases in the past where a cabinet member has tendered his resignation, his assistants, as a matter of courtesy and custom, have also resigned their places unless specially requested to retain their positions. This, it is understood, has not yet been done in the case of the assistant postmasters general, and it is expected at the Post Office and other departments that Messrs. Shallenberger, Johnson and Madden will tender their resignations in due time so as to afford Mr. Payne an opportunity to consult with the president in regard to the selection of the assistant postmasters general.

When seen this morning at the Post Office Department in regard to the matter, Messrs. Shallenberger, Madden and Bristow said that they had not considered the question as to whether they would resign. They said that they had received no intimation to resign nor special invitation from President Roosevelt to resign. Mr. Madden, chief clerk of the first assistant postmaster general, who is absent spending the Christmas holidays with his family in New Jersey, said this morning that it was customary for the assistants to resign with their chiefs, but he said he knew of a number of cases in which the custom was not followed. Mr. Conrad, chief clerk of the fourth assistant postmaster general, said that the rule of resignation when the chief retires might hold good in other departments, but that in his knowledge it had never been observed in the Post Office Department.

Making Progress Toward Peace in South Africa

The British Reported as Having Made Unexpected Concessions to Boers

London, Dec. 28.—During the past week there has been a continuance of those indefinite and contradictory rumors regarding steps towards the re-establishment of peace in South Africa, which have been prevalent for many weeks now. There has not been even the slightest indication from any official source on which these rumors can be based, but the belief that there is good foundation for them increases steadily. The following information comes from a source which there is every reason to believe is accurate and trustworthy.

Negotiations for peace, informal but extremely promising, are actually proceeding between Lord Kitchener and the Boer leaders in the field. Lord Kitchener, thanks mainly to the influence of Sir Michael Hicks Beach, England's chancellor of the exchequer, has been granted a free hand subject only to reference on political matters to Lord Milner.

General Louis Botha has already received assurances that the burned

homesteads of the Boers will be rebuilt at the cost of the British imperial exchequer. He has also been informed that if peace can be arranged the banished leaders will be permitted to return to their country within twelve months of the official proclamation of a settlement, and that within the same period an amnesty, which shall include the convicted Cape rebels, will be declared for all bona fide acts of war.

Practically the only question of importance still at issue is the form and extent of local self government which shall be allowed to the burghers of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Even that, according to present information, does not present insuperable obstacles. If the Boers obtain the terms here indicated their heroic endurance will undoubtedly have received the reward which could have been gained by no other conceivable method.

The recent successes of Christian Dewet and other commanders may for a time make it more difficult to persuade some of the most irreconcilable of the Boer leaders to abandon the unequal contest. It now seems certain that whatever party the Boer representatives now in Holland may take subsequently, the first negotiations must be with the leaders in the field.

Battleship Missouri Slides into the Water

Newport News, Va., Dec. 28.—The battleship Missouri, one of the heaviest and fastest war ships in the United States navy was successfully launched here today. The event was witnessed by 15,000 people and was greeted by every steam whistle in the harbor blowing its loudest and strongest. From stem to stern on the new vessel were national colors. She received her full share of that ceremony which always marks the launching of a battleship. Many distinguished people were among the thou-

sands present. United States senators and representatives, governors of states and officials high in navy and army circles were present. Miss Marion Cockrell, daughter of United States Senator Cockrell, had the distinction of christening the ship, and right graciously she did it. The vessel was baptized with Missouri river water "champagne." Miss Cockrell was accompanied here by a large party of friends who came as her guests. Mrs. Roosevelt and Secretary Long of the navy were witnesses of the event.

Life and Property Loss by Christmas Hurricane

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 28.—Destruction of wires throughout the Pacific Northwest shows that the hurricane prevailing Wednesday and Thursday was the worst ever experienced in the history of the country. While but few lives were lost the destruction of property was great on land and sea. Large forest trees were uprooted and twisted like so many twigs, and the damage to the great forests of the State can hardly be estimated. Along the shores of the mainland at Blaine and at the delta of Frazer river a tidal wave swept low lands, causing great destruction of fishing stations, canneries, dwellings and small vessels. Wreckage is strewn all along the coast and relief parties are patrolling the shores.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 28.—Now that telephone and telegraph wires are repaired and the damage done by the Christmas storm, twelve lives have been lost all told. Ten Japanese were swept into the flood on the Frazer river. They were asleep in their boarding house and the house and all were carried away. George Clarke was killed by a falling

tree. John Hewitt, a farmer, in trying to save his horses from the waves sweeping over his ranch, met his death. Along the farming district the river bank for miles is strewn with vegetables, and scarcely one of fifty-four canneries was escaped damage.

Schley's Friends in Council

Washington, Dec. 28.—There was a long conference in Admiral Schley's apartments at the Richmond today to decide upon his future course of action. With the admiral were Messrs. Haynes and Leagn, of Baltimore, his counsel before the court of inquiry. They declined to see any one while the conference was in progress, word being sent out that they were too busy.

The Lucky Number

At the weekly drawing at Stock Exchange last night number 2847 was the lucky number and drew the box of Red Ball Grand.

How Dewet Rushed Col. Firman's Camp

London, Dec. 28.—In a dispatch to the war office, Lord Kitchener gives further details of the action at Twofonten December 24, when General DeWet rushed the camp of Col. Firman. He says:

"The column was encamped on a solitary kopje whose southern side was almost precipitous. The outposts on the northern side were well pushed out. The position, which was naturally a strong one, had also been entrenched. The night was moonlight, but cloudy. Details have not been received, but it is stated that the Boers climbed the precipitous southern side and collected near the top. "At 2 o'clock in the morning the Boers

suddenly attacked the pickets on the summit in superior numbers. Before the men in the camp were able to get clear of the tents the Boers rushed through, shooting them as they were coming out. The officers were shot while trying to stem the tide. Lieut. Harwich, who worked the pompano, was shot through the heart. There was no panic among our men. All did their best. Including the casualties, half the column is now at Brand's River bridge. The remainder are prisoners. Two wagon loads of dead and wounded Boers were removed from the scene of action. The Boers, who numbered 1,200 and were under command of Dewet, behaved well."