

# "MURDER" CHILDREN

developed a curious homicidal mania, brought on by excessive grief. But after the murder of her mother, her mental equilibrium was restored, and she returned to her home, where apparently she was devoted to the two remaining children.

## Shock May Restore Reason.

Her present condition in no wise resembles her former condition. She then she was violent and noisy. Now her mind is simply a blank. And Dr. Gons, superintendent of the asylum, who has been studying her case, believes that unless her brain receives some terrible shock her memory will never be restored. Her recollections of what happened between the time she took her children under the shelter of her cloak and reason resumed, she says in a ward of the asylum will be aroused only by a shock as great as the one which robbed her of reason.

And what shock was that? This is the question which is baffling physicians, detectives and relatives of the unhappy family. Mrs. Ball accidentally set her home on fire, and, in a spasm of terror, race away with her children from the results of her carol's senses. And if so, at what psychological moment was her reason destroyed—at sight of the flames, or when she found herself alone in the woods with her children? Or did she feel the approaching return of the dreaded mania, and, fearing to find her children with her, she fled? And if so, where did she leave them?

## May Have Sent Children Away.

Some, few Brocktonites believe that because the air had been full of rumors regarding the disappearance of the Ball home she really did arrange to have some one come with a red automobile and take her children where they might be cared for.

## Woods Thoroughly Searched.

Every inch of the frozen woods around the Ball home, from the children had disappeared was raked over. The Avon reservoir, beyond the woods, was drained. Farmers all around the town of Taunton, Mass., were urged to search the woods, and their frantic efforts to unearth the bodies of the two little ones. The police master of Brockton was sent to the woods to search for the children. Mr. Ball's mind was a blank.

## Children Went Joyfully.

Joyous anticipations were aroused in their childish minds. Christmas was at hand. Perhaps they were going shopping? Perhaps they were going to the woods to gather evergreens. As to where they really went, different from the schoolhouse opinions differ. This may have been because Brockton had something else to do than to search for the children. Mr. Ball was away shopping.

## Instinct Led Woman Home.

Two nights later, on Thursday, December 5, Mrs. Ball staggered into the home of Mrs. Baxter, who lived directly opposite the wreck site in Brockton. The Baxters were terrified by the figure which stumbled across their threshold. Her clothes were in disorder. Her fingers were grimy and stiff as though she had been digging in the frozen earth. Her face was streaked with mud and her eyes were wild and bloodshot.

## Wreck for Americans in Wreck in Magellan Strait.

Capt. B. S. O'Connell, "savior of fortune," was talking the other day in the cabin of the schooner St. Mary's about the passage of Magellan's strait that he made in four days in the "sties" and of the profitable results to the officers and crew of the Guatemala that came from it. The schooner was run across in the strait. Just after their ship pushed its bow into the waters of the passage the lookout spotted a vessel which proved to be the melancholy results of an English shipper attempting to make the passage under the "St. Guatemala" name that came from it. The schooner came to anchor and the officers went ashore in a small boat to inspect the wreck. She proved to be an English ship with a cargo of high quality cloth, prying rags, brandy and wine. Of human life or any records of the ship there was not the slightest trace, nor was there any sign of a life in the neighborhood, as might be expected with such treacherous treachery.

oxygen had overtaken him. And poor Archibald, when he was 28, remember how glad he was that when he was 21 he had hidden his bride on a merriment in a dungeon, where some of the merry wedding guests might find her, while he went looking for her, and she came back at the wedding feast. And as she went down the winding stairs the hand of time had not yet, setting him back seven years, had blotted out all memory of what had happened between his fourteenth birthday and his twenty-first. And so it happened that when, with his twenty-eighth birthday, came, memories of the twenty-first, he remembered his bride and went to look for her. He found her, and she was dead. He had been looking for her for seven years.

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## Real Estate Exchange

OF WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL  
Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots, and Real Estate parties will write up if they do not see what they want in this list.

**173**  
Forty-two acre farm on section 1, Troy, Cass township, a well improved farm, good crops of wheat, corn, clover and timothy. Well watered, with a well, a good barn, and a good house. Price \$10,000.00.

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ball adjoining, young Godfrey can always be found walking better than a prisoner, together with the deputy sheriff.

He is known to everybody about the courthouse as "Young Sheriff Godfrey." This title does not affect the fact, who looks upon his office as a joke.

Whenever the senior Sheriff Godfrey desired to take a day off or to visiting he could with all safety leave his affairs in the care of his young son and his wife.

When interviewed by a reporter in the courtroom during the trial of the Mahan case, the "Young Sheriff said: "While I like to do my duty, I don't like to be a lawyer. I want to be a great lawyer and get into a high school and study hard for that. I will go to college."

Work about the courthouse is hard enough, but he likes it so much that he would not leave when the court stands in the people don't like very well to have a little like me tell them what to do."

## SAILORS GOT "PRIZE MONEY."

Windfall for Americans in Wreck in Magellan Strait.

Capt. B. S. O'Connell, "savior of fortune," was talking the other day in the cabin of the schooner St. Mary's about the passage of Magellan's strait that he made in four days in the "sties" and of the profitable results to the officers and crew of the Guatemala that came from it. The schooner was run across in the strait. Just after their ship pushed its bow into the waters of the passage the lookout spotted a vessel which proved to be the melancholy results of an English shipper attempting to make the passage under the "St. Guatemala" name that came from it. The schooner came to anchor and the officers went ashore in a small boat to inspect the wreck. She proved to be an English ship with a cargo of high quality cloth, prying rags, brandy and wine. Of human life or any records of the ship there was not the slightest trace, nor was there any sign of a life in the neighborhood, as might be expected with such treacherous treachery.

## ACTING SHERIFF IS YOUTHFUL.

Twelve-Year-Old Boy of Vermont Performs Father's Duties.

Although only 12 years of age, Brad Godfrey of this town performs the duty of a county sheriff in place of his father, who is now ill, says the Bennington (Vt.) correspondent of the Boston Post.

While not the legal sheriff, Godfrey is in a large measure regarded as such by the community, and he has performed his duties in a most efficient manner.

Brad Godfrey is a very bright boy, and he has a great deal of interest in the law. He has been studying hard for some time, and he has a great deal of respect for the law.

His father, Brad Godfrey, is a well-known and respected citizen of the town. He has been a sheriff for many years, and he has a great deal of experience in the law.

Brad Godfrey is a very promising young man, and he has a great deal of potential. He is a very bright boy, and he has a great deal of interest in the law.