

MATCHED AND DESPATCHED. SINGULAR DIVORCE COURT CASES.

The number of divorces granted in Illinois exceeds three thousand a year, says a Chicago correspondent. Most of these cases come before the Courts in Chicago. The abuse of the divorce laws of Illinois has been so great in the past that several determined efforts have been made to create a public opinion in favour of more stringent laws...

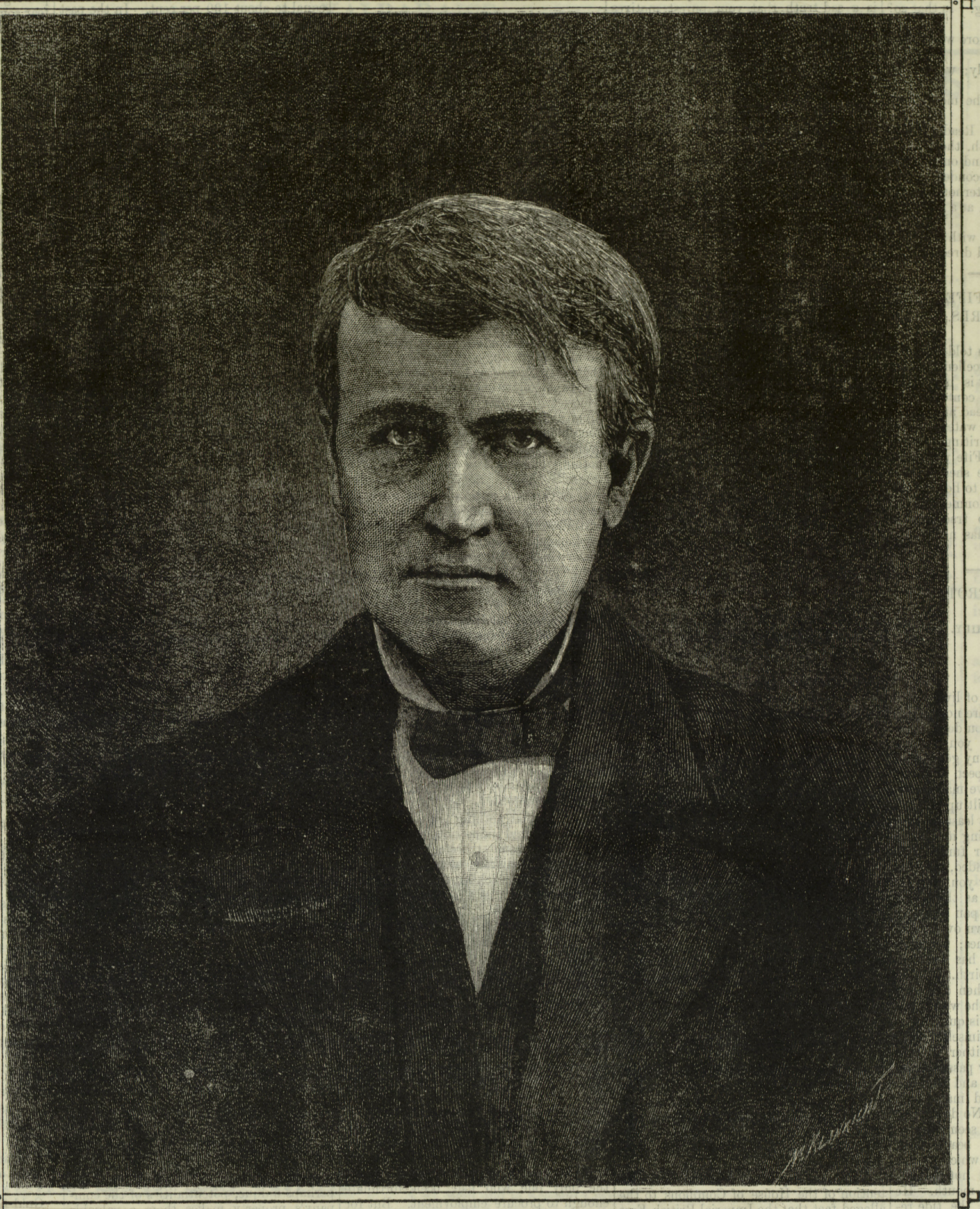
grieving couples together. Once in a while the same couple comes before a judge more than once asking for divorce. Jesse Caldwell and E. E. Shaw of this city have been twice married and twice divorced in the last three years. Both belong to well-known and wealthy families...

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contingency, let us hope, is carefully guarded against, for in all probability the Manx folk are not more partial than other people to visits from denizens of another world; and it cannot be denied that, however great one's affection may be for a deceased relative or friend, one does not usually feel any very great desire to have the disembodied spirit of the latter hovering around, and unexpectedly turning up at a late hour in lonely places...

Naim. The gentleman, in this instance, is the pursuer, and the record has been closed, in which he seeks £500 damages from the lady who has rejected his affections. The pursuer is Hugh McGillivray, sheep and cattle dealer, Rose Cottage, India street, Inverness, and the defender Mrs. Margaret Grant or Mackintosh, wife and residing with William Mackintosh, farmer, Barivan, in the parish of Cawdor, and county of Nairn, and her husband is made a party to the case...

A VERY PRETTY STORY OF MRS. GLADSTONE. The London correspondent of the Liverpool Post is responsible for the following story—I hear a story about some eminent personages which has the advantage of being told by a stout Conservative who does not particularly love them. Some months ago a gentleman holding a high position in the Civil Service was overlooked for promotion under circumstances which he felt compelled him to resign. He had nothing else to turn to, and found himself in a condition approaching destitution...



EDISON

to St. James's Park does not live in St. James Square," he said. However, the wife determined to see the matter out, and kept her appointment. On giving her name to the servant who opened the door, she was at once admitted, and shown into the drawing-room. Presently entered the mysterious lady in the second-class carriage. "I have spoken to my husband about your case," she said. "It is our rule never to help people who do not help themselves, but he has given me £50 to pay your passage out with your husband, and I have added £10, so that you may take the little child. My husband is not in office now, but you must let us hear how your husband gets on, and perhaps by and by Mr. Gladstone may do something for him." And, handing her the £60, she bade her a kindly farewell...

WEST COAST OF AMERICA TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

On May 15th, the thirteenth ordinary general meeting of this company was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street; Mr. A. Marshall in the chair. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, congratulated the shareholders upon the very handsome receipts the company had realised for 1889. These are no less a sum than £83,568, an increase of 21,895, compared with the receipts in 1888. He indicated, as reasons for the increase, the fact that nitrates had been much speculated in, that many new joint-stock companies have been formed, and that the competing line on the south coast had been interrupted, so that some of its traffic had passed over to the company. Mr. Marshall also explained that the working expenses were necessarily larger during 1889 than they had been in 1888, on account of the raising of salaries, and the payment of passage monies, the increase of rents, rates, and taxes, all consequent on the extension of the company's business, but these he considered to be comparatively small, as compared with the handsome profits made. The Chairman next touched upon the reserve fund, to which the directors had added £25,000, "owing," as the report states, "to renewed threats of competition, which, if carried out, would considerably diminish the revenue of the company." To explain that it was necessary, he said, to mention that the concession under which the cables are worked is not a monopoly, but rather a permission, and the Chilean Government holds the right to grant similar permission to other parties to lay cables parallel to those of the company's. As far back as 1857 permission was granted to a certain person to lay a cable; they had no doubt that was in the interest of the Central and South American Company, who had been and were still working with them under a joint agreement. This concession came to an end in February 1889, but the Chilean Government renewed it for a year, and in February last granted a further extension to February 1891. During the present year a steamer had been sent out by the Central to act as a repairing steamer, and, consequently, the repairing fees which the Central paid them would, after the arrival of the steamer at the coast, no more be paid to them. Then, last month, there appeared in the New York Chronicle a notice that the Central Company had asked its shareholders for an increase of capital to the extent of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of laying cables parallel with this company's. About the same time notice was sent to them by the Central Company that the joint working agreement which had existed since 1857, and which was terminable at six months' notice, would come to an end on October 1 next. This reached them only a few days before the report was issued. Now, it was not possible that they believed that by October 1 a cable could be laid, and they thought it quite possible that one could be laid before the expiration of the concession which the Chilean Government had given, and which terminated next February. The directors hoped that, before the directors of the Central Company definitely took so serious a step they would suggest some new working arrangement with this company. They knew perfectly well this company was prepared to treat with them.

Some discussion ensued between the shareholders and the chairman as to the position of the company in its present crisis, one shareholder asserting that a member of the board should have gone out to see after affairs at the first warning of such a crisis, and that it was to be considered that the company had been living in a fool's paradise for the last two years, with eyes closed to the real danger ahead. Another speaker thought that the directors should forego a part of their large fees now that they were in a hand, and also gave it as his opinion that the board should be strengthened by the appointment of some one competent to deal with the crisis. The chairman replied that, if necessary, he was prepared to go out to Chile, with regard to the strengthening of the board, he had invited a gentleman to join them, but he had been unable to accept the offer. He assured the shareholders that both himself and his co-directors would do all in their power to promote the interests of the company, and added that the large amount of the reserve fund would be most advantageous for the purpose of the regulations. The report and accounts were then adopted, recommending a dividend of 1 per cent per annum, free of income-tax, making, all together, 6 per cent per annum for 1889. The retiring directors were then re-elected, as was the auditor, after which the meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the chair.

A CRUSOE.

A more thorough-going castaway than Selkirk was one Peter Serrano, a Spaniard, who has left his name to a sterile rock in the middle of the Caribbean Sea. Here was a man with no goats, no tame cats, no pimento-pepper; as Mr. Chubb band would say, "without flocks and herds, without tents or dyed apparel." He lived for four years on a monotonous diet of coconuts, shrimps, and turtle; and he made the best of it. He had a stick in his pocket, and dived into the sea until he fished up a couple of flints, and so procured fire. He "provided" for a rainy day by drying strips of turtle-fish while the sun shone. Water he obtained by setting out the larger turtle-shells to catch the rain, and the smaller shells he used for cups. He protected his fire—which was built out of seaweed and drift-wood—by a screen of turtle-shells. We all know from the books of our childhood

QUEER BREACH OF PROMISE. REJECTED LOVER SING A LADY. An unusually interesting breach of promise of marriage case has arisen in

the sum sued for, which in any case is excessive, but without prejudice tenders the sum of £5, with expense of process, as in full of all claims under the action. The pursuer admits that he did lie in bed for some time and did go through the house crying in almost a mnd state, and that in that condition he did on one or more occasions run the countryside, but explains that at that time his health, bodily and mentally, was affected in consequence of a report which came to his knowledge, and which was circulated in the district, to the effect that the defender was about that time to be married to her present husband, and that notwithstanding her promise of marriage to him.

in some cases purposely damaged in order that they may not excite the curiosity of the irreverent—and in many cases it is customary for the death of a great man to slay a number of his wives, slaves, and cattle for his use hereafter. Before entering the Greeks placed in the mouth of a corpse a piece of money, together with a special kind of cake, the former being Olarou's fare for ferrying across the Styx, and the latter to propitiate Cerberus, the gate-keeper of Hades. The idea of the soul having to cross a river on its journey to the land of the departed spirits is of much greater antiquity than the Greeks or Romans, and may be traced back to the early Aryan mythology. Possibly it may have originated in a fancied resemblance of the Milky Way to a river flowing across the sky, which river would have to be crossed in order to reach the region beyond the stars where Heaven was supposed to be situated. In Greece the obsequies of the dead were in ancient times considered most important, for it was supposed that, without interment of the body, the soul could not at once enter Plato's dominions, but would be forced to wander miserably about for a hundred years, unless in the meantime a proper burial should take place. Thus, in some extreme cases of vengeance or punishment carried beyond the grave, we find records of the body being thrown to the beasts and birds of prey instead of being honoured with the usual funeral rites. Those persons who were struck by lightning, being regarded as objects of divine wrath, were, some writers suppose, left unburied on the spot where they had fallen. At any rate, even when interment took place, the body was buried apart from the rest of the community. The melancholy fate of those who did not enjoy proper burial naturally caused death by drowning to be regarded with great horror. When the body could not be recovered, however, an endeavor was sometimes made to mitigate the suffering of the deceased by creating a tomb to his memory, and thenceforth the wandering soul to the abode prepared for it. Some tribes of North American Indians consider it very unlucky to mention a dead person by name. By most of them, too, a corpse is regarded with more or less horror, and is consequently squeezed with as little delay as possible into the box which does duty for a coffin. These boxes, we may add, instead of being buried in the earth, are in some localities frequently placed up in trees. In Greece the practice of burying the dead in their native land was followed as far as possible, and accordingly the ashes of those who died abroad, were usually conveyed to the mother country for interment. With the ancient Greeks, as with ourselves, it was customary to close the eyes and mouth of a corpse, and when laid out, the body was washed by the women. The final ablution, however, was sometimes performed before death; thus Socrates is said to have washed himself beforehand, in order that the women might be saved the trouble after his decease. There is a Manx superstition that if the knots of a shroud are not untied before the coffin lid is finally screwed down the restless ghost of the deceased will wander about at large, which

