

CALLED DOWN.

A Gentleman's Reply to an Insult by a Bishop.

A SLANDERER ASKED

Poliately Give Some Reason for Insulting Charges Made Against Judge Benet and Proof of Charges Made Against the Southern People Generally.

Columbia, S. C., March 21, 1905.
Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter, Bishop of New York.

Right Reverend and Dear Sir: It was my earnest hope that your answer to my letter of the 9th inst. would be of such a nature as to call for no rejoinder. But unhappily you did not give the "soft answer," but made use of most "grievous words." It was, however, still my intention to keep your private letter to me out of the public prints for your own sake, but when I saw your second interview in the New York Globe and Commercial Advertiser and read in The State of Columbia, S. C., yesterday, the 20th inst., your letter to Mr. Gonzales, the editor, in which you said "the criticisms of Judge Benet and your own are equally unwarranted and impertinent," there was nothing left for me to do but to make the whole matter public. I am forced to speak out and to show the public what manner of man the bishop of New York is, and how he comport himself in what was expected by me to be a friendly and courteous correspondence. It will surprise everybody and it will shock obnoxious to read your letter to me, even if they should think my letter to you gave you sufficient provocation. Ever mine receiving it the words of the Psalter have been haunting my memory:

"Let the righteous rather smite me friendly and reprove me; but let not their precious balms break my head. It is proper that I should first exhibit my letter to you;

Columbia, S. C., March 9, 1905.
Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter, D. D., Y. L. D., Bishop of New York, New York.

Right Reverend and Dear Sir: In The State (Columbia, S. C.) of the 7th inst., the editor commented on and quoted from some statements of yours recently published in the New York Globe and Commercial Advertiser on the subject of divorce legislation. It appears that you said: "There would be no virtue in abolishing divorce altogether. We have an example of what would result from such a measure in South Carolina. Prohibiting divorce is merely putting concubinage at a premium."

This is a serious charge to make against South Carolina. And when it is made by one who deservedly holds one of the highest positions in the church, it commands attention and influences and molds opinion. I do not know where you found any authority for the assertion, but I do know that you have been misled, and that you have unwittingly misrepresented the people of this State. Nor do I doubt that when you have carefully and candidly considered the matter, you will make the amende honorable in as public a manner as you have made the unfortunate charge.

When you say that "prohibiting divorce is merely putting concubinage at a premium," are you not relying on President Woolsey and the textwriter Joel Prentiss Bishop, as authority? That is the burden of their indictment against South Carolina, and you make use of their very words. A few months ago I reviewed the reckless and groundless charges made by those authors. This I did at the request of the Rev. Robert A. Holland, D. D., of St. George's church, St. Louis, and my dear friend and bishop, the Rt. Rev. Earl Spencer, D. D. My review took the form of an open letter to Dr. Holland, which was published in The State and other newspapers in this and other States. Will you kindly take the trouble to read it—I enclose a copy—and then let the public, as well as me, know whether or you still can assert that the prohibition of divorce in South Carolina results in merely putting concubinage at a premium?

Enclosed you will also find a copy of the editorial article, which commented on your interview, in The State of the 7th inst., and a copy of the extended editorial comment of The Living Church of November 12, 1904, strongly and warmly commending my open letter.

Although I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance with you, I have enjoyed the privilege of sitting as a lay delegate in the triennial council of our church with you as a distinguished member of the house of bishops. But if you desire to know more about me, I refer you to Bishop Capers, your very good friend and mine. I also refer you to the Rev. C. M. Niles, D. D., of Trinity church, Columbia, S. C., now my rector, and formerly and quite recently one of your own clergy and well known to you.

Both my bishop and my rector, I know, are of one mind with me on the subject of divorce and on the happy moral result of the no-divorce law of South Carolina. It was Bishop Capers' intimate acquaintance with me for over 30 years of my life as lawyer and circuit judge that induced him to request me to examine into and properly answer the damaging and baseless charges of President Woolsey and Mr. Bishop.

Believe me, this letter is written to you not with any wish for controversy, but with a sincere hope that it and the matters enclosed will give you such information as that you will gladly undo the wrong you have unintentionally done to South Carolina. If you know South Carolina as Bishop Capers and I know them, you

would rejoice with us over the result of our no-divorce law and proudly hold it up as an object lesson to our sister States.

I have the honor to be, right reverend and dear sir, your obedient servant,
W. C. Benet.

To this letter of mine you sent the following answer:
No. 115 West Fortieth Street, New York.

March 13th, 1905.
My Dear Sir: This morning's mail brought me your letter of the 9th inst., and its enclosures. Neither you nor the newspapers which you enclosed took the trouble to verify a statement which they saw in another newspaper before indulging in criticisms equally grotesque and impertinent. It is enough to say that I never made the statement to which you allude, nor ever saw it in the columns of the paper from which you quote.

Among gentlemen, it is customary, before drawing an indictment based upon printed statements, to apply to the author for some verification of them. If you had done this you would have been saved a very foolish letter and very discourteous imputations. It is a curious fact that, coming, as you profess, from a region which boasts of its superiority in manners, you should appear to be unconscious of the elementary conditions of common courtesy.

Very truly yours,
Henry C. Potter.
The Hon. W. C. Benet.

I am sure it will give neither you nor me pleasure to see this amazing letter of yours in the public prints. I deeply regret the necessity of publishing it; and I doubt not you sincerely regret ever having written it. But I am glad to place the two letters, yours and mine, side by side, and let the public as a jury read them and decide whether I am guilty or not guilty of the charges of folly, impertinence, discourtesy and bad manners, for those are the counts in your indictment. That you have not questioned my honor and truthfulness leaves me something for which to be thankful.

Is it not strange that you are, so far as I know, the only man who consider my letter grotesque or impertinent or foolish or ill-mannered? Those who have spoken or written to me about it, and they are not a few, have commended me for the courteous terms in which it seemed to them to be told that such commendation has come to me not only from laymen and from the clergy, but even from the episcopate. And this emboldens me to request that you will favor the public and me by showing wherein consists the folly, grotesque, impertinence, discourtesy and bad manners of my letter.

It has been said by critics that society will tolerate a breach of good manners rather than a breach of good morals. I do not quite agree with B. Oshescauld or Chesterfield, yet I do confess to an unwillingness to sit silent when you accuse me of discourtesy, impertinence and bad manners. And since you not only charge me with a gross breach of good manners, but also charge my State and the whole South with a gross breach of good morals, it will not surprise a fair-minded man that I thus answer your letter and meet your charges. In spite of the great provocation you have given me, I treat that my language shall be temperate and my manners respectful, as is most meet in a layman addressing one who occupies the exalted position of a bishop.

Let me ask then, wherein have I offended?—I leave it to the gentlemen of the New York press to say if it is not a recognized rule to accept as true and genuine what is published in a metropolitan journal as a statement made by a public man, especially if after several days such statement has not been repudiated by the alleged author. Your first interview appeared in The Globe of March 3rd. You neither repudiated nor modified any part of it until March 16, after your attention had been called to the editorial in The (Columbia) State by the editor of the State and myself. Do you seriously think that my failure to apply to you personally for a verification of that interview proves me "to be unconscious of the elementary conditions of common courtesy?" What I read in The Globe and in The State, neither of them chargeable with "yellow journalism," but both of them conspicuously conservative newspapers, appeared to me to be genuine and correct.

And even if I erred in believing that the interview in The Globe did not correctly state your views, did that error justify you in characterizing my letter to you as "grotesque and impertinent," and to charge me with having written "a very foolish letter," and with having made "very discourteous imputations?"

The head and front of my offending seems to have consisted in taking for granted that you had said what was imputed to you in The Globe interview. I ask you to say as a gentleman was that sufficient cause to entitle you to apply to me epithets so rude and ungentle? I leave it to an impartial public to say which of us has in this correspondence shown most courtesy.

And even if in that you were correct, do you really think you had the right or the excuse to deal an unkind blow over my shoulder at the southern States—or Scotland—for it is doubtful to which region you refer, although I rather think you mean the southern States. Of course I am referring to your ironical remark about my coming "from a region which boasts of its superiority in manners." As a Scotsman I tell you truly that my native country vaunteth not herself in this regard; and as a southerner I assure you that my adopted country is too well-mannered to "boast of its superiority in manners." Do you not know that to boast of good manners is like bragging of possessing the grace of humility, of which it has been well said that "He who ventures to esteem it his 'Prove by that single thought he hath it not?"

And, now, right reverend sir, what have you done in your short second interview in The Globe of Thursday, the 16th inst.? You certainly have not made matters. In the first interview that excellent journal represented you as saying: "There would be no virtue in abolishing divorce altogether. We have an example of what would result from such a measure in South Carolina. Prohibiting divorce is merely putting concubinage at a premium."

And in the second interview we read: "The attention of Bishop Potter having been called to the demand from South Carolina newspapers for an apology to South Carolina for imputations disrespectful to its laws and life, he observed that he had no apology to make. He had not, he said, criticized the divorce law of South Carolina, nor said anything of 'abolishing divorce altogether.' He had simply remarked that in view of the prevalence of miscegenation in the south, the 'pose' of lofty or superior virtue on the part of its people, anywhere, had in it an element equally comic and pathetic."

I am truly sorry that the first interview did not represent your views, because your friends in this State—and I was one of them—could readily excuse your unfortunate statement about concubinage on the ground that you had blindly followed the misleading guidance of Joel Prentiss Bishop and President Woolsey. But when, in your second interview, dictated by yourself, you speak categorically of "the prevalence of miscegenation in the south," and this solely on your own responsibility, you make a charge much graver than the one imputed to you before, and you make it against not alone South Carolina, but all the southern States.

By "miscegenation" I apprehend you mean illicit intermarriage between the white and black races. You cannot surely mean intermarriage, for that is forbidden by law and made severely punishable in South Carolina and other Southern States.

And where do you find authority for asserting that miscegenation, as you understand it, is prevalent in the South? I honestly thought that Bishop and Woolsey had misled you as to concubinage, but I am at a loss to account for your astounding charge as to the prevalence of miscegenation in the south. And yet you say you "simply remarked" it.

Bishop Potter, this will not do. We of the South demand that you furnish us with your proofs of the prevalence of miscegenation in the south; or that, falling proof, you take back what you said.

If you answer without reflection or research, you may gibberish say that your case is proved by the large number of mulattoes in the South. That naturally gives a color of truth to your statement. But a fair and candid consideration of the matter will satisfy even you that this does not justify your charge of the prevalence of miscegenation in the south. I concede that the slavery system to a certain extent encouraged or brought about miscegenation. But I do know that the influx of northern men as soldiers and carpet baggers and adventurers, from 1866 to 1874 or 1875, made miscegenation far more prevalent than then it had been before or ever has been since. The immorality of that Reconstruction period was greater and grosser than even you would be willing to believe. And I feel sure that you will be glad to know that since the close of that dark period there has been a notable decrease of what you call miscegenation, and that it is still manifestly decreasing. So much so that I am sure that if the offspring of illicit intercourse in the northern and western States could be recognized by their color, as in the Southern States, you would not again speak of the prevalence of miscegenation in the South.

I hold no brief for the purity of morals in the South; but just as surely as we have the poor always with us, so surely we have in all countries the impure always with us. And it must be borne in mind that while the unfortunate women that represent social evil in the north and in other white man's countries are white women, in the south they are with very few exceptions negro or mulatto women.

I now come to the closing words of your dictated interview, where you say of the South, "The pose of lofty or superior virtue on the part of its people, anywhere, has in it an element equally comic and pathetic." But, equally, I refrain from commenting on this most unfortunate aspersion. I leave it to the public to pass their own judgment upon it. They will see as readily and as regretfully as I do with what "hippocry" a metropolitan "prelate" has almost said privately to me when I dealt with a subject that demands from him, as from us all, the most serious and respectful consideration. It will also grieve all good men to see how needlessly and suppositionally you flout with words of ridicule the white people of the southern States.

I have the honor to be, right reverend sir, your most obedient servant,
W. C. Benet.

Refused the Money.
Congressional members representing Boston and various sections of New England have protested to the American board of commissioners for foreign missions against acceptance by the board of the gift of \$100,000 from John D. Rockefeller on the ground that the Standard Oil company stands before the public under repeated and recent formidable indictments in specific terms for methods which are morally iniquitous and socially destructive, and that "acceptance of such gift involves constitutional of board in the relation of implying honor towards the donor and subjects the board to the charge of ignoring the moral issues involved."

Hungry Children.
Inspector Henry M. Lehtrecker, in a report to the State Board of Charities on food conditions existing among the inmates of the industrial schools of New York city, says that of 10,000 children involved in his industry, he found that, through poverty, 439 began the day's studies breakfastless, 998 without breakfast, 7,415 upon insufficient food, and 7,415 upon breakfasts consisting only of either tea or coffee and bread. The great majority of children were anemic for lack of good and sufficient food.

MANY KILLED

And Injured by the Explosion of a Steam Boiler.

IN A SHOE FACTORY.

Fire Followed the Explosion and Those Not Killed Outright Perished in the Flames. Men and Women Pinned Down Begged to be Killed as a Relief.

At least sixty people lost their lives by the explosion of a boiler in a large shoe manufactory at Brookton, Mass., on Monday morning. The explosion was immediately followed by a flash of flame, which consumed the factory, a long, four-story structure, as if it were a house of cards, and incinerated an unknown number of men and women who were unable to extricate themselves from a mass of tangled wreckage formed by the terrific upheaval in the boiler room.

More than half a hundred of the employees in the building were maimed, burned or bruised by the time they reached safe ground. Some had jumped from the roof, some from windows and others had been injured in the mad rush to escape from the doomed factory, which from all parts emitted the intense, awful heat of an inferno, driving back the band of heroic rescuers who in a few brief moments had performed gallant service. Two wooden dwellings near the engine room were practically demolished by the flying boiler, but none of the occupants were seriously injured.

It may never be known just how many persons perished in the wreckage. No one knows exactly how many persons were in the factory. The number has been estimated at 400, but Treasurer Charles O. Emerson said Monday night he doubted whether there were so many at work. Two hundred and fifty survivors have been accounted for and at midnight Monday night the remains of 50 bodies had been recovered from the ruins. Fragments of human frames which possibly might belong to bodies other than those enumerated have also been found. Few of the remains have been identified.

The head of nearly every case is missing and except in rare instances it is impossible even to distinguish the sex of the remains. The explosion occurred shortly after the operatives had settled down to work for the day, and without warning. Suddenly the air vibrated with the roar of an explosion. At the same moment the larger wooden frame of the factory, a four-story structure, quivered and then the rear portion of it collapsed. In a fraction of a second this section of the great building had been transformed into a mass of iron and wood wreckage, in the midst of which human beings were pinioned. In another moment fire had broken out in the debris and death by fire and suffocation became the fate of scores of the operatives. When the boiler exploded it passed upward almost perpendicularly, tearing a passage as it went, killing many on the way. After rising high in the air, it descended half the distance and then swooping northward, cut its way like some huge projectile through a dwelling house 50 feet away and pierced another dwelling further along, demolishing the latter structure. Here its course was stopped.

Scenes of horror followed the wrenching apart of the factory building. In the rear the three upper floors, weighted as they were with heavy machinery, collapsed with a crash that was heard for blocks. Men and women operatives working in departments of this section who were busy at their machines, had time but to turn in an attempt to flee, after the first dull roar, when the flooring sank beneath them and they were carried to the ground, floor, crushed and bruised, amid the mass of debris. Many fell into a veritable fiery furnace. In the sections of the factory which remained standing the operatives were panic-stricken as they sought escape. Many fled down the stairways and reached the street; others to the windows, the fire escapes in many cases having been torn away by the explosion. In desperation many jumped from the second and third-story windows to the ground and were dangerously injured. The crush on the stairways resulted in numerous minor injuries.

Instant death was the fate of many who went down with the floor that collapsed. A large number of men and women were alive after the floors and walls fell. From these unfortunate thrilling cries of agony and terror went up. Almost all had been caught between broken timbers, lighter wooden wreckage and heavy pieces of machinery. A few persons succeeded in extricating themselves from the wreckage, but more were roasted to death. By this time nearly all the employees had arrived in the rescue of the survivors. This task became momentarily more difficult and perilous, for the heat from the fire was almost unbearable. By the use of long poles of timber the rescuers were able to raise parts of the wreckage and thereby release some of the imprisoned men and women and then by rushing into the smoke pull them from the ruins.

With tear stained and haggard faces women and children besieged the rectory of St. Margaret's Roman Catholic church during the day, pleading with the priests for information about husband, father, sister or brother who failed to return home. Little comfort could be given to these people. At the Campello police station a similar scene was enacted. Early in the day Mayor Keith, foreseeing the confusion which would ensue, posted notices in conspicuous places requesting all employees who had

escaped to give their names to the police station and immediately posted and around this list of names hovered a throng of women—many hysterical with grief because the list did not include a relative. Back and forth from the ruins to the station, and from the station house to the ruins these grief-stricken women fled in a never-ending procession, looking at the fragments of flesh and bone as they were placed in pine boxes and hurried away to the morgue. Only in extremely rare cases was there the slightest chance of identification.

GAVE THEIR LIVES

In a Futile Effort to Rescue Their Fellow Workmen.

An Explosion That Shook the Very Foundations of the Mountains and Lighted Up the Heavens.

As a result of the horrible explosion in the Rush Run and Red Ash mines near Thurmond W. Va., Saturday night, twenty-four new life stark in death in the two mines. Ten of these were killed in the explosion Saturday and the other fourteen were a rescuing party, who entered the mine Sunday morning to take from the mines the charred and blackened remains of their fellow workmen. These latter were killed by a second explosion and the aftermath. The first explosion seemed to shake the foundations of the mountains and the angry twin flash from the two neighboring drift mouths lighted up the heavens for miles around. Soon from the mining villages for several miles up and down the river hundreds of people rushed to the scene of the dreadful disaster. The first explosion was caused by a "naked" flame coming in contact with the gas.

The flames leaped from the drift mouth and set fire to everything in reach that was not blown from harm's way by the force of the explosion. The great drum by which the cars are run from the drift mouth down the incline to the tipples and the empties drawn up was blown from its moorings and down the mountain side 600 feet, while the drumboose caught fire and was totally consumed. The cars that stood at the mouth of the mine were blown far down towards the tipples and much of the track of the incline was destroyed. The rails twisted and the cross-ties whipped from their beds in the ballast and sent scorching and charred many yards away. The big fan that furnished air in the mine was so damaged that it was several hours before it could be started again.

After considerable time the great fan was repaired and the power turned on and it began drawing one hundred thousand cubic feet of air through the charnel house a minute. A rescue party was formed and about twenty men entered the mine in search of the bodies of those who had perished at the first explosion. The men explored the mines for two or three hours, putting up brattices so that pure air should follow them wherever they went. Finally some of them came out and reported that the others were too careless in going forward faster than the good air was being supplied and carrying at the same time a "naked" light. At 3:45 another awful explosion occurred, caused by the gas coming in contact with the "naked" flame of a miner's lamp and fourteen more souls were launched into eternity. Mine Inspector Edward Pinckney arrived on the ground Monday and took charge of the rescue work.

Result of Primary.
A Democratic primary election was held Thursday in several counties for two positions as senator and in Charleston for member of the general assembly. In the new eighth circuit Mr. R. A. Cooper of Laurens is elected by a large majority over Mr. O. L. Schumpert of Newberry. Mr. Cooper is a candidate for solicitor in the old seventh circuit last year against Solicitor S. W. In the new ninth circuit, created by the recent legislation, the race for solicitor was among Messrs. W. Turner Logan, St. Julian Jervey and A. E. Padgett, the first two of Charleston and the last named of Collet. There was no election and Messrs. Logan and Jervey will run over Mr. Arnold Vander H. who has been elected to the legislature from Charleston to fill the unexpired term of D. J. Baker, who resigned to accept the position of judicial magistrate vacated by the promotion of Mr. R. Wither's. Membership to the circuit court bench. There was considerable interest in this race on account of the candidacy of Vincent Chloco, the notorious blind tiger king.

Aged Lawyer Guilted.
At Fayetteville, Ga., Col. Stephen D. Bonfree, a lawyer about 77 years old, was convicted Thursday afternoon of the murder of his daughter in law. The jury recommended him to the mercy of the court. He was sentenced to serve the remainder of his life in the State penitentiary. Bonfree quarreled with his daughter-in-law over a cabbage patch, the quarrel ending in his shooting her to death with a shotgun. He claimed self-defense, Bonfree is quite feeble, and during the greater part of the trial reclined on an improvised couch in the court room. The case will probably go to the supreme court.

Another Negro Officer.
The president has appointed Sergeant George S. Thompson of the Twenty-fifth infantry to be second lieutenant in the Philippine scouts, thus adding one more negro to the commissioned force of the army. Lieut. Thompson was appointed on his merits, having received high commendation for heroism and efficiency during the insurrection in the Philippines. He is one of the crack shots in the army and his record shows medals for rifle and pistol shooting. He is now stationed with his regiment at Fort McPherson, Neb.

Badly Hurt.
G. C. Jewell, a foreman in the Southern shops at Columbia was dangerously injured by being struck on the head by C. L. Milford, a car repairer. The trouble arose from a dispute between the two men inside of a car.

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BANKS GIVE MONEY.

Nearly All of Amount Asked For Is Given.
Treasurer of Cotton Growers' Association Issues a Statement. Statement Also Issued Here.
According to a statement received from the treasurer of the Southern Cotton Association, the banks of the cotton growing states have contributed about \$7,000 to the movement and only \$3,000 additional is asked. The amount agreed upon at a meeting of the Southern banking committee was \$10,000, and Mr. John D. Walker, the treasurer, states that this money will be used as is all of the other contributions received from fertilizer companies, oil mills and other concerns. President E. D. Smith, the president of the South Carolina branch of the association Wednesday morning gave out the following interview: "We have won the fight as to reduction of acreage and fertilizer. Let any man who doubts do as I've done go to the states where the land is prepared and being prepared, and then honestly and faithfully say that the acreage is not reduced and the use of fertilizer for cotton not reduced likewise." "This is an insult to the intelligence and business sense of the farmers to say that they do not appreciate the situation. This is a scandalous libel on the South to say that the great New Orleans convention, the most representative gathering ever convened in the South, pledged themselves to a lie. That the several state commissions the cotton belt in their subsequent conventions characterized by their 'arrestness and conservative business tone were represented by liars, or at best by shallow and unstable enthusiasts. For once in the history of the cotton belt the producers have a word in the price of their product and so sweet and glorious is the feeling, so sure is the prospect of its continuance, that none need fear that the slaves of ignorance and poverty will dominate them again." "Now the next step is the erection of warehouses at every station shipping 2,000 bales and up. These warehouses can be built at a cost of \$1 per bale, including the water equipment. Insurance can then be had at one-half of one per cent. By bonding the office in charge the warehouse receipts become negotiable in banks and the cotton thus stored can be held and marketed as the price justifies." "We have a monopoly of cotton at a profitable price. We are able to control the market and will from now on. The entire South—not the farmer alone—is alive to the dazzling possibilities and the world is realizing that fact and all right thinking and right hearted men are applauding our courage and manhood. Let every one study the situation and get a firm grasp of the principles involved and preach and teach them until no one need be deceived again. The farmer and banker and merchant of the South have been to school and have learned, and their learning, their education, is bringing fruit. Already it has borne fruit to the amount of \$10 per bale. It will continue to bear fruit to the amount of four to six millions as an annual profit on cotton and its products." "The South is destined to become the financial center of these United States. We have the brains and are rapidly accumulating the capital. Let every Southerner help."

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Over the Falls.

At Niagara Falls Wednesday morning a laborer engaged in keeping the ice moving at the outlet on the inlet canal of Canadian Niagara Power Company on the Canadian side of the river in some manner was made a prisoner on a cake of ice that floated out from shore on the awful current that rushes toward the Horseshoe Falls. Several persons on shore saw the man on the ice, but they could do nothing to aid him, and as they watched he was swept down the rapids and over the brink of the Horseshoe Falls to death. To his employers and fellow workmen he was known by the name of "Frenchie," and there is little clue to his identity. Owing to the ice in the river at this season of the year, the body is not likely to be recovered.

Hope-Jumping Kills Girl.

In an endeavor to lower the record held by Julia Real, who jumped the rope one hundred times, little Marie Sheridan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Sheridan, of No. 498 Baldwin street, Waterbury, Conn., has met death. She was one of the brightest pupils at the Merriman school and was a leader among her companions. The 13-year-old girl had reached the century mark in skipping the rope and little Marie told her schoolmates she would beat the record. As she jumped the one hundredth time she fell to the ground unconscious. She was removed to her home, but doctors failed to restore her and the same afternoon she died. The other girl who jumped one hundred times has also died since, although she appeared to be in no way affected by her strenuous work.