

HE-LIVED ON PUNCH AND JUDY.

Death of the Man Who First Made Them Famous in This Country.

BOSTON, April 6.—Samuel Murdock, who died last week at the Massachusetts General Hospital, in this city, was the originator of the Punch and Judy show in the United States, and as such his name is entitled to more of immortality than falls to the lot of the ordinary showman.

Mr. Murdock was fifty-eight years old, and during nearly half of that time he conducted a Punch and Judy just inside the West Street gate of Boston Common. He first saw his little friends thirty years ago, when the Beck Brothers, London acrobats, introduced them to Americans. They employed Mr. Murdock to assist in the manipulation of the dolls. The reed trick, which is employed to make the figures apparently speak, was sedulously concealed from him, but he mastered it, and when the Becks departed he set up in business for himself.

Besides his station in the Common, he was annually engaged by the city authorities to entertain the school children on the Fourth of July, and proprietors of shore resorts paid him liberally to exhibit in their precincts. During his prime he traveled throughout the country, and people in the principal cities will be recalled by announcement of his death to the pleasure he gave them in youth.

One of Mr. Murdock's most famous engagements was at the Boston Museum, almost a generation ago, when he was employed by Mr. Field at \$50 per week to give his Punch and Judy in the London Street scene in "Aurora Floyd." The hit was tremendous. The first night he was only allowed a few minutes, the second night a little more, and the third night Mr. Field told him to take all the time he wanted. He was the genuine English Punch and Judy, with none of the modern cheap features about it. The marionettes which he used and those in general use throughout the country bear his name, and were made by Mrs. Murdock, who survives her husband.

The last few years have not been very prosperous ones for the Murdocks; their business has languished, and but little remained but the brief business afforded by the Autumnal county fairs. Mr. Murdock was, nevertheless, full of cheerfulness to the last. His last recorded words, after the pneumonia seized him, were in answer to an order to appear in Chelsea with his show on the 11th—"Tell them I'll be there."

William Q. Judge's Will Filed.

The will of the Theosophist, William Q. Judge, was filed for probate with the Surrogate yesterday. It is dated May 12, 1891, and by it Ella M. Judge, his wife, is appointed executrix, and Emil August Heresheimer executor. Mrs. T. Campbell Ver Planck and Emil August Heresheimer, who were students with the deceased in Theosophy, are bequeathed "The Path," a magazine. In case of the death of either of these persons, the property is to go to the survivor. All moneys from Theosophical sources are bequeathed to Mr. Heresheimer and Alexander Fullerton, for the uses of Theosophy. He bequeaths insurance money to his wife, two paintings to friends, and the residue of his estate to the Aryan Theosophical Society of New-York, to his sisters, Alice, Mary, and Emily Hughes Judge, and to his wife.

His will directs that his body be cremated. This was done.

William E. Midgeley on Trial.

Only six jurors were secured yesterday in Part II. General Sessions, for the trial of William E. Midgeley, the former President of the American Casualty Insurance and Surety Company, charged with having converted to his use three years ago a four-thousand-dollar check belonging to the company. Other indictments for the alleged wrecking of the company are pending against Henry Barton Beecher, son of Henry Ward Beecher, and against Vincent R. Schenck.

Mission Work by Women.

The Woman's Presbyterian Home Missionary Society held a meeting yesterday in the assembly hall of the Presbyterian Building at Fifth Avenue and Twentieth Street. The Rev. E. F. McAfee described the missionary work being carried on in the unsettled sections of the country. The reports showed that there were seventy-four missionary societies of young people, divided into six sections, carrying on their labors in New-York.