Joseph

Wendling,

American

in justice.

# Louisville's Church Cellar Fiend Becomes A Martyr In France

PASSE 25 ANS

DANS UN BAGNE

dre, le 2 février 1935. de la prétoire devant lui, au prétoire. Wendling n'entendit pas sans trembler Wendling n'entendit pas sans Lafon. Il vordre du gouverneur Rugby Lafon. Il vordre d'un pas hésitant son gardien. Suivit d'un pas hésitant son gardien. Qu'avait-il fait ? Depuis quelques jours, Qu'avait-il fait ? Depuis quelques bizar. Qu'avait-il fait ? Depuis quelques bizar. les chefs de la prison le regardaient bizar. les chefs de la prison le regardaient eux rement. Ils hochaient la tête et se tai.

Avait-il été dénoncé par un prisonal la compagnon d'évasion prochaine le pouvait un compagnon d'évasion prochaine pouvait première faute, maintenant, il pouvait etre condamné à l'exercice sans répit, à l'exercice sans répit, à perpétuité

« Wendling, vous êtes libre »

Il arriva et se unt dans un garde-

gouverneur solennel. — et c'était la pregouverneur solennel. — et c'était la pregouvernel. — et c'était la pregouverneur solennel. — et c'était la pre

Vingt-cinq annees d'isolement avaient cuirasse Joseph Wendling contre bien des

sembla qu'il ouvrait les veux pour la thargie qu'il ouvrait les veux pour la

emotions, contre toutes les emotions que

l'exercice à perpétuite

Here is a section of the Paris newspaper which proclaims that "An Innocent

Frenchman Has Passed 25 Years In An American Prison-The Astonishing

Story of Joseph-Henry Wendling to Whom the Federal Government Has

Just Given 750,000 Francs."

cage aux hommes

Henry Wendling

centrale électri-

D'AMÉRIQUE

D'ACCORDER

" UNE INDEMNITE

750.000 FRANCS

UN HOMME DE SAN

FRANCISCO S'EST AC-

CUSE, A SON LIT DE

MORT, DU CRIME POUR

By Joe Hart.

Joseph Wendling, church janitor murderer, may be a fiend so far as Louisville is concerned, but back in his native France he's a martyr-an "innocent Frenchman" who was the persecuted victim of an American mistake.

As a matter of fact, America was so penitent for having imprisoned Wendling falsely that his injury was salved with \$50,000 in-demnity when he was liberated

Presenting, below.

smiling "Mon-

sieur Rugby La-

fon, governor of

the Francfort

prison at Eddy-

ville." He is bet-

ter known in

Kentucky as

Former Governor

Ruby Laffoon.

twenty-one months ago. From Paris comes that version of the sordid case of the man who murdered 8-year-old Alma Kellner in Louisville twenty-seven years ago this December.

tale of Joseph-Henry Wendling is an "etonnante histoire"—an astonishing tale—according to an article in the French newspaper, "Paris Soir." But it can be no more astonishing to Paris than it is to Louisville, where the facts will long provoke shudders.

Louisville well remembers how the body of little Alma Kellner was found in the basement of St. Jonh's Catholic Church at Clay and Walnut, how Wendling was tracked to San Francisco, how he was sentenced to a life term and how in February, 1935, he was paroled—on two conditions.

A Sob Story for the French

One of these conditions was that Wendling make a full and true confession of the crime. The other was that he accept immediate deportation to France.

And now, in a full page article, with appropriate pictures, Henri Danjou reports the tear-jerking story with which Wendling apparently has delighted his countrymen. Without doubt, 40,000,000 Frenchmen, more or less, have cried into their cafe-au-lait and vin blanc at the thought of a compatriot suffering under American cruelty.

It was the confession of the "true culprit" which resulted in the release of Wendling, declares the "Paris Soir" article. And that confession, according to the French version, resulted in profuse regrets from "Monsieur Rugby Lafon, governor of the nationprison of the State of Kentucky, the prison of Francfort at Eddyville" (Former - Governor) Ruby Laffoon will be somewhat surprised to find himself thus identified).

Penitent America Pays

The French writer describes in the honors heaped on Wendling after the innocence of the convict had been established. Governor "Rugby" procured passports and promised that "one of our men will take you to New York since you do not know the country."

The paroled lifer was given 500,000 francs by the government and 250,000 francs by the relatives of the murdered girl who had been responsible for his imprison-

ment-\$50,000 in all. "Au revoir, Wendling, and good luck!" the Governor is reported as a touching farewell "Bear no malice! To err is

telling the "astonishing story," Danjou goes back more than a quarter-century to Genlis, France, and describes the peaceful country life of Wendling and his love for flowers and bees and the outdoors. Wendling was enticed to America by his fiancee. Henriette Jacquemin, a woman the article says.

Job Given

In Convent scribed by the French journal- have arranged his defense." ist as "a house of repose for the Prison "Horrors" priests of a great American mis- Are Reported

hardly accurate. After having located Henri
pings. He stresses the devotion
near the furnace.

Shortly after detectives quesof Wendling receiving a letter er "they were divorced by the tioned Wendling, he disappeared.

ness of the French peasant in Lou- united before God." sentenced to life in prison. isville while he was janitor at the Something must have caused Wendling began his term in

story, kidnapers seized little Al- A touching picture is described transferred to the Eddyville Penifurnace. He was suspected and age.' wide hunt.



Convict Wendling, photographed shortly after he started his life term.

to get him a job, in Louisville, ling's conviction to the fact that case." he was a "poor immigrant" who Briefly, the facts are that understood nothing until he was Wendling came to this country sentenced. He did not even know as Danjou stated and was The job was that of "porter in that had he addressed "our am- employed as janitor in St. John's

convent and his desire for the them to forget that divine union, the Frankfort Reformatory. He country. He took leave of his wife for Henrietta ceased to visit her escaped in 1919 and, masqueradand went to San Francisco. Then husband in the prison and did ing as a woman, was found three a "terrible calamity occupied the not return with him to Genlis, days later trying to break INTO

ma Kellner ("Keller" in the story) by Danjou of Wendling reaching tentiary. and demanded a "great ransom." his native town and visiting the Not satisfied with a partial con-The skeleton of the child later graves of his parents. The pathos fession in which Wendling ad- to clear up the case and be de- him to France. Wendling's pel. When the King lay dying, it was found buried in the basement is somewhat jarred by Wendling's mitted disposing of the body but ported, Gov. Ruby Laffoon grant- the "escort" referred to by Mr. declares there has never been any claim for seeking a parole was is said to the credit of Queen of the church where Wendling closing ejaculation, "What the attempted to implicate a Belgian ed a parole on the recom- Danjou.

were married upon her promise ture and trial, attributing Wend-ferred to monotonously as "the

a convent" which was later de- bassador at New York he would Church. The child disappeared December 8, 1909. She was last seen at the altar by two women worshipers. Wendling was the sion." The description of unpre- The journalist describes the only other person in the building tentious St. John's Church is horrors of prison life as related learned. The mutilated body was by Wendling, including whip-found six months later buried

from Henriette in "Frisco," tell- American law forbidding a He was traced to San Francisco woman to remain the wife of a and arrested in a dive a year Danjou describes the loneli- convict for life." They "still were later. He was returned here and

minds of Americans." although she saw him after he the prison. After an attempt to escape two years later, he was

wanders considerably from the consent of the family.

became the object of a nation- Danjou's "astonishing history" ernor would grant parole without ling by Warden Tom Logan after Wendling had gone There is no record here of any once reported Wendling was con- old and needed his support and at- Edward VII. died, and through the

had worked as fireman of the devil! Life isn't finished at my priest, Frank Fehr, uncle of the mendation of Mr. Fehr. The No Record girl, opposed parole. No Gov- pardon was handed to Wend- of "True Culprit"

Eddyville Penitentiary (not "Francfort prison") where Wendling carved peach seeds into monkeys.

Danjou then describes the cap- records in what Wendling re- Finally, when Wendling agreed aboard the ship which was to take confession by a "true culprit" sidering a suit against the State of tention."

Edward's Day Lives In Italy London, Nov. 28 (NANA)-The world talks and gossips about King Edward VIII. and his friends,

Beauty From

Mrs. "Wally" Simpson and Lady Thelma Furness, Mrs. Dudley Ward and others, but few persons realize that one of the women who held the heart of the King's grandfather, Edward VII. in her pretty hands is still alive and still perfectly capable of using that sharp tongue of hers which many people knew and some disliked over thirty years ago. Mrs. George Keppel, the woman

in question, now lives mostly in Florence, Italy. She has survived her glamorous contemporaries and predecessors-Lily Langtry, vict decided against that move. Mrs. Cornwallis West, Georgiana During the latter part of his im- Countess of Dudley. All of them prisonment, on his way to France were beauties so dazzling that and after his arrival, Wendling people would stand on chairs in complained bitterly that the prison Hyde Park to watch them go past. records made him 62 years old, line of well-born handsome whereas he was only 50. Even in women in whom the old King

that his wife that he left in Amer- social London of those days as if ica was ten years his senior. | nothing were ever likely to dis-The money that Wendling took turb the settled tenor of English to France with him had been aristocratic life. earned by carving monkeys and Friendship Lasted such oddities from peach seeds To Deathbed

If Wendling was an innocent honored by His Majesty's presman and was paid off with \$50,000 ence was complete without her. in good American money, it is news King Edward's friendship with to Ex-Governor Laffoon. "Neither her lasted a long time and, inrelatives of Alma Kellner ever deed, to the very day of his death. paid any indemnity whatsoever to Queen Alexandra, the sweetest

ville this week. penitentiary conveyed Wendling not approve, at all events silently to New York at Wendling's ex- accepted this devotion her huspense and secured transportation band lavished upon Alice Kepmention of an indemnity, let alone that he wanted to go back to his Alexandra, she herself took Alice arrangements for such a payment, home in France and be with his Keppel to her husband's bedroom It is true that Associated Press father and mother in their declin- to bid farewell. dispatches from Genlis, France, ing years because they were very Mrs. Keppel's day waned when

Frank Fehr, uncle of Alma Kentucky, but finally the ex-conhis interview given to Danjou, the took an interest. She was of the

aged convict made frequent ref- period, long before the World erences to his age and asserted War, when it seemed in the small

and selling them to prison visitors. Mrs. Keppel was one of the He paid his own passage to leaders. No country house party

Wendling," he said in Madison- woman who ever sat on the throne "The warden of the Eddyville of Britain, knew and, if she did

> long reign which followed very the title given to his grand-

# Untouchables of India Gain As Maharajah Lowers Caste Bars In Hindu Temples and Cubitt, whose grandfather

hatma Gandhi, the saintly little branded as the scum of India, branch.

in his country. The Maharajah of Travancore, System Began highly progressive ruler over In Antiquity some 5,000,000 people, has made the historic move of throwing their class is sometimes referred posed by the caste system.

### Long Sought By Ghandi

Nothing like this has happened selves.

ual leaders.

dus regard as contaminated.

in India before, that is, not on The inception of the Indian No Escape such a scale. Even this is a com- caste system is lost in antiquity. From Caste which has been one of the aims made his victorious advance into ly to be classed even as servants. leather. of the Manhatma and other spirit- India in 326 B. C. Supposedly it Some historians say that they The caste system has given rise the British put a stop to that hor- court action.

to distinct classes or sections of ment.

was the outgrowth of the invasion probably represent the native to so many customs and religious ror, though once in a while it still All castes recognize expulsion blot of disrepute on female edu-smile gently.

by the Aryans.

literally worship as a divine be- image of their betters. They are pendent Hindu States in India at position there was no escape, bound up in these things. ing, and even bow humbly to kiss born and live and die in direst the dawn of history. The first Under the caste system—broadly Child Marriage his feet, has won another reward poverty, and perform the most records of the caste system date speaking—there is no way of Is One Result for a long life of self-sacrifice menial tasks. They are the scav- of about 1,200 B. C. It was an climbing into a higher caste. In- There is a steady procession of spent in trying to improve the engers and sweepers, and what evolution from Brahmanism, and termarriage is very rare, being costly ceremonials, and almost conditions of unfortunate millions not, whom the regular caste Hin- the term "caste" is applied chiefly against the tenets of the arrange- every caste has rights in connec-

A caste is a group, or collection have through the centuries been The system is hardest on the strongest in lower Bengal, where Polygamy is the continuous and the line. The untouchables are really of groups, bearing a common subdivided until there are several women. Child marriage is one of there is religious compulsion. A outside the caste system, though name and following traditionally thousand castes within castes. The the outgrowths, and this in these open all Hindu temples in his to as the "exterior caste." They a single or allied occupation. social status of the various castes days is due in considerable de- the age of young womanhood un-State for worship by the "un- are deprived of religious and edu- There are four main divisions: within a major division vary, and gree to the stigma attached touchables"—the outcasts or cational privileges accorded their First, the Brahmans, or the priest here it is possible for one from a marrying a widow.

tion with betrothals, weddings, fu- marriage. The transaction is one melon.

when they are mere children. A will. have lived with her husband and tice divorce by mutual consent. yet she becomes an outcast.

to satisfy parental greed. Preju- Polygamy father who lets his daughter reach to wed is consigned to hell.

### Girls Kidnaped

paratively small step, though im- It was already an ancient insti- Below these are the "out- tion of scavenger, for example, to neral pyre of her husband—sut- erally in higher castes. Where it in a land where the vast majority perhaps one of the papers menportant, towards the great goal tution when Alexander the Great castes," or untouchables—too low- that of sweeper or tanner of tee, they called it—and perish is recognized, it is dependent on of people, both men and women, tions the fact that she is here. with her late lord and master, but the will of the husband and not on are utterly illiterate. This Basawi The older brigade of St. James

There are 60,000,000 untouch of the Aryans, or Indo-Europeans, peoples who were conquered and laws that it would be almost im- crops up in isolated districts. | from caste and annulment of mar- cation in general.

New York. Nov. 28 (A)—Ma- ables whom the caste system has of which family the Hindus are a condemned to this perpetual hell possible to catalogue them. The This bar against widows is a riage where a woman has been ing purposes and whose family lives of the Hindus, from the real tragedy for thousands, be- unfaithful. The punishment is still is financially interested in ascetic whom hosts of Indians though they are made in the same There already were many inde- Once they were assigned to this cradle to the grave, are absolutely cause girls are married, frequent- meted out even to a woman who the business founded by the old ly to middle aged or old men, has been assaulted against her little lass of 6 or 8 may never | Some of the lower castes prac- father after he had become a mil-

The separation is achieved by Tried Comeback Girls generally are sold into some such simple rite as cutting a

The dedication of women of

pariahs whose only sin against betters. They may not even approach a high caste person. The proach a high caste person are proach a high caste person. The proach a high caste person are proach a high caste person are proach a high caste person. The proach a high caste person are proach as the proach a high caste person are proach as the proach are proach are proach are proach as the proach are proach ar betters. They may not even approach a high caste person. The fat, silk-clad Pharisees pass them by on the other side of the street in horror, and draw their robes tighter about their privileged selves.

| Class; second, Kshauriyas, of those in service of the State, as the military; third, Vaisyas, the agricaste—but always within the military; third, Vaisyas, the agricaste—but always within the didwid with the military; third, Vaisyas, the agricaste—but always within the military; third, Vaisyas, the agricate widows may not remarry. Fambulate of little girls in a section. Then the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and there is nothing left for the unfortunates excepting immoral dren from other locations and sell with the military; third, Vaisyas, the agricate widows may not remarry. Fambulate of little girls in a section. Then the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the men sometimes resort to mathematical and commercial groups; the caste," though among themselves lives. In the old days a widow them to prospective husbands. read and write as well as sing and Now and again she comes to they may progress from the posi- used to throw herself onto the fu- Divorce is not recognized gen- dance. This is a remarkable thing London to see her daughter, and training, however, has placed a St. and White's Club look up and

### Some years ago Mrs. Keppel

planned to make a comeback in London and to become a London Polygamy is the exception, and hostess again, but it did not seem its chief justification is lack of to work. She discovered an enora son. Girls don't rank very high mous building in Grosvenor in the Indian scheme of things. St., Mayfair, which had once been a piano factory. She bought