Special Puzzle - "Encryption" by Arthur Schless

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to nine letters and include three proper names and one variant spelling), then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right margin continue on the next line, and down words that don't end at the bottom margin continue in the next column. Eleven across words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those eleven letters, taken in order, spell a word related to the *mystery entry*, which is given in code. Use the eleven dropped letters to understand how to decode the mystery entry from the diagram below:

ABCDEFGHIJKLM | NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Elimination is certain after a time
3. Assembly has leading democrat replace nephew
4. Cable car of iron in unending electric disturbance
5. Strike violently, initially carrying whip
6. Alas, nose is disturbed in sensitive periods
7. Note: Tess, upset, adjusts watch
8. The Spanish taking on a foreign country
9. Normal sounding net
10. Make another proposal for runaway bride
11. A religious group in southeastern Connecticut
12. Doc has lock's opening combination
13. Reportedly colored and expired
14. Claw made of metal only
15. Harvard University fellow is starting term as a classical scholar
16. Prime Minister captured by some Irishmen
17. Behold fine watch
18. Part of ten-act show plays on stage
19. Quietly stand for trophy
20. Cat, e.g., turned back about two times
21. For fear of exile's timidity
22. Iridescent substance in northern lot
23. Laborers decapitating hatchling birds

Down

1. Catch woman down under
2. Prince expected about a thousand
3. One radical leader took a break and got taken in
4. France thanks a British colony
5. Sappho in Elba's wilderness
6. Mostly dry southeastern spring
7. Reject a claim at start of exercise
8. Old users evenly get chronic infection
9. Person with habit found in bad dictionary
10. Two mathematical symbols are a piece of cake
11. Perch on twisted torso
12. Directs cattle
13. Turbulent Mae's sin resulting in stitches from crotch to leg bottom
14. Leather monetary unit
15. Throw the French knight
16. Place meadow-plucked flower in public square
17. Exemplar of silence or noise
18. Lease torn up
19. Rant about small lake
20. Take part though strangely silent
21. Blood conduit in part saves self
22. Multitudes of headless phantoms