

SUSIE COX TESTIFIES.

Miss Ayers' Confidential Friend on the Witness Stand.

A Quarrel Between Jefferis and the Deceased—The Defendant's Portrait in Court.

The witness denied that she had volunteered to hunt up a witness, Miss Cotter, for the prosecution.

NOT A DETECTIVE.

"Are you one of the prosecution's detectives?" asked Mr. Hart, sarcastically.

"No, sir, I am not," replied the witness, sharply.

In answer to further questions, the witness said she had talked with Ben True on two different occasions about the case.

"Did you meet him at the depot, when he was waiting for a brakeman named Ward, they again met on the train coming in from Brighton?"

"Do you know George C. McMullen?" asked Mr. Hart.

"Yes, sir."

"Where did you ever meet him?"

"I met him at our house and at my cousin's on Tenth street."

"Who did he call to see at your cousin's?"

"He came after Miss Ayres to take her home."

"Did you ever see him at Brighton?"

"Oh, yes, frequently. He always came over to the office for his papers."

"Didn't he frequently call there when he didn't want his papers?"

"I don't think so."

"Don't you know that he did?"

"The witness objected to Mr. Jones, and the court sustained the objection."

Mr. Hart then wanted to know if Mr. McMullen had not gone by the name of 'Susie' but this was objected to and ruled out.

The witness said that the night Jefferis was at the station Miss Ayres said she had seen him with Sheriff McMullen regarding the bribery of Jefferis to get a divorce.

She could not swear that Jefferis was the man who was there, as she did not know him. Miss Ayres told her she was Jefferis. Miss Ayres told her that 'Susie' was in the bedroom, but she had sworn never to tell anything."

He told Miss Ayres that he was under arrest, that his wife had him arrested for bribery. He also wanted Miss Ayres to close the door leading to the bedroom, but she refused to do it.

The witness under the impression that it was on the 24th of last November that Jefferis, or rather the man Miss Ayres said was Jefferis, was at the station."

Mr. Hart wanted to know again why Miss Cox told Coroner Clark that Miss Ayres was not married, but would not tell him why she had said that.

"I don't know," she said, "but I would not tell him that."

"But didn't you tell us he did?" asked Mr. Jones.

"I might have."

"State your best recollection."

"Well, the best of my recollection is he said he wished the station would burn up and destroy the papers and picture."

"Did he say he would burn the place up?"

"He might have said that; I don't remember whether he said he wished the place would burn up, or that he would burn it up. He said she had got him in a bad fix, and wished she would get out of the country."

"Did he say he wished she would get out of the country or out of the way?"

"You are leading the witness too much," said Judge Prewett, and further testimony on this line ceased.

MISS AYERS' EXAMINATION.

F. A. Poland, train dispatcher at Oakland Pier, was called to identify what purported to be a dispatch from Miss Ayres, dated July 6th, asking for a leave of absence from her duties as operator at Brighton.

Judge Prewett refused to admit the dispatch in evidence.

James E. Wilder, of the Superintendent's office at Oakland, was also called to testify about papers received at the Superintendent's office from Miss Ayres, showing that after securing the leave of absence she had turned over the affairs of the office to the agent at Gait.

Mr. Jones announced that the prosecution proposed to fix the dates shown when Miss Ayres had departed from Brighton, and to show by her own handwriting when and to whom she had turned over the money on hand in her office. The prosecution by this testimony intends to strengthen its claim that Miss Ayres was married to George B. Jefferis by Rev. Ferguson in San Francisco July 8, 1892.

S. A. Wagh, who keeps a lodging-house on Mission street, in San Francisco, was called for the purpose of showing by his register that a Miss Ayres stopped there on July 7, 1892, and stayed all night. The defense objected, however, and the objection was sustained.

"Did a lady come to your house that morning?" asked Mr. Jones.

"Yes, she was a tall, slim woman, wore a black or dark dress, carried a yellow satchel, and I think had goggles on. She had no register her name. It was in the forenoon, between 11 and 12. She stayed over night."

AN IMPORTANT WITNESS.

There was a buzz of expectancy in the courtroom when the prosecution called for Miss Susie Cox of Elk Grove. This young lady was the intimate friend of Miss Ayres, to whom the latter confided many secrets. It was known that she could shed much light on the mystery.

She testified that in November last—she thought it was the 24th—she stopped over night with Miss Ayres at the station. Some one came to the window when they were in bed and called her, 'get up!'"

It was Miss Ayres who was wanted, 'Ed' being her telegraph call. Witness woke her up and she went out into the hall and met a man who she knew looked to be Jefferis. They engaged in a conversation in the station waiting-room. Both seemed excited, and commenced talking about some thing they had.

She said in effect that she had talked with George McMullen about the case and he had advised her, saying he did not think that any other party could do any harm; that he could do the man any harm, as she (the third party) was an accessory.

"Who was the third party?" asked Jones.

"Nellie Eby," said witness.

At this juncture Mr. Hart rose and addressed the defendant, objecting to his wife being called Nellie Eby, who Mrs. Jefferis.

"Was any reason given why Nellie, as she called her, could not cause trouble?" was the next question.

"Miss Ayres said it was a bribery case they were mixed up in about a divorce between Mr. and Mrs. Jefferis. Jefferis told her he was to have secured a divorce from Nellie, and she was going to get him arrested for bribery. He claimed to be at that time under arrest over the matter."

"What part did she play?"

"Miss Ayres seemed to be afraid."

The regular noon recess was taken at this point.

Afternoon Session.

Miss Cox resumed the witness stand. She pointed out a diagram the rooms occupied by Miss Ayres at the Brighton Station.

The lady was then asked to tell further what occurred at the station the night Jefferis was there. She said Miss Ayres remarked that she had sent for the witness to take charge of the picture, letters and money. Jefferis said to wait awhile, as he thought the trouble would quiet down. He advised her to wait until she heard from him.

"What, if anything, was said about a divorce?" asked Mr. Jones.

"Well, Jefferis told her that he had changed lawyers. He said he had consulted an attorney named Fitzgerald, and also one named Howe. Howe said the case was the worst mixed up he ever heard of."

Miss Ayres scolded Jefferis for changing lawyers. She said she would counsel herself, and this angered Jefferis. He said he did not want to meddle with the case. The witness then recognized the picture of Jefferis which Miss Ayres had, and the prosecution promised to produce it.

Miss Cox was then cross-examined by Mr. Hart. In answer to his questions she said that Coroner Clark was the first person she talked to about what she knew about the case. She did not remember having told Clark that Miss Ayres was not a married woman. She also talked with Ben True, Attorney Jones and District Attorney Ryan. She said she had written out a statement of the case for Detective Burke.

Attorney Hart began to ask the witness a lot of questions to test her feeling in the case, but Attorney Jones objected, on the ground that counsel for the defense had no right to badger the witness. The court permitted the questions to continue, however.

Miss Cox was asked if she did not endeavor to commit to memory a copy of the letter she wrote to Mr. Burke. There had been some misunderstanding between her and the attorneys for the prosecution regarding one of her answers during the morning session, and she simply looked over the statement to refresh her memory on this point.

A CRY FOR RELIEF.

The "Pocket" Land Owners Appeal for Protection.

Supervisors and City Trustees Will To-Day Visit the Inundated Lands Down There.

James McNasser, President of the Board of Trustees of Reclamation District No. 335, has on behalf of the land owners in that district—which embraces the bottom lands lying along the river between this city and Freepoort—issued an address to the Supervisors of the county and the City Trustees, asking for relief from drainage waters. In this address the District Trustees set forth:

That we represent the owners of lands within the boundaries of Swamp Land Reclamation District No. 335; that by reason of the constant drainage of the various county roads by the water of the Upper Stockton road and land that naturally should drain into the American River for a distance as far as White Rock, and incidentally into the various lands lying contiguous thereto, and the dumping of noxious sewage and drain waters from the city of Sacramento and the accumulations of burrs, slough waters, that our lands are materially injured and nearly absolutely destroyed by the flooding thereof from the effects of such drainings; that all of these waters are let through the continuity of the levee system, and are constantly contracted to "the pocket," so called; that our lives are in danger from the noxious and disease-producing character of the water that prevails in the construction of the said artificial canals our lands, now covered with a high water of sewage and drain waters—covered with a film of ten feet to six inches of mud, and are in a state of decay in any in the whole extent of the said lands; that our lands, if reclaimed, are capable of producing an average yield of \$100 per acre on the average, where now the same lands are assessed at but \$5 per acre; that we, as a reclamation district, propose erecting a complete reclamation of these lands by the purchase and construction on our part of a complete system of pumping machinery and works incident thereto; that in order to fully consummate the purpose aforesaid, we are citizens and taxpayers, and are entitled to the full and hearty cooperation in this enterprise.

We consider that it is but just that the county should provide ways and means for the proper disposal of county drainings, and that the city is in duty bound in a spirit of fairness and justice to contribute its share to provide for the proper disposal of city sewage, and we most respectfully petition your honorable board to that end, that properties be immediately taken to protect our lands from the effects of such drainings.

We find it impossible as a district to handle the drainage waters of our lands to the extent of our lands, and unless the county and city should provide ways and means for the proper disposal of county drainings, and that the city is in duty bound in a spirit of fairness and justice to contribute its share to provide for the proper disposal of city sewage, and we most respectfully petition your honorable board to that end, that properties be immediately taken to protect our lands from the effects of such drainings.

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