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DEATH BY POISON.

A SAD STORY OF SHAME AND CRIME.

The Wife of an Octogenarian Driven from Home and His Daughter Killed to Make Room for a Young Girl of Eighteen—The Sequel to it All.

MILLHEIM, Pa., Jan. 27.

The people of Northampton are excited over a scandal that has ended in murder by poison. Adam Bartholomew is a man eighty-six years of age, and resides near the base of the Blue Ridge, in Moors township, about ten miles north of this place. He is a man well to do in this world's goods and the owner of several large farms. Until recently his household consisted of his wife, his widowed daughter, Mrs. Houser, and a hired girl named Eliza Ann Spangler, aged eighteen years. Eliza Ann was a conceited Dutch girl, and by her wily manners, captivated the octogenarian farmer. The intimacy between the two became so notorious that, at the age of seventy-five, the mother was driven from home and went to live with a daughter at Siegfried's Ridge, on the Lehigh. The widowed daughter, Mrs. Houser, was an invalid, suffering with dropsy. She continued to live with her father and his young charmer after the mother had left the old home though not in perfect harmony with the woman who had usurped the place of her mother.

THINGS TO GET MARRIED. Things went along well enough until Mrs. Bartholomew was taken ill and died. Then with indolent haste the two asked a neighboring Justice of the Peace to marry them. Indeed, the couple were in the Squire's office making their request when the funeral procession passed by the door. Neither the widower nor his servant girl attended the burial. The Justice refused to marry the couple and they returned home. From that day they lived together as in a married state. But there was much trouble in store for them. Relatives protested and the invalid daughter refused to recognize the woman Spangler as the head of the house. On Tuesday, the 15th inst., Bartholomew and his servant made another marriageable attempt. This time they applied to S. S. Duffy, Esq., of Bath. The scandal had, however, spread over the entire township, and again they were unsuccessful. The woman then declared she would not longer live in this dependent way; something definite must be done. To satisfy her Bartholomew gave her an acknowledged judgment against his property in the sum of \$5,500, conditioned that she live with him through the remainder of his life. With this document in her possession she returned as Mrs. Bartholomew by agreement, and lost no time in informing Mrs. Houser that now a different state of affairs existed; that she was head of the house, and allowed the invalid five days in which to leave the premises. The daughter failed to leave, and defied the woman who had been installed in place of her mother. The neighbors feared trouble, and were scarcely surprised to learn, on Wednesday last, that Mrs. Houser had died the previous night. Slowly the facts came to light. Mrs. Houser was taken more than usually ill on Tuesday last. The woman Spangler offered her a cup of tea, but she refused to take it. Being assured that it was harmless, she finally consented. By midnight she was a corpse. Before daylight the body had been removed to a neighbor's house, together with all her worldly effects. "Those who loved her so well while living might bury her, now that she was dead," remarked Miss Spangler; and the old man and his free-love wife "held their fort" by themselves.

STOPPING A FUNERAL. The district where the Bartholomews reside is a beautiful part of the region. Coroner's inquests are seldom held, and the people rather regard the office as a needless one, and provided simply to give some ring politician a soft berth; consequently it was late on Friday before District Attorney Anstett heard of the matter. He at once directed the Coroner to cause a post-mortem examination to be made. Coroner Ullmer proceeded to the scene yesterday, and found that the funeral had left the house and was on its way to the Petersville Church. The body was being carried into the church when

the Coroner reached there. A conference ensued. The corpse was handed over to the authorities, and the services were permitted to be proceeded with. At their conclusion a jury was empaneled, and eight witnesses were examined. Their testimony was very damaging to the girl Spangler. A score of others offered to testify. As the post mortem had not been completed, and the case being a very important one, the inquest was adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow morning, when it will be continued at Bath. District Attorney Anstett will conduct the further hearing. Since the Laros poisoning, when three persons were killed and a whole family endangered, nothing has caused so great a sensation in this section as the death of Mrs. Houser. That sufficient evidence will be obtained for the conviction of the woman Spangler there is hardly a doubt, and she is now under arrest.

ABOUT BUELLING.

A Unique Affair of Honor in Georgia—Journalism and the Code.

H. W. Grady in Philadelphia Weekly Times.

A meeting that took place in Augusta, Ga., about two years ago, was a unique one in some respects. Several years ago a young Irishman, C. D. Tilley, by name, settled in Augusta. He was a remarkable handsome man, being pronounced the finest specimen of physical manhood in the State. His strength was something wonderful. Having been trained in the best of gymnasia he was the superior of many professional athletes. He was skilled in all social accomplishments and was a great favorite. In the same city was George E. Radcliffe, a young Marylander, who was also a popular and considerable figure in society. Both were young bickers, but said that there was for a long time ill feeling between the gentlemen. A rumor prevails that Radcliffe was engaged in a game of billiards with a party of friends one day when Tilley entered and was asked to take part in the game. As he consented Radcliffe threw his cue down, remarking that he proposed to play only with gentlemen. Nothing came of this affair, however, even if it be true that such a thing took place. A day or two after this reported occurrence, Tilley was approached by a friend who informed him that a hideous rumor, affecting his position as a decent person, was being circulated about the city. Tilley at once set out to find the author of the rumor. It was soon traced to Radcliffe. Tilley at once opened correspondence with him. Their notes are worthy of publication in full. Mr. Tilley wrote:

Geo. E. Radcliffe, Esq. Rumors detrimental to my character, coming to my ears as having been repeated by you, makes it obligatory upon me to demand your authority. What these charges are it is useless for me to mention, as I am sure you must be aware of their nature. I pronounce them base, false and malicious, and will hold any man responsible for the further repeating of the slanders.

C. D. TILLEY. To which Radcliffe replied, as follows: Mr. C. D. Tilley. Your note of yesterday's date was received. The rumors that you refer to came to my ears in the shape of a common report, and as such were repeated by me. The difficulty that would attend an effort of the kind, compels me to decline to attempt to cite you any special authority. The last paragraph of your note is so general in its character, and based so entirely upon contingencies that may arise in the future, I do not feel called upon to answer it.

Geo. E. RADCLIFFE. Tilley replied, saying that Radcliffe, in his note, had added insult to injury, and demanded satisfaction. "For two wrong you have done me," Radcliffe answered, "the satisfaction you demand for the affront you think I have put upon you shall be duly accorded."

At the meeting which was speedily arranged, about thirty persons were present. The men were dressed in dark suits, and stood facing east and west. The distance was ten paces, the weapons pistols. Both men were remarkable cool. As he was walking to his position Tilley rolled a cigarette with great precision and lit it. On taking position Radcliffe carelessly kicked a clump of grass out of way, so that he might stand squarely and firmly. The firing was unusually quick, both pistols exploding almost simultaneously at the word "One!" The men stood like statues after the firing, and it was thought that neither had been hit. Neither said a word. The seconds walked up to them. Some one called to Harris (Tilley's second), "Look to your man there, he's hit." As Harris reached him Tilley put out his right hand, still grasping his pistol, fell heavily against him, and dropped his head on his shoulder. It was then known that he had been hit. Tilley's splendid vitality led him to hope that he could stand for another shot. He raised his frame erect and shook his head back as if summing strength for the trial, but as soon as he had straightened himself sank helplessly to the ground. He died in a few days.

LOUISIANA'S RETURNING BOARD.

Sheriff Houston Arrested for Forcing an Entrance into the Custom House.

NEW ORLEANS, January 27.—

At three o'clock yesterday Sheriff Houston, who had been in the Custom House for several hours, learning that a Deputy Marshal had been put in charge of the Collector's office, which was locked and bolted, proceeded to the main door of the office and there informed the Marshal and Deputy Collector Tomlinson that he had a writ to execute against J. Madison Wells and others whom he had good reason to believe were confined in the room, and he desired admittance. This was refused; whereupon the Sheriff, who was accompanied by two deputies, said that he would force an entrance. Mr. Tomlinson then summoned the Chief Deputy Marshal, who proceeded to the door of the Collector's office and there ordered the Sheriff and his assistants, as well as the crowd that had gathered, to disband. The Sheriff refused to leave, saying that he was determined to execute the writ of the court at any hazard or be arrested in the attempt. Sheriff Houston then slightly advancing, Deputy Marshal Wurzburger laid hands upon him and claimed him and his deputies as prisoners. The Sheriff and party submitted to arrest, and were taken before Judge Billings, sitting in the United States Circuit Court, but the latter said he had nothing to do with the matter, as the parties had not been arrested by virtue of any process from his court. Mr. Wurzburger then took his prisoners before United States Commissioner Lane, and Mr. Tomlinson, the Collector's corresponding secretary, made an affidavit against Sheriff Houston and sent for the commander of the revenue cutter and a detachment of marines, ordering them to be stationed at his door, through which a passage has to be effected to reach the Collector's office. General Sheldon and Mr. Dolovin, appearing before Commissioner Lane and denying the jurisdiction of his court, asked for Sheriff Houston's release. Mr. Gurley, Assistant District Attorney, asked for a continuance until to-morrow. Commissioner Lane refused to grant the continuance, and released Sheriff Houston on his own recognizance. Later in the day Attorney General H. N. Ogden sent the following dispatch to Attorney General Devens:

Four persons J. Madison Wells, Thomas C. Anderson, G. Casenave and J. M. Kenner, who are under an information for felony under the laws of the State, have forfeited their recognizance, and have, I am informed, taken shelter in the Custom House of this city. Writs for their arrest are in the hands of the Sheriff and he went with the writs to arrest them. Understanding they were shut up in a room in the building he was about to force an entrance for the purpose of arresting them when he was himself arrested, as I am informed, upon an affidavit that he threatened to open the door by force. I am not aware of any cessation of exclusive jurisdiction on this building, nor of any law that would give immunity to offenders against the State laws within its doors. Please inform me whether the General Government has authorized or will sustain this conduct.

At 10 o'clock last night Marshal Wharton received a dispatch from Mr. Devens, instructing him not to interfere with writs of the State courts, Sheriff Houston was notified and found Anderson, Kenner and Casenave in the Collector's office, whence they were taken to the parish prison, where they will remain until they furnish bonds of five thousand dollars each.

Wells was not in the Custom House, but was seen on a morning train on the Mobile road. It is believed he is still in the State, and will surrender to-morrow and furnish bonds at once.

Late to-night Anderson, Casenave and Kenner remain in the Parish Prison, but will give bail to-morrow. Wells has not yet surrendered, but will probably do so to-morrow, when the trial will begin.

Below we publish an item that is going the rounds of the press. We have little faith in the story, but should it be a reality, it is an awful evidence of the vengeance of an offended and insulted God:

"A farmer near Bloomington, whose religious tenets were not very christian like, had his hay stacks blown down by a storm last week and became so enraged over it that he cursed God, the Son of God and the Holy Ghost, and declared if Jesus Christ was there he would cut His throat from ear to ear. Upon the utterance of this speech, a small black cloud settled around him, after which he raised his hands as if to protect himself, when he was instantly paralyzed in that position. Many persons say they have seen this dumb-struck statutory still in the attitude in which this awful judgement left him, and they say further that no one can approach him, as he is encircled for a space of twenty feet by a burning, scorching heat, so that no human being can bear."—Grant Co. Times.

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