New-York Tribune.

VOL. XXXII.....No. 9,888. NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1872. PRICE FOUR CENTS

THE HOTEL CALAMITY.

ELEVEN WOMEN ROASTED.

DETAILS OF THE FIRE AT THE FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL—THE PROBABLE POINT OF ORIGIN—DESCRIPTION OF THE FATAL APARTMENT—SEVERAL OF THE VICTIMS IDENTIFIED AT THE MORGUE—THE FIRE MARSHAL'S INVESTIGATION.

The fire in the Fifth Avenue Hotel and the terrible loss of life occasioned by it was the universal theme of conversation, yesterday, throughout the city. During the day large throngs gathered in front of the building, in Broadway and Twenty-third-st., to discuss the matter, to glance occasionally at the windows, and to endeavor to catch a glimpse of what was going on inside. Policemen were stationed at all the entrances to keep out the curious crowd, who would otherwise have overrun the building. Policemen, under the command of Roundsman Carpenter of the Twenty-ninth Precinct, were also stationed at intervals on all the floors, to see that nothing was stolen. The business of the house was conducted as usual, and there was little on the lower floors to indicate that only a few hours previous an extensive conflagration had raged and for two hours or more threatened the entire building with destruction.

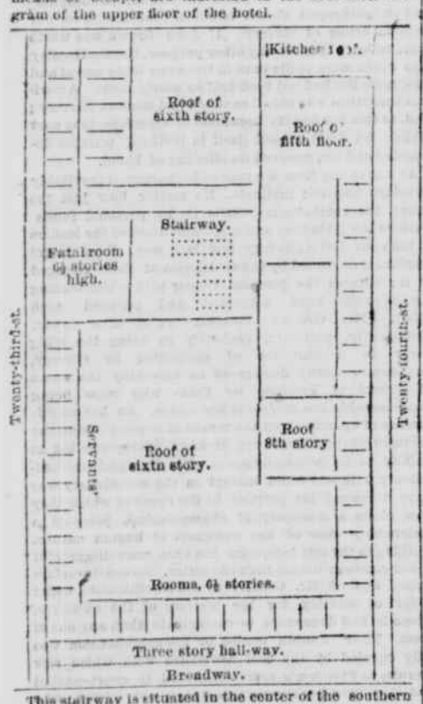
On the upper floors a large force of servants were taking up the soaked carpets and clearing away the heaps of rubbish. Details of the Fire Insurance Patrol were on duty, seeing that no one removed the tarpaulins from the furniture in the various rooms, or placing additional covers over the furniture and effects at other exposed points.

It was wonderful, considering the hight of the building, the headway the flames had obtained before the Fire Department received the alarm, and the consequent delay in pouring water on the fire, the high wind prevailing, and the intense cold, benumbing those exposed to it, that the fire was held in check and ultimately extinguished before it had spread beyond the servants' dormitories on the upper floor.

The loss by fire is inconsiderable; that by water is very much greater; but the damage from both sources will not exceed $50,000. But while the loss on property is small, eleven lives went to waste in the fatal apartment in which the servants slept on the upper floor. A stairway, incased in an inflammable envelop of light wood-work, extends from the laundry in the basement, seven stories to the roof. The fire originated, according to the Fire Marshal, in a small room on the third floor occupied by a laundress, and the flames swept up the winding staircase used by the female servants, and were generously fed by the light woodwork. A blinding smoke filled the dormitories and stifled the breath of the eleven unfortunate women who were sleeping in the apartment that was most exposed. Although the number of deaths is not so large as was first reported, still the scenes at the Morgue yesterday were so painful that the Fifth Avenue Hotel horror will undoubtedly point a moral to builders.

THE DEATH-TRAP.

So far as can be ascertained the fire originated in a small room occupied by one of the laundry servants, or in a small closet on the fourth floor, near the private staircase leading to the servant's dormitories. Through the opening for this winding staircase the flames ran with great rapidity, and soon reached the upper floor. This floor, on the Twenty-third-st. side, is cut up into small rooms, each containing two or more beds. The ceiling is about eight feet high, and the passage-ways about five feet wide. There is a great deal of light woodwork, consisting mainly of partitions, and the ceiling was of common lath and plaster, offering no resistance to the flames, which soon ate their way through and seized upon the beams, joists, and rafters. Fed by this light wood-work, the flames, soon after the fire was discovered, had spread for a distance of nearly 100 feet, darting rapidly through the narrow passage-ways and filling them and the rooms with a hot and blinding smoke, to inhale which was certain death. Here was the death-trap. The fatal room in which eleven women perished, the stairway through which the flames ascended, the dormitories for the other servants, and the means of escape, are indicated in the following diagram of the upper floor of the hotel.



This stairway is situated in the center of the southern half of the hotel and extends from the laundry in the basement to the roof, seven stories above. It is intended as a private passage by which servants can pass from the lower stories to the sleeping-rooms without interfering with the movements of the guests of the house. The stairway is very narrow and winds so closely around a supporting shaft of iron that it is mounted with great difficulty. The landings are very numerous, being built on every floor and also between the stories. Opening upon every landing-place is a small, low-studded room, six feet by nine, in which slept on the the night of the fire girls who during the day worked in the laundry. The rooms, stairway, and platforms are completely incased in an envelope of wood-work, making the passage-way resemble, outwardly, the well-hole of a large elevator. Inside, there is a tremendous draft at all times of the year, the construction of the stairway making it in fact a huge ventilating shaft. The guests of the hotel would not suspect the existence of the stairway were it not for a small door on every floor which opens upon one of the platforms of the stair-case. Had it not been for these doors all the servants who slept in the little stairway rooms would have perished. As it was, the peril of many of them was great, Mary Grove, who occupied the room in which the fire is supposed to have originated, being badly burned in the face and arms.

The windows of the women's sleeping apartments looked out upon the roof of the hotel, and were protected by a wire netting, fastened on the outside in such a manner that they could not readily be removed by either the inmates of the rooms or any one seeking ingress from without. It was the opinion of all who examined these gratings yesterday that they were the principal cause of this terrible loss of life. Some of the unfortunate women were found directly beneath the windows, leading to the inference that they had, on awaking, and finding their rooms and passage-ways filled with smoke, endeavored to open the windows, only to find themselves baffled by the wire screens. Others had crawled under their beds, and were there suffocated.

The bodies were all found in two rooms near the head of the staircase. Nearly all of those who escaped were wrought barely in time to get out on the roof through a passage-way, or down the stairs toward the Broadway front. In a few cases the wire gratings and windows were broken in by those on the roof, and the inmates were rescued. In one or two instances the inmates of rooms seized chairs or other missiles and broke the windows and wire grating, cutting their hands and faces, but finally clambering upon the roof. Those who were burned had not sufficient presence of mind apparently to adopt this expedient. It is more than probable that they were so blinded and confused by the smoke that they scarcely knew what to do, or perhaps they were half unconscious, when aroused, from the effect of inhaling the smoke.

The most ghastly and thrilling feature of the tragedy was the appearance of the bodies of the servant-girls, at the time they were discovered. The only mode of access to this fearful spot was by way of the windows opening upon a lower roof. Through this apperture the spectator was obliged to climb, and he then would have found himself in a small, low, ill-ventilated apartment, which, although not too large for the convenience of one person, was the bed-room of no less than ten human beings, who were still in death, the charred remains scattered about the floor and on the beds, being all that was left to tell the story of their cruel and untimely fate. The dull flickering of a fireman's lantern furnished light for those who witnessed the scene, and added much to the ghastliness of the faces of the dead. The couches were ranged close together, side by side, along each wall, leaving a passage between the two rows. Two bodies were found in the beds upon one side and three upon the other. The visitor stumbling over something in the way, the lantern was lowered, bringing to light the blackened body of a girl who in her agonies of suffocation had crawled partly underneath the bed, where she had died. Near the window through which the entrance had been made, was the most horrible sight of all. Two girls, who had apparently been awakened by the heat and smoke, but were unable to escape, were found firmly clasped in each other's arms, and in this position had become insensible, and so died. Another woman was lying upon her side drawn up into an attitude indicating the terrible anguish of her death.

It was impossible to remain long in the heated, smoking garret, the terrible stench becoming unbearable after a few moments. The few who witnessed the frightful scene were awe-stricken, and even the police and firemen who are accustomed to such things, were horrified. There was not one who was not glad to escape from the death-trap, and each will remember the experience to his dying day.

THE ELEVEN VICTIMS.

As soon as the blackened bodies were taken out of the cages, in which there had been so much suffering and death, they were removed in wagons to the Morgue, and immediately put into coffins. In the morning, the boxes were laid out in the dead-house yard. At 8 o'clock the gates were opened, ostensibly for the purpose of giving those who had friends among the servants at the hotel an opportunity of identifying the bodies, but in reality to afford a gaping crowd a chance to satisfy its untimely curiosity. The scene was one which would indeed be a feast for the eyes of a morbid nature, but in those of more sympathetic soul, the sight would have stirred emotions of pity and horror. Nine coffins were ranged, side by side, along the center of the small inclosure, in which were the bodies of as many unrecognized women, covered with old blankets or comforters, the faces and feet only being exposed to view. Around these charred remains the crowd filed from the opening to the shutting of the gates. Richly and shabbily dressed women, old men and young, and even little children, joined the line, gazing at the discolored bodies as they passed. Some were apparently horrified, and turned their faces from the spectacle; many were only amazed; while the majority looked on with unconcern. A large number of the women repeatedly joined the line, which stretched far beyond the gates, and they appeared so often in the crowd that the officers in charge learned their faces and finally barred them out. One woman's overpowering curiosity led her to visit the place three times, wearing on each occasion a different dress, and once carrying a baby.

During the forenoon four of the bodies were identified by relatives and friends. Early in the day a young man came to the Morgue and stated that his sister was among the missing. Looking at the bodies he finally identified the girl. Her name was Mary McDonald. She was 26 years of age, and unmarried. She was born in England, and has been in the United States only four years. Her relatives reside at No. 60 Mulberry-st.

Mary McCabe was identified by her sister. Her body was lying in a shed adjoining the Morgue. She was a native of Ireland and 25 years old. She was married to Bernard McCabe. She emigrated to this country in 1866, and had only been employed two months at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Her relatives live at No. 249 Mulberry-st. She was scalded and burned horribly, but her face was not disfigured.

Mary Doughy was next identified, first, by an old lady, and afterward by the head-waiter of the silver-closet at the burned hotel. Another of her friends of her own sex recognized her face and became frantic with emotion, endeavoring to throw herself upon the body, and, when prevented, falling upon her knees, clasping her hands, and praying aloud. Mary Doughy was a native of New-York, age 20. She was unmarried. Her body was badly scalded as well as burned.

The body of Lizzie Moran was recognized by some of the employés of the hotel. She was 20 years of age and single. She came from Ireland, her native place, five years ago, and has been employed at the hotel for several months.

Mary Fagan, one of the hotel servants, was rescued from her burning bedroom, soon after the breaking out of the fire, but was so terribly burned that no hopes were entertained for her recovery by the authorities who caused her removal to Bellevue Hospital. She remained alive until 7 a. m. yesterday, suffering, meanwhile, terrible agony. She was born in Ireland, was 30 years of age, and single. She was both scalded and burned, the chief injuries being about her head.

As the bodies were identified, the coffins in which they lay were covered. The remains of Mary McCabe and Mary Fagan were not exposed to view, the latter being in the Morgue proper and the other in a shed over the water.

There yet remain six unrecognized bodies, three of which can be identified, while the others, probably, cannot be. They have all been laid out, with one exception, in positions indicating easy deaths, but these were in striking contrast with the postures in which they were found. The body nearest the gate was that of a once robust, large-framed woman. She was doubled up horribly, with hands outstretched, and fingers clenched—undoubted testimony that life left her after much suffering. The third corpse was burned more than the rest, the fire having completely eaten off the flesh from her face and head, causing the features to be totally unrecognizable. The last body looked like a mummy. The face was perfectly black, but the features were entirely preserved. The eyes were closed, and the mouth partly open, denoting that the girl died without suffering.

Warden Brennan of Bellevue Hospital was in attendance at the Morgue nearly all day, and five policemen were on duty to see that the spectators conducted themselves decorously. At 5 o'clock the gates were closed, and the crowd that had poured in from early morn was shut off, though many clamored to gain an entrance. Coroner Schirmer viewed the bodies early in the morning, and his deputy, Joseph Cushman, was in charge during the day. The Coroner will impanel a jury this morning at 9 o'clock, but the time for the holding of the inquest has not been set.

Mary Jane Hebe now lies at Bellevue Hospital, not badly injured, but bearing wounds on the back which she received in falling from the fire-escape, by which she was saved. She made the following statement to the Warden:

While preparing to go to bed, about 11 o'clock, I heard a cry of fire, and going into the hall smelt the smoke, which was issuing from under a door opposite. I was much excited, but knocked at several of the rooms where the girls slept. After bursting in two or three doors I started down stairs, but the smoke and flames drove me back to my sleeping-room. I met two girls named Mary Tierney and Bridget Curtis, and we burst through a skylight and got out on to the roof. While descending by a fire-escape I fell and received my injuries.

EXTENT OF THE LOSS.

There are about 25 servants' rooms badly damaged by fire, and as many more are slightly injured. Some of them are completely burned out, and the rafters and beams above are burned through. It will be necessary to reconstruct a large part of the roof. On the floor below there are about half a dozen rooms that are somewhat damaged by fire, and on the fourth floor there are two or three in the vicinity of the stairway and closet, where the fire broke out, that are somewhat scorched. This embraces all the damage by fire. The damage by water is much greater. For several hours immense volumes of water were poured into the building from more than a dozen powerful steamers. The consequence was that all the upper floors were thoroughly soaked. The hallways were small streams and the stairways rivulets. Lines of hose were conducted through all the staircases and hallways, and as a consequence the carpets were ruined beyond redemption. On the upper story the entire range of servants' rooms are either burned out or almost washed out. In very many places the ceiling is already down, and it will have to be removed elsewhere on the floor. This entire floor will have to be renovated.

The fifth floor is also thoroughly soaked for more than two-thirds its length. The ceilings are in many instances badly damaged, and in a majority of the rooms will have to come down. The furniture is also badly damaged by water and falling plaster. The carpets both in the hallways and rooms are so badly damaged by muddy water and cinders that they may be regarded as worthless.

The fourth floor is not so badly damaged as the one above. The furniture is much handsomer than that on the fifth floor, and the ceilings are finely frescoed. The furniture is of black walnut and rosewood and the upholstery rep and brocatelle. These and the rooms on the floor below were refurnished only a few months ago. The Twenty-third-st. wing is regarded by the public as the pleasantest and most cheerful in the house, and rooms in this section are consequently more sought after than any others. Hence the furniture and fittings are of the best kind and are renewed as often as they show signs of wear. The rooms on this floor are many of them badly damaged by water, but only one or two have been touched by fire. The frescoed ceilings of more than one-half of them are destroyed by leakage, and a portion of the furniture is also damaged. The loss would have been much greater had it not been for the promptness with which the Insurance Patrol covered the furniture and effects.

The third floor escaped with slight damage. None of the rooms east of the Twenty-third-st. entrance are in any wise damaged. Those on the western half have suffered somewhat from water, but to what extent it would be difficult to determine, as the covers have not been removed, and the walls and ceilings are still damp and in a few instances dripping with moisture.

The first and second floors are very slightly damaged. The portion described is of course the south-west wing—fronting on Twenty-third-st. The damage elsewhere in the house is very slight, and was occasioned by conducting lines of hose up the carpeted staircases. Contrary to general expectation, the elaborately frescoed dining-room escaped with very slight damage. There are a few patches of moisture on the ceiling, but these can readily be retouched when dry.

The total loss cannot be accurately determined for a day or two yet, but will not materially vary from the estimate in THE TRIBUNE of yesterday. Messrs. Darling, Griswold & Co., the lessees, estimate their furniture and fixtures as worth $500,000. The loss will probably reach $50,000. They were insured before the Boston fire for $350,000, but that catastrophe rendered necessary many changes in the policies, some of the companies having suspended, and others wishing to reduce the amount of their risk. The following is a correct list of the insurances:

Lorillard	$10,000	Republic	$10,000
Safeguard	5,000	Liv. London & Globe	34,500
Commercial Union	20,000	Gebhard	5,000
Atlantic	5,000	National	5,000
American	3,000	Manhattan	5,000
Columbia	5,000	Atlantic F. and M.	5,000
Etna	5,000	Commercial Mutual	5,000
Black River	5,000	Jefferson	2,500
Lancashire	10,000	Phenix	10,000
Montauk	2,500	Commercial	5,000
Relief	5,000	Tradesmen's	10,000
Imperial	12,500	Importers' & Traders'	5,000
Hope	2,500	Merchants'	5,000
No. British Mercantile	5,000	Eagle	5,000
City	5,000	Williamsburgh City	5,000
Bowery	5,000	Arctic	5,000
Nat. F. & M. of Phila.	5,000	Union	5,000
Easton	5,000	Traders' of Chicago	5,000
Fire Ass. of Phila	10,000	Fairfield Co., Mass.	5,000
Hibernia of Cleveland	5,000	Oriental of Hartford	5,000
Mer. Mut. of Newark	5,000	Other companies	30,000
Kings County	5,000		
Knickerbocker	5,000	Total	$322,500
Sterling	5,000		

The building is owned by Amos R. Eno, and is damaged about $45,000; insured for $660,000. The stocks of goods in the stores on the Broadway, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth-st. fronts were uninjured.

STATEMENT OF A LESSEE.

Mr. Griswold, one of the lessees, stated yesterday to a reporter of THE TRIBUNE that he could not account for the origin of the fire. On Tuesday evening some friends called on himself and wife, and passed the evening in his room on the fourth floor. A little before 11 p. m. they left the room. Mr. Griswold accompanied his visitors to their carriage in front of the hotel, and on returning stepped into the office, was given a letter by one of the clerks, and passed up to his room. In going through the corridors on each occasion during this short interval he saw no smoke and smelt nothing burning. He had not been in his room five minutes—it seemed as though it could not have been half that time—when one of the hall-boys rapped at his door, and told him that the hotel was on fire. He stepped at once into the corridor, and was amazed to find it already so filled with smoke as to render objects indistinct. There were many persons half dressed in the corridors, and there was much confusion. Meeting Mr. Evans, one of the stewards, he directed him to go at once and send out the alarm to the Fire Department. He was afterward informed by Evans that this had been done. He denies the statement that he or any one else willfully neglected to send out an alarm for a considerable time after the fire was discovered. The donkey-engine was started as soon as possible, and in a comparatively short space of time two or more streams were thrown upon the fire.

He could not say where the fire originated. He first saw smoke and flame issuing from the private staircase already alluded to. He could not tell whether the fire originated where he first saw it, or whether sparks had fallen from above and then ignited the light woodwork around the staircase. This staircase was used solely by the female servants of the house. It led to their rooms on the upper floor, and only they themselves or the officers of the house had any right to use it. The women slept on the upper floor in the Twenty-third-st. wing, and the men on the upper floor on the Twenty-fourth-st. side.

He could not estimate the amount of the loss of his firm, for a time at least. There were 25 servants' rooms burned out, and others were badly damaged; while of the guests' rooms there were 75 more or less damaged. His men were drilled once a week, or oftener, in fire exercise. The last time they were drilled was on Monday. He expressed his thanks to the Fire Department for its promptness and energy. That the building and its contents were saved was owing, he said, entirely to their exertions.

THE DELAY IN THE ALARM.

District-Engineer Thomas Sullivan says that he heard the first alarm at 11:20 p. m., while in the house of the Insurance Patrol, at Seventh-ave. and Twenty-ninth-st., and at once started for the fire. He thought there must have been some delay in sending out the alarm, for when he reached the building the flames were already coming out of the roof. The streams thrown by the donkey-engine in the hotel were then doing good service, but were unable to prevent the spread of the fire. Lines were taken up through the hotel to the roof, and streams directed upon the flames. Other streams were soon playing upon the fire on the fourth floor. His aim was to drive the fire upward, and in this he was successful. The first alarm brought to the spot Engine Companies Nos. 14, 5, 16, 26, and 19, and Hook and Ladder Companies Nos. 3, 7, and 12, and Engineers Orr, Shay and Gicquel. The second alarm sent out by him when he saw the extent of the fire, brought Engine Companies Nos. 2, 3, 25, 33, and 18; Hook and Ladder Company No. 5, and Chief-Engineer Perley and Engineer Bates. A third special call brought Engine Companies Nos. 11 and 29. When he first reached the roof with his men the smoke was so dense that he could scarcely see, and as they were fearful of falling into the street or into the court, they crawled along the roof for a considerable distance before they reached the vicinity of the fire with the hose pipes. The corridors and stairways were thronged with frightened guests and half-dressed servants, who materially interfered for a time with the efforts of the firemen. He saw no women rescued after he got on the roof, although there might have been. There was much confusion prevailing.

Foreman Vetter of Hook and Ladder Company No. 7, whose house is in Twenty-eighth-st., near Third-ave., confirmed the statement of Engineer Sullivan relative to delay in sending out the alarm. He says that when his company, the second one on the ground, turned into Fifth-ave. the flames were blazing brightly above the roof. This could not have been had the alarm been sent out as soon as the fire was discovered.

There seems to be a mistake in some quarter relative to this matter of sending out the alarm. The police telegraph-blotter shows that the alarm was received there

See Fifth Page.

A MURDER CONFESSED.

SEQUEL TO THE MYSTERIOUS ASSAULT IN A BROTHEL.

THE ASSAILANT SURRENDERS HIMSELF IN BROOKLYN, AND ADMITS THE CRIME—THE WANDERINGS OF A NIGHT—SINGULAR HISTORY OF THE VICTIM.

Mary Ann Smith, alias Maud Merrill, age 20, was murdered in a house of prostitution at No. 10 Neilson-place, on Tuesday night, and the murderer escaped. At 7 a. m., yesterday, the murderer entered the First Precinct Station house, in Washington-st., Brooklyn, and gave himself into custody.

Sergeant Dyer was behind the desk when a man wearing a black hat entered and addressing him said: "Good morning, Sergeant, I remember you well."

"Indeed!" said the Sergeant, "what can I do for you?"

The man appeared extremely nervous, and in an abstracted manner continued: "Oh, yes, I remember you well enough, but you can't recollect me. Why, I remember you arrested a man as far back as '65—Skidmore, you know—who shot Carr."

The Sergeant was somewhat puzzled to know what the stranger meant, but answered: "Yes, I made that arrest."

"Well," said the man, "you see, I come to deliver myself up to you!"

Sergeant Dyer, more surprised than before, exclaimed, "You want to give yourself up! For what?"

The man replied, "I see that I am charged with having murdered a girl in New-York."

"Is your name Millan?" said the Sergeant.

"No," said the man, "that's not my right name; my name is Robert P. Bleakley."

"All right," said Sergeant Dyer; "we've heard about you from New-York."

The man was then taken into custody, and was searched. No pistol was found on his person, but in one coat pocket was a picture of the woman who had been shot. Sergeant Dyer at once conducted the self-confessed murderer to Police Headquarters, and to Superintendent Campbell the prisoner made the following statement:

THE MURDERER'S CONFESSION.

My name is Robert P. Bleakley; I am 38 years of age, and a block-maker by trade; I was born in Cork, Ireland, and came to this country 22 years ago; I was sent here by my uncle, who is an Episcopal minister; since I have been out here I have worked at my trade, and have been employed in the Navy-Yard; I have also served as a musician in the late Union war; my uncle's reasons for sending me to this country was to get anything which was coming to me and my sister through my father's death; in 1866 I visited my sister in Ireland, to bring her here, but found her sick when I got there, and in consequence she was unable to come with me.

When leaving Ireland she requested me to bring her second eldest daughter with me. Her name is Charlotte Smith, now residing in Brooklyn. After arriving in the United States I could not get work in Brooklyn, and went to California. While there my sister requested me by letter to send her money enough to come here, as she could not stand the treatment of her husband, and I sent her $32, and instead of coming herself she sent her eldest daughter. After her arrival here she chose a life of shame, which I was slow to find out until she tried to ruin the character of a clergyman now moving in this city (Brooklyn), whose name I withhold for the present. Had it not been for a few friends of mine I would have been in State Prison in consequence of her actions. Last week my attention was called to a paragraph in *The Irish American* of the alleged death of my sister, Charlotte E. Smith, by suicide, which, in the absence of a letter, I can hardly believe, and I suspect she has been murdered by her husband. I sent the sister of the deceased to tell her of her mother's tragic end, and requested her for God's sake to leave off her life of shame in memory of her mother.

The sister went over to the house No. 10 Neilson-place, where the deceased was then living, but was informed that she was not in; I then determined myself to see her as soon as possible. I had visited her frequently, requesting her each time to give up her life of shame, but all to no effect. Yesterday I visited her apartments myself and was met by her in the room. She received me in a very defiant manner, and said it I did not leave the house she would get somebody to put me out.

Her sister told me five weeks ago she had bought a pistol to shoot me with, and if she did not do it she would get some of her friends to do it for her. This put me on my guard, and I prepared myself for the worst. When I first spoke to her she was lying on her bed; she got up and went to the mirror and combed her hair. She then approached me and seized hold of me. I begged her to desist, and implored of her again to give up her way of living.

After that she made a movement toward the door, putting her hand in her pocket, which I supposed to be with the intention of drawing a pistol, or some other weapon, and at that moment, in the hight of frenzy, I shot her. Nobody else but myself was witness to the affair or in any way implicated. I simply say this to remove any suspicion that might rest upon any other person.

THE NIGHT AFTER THE MURDER.

After hearing this astonishing confession, Superintendent Campbell detained the man until the truth or falsehood of his story could be ascertained. The Superintendent at once telegraphed to Superintendent Kelso of this city of Bleakley's arrest.

Capt. Byrnes of the Fifteenth Precinct, in whose precinct the murder was committed, was also informed. Capt. Byrnes, at the moment of the arrest in Brooklyn, was on board the ship Henry Chauncey, watching for the murderer, whom he suspected would try to escape to California in the ship, which was to sail yesterday afternoon. On receiving Superintendent Campbell's telegram, Capt. Byrnes hastened to Brooklyn and took charge of the prisoner. On the passage to New-York with his prisoner, Capt. Byrnes questioned Bleakley as to his movements since the commission of the murder.

Bleakley said that he made no especial effort to escape in leaving the house, but, upon finding himself unpursued, hastened to the nearest ferry to Brooklyn. Eluding officers who had already been stationed in the ferry-houses to arrest him, he reached Brooklyn and went to his boarding-house, No. 365 Gold-st., near Myrtle-ave. He went into the house and lay down on the sofa for a few moments. Then he felt as if he was burning up, then cold, until at last he ran out into the streets as if he was insane.

He went to a liquor store and drank several glasses, and then went back to his boarding-house, where he remained until about 6:30 in the evening. Feeling as if officers would enter the house every moment, he finally left his home and strolled down to Fulton Ferry. After looking at the people passing in and out of the ferry-house for over an hour, he entered the Franklin House and sat down on a sofa. About 9 o'clock he told the proprietors of the hotel that he wanted a room, as he intended to stay there all night.

They gave him a room, and at 9 o'clock he took possession of it and went to bed. He could not sleep, however, tossed about the bed, and thought that he would die of thirst. At last he gave up all hope of sleep, got up from the bed, dressed himself, and left the hotel. This was near midnight. From that time until morning he wandered through the streets.

At daybreak he entered a restaurant and ate a hearty breakfast. He then did not know what to do with himself, and thought it would be a wise plan to give himself up to the first policeman he should meet. He happened to walk through Washington-st., and seeing the police-station, entered and surrendered himself to the sergeant on duty at the desk. In regard to the girl, he had, indeed, shot her.

He had endeavored for a year past to persuade her to leave the house of ill-fame and return home, but she had obstinately refused. He visited her for the last time on the day of the murder, and had found her very defiant. She at last told him that she would never return home and started to run out of the room. She had reached the door and was about to open it, when he fired. He was standing by a grate fire at the time, and seeing her stagger, he ran up to her, caught her by the arm, and fired into her body. He did not know how many times he fired or how many of the bullets struck her.

Bleakley surrendered to Capt. Byrnes the revolver with which he murdered his niece. All of its five chambers were empty.

FATE OF THE MURDERED GIRL.

After the body of the unfortunate victim of shame and assassination had been viewed by Coroner Young and examined by Deputy Coroner Marsh and Police Surgeon Steele, the Coroner ordered its removal to the Fifteenth Precinct Station-house, near by, in Mercer-st.

For this purpose a stretcher was brought from the station, and several stalwart policemen were detailed to act as pall-bearers. Upon the arrival of the stretcher, the officers, with commendable tenderness, placed upon it the remains of the erring woman, and, decently covering them with a linen sheet, bore them to the station, followed by a large crowd. Here the body lay, excluded from the idle gaze of unwarrantably inquisitive persons. Though cold, inanimate, marred by the terrible wounds, and disfigured, by stains of blood, it bore marks of beauty.

It was clad in a handsomely wrought flowing robe of fine, white linen, stained with blood from the wounds. With a neat little jacket of dark blue cloth, elaborately trimmed with gold braid, carelessly thrown about the shoulders, it lay with the right hand, ornamented with jewels, naturally reposing upon the chest, while the left was extended beside the body. At midnight the body was quietly conveyed to an undertaker's, at Carmine and Bedford-sts., preparatory to further official proceedings.

Deputy Coroner Marsh performed an autopsy on the body, at the undertaker's store, yesterday forenoon, the result of which he officially reported, in substance, as follows:

The body was that of a well-developed woman, about [illegible] years old. There was a pistol-shot wound, about one-half inch in diameter, in the left side of the chest, [illegible] inches to the left of the median line; a similar wound of the left shoulder, extending downward and backward toward the right shoulder near which a bullet was found imbedded in the muscular tissue; also a similar wound of the outside of the right arm, five inches above the elbow, the bullet passing through the arm and emerging at a point on the inner side, about 4½ inches above the bend of the arm.

The bullet which entered the chest passed through and shattered the fifth and sixth ribs, through the lower border of the upper lobe of the left lung, through the heart and the middle lobe of the right lung, lodging in the right side of the diaphragm, where it was found. The cavity of the chest was filled with blood. Death was caused by shock and internal hemorrhage from the pistol-shot wound in the chest.

Coroner Young subsequently impaneled a jury of 11 business men, who viewed the body, after which the inquest was set down for 1 p. m., to-morrow, at the Coroner's office in the City Hall. Fifteen witnesses have since been subpenaed to appear for examination, and all requisite action seems to have been taken for the assurance of a thorough investigation of the tragedy.

SKETCH OF THE VICTIM.

The history of the deceased, as gleaned from her late associates in shame, and from papers found among her personal effects, is one of peculiar sadness. She was born in Cork, Ireland, of humble but decent parents, who became dissipated during the later years of her childhood. Having received a tolerably good education at home, she came to New-York about two years ago as a ward of her uncle, who is her self-proclaimed slayer.

Being then of winning and decorous address, as well as beautiful and attractive in personal appearance, she soon afterward became the wife of a reputable and industrious business man. A few months of domestic happiness, however, were terminated by the husband's discovery that his young wife had proved recreant to her marriage vows. Attempts to reclaim his once cherished wife having proved futile, he abandoned her about a year ago and went to Texas.

Soon after his departure, the young wife openly and in defiance of the entreaties of her uncle adopted a life of shame. Her first guilty refuge seems to have been in the brothel No. 116 West Twenty-sixth-st., whence she was removed to Bellevue Hospital about eight months ago. After a long term of suffering, she was discharged from the hospital, convalescent.

About two weeks ago she applied to the woman Cozzens for board at the house in Neilson-place, and was gladly received as an inmate. In both of these infamous resorts she was occasionally visited by her younger sister, whose reputation appears to be spotless, and also by her uncle, both of whom besought her to relinquish her life of degradation, and endeavor to retrieve the past. Her sister she seems to have regarded with warm affection, but frequently expressed fear of her uncle, and dread lest he should resort to violence.

Among the papers found in her apartment, which was elegantly furnished, was a copy of *The Irish American*, in which was published, on Nov. 23, the following account of a tragedy in which her father and mother were the principal actors, and which resulted in the self-destruction of her mother:

On the 1st inst. an inquest was held in Cork upon the body of Charlotte Smith, the wife of Richard Smith, a hairdresser of Gillabey-st., who committed suicide the preceding day. The deceased was stated to have been addicted to drink. She opened an artery in her arm with a razor and bled herself to death. The jury found the stereotyped verdict of "temporary insanity." Deceased had been only a week out of prison, where she had been confined for a month for stabbing her husband and attempting to take his life.

This brief account, which reveals so much of domestic infelicity, has been supplemented by the statement that the alleged previous ill-treatment of the mother by her husband drove her into intemperance. The paper seems to have been given to the deceased, at the house in Neilson-place, a few days ago, by her sister, and the terrible end of her mother seems to have caused her intense grief.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MURDER.

The night before the murder the victim attended a masquerade ball at the Argyle Rooms on Sixth-ave., near Thirtieth-st., but despite the reckless gaiety of the scene she was greatly depressed and overcome with emotion.

She went with a young woman who had formerly lived with her in the house in Twenty-sixth-st., and with whom she had been on terms of friendly intimacy. Her companion vainly essayed to cheer her, and dispel her gloom, till, at about midnight, the doomed woman burst into tears and hysterically gave vent to her grief. Her companion led her into an ante-room, and tried to console her.

The sin-burdened woman in broken accents recounted the story of her mother's death, and said that her sister, who lived with her uncle and his wife, in Brooklyn, was about to be made homeless by the contemplated departure of her uncle for California, in consequence of alleged quarrels with his wife.

She spoke of her sister's purity and expressed fear that if thrown upon her own resources the young girl would become contaminated.

At her request, her companion left the ball-room long before its conclusion and went with her to the house in Thirty-first-st., where they passed the night.

On returning to her own house, on the morning of the day of the murder, the unhappy woman attired herself in fashionable costume, and went out for a walk, from which she had returned only a short time before her murder. She undressed herself, and, after receiving attention from a hairdresser who was accustomed to visit this and similar houses, she was about to make her toilet for the evening, when her uncle was admitted to her presence.

THE MURDERER'S HOME.

The landlady of the boarding-house, No. 365 Gold-st., where Bleakley lived, told a TRIBUNE reporter last night that she first met Bleakley in September last, when he applied there for board. She wished, however, to make some inquiries about him, which occasioned some delay, and he did not return until about three weeks ago, when he brought the best of references, and she took him as a boarder.

He was a quiet, even tempered man, with the gentleness of a child. She had never seen any evidence of insanity. Since hearing, last week, of the death of his sister, Mrs. Smith, he had been quite sad, and often said that he had lost the only friend he had on earth. Bleakley had been employed in the navy-yard, but early in the month was discharged with many others.

This had not affected his spirits unfavorably, and he had designed going to Washington to obtain employment, but a delay in getting his pay prevented the execution of the plan. She thought the murder on the visit to his niece could not have been premeditated, as he had made plans for attending a lecture at the Centenary Methodist Church on Tuesday night.

He was not at home to tea that evening, nor did she know where he passed the night. The first she knew of the shooting was from a policeman who visited the house with Lottie, his niece, who lived in Brooklyn. The detectives watched the house all Tuesday night, and one gentleman who went from it to attend a ball was followed by them.

Other members of the family and some of the boarders spoke of the murderer, as they had known him, and all had only pleasant recollections and kind words.

THE SISTER'S STORY.

Lottie Smith, age 16, a sister of the deceased, went to the Fifteenth Precinct Station-house, yesterday afternoon, and narrated to Capt. Byrnes several facts relating to the murder.

She said that her sister and herself had indeed been helped by Bleakley in former years. Her sister was married a year ago. A month after the marriage, however, the murdered woman's husband deserted her, and she entered a house of prostitution. On the day of the murder she had intended to go to New-York and visit the deceased.

As she left the house Bleakley met her and asked her where she was going. She told him that she was going over to New-York to visit "Maud." He replied that he would not have any relative of his visit a house of prostitution; that, if necessary, he would pay the visit himself.

He then ordered her to go home, and stay there until he returned in the evening. He appeared to be intoxicated, and she was afraid that he would strike her. She did not dare to disobey him, and returned to the house.

GENERAL POLITICAL NEWS.

THE CHARGES AGAINST SENATOR PATTERSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 11.—John J. Patterson, who was yesterday elected United States Senator, was brought before Justice R. H. Kirk to-day on three charges of bribery and attempt to bribe, made by two members of the General Assembly, M. S. Miller of Fairfield County, and H. H. Ellison of Abbeville County. Mr. Patterson's own recognizance was taken in the first case in the sum of $500, while in the second case, a bond for appearance in the upper court of $5,000, and in the third case one of $10,000 was taken. John Alexander, Mayor of the city, and Postmaster C. M. Wilder, being the sureties. Gen. H. G. Worthington, the "right hand man" of Patterson, was also arraigned on two similar charges, bonds of $5,000 being required in both cases, J. J. Patterson and Hardy Solomon, the latter the President of the Bank and Trust Company, becoming the sureties. It is believed on the streets that the matter will never come to trial. A Judge is to be elected on Friday for this the Fifth Circuit, to fill the place made vacant by the election of Judge S. W. Melton, as Attorney-General. Melton is a strong friend of Congressman Elliott, and it is generally conceded that Elliott, who is a defeated candidate for the Senatorship, is behind the movement in these prosecutions for bribery, a fact which may have its influence upon the election of the Judge. A disgraceful personal encounter occurred in the House of Representatives to-day between W. M. Thomas and Thomas Hamilton, two colored members from the low country. Thomas, who was formerly a preacher, accused Hamilton of having received a bribe in the Senatorial election, and Hamilton thereupon assaulted him in his seat, drawing blood freely. The interposition of friends was hardly sufficient to stop the affray.

SENATOR SUMNER AND THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

BOSTON, Dec. 11.—In the Massachusetts House of Representatives to-day, Mr. Hoyt of Athol offered the following preamble and resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations:

WHEREAS, The Hon. Charles Sumner, a Senator from Massachusetts, has proposed on the floor of the United States Senate to erase from the flags of the Republic and from the Register of the Army all inscriptions, mementoes, and tokens of the battles and victories of the Union arms in the late war of the Rebellion—

Resolved, That this attempt to degrade the loyal soldiery of the nation and their grand achievements, meets with our unequaled condemnation, and merits the disapproval of the people of this Commonwealth thus misrepresented.