THE FISK INQUEST.

The Coroner's Jury Find that James Fisk, Jr., Died from Wounds Inflicted by a Pistol in the Hands of Edward S. Stokes.

A REMARKABLE VERDICT

The Jury Absent Three Hours Cautiously Discussing What to Do in the Case.

NO FELONY, BUT "DELIBERATE" SHOOTING

A Witness Who Did Not Appear and Has Not Been Found by the Police.

STOKES COMMITTED BY THE CORONER.

Twelve months ago Edward S. Stokes, now in confinement in the Tombs with a verdict made by a coroner's jury hanging over his head, was a free man, living in luxury and having all things at his command that wealth could purchase or procure. Last evening the combined deliberation of twelve men changed the course of his future life, after a close consultation of three hours, in the clerk's office of the Court of Special Sessions, which was used as a jury room for the time being. The court room yesterday afternoon was crowded to excess by spectators who made manifest their eagerness to get even the slightest glimpse of the prisoner who stands under this dread accusation in the sight of the people of America. The rooms which have been partitioned off the court, and which have an elevation of about ten feet, had their roofs swarming with people, who craned their necks, their minds filled with a morbid curiosity to watch every movement of this body. There was a strong representation of the legal profession in the court room, and all present, whether they were spectators, reporters, lawyers, judges or police officers, seemed impressed with the solemnity of the occasion for which they had assembled in the court room. Judge Dowling came in and took a seat during the proceedings at the desk at which the clerk usually sits. John McKeon, William Bartlett and Franklin Bartlett sat within the bar enclosure, and when the accused came in he was escorted to his seat by the officers, and walked forward to his place with a firm step and an assured bearing. He was dressed as on the first day, quite fashionably, wearing his tight gray Irish freize overcoat, and having a blue necktie fastened at his throat, under his white collar. There were three ladies, who came into Court, and were furnished seats on the right of the dais on which the magistrate usually sits. These ladies were supposed to be relatives of Fisk by many persons in the Court when the proceedings opened, but after a while it was ascertained that they were friends of an officer of the Court, who were merely present as spectators. It was believed that the three ladies composed the female members of the family of Mrs. Morse, whom Colonel Fisk habitually visited at the Grand Central Hotel, but this rumor was also ascertained to be false. The first witness examined was Patrick Hart, one of the men employed at the Grand Central Hotel, who had assisted Fisk to rise from the spot at which he had been shot down, but who had not witnessed the shooting of the deceased. Hart seems to be one of those self-opinionated or stubborn witnesses who occasionally turn up on a trial and are afraid they will be hanged or transported if they do not content himself with answering a question but once. He could not identify the bullet which was found; could not tell whether it was round, conical or square; did not remember if it had any blood stains upon it, and was evidently very much frightened at the cross-questioning and badgering that he received, the jury helping, rather unintentionally, to confuse him by their long and scientific questions. Captain Byrnes, of the Fifteenth precinct, who came on the stand immediately after Coroner Young had ordered the police to hold Hart for impertinences, testified to having seen the bullet, which was shown to him by Coroner Young on the night of the slaying of Fisk. Mr. Maunsell B. Field asked Captain Byrnes some questions, which were answered to the satisfaction of the questioner, and then the police captain went down from the stand. Dr. Tripler, one of the house surgeons of the Grand Central Hotel, was examined and testified that he had probed the wounds of Colonel Fisk, and that the latter had suffered pain under the operation; but stated, in addition, that he did not think, to the best of his opinion, that Colonel Fisk could have lived even had he not been probed to discover the ball. Dr. Marsh read the medical testimony, in which the post-mortem examination was described at length, and described the wounds in the English language afterward, at the request of the prisoner's counsel. The case was closed soon after by Coroner Young, and he was about to submit his testimony to the jury when Mr. McKeon interposed, and demanded to know why the person who had taken Colonel Fisk's clothing off his body after the shooting had not been produced, and put on the stand to testify whether a pistol was found on his person or not. The Coroner answered that he was willing to examine any witnesses that were brought before him, but that he had not seen any witness who had taken Colonel Fisk's clothing from his person. The point made by the prisoner's counsel, however, created a profound impression in Court, and the general opinion seemed to be that the police authorities, who have taken so many precautions to prevent riot which did not come off, had been very negligent in securing a witness who had been present with Colonel Fisk at the moment of the shooting, and who had stripped his clothing off before putting him in bed. Strange to say the person who did this last office for Colonel Fisk was yesterday in Court, and yet it was not known to the police that he was present or that he had taken off the diamonds which Fisk usually wore and had given them to be placed in the hotel safe for security.

At a quarter to five o'clock the jury retired to deliberate on a verdict, and were absent for three hours—an unusual time for a Coroner's inquest. Many of the spectators left the Court, and it was rumored that the jury were taking their suppers in the jury room—a statement which proved unfounded altogether. It is stated that Mr. M. B. Field, Henry Clews and David Dows were not satisfied, and the person who had relieved Colonel Fisk of his garments had not been found and placed on the stand, and the fact that this jury, which has not been equalled by any other jury sworn for a good many years in social position, wealth and intelligence, were so divided by their great responsibility that they had to remain out three long hours before they gave a verdict, when the shooting was patent to every man, is in itself evidence that they were uneasy at not having found the missing witness, so that all persons might be satisfied that justice was done. There was a long and serious discussion in the jury room, but all finally agreed on the verdict, and it was made unanimous. It was a very solemn moment when they marched in, and George Opdyke, the foreman, read the verdict amid almost breathless silence. Stokes stood up immediately afterwards and began to answer the questions put to him, but was stopped by his counsel, who answered for him. There was no applause, not even a murmur, and no attempt at disturbance by any of the spectators, and Stokes was held to answer and the audience dispersed, thus ending the second act of this bloody tragedy.

THE INQUEST.

The hearing of the evidence in the case of James Fisk, Jr., deceased, was resumed yesterday afternoon in the Court of Special Sessions. The room was crowded to excess and the interest in the proceedings seemed unabated. The same counsel engaged on the previous day were in attendance. Owing to the absence of some of the jurors the hearing was considerably delayed, and the Assistant District Attorney suggested the propriety of sending an officer after the absentees.

Mr. McKEON called the attention of the Coroner to a report that appeared in the HERALD that morning in relation to the charge made by the Coroner on the day preceding. In calling the jury together the Coroner was reported to have said these words before a particle of testimony was taken:—"So far as we know there was no reasonable cause for this daring act of the assassin."

Coroner YOUNG—The Coroner did not use those words.

Mr. McKEON—That is all, sir.

All the jurors having taken their seats the following evidence was adduced:—

Testimony of Patrick Hart.

Patrick Hart examined:—Q. What is your business? A. Hall boy, sir.

Q. Were you at the Grand Central Hotel on Saturday afternoon? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know of any unusual occurrence that took place? A. No; I have no idea; I didn't hear anything but a noise; I heard no report.

Q. Did anything happen there that evening? A. Yes, sir—the death of Mr. Fisk; that's all I know.

Q. Now, tell us all you know. A. I know nothing at all about it; I

HEARD A HOLLERING,

and I took a man up stairs; he was asking somebody to come to his aid.

Q. What time was that? A. Five minutes to four o'clock.

Q. Where did you find Mr. Fisk? A. Standing right by the door.

Q. At the foot of the stairs? A. Yes, sir; standing right up.

Q. Did any one send you to him? A. No, sir; I heard the noise; I heard a man a hollering who wanted somebody to go to him.

Q. What happened next? A. He wanted somebody to relieve him; I didn't know what the matter was.

Q. Did you help him up? A. I took him to the reception room after that; he walked right up with me.

Q. Did he say anything? A. He said he felt bad; I took him up stairs and left him in the room; that's all I know.

Q. Did you ask him what the matter was? A. I didn't have time; he said he had been shot twice.

Q. Did he say who shot him? A. No, sir.

Q. When you took him up stairs what did you do? A. I left him sitting in the reception room.

Q. Did you go out immediately? A. Yes, sir, right away.

Q. What was your business in that part of the hall? A. I was going up stairs when I heard the noise; I looked down at the head of the stairs and saw him standing there.

Q. You know nothing more of this affair? A. Nothing more than that I kept out the crowd; I

PICKED UP A BALL AND GAVE IT TO MR CROCKER.

Q. What kind of a ball? A. A cartridge ball.

Q. Do you think you could recognize that ball? A. Yes, sir; I guess I could.

Q. Is that like the ball (produced)? A. Yes—no—no, sir; it don't seem to be it.

Q. You are not positive that that is the ball? A. No, sir.

Q. After you picked up the ball what did you do with it? A. I handed it to Mr. Crocker; I never noticed the ball after I picked it up.

Q. Did you tell him where you found it? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see Colonel Fisk from the time you left him in the reception room up to the time of his death? A. I never saw him since.

Q. Did you know Colonel Fisk? A. Yes; it was easy to know him; I have seen him several times.

Q. Was he a visitor at the hotel? A. Yes, sir; I saw him out with the regiment.

Q. Are you acquainted with Mr. Stokes? A. No, sir; never saw the man in all my life.

Q. And you would not know him if you saw him? A. No, sir.

By Mr. FIELDS—What stairs were you coming up at the time? A. I came up from the office to the middle stairway; I was passing by the hall when I heard the hollering.

Q. Where had you been three or four minutes preceding the time you started to go up? A. I came right up; I was not a minute.

Q. But where had you been preceding the time you went up? A. I was in the office; I had just come in from delivering a message, and that's all I know.

Q. Did you examine the ball immediately? A. No, sir; I hadn't time, there was so much excitement.

Q. What makes you think it was the ball? A. I don't know.

Q. Then you don't know whether it was the ball or not? A. Yes, exactly.

Q. What was your reason for saying you didn't think it was the ball? A. Because I didn't take any notice of it.

Q. You mean to say you know nothing about it? A. I don't know anything about it.

By the CORONER—That's all you know about the ball that was picked up on the stairs? A. I picked it up and gave it to Mr. Crocker.

Q. When did you see Mr. Fisk previous to Saturday last? A. I havn't seen him for some time.

Q. Cannot you remember when you saw him before last Saturday? A. I saw him the night of the reception at the Grand Central Hotel, and not since.

Q. How long ago is that? A. Twenty-fifth of last March.

Q. Who did you see? Who was on the stairway when

MR. FISK CALLED FOR ASSISTANCE?

A. No one that I knew of.

Q. Describe the reception room. A. No. 217, a little way up the stairway.

Q. Did you see any pistol in it? No, sir; I saw nothing at all there.

Q. Did you hear that one had been found there? A. No, sir, I heard nothing about it.

By Mr. FIELD—Did you see a pistol in the first parlor? A. No, sir.

THE RECEPTION ROOM.

By Mr. CLEWS—Who was in the reception room when you brought Mr. Fisk there? A. There was a crowd around there.

Q. Where did they come from? A. They came out of the hall.

Q. Were they boarders? A. I cannot tell you; I cannot say anything about it; visitors, I suppose.

Q. How many were there? A. I cannot tell.

Q. Was there more than one? A. Well, I don't know; there was a crowd there.

By the CORONER—How many do you think were there? A. I don't know.

Q. Were there six persons? A. Of course, there was; the excitement caused more than that many to be there.

Q. Were there a dozen persons there? A. I don't know; I believe there was excitement enough to cause that many to be there.

By Mr. CLEWS—Would you recognize any one that was there? A. I knew Mr. Haskins; he spoke to me and sent me to the hall to get a key.

Q. Who is Mr. Haskins? A. Bookkeeper in the house.

Q. Did you leave Mr. Fisk with Mr. Haskins? A. No, sir.

Q. Who, then? A. I cannot tell you; I left him on the sofa.

Q. You could not have left him alone? A. There was

A CROWD AROUND HIM;

he didn't talk to me; I tell you they were all strangers to me.

By the CORONER—Was there a great deal of excitement in the hotel at the time? A. Not at the time.

Q. Well, how long afterwards? A. About half an hour.

Q. How long have you been employed in the hotel? A. Since it opened.

Q. Since October? A. It was opened in August, I guess.

Q. Is that all? A. I don't know any more.

By Mr. CLEWS—Did Mr. Fisk make any remark in the reception room? He made the remark that he was shot.

Q. Did he say so to you? A. No, sir; he mentioned nobody's name.

Q. What did he say to you, or did he address his remark to any one present? A. Mr. Haskins was by.

Q. Did anybody speak to him? A. The crowd asked him what the matter was.

By the CORONER—Did he mention where he was shot? A. He said he had been shot twice, and pointed to the wounds. (Witness pointed to his abdomen.)

By Mr. CLEWS—That's all he said? A. I didn't hear him say anything more.

By Mr. CLEWS—Did anybody ask Mr. Fisk who had shot him? A. No, sir.

By the CORONER—Did anybody speak to him? A. I told you twice they did.

Q. What did they say? A. He said he had been shot twice, and pointed to the places.

Q. Are you positive he mentioned no names? A. No, sir; he mentioned no name while I was there.

By Mr. CLEWS—Where did you go after that? A. I went to attend to my business.

Q. Up stairs or down? A. Up stairs.

Q. You did not see Mr. Stokes after that? A. Never saw the man in all my life, and wouldn't know him if I saw him.

MORE ABOUT THE BALL.

By the CORONER—You say you picked up the ball on the stairs? A. I picked up the ball and walked away with it. (Witness here examined the ball).

Q. You cannot describe the ball you picked up? A. I cannot.

Q. Was it a leaden bullet? A. It looked very much like this ball (examining it), but I cannot tell.

Counsel for the prisoner insisted that the witness should be more closely interrogated as to the ball.

By the CORONER—What is the reason you cannot describe the ball you picked up? A. I did not notice it when I picked it up; I walked up stairs with it and handed it to Mr. Crocker.

Q. Did you look at it? A. No more than a look.

Q. From the time you picked it up until you handed it to Mr. Crocker did you look at it? A. No, sir.

Q. Then it is impossible for you to describe the ball? A. It is.

By Mr. FIELD—Was it a round ball? A. I tell you I can't tell you; I can't describe it.

Q. Did you carry it in your hand? A. Yes; I carried it in my hand and handed it to Mr. Crocker on the stairs.

Q. Do you know whether it was lead or iron? A. I know it was lead; they are all made of lead, I guess. (Laughter.)

By the CORONER—State precisely where you picked up the ball. A. Right opposite the second door.

Q. On the stairs? A. At the foot of the first stair.

Q. You have looked at the ball? A. I have not, sir.

Q. You have just looked at it here? A. Oh, just now; but I can't tell; I tell you I can't tell anything about it.

By Mr. FIELD—Was there any blood on the ball when you picked it up? A. I don't know.

Q. Had you any blood on your hand? A. No.

Q. Was there any blood on the stairs? A. None at all, sir.

Q. Did you see any on the carpet? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see any blood on Mr. Fisk's person? A. I saw none on any part of him at all; I saw no blood; I often saw blood, but I didn't see any there.

Q. Do you know to whom he said he had been shot twice when taken to the reception room? A. There were several people there, and he said he had been shot twice.

By the CORONER—Who was the first person you recognized after Mr. Fisk said he had been shot twice? A. I saw nobody around that I could recognize.

Q. Who was the last person you remember after you heard Mr. Fisk was shot? A. I saw Mr. Powers.

Q. Now, who was the last person you remember before you heard the shot? A. I never heard the shooting; I told you I heard a noise, a kind of hollering.

Q. You didn't hear any shooting? A. I didn't hear any shooting, sir.

Q. Who was the last person you remember seeing before you heard the call? A. I cannot tell; you couldn't tell in a hotel where there are so many people running up and down the stairs.

Q. Are you well acquainted with the attachés working in the hotel? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember seeing them there? A. None of them that I can tell.

BEFOGGED AGAIN.

By Mr. FIELD—Were you going up stairs in answer to a bell? A. No, sir; I had an order.

Q. Was that by a guest in the house? A. Yes, up in his room; first part of the fourth floor.

Q. What were you doing there? A. I was going there on business.

Q. What business? A. Waiting on a guest in the house.

Q. You went up in answer to an order from some one? A. Yes.

Q. Whose order was it? A. I don't know the gentleman; he was a stranger to me.

Q. Where was that whence the order came? A. Well, the number is 474, if you want to find him out.

Q. Where were you when you received the order to go up stairs? A. I was in the room; I went out, and when I returned I got the order.

Q. Then it was just when you returned that you heard the noise? A. I heard the call for assistance and looked up the stairs.

A SMART CHAP.

Q. What is the distance to the head of the stairs? A. I have never measured it; I cannot tell what it is.

Q. Is it ten or fifty feet? A. Well, it is a large house, and you have to round it. (Laughter.)

The CORONER—Officer, preserve order. This is no place for levity, and I hope the gentlemen will not indulge in any.

By the CORONER—Do you know how many steps there are? A. I never measured it.

Q. You have gone up and down a good many times? A. Yes, a good many times.

Q. How long would it take you to go up? A. Well, if I liked to loaf it would take a good while.

Q. Would it take you five minutes? A. Oh, no; one flight of stairs would take me about a minute, I guess.

By Mr. CLEWS—Have you talked with any one about this occurrence? A. No, I didn't talk to anybody.

Q. Nobody came to see you about it? A. No, sir.

By Mr. FIELD—Have you never talked about it? A. Yes, I have, but to nobody except to the clerks in the office.

By the CORONER—Did you pick up the ball at the foot of the stairs? A. Yes, at the foot of the middle stairs; I told you that four or five times.

Q. To whom did you give the ball? A. To Mr. Crocker, at the head of the stairs.

Q. How did you know it was a ball? A. It looked like a ball when I picked it up.

Q. You say you cannot tell whether it was round or not? A. I cannot tell; I never noticed the ball.

Q. Did you think it was square? A. I cannot tell you.

Mr. OPDYKE, one of the jurors, here suggested that the jury had obtained enough information from the witness.

By a JUROR—I just wish to ask one question—who is Mr. Crocker? A. Clerk in the house.

As the witness was leaving the stand the Coroner ordered an officer to detain him in court.

Evidence of Captain Byrne.

Captain Byrne was next sworn, and said:—I am attached to the Fifteenth precinct police as Captain; I first heard of the shooting about ten minutes after four o'clock; I was going up the stoop of the station house; I was told by one of my sergeants; I went to the Grand Central Hotel, and went to the room where Colonel Fisk was lying; it is in the northeast corner of the building; I was given a ball at the Grand Central Hotel. (Ball handed to witness.) This is the same ball given to me by one of the attachés of the hotel at the foot of the private stairs; Mr. Crocker gave it me; he told me a man named Hart found it; there was a pistol placed in my possession by Mr. Crocker; he told me that it was given to him by one of the ladies; I went to see the lady, and she said she found it lying on the sofa, on one corner of it; it was in the parlor, on the Broadway side; I searched the barber shop, the reading room and the writing room; Mr. Crocker was also searching for the pistol; I arrested Mr. Stokes in the reading room, about half an hour after Mr. Crocker told me that the pistol had been found.

By Mr. FIELD—The sofa was near to the door; the entrance to this parlor was on a line with the main hall.

By the CORONER—The pistol produced is the same; two balls were discharged out of it; it is now loaded.

The witness here held the pistol in his hand, with the barrel pointing toward the ceiling. He turned it about in his hand slightly careless. While doing so the Coroner said to him, "Will you discharge one of those barrels—(Sensation in Court)—and let us see the ball?"

Mr. McKEON—I object to that, Mr. Coroner. It was my practice to do differently in such cases. Let the pistol, with the balls, as they are now, be enclosed in paper and your seal affixed to it, and let it be handed over to the District Attorney.

The CORONER—That course shall be pursued, sir.

Counsel for the Prisoner—That had better be done, sir, for we have a Grand Jury now that will indict without evidence.

Witness resumed—I was not present when Mr. Stokes was arrested; Officer McKeddon arrested him.

By Mr. CLEWS—Mr. Crocker examined the pistol; he gave me all the information he could, and manifested no more desire to do this than a person in such circumstances would manifest; any person passing the entrance of the parlor and going to the main stairway could readily fling anything out of his hand into the parlor; I have not heard of any reports of a pistol being found in 217, where Mr. Fisk was taken.

By Mr. FIELD—Mr. Crocker did not take any more interest in the matter than a person in his position under the circumstances would be expected to show.

Mr. McKEON asked Captain Byrne to send to the prisoner a cane, which he (McKeon) thought might have been left at the station house.

Evidence of the Hotel Surgeon.

Thomas B. Tripler testified—I reside at the Grand Central Hotel; I saw Colonel Fisk last Saturday afternoon; as near as I remember it was twenty minutes after four o'clock; I saw him in the room 214; it is located to the north and east of the ladies' entrance fronting on Broadway; Mr. Fisk looked very pale and was agitated; I went there to offer professional aid; Colonel Fisk told me he was shot; I heard him say later that it was Mr. Stokes who shot him; Colonel Fisk was standing with his clothes on in the parlor when I saw him first; I remained with him until half-past one o'clock in the morning, and then left for a few moments; I was present when he died, at five minutes to eleven on Sunday morning.

By Mr. FIELDS—I assisted Mr. Fisk to undress; I did examine his clothing; there was no weapon found upon him; there were rumors that Mr. Fisk did carry a weapon—that he was armed at the time the accident occurred; I think I heard it in the hotel; if there had been a pistol around his waist I could not have failed to see it.

Q. Was the wound in the abdomen a fatal one, and, under all circumstances, must Mr. Fisk have died from the effects thereof? A. In my opinion it was.

Q. Do you think that the probing of the wound had anything to do either in causing or accelerating death? A. I do not.

Q. What do you think caused death? A. The shock, causing peritonitis and the wounding of the intestines; there were four holes in the intestines, and I think this accelerated the death.

By the CORONER—Did you probe Colonel Fisk's wound? A. I did, sir.

By Mr. FIELDS—Was Mr. Fisk perfectly sensible when you were probing the wound? A. Yes; it was necessary to give him chloroform, but when Dr. James Wood probed the wound he showed that he was sensible of pain; it would not be excessively painful.

Q. Was Mr. Fisk sensible at the time of death? A. No, sir.

Q. How long had he been sensible? A. Until four o'clock in the morning.

Q. Then it is your opinion that after Colonel Fisk received the wound in the abdomen under no circumstances could he possibly recover? A. That is my opinion, sir; I think he died of the wound, and nothing else.

Q. Don't you consider that the length of time Mr. Fisk survived showed great vitality? A. I think it did show great vitality.

Q. Would an ordinary person have survived so long? A. It is impossible to say.

Q. If he had only received the wound in the arm would he have recovered from that? A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. FIELDS—If you had been successful in extracting the ball would it have made any difference as to the result? A. None whatever, in my opinion.

By the CORONER—Have you seen any pistol that was said to be found upon Colonel Fisk? A. No, sir.

Q. Did Mr. Fisk complain that the probing of the wound had hurt him? A. He complained a little of the wound in his arm—more than of the wound in the abdomen.

Q. At what time did the physicians regard the case as absolutely hopeless? A. At eight o'clock in the morning.

Counsel for the defence suggested that witness should give a "square" answer as to the probing. Witness said that when the wounds were probed Colonel Fisk winced a little.

Q. He did not tell you that he was shot by Mr. Stokes? A. He did not relate any of the circumstances.

Resting the Evidence.

Coroner YOUNG here stated that he should rest the evidence at this point, as far as the witnesses were concerned. He wished to make a statement, however, which was, that between six and seven o'clock on Saturday evening he was sent for to take the dying statement of Colonel Fisk. He was not quite certain as to the time, but he remembered stopping at the Fifteenth precinct station house about that time. When he reached the room of Colonel Fisk he was asked to take the ante-mortem statement of the Colonel, and he proposed now to read it to the jury.

Counsel for the prisoner objected to this being done, and, appealing to District Attorney Sullivan, said that gentleman knew that it was not right that it should be read.

District Attorney SULLIVAN said that, on the contrary, he knew that the Coroner was doing perfectly right, and had advised him to read it.

The CORONER said he had had a number of cases of homicide since he had been Coroner and he had never heard an objection before to the reading of ante-mortem statements.

The ante mortem statement and the verdict of the jury as previously published were then read by Dr. Marsh.

Dr. Marsh read "the post-mortem" as published in the HERALD on Monday. In reply to questions put by the Coroner and jury Dr. Marsh confirmed the previous medical testimony as to the certainty of death and the probing of the wounds.

Counsel for the defence protested at some length against the case being submitted to the jury without evidence as to the stripping of the body and the probing of the wounds.

The CORONER said that he had fully decided to close the case there, and believed that he had fully performed his duty, which was not to try the case, but to find how Colonel Fisk came by his death.

The Coroner's Summing Up.

The CORONER then proceeded to address the jury. He said:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY—I feel that it is unnecessary for me to refer you to the evidence that has been offered. You have listened attentively, and the position you occupy in society, your intelligence, your reputation as good citizens preclude the necessity of my advising you upon any point. All that I ask of you is to render a verdict in accordance with the testimony. That is all. I have no particular point to address you upon; but I would ask you only to commence with the first witness and review the line of testimony to the close of the examination, to the end of the post-mortem. I do not know that I should say one more word to you. Gentlemen, I assure you that in the examination of the witnesses it has not been my desire to ask one improper question. I have not been animated with a prejudice against any man. I have no personal feeling. I have endeavored to discharge my duty, as I have already said to the counsel, conscientiously, fearlessly, and as I shall always continue to discharge it. With these few remarks, gentlemen, I leave the case in your hands. You will please retire and agree upon a verdict, if you can do so.

The counsel for the prisoner—Against that we protest and except.

CORONER—With all due deference to the gentleman I decline to take any protest.

Counsel for the prisoner—Well, we can make you hereafter.

Waiting for the Verdict.

At a quarter to five o'clock the jury retired to deliberate upon the verdict. It was thought that their absence would be brief, having merely to inquire into the cause of death. Contrary to general expectation, however, the jury remained out nearly three hours, and meanwhile the crowded Court became gradually thinned. Their long absence created much surprise and comment. At twenty minutes to eight o'clock the jury returned into Court and resumed their seats.

The CORONER asked whether the jury had agreed to their verdict.

Mr. OPDYKE replied in the affirmative.

The CORONER—What do you find, gentlemen?

Mr. OPDYKE—Shall I read it?

The CORONER—If you please.

THE VERDICT.

Mr. OPDYKE then read the following verdict:—"The jury find, from the testimony submitted on this inquest, that the deceased James Fisk, Jr., came to his death at the Grand Central Hotel, in the city of New York, on the 7th day of January, 1872, at or about ten minutes before eleven o'clock A. M., in consequence of a wound or wounds inflicted by a ball or balls from a pistol in the hands of Edward S. Stokes, discharged by him in a deliberate manner at the person of said Fisk, at the Grand Central Hotel aforesaid, on the 6th day of January, 1872, at or about four o'clock P. M."

JESSE HOYT,	A. V. STOUT,
HENRY CLEWS,	DAVID DOWS,
JOHN J. GORMAN,	M. B. FIELD,
WILLIAM H. LOCKE,	LOWELL LINCOLN,
ALEX. McKENZIE,	JAMES R. EDWARDS,
GEORGE OPDYKE,	WILLIAM M. BLISS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9, 1872.

The announcement of this verdict created very little sensation in Court, nor was any change noticed in the demeanor of the accused from which he had previously borne during the trial.

The Coroner then requested Mr. Stokes to step up to the witness stand. Accompanied by his counsel the accused did as requested. The Coroner continued:—"Mr. Stokes, the jury having rendered their verdict—which you have heard—it now becomes my duty to ask you certain questions. You are at liberty to answer them or not, as you please.

Q. What is your name? A. Edward S. Stokes.

Q. How old are you, Mr. Stokes? A. I am thirty years of age.

Q. Where were you born? A. I was born in Philadelphia.

Q. Where do you reside? A. I reside at the Hoffman House in the city of New York.

Q. What is your occupation, Mr. Stokes? A. A broker.

Q. Have you anything to say—and, if so, what—relative to the charge preferred against you?

COUNSEL (answering for the prisoner)—By the advice of my counsel I decline to answer any further questions at this time. I am in their hands, as their counsel, and am governed by their advice.

The prisoner then signed his name to the above in a bold hand, without any symptoms of nervousness.

The CORONER—Mr. Stokes, the jury having rendered a verdict that James Fisk, Jr., came to his death by a pistol shot wound at your hands, I shall commit you to the Tombs, to await the action of the Grand Jury.

The Coroner then turned to the jury present, and, having tendered his thanks for their attendance, discharged them.

Counsel for the prisoner, in a lengthened address, drew the attention of the Coroner to the statute relative to the return of the proceedings of the Court. He dilated upon the crime that had been committed and alluded to the fact that the public mind was unduly excited. In order to justice to the prisoner, he contended that it was the duty of the prisoner to comply with the terms of the statute, which set forth that the testimony of the Coroner's jury should be reduced to writing by the Coroner and should be returned o the next Criminal Court that should be held in the county within thirty days. Counsel cited the case of McFarland to show that had he been tried within thirty days after the Coroner's verdict he must have been convicted. But when sober second thought came upon the public mind, always sure to follow in a case of that kind, he was not only acquitted, by the public so incensed against him, but almost received the thanks of the jury for the act originally committed. He submitted that the prisoner was entitled to what was known in criminal proceedings as a continuance, owing to the prejudice now existing in the public mind. Under the circumstances he trusted the Coroner would not return the proceedings until the time specified by law, and until such time as the excitement incident to the case had died away.

Mr. McKEON followed on the same side, contending that it was the duty of the Coroner to withhold the proceedings until the full extent of the time required by law.

Assistant District Attorney SULLIVAN intimated that the usual practice was that where recognizances were taken by a committing magistrate and called for an appearance at the next term it meant the term then pending. It was the well-settled practice to regard as the next term any part of the then current or unexpired term.

After some further discussion the counsel for the prisoner read the words of the statute:—"The testimony of all witnesses examined before a coroner's jury shall be reduced to writing by the coroner, and shall be returned by him together with the inquisition of the jury and all recognizances and examinations taken by such coroner, to the next criminal court of record that shall be held in the county." Counsel then commented on the fact that the jury had not rendered a verdict that showed the prisoner had committed willful murder in the legal acceptation of the term, and that although it was set forth that the shooting had been done deliberately, many a highwayman had been shot with deliberation. He also adverted to the fact that two of the witnesses produced on the day preceding had contradicted themselves. The second one he contended had committed perjury, while the third witness wiped out the testimony of both.

The CORONER, at the conclusion of the counsel's observations, stated that he had listened attentively to the suggestions which had been made, and would give them a careful consideration.

The accused was then removed to his cell, and the inquest was brought to a close.

Personal Intelligence.

Governor E. J. Davis, of Texas, arrived at the St. Nicholas Hotel yesterday.

De Witt C. Littlejohn, of Oswego, is stopping at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Colonel J. D. Cameron, of Harrisburg, has arrived at the Brevoort House.

Colonel Ochiltree, of Texas, is at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Colonel E. D. Wheeler, of the United States Army, has taken quarters at the Sturtevant House.

United States Senator William Windom, of Vermont, is sojourning at the Hoffman House.

SUICIDE IN A STATION HOUSE.

Last night Eliza Weizer, aged thirty-seven years, residing at No. 134 Broome street, was arrested by an officer of the Thirteenth precinct on a charge of intoxication, and locked up in the station house. At nine o'clock the doorman visited the cell and found the woman dead, she having taken a string from her underclothing, which she tied around her neck and attached the other end to the door of the cell. The Coroner was notified and will hold an inquest at the station house to-day.

FIRE IN CATHARINE STREET.

About noon yesterday the clothing store of John Brick, 75½ Catharine street, took fire from the store and the entire stock and fixtures were destroyed. The value of the place is estimated at about $8,000. It was insured in the Globe for $2,000, in Kings County for $1,000, in the Bowery for $2,300. The building was the property of Rutger's estate, and was damaged to the extent of $500.

FIRE IN BROADWAY.

A few minutes after seven fire was discovered in the rear of the second floor of the brown stone front house 532 Broadway, occupied by Julius Workuss, fur manufacturer, causing a loss to stock of $2,000. The rear of the third floor, occupied by Pine & Knight, manufacturers of elastic cord, was damaged $300; insured for $5,500. This week a diaper company, occupying the front of the same floor, sustained a loss of $25; insured for $1,000. The first floor, occupied by W. S. Willard as an oyster saloon, was damaged $1,500; insured for $1,600. The building was owned by a Mrs. Taylor, and damaged $1,000.

AMUSEMENTS.

Olympic Theatre—"Humpty Dumpty's" Reconstruction.

A rare old reconstruction of this renowned burlesque-pantomimic spectacle was witnessed by an overwhelming audience Monday night at the Olympic Theatre, thus marking the one hundred and fifty-fourth representation of the piece during the present season, and the six hundred and thirty-ninth time, including the former unprecedented run. The reconstruction is in fact a thorough one, including new scenery and scenic effects, tricks, grotesqueries and complete new dialogue. The ballet, costumes, dances and stage accessories are also new, and are on a scale of perfection seldom attempted and still more rarely carried out successfully. All the best features of the old version and cast of the pantomime are retained and a number of new performers are introduced. The burlesque prologue has been rewritten and recast, and embraces but two characters—the Sun Spirit (Miss Lulu Prior) and the Ice King (Mr. George A. Beane). These characters assume a rivalry in the conjuring up of beauties, and, exercising their power, bring up all the delightful spectacles of their respective tropical and frozen dominions for the delectation of the citizens of Gotham. Among the new acts are those of Mons. Robere and Mlle. Emma, who walk on a ceiling head downwards, and the Carroll family in songs, dances and eccentricities. The Martens, Kiralfys and "Zig Zags" present new specialties, and Fox is "worse than ever" in the excess of his drollery of make-up and facial expression. The grand feature, however, is the Warrior's Dance by the Kiralfys and entire ballet, in dazzlingly beautiful and entirely original costumes. In one scene of this dance the warriors lock their shields above their heads, and a number of Amazons, with couched spears, ascend to this platform by flights of steps formed of the shields of other warriors. The effect is something so novel as to electrify the audience and elicit the most enthusiastic plaudits. It is, of course, impossible in a notice of this piece to convey any idea of all that has been done in the remodelling of this unprecedentedly successful pantomime, but we cordially recommend all lovers of the humorous or beautiful to see Humpty in his new guise. The piece ran very smoothly, even though a first night, and must have a long run.

"No Thoroughfare" at the Grand Opera House.

The fact not being generally known, owing to the little time left for the announcement, that this place of amusement would be open last evening, in consequence of the death of Colonel Fisk the attendance was not a crowded one; but there was, nevertheless, a considerable audience present. "No Thoroughfare" has in the story itself, like most of Dickens', many striking incidents and situations; but in the hands of the playwright it has been rendered strikingly dramatic. The characters are grouped with effectiveness, and as for the dialogue, it is unexceptionable. It is needless to recapitulate the points of a story so familiar to every reader, and time and space are insufficient to allow us to do justice to the manner of its production at the Grand Opera House, and the acting throughout. Mr. Florence, as Obenreizer (a Swiss), shows his characteristic versatility of voice and expression, and his make-up may be called wonderful. He is the Swiss or the foreigners familiar, by accent, dress and gesticulations, to the streets of London. This is, perhaps, Mr. Florence's very best personation. He has some choice reading to do, and it flows from him naturally and with surprising clearness considering that he has to struggle with the assumption of broken English. Mr. Thomas E. Morris, as Mr. Brinty, looks and fills the character; and Mrs. Lewis Baker, "the vetted lady," but for a trifle of slowness in her accentuation, has otherwise a fair share of dramatic power. Mr. M. W. Fiske, as Joey Ladle, "the Cellarer," might indulge a little more spirit. His dialect is faultless, but it wants vim in delivery. The character is a good one, and could be rendered eminently comic. The cast betrays the usual fault of the American stage—want of action and liveliness in speech and expression. This, it should be supposed, might be easily remedied. As for the scenery it is about the best that has been produced at the Grand Opera House in a play of this kind for a long time. The drama is popular, and must certainly draw crowded houses. It may be mentioned as an incident of the evening that Colonel Fisk's old familiar box had the curtains drawn close, and every eye rested for a moment or two upon it. It may also be stated that Marshal Tooker has recently become business manager of this theatre.

Thomas' Second Symphony Soiree.

The audience at Steinway Hall last evening was very much larger than on Monday and the programme even more interesting. The orchestra played the Heroic symphony of Beethoven in a style such as probably it has never been heard before, and followed up their grand success in this immortal work with Horneman's Maerchen overture, "Aladdin." Schubert's German dances, instrumented by Herbeck; the delicious serenade of Haydn for strings alone, and the well known introduction, chorus and march from the third act of "Lohengrin." Miss Krebs played Liszt's piano concerto, No. 2, in A, an *etude*, by Chopin, Weber's rondo in E flat opus 32. The orchestra did their work with a precision, spirit and expression that left nothing to be desired. We are certain that if Mr. Thomas were to take this body of musicians to Europe they would create an unexampled furor. Certain it is that they have no superiors there. The third concert takes place this evening, and Beethoven, Bach, Volkmann, Liszt, Wagner and Litolff supply the programme. The soloists will be Miss Marie Krebs and Mr. Bernard Listernann.

SCOTIA'S NATIONAL GAME.

The Grand Curling Contest at Central Park—North vs. South—The South Victors.

Yesterday the curling pond at Central Park was the scene of the annual meeting of the curlers of the metropolis and its immediate vicinity, who as resident Scotchmen are entitled to take part in the event of the curling season, viz., the grand match North vs. South, the contestants hailing from the north and south of the Clyde. Last winter the match was more than ordinarily interesting from the strength of the contesting sides, the South winning the Dalrymple medal by a majority of fifty-three shots. This season the North showed up in greater strength, and the result was the Southerners found it difficult to win by a lead of eighteen shots only.

The weather overhead was delightful and the temperature very pleasant for lookers-on, and the result was a large gathering of spectators of both sexes. The ice towards the afternoon began to show signs of weakness, the ends of the rinks at times being covered with water, which interfered considerably with the sport. The match was played out to a close, however. Twelve rinks took part in the contest, and the rival players included members of the New York, Caledonian, St. Andrew's, Thistle, Burns and Empire City Clubs of New York; the Brooklyn