

were heavily veiled. At first Mrs. Gaines appeared a bit nervous, but this soon passed off. She then threw back her veil, and thereafter told her story simply and with fine directness.

The lawyers present agreed that they had seldom seen a woman so usually discussed in public. Mrs. Williams put a protecting arm about the witness, but always Mrs. Gaines threw it off a trifle impatiently and stood the ordeal bravely.

Without particular incident, the flow of testimony went on unintermitted. It was a deadly slow process, as the testimony, questions and answers were taken down in long hand. Once the coroner apologized for this by saying there were no stenographers and no dicta.

"Well, I wouldn't have objected to a lady," said Mrs. Gaines, looking about. It was the only sign she gave of feeling at all uncomfortable in the midst of the crowd of men.

Upbraids Him for Acts. It was just at the point where she was testifying that she was upbraiding Bywaters for leaving his wife in a dying condition that the door opened and Philip and Jim Strother came in. They took seats quietly where they could watch their sister's face.

A little later, when Capt. Woods was cross-examining Mrs. Gaines and mentioned the name of "French" Strother, when the witness had not done so, French jumped to his feet, saying, "She didn't say anything like that."

"Don't interfere," French said his counsel. "Sit down," said the coroner, but French, growling, stepped to the table until the incident was explained. Then he returned to his seat by his brother Jim.

After that there was no more interruption save that caused by the entrance of Judge Jeffries, counsel for the Strother boys. He did not look particularly pleased at the fact that inquest had started without him, but he made no protest.

The testimony of Mrs. Gaines was right to the point from the start. She told of going from her home to Rothwood, there to learn the news that her sister Viola was married, and was then Mrs. Bywaters. She went upstairs and found her sister on the bed, weeping bitterly.

Says Her Heart Is Broken. "Oh, Nellie, Nellie," sobbed Viola, "why did they make me marry him. They've broken my heart."

Continuing, Mrs. Gaines said in response to questions by the coroner: "I then left her and went downstairs to tell her husband that I could not and that he would have to stay with her. He and my two brothers were in the sitting room together, and my husband was there."

"He told me in front of the boys that he could not stay; said he had to go back to town to make some business arrangements and to announce the wedding. Of course, this made us feel hurt, because at the time his bride, my sister, was very ill—supposed to be in a dying condition. We didn't know that until he spoke of it all as if it was a light matter."

"I said to him: 'William, let me tell you what I think of you. I think you are the lowest man that ever lived.'"

"I also said to him: 'Viola is in a dying condition. You can telephone to town. It is your duty to stay with her.'"

"Then he became furious with me and was leaning in his chair, and before my own husband, and right in the face of my two brothers."

"I said to him: 'William, let me tell you what I think of you. I think you are the lowest man that ever lived. You have ruined my sister; had criminal operations performed on her, and you have stood by for two days and seen her go through the greatest physical and mental agony for your four hours has set in over the Gulf and South Atlantic States, with snow in Southern Virginia and the Ohio Valley. Rain has also fallen in this section, and the districts fair weather has prevailed, with a general rise in temperature."

The weather Thursday will be unsettled in the Middle and South Atlantic and East Gulf States. In the Middle Atlantic States snow or rain is probable, and rain will doubtless continue in the South Atlantic States. In the interior valleys and the West fair weather is probable Thursday, followed by increasing cloudiness and rain in the Mississippi and Ohio valleys Friday. In the West will probably reach Atlantic coast districts by Saturday.

It will be somewhat warmer Thursday and Friday in Eastern districts, with no marked change in the West.

The wind along the New England coast will be the northwesterly, increasing in the Middle Atlantic coast, brisk northwesterly; on the South Atlantic coast, fresh northwesterly; on the Gulf coast, fresh and variable, and on the Lower Lakes, fresh southerly.

Steamers departing Thursday for European ports will sail in the southeast winds and fair weather to the Grand Banks.

Note.—The display of storm warnings on Lake Erie and Ontario will be discontinued for the season at the termination of December 31, 1906. The display of warnings on Lake Pepin was discontinued at the termination of December 31, and on Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and St. Clair at the termination of December 31, 1906.

Local Temperatures. At Washington, Dec. 19-8 a. m., 18; 8 a. m., 17; 10 a. m., 21; 12 noon, 31; 2 p. m., 32; 4 p. m., 31; 6 p. m., 23; 8 p. m., 22; 10 p. m., 23; Maximum, 35; minimum, 17.

Temperatures in Other Cities. At New York, Dec. 19-8 a. m., 11; 10 a. m., 12; 12 noon, 14; 2 p. m., 15; 4 p. m., 14; 6 p. m., 10; 8 p. m., 9; 10 p. m., 10; Maximum, 18; minimum, 4.

Table with columns for City, Max. Min., and other weather data for various locations including New York, Philadelphia, and others.

he threatened both my brothers, and my husband made motions as if he would shoot him. That is all I know.

Q. Did he explain that he wished to go to town that night to you? A. No, he said he wanted to go and tell his mother.

Q. When did he first get up and go out of the room? A. I had my arms around him and he jerked away from me, and that is the last I remember of him as he went to the steps. Then he came back and went out of the window, and I don't remember after that.

Q. When did he come back from down the steps? A. I think Mr. Gaines pushed him back. A. When Mr. Gaines pushed him back in the room did he stop any time in there? A. No, he went out of the window.

Q. Went out the window. A. No. He went out of the window. I didn't say anything to him, and he went right for the window.

Q. Was there any quarrel or rough talk between Mr. Bywaters and your brothers just before the shooting? A. No; none that I heard.

Q. Up to that time had his manner and treatment to you been affectionate? A. He treated me very nicely. He had been talking about the announcement cards. He hadn't treated me coldly or anything.

Q. Were you willing he should go back to town that night? A. No; I would rather he had stayed with me.

Q. When he spoke of going to town and gave his reasons for wishing to go, did you object to his going? A. I told him I thought Jim could attend to sending out the cards, and knew he would attend to it, as he was going back that night.

Q. When your brothers went out on the top of the porch did you or not try to keep them from killing him? A. I was so near crazy that I just ran downstairs.

Q. Did Bywaters, when he spoke of going back to town, say when you could expect him back again? A. As far as I can remember, he didn't say. Just wanted to go to town.

Q. Before the marriage, when the matter was being discussed about the marriage, did not Mr. Bywaters and yourself pretend that the wedding should take place later, some time in January? A. Yes; we both wanted to put it off for a while.

Q. Up to the time of the shooting, did you have any idea that your brothers intended to kill him? A. No; but they said if he showed any disposition to leave me in any way that they would.

Q. Can you recall what Mr. Bywaters may have said just before he started down the steps? What passed between him and you just before he left you? A. As he jerked away from me, I did not hear a word he said, either to me or to my brothers.

Q. Just before then, what was passing? Just before he did leave? Again, what were you talking about? I felt safer with his arms around my neck, though.

Q. Did you actually forbid his going that night or just ask him not to go? A. I don't remember anything.

Q. When he left you and started down the stairs, did you know he was going off? A. I felt that as he jerked away from me and started, he must be going.

Q. Did you have faith in him that he would come back that night or the next day? A. Yes, sir. I hoped he would come back.

Q. Had he said anything to you at all to make you think he would not return? A. Nothing that I remember. I don't remember anything about a promise of his arms around my neck, though.

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how she had made three trips to Washington, being accompanied most of the time by Bywaters. She said that one of the operations was performed in the office of Dr. Leon, and that a Dr. Walters assisted in nursing her.

She stated, further, that Mr. Bywaters paid the physicians, and that she was registered at the Montrose under the name of Williams. She said that as far as she knew, none of her family knew of her trips to Washington.

All Hasten Back to Town. At the conclusion of the hearing of Mrs. Bywaters the officials and all hurried back to town. The coroner's jury met in the coroner's office, and in five minutes had returned the verdict.

It was in less than an hour afterward that Mayor Bayne, acting magistrate, took the testimony given before the coroner under advisement. By their counsel Jim and Philip Strother waived preliminary examination, and were at once bound over in the sum of \$5,000 each to the January term of the grand jury.

They went before Bill Commissioner W. G. Williams, who said the bond there had been satisfactory, but at the request of Jim Strother a new bond was made. He said that he was sorry to see that because his friend, Smith, the county treasurer, was on the bond there had been an element of politics injected into what was simply family trouble, and he asked that Mr. Smith's name be erased.

A new bond was signed by S. W. Thompson, J. C. Bell, W. J. Strother, Raleigh T. Greene, and E. S. Perry. And so the first chapter in the tragedy is closed.

DR. LEON DENIES CHARGE.

Says He Knows No One Answering Mrs. Bywaters Description.

Dr. Edward Leon, of 47 Missouri avenue northwest, last night denied the charges made by Mrs. Bywaters. He said that Dr. L. D. Walter, of 1324 G street northeast, is a professional associate, but that he had not seen him for six months.

"I know nothing about the matter except what I have seen in the papers," he said. "I do not recall any person by the name of Bywaters or Strother calling on me."

This is the second time I have been accused of such a crime. I do not know of any woman answering Mrs. Bywaters' description ever requesting my services.

"I cannot understand how my name came to be connected with the affair. I deny the statement that I performed the operation."

"I never heard of the parties until after the murder. Evidently some mistake has been made. My books do not show any such names. It is said the parties named assumed while in this city."

At the home of Dr. Walter late last night it was said that he was not in. An investigation into the medical training of Dr. Leon, or Dr. Leon Thompson, as he is also known, shows that he was employed as an attendant in one of the army hospitals during the civil war.

Since the close of the war he has resided in the United States, and has followed the criminal courts.

Some years ago he was before the court and was convicted of murder. Minute details of the case are not given, but the case has never been pressed since.

A few years ago he was married, but his wife was granted a divorce recently. Maj. Sylvester, when asked if he had ever received any Virginia authorities to investigate the matter, said:

"I have received no request from the Virginia authorities, but I will start an investigation myself. His name is familiar to me, but I have not seen him in many cases in the local courts. He has a very questionable record in this city, and has often been accused."

"I intend to look into the matter thoroughly, and if there is any ground for action it will be taken promptly."

CHEAPER GAS AND CAR FARES.

Bill to Cut the Price of Gas to Seventy-five Cents.

Street Railway Transfers Good Anywhere in the District and a Four-Cent Ticket Demanded.

Representative Madden, of Illinois, introduced in the House yesterday the two bills of extraordinary interest to the people of Washington, which were outlined in The Herald several days ago. These measures are aimed to reduce to consumers the cost of gas and to secure better street car facilities.

The gas bill provides that from and after the date of the passage of the bill all gas companies operating in the District of Columbia shall furnish illuminating gas to consumers at the uniform price of 75 cents per thousand feet, such gas to be of the standard and quality required at the present time, provided that nothing in the bill shall interfere with any contract where gas is furnished at a lower price than 75 cents per thousand feet.

The street railway bill would enact that all street car lines operating in the District shall give continuous transfers to passengers which shall be good at every point of intersection on all intersecting lines of the same or of other roads. All street railway companies are required to sell 25 tickets for a dollar, good for a continuous ride in any one of the lines, entitling the passenger to a transfer on all roads in the District.

The bill also requires that all street railways in the District shall run cars every five minutes between the hours of 6 a. m. and 1 p. m., and from 1 p. m. to 6 a. m. shall run cars every thirty minutes. The roads may run cars oftener if they desire. Railway officials violating the law may be fined from \$10 to \$200 for each offense. Every street railroad in the District shall pay, in lieu of all personal taxes, including cars and motive power, 20 per cent of gross income, subject to the same penalties as now exist for arrears of personal taxes.

The franchise of any road may be seized and sold in default of payment. The companies are to pay the usual taxes on their real estate, exclusive of tracks and elevated track structures.

TO DONATE 100 OVERCOATS.

Saks & Company Will Give Clothes to 100 Boys.

On Christmas morning Saks & Co. will give away 100 overcoats to 100 deserving boys, following a custom they instituted many years ago. Just what the boys will be is not known, but they will be the holders of tickets that will be issued through the Associated Charities, which institution will be given the 100 tickets.

Each applicant's condition will be investigated by the authorities of the Associated Charities, and if found deserving they will get tickets.

These will be presented at the Saks store on Christmas evening, and each of the youngsters will be made happy with a real overcoat and a merry Christmas from the merchants who will provide them with the means to keep warm all winter.

Singing Canary in a gilded cage makes a good Christmas present for young or old. Schmid's Bird Store, 712 12th st.

MUST INCREASE NAVY.

Foss Declares We Need War Ships More Than Ever.

VARIED INTERESTS TO GUARD.

Time for Stopping Work of Reconstruction Has Not Yet Arrived, in Opinion of Chairman of House Naval Committee—Sons of American Revolution Hear Speech.

The increasing need of this country for a larger and more powerful navy was brought out strongly by Representative George Edmund Foss, of Illinois, chairman of the House Naval Committee, in his address before the Sons of the American Revolution at their monthly meeting, held at Rauscher's last night.

America, he argued, must not permit itself to be lulled to a false sense of security by present conditions and cease the present work of construction splendidly begun; she should prepare all of peace for the war in which any nation engaged in the present war is in danger of being precipitated. Mr. Foss paid tribute to the recent Secretary of the Navy for their tireless energy in rebuilding the American navy and raising it from the twenty-first (where it stood soon after the close of the civil war) to the third greatest fighting power of the face of the globe to-day.

"Some people think," he said, "that we should stop this work of reconstruction; that the time is soon coming when all disputes will be settled by arbitration. Nobody hopes for that time more than do I. But that time is not yet here. The people who would use the Golden Rule in settling all disputes under the sun seem to forget the fact that soon after the adjournment of The Hague Peace Conference the instigator of that conference, Russia, was engaged in one of the bloodiest struggles known to history; that England was engaged in a fight to the death with the Boers, and that all of the civilized nations made preparations, and are yet making preparations, for a world-wide struggle which has never been in the history of the world."

Must Be Ready. "We must be prepared. The war between Russia and Japan showed clearly that the nation which is prepared for the struggle may cripple the other at the outset in such a manner that it will never recover. In my estimation it was the fleet of the Japanese which was prepared, more than any other thing, that enabled them to so overwhelmingly defeat their opponents."

"We have too many interests which demand the protection of war ships to stop the building of war vessels yet. Our possessions are not confined to one continent. We have the Philippines to guard, the Philippines to watch, and the Panama Canal to protect. We must be in a position to enforce the Monroe doctrine; we must defend our foreign policies, and should be the most important of all, we should be ever ready to defend our citizens. A government that is not able to protect its citizens is not worthy of the name of a government."

Takes Up Marine Question. Mr. Foss then discussed the question of the expense of building and maintaining an efficient marine service.

"Many," he continued, "are prone to object to the building of a large navy on account of the increased cost. It is true that the cost is large. One hundred millions of dollars are expended annually in the work. But after all, this is little more in proportion than our forefathers spent. One hundred millions represents a cost of about \$1 to every man, woman, and child in the United States, each year, and a little more than 3 per cent of the total commerce of this country."

At the business meeting, which preceded Mr. Foss' address, the following newly-elected members were installed: M. J. Jones, T. B. Sergeant, R. H. McNeill, E. Kessler, H. H. McGruder, E. C. Garvin, and H. W. Wells.

ITALIANS HOLD "SERATA." Second Unique Entertainment Given Under Italian Embassy auspices.

Sunny Italy, with all its glamor and pathos, was typified last night at Notre Dame Hall, when the Italian branch of the Christ Child Society held its second Serata Mensile di Ricreazione. The entertainment was unique in being Italian throughout. The programme was printed in Italian, not a word of English was spoken or sung, and the audience was entirely Italian. The awfully high colored faces were all animated and expressed their keen appreciation. It was a strong reminder of "Home, sweet home" in the Fatherland. Bright eyes glowed and feet involuntarily beat time to the strains of Italian airs. It was not the blare of the national anthem by a brass band, but the homely and homelike simplicity of the Una Polka with the "birds singing."

On a harmonica by Carlo Angelo, who could scarcely speak English. The Italian branch of the Christ Child Society is a comparatively new one in Washington, and is under the patronage of the Italian Embassy. The seratas are for the purpose of providing recreation for the many children of Italy in the city and to interest them in the Madonna Home at 115 E street northwest, where the children are taught English, basket weaving, millinery, &c. The tuition is absolutely free, as are the seratas, and are for Italians alone.

Prof. Antonio Ruvaioli, dell' Ambasciata Italiana, was called to the address in the native tongue, as was done at the first serata, held a month ago, but he was suddenly called to New York and could not attend. Every class was represented in the 300 or more attending from the green immigrant and railroad laborer to the prosperous merchant.

Japan Would Fight. Bishop Harris Speaks of the National Ambition of the Japanese.

Bishop Merriman C. Harris, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who has been stationed in Japan for thirty-three years, talked with a number of Senators and Representatives yesterday concerning the feeling in Japan toward the United States.

He told them that if Congress should pass a law excluding the Japanese such action would be regarded as an unfriendly act, and that Japan would lead to serious trouble.

He declared that the Japanese entertained a very kindly feeling for the United States and only wanted their subjects here accorded their full treaty rights. He told those with whom he talked that Japan was not seeking either the Philippines or Hawaii, and that the Mikado did not seek trouble with the United States. The aim of the Japanese people now is to advance their commercial interest and to make money rather than war.

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Advertisement for Cabinet Officers Scolded, mentioning Senate Select Committee Reprimands.

Advertisement for Gifts for the Student, including College Flags, School Flags, and Emblem Pins.

Advertisement for Stylish Clothes for Men, Women, and Children, with 'ON EASY PAYMENTS'.

Advertisement for National Safe Deposit, Savings & Trust Co., located at 15th and New York Ave.

Advertisement for DIED, listing names and dates of death.

Advertisement for BROWN, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for DAN, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for FOWLER, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for GATES, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for KIERAN, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for MANNING, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for PETERS, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for REDDICK, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for WAYNE, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for FUNERAL DIRECTORS, listing names and addresses.

Advertisement for THOS. S. SERGEON, listing details of a death.

Advertisement for WM. H. SARDO & CO., listing