

EDWARD S. STOKES' LIFE DRAMA ENDS.

Peaceful Close to Stormy Career of Man Who Shot Colonel James Fisk, Jr.— Brilliant But Erratic Tragedy in Which He Played a Part One of Most Sensational in City's History—From Prison to Prosperity—Made Hoffman House Famous Only to Become Enmeshed in Intermittent Litigation.

EDWARD S. STOKES died at 21 minutes to 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the home of his sister, Mrs. Mary McNutt, No. 731 St. Nicholas avenue. He had been unconscious for three days, and his death was expected at any hour.

world. Stokes was only thirty-one years of age at the time.

BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE.

Born in Philadelphia in 1841, his early environment and training were excellent. His father was an old and respected one in the Quaker City. He himself gave brilliant promise from his very boyhood. In the high school of Philadelphia, where he received the larger portion of his education, he developed unusual aptness in his studies. Among his schoolfellows he was known as an ardent athlete. But he was even

CLAIMS TO BE EDWARD STOKES' WIFE.



The checkered career of Edward L. Stokes, the slayer of Jim Fiske, now has another sensational incident in the claim of Miss Rosamond Langdon Barclay that she is the legal wife of Stokes, the latter having married her in Canada more than a year ago. Miss Barclay, or Mrs. Stokes, if her claim is authentic, declares that she has a marriage certificate to prove her rights.

Mr. Stokes died apparently without pain. He had been seriously ill for several weeks. Previous to that he had been ailing for more than two years. He suffered from a complication of troubles of which the chief was Bright's disease.

FAMOUS TRAGEDY RECALLED.

The death of Edward Stokes recalls a tragedy which was the culminating feature, as it was, in some sense, the logical issue, of the most scandalous, the most debauched, the most garishly picturesque, the most sulphureously resplendent epoch in the history of New York. This was the six years following fast after the close of the civil war, when wild-eyed speculation sowed mushroom fortunes, when erstwhile paupers became sudden millionaires, when politicians first fully mastered the secret of lining their own pockets by civic thievery, when financiers built or wrecked railroads almost at will, and for their own private ends invited public disaster by "cornering" the staples upon which the masses depended for food and raiment and the very coin which set in motion the wheels of trade, when the worship of the golden calf vulgarized society and prostituted justice itself, when the lust of the eye and the lust of the flesh and the pride of life were rampant in the highways and the byways—the period, in short, which was marked by the rise and the fall of Tammany under Tweed.

then noted as headstrong, erratic and explosive. He left school before graduating. His father had removed to New York in 1861 and established the provision firm of Stokes & Eudling, in Chambers street. The adolescent eagerly welcomed a position in the store.

As he grew into young manhood he manifested great energy and business tact. In 1863 he married the daughter of John W. Southwick, a wealthy furniture dealer, by whom he had one daughter. Meanwhile he had deserted the provision business to plunge into the speculation in Wall street. There he met Col. James Fisk, Jr., then at the glittering climax of his strange fortunes. The older man took a fancy to the young one. They became fast friends. Fisk joined Stokes as a partner in the Brooklyn Oil Refinery company, in which Stokes' mother was largely interested.

At this period Fisk had become enamored of a notorious woman known as Josie Mansfield. Her maiden name was Helen Josephine Mansfield. She was the divorced wife of an actor of small ability, Frank Lawlor. It is said by some that she had met Stokes in Philadelphia, where she had lived for a few months in 1867. It is said by others that Fisk took Stokes to see her at the magnificent home Fisk had set up for her in West Twenty-third street, New York. What is certain is that Stokes became as madly infatuated with her as "Jim" Fisk himself. She reciprocated Stokes' affection.

of a million on the other. In the days when money and influence were all powerful, Fisk had the great Fisk corporation and Tammany Hall at his back. Stokes was practically single handed.

QUARRELS LEAD TO MURDER.

Fisk's first move was to arrest his

man. To add fuel to the fire, the woman went into court with papers showing that Fisk owed her \$50,000 an accusing him of libel.

After an exciting day in this suit she and Stokes lunched together in the home Fisk had fitted up. Here a messenger arrived with the news that Fisk had caused the issue of a bench war-

There was an intense sensation in the court room. Mr. Fellow, resuming his address, said he was glad to retire from an office which entailed his presence at such scenes of suffering and sorrow as he had witnessed that night. After he had concluded he burst into tears and going over to Stokes offered him his hand, saying:

SNAPSHOT OF THE PRESIDENT IN HUNTING COSTUME.



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT IN HUNTING COSTUME.

ONE OF THE ROUGHS.

President Roosevelt is said to be strongly yearning for a few days of roving hunting in the Rocky Mountains. Reports of the daring tactics pursued by him when hunting, and the many thrilling incidents of his last winter's trip, are causing his friends to use their utmost endeavors to dissuade him from any such enterprises. Although it is hard possible that Mr. Roosevelt will carry out his desire to go to the Rockies for a week's hunting before Congress opens in December, at the same time it is very probable that the world will, sooner or later, be treated to the novel spectacle of a President of the United States chasing wild-cats in the Rockies.

partner on the charge of embezzling the company's funds. The charge fell through, and Stokes was liberated. He retaliated by suing Fisk for \$200,000 damages for false imprisonment. "Josie" stood by Stokes, who threatened to publish all the letters that had passed between Fisk and the Mansfield woman.

At the first trial the jury failed to agree. The second ended on January 4, 1873, with a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. Then followed one of the most extraordinary scenes ever witnessed in a court room. The following account is condensed from the contemporary report in the New York Herald:

At the moment that the verdict passed of the lips of the foreman, there arose such a terrible noise, such a roar from one of the young ladies dressed in deep mourning that it seemed to curdle the blood of every man and woman in the court. None who heard it will ever forget it. The young lady who uttered this cry fell forward with her face prone on the shoulder of the prisoner. She was Stokes' sister, Horace Stokes, the brother, burst into tears. All the friends and relatives of the prisoner, by one impulse, gathered around him in a state of terrible affliction.

STOKES DENOUNCES PROSECUTORS.

Edward S. Stokes, however, never lost his nerve. He sat in stony calm until all the members of the jury had been polled. As the twelfth man answered "Yes," he rose slowly, and, facing Mr. Beach, now one of the counsel for the prosecution, but formerly friend of Stokes, and his counsel in a civil suit, said in deliberate accents: "Well, Mr. Beach, I must say you have done your work well. I hope you have been well paid for it." Then he sat down. Mr. Beach made no reply, but his face turned a little away from the prisoner. District Attorney Fellow then rose to explain that Messrs. Beach and Fullerton had not been employed by Mr. Fisk's family, but by the county, to assist in the prosecution. Stokes, again rising, broke into the argument. "Mr. Fellows," he interrupted, "state that they were hired by Jay Gould. Please state that."

cratic party, and in this he succeeded. He himself was for many years hand in glove with Tammany Hall and a friend of Croker and the "boys." In short, as the manager of the Hoffman House, he became widely known among the magnates of the hour. Read was entirely overshadowed. The partners quarreled. Read fell into money difficulties. He accused Stokes of ruining him.

HOFFMAN HOUSE DIFFICULTIES.

Finally the matter came up in the courts. The litigation revealed complicated financial relations between Read, Edward Stokes and the latter's cousin, W. E. D. Stokes. In a suit begun in November, 1892, Edward Stokes obtained a temporary injunction restraining his cousin from disposing of lands in Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia, valued, it was said, at \$500,000. It then appeared that W. E. D. Stokes had purchased some of Read's Hoffman House stock and had also lent him \$1,000, taking these lands as collateral. Prior to this deal Edward Stokes had borrowed money from Read, putting up as collateral \$150,000 worth of Hoffman House stock and the southwestern real estate. Some of this collateral had passed into W. E. D. Stokes' hands, although Edward alleged that he had frequently tendered payment of the notes. Edward further charged that his cousin and Read, together with a lawyer named Martin, had entered into collusion to oust him from the Hoffman House.

dy-W. E. D. Stokes, then in college, had induced his father to go to the aid of the prisoner in sums which he alleged amounted to \$64,000.

Again the courts were appealed to. Edward Stokes brought suit against his cousin for criminal libel, eventually winning a verdict of \$1,000 after springing a sensation upon the community by putting in evidence the pardon he had received from Governor Cleveland in 1884.

W. E. D. Stokes began suit to have a receiver appointed for the Hoffman House, alleging gross mismanagement on the part of Edward S. Stokes. The Hoffman House trustees resulted in a temporary triumph for the latter when, on June 1, 1894, the corporation was dissolved and Edward S. Stokes was appointed receiver. Later a new company was organized with the former receiver as president. From this position he retired on September 27, 1897, alleging ill health as his reason. John P. Caddigan succeeded him in the management.

The legal tangles in the Hoffman House litigation have not yet been straightened out. The latest decision, rendered June 14, 1899, gave judgment in favor of W. E. D. Stokes for \$50,000, but a stay of execution was granted until the case can be heard by the appellate division of the supreme court.

And now Edward Stokes Stiles is dead, and thus is removed the last male survivor in a tragedy that shook the world. But two women who played a significant part in it remain. One of

MGR. SBARRETTI TO GO TO PHILIPPINES.



Mgr. Sbarretti, bishop of Havana, will be appointed by the Pope as Apostolic Delegate Extraordinary to the Philippines. He will proceed at once to Rome to receive his appointment and will sail for Manila January 1.

which it is hardly necessary to detail. The cousins were not at open warfare. Each accused the other of ingratitude and misconduct. The warfare was carried into the newspapers. Rival letters full of bitter recriminations were printed. In one of them W. E. D. Stokes quoted a famous sentence from De Quincey's "Murder Considered as a Fine Art," which he applied to his cousin with venomous point:

"If once a man indulges in murder very soon he comes to think little of robbing; from robbing he comes to drinking, and from that to ill manners and prostration. Once upon the downward path and you know not where you will stop."

What stung Edward still more was a charge of ingratitude in forgetting the circumstance that after the Fisk tragedy,

them, the siren who wrought the ruin, was at last coming living comfortably in Philadelphia. The other, the chief victim, Mrs. James Fisk, is living in penury in Boston. When Fisk died he was currently reported to be one of the wealthiest men in New York. He left practically his entire fortune to his widow. When she came to claim her own she found that it had melted into thin air. Not a wrack remained behind.

Edward Stokes' wife had obtained a divorce from him while he was serving out his term in prison. When he lay upon his deathbed a young woman who had been known as Rosamund L. Barclay claimed that she had been married to Stokes and threatened to assert her claims through the courts.—N. Y. Herald.

BOURKE COCHRAN IS BETTER.



Bourke Cochran, the famous orator and lawyer, whose recent accident, while out riding, caused him injuries which were at first deemed to be of a fatal nature, has now almost completely recovered and is appearing abroad once more. Here is his latest picture.

RACE TROUBLE STILL SMOULDERS.



Race feeling still runs high at Balltown, Louisiana, where the recent race war occurred. The friends of the fifteen whites killed in the struggle have sworn vengeance and a renewal of hostilities with an attempt to practically annihilate the blacks of the section may be expected at any time.