

SURPRISE AND TEARS AT TRIAL

TESTIMONY IN CORWELL CASE CREATES SYMPATHY

EXCITEMENT CAUSED BY BENNETT'S MOTHER

Cousin of Defendant Relates Touching Story of Prisoner's Experiences Since Time She Reached Los Angeles

The sensational and the sympathetic feelings of the large gathering of spectators in the superior court to watch the proceedings in the trial of Mrs. Estelle Corwell were both worked upon yesterday at one time, the crowd being almost brought to its feet by the effort of Mrs. George W. Bennett to grasp a portrait of her daughter and a piece from the hands of Attorney Appel, while for more than an hour in the afternoon it listened to a touching recital of the experiences of the defendant since her arrival in Los Angeles to the day preceding the night on which Bennett lost his life.

Other than the defendant herself and Miss Male Bennett, both of whom will be called to the stand later in the week, the defense yesterday placed in the chair its principal witness, and the effect produced was all that could be desired. This witness is Miss Emma Quinones, a cousin of Mrs. Corwell, and her testimony was of such a character and told in such a manner as to bring tears to the eyes of almost every woman in the chamber.

Almost every woman, but not all of them. One person sat facing the witness and listened with an expression of scornful contempt. This was the mother of the dead man, Mrs. George W. Bennett, and at that part of the story which detailed almost inhuman cruelty alleged to have been committed by her son, she laughed almost aloud.

Watches Trial Closely Mrs. Bennett had watched intently the proceedings of the trial since the opening day. Her demeanor has been calm and during long hours there has been no change of expression, no evidence of unusual interest until yesterday.

The change from calmness to fury occurred as Appel took from his paper wrappings a large framed portrait of a sister and a cousin of her dead son. Appel took the piece of jewelry from Mrs. Bennett's finger and showed it to the jury. It is a gold band ring, inside of which is the inscription, "George to Stella, 2-12-01."

"After the engagement," said Miss Quinones, "George came to the house about as usual and they went out to parties and theaters almost every evening.

At one time in 1901, about August, the two were absent from home two or three days. When they returned I remarked on their cheerfulness, and George said they were very happy and that they had married. He said he wished to surprise us and had married in Lower California.

"During the latter part of 1901, the defendant, extremely happy; everything she suggested he agreed to. "In 1902 I went to their rooms at the Chester and saw Estelle in bed and George sitting beside her. He had his arms around her and said, 'Emma, look at what Kid has done,' and then to Estelle, 'Oh, sweetheart, don't go, sweetheart, don't go; look at me, sweetheart, we will be happy again.' "She was in a stupor until late in the afternoon."

Attempted Suicide This is said to be the time when Mrs. Corwell first learned that Bennett had a family and the occasion on which she swallowed a quantity of laudanum.

"He declared his wife was dead," said the witness, "but later in the afternoon he told Mrs. Corwell that his wife was living but he was a divorced man and asked her to forgive him."

The couple continued to live together at the Chester until 1904. Early in that year the witness said she noticed the highly nervous condition of the defendant. One time she complained that Bennett had deceived her; that he had married her while his wife was still living, she said, admitted this but declared he could not live without her, and asked her to wait for three months, when he promised they would be married legally.

Following Mrs. Bennett's death, she said, Mrs. Corwell pleaded constantly to Bennett to marry her, but each time he gave one excuse or another, principally that he was in financial straits.

"Once, Mrs. Corwell showed me a note book," said the witness, "in which telephone numbers were written. She pointed out one number and said it was that of Miss Male Bennett's telephone. She appeared almost sick because of his actions with Male Bennett."

Tells of Automobile Trip Witness then told of the automobile trip to Santa Monica at the time when Mrs. Corwell sustained a broken ankle. The witness, Bennett and Mrs. Corwell visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Warren and a dinner was served late in the evening. During the progress of the meal, said the witness, Mrs. Warren asked Mrs. Corwell if she had seen Male Bennett, stating she had seen her with Bennett. Mrs. Corwell became morose after this incident.

"After we started back to Los Angeles," said the witness, "my cousin said: 'There it is again, George; you've been running about with Male Bennett. It is Male Bennett wherever I go.' Bennett replied that he was trying to tease her and Mrs. Corwell again implored him to marry her.

"Bennett," said the witness, "replied that he would have no one dictate to him and would marry when he desired." "Oh, George, don't talk like that, or I'll do something terrible," my cousin said, and he told her to 'go to hell.' "She said she would jump from the automobile, and when he again spoke harshly to her she threw herself from the machine and gave a terrible scream. The machine continued a short distance and returned. We couldn't

move her. Somebody came to a door and asked if we needed help, but George told me to say nothing and proposed placing her back in the automobile and going to Los Angeles. Then I saw some blood and cried out, 'My God, George! look at that.' "Said It Was an Accident Mrs. Corwell was taken into the Hardman home and the inmates were told she had been hurt in an accident, Bennett said the witness, instructing her to tell this story Mrs. Corwell went to the hospital and after remaining there some months was discharged, but found it necessary to use crutches. Bennett and Mrs. Corwell lived with the Quinones for a time, Bennett fearing, said the witness, that Mrs. Corwell would do herself injury unless she were watched, and expressing a belief that she was crazy.

Later in 1905 they moved to the Venice apartments and took rooms in the basement. Mrs. Corwell, said the witness, hobbled about on one crutch, washing Bennett's underclothing and scrubbing the floor. In August, 1906, witness said she visited Mrs. Corwell and found her in a highly nervous condition following the receipt of a letter from Bennett dated Ventura, August 21. The text of the letter has already been given in previous testimony. This is the date shown on the register of the Hotel Anapa at Ventura when Bennett and Male Bennett were said to have been together.

"Estelle was talking to herself," said the witness, "and she suddenly lifted her hand to her head and stared fixedly. She fell forward to the floor and froth appeared on her lips. Her hands were clenched so tightly that the nails appeared to be buried into the flesh. She was unconscious for five or ten minutes." When she recovered, said the witness, she said someone had telephoned that Bennett was in Ventura with Male Bennett.

"She threatened to shoot herself and took a revolver from a drawer. I took the weapon home with me that night," said the witness. Other instances in which Bennett and Male Bennett are said to have been seen together were related.

Will Tell Story of Killing Man She Loved



MRS. ESTELLE CORWELL, WHO WILL THIS WEEK RECITE HER LIFE STORY TO JURY BEFORE WHICH SHE IS BEING TRIED FOR MURDER OF GEORGE T. BENNETT. SKETCHED IN COURT ROOM BY HERALD STAFF ARTIST

been married but that his wife was dead. After my cousin moved to the Gladstone George saw her three or four times a day and was with her every evening, and they both appeared to be infatuated with one another.

"At a supper given at our home in 1901 George told those present that he and Mrs. Corwell were engaged and showed us a ring which the defendant later wore."

The witness said the defendant was now wearing the ring and Attorney Appel took the piece of jewelry from Mrs. Corwell's finger and showed it to the jury. It is a gold band ring, inside of which is the inscription, "George to Stella, 2-12-01."

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out him. Everybody will laugh at me when I am dead." Miss Quinones was still on the stand when court adjourned until 9:30 o'clock this morning.

MAKE LIFE SAFE IN PICTURE THEATERS COUNCIL INSISTS ON FURTHER PRECAUTIONS

Three Councilmen, with City Attorney and Building Inspector, Framing a New Protective Ordinance

Because of the recent theater disasters the city council yesterday took action to force moving picture theater owners to put in extra exits and other safety devices.

City Attorney Leslie R. Hewitt submitted the draft of an ordinance regulating moving picture exhibitions or entertainments at which moving pictures are exhibited.

This ordinance has been drawn after construction with Chief Inspector of Buildings J. J. Backus, and the necessity for making regulations upon the subject arises from the fact that places wherein moving pictures are being exhibited have increased very rapidly in number of lots in buildings or in rooms which are not adapted for the safety of persons patronizing such exhibitions in view of the peculiar mechanical appliances used thereat.

It has been deemed by the chief inspector, and the city attorney shares his view upon the subject, that some regulation designed to safeguard people who attend moving picture exhibitions in places other than theaters should be adopted.

President Pease and Councilmen Lyon and Healy were delegated a committee to work with Messrs. Hewitt and Backus.

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Every Woman interested should know about the wonderful MARVEL Whirling Spray. The new Vaginal Spray, in its flow and action, is the most convenient, most comfortable, and most effective. It cleanses instantly.

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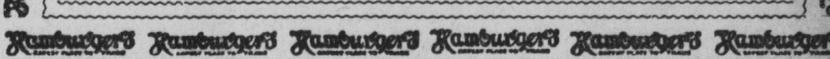
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Every Woman

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