

THE FIGURE LOOKED LIKE BLANCHE LAMONT.

Durrant's Attorney Protests Against the Dress Form.

IT WAS VERY LIFELIKE.

One of the Dramatic Surprises That Sent a Shudder Through the Room.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. NOBLE.

The Aunt of the Murdered Girl Is First to Connect Durrant With the Crime.

THE DURRANT CASE IN A MINUTE—MRS. NOBLE'S EVIDENCE.

Another day in the Durrant case has brought the prosecution fairly into its case. With the examination of Mrs. C. G. Noble came the first direct evidence tending to connect Durrant with the murder of Blanche Lamont.

Mrs. Noble was Blanche Lamont's aunt, and it was at her house that the girl lived while in the city. Her testimony went to show how Durrant had called at her house with Dr. Vogel and Clarence Wolf, offering to try to find the missing girl. At that time Durrant had told her and his companions kind words of places the police were not acquainted with, and they would hunt for Blanche in such localities.

Mrs. Noble was also called upon to identify the clothes belonging to her dead niece, and in connection with the identification of the dress she wore there was a vigorous objection lodged by Deuprey and Dickinson. The dress was draped upon a dressmaker's form, and as it stood before the jury it was not hard to imagine it clothing the figure of the girl herself, and when Barnes placed the hat over the top of the frame the black-robed figure was strikingly realistic. Deuprey saw the effect of it first, and he objected not to the dress but to the frame, as he said, the frame was never in the Emmanuel Church, and was no part of the case. Dickinson seconded the objection, but the court held it was as much a part of the case as the boards upon which the maps were spread, and he allowed the frame to remain, after giving defendant's counsel the benefit of an exception.

E. F. Soms, a special policeman, and Police Officer E. V. Herve, who searched the church and found some of Blanche Lamont's clothing, were examined in the morning, and in the afternoon John T. Dare, prosecuting attorney of Police Court 3, described how he had viewed the body in company with the officers. Police Officer McGreevy told how he had found a pair of the girl's shoes in the room of the church, and Police Officer George Graham identified the shoes shown in court as the ones he found in the church, and he told how he found them. Mrs. Noble was the last witness of the day, and her direct examination was still in progress when an adjournment was taken.

NOTE TO THE READER—If you wish only to know what was actually accomplished in the Durrant case, the foregoing summary will give you that information. If, however, it is your desire to learn the particulars of this interesting trial you will find subjoined a clear, succinct, impartial account of all important matters. Under no circumstances will the details be given, as they are not essential to an intelligent understanding of the progress of the case, and will be accorded no place in these columns.

FIFTH DAY OF THE TRIAL.

Mrs. Noble Tells How Durrant Offered to Go In Search of Her Niece, Blanche Lamont.

There was the same-sized crowd—all the room would hold—in Judge Murphy's court yesterday. Those who attended only the morning session were disappointed if they expected to hear anything of a sensational nature. It was devoted entirely to the testimony of witnesses who found more of the clothing and personal effects of Blanche Lamont in the belfry and other portions of the church.

Detective Seymour came into court bearing a gunny-sack in one hand and a black valise in the other. There was speculation as to the contents of these packages, but it was soon disclosed that they contained the hat, the shoes and some other articles of wearing apparel that had been found secreted in the church.

Durrant came into court with the same unassuming, bland demeanor that he has evinced from the first. Not even the threatening weather seemed to have any effect upon him. He is always the same, nor in this respect does he differ from the usual run of men who stand in the dock accused of great crimes. Such men do not carry the evidences of either their guilt or innocence on their faces. Durrant's face is as uncommunicative, as inexpensive of all emotions as was the face of Alexander Sullivan when he faced the accusation of having caused the horrible butchery of Dr. Cronin.

But that is an old story now. People crowd the Durrant trial out of a natural curiosity to see the man accused of so dreadful a crime, and hundreds of them besiege the corridors for hours, satisfied to catch but a passing glimpse of the man.

In the afternoon Mrs. Noble, the aunt of Blanche Lamont, came to the stand, and then for the first time Durrant's name was coupled with that of the murdered girl.

She was called on to identify the clothes of the murdered girl, and the better to assist in the display of them the District Attorney had draped the outer garments upon a dressmaker's frame of wire. When he called for the dress the courtroom clerk went up behind the Judge's desk where the frame was lying hidden from view, and raising it suddenly he brought it down and stood it before the jury. Every one started. It was like bringing the wraith of the murdered girl herself into court and asking it to testify. Then, when Barnes took the girl's wide hat, which had been found in the belfry, and placed it on top of the frame, it needed but a little stretch of the imagination to see the form of Blanche Lamont standing there in the dim light of the courtroom. It had an evident effect upon the spectators at least, if not upon the jury, and Deuprey was on his feet in a minute with an objection. He took exception not to the dress, but to the frame, as he said it had not been in the Emmanuel Church, and was, therefore, not part of the case. The court ruled that it was as much a part of the case as the boards upon which the maps had been spread, and he allowed the frame to remain after noting Deuprey's objection.

Then Barnes went to the figure, pointed out all the rents in the dress and the evidences of a struggle about the neck of the basque, and then the clerk took it aside. There was a murmur of relief when the figure disappeared, and eyes which had been fixed upon the silent form in black were free to once more seek for a glimpse of the prisoner.

Mr. Barnes is unfolding the details of his drama with rare skill and in such a

way that it can be divided into separate acts, each act having its thrilling denouement. With the advent of Mrs. Noble came the climax to the second act in what promises to be a most dramatic trial.

The trial opened, if you remember, with the evidence of the men who found a body. Then came Mr. Noble to tell whose body it was.

Then several witnesses told of the garments they found in the church. Yesterday came Mrs. Noble to say, "These were the garments worn by my sister's child, Blanche Lamont."

She said more than this. She said she met Durrant at prayer-meeting on the evening of the day in which Blanche had disappeared.

Durrant sat in front of her at the prayer-meeting. He leaned back and asked her whether Blanche was coming. Mrs. Noble answered with a simple negative.

Then Durrant told her about the book, "The Newcombs," that he had promised to bring Blanche. He had not brought it, he said. And he asked Mrs. Noble to tell Blanche that he would bring the book Thursday.

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All this testimony was readily appreciated as of vital importance in the people's case against the prisoner, and the prisoner himself was the only person in the courtroom who did not feel vitally interested in it, who did not listen most acutely so that no syllable of it might escape.

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