

MAUD LAMONT TAKES THE WITNESS-STAND.

The Sister of the Murdered Girl Gives Testimony.

BLANCHE AND DURRANT.

Did Mrs. Leak Call Upon Mrs. Noble After the Body Was Found?

THE PRISONER INTERESTED.

Maud Gives the Weight of Her Sister, But the Evidence is Stricken Out.

THE DURRANT TRIAL IN A MINUTE—MAUD LAMONT A WITNESS.

The trial opened yesterday with Mrs. C. G. Noble, the aunt of the murdered girl, still on the stand. Since the previous session she had been able to fix the exact date upon which Durrant and Dr. Vogel called at her house to discuss the disappearance of her niece.

Then began the cross-examination of Mrs. Noble. Attorney Dickinson led her through a most exhaustive inquiry, but did not succeed in changing her testimony of the day before in any manner.

She was followed by John G. Daly, who helped Starr Dare make his search of the belfry for the garments of the murdered girl on Easter Sunday shortly after the body was found. His testimony corroborated that given by Dare.

Maud Lamont was the only other witness of the day. Perhaps the most important point of her testimony—giving the weight of her sister as 115 pounds—was ordered stricken from the record.

She identified the clothing of her sister, the rings and the schoolbooks. She said her sister was one year older than herself, and her age was 20 years. Mr. Barnes offered a tintype of Blanche for identification by this witness, but as it proved to be only a copy of another photograph the court ruled that the photograph itself was the best evidence.

Maud Lamont's cross-examination consumed the afternoon session. This morning the conductor of the Powell-street car, Sherman, will take the stand. He is expected to tell of seeing Blanche and Durrant together on his car on the morning of April 3.

SIXTH DAY OF THE TRIAL.

The Advent of the Sister of the Murdered Girl—Mrs. Noble's Cross-Examination.

Maud Lamont, sister of the murdered girl, came into the trial of William Henry Theodore Durrant yesterday. Her entrance was not at all sensational, nor was her testimony of a surprising nature to those familiar with the general details of the case.

Yet when Mr. Barnes said, "Call Maud Lamont," a wave of suppressed excitement spread over the audience and every head was turned toward the door.

Detective Seymour led her in—a very slight girlish figure, draped all in black and displaying a luxury of auburn locks that hung down her back in a thick braid. Evidently she was a stranger to courts of justice, for she took the witness-seat that Mr. Barnes pointed out to her without waiting to be sworn.

What she had to say was scarcely audible to the audience, yet all could see that she answered even the most perplexing questions of her inquisitors without hesitation.

She was the younger sister, she said. Blanche was 21—a year older than she. Blanche was also a trifle taller, but she could not have weighed much more, unless Maud is mistaken.

When Blanche first came to San Francisco her health was poor, said this little auburn-haired sister of the murdered girl. That was in September. They went across to the grocery store one day shortly after Blanche's arrival and there Blanche was weighed.

"What was that weight?" asked Mr. Barnes. "One hundred and fifteen pounds."

And then—such is the force of legal technicalities—this answer was stricken from the record (though hardly from the minds of the jurors), because the witness had not marked the figures on the scales, but had accepted the statement of the clerk who did the weighing.

It is apparent that upon this point, the weight of the murdered girl, hinges a considerable part of the defense that will be set up. Every particle of testimony concerning the weight and size and general appearance of Blanche has only been admitted to the record under the protest of Attorneys Dickinson and Deuprey.

If Blanche Lamont weighed 140 pounds, as Dr. Barrett, the autopsy physician, said she might have, then the point will be raised that Durrant, unaided, could not have carried so heavy a body up to the top of the belfry.

But all this is in the future. It will be weeks, at the present rate of progress, before the people's case against Durrant is all in and the defense begins.

Maud Lamont told the same story yesterday that she told the coroner and the Police Court Judge at the preliminary examination. She identified the clothing, the rings that came through the mail, and the schoolbooks of her murdered sister. She told of the intimacy between Blanche and the defendant, and she told of Durrant's bringing the story-book to the house.

over so that he could talk to Mr. Deuprey. Sometimes he leaned back and smiling spoke to his mother or father or a friend. The cross-examination of Mrs. Noble was commenced by Dickinson when court convened in the morning. At its conclusion there came the brief testimony of John G. Daly.

He helped Starr Dare in searching for the belfry for the clothes, and was therefore able to identify many of the articles. It was after he had departed that Maud Lamont came to the stand. During the remainder of the morning session she gave her testimony in chief. Much of it was brought out in quite a dramatic way by the skillful questioning of Mr. Barnes.

The afternoon session was devoted to her cross-examination, and court adjourned for the day before it was entirely concluded. There was a break in it for a time, and Mr. Barnes tried to introduce a tintype photograph of Blanche.

Both Dickinson and Deuprey objected, and, as it turned out to be a reproduction of a photograph taken three or four years ago, Judge Murphy ruled that the original photograph would be the best evidence. The trial goes on this morning with Maud Lamont still on the stand. She will be succeeded by Sherman, the conductor of the Powell-street car, who, it is expected, will testify to seeing Blanche and the defendant together on his car on April 3.

THE MORNING SESSION.

Testimony From Mrs. Noble—The Entrance of Maud Lamont and Her Evidence.

The day's proceedings began with the continuation of Mrs. Noble's main examination by District Attorney Barnes. He asked her whether she had been able to refresh her memory concerning the date upon which Durrant and Dr. Vogel had called upon her relative to the disappearance of Blanche Lamont.

"It was on Monday evening, the 8th of April," "Do you know about the weight of Blanche?" "She told me—"

"What object to what she told," said Dickinson. "It is not proper to say what she told you, Mrs. Noble," said the court.

"Cross-examine," said the District Attorney. "I want you to go to the church to which this defendant about three years," was Dickinson's first question.

"Where did you first meet him?" "At the church." "How frequently did you meet him?" "Once or twice a week."

"Didn't you introduce Blanche and Maud Lamont to the defendant?" "I don't think I did."

"Are you sure?" "Well, I may have." "Is it not probable that you did?" "Yes, it is probable; but I do not remember."

"The girls were acquainted with a number of young men at the church, were they not?" "Yes." "Had Blanche many callers?" "A very few."

"But she had some?" "I don't think she had any from the church." "Did anybody call?" "Well, there was a young man from Dillon, Mont., attending the Stanford University, who called two or three times."

"Can't you tell me whether you introduced Blanche Lamont to Durrant?" "No; I cannot."

"But it was quite natural you should have done so?" "Yes, sir."

"Durrant was active in the church?" "Yes, sir." "When you introduced Blanche and Maud to him did you not ask him to show them some attention because of his position in the church?"

"No; I remember nothing like that." "Didn't you say, Theodore, now I want you to be attentive to these girls?" "No; I don't remember having said that."

"Did you call him Theodore at that time?" "I don't think so, I may possibly have."

"Didn't you say, 'Now, make them feel at home, or words like that?'" "I can't recall any such language."

"How many times did Durrant call at your house that you know of?" "Three times." "What was the occasion of the first time?" "When he returned home from the park with Blanche one Sunday. He apologized to me for having kept her out so long."

"What time was it?" "About 5 o'clock in the evening. He said it was his fault keeping Blanche so late." "Were not George King and Maud Lamont with them?"

"No, sir." "And didn't they all ask your permission to go to the park?" "I don't know."

"Did you wear it?" "Yes, sir; I wore it till Blanche came to San Francisco. When I gave it to Blanche to wear and I wore one year." "Have you now on the one she gave you?"

"No, sir." "Was the conversation held in the parlor?" "It was."

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"Do you know Mrs. Leake, a member of the church?" "Yes." "How long have you known her?" "I can't just remember that. Some time. Her granddaughter was in my class at Sunday-school."

"Was she in the habit of calling at your house and you at hers?" "With whom did she call, after her granddaughter died, but she only called on me once. I think she came shortly after the body was found. There were two old ladies called one day. I think one of them was Mrs. Leake, but I am not certain."

"I can't remember. She told me something about that time. I can't remember whether it was in Durrant's hearing or not." "Dickinson—What month was this in which they went to the park?"

"I don't remember that. It must have been between September and December. She did not go with him after December." Then came John G. Daly to the witness-stand. He was one of the men who searched for the clothes in the belfry. He testified that he stood on the platform in the belfry on the Easter Sunday morning and received the articles of clothing that were handed

her strap. Mrs. Noble did not know. There was no name on this strap. Who would be likely to know about the name? Mrs. Noble could not answer. Perhaps Maud would know.

This concluded the cross-examination and Mr. Barnes asked some further questions. He wanted to know about the Spencer spoken of by Mrs. Noble.

Mrs. Noble said that Mr. Spencer was an elderly man, over 50 years, wore a full beard, had brown hair and was thick-set.

"Did Durrant call on you on April 10?" asked Mr. Barnes. "No, sir."

"As a matter of fact you do not know whether or not Mrs. Leake called?" "No, sir; I do not. Nearly every member of the church called. I suppose she did."

"At the time Blanche and Durrant returned from the park did Blanche make a statement in presence of the defendant as to where they had been and what they had been doing?" "I can't remember. She told me something about that time. I can't remember whether it was in Durrant's hearing or not."

"Dickinson—What month was this in which they went to the park?" "I don't remember that. It must have been between September and December. She did not go with him after December."

Then came John G. Daly to the witness-stand. He was one of the men who searched for the clothes in the belfry. He testified that he stood on the platform in the belfry on the Easter Sunday morning and received the articles of clothing that were handed

down to him by Starr Dare, who was up among the rafters. His testimony was confined to corroborating that of Starr Dare and of identifying the different articles of clothing found by him in the belfry. His cross-examination did not elicit any new points.

When District Attorney Barnes said "Call Maud Lamont," every head in the courtroom was turned to the door. Presently there entered a slight, girlish figure, dressed all in black, with a wealth of auburn hair that hung in a braid nearly to her waist.

Every eye watched her progress through the crowded courtroom to the witness-stand, and every ear listened intently to catch the first sound of her voice in response to Mr. Barnes' first question, which was:

"Your name is Maud Lamont?" "Yes, sir." "Did you know Blanche Lamont?" "Yes, sir. She was my sister."

"When did she live prior to coming to San Francisco?" "At Dillon, Montana." "Did she live with her parents there?" "Yes, sir."

"When did you come from Dillon?" "In June, 1894." "And Blanche?" "She came in September of the same year."

"Where did you both reside?" "At 209 Twenty-first street." "With whom did you reside?" "With our uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Noble."

"How old was Blanche at the time of her disappearance on April 3?" "About one year." "Are you younger than Blanche?" "Yes, sir."

"How old are you?" "I am twenty." "Do you know how much Blanche weighed at that time?" "No, sir."

At this answer, which seemed to bear so pointedly on the weight and size of Blanche Lamont and the ability of Durrant to have carried her body up into the belfry, there was a general murmur in the courtroom, rather an exclamation, half subdued, yet so audible that Judge Murphy spoke severely and admonished the spectators that they must remain silent. Mr. Barnes continued:

"Look at this ring and tell me if you can identify it?" "Yes, sir; it looks exactly like my ring that Blanche wore."

"When did you get it?" "It was given to me two years ago Christmas." "Did you wear it?" "Yes, sir; I wore it till Blanche came to San Francisco. When I gave it to Blanche to wear and I wore one year."

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The examination was very searching. Attorney Dickinson went into every possible point. In answer to some of the questions Mrs. Noble said that when Durrant left the house that evening with Dr. Vogel he said that Blanche was such a good girl she thought everybody else was as good. She thought she might have been carried off.

"Was there anything in his conduct that night which attracted your attention?" asked Dickinson. "No, sir."

"Or in his language?" "No, sir."

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