

ADOLPH OPPENHEIMER IDENTIFIES DURRANT.

The Pawnbroker Also Identifies Blanche Lamont's Ring.

WAS OFFERED FOR SALE.

Janitor Sademan Says the Gas-Burners Were in Good Condition.

THE VESTIBULE CHANDELIER.

There Was No Surprise in the Brief Redirect Examination of Organist King.

THE DURRANT TRIAL IN A MINUTE—OPPENHEIMER'S TESTIMONY.

Pawnbroker Oppenheimer was the chief witness in the trial of Durrant for the murder of Blanche Lamont yesterday. He related his evidence given at the preliminary examination concerning the visit of Durrant to his shop on Dupont street. Durrant brought a ring to him and offered it for sale, says Oppenheimer. This was some time between the 6th and 10th of April.

Mr. Oppenheimer identified the ring and also the overcoat and hat worn by Durrant at that time. The ring is one of those worn by Blanche Lamont—the one sent to Mrs. Noble through the mails. The very searching cross-examination did not materially weaken this testimony.

When court opened in the morning Organist King took the stand. His cross-examination was quickly concluded, and then, to the surprise of all, Mr. Barnes dismissed him with but a question of two minor importance.

Frank Sademan, janitor of Emmanuel Church, then told about the condition of the church and the gas-burners. The latter were in good shape, he said, and the young man was when court adjourned in the afternoon it was until Monday morning.

NOTE TO THE READER.—If you wish only to know what was actually done in the Durrant case yesterday 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 offensive details be admitted. They are not essential to an intelligent understanding of the progress of the case, and will be accorded no place in these columns.

ELEVENTH DAY OF TRIAL.

The Time Was Mainly Devoted to Filling in the Details of the People's Case.

The eleventh day of the trial of Theodore Durrant for the murder of Blanche Lamont was not at all exciting, but the crowd was none the less for that and some of it pressed behind the rail. Durrant was in court, just the same, and the crowd came to see him. In the crowd was Pastor Gibson's private secretary, young Mr. Lynch. General Barnes was there in the morning, and not a few other luminaries of the bar dropped in and out during the day—as they usually do.

The most interesting testimony of the day was that given by Mr. Oppenheimer, who came on in the afternoon.

The morning session was void of sensation save, perhaps, the mild one caused by the marked absence of the sensation that every one expected—the sharp cross-examination of Organist King by District Attorney Barnes.

When, after a few questions, Mr. Dickinson turned the comely young man back to Mr. Barnes for redirect examination everybody primed himself for the development of something startling. Probably there would be something said about a clot of blood in the church; assuredly the witness would at least be sharply and closely questioned by the counsel for whose side he had been subpoenaed.

But none of these things happened. Only the unexpected occurred, which was, however, quite regular for this famous trial.

"After giving Durrant the bromo seltzer and going into the classroom to rest, where did you sit?" asked the District Attorney.

"On the platform."

"Might it not have been then that he lay down?"

"Yes, sir."

"That is all."

And these last three words of Mr. Barnes made the greatest sensation of the morning session. Even the entrance of the Mayor's secretary, followed closely by a tall stout well-knit figure, with cleanly shaven face, caused less of a furore in the over-crowded courtroom than did the sudden termination of Mr. King as a witness.

And this is probably due to the fact that only one or two persons in the room knew that the clean-shaven man was Congressman Bryan of Nebraska, the famous silver orator. Mr. Roberts brought him up to the bench and introduced him to Judge Murphy, who left his high seat and came down and shook hands and exchanged nothings with the Congressman.

Meanwhile the cross-examination of the janitor of Emmanuel Church, Frank Sademan, was going on under the guidance of Attorney Dickinson.

were probably manufactured in quantities, but he had never seen one like it. It was a peculiar ring, he said, and he remembered it distinctly.

Could he have mistaken the identity of the man? Witness thought not. He was face to face with the man and saw him very plainly.

The trend of Mr. Dickinson's cross-examination was reached when the attorney for the defense handed the pawnbroker two rings, which to the layman looked exactly alike. One was the ring introduced in evidence by the people. The other was apparently a fac-simile reproduction of it.

But the quick eyes of the pawnbroker distinguished a difference at once. The diamond in one was a cut stone, in the other a chip diamond.

Then the adjournment till Monday morning was declared.

THE MORNING SESSION.

Organist King Permitted to Depart After Only a Few Perfunctory Questions.

George R. King, the organist of Emmanuel Church, was called for the continuation of his cross-examination in the morning.

"How long were you playing at the piano that afternoon before Durrant appeared at the sliding doors?" asked Mr. Dickinson.

"Two or three minutes."

"Was the piano a full-toned instrument?"

"I don't know—I think so."

"Has anybody been to see you since the adjournment of this court?"

"No, sir."

"We have no further questions."

Mr. Barnes then asked a few questions in redirect examination.

"If I remember your testimony correctly, Mr. King, said the District Attorney, 'when you returned with the bromo seltzer you found Durrant in the vestibule, and you both went to the classroom and sat down. Where did you sit?'"

"On the platform."

"Might it not have been then that he lay down?"

"Yes, sir."

"That is all."

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Mr. Sademan had been called to the stand to tell about the gas-burners and the condition of the church generally. His evidence was material, though he knew nothing about the events of April 3.

He said, however, that the gas-burners were in good condition all over the church except in the main vestibule. On the chandelier there he had noticed a defective key, which sometimes occasioned a small leakage of gas, but that was all.

This testimony was directly in the line of the State's theory. Mr. Barnes will argue that it was this small leakage in the vestibule which occasioned the smell of gas noticed by Organist King when he first opened the main door of the church and came in.

In the afternoon came Pawnbroker Oppenheimer, who says that Durrant came to his store on Dupont street and offered to sell one of the rings that was afterward sent through the mail to the aunt of Blanche Lamont, Mrs. Noble. Mr. Oppenheimer gave his testimony in quite a positive way. It was between 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning when Durrant came to his store. He was sitting near the door reading when the visitor appeared. Durrant handed him the ring and asked him what it was worth.

"Nothing to me," said the pawnbroker, after he had examined it.

Then Durrant urged him to buy it, but Mr. Oppenheimer had no money to invest in that class of goods, and the young man departed without selling the ring.

Mr. Dickinson recognized the force of this testimony and cross-questioned the pawnbroker most minutely, but without apparently changing his evidence in any respect or weakening it.

The witness admitted that such rings

"Yes, sir; I have known him for two years."

"Where did you meet him?"

"At the church."

"Do you know what keys he had of the church?"

"Not to my own knowledge. I heard that—General Dickinson—One moment: not what you heard, but what you know."

Mr. Peixoto—Did you have any charge of the lighting of the church?"

"Yes, sir; I have often repaired the fixtures."

"What was their state of repair on April 3, 1895?"

"They were in perfect state of repair."

"Did Durrant ever call your attention or about April 3, 1895, to any defect in the gas fixtures?"

"No, sir."

"Did anybody else?"

"No, sir."

"Do you know the state of repair of the fixture in the vestibule on the lower floor?"

"A key was loose and occasioned a small leak of gas."

"What was the condition of it—it is a chandelier, is it not?"

"There are four jets in the chandelier, which is on the lower floor, and one of the keys being loose sometimes it dropped down, causing a very slight leak."

"By simply pressing down the key it stopped the leak."

"Was the odor of gas perceptible to any extent in the church?"

"Sometimes very slightly."

"Not enough to overcome you?"

"Oh, yes."

"Were there any repairs made in the fixtures at that time?"

"No repairs, but changes. They were made in March. A patent burner, I think, was put in by some company in order to save gas."

"Do you know the company?"

"No; the office is on Powell street."

"After the work was completed was there any smell of gas in the auditorium?"

"No, sir."

"Did you have any further talk with Durrant?"

"He said that as the detectives hunting for him were not very efficient he was taking it up himself."

"What time was this?"

"About 4 o'clock. I stayed there about ten minutes."

"When you left was he still there?"

"Yes, sir."

"This was in the afternoon?"

"Yes, sir; it was."

"Those duties was it to repair the gas fixtures in the church?"

"It was considered my duty."

Dickinson—I move to strike out the answer as not responsive to the question. Judge Murphy—The motion is denied.

"Exception."

Dickinson—When were you employed as janitor of the church?"

"In the latter part of October, 1894."

"By whom were you employed?"

"By the church trustees."

"But who particularly spoke to you?"

"Mr. Vogel."

"No, sir, a brother."

"Was it your duty, among others, to ventilate the church?"

"Yes, sir."

"In ventilating it what did you open?"

"The window in the rear and one in the auditorium."

"What were the facilities for ventilation above the auditorium?"

"I sometimes opened the door leading to the tower."

"Was the air offensive sometimes after the church had remained closed for a time?"

"No, sir; not to any great extent."

"Well, but the closeness could be noticed?"

"Oh, of course, a little."

"Did you open any of the front windows?"

"They would not open, nor the panels either."

"Was as nearly as you can the last time you opened or closed the beffy door prior to April 3?"

"Perhaps two weeks."

"When, after April 3, was the first time you opened or closed or saw the beffy door?"

"Sunday morning, April 14."

"I call your attention to this photograph; say if you can identify it?"

"That is a photograph of the beffy door as it appeared that Sunday."

"Here is another photograph?"

"That is of the same door after it had been forced open."

"How high did you go up the beffy stairs?"

"Just high enough to look over the top floor and see what was there."

"And you saw a dead body there?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you examine the floor carefully?"

"I have often looked down and locked the church door, so that outsiders couldn't come in."

"Are you sure you looked the door?"

"Yes, sir; because I remember of some one ringing the bell in order to get in."

"How long after you came down out of the beffy was it before other persons besides the two officers came into the church?"

"After the body had been removed was the beffy door left open?"

"Yes, sir."

"And the beffy accessible to anybody?"

"Yes, sir."

"Returning to the time before the body was removed, did you notice whether the mouth of the corpse was open?"

"No, I don't remember that."

"Did you see the marks on the door?"

"Yes, sir; chisel marks."

"Was there a chisel kept in the church?"

"No, sir."

"Did you ever see the Wolf boys, Elmer and Clarence, in the church making preparations for entertainments?"

"Yes, sir."

"When was the last entertainment at the church prior to April 3?"

"March 29."

"That was on the Friday before Wednesday, the 3d of April?"

"Yes, sir."

"Now, any one gaining access to the north or south side entrances of the church would have free access to the entire building to the beffy door?"

"Yes, sir."

"And by means of the ladder in the gallery could reach the subelling and thus go to the tower of the beffy?"

"Yes, sir."

"Were you there when Theodore Durrant and George King put the lock on the library door?"

"I was about the church."

"Did you have any conversation with them about it?"

"Only that they told me they were doing it to keep out all those who had no business there."

"You didn't think that was irregular in any way?"

"No, sir."

Then the noon recess adjournment occurred.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

Pawnbroker Oppenheimer Is Quick to Distinguish the Difference Between Two Rings.

The cross-examination of Janitor Sademan was continued in the afternoon. Attorney Dickinson wanted to know whether he had ever found any of the doors of the church open when he came there—doors that he had left locked.

Witness said he had—a few times, but never missed anything in particular from the church. Almost any key would open almost any of the doors of the church he said.

Then Pawnbroker Adolph Oppenheimer of 405 Dupont street was called. He responded, after a few moments, and was examined by Mr. Barnes.

"I show you three rings, marked respectively 81, 82 and 83," said Mr. Barnes. "Please look at them and tell me if you have seen any of them before?"

"Yes, I have seen one of them before."

"Which one?"

"The one marked people's exhibit No. 1."

"Where and when did you see it?"

"I saw it between April 4 and 10 this year."

"Can you fix the date any closer than that?"

"I cannot."

"How was it to see this ring?"

"It was brought to my store between 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning by a young man."

"Why did he bring it to you?"

"He offered it for sale."

"Who was the young man?"

"I don't remember how the young man was dressed."

"I was sitting at the front door of my store reading a book when this young man came in. He had the ring in his hand. He held it out to me and asked me what it was worth. I took it and examined it, and told him it was too small to be of any value. Well, he said, 'how much will you give for it?' I told him I did not want it at all. Then he walked out."

"Looking for my boy. He had left the house without our permission."

"What were you doing there?"

"I am a member."

"Do you know Theodore Durrant?"

"No, sir."

"In the kitchen."

"In any other place?"

"That is all."

"The speedy conclusion of the redirect examination was a surprise to almost everybody, for it had been looked forward to with anticipation as a source of some spicy revelations."

The janitor of the Emmanuel Church was the next witness. His name was Frank Sademan, and he told Mr. Peixoto, who did the questioning for the people, that he had been janitor of the church for a long while, but that he no longer was employed in that capacity.

"Were you the janitor during the month of April last?"

"Yes, sir."

"Are you at present occupied or connected with the church?"

"I am a member."

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