

IS THIS A STRANGLER?

The Boy Arrested for Assault Upon a Woman of the Tenderloin.

TERROR IN THE DISTRICT.

Laura Pettit Tells of Her Experience With a Man With Twitching Fingers.

There is this to be said of the stranger... that he has paralyzed with fear the entire tenderloin.

There is a question in the mind of the Police Department whether the more recent alarms are really the interrupted attempts of the man with the deadly grip...

Three alarms have been sounded within the past few days of attempted violence upon as many different women by a man following the methods of the strangler.

A man is in jail as a result of the latest charge. He does not answer the description of the man in any of the cases where the woman has lived to give it.

It is only proper to say that the man in the lockup does not look like a strangler; that is, does not meet the accepted notions of what a strangler should look like.

He is a young man, employed in the California Wire Works on Bay street; has been working there at night for some time. He wears the clothes of a workman; his hands are scarred with his labor. He is in great distress because of his arrest, and spends his hours in weeping.

His name is Robert M. Boyd. He is 24 years of age. He is an Englishman from Liverpool, entirely friendly, he says, and is charged with assaulting a young woman named Rose Martin on Pine street, near her home, last night. The girl says he attempted to strangle her.

While he does not look the conventional strangler, neither does he tell an absolutely straight story; but he is extremely nervous and distressed and can scarcely talk at all for the fears that are constantly ready to flow.

Rose Martin was taken before Captain Lees yesterday morning and made this statement of her encounter with Boyd:

"I was going up Kearny street toward Pine at 2 o'clock this morning, when I noticed a man following me. I went up Pine street and got to Pine and Dupont, and stood on the corner a minute or so, until the rain ceased, and I noticed the man go ahead of me. He made some remark to me—I do not recall what it was—when I stopped in front of my house, 603 Pine street. He then said:

"I wish you would say there is no lover in this case," he said. "Be sure of that. There is no lover here."

He repeated the girl's story, telling how Boyd had thrown her down, and then when he attempted to run she had caught his coat and he had lost his hat on the sidewalk. He was arrested several blocks away, on Commercial street, and the girl herself took the hat to the California-street station, so that his arrest could hardly have been due to his efforts to recover it.

Laura Pettit, living at 212 Ellis street, was alarmed on Thursday night by the conduct of a man who called upon her. He said he had been given her address by a friend of hers, and was admitted, when he immediately began to demonstrate what appeared to be a passion for strangling. He placed his hands on her neck, his fingers twitching nervously all the while. The woman protested against his conduct and he left. She thinks that the light shining through the crevice of the sliding-doors from the adjoining room saved her from any further contact with the strangler. She was very much frightened.

This woman lived in the adjoining house to Mamie McDermott when she was murdered on Morion street. She moved from the neighborhood immediately after the tragedy.

She described the man with whom she had an encounter Thursday night as small, well dressed, with a slight mustache and large blue eyes, which were slightly bloodshot.

She too was anxious that no "lovers" be mentioned in connection with the affair. Indeed she objected very strenuously to any publicity in the matter.

Boyd will be tried on the simple charge of assault.



Robert Boyd, Arrested as a Supposed Strangler.



Laura Pettit, Who Had an Experience With a Man With Twitching Fingers.

"Come on up to Stockton street; nobody is going to hurt you. I told him I was not afraid of anybody and started to go into the hallway of my house.

"The hallway is about ten feet long from the first step. I stood in the doorway about three minutes talking to the man.

"I then turned my back, and just as I did so he ran and tried to grab me. He would have grabbed me by the throat if he had not shoved him away. I said, 'Leave go of me.' He would not do it. So when I saw I could not get away from him I began to holler for assistance, and a young man named Jim Neil, a friend of mine, came downstairs and asked me what was the matter. Before Jim came down the man turned his back and tried to run out, and I grabbed him by the coat. He struggled in his profession, forming a partnership with T. P. Ross. The business of the firm was not prosperous, and Hatherton became despondent. He often threatened to commit suicide. On February 29 he wrote a letter to his partner notifying him of his intention to end his life. On the evening of that day he disappeared. Two or three days later two of his cards were found at the end of Powell street where he lived.

Mrs. Hatherton took charge of the remains of her husband yesterday. They were removed from the Morgue to her home, where the funeral will take place tomorrow. Former Hawkins will hold an inquest next week.

Wants a New Name. The Lick Old Ladies' Home has petitioned the Superior Court for leave to change its name to "The University Mound Old Ladies' Home."

If you once use Mitchell's Magic Lotion you will never be without it.

MISSION VIASSA MEETING.

A Consolidation of Smaller Clubs to Be Swallowed Up in One Concern.

JUDGE VAN REYNEGOM'S WORK.

James D. Phelan on the Programme for Honorary Chairman and Principal Orator.

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With this object in view arrangements are being undertaken to hold a mass-meeting on Saturday evening, April 4. It is proposed to focus and concentrate the opinions of the Mission people upon the movement already begun to obtain from the Supervisors and the School Directors such measures as are in their provinces to grant. The Mission taxpayers feel that they should be in a measure recompensed by the citizens in general for their co-operation heretofore in the many schemes of improvements in other parts of the City.

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