THE SHEA HOMICIDE.

STEPHENSON SURRENDERS HIMSELF

HE IS COMMITTED FOR THE GRAND JURY

INQUEST AND VERDICT OF THE JURY.

Testimony of Important Witnesses.

Some Contradictory Statements—All Agree that Shea Struck First—The Wanderings of Stephenson—Why He Returned Home—He Insists that He Shot in Self-Defense—Lodged in Jail.

Charles Stephenson, the colored man who shot Mr. Cornelius Shea on the night of May 17, from the effects of which he died Wednesday afternoon, yesterday morning, at 4 o'clock, gave himself up to Detective McElfresh, at Police headquarters. As will be remembered, Stephenson, after committing the deed, fled from the city, and all traces were lost of him. When he was informed of the death of Shea he was much surprised, and stated that the act was committed in self-defense and outside of Shea's store. He said that immediately after the occurrence he became frightened and started from the city. He crossed the Long bridge as rapidly as possible, and walked to Alexandria. On the way he threw his pistol away. He remained in Alexandria all night, and the next day walked a long distance in the county in search of food. He did one day's work for an old colored man, and then walked on. On his tramp he worked for several parties, but did not stay more than one day. On Tuesday he reached the house of an old colored man whom he knew, and to him he confided the story of the shooting. He advised him to come to the city and give himself up, and he acted on his advice, stepping on the way at his half sister's, in Alexandria, where he spent the first night.

He seemed much depressed, but feels sanguine that he will be exonerated by the court. He is quite a bright-looking, intelligent man, about twenty-six years old, and is a member of the colored "Marines" and the "Fellows" fraternities. He has been for some time in the employ of F. J. Steer, agent of Wheeler & Wilson, and has heretofore borne a good character. He was taken to the Police Court and committed to jail.

THE INQUEST.

Dr. Patterson yesterday, about 12 m., held an inquest over the body of Shea, at his late residence, corner of Third and L streets northwest. D. J. F. Hartigan made an autopsy.

The following jury was summoned: D. McLaughlin, T. H. Murray, John L. Bell, Charles Mann, A. M. Bland, John Lewis, Jno. Battle, J. W. Gray, W. H. Dorsey, D. Riordan, J. Cahin and G. Wall.

THE TESTIMONY.

John Dougherty was sworn and testified that he resides at No. 1115 New Jersey avenue. On the evening of Monday, May 17, Shea stopped at witness' house, and they went out together in Shea's wagon; they visited a house on Eleventh or Twelfth, between E and F streets, to see a man named John Lee, who rented a house from witness; Mr. Lee made an engagement to meet them that evening at 8:30 o'clock at Shea's house; Shea and witness got back to the store before dark, where they remained quite a while; Shea asked witness to remain at the store until his return, as he was going to see a tenant; witness did so, and on Shea's return he stated that he did not see the party; Mr. Lee did not come to the store as he promised, and soon after 9 o'clock rolled by the store; Smith was present; Shea and witness then went out together and stopped on Fourth, between K and L streets, at one of Shea's houses; they next went to witness' house to see if Mr. Lee had been there; he failed to meet them; witness met Mr. Hines, a neighbor of his, and stopped and talked with him some time; about 1 o'clock p. m. witness returned to Shea's store; Shea went around the corner to his desk; witness went around also; Shea was writing out a receipt for witness; Stephenson, who was on the outside of the counter, interfered and asked who Shea was going to get the parties out of the house; Shea asked Stephenson if he was renting the house, and Stephenson replied no; Shea said if Stephenson had any business to transact with him he would transact it; Stephenson said to Brown,

"YOU WILL GET THE WORST OF IT;"

Brown replied he did not care. He knew what he was doing, and asked Stephenson to keep quiet. Shea said to Stephenson, "Keep your damned mouth out of it." Stephenson replied that he did not want his mouth to be called damned. Shea ordered Stephenson out of the store, and Stephenson went, followed by Shea. Mr. Brown met Stephenson on the outside and tried to get him away. Stephenson shoved Brown and returned to the store, and asked for ten cents' worth of crackers. Shea refused to sell them to him, and told Stephenson to go out and not to come back again until he was sent for. Stephenson said, "You refuse to sell me the crackers," and, turning to a man in the store, said "You are witness to this." Shea then went as far as the door with Stephenson, and witness saw Shea make a grab for something. The last time witness saw Shea he was on the platform inside of the door, but could not swear whether it was before or after the firing of the first shot. Witness was in the house, near the desk. The shots were fired rapidly.

By a juror: Could not swear to over three shots, and he did not see the shots fired. He did not know who fired the shots. The man fired after the grabbing took place. He did not see a weapon in Shea's hands.

J. W. GILBERT

testified that he resides on North A street northeast; was in Shea's store at the time of the occurrence; about 10 o'clock two colored men came into Shea's store; he heard Shea say, "I order you out of my house;" he said this to one of the men; the men did not go then, and Shea walked from behind the counter and politely invited them out of the house; he next took the man by the arm and led him to the sidewalk, and returned to the store; immediately after one of the men returned to the store, and walked up to the counter and asked for some crackers; Shea refused to sell them to him; Shea again ordered the man out of the store, and went to the door with him; Mrs. Shea asked witness to go out and ask Cornelius to come in; witness was talking to Mrs. Shea at the time; he was about to step toward the door, when he saw a flash and heard the report of a pistol; two or three followed; he retreated to the rear part of the store for shelter; witness did not know any quarreling; Shea and the man were outside about five minutes.

By a juror: Did not see any weapon in Shea's hands.

W. D. CHICHESTER

that he was at the store on the evening of May 17, and corroborated the testimony given above. In addition, he testified that he saw Stephenson with the pistol in his hand after the second shot.

By a juror: Shea had no weapon of any kind; did not see him throw anything.

Dr. Johnson Elliott testified that he was called on Monday night, May 17, between the hours of 10 and 11 o'clock, to see Shea. He found him to have been shot in three places, the serious wound being in the abdomen, on the right side. The course of the ball could not be detected. Witness' impression was that the wound cause Shea's death. Witness had been in attendance on Shea since the shooting.

DR. HOGAN

testified and corroborated the testimony of Dr. Elliott. He assisted Dr. Hartigan in the autopsy, and was satisfied that the abdomen wound caused death.

Dr. L. E. Newton offered corroboratory testimony.

DR. J. FRENCH HARTIGAN

testified that he examined the body and found three wounds, one in the middle of the right arm, another back of the left elbow and the third in the right side of the abdomen, nearly on a line with the navel, six inches from the median line. He found congestion of the lungs; the other organs were healthy. Upon tracing the opening of the abdomen he discovered a perforation of the peritoneum, and the ball was then evidently deflected in its course by coils in the intestines. He found the ball buried deep behind the psoas muscle, in contact with the vertebra. The vicinity of the course of the ball was completely softened from inflammation, and broke down readily from pressure. This was the cause of death.

By a juror. He