

JEALOUS NEGRO'S DEED.

Rebecca Johnson Viciously Assaulted by Her Husband.

The Man Comes From Philadelphia to Teach His Wife a Lesson—He Brutally Slashes Her With a Knife in the Throat—Wounds Not Fatal.

William Johnson, a twenty-one-year-old Washington negro with a police record, came back to the city last evening from Philadelphia, where he has been living, to kill his wife, Rebecca Johnson, twenty years of age, and only the merest chance prevented the numerous wounds which he inflicted upon her from being sufficient to cause her death.

Without warning Johnson attacked the woman on P Street northwest, between Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Streets, about 7:30 o'clock, and nearly cut off her head with a knife. Three serious wounds, one of which proved to be sufficient to cause the death of an ordinary person, were the result of his vicious attack, and the physicians of the Georgetown University Hospital, where the woman was taken about half an hour after the occurrence, and the police, are still wondering why she was not killed.

Instead Rebecca was able to go to her home after Dr. Story had dressed her wounds, apparently not much the worse for the experience. Johnson was apprehended at the home of her stepfather, Charles Carroll, 328 P Street northwest, about the time his victim was being carried to the hospital.

Jealousy was the cause of the act, according to the statement made by the woman last night at the police station, where he was looked up on a charge of assault with intent to kill. Beyond ascribing this cause for the attempted murder, Johnson will say nothing in regard to the matter, although he practically admitted that there was an underlying domestic motive which had made it absolutely necessary that he should teach Rebecca a lesson.

Johnson arrived in Washington about 6 o'clock last night from Philadelphia, but upon the trail of Rebecca, who had deserted his home in that city earlier in the day. According to Johnson, his wife had waited until he was absent from home to put into operation a plan for abandonment which, he claimed, she has long contemplated. In Philadelphia Johnson lives at 34 North American Street, and works for Frank Wright, a large produce dealer on the wharf at the foot of Newmarket Street, where he has been engaged for the past two months in unloading watermelons. His work is done at night. Yesterday morning he left home to go to the wharf at 2 o'clock, leaving Rebecca in bed after an affectionate farewell.

He returned at 11 o'clock and did not find his wife at home. After waiting for two hours Johnson says he began to suspect that she had deserted him. The thought made him very angry, and he determined to come to Washington, where Rebecca's home is at 1224 F Street, near the corner of P Street. He took the 3:30 train from Philadelphia, which landed him in the city at 10 o'clock. He immediately went to the wharf at 2 o'clock, leaving Rebecca in bed after an affectionate farewell.

When I came up with her I never said a word to her, but she saw me and she just dashed at her with the knife. Then I went home and told my mother. The woman fell to the sidewalk covered with blood, with her throat cut on one ear to the other and a gaping wound on her neck. I went to the house of her parents, 122 Twenty-sixth Street, but there was nobody home, and with her head almost severed from her body the woman groped her way to the home of her stepfather, Charles Carroll, at 328 P Street, where she fell exhausted on the doorstep.

Tom Fairfax, the girl's step-father, was there. He rushed out and informed Officer C. Saunders, of No. 3 precinct. It appears that he knew the negro assaulted her, for he said to the policeman: "Johnson's cut my girl's throat," yet he passed Johnson on the way, and made no attempt to stop him.

Policemen Saunders informed the Seventh precinct of the occurrence, and the wagon was sent for the girl, in which she was taken to the hospital. Officers J. W. Hall and Daniel O'Connor were detailed on the case. They arrested Johnson at his father's home and took him to the station.

At the hospital it was seen that the woman's condition was serious. Her neck seemed to be cut all the way around, and at first it was supposed that she could not recover. Her wounds were unhealed, and there was a long cut on the back of her head, and a deep stab and cut on her back, and a ragged cut on the palm of her right hand. Thirty-two stitches were taken in her wounds. Her wounds were attended to by Dr. Carroll, who is a specialist in her home, apparently suffering little from her adventure with an irate husband.

Johnson is regarded as a dangerous negro by the police. Two years ago, just before his marriage to Rebecca, he was fined \$5 in Judge Scott's court for knocking out one of the girl's teeth with a brick. About three months ago he was also in the hands of the police.

STRIKE AFFECTS IRON PRICES. The Anxiety of Buyers Now Needing Early Deliveries.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 24.—The pressure for steel billets points to a sharp advance in a few days. Recent sales at mill at \$25 for Bessemer and \$27 for basic, with urgent enquiries for future requirements East and West, indicates a fearful condition among mill owners, who are under tight arrangements with customers for early delivery of products. The greatest anxiety prevails in scrap iron and steel at higher prices. Steel makers moved up 20 cents for early delivery, crude iron quotations are unchanged, and nothing is being offered on the open market. The suspended consumption of pig will not affect quotations, as it does not have reference to foundry of force. Steel makers feel more apprehensive than they express. Under existing conditions there is a general withholding of requirements as to the products of striking mills, but the actual necessities are increasing. Bessemer can be had at less than \$15 at furnace. Forge iron is also being demanded for sheets and skelp and plates for small consumers. There is no real rush of steel, but buyers for the most part are waiting for the steel makers have booked orders for 20,000 tons within two weeks.

Plates will be advanced next Wednesday \$2 to \$3 per ton, and shapes will soon follow with an equal advance on small buyers, of whom there are many in sight. Merchant bars advanced within forty cents, and the same advance is being made on the same. The situation in merchant iron is strained. Buyers of tubular iron are being made any satisfaction throughout the West, and very little East. The idleness of so much tonnage is a matter of regret, and the up grade. Independent mills have in numerous cases this week turned down large orders in West. There is danger of a strong tendency in products affected by the strike. There is no new development in steel rails, but railroad estimates for next year indicate that maximum tonnage will be needed to cover demands. Prices may be advanced later in the year, but this is only an intimation from high sources.

COLER'S BOOM FOR MAYOR.

Tammany and Anti-Tammany Talk of His Candidacy.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—Comptroller Coler is the favorite of the Tammany faction today. He was reached by telephone and did not seem displeased by the talk his candidacy for mayor has created. His latest boom has relegated to the rear all other names for the position. Nothing was talked of in political circles today except the possibility of Mr. Coler's nomination to succeed Van Wyck.

Opinions differ as to the advisability of Mr. Coler either as an anti-Tammany candidate or as a candidate of the Tammany faction, but whether Mr. Coler will get the nomination or not, he is undoubtedly a strong factor in the political situation today and must be recognized. That he has a numerous personal following, and is more influential friend of Richard Croker, is Mr. Coler's unrelenting enemy.

On the other hand, Mayor Van Wyck and John F. Carroll, the last named of whom is generally credited with being the promoter of Van Wyck, are apparently very friendly with Mr. Coler. In fact, the friendship between Mr. Coler and Mayor Van Wyck is of long standing. All through the attacks on the Tammany politician, Charles Carroll, who has long opposed the mayor and comptroller, remained the best of friends; Mr. Coler kept discreetly out of the hot trust fight, and made no personal references to the mayor or to the comptroller, but he has not been so reticent in his political affiliations, there is no question. Again, he is opposed by powerful politicians inside of Tammany Hall, John F. Carroll, that whom there is no more influential friend of Richard Croker, is Mr. Coler's unrelenting enemy.

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HER DEATH MYSTERIOUS.

The Police Investigating Mrs. O'Connor's Last Illness.

Providence Hospital Surgeons Silent Regarding the Patient—Suspicion Aroused by Information Not Made Public—Autopsy Today.

A veil of mystery envelops the sudden death of Mrs. O'Connor, a housekeeper at Green's Hotel, corner of First and B Streets southeast, owing to the fact that neither the surgeons at the hospital nor the attending physician will state definitely the cause of her death. The woman's body has been removed to the morgue, by order of Acting Coroner Glasbrook, and that official will, at 10 o'clock this morning, perform an autopsy upon the remains in order to determine the direct cause of death and clear up certain unexplained matters pertaining to the case. The Fifth precinct police have already made a preliminary investigation into the case, but are now awaiting the result of the autopsy before they go further.

Dr. Bell, one of the surgeons at Providence Hospital, when seen by a reporter for the Times last night stated that his knowledge of the case was limited to the fact that Mrs. O'Connor, a housekeeper at Green's Hotel, corner of First and B Streets southeast, owing to the fact that neither the surgeons at the hospital nor the attending physician will state definitely the cause of her death. The woman's body has been removed to the morgue, by order of Acting Coroner Glasbrook, and that official will, at 10 o'clock this morning, perform an autopsy upon the remains in order to determine the direct cause of death and clear up certain unexplained matters pertaining to the case. The Fifth precinct police have already made a preliminary investigation into the case, but are now awaiting the result of the autopsy before they go further.

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ARGUING ON PROCLAMATION.

Submission of the Constitution Discussed at Richmond.

RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 24.—Shortly after the Convention of the State of Virginia called to order this afternoon, Mr. Pettit moved that the body resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider the report of the Committee on the Bill for the Revision of the Constitution. The convention, which was addressed by Mr. Stebbins, of Halifax, who confined his remarks to the amendment offered by Mr. Wyzor. Mr. Stebbins said he regretted that the question had been precipitated at this time, but he felt that it had been best to wait until something definite had been done, and the sentiments of the people on the subject felt for and heard from. He said he would discuss the subject from the main, practical standpoint of a layman.

"To disfranchise a large number of voters and leave the question to them to say whether they would adopt it or not would be stupendously folly and would result in a result that would be a disgrace to the people of this State. And yet we are met here by men who are opposed to lifting this burden that is pressing upon us, and insist that negroes should be allowed to say whether they will continue to prove a menace to material progress and a blight on our political institutions."

"Much more has been sought to be made of the resolution of the Norfolk Convention of 1860 than was intended at the time it was adopted. The action of the convention should bind the action of this convention. The same may be said of the act of the Legislature. It has no binding force on the power of this convention. If the call for this convention had been made in 1860, the public sentiment would have been back to them for ratification, then, and only then, would we be restricted or bound to submit our work for adoption. But the people voted no such thing. They simply called us here, leaving us the unimpeded right to proclaim this constitution."

"Suppose you submit it? Have you thought of the hot campaign that would follow? Virginia does not want any red-shirt campaigns, and she does not want to trust us to deliver them from the necessity of another period of excitement and of political unrest. We should radically reform the suffrage and adopt the best method for putting it in operation. There is no one among us who is so ready to rapidly crystallize in favor of proclaiming this constitution."

"Unless we complete our work by October 5 it will be impossible to submit it at the time it is called for. It is not our duty to trust us to deliver them from the necessity of another period of excitement and of political unrest. We should radically reform the suffrage and adopt the best method for putting it in operation. There is no one among us who is so ready to rapidly crystallize in favor of proclaiming this constitution."

"We are not without precedent in this matter. Mississippi, Kentucky, and many other States have proclaimed their constitutions. It is not our duty to trust us to deliver them from the necessity of another period of excitement and of political unrest. We should radically reform the suffrage and adopt the best method for putting it in operation. There is no one among us who is so ready to rapidly crystallize in favor of proclaiming this constitution."

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STILL TALK OF LYNCHING.

Continued Excitement in Alexandria Over the Payne Assault.

Groups of Men on the Streets Discuss Means of Reaching Fairfax Court House—Milder Councils Begin to Be Felt Throughout the City.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Aug. 24.—Excitement still runs high in the case of the assault on King Street last night. Thursday night on the charge of attempting a criminal assault upon Mrs. Roberta Payne, wife of John Payne, who resides at 26 North Columbus Street. Today the police were informed that a group of men were in the city, and were planning to go to the court house to see the prisoner. The police were informed that a group of men were in the city, and were planning to go to the court house to see the prisoner. The police were informed that a group of men were in the city, and were planning to go to the court house to see the prisoner.

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NEWS FROM ALEXANDRIA.

ALEXANDRIA, Aug. 24.—Capt. William H. Smith, who for many years has held the position of city sergeant, has this afternoon tendered his resignation, to take effect at once, to Judge Norton, and it was accepted. Richard H. Cox was appointed to fill the vacancy. Afterward Mr. Cox qualified, and entered upon the discharge of the duties of the office.

The announcement of Captain Smith's resignation came as a surprise to his friends. It is said that he resigned owing to the fact that the very few prisoners are now sent to the city jail, and this, of course, made his salary very small. In the police court this morning, Gasatus Bruner was arraigned before Mayor Simpson to answer the charge of attempting to incite a riot in a mob which congregated on King Street last night. The mayor after hearing the evidence in the case fined the prisoner \$10 with the alternative of spending thirty days on the chain gang.

The funeral of Mrs. Katherine Nowland, wife of Charles W. Nowland, whose death occurred on Thursday last, took place at 5 o'clock this afternoon from the residence of her father, George A. Nowland, 422 South Fairfax Street, and was attended by a large number of relatives and friends. The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. J. A. Jeffers, and the interment was made in the Bethel Cemetery.