

Continued from Third Page.

Warrensburg, Mo., for God knows I never intended to do any harm to Carl. The threatening of C. Hamilton kept me from confessing until a few hours ago, but finally the consciousness has over come me.

Your poor brother will be buried again to-day I suppose.

If you like to get all the particulars about it direct your questions to me and address the letters to

MR. W. H. HAMILTON.

Care Mr. RUSSELL, Sheriff.

Warrensburg, Mo.,

Johnson county.

Write English or German to suit yourself. Again I ask your forgiveness.

Your greifing,

BILLIE HAMILTON.

CHARLES HAMILTON CONFESSES.

After this Charlie was again plied with questions. He was told of Billie's confession, that Billie laid it all on him, that he ought to speak the truth. Then he weakened and confessed. He admitted he struck Steidle with the wrench, knocking him down. Billie then sprung upon Steidle, choked him to death, rifled his person, placed his body on the track and they left him thus. After his confession he seemed very penitent and wept much.

LIKE WILD FIRE

The news spread in the town of the terrible confession and people were seized with frenzy. Sheriff Russell had been right. They had been the dupes of the ghastly April fool. These cold-blooded demons were even now among them. They had even confessed. Why should they be let live? Groups began to gather in the streets, men were seen in little knots talking in low and ominous tones. At the depot, where the body lay, were throngs of people. At the station house, where the murderers were confined, the crowds began to grow dense and boisterous. A telegram was sent to Sedalia for the officers and those who knew Steidle to come and identify the body. The sheriff begged the people to await developments, but they were impatient and threatening. Something must be done. As the train drew near most of the crowd went to the depot. Now was the time to act.

BILLIE WAS SECRETLY REMOVED

and taken near the depot. While the crowd watched the Sedalia officers disembark, Billie was placed on the cars and sent to Kansas City. When the train was gone and the crowd learned this they were still more indignant and again began to assemble at the station house. The Sedalia officers, after recognizing the body of Steidle, went there, too. The officers consented. The situation was serious. What should be done? Charles Hamilton said he would bury Steidle's watch, where they had burned some of his things if they would conduct him to the place. The crowd was told this. They consented to allow the officers to take him. He was brought out and placed in a buggy. They drove away to the scene.

"HERE ARE MY TRACKS,"

said Charlie; "there are Billie's, there are Steidle's, there are the ashes where we burned his things, over there Billie buried his watch while I sat here." The watch chain was found in the ashes; the watch was not found until the next day. It was growing dark. Sheriff Russell and Officer McGhee consulted. How should they get the prisoner back? It was decided to take him only part way and slip him back to the station foot. It was done with only a few seeing it.

When McGhee appeared on the street again with Sheriff Russell and James Holland, of Sedalia, the crowd mistook Holland for Hamilton.

"Where is the prisoner?" asked a citizen of McGhee.

"In Sedalia by this time, I hope," said the officer.

"Ain't that him?"

"No, sir; that's a Sedalia man. Did you not see Hamilton go in the buggy?"

"Yes, but they brought him back."

"You are mistaken."

"Come," said Russell, "let us go to the depot."

The three men started and the crowd followed, hooting at Holland. They were about to attack him. The trio stopped and conversed. Then Holland started back. The officers went on to the depot. The crowd, seeing their mistake, divided; half went to the depot and half back to the station. But the

PRISONER HAD BEEN REMOVED.

Other officers had taken him by another route near the depot and secreted him behind some stones to await the train. Sheriff Russell went to the ticket office. Officer McGhee sat by a window where the crowd could see him. He listened to their questions and answered them as he liked. The crowd were baffled. The train came at last. When the bell rang to start the officers hurried their prisoner into a car where he

crouched behind a seat trembling with fear. Some of the crowd saw him and cried out. A rush was made, but too late. The train moved too fast. Only a few could spring on, not enough to resist the officers, and they sprang off again, and Charles Hamilton reached the Sedalia jail in safety, where he remained until his trial.

On the 12th of April he wrote Mr. Cottrell, his Warrensburg employer, the following letter.

FRIEND COTTRELL,

I have wronged you in a most shameful manner and most humbly beg your pardon. I am quite broken-hearted and am in the need of a few friends to help me to prove to the people that I tried to make a man of myself. I made the acquaintance of this friend who has got me into trouble, in the penitentiary two years ago and he treated me as well as I could expect a friend to do, telling me before he left there that he would write to me, and so he did, after he got me up there requesting me to come to Sedalia and go into some kind of business with him. I received \$5 the day I was let go and paid my fare to Sedalia. When I arrived he had no money and asked me for what I had left from the fare. I told him I must find work somewhere and a boarding house. He was at work and told me his work was good where he boarded and he would stand good for me for two weeks. I then gave him the money I had left and boarded with him, looking for work every day, but the weather being so cold it could not be had. At the end of two weeks I told him I must go away and find work, so I left him and came to Warrensburg and you know the rest.

I knew if I staid any longer he would get me into some kind of trouble. Every day he had a chance to speak he would want me to do something desperate. He knew by a continual coaxing he could almost persuade me to do anything. He knew my weak nature too well to let me alone. He knew I would keep my mouth shut when in trouble, and thought after a deed is done, to save himself, he would put me in the hole for it by turning state's evidence against me. You know his game as well as I do. By the loss of sleep and a few drinks in me that Sunday night I submitted to his hellish desire, and to-day I am confined behind the bars.

Hoping to find you a man that will assist me, a poor helpless wretch led astray by an unknown devil who knows nothing but steal, rob and kill. God knows my heart was right before I committed that deadly murder. I did not break his skull with the blow I struck; he would not have been dead to-day had it not been for his choking the man after I knocked him down, and then laying him across the rail before he was dead. The man was not dead when we left him. As soon as I struck the blow I was so overcome with horror that I stood about paralyzed with fear. I could do nothing but look on. I am feeling more dead to day than alive. My brain is wandering at times so badly that I can hardly think of anything. I think that I will go mad before many days. Life is a burden to me. If I ever can call my life on this earth my own again I, by the help of God, will never assist another man who tries to tempt me to do wrong again, as long as I live. I never will forget this deed as long as life remains in my body. Although I am down and helpless I can honestly say I never would have committed this deed had I not been under the influence of liquor and been tempted by that man.

Never did I strike any man the first blow to my knowledge up to that day. I would not have done that had not drink stupefied my brain and a friend coaxed me into it. I send my best regards to all at the hotel, hoping you will not look down on me because of the falsehood I have told before the truth was out. I am sorry I ever had to lie to you, but circumstances compelled me to do so. Forgive me, I ask from the full depth of my heart, which is quite broken. If you will stand by me now, though I have done wrong, it will be a great help to me and consolation to know that I have some one whom I can rely upon, and if ever I can repay you for the assistance that you render me, I will repay you if it is the last thing I do on this earth. I must humbly beg your friendship and assistance for the coming trial.

Yours, most humbly,

I remain, respectfully,

Charles Hamilton.

Of course during the time public sentiment was greatly wrought up and investigation into the history of the self confessed murderers continued with moderate zeal on the 16th of April this additional

CHAPTER OF HORRORS

was added to what had proceeded it. It was supposed until yesterday that all of the facts in connection with the murder of Carl Steidle, who was killed by Charlie and Billie Hamilton,

alias Ed. Aultman, near Warrensburg several weeks since, had been disclosed but the death of Mrs. John Mossiman, the sister of Miss Mary Lefler, the affianced of Billie Hamilton, which occurred Tuesday night, develops new facts in the brutal murder, and seems to entangle the wretch, Billie Hamilton, in a net work of circumstantial evidence pointing to him as the perpetrator of another coolly planned and deliberately executed murder, from which he will find it difficult to extricate himself.

A BAZOO reporter learned yesterday that the relatives of Mrs. Mossiman were fully convinced that her death had been

CAUSED BY POISON

administered by Billie Hamilton on the occasion of his visit to the family on the same day that he in company with Charley Hamilton, was arrested for the murder of Steidle. The murder, it will be remembered, was committed Sunday night, March 30th and the arrest was made on the following Wednesday. On that day Hamilton, alias Aultman, as all ready stated, called at the Mossiman residence and took supper with the family, his affianced, Miss Lefler, being absent in the country at the time. On the following Friday Mrs. Mossiman, who had previously been in good health, was taken suddenly ill, suffering with violent vomiting spells and giving every indication of having been poisoned. In the meantime the particulars of Hamilton's horrible crime had been given to the public, and fearing that a man who had been guilty of such a diabolical crime might have placed

POISON IN THE FLOUR BARREL near which he sat at the time of his last visit, Mr. Mossiman removed the flour from the barrel for a depth of about six inches and threw it into the yard. The contents of the sugar bowl were also thrown out.

Mrs. Mossiman partially recovered her usual health, but complained constantly of a burning sensation in the pit of the stomach, finally being compelled to take to her bed, which she never again left. During the last two days of her illness

SHE WAS DELIRIOUS

and it required the combined strength of several parties to hold her in bed. She refused to take the medicine which the physicians prescribed for her, until it had been tasted by other parties, claiming that she was afraid that she was going to be poisoned.

These circumstances gave reasonable grounds for suspicion on the part of the unfortunate woman's friends that she had been poisoned, and by their request, AN AUTOPSY WAS MADE of the remains yesterday afternoon by Dr. A. V. Small, Ed. Small and Henry Evans. The autopsy developed severe inflammation of the stomach, but the doctors were unable to determine whether or not there was poison in the stomach in the absence of a chemical analysis. Of course, if there was poison administered death resulted from secondary effects.

Mr. Mossiman's little daughter was taken sick about the same time that her mother was, but her illness was slight and the symptoms exhibited were not the same. Mr. Mossiman was not sick.

The case is a very mysterious one. If poison was placed in the flour barrel by Hamilton, it would naturally be supposed that Mr. Mossiman would have received a dose as well as his wife. There is

ONLY ONE SOLUTION

of the mystery. On the evening that Hamilton took supper at the Mossiman residence Mr. Mossiman ate supper by himself, as he had a business engagement, and was in a hurry to meet his appointment. Hamilton and the rest of the family ate alone, and it seems probable that the fiend improved this occasion to do his diabolical work.

HAMILTON'S MOTIVE.

It would appear to the casual observer that Hamilton could have no possible motive for poisoning Mrs. Mossiman, but there is an ulterior motive which is at once apparent when all the facts are known. Mossiman owns a lot and a neat little residence on Prospect street. Ever since Hamilton became intimate with the family, by reason of his being a prospective relative on account of his engagement to Miss Lefler, he has endeavored to persuade Mossiman to sell the property, ostensibly for the purpose of purchasing a more eligible site on which to build, but in reality, as it is now believed, that he might

ROB HIS UNSUSPECTING FRIEND

of the money accrued from the sale. In order that the sale might be more readily effected Hamilton, who is a painter and a good one, painted the house inside and out and also made a handsome sign, "For Sale" which now adorns the front fence. Mrs. Mossiman strongly objected to the sale of her little home, to which she had become attached, and the plans

of the villain. Hamilton, thus being frustrated, he endeavored to WREAK HIS VENGEANCE upon the unfortunate woman in this cowardly manner

There are many circumstances pointing to the conclusion that Hamilton had for some time premeditated robbing Mossiman whenever the opportunity presented itself. On one occasion he accompanied Mrs. Mossiman on a visit to friends in the country, and endeavored to have her return and keep her husband company during her absence. It was known that Mossiman had considerable money in his possession at that time, and fortunately for him his wife, although not suspecting Hamilton of any evil intent, insisted upon returning home.

It will be remembered by those who have read the particulars of the Warrensburg murder, that Billie Hamilton, after the murder of Steidle left with Mossiman, forty dollars in gold and a plain gold ring to be delivered to Miss Lefler, and that Mossiman immediately after learning that Hamilton had been arrested for murder, turned the money and ring over to Sheriff Conner.

Hamilton, as is well known, is already in the

STRONG GRASP OF THE LAW, and being imprisoned at Kansas City, and it is not at all probable that anything can be done by his friends, if he has any, to prevent him from stretching hemp.

The circumstances above detailed, however, will aid materially in completing his record as one of the most heartless, cool, calculating and fiendish murderers, who ever cursed the state with his presence.

This ended the chapter of disclosures until May 10, when

THE TRIAL

was called in the circuit court at Warrensburg, and resulted as follows: The case of Chas. Hamilton was called at 9 o'clock of that day. W. W. Wood, prosecuting attorney, and A. B. Logan appeared for the state, and Hon. S. P. Sparks represented the defendant. Mr. Wood outlined the case to the jury, after which the following evidence was offered by the different witnesses:

CHARLES SHIELDS.

Was brakeman on a freight on March 31. Was standing on the pilot of the engine. Saw a man on the side of the track all cut to pieces. We went back after taking the side track. Notified Mr. Dixon. The head was on the south side of the track. His limbs were on the track. Saw a wound in the head. Saw a big wrench. This was about 10:35. We were going west. The last that had passed was a passenger going east. We met it at Montserrat. The body was in the deep cut between the wagon and foot bridges. east of the Warrensburg depot. The wrench was west of the body.

WILLIAM DIVERS.

Am a freight brakeman. Saw the body outside of the rail. Saw the wrench. (Witness identified the wrench as one similar to the one he saw.) The wrench was in the center of the track.

Cross-examined—Live in Sedalia. Never saw defendant before. The body was cut in two below the hips:

JOSEPH DIXON.

Am night watchman in Warrensburg. Was told by Charlie Shields that there was a man up the cut, cut all to pieces. Went up with Jimmy Lynch. Saw the wrench. It was west of the body. His limbs were cut all to pieces. We carried the body to the depot on a board.

Cross-examination—Knew Charles Hamilton as a Porter at Simmons' house. Knew him two or three weeks.

DR. W. V. SMITH, CORONER.

Held inquest. Completed inquest Thursday after the killing. Examined ground; noticed a good deal of blood, froth and pieces of flesh, also smoking tobacco. Saw indications of body having been dragged on the track. First saw body at depot. Left leg was cut off below thigh, left arm below the elbow.

There was a wound on the left side of the head, indentation in the skull. Skull was not fractured. It might have been made by the wrench before me. This is blood now on the wrench.

Had body exhumed Thursday and held inquest.

G. B. LANNUM.

Am sexton at cemetery. Heard that a strange man had been found dead on the track. Was a member of the coroner's jury. I buried the body had a box made. Exhumed the body Thursday. Defendant saw the body.

D. H. COTTRELL.

Knew the defendant. Keep the Simmons hotel. Said he was a stone cutter, hunting for work. He asked for breakfast. Said he wanted to stay with me till spring. I employed him. He was there three weeks. Left me on Sunday night; on the same night the body was found. He left with a man he introduced as Billie Hamilton

He wanted a lunch. I asked Charlie to stay that night. Offered to give his friend lodging. They declined and I paid him off. Billie was in the kitchen when Charlie went to ask him to stay all night. Paid Charlie about \$4.50. Do not know of him receiving any other money. He was drinking that evening but was not drunk.

HENRY PRIGG.

I am a German. Live in Sedalia. Knew Charlie Hamilton since February 24. He came to my house to board. Knew Billie Hamilton. Boarded at my house. Left one Sunday to go to Kansas City. Saw Billie again when he was arrested. Charlie came back Wednesday morning before he was arrested. Said he came back to pay his debts. Paid me \$7.00, all he owed me. Saw Billie in a saloon. I knew Carl Steidle, he never boarded with me. He boarded with my neighbor, I was at the inquest. The body was the body of Carl Steidle.

JOHN MOSSIMAN.

Live in Sedalia. Knew defendant. Billie Hamilton brought defendant to my house in February. Am a carpenter. Billie brought him there one evening. Knew Steidle. He has been to my house. On Sunday Billie said he was only going to Kansas City, but he had told Steidle he was going to California with him. They all three left my house to go to the depot. Next saw Billie Hamilton and Charlie April 2, where I was at work. Next saw Charlie at my home. Billy was gone up town. Supper was ready and my wife proposed to wait until Billy got back. Took supper by myself, as I was going off. After I got back, I said it was terrible the way that young man was killed at Warrensburg. Billy said he hadn't heard of it and asked Charlie if he had; he said no. Billy said he had taken Steidle to Kansas City. Billy showed me a little sack. It contained two twenty dollar gold pieces and a gold ring. He said he wanted me to give these to his girl—my sister-in-law. Said he had borrowed \$30 of her. I turned the money over to Sheriff Conner.

Cross-examined—They staid until about 9 o'clock. My wife is dead. Died since they were at my house. She took sick on the following Tuesday. Billy didn't say where he got the money. When he left he had a gold watch. He had a silver watch when he came back. Charlie had a watch when he came back. Charlie had on a new suit.

JULIUS GURDE.

Knew Carl Steidle. I am a machinist. We worked in the same shop. We roomed together; had two beds in the room. (Witness identified the watch as the one similar to one of Steidle's) Steidle had two watches. Here a trunk was brought into court and unlocked. Witness identified several articles in the trunk as the property of deceased.

The court room was densely packed during the examination of the contents of the trunk and as the witness took out article after article and identified them as the property of his murdered friend and room mate the people appeared intensely interested.

If re-direct examination another trunk was here brought in and opened and witness identified many articles as belonging to Steidle. This trunk contained a large number of the tools of deceased who was a machinist. Witness identified this trunk as the property of Steidle.

MRS. BETTIE SHUBERT, OF SEDALIA.

This witness was a German unable to speak English and Mr. J. D. Stauver acted as her interpreter. She knew Carl Steidle. He boarded with her four weeks. The Sunday when he started west, she saw him. The two Hamiltons came to her house, the Wednesday after the Sunday she last saw Steidle.

(Witness here identified many articles of clothing, etc., from the trunks as the property of Steidle.) She did not see the prisoner at that time.

D. H. COTTRELL RECALLED.

Charles had on a suit of gray when he left my employ; he had also overalls. When I saw him again he had on a better suit.

ERNEST N. JOHNSON.

I had charge of the Pacific Mutual telegraph company. About a month ago I received a telegraph on the 31st to Chas. Hamilton, care Simmons' house, signed Billie. It was dated 30th. The message read: "Quit at once. Go with me to Kansas City." Delivered message to Mrs. Cottrell about 9 o'clock Monday; was told Hamilton had gone to Kansas City.

W. H. BOYD.

Live at Montserrat; saw two strangers get off the train Sunday, March 30th. Have seen one of the men since; saw him in charge of officers. They call him Billie Hamilton. The man I saw with Billie Hamilton was dark complexioned, light mustache. Hamilton went in the depot, said he got off at the wrong place; let's walk it. They started up the track.

Joseph Morley testified similarly to Boyd.

J. M. JACOBS. Keep a restaurant here. Saw defendant in my place of business Sunday night, March 30. Billy Hamilton was with him.

J. D. EADS.

Am a druggist. Saw Billie Hamilton on Sunday night, March 30th. He came to my drug store with another man and wanted a bottle of wine; I refused to sell it.

S. J. OLIPHANT.

Live at Centerville. Defendant was at my restaurant about 3 o'clock Monday morning with another person whom I have seen in custody of officers. They wanted liquor and breakfast. They ate cake and crackers. They cursed over the breakfast; the little fellow ate heartily. The other did not eat. He had money, keys and trunk checks in his hands.

ED. SHAW.

I am a Missouri Pacific freight conductor. Defendant, accompanied by another man, rode to Kansas City on Morch 31st on my train from Centerville. They drank considerably.

Hollzneck, of Kansas City, testified he traded a suit of clothes with defendant on about the first Monday in April and sold him a watch. They had two ten dollar bills. Billie done most of the trading. Witness identified Hamilton's clothes and watch as the ones sold by him.

JIM BUTLER.

Live at Kansas City. Have known Billie two years. Saw defendant and Billie about noon Monday, March 31. Went to my house after dinner; had their baggage brought up; defendant sold a revolver. (Witness identified the trunk.) They left my house Tuesday afternoon; defendant had on a new suit when he left my house.

R. BALDWIN.

Am book agent; knew defendant at Simmons' house till Sunday, March 30th; next saw him on train; I noticed a change in his countenance; he had on a different suit from that in which I had seen him; Hamilton shook hands with me and asked me to have a cigar; there was a woman with him; noticed him showing a watch; he had a roll of paper money; he told me not say anything to Mr. Cottrell about his going through town; I told Mr. Russell of my suspicions, and he took me to Sedalia with him, where we, with four policemen, arrested them; saw him searched; had on him \$13.45, a watch and chain; found a cocked revolver in their bed.

H. H. RUSSELL, SHERIFF.

Made arrest Wednesday night about 11:30 o'clock. Mr. Baldwin had told me about a woman being with them. We laid the case before the Sedalia police; we found out where their room was; put a guard to watch the room and continued the search over town; we received notice that they had gone to their room and Mr. Gossage and I went to the room and told them to open the door; Billie opened door; I told him to strike a light; he did so; told them I had come after them and that they were charged with murder; he made strange of that; told Charlie to get up; he said his pistol was in bed; Gossage and I walked to the bed, found revolver cocked; asked Charlie how he had made it. He said by G-d I don't propose to talk. Got \$13.45 and watch and chain off of Charlie. We brought them to Warrensburg next morning; kept them separate all the time. After breakfast Charlie seemed inclined to talk and wanted to see Mr. Cottrell. Mr. Cottrell went to see him, but made no promise to him to induce him to confess.

Here the confession of Charlie Hamilton made before the coroner jury was offered and read in evidence. Letters from defendant were then read addressed to Mr. McGill, also letters addressed to Mr. D. H. Cottrell.

Sheriff Russell being recalled, said on night after inquest took defendant to Sedalia; he told me his trunk was at Jim Butler's in Kansas City said he left Steidle's overcoat at Leroy house in Sedalia, said he never intended to call for it; said I would find two little spots of blood in the collar. In former conversation with me he told me that the watch was buried west of Warrensburg said he'd show me the place, which he did; (here watch and papers which were found were exhibited). Found the trunk at Jim Butler's in Kansas City; found contents as Charlie said I would; found coat and vest at Mr. Holtzmark's and revolver at Mr. Hilliker's in Kansas City, Kansas.

S. S. RUBY.

Keep Leroy house in Sedalia; saw defendant at my house Tuesday night April 1st.—He staid all night. He gave me an overcoat. Witne identified overcoat.

Here state rests.

The prisoner the only witness for the defence consumed about a half hour in relating the details of the crime, which was almost word for word

Continued on Seventh Page.