

IS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT INSANITY?

A Supreme Court Jury Is Trying to Decide in Daniel Levy's Case.

Sound of Mind in Other Ways, He Vexes Mrs. Lehman by His Respectful Adoration.

NEVER SPOKE TO HER BUT ONCE.

Has Written Letters and Followed Her and Her Husband and Sent Flowers for Two Years That Were Always Returned.

Whether or no a man is crazy because he falls in love with a woman at first sight was the question that was presented to a jury before Justice Bookstaver in Trial Term, Part VI, of the Supreme Court yesterday, in the case of Daniel Levy, who was sent to Ward's Island on the charge of having persecuted with his attentions Harriet Lehman, wife of Sigmund M. Lehman, of No. 22 William street. He wants to get out of the asylum.

The alleged maniac is forty-eight years of age and has made about \$100 a week as an advertising agent for years. He was arrested January 31, taken to the Yorkville Police Court and sent to the Bellevue Inmate Asylum, whence he was transferred to the island. Mr. Lehman complained that Levy had been in love with his wife for fifteen years and had bothered her every day during that period.

Mrs. Lehman was Miss Harriet Lehman, daughter of Emanuel Lehman, the cotton millionaire, of No. 40 East Forty-sixth street, when Levy first saw her. They met at the German Theatre. She dropped her programme and Levy picked it up for her. All she did was to thank him politely, but ever since that moment he has annoyed her with his attentions. Even when she became the wife of her cousin Sigmund, Levy continued to follow her and her husband to their home and sent her love letters in which he said he was sure she was not really married to Sigmund.

When Levy was arrested before Justice Bookstaver, on a writ of habeas corpus procured by his lawyer, His Honor directed that the matter be tried before a jury. All of the persons interested were in court yesterday, gazing angrily at one another.

SAME ON OTHER POINTS. De Lancy Nicoll, Mrs. Lehman's attorney, told Justice Bookstaver he was prepared to admit that Levy was sane on every point except his love for Mrs. Lehman. Levy was quite cool as he took the stand. His lawyer asked him to tell his story in his own words. Turning to the jury, Levy said:

"I am held as a lunatic; I am sane, I have lived at No. 315 Fifth avenue up to two weeks ago. On January 31, while I was going downtown on my business, a man came up to me and asked me my name. I told him it was Levy. He said, 'I have a warrant for your arrest for disorderly conduct.' I was taken to Yorkville Police Court. The Judge said 'Believe for the 'ys,' and I was railroaded to Ward's Island."

After a few preliminary inquiries by Mr. Nicoll on cross-examination, the attorney asked:

"Did you fall in love with Mrs. Lehman the first time you saw her?"

"Yes."

"Right then and there?"

"Yes. She looked at me and I looked at her and fell in love with her."

"Right at once you loved her?"

"I took a fancy to her and have loved her ever since."

"Do you love her now?"

"I have an admiration for her."

"Ever spoken to her?"

"No, except once I tried to talk to her, but I was so excited that I could not continue to talk—I was so excited."

"Where was that?"

"At Fourth avenue and Twentieth street."

"What did you say to her?"

"I heard that her father was sick and I said, 'How is your father?' I heard that she could not say any more, I was so excited."

"I then learned," Levy continued, "that she was not only beautiful, but that her father was a millionaire, and I felt bad, because I did not have courage to propose to a millionaire's daughter. She was so far above me—and so beautiful!"

"Mr. Levy described his introduction to the father of his innamorata at the Hebrew Orphan Asylum."

"Did you intend to ask him for his daughter's hand?" asked Mr. Nicoll.

"I intended to do so, but I was afraid to do so; I was afraid if I said I was only a travelling man he would reject me."

Later he obtained letters of introduction to two of Mrs. Lehman's brothers, who were then in Europe. He crossed the ocean to call upon them.

"You believe she is married now, do you not?" said Mr. Nicoll.

"Yes," answered Levy, "I believe it now, but I didn't for a long time. If she were not married, I don't think she would put this humiliation upon me."

It was in July, 1881, that Levy first wrote to Miss Lehman, as she then was, doing so on the advice of Herman Herdich. The next time he saw Mr. Lehman, the millionaire, he expressed a desire to meet the beautiful girl, but her papa said she was still a mere school girl. He denied that he had haunted the streets on which Mrs. Lehman had lived. Continuing, he said:

SENT FLOWERS FOR TWO YEARS. "When I wanted to see Miss Lehman, I went to the German theatre and to the Temple Emanuel. I sent her flowers between 1882 and 1884. The flowers were always returned. I spoke to her but once after writing to her. Mr. Lehman had me discharged."

"What did Mr. Lehman say to you at that time?"

"He said his daughter despised me, and I might as well try to marry the daughter of Queen Victoria as to marry his daughter."

"Didn't you know after that that your attentions to Miss Lehman were distasteful?"

"I didn't understand so."

"Why?"

"Because she looked at me at the theatre, and I thought from her looks that she meant to encourage me. Now that I know that she is married I will not trouble her again."

After recess Mr. Nicoll offered in evidence letters sent to Mr. Lehman by Levy. In them Levy spoke of Miss Lehman as "the Princess in Arcadia." It was alleged that he wrote some of them after Miss Lehman had become Mrs. Lehman, but Levy's lawyer denied that statement.

"I didn't mean anything wrong in loving Miss Lehman, and I am not ashamed of it," said Levy.

"Have you ever tried not to love—to forget your love?"

"Yes, I think I have. I didn't think until this last arrest, two weeks ago, that Miss Lehman had anything to do with this persecution of me, but I think so now."

"I am not conscious of having annoyed Mrs. Lehman. I thought too much of her to trouble her. I don't see that I have injured her. If any one is injured it is I, not she."

John Frederick testified that Levy was a good advertising agent, and that he would gladly employ him again.

Justice Bookstaver adjourned the trial to Monday morning.



The Lady Who Inspired Love at First Sight.

Mrs. Harriet Lehman is the lady with whom Daniel Levy became suddenly and strangely infatuated. He saw her fifteen years ago, before she was married. She dropped her programme at the German Theatre. He picked it up, looked at her, and, as he testified yesterday, loved her. He made a trip to Europe to get acquainted with her brothers, and sent her flowers for two years, which were always returned. He wrote letters to her, and after she was married followed her and her husband. At their instance he is on trial for lunacy. In all other respects he is admittedly of clear mind. He has been making \$5,000 a year as an advertising agent.

BARBERS COULDN'T STOP LOVE ARTISTS MAKE THREATS.

Jessie Cuthbert and Newell Robbins Married in Raymond Street Jail.

The Bride Declares That the Charge of Disorderly Conduct Against Her Is False.

SHE COULDN'T PRODUCE BAIL.

It Is Probable That When Her Case Comes Up in Court Justice Harriman Will Promptly Discharge the Girl.

Pretty little Jessie Cuthbert, sixteen years of age, was married in Raymond Street Jail, Brooklyn, yesterday, to Newell Robbins, and after the ceremony was led back to her cell.

The girl is locked up on a commitment signed by Justice Harriman, charging her with being a disorderly person.

Jessie stoutly denies the charge and states facts to prove her innocence. The young woman claims the police could learn the truth in half an hour, but instead they allow her to languish in prison until she can prove her innocence.

The police of the Brownsville district raided the house of Emma Rowland, at No. 2375 Pacific street, a week ago, and arrested Mrs. Rowland, Jessie Cuthbert, Newell Robbins and another young man. They were arraigned before Justice Harriman and, after protesting that they were not disorderly persons, he committed the prisoners for trial. All except Jessie Cuthbert produced bail. She had few friends except Robbins, in whom she placed absolute confidence. In court he protested that the charge on which they had been arrested was false. He said that he had for some time called on Jessie at the home of Mrs. Rowland; that he was engaged to be married to her, and fully believed in her innocence.

"I can provide a home for Jessie as soon as we are married. I have steady employment and I know we will be happy, as we love one another," said Robbins. He declared that he was willing to marry Jessie at once, but she was sent to jail, and he went in quest of some one to give bond to obtain her release. As Jesse entered the prison via Robbins said:

"Never mind, Jess, I will marry you in a day or two."

Robbins kept his word, and yesterday afternoon obtained permission from Warden Stanley to marry the girl, and Chaplain Bass willingly read the service.

"It is nonsense for them to charge me with being a disorderly person," said Mrs. Robbins after the ceremony. "My husband and I have been keeping company for nearly three years, and do you think he would marry me if that was the case? Any one in the net factory on Grand avenue will tell you whether Jessie Cuthbert is a respectable little girl."

ALDERMEN ARE THREATENED. Some of the artistic gentlemen were so angry over the idea that possibly the Board of Aldermen may prefer to listen to a majority of the citizens of New York rather than heed their protest, that they threatened to overwhelm the Aldermen with ignominy if the memorial were accepted. It was given out last night that Alderman O'Connell had been won over to the side of the artists and that Alderman Brown and he might present a majority report urging rejection, and leaving Alderman Goodman to present a minority report in favor of acceptance. But it is said the trouble for the artists will come when the full Board of Aldermen votes upon the subject.

FOUND HIS HOME ON FIRE. Young Layng Was Greeted by Halls Full of Smoke. Just before midnight on Thursday a fire occurred in the four-story brown stone dwelling No. 331 Fifth avenue, owned and occupied by James D. Layng, general manager of the West Shore Railroad and vice-president of the Big Four. Mr. Layng is out of the city at present and his son, James D. Layng, Jr., went to the theatre Thursday night, and when he returned home found the house full of smoke.

After arousing the servants he sent out an alarm. The fire was evidently caused by a defective fuse between the third and fourth floors. Considerable damage was done by water to the furniture and the furnishings on the lower floors.

To Move a Ferry Terminal. The North Hudson County Railway Company contemplates some great changes and improvements in the terminal at the lower Hoboken ferry. Under the present system the Electric Grove street and Hoboken City Line cars start from a point in Hudson place, some distance from the ferry. It is inconceivable in stormy weather to wade through the street to the cars. Therefore the principal effort will be to move the terminal nearer the ferry. Just how this will be done is the question now under advisement.

THOUSANDS FOR MISSIONS. D. Willis James Offers \$25,000 Toward the American Board's Debt. Boston, Feb. 14.—D. Willis James, of New York, has offered \$25,000 for the purpose of paying off the debt of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions. The gift is to be made on condition that \$50,000 additional be subscribed before March 1.

The Board members are making a determined effort to carry out the conditions of the offer. The \$50,000 has been apportioned as follows: \$35,000 to Boston, \$20,000 to New York, and \$25,000 to Chicago.

New Bernie Honored by Bernie. Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 14.—A letter has been received here from Mr. Floda, Swiss Minister to the United States, saying that he will visit New Bernie, N. C. In the last week of this month to present to the city the gift of the city of Bernie, Switzerland, after which New Bernie is named. The City Council of New Bernie met last night and arranged a programme for the occasion.

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MRS. DISCHER STILL LIVES

Her Relatives Found Her in the Insane Asylum on Ward's Island.

She Had Been Reported Dead and Her Children Prepared to Bury the Wrong Body.

BORE THE NAME OF ANOTHER WOMAN.

Cause of the Error Which Made the Kuss Family Much Troubled—The Doctors Partly Responsible for the Confusion.

Mrs. Sophie Discher disappeared from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Christian Laujensweiler, at Corona, N. Y., and was sought for her until the following November, when it was found that she was in Ward's Island Insane Asylum, having been picked up on the street. Her kinpeople visited her frequently there. On Tuesday they were notified that she had died. The body that was transferred to Jacob Kuss, Mrs. Discher's grandson, was not that of his grandmother, he and his relatives said.

Mrs. Sophie Discher, for whom the body of another woman came so near being buried last Wednesday, is still alive. She was found yesterday in the Ward's Island insane asylum by her son, John Kuss, and other relatives, who have been so confused during the last four days over her reported death, and the supposed loss of her body by either the Ward's Island or Morgue officials.

The mistake over Mrs. Discher's body was due to a confusion of names by the physicians at Bellevue and Ward's Island. The body of Caroline Alexander, which was sent from Blackwell's Island on the same boat and the same day with the supposed body of Mrs. Discher, or Dombacher, no longer figures in the mystery. After the body of Mrs. Alexander had been disinterred and identified by some of the Kuss family as that of Mrs. Discher, it was taken to the Morgue where the doctor's from Blackwell's Island convinced the Kusses that the body was that of Mrs. Alexander.

The other body, which they had received at the Morgue as that of Mrs. Discher, was so unlike her that they were positive a mistake had been made at the Ward's Island Asylum, and yesterday members of the Kuss family went there looking for their lost relative.

John Kuss, his son Philip and his wife Emily were the first to arrive at the asylum, and after finding Mrs. Discher alive they left instructions that no one else be allowed to see her.

The woman whose body is now in the Morgue awaiting burial is Mrs. Mary Doerbeck, who was transferred to the asylum from the Isabella Home, One Hundred and Nineteenth street and Amsterdam avenue, November 29 last. Mrs. Doerbeck was the widow of a veteran of the United States Army, who died in 1880. She went to the Isabella Home in 1888. Mrs. Doerbeck began to suffer from senile dementia in the Fall of 1895, and was sent to Ward's Island.

Notices were sent to Superintendent Meyer, of the Isabella Home, and to Mr. Schuette, a relative of the woman, informing them that "Mary Doerbeck" had been received at the Ward's Island asylum. The notices were signed by Dr. E. C. Dent, superintendent of the asylum. Mr. Meyer wrote a letter to Dr. Dent, telling him that the name of the woman was Doerbeck and not Doesbecker.

It was about two months before the arrival of Mrs. Doerbeck at the asylum that Mrs. Discher was taken there. When the doctors questioned her she gave her maiden name—Sophia Marie Donnabacher.

It was during a call from Mrs. Kate Kuss, December 24, that the mistake which led to a wrong name being placed on Mrs. Doerbeck's body occurred.

Mrs. Kuss met Dr. Dent. A the asylum office, and when she asked to see her mother-in-law he sent her to the room of Mrs. Doerbeck. She told the nurse who accompanied her that that was not the woman she wanted to see, but failed to tell the doctor.

When Mrs. Doerbeck died last Saturday the doctors took the card from the head of her bed and sent notices to the members of the Kuss family, whose names were on it. It was not until Wednesday, when the body was taken to the morgue, that the mistake was discovered.

The body of Mrs. Doerbeck will be buried in the Isabella Home burying ground.

STUDENT'S GO ON STRIKE.

Thirty Men Suspended, All Because of a Board Walk. Columbia, Mo., Feb. 14.—The students of the University of Missouri went on a strike to-day. The trouble arose over a board walk on the campus. The "medics" and law students quarreled over its location, and in the scuffle which followed the walk was destroyed. Some of the students were recognized by the faculty, and thirty of them were suspended.

It happened that the thirty were all members of a certain boarding club, which gave rise to the suspicion that the club was unjustly discriminating against the students after chapel the students formed in line and marched out. They expect to return to their labors to-morrow.

TO CAMP ON THE WHITE LOT.

President Gives Christian Endeavors Permission to Pitch Their Tents. Washington, Feb. 14.—The President has approved the joint resolution recently passed by Congress granting the local Committee of Arrangements permission to use the reservation south of the Executive Mansion, known as the White House lot, for the purpose of erecting a large tent after chapel the students formed in line and marched out. They expect to return to their labors to-morrow.

In addition to those great tents the committee will have the use of ten or more of the largest of other candidates for Reed during the days of the convention.

Kings Sold for Morton. "Kings County Republicans are solid for Morton for President," said Hugo Hirsch yesterday. "There is no question that he is one of the ablest men in the party. His career as Minister, Vice-President and Governor has given him a reputation, unsurpassed by a sure winner. He will be nominated, and of course elected. Is Mr. Platt sincere in his support of Morton? Not the slightest doubt of it. Morton knows it, and all the silly talk to the contrary will not worry him. I have heard a few whippersnappers and candidates for Reed among others—but really they amount to absolutely nothing."

Child Bitten by a Pet Dog. Eastport, L. I., Feb. 14.—Willie Rogers, aged six years, a son of W. C. Rogers, of this place, was seriously injured by a dog biting him to-day. The dog jumped at the child while playing and fastened its teeth in his arm, the flesh of which was terribly torn.

INDULGED IN SHARP TALK.

Excise Commissioners Murray and Harburger Call Attention to Each Other's Faults.

The Excise Commissioners decided to grant a license to the firm leasing the basement and first floor of the building Nos. 115 and 117 West Twenty-third street. The Mayor had already granted a concert hall license to the place. There were several protests against the excise license.

Commissioners Murray and Harburger had a short, sharp verbal conflict during the meeting. Mr. Harburger was talking to a reporter. "If you want to stop to talk to reporters," said Mr. Murray, "we will not get through with this case to-day."

"That's all right," retorted Mr. Harburger. "I do my duty in this Board room and you don't. I get here at 9 o'clock every morning, and that is more than you can say."

"Well, I don't want to talk about that now," said Mr. Murray.

"PATSY" HARRIS EXECUTED.

He Was a Colored Man and Had Been Convicted of Murder. Washington, D. C., Feb. 14.—John, alias "Patsy," Harris, was hanged in the jail here at 11:30 this morning for the murder of Matthew Spruell, which occurred in Georgetown July 4, 1886. Both men were colored. Spruell was a barber and Harris, while intoxicated, went to his shop and picked a quarrel. Spruell fled from his tormentor, but was pursued and fatally shot.

Harris pleaded previous threats by Spruell and intoxication in extenuation, but was speedily convicted and sentenced to be hanged January 31. An appeal was taken and a respite of two weeks granted. The higher court affirmed the sentence, declaring the crime to have been wilful and deliberate, and emphatically asserted that intoxication was no excuse. Cleveland refused to commute the sentence.

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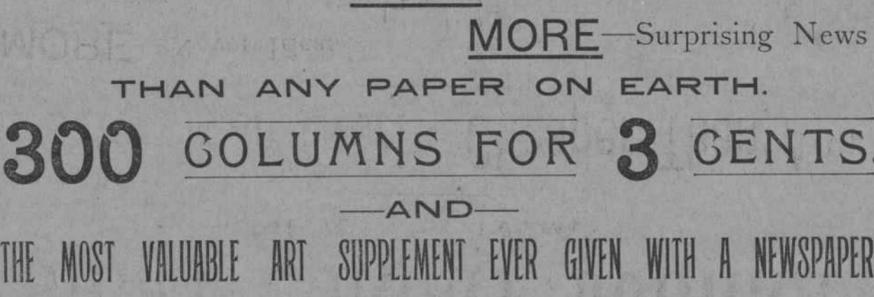
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