

JULIAN HAWTHORNE REVIEWS THE TRIAL OF LUETGERT

NEGRO SUSPECTS CAUGHT BY POLICE

How the State Has Strengthened Its Hold Upon the Sausage Maker.

Already the Public Expects the Verdict--- Guilty! Defence Still Hold to Police Persecution.

By Julian Hawthorne.

Chicago, Sept. 5.—There are a few loose ends of the past week to be gathered up, and a few hints of the coming events to give. The prosecution alone have been at the bar so far, but they are making a formidable onslaught of it.

They have showed that Mrs. Luetgert disappeared the same night that her husband happened to be conducting certain mysterious experiments in the vat in his factory basement; that the various reports of her having been seen since the fatal day have turned out to be transparent fabrications; that the vat when cleaned out the next morning had substances in it which were unknown in sausage making; that among these relics were two rings, some fragments of human bones, a rag of clothing belonging to Mrs. Luetgert, all pervaded with "an unhealthy smell"; that a quantity of caustic potash had been put into the vat before the time of the alleged murder; that Luetgert was on hostile terms with his wife, and was engaged in intrigues with other women; that he had threatened to put his wife out of the way; that he was making love to a wealthy widow, intimating that he expected soon to "be happy" with her; that he had neglected to inform the police of his wife's disappearance; that he had made false statements about trying to trace her; that he had betrayed anxiety and fear when investigations were begun in the factory; that he had declared his innocence of the murder before any one had accused him of it, and that the last time Mrs. Luetgert was seen was on the night of the murder, going with Luetgert into the factory.

The Defence's Attack.

Against these alarming allegations the defence have directed a vigorous attack, but the sole witness upon whose testimony they have succeeded in throwing discredit is that of a "backward" girl of fourteen, who, after a cross-examination lasting an hour, was made to take back all she had said, and who a minute later, under red-hot examination, reaffirmed what she had first stated.

The prosecution promise to bring testimony confirmatory of this child's narrative. They promise other things; such as fragments of Mrs. Luetgert's bones, a tooth and two remains of human flesh and a piece of human skull, all from the famous vat. They will strengthen the evidence as to motive and animus, and do several other things calculated to concentrate the wandering attention of the

prisoner upon the possible conditions of his near future.

Rumors as to the line to be followed by the defence are also becoming audible. I am not inclined to credit them, however, for their inaccuracy seems almost pathetic. The prisoner will attempt to prove, it is said, that his transactions with the vat on the May night in question were simply experiments in soap making. Incidentally, he will indicate that the whole mass of evidence against him has been deliberately fabricated by the police, who "salted" the vat with the various articles taken from it, and suborned a host of witnesses to prove allegations which are totally destitute of foundation.

How the Signs Point.

The public, according to the leading newspaper favoring the prisoner, will soon be astonished to find how very two-sided this case is. The prognostications are not the less interesting because the effort to substantiate them seems to the impartial judgment so desperate; but I question whether even the police themselves would not be pleased were they successful, or were Mrs. Luetgert, alive and well, to stroll into court some morning.

No one can like to think that so monstrous a scoundrel as Luetgert must be, if he be guilty, exists, and it would afford moral pleasure to be able to wire you, some evening, that he has been triumphantly acquitted. The same number of the paper ought to contain news of the discovery of the North Pole, of the successful working of Keely's motor, of a glacier in the Sahara desert, and of a bicyclist who never talks bike.

It is difficult to gauge public opinion here as to the outcome of the trial, but it seems to be expected that the jury will find the prisoner guilty. Whether he will be hanged is quite another matter. If he were a rich man, able to "appeal" indefinitely, or if he had a political "pull," his chances of postponing his fate would be better. But he does not appear to be provided with these useful implements. His counsel, if convinced of his innocence, might, of course, carry him to higher courts at their own expense. But they would, perhaps, be better advised to ask for mercy on the ground that, being used to making sausages, and desirous of making soap, he had blundered his perception of the distinction between employing a wife and any other substance in the production of these useful articles. The course of a long trial such as this

a wonderful developer and revealer of character. By the time it is over we shall all know each other uncommonly well. The counsel on both sides, the Judge, the jury, the witnesses, the spectators and the prisoner are continually on exhibition, admirably disposed to be studied. To say that it is as good as a play would be the triumph of understatement.

Such a dramatic situation as that of yesterday, for example, when the prisoner was suddenly confronted with Nemesis in the black garmented shape of a woman whom he had trusted above others, could not be surpassed on the stage. Tragic actors, or comedy ones either, should frequent murder trials and note how fear, suffering, hypocrisy, hatred, fatality and innocence really look and behave.

It is curious, too, to see the whole social environment of the prisoner brought into this strong light under circumstances so extraordinary. The members of the little circle, mostly Germans, take their places before us one after the other; the course and nature of their existence, of which we should else have known or imagined nothing, are portrayed in vivid detail. They group themselves round the central figure, the man with more vitality and enterprise than any of them, but who could find no better way of using those good qualities than wasting his substance, corrupting his neighbors and finally murdering his wife. Perhaps he is innocent of that crime; that doubt adds the final touch of fascination to the spectacle. Luetgert alone knows the truth to share; but the time is not when we shall share the knowledge with him.

WANTED TO SEE THE VAT.

As High as \$5 a Head Was Offered for Admission to the Factory, but This Was Refused.

Chicago, Sept. 5.—All the streets about the sausage factory of Adolph L. Luetgert



Women Who Are Helping to Convict Luetgert.

The picture at the bottom is that of Mrs. Christine Feldt, to whom Luetgert made love and whom he later slighted. Of the others, the one on the left is Mrs. Anna Graiser, who had her picture taken with Mrs. Luetgert's rings on the one in the middle is Miss Miller, and the one on the right is Mrs. Berse, both of whom also identified the rings.

Their Faces Are Scratched and One May Be Mrs. Whitman's Assailant.

BOTH ACTED SUSPICIOUSLY

Neither Can Give an Account of Himself—Another Suspect Discharged.

Two negroes, who are suspected of having assaulted Mrs. William Whitman, of No. 178 Parker street, Newark, on Friday last, were arrested yesterday. Alfred Brown, who says that he is a truck driver, employed in the Washington Market, in this city, was arrested early yesterday by Patrolman John Hanson, of Bloomfield. Brown was caught hiding in the roundhouse of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. He said that he lived in Ninety-seventh street, but did not know the number. He also told the police that he had left a friend in Newark. He said that he was born in New York, and shortly afterward told the police that he was born in the West Indies. His story was disconnected. He answers to the description of the assailant of Mrs. Whitman. When arrested he wore a dark coat and trousers and a light felt hat. It was said by the policeman who arrested him that his face was scratched.

Albert Robinson, a negro, who first said that he had just come from Snake Hill Penitentiary, and later said that he was from South Jersey, was arrested last night in Harrison, by Patrick Riley, a citizen. He is also believed to be the man who assaulted Mrs. Whitman.

Robinson called at a house in Cleveland avenue and demanded food. He looked so repulsive that the woman slammed the door in his face. She watched him until he went away and then told the firemen in the yard in the rear of the house of Mrs. Adam Schied, in Cleveland avenue.

Adam Schied, in Cleveland avenue, fully answers the description of Mrs. Whitman's assailant, and his face is badly scratched. He said that he got the scratches in a fight in South Jersey. The police doubt his story, as the marks on his face are fresh, and he could not tell from what part of South Jersey he came.

James Anderson, of No. 18 East Twenty-eighth street, who was arrested on suspicion of being the assailant of Mrs. Whitman, was discharged yesterday, as Whitman, both Jesse B. Kent and Max Neugauer, the pawnbroker, failed to identify him. All the available police in Newark were sent out yesterday to run the criminal down. Chief of Police Callaghan, Detective Fallon and a young man whose name the police refused to divulge, but who, they say, can identify the man who committed the crime, visited the Hudson County Jail yesterday to look at two negroes, who had been arrested at Harrison on Saturday night. One of them was said to have answered the description of the assailant. They could not be identified and were sent to jail for thirty days for vagrancy.

Mrs. Whitman's condition is still serious. There is, however, a chance for her recovery.

were thronged with people today, and it required the efforts of the watchman and nine great game hounds to keep men and women from breaking into the building, so great was their curiosity to enter the gloomy structure. Both men and women thrust bribes at Watchman Richman whenever he came within speaking distance, and as high as \$5 a head was offered for admission.

Appreciating the widespread interest which centres at the vacant factory, an offer has been made to Luetgert to purchase the building for \$100,000. It is said a syndicate has been formed with the purpose of buying the place and converting it into a museum, charging an admission fee while the great interest in everything that pertains to the Luetgert case continues.

Arnold Luetgert, son of the accused sausage manufacturer, said the offer had been refused because the plant was worth more money, and he intimated he expected the bid for its purchase would be increased. He said his father would not sell the premises for less than \$150,000.

For the second time the defence in the Luetgert case has demonstrated to its own satisfaction that the theory of the State is wrong concerning the fate of Mrs. Luetgert. Granting even that she is dead, the attorneys for the big sausage maker are now more confident than ever of their ability to prove that her remains never were dissolved by the acid of heat and chemicals in the basement of the factory at Hermitage and Diversey avenues.

The cadaver of a man weighing about the same in life as the missing woman was used last night in the second experiment. The attorneys for the defence refused to talk much about the result of the experiment, but said that the potash would not destroy the body.

Bishop Lays a Corner Stone.

The corner stone of the new Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Family, at Unionport, was laid yesterday afternoon by Bishop Farley. The sermon was preached by the Rev. John F. Mayer, rector of St. Nicholas Church, in this city. The Rev. Dr. Dennis McMahon, rector of the Church of St. Thomas Aquinas, West Farms, made an address.

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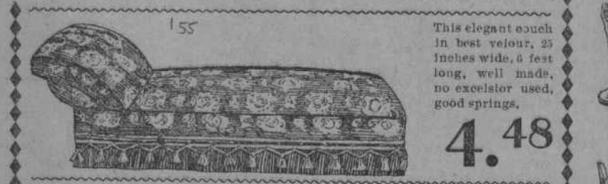
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- KITCHEN:** No. 6 Range, 1 Coal Hod, 1 Shovel, 1 Boiler, 1 Peas-kettle, 1 Strainer, 1 Bread Pan, 1 Coffee Pot, 1 Frying Pan, 2 Sauce Pans, 1 Range Kettle, 1 Colander, 1 Dishpan, 1 Broiler, 1 Poaching Pan, 1 Stove Pan, 1 Teapot, 1 Bucket, 1 3-foot Kitchen Table, 1 Kitchen Chair, Oilcloth.



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- KITCHEN:** No. 7 Range, 1 Kitchen Table, 1 Boiler, 1 Coal Hod, 1 Shovel, 1 Peas-kettle, 1 Strainer, 1 Bread Pan, 1 Coffee Pot, 1 Frying Pan, 1 Sauce Pan, 1 Range Kettle, 1 Colander, 1 Dishpan, 1 Broiler, 1 Poaching Pan, 1 Stove Pan, 1 Teapot, 1 Bucket, 1 3-foot Kitchen Table, 1 Kitchen Chair, Oilcloth.



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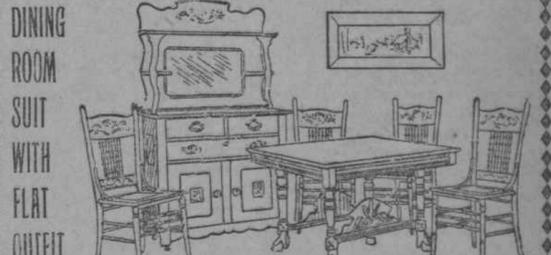
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- BEDROOM:** Forwarded... \$120.00, 3-piece Oak Suit, 15.00, 1 Woven Wire Spring, 4.00, 1 Cotton Top Mattress, 4.00, 2 Feather Pillows, 4.00, 12 yards Ingrain Carpet, 8.00, 1 Oak Chair, 1.25.



- DINING ROOM:** 1 Oak Sideboard, \$15.00, 1 Oak Extension Table, 8.00, 4 Oak Dining Chairs, 8.00, 15 yards Brussels Carpet, 12.00. Am't forward, 129.00.
- KITCHEN:** 1 No. 7 Range, \$13.00, 1 Set Tinware, 5.00, 1 112-piece Dinner Set, 10.00, 3 Chairs, 1.00, 1 Table, 1.50, 10 yards Oilcloth, 3.20. Total, 189.75.



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