

MOLINEUX SNEERS WHILE PROSECUTOR OSBORNE TELLS THE JURY OF A LEER WHICH, TRACED TO HIM, MUST CONVICT

Trial of the Alleged Murderer of Mrs. Adams Begins with Triumph for the State Through Admission of Barnett's Name.



ASSISTANT DISTRICT-ATTORNEY OSBORNE DENOUNCING MOLINEUX, WHO SMILES AND SNEERS ALTERNATELY.

THE trial of Roland B. Molineux for the murder of Mrs. Katherine J. Adams is under way at last, and the prosecution has won the first skirmish.

Assistant District-Attorney Osborne, in a speech lasting three hours and a half, unfolded to the jury yesterday the case of the People, built up the poisoner from the material and circumstantial evidences, and then challenged the defendant as fitting, as no other human being could fit, every item of the picture.

Recorder Goff, in spite of the protests of Molineux's counsel, decided to admit the Barnett testimony, a point which was of vital importance to the establishment of the prosecution's case.

Molineux, throughout the stinging arraignment, was scornful, sneering. Once he laughed outright.

The taking of evidence will be begun this morning.

OPENING SCENE IN THE GREAT TRIAL.

Molineux Almost Danes Into the Court, Spry, Eager and Alert.

IN the gloomy, marble-clad corridor outside Part II of the Court of General Sessions a crowd of idlers had gathered in the early morning. They spoke in whispers and tried vainly to get past the uniformed wardens at the door. In the court room, with its uncharitable north light, there was no more air of excitement or tension than if the case to be tried at the bar were an ordinary action of "landlord and tenant." Some tenses and witnesses summoned for other causes filtered in and scattered themselves about. First of the significant figures in the Molineux struggle, Dr. Alvan McLane Hamilton, medical expert for the defense, took his place in the chair which the prisoner has occupied hitherto. Tall, dark, solemn, bald and bearded, he bent over a capacious satchel, which was filled with scrap books, charts and bulky volumes of medical authorities.

STATE OUTLINES ITS CASE AGAINST THE MAN.

Prosecuting Attorney Osborne Takes Up the Tangled Skein.

There was a noisy exodus, and when stillness came the solemn voice of the chief clerk called: "Roland Burnham Molineux." The court attendants scurried, a distant door opened, and the prisoner came—not like a man summoned to face the heaviest odium of a criminal prosecution, and with his life at stake. He danced up the aisle of court as he used to do in the glare of the limelight at the Knickerbocker Athletic Club circus, with the star feature of the evening's programme and his make-up the envy of less favored men. He smiled joyously and greeted his defenders with suavity, which was the very reverse of his father's. It was a manner strangely at variance with the solemnity of the crisis. As yet the courtroom felt no touch of the tragic import of the scene.

POINTS AGAINST MOLINEUX MADE IN MR. OSBORNE'S OPENING SPEECH.

1. Mrs. Kate J. Adams, who died December 25, 1898, by taking poison sent through the mail to Harry Cornish, had no enemy on earth. Cornish had a enemy; it was Molineux.
2. The poison used was known only to chemists, and the bottle in which it was sent was bought in Newark. Molineux is a Newark chemist.
3. The address on the poison package was in the same handwriting as that which signed the names "H. Cornish," "H. C. Barnett" and "Harpster" to letters sent to various places for a certain patent medicine.
4. The peculiar blue paper used in these letters was the kind made only by Plum & Co., with which house Molineux's firm had an account.
5. The letters, though in the main disguised, when analyzed show characteristics of Molineux's natural hand.
6. In one of these letters sent to the Marston Remedy Company the writer described himself as "thirty-one years old, measuring 37 inches around the chest and 31 inches around the waist."

Molineux was thirty-one years old at that time, those were his measurements and he was about to be married.

In it was no word of direct accusation. The facts were offered as accusers, and the name of Molineux never passed the prosecutor's lips until it came as a climax to his effort in the late hours of the afternoon.

The gist of the long indictment, he first pointed out, was that the defendant killed Mrs. Adams while trying to kill Cornish. He urged upon the jury that such law as he should offer them was not law unless approved by the Court, and his facts not facts unless borne out by the testimony of the witnesses as these should be called to the stand. The prisoner must, above all, be given the presumption of innocence until the evidence should have established his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. "In the history of mankind," he said, "there is no punishment so gentle, so kindly, so tender, so charitable as our jurisprudence; none so deliberate."

The case, he said, he "was perpetrated in December, 1898, about a year ago, and every intervening stage of the proceedings has been marked by the same care and deliberation. Great time and caution were given to the selection of the jury, and we feel that the result has justified the procedure." With a comment on the acumen and energy of the opposing counsel, doubtless hoping that it might prove a reactionary tribute to the prosecution, he set upon a concise recital of the crime.

Mrs. Adams, he said, had reached the period of altruism and self-abnegation which is the prerogative of womanhood. She had left behind her the burning passions and appetites of youth. She had cast for no enemy in the world. She had no money. There was no motive for any one to kill Mrs. Adams.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE POISON.

Describing the receipt of the box by Cornish, Mr. Osborne dwelt with sinister emphasis upon the fact that it contained, besides the bottle and silver bottle holder, a Tiffany envelope. When he undertook to recount the conversation at the Adams flat, in which the woman urged Cornish to bring his "Christmas present" home, Mr. Weeks for the second time asked the Court to instruct the District-Attorney that he must not refer to the defendant's conversation at which the defendant was not present. This having been refused, Osborne went on. "The picture I shall present to you," he said, "will itself show the pigments with which it was painted. These silent witnesses—pointing to the exhibits which he had produced—will tell the story. In hearing this evidence it must be remembered that Cornish, who had asked the poison, and whose life had been almost despaired of, was an athlete and a man of great physical strength.

"Cornish administered this fatal dose in broad daylight, and in the presence of witnesses, and moreover swallowed some of the poison himself. Captain McClusky and his detectives have investigated Cornish as never man was investigated. It was the first step requisite in the case, and they had satisfied themselves, before proceeding further, that Cornish was innocent."

A Study of the Poison.

"Now let us study cyanide of mercury. It was first made known by a Swedish chemist named Scheele, who discovered it while making a color known as Prussian blue. A man engaged in the manu-

facture of colors, or a chemist, could have given the poison to Cornish, who knew the drug store and obtain it. The great firm of Poyers & Weightman only sold thirty ounces of it in ounce bottles in a year.

"Next let us consider the peculiarities of the handwriting on the wrapper of the poison package. The man who wrote it tried to leave out all the characteristics of his own hand. The question is, did he have some characteristics he knew not of? And did he leave these behind him? Did he drop a stitch now and then? The prosecution in a secret case is compelled to make its case out of the stitches which the criminal has dropped.

The Egg Blue Paper.

"Now, indeed, we have a clue," he continued. "That letter was written upon egg blue paper, surmounted by the three interlaced crescents. It was found that that paper was manufactured by Whiting & Co., and sold in six department stores, four of them in New York and two—where? You know, without my telling you. In Newark. One of these ought to be a store toward which the poisoner had his mind directed. Plumb & Stern. Remember that name.

"The detectives went to No. 1620 Broadway and found that on the twenty-first day of December, 1898, the man who was looking for is a man who believes himself to be thus afflicted. We must seek a man who does not possess the active intelligence of a Roman law—of a Roman? Who was to profit? Look for a man answering all these points of description and who had a reason for killing Cornish. No, a bias, a faring hatred, which is seen of all men, but a steady, continuous fire. This poisoner had a motive. This case, which was once a mystery, has become the simplest that I ever saw."

BARNETT'S CASE IS NOT BARRED OUT.

Objections of Weeks to Exclude All Such Mention Are Overruled.

THE doctors who were called to attend Cornish when he had swallowed this poison knew that he had taken cyanide of mercury, because another man who lived in the club, and whom they had attended, had taken the same thing, and died from it, and his name was H. C. Barnett.

"Barnett lived at the Knickerbocker Athletic Club. So did Cornish. Both received effervescent salts containing cyanide of mercury, and in both cases it was sent through the United States mails. Is there a man on earth so stupid as not to know that the man who did one of these crimes did the other also?"

"The bromo seltzer bottle offered no means of proof. They are sold everywhere. But the sample box of Kutnow's powder, which was sent in a handwriting resembling that upon the poison package, for a sample box of Kutnow's powder? The detectives went with a photograph of that address to the Kutnow people, and found that the firm keeps all its letters. The human being who intends to poison his neighbor, must, indeed, possess universal knowledge. The poisoner did not know that those letters were preserved.

MEMORANDA OF THE FAMOUS MURDER TRIAL.

DEFENDANT—Roland B. Molineux, charged with killing Mrs. Katherine J. Adams on December 25, 1898, through poison sent by him and intended for Harry Cornish. Arrested February 27, 1899. Indicted March, 1899. Indictment set aside April, 1899. Reindicted June, 1899.

JUDGE—Recorder John W. Goff, and piece of trial, Court of General Sessions, Part II.

PROSECUTOR—Assistant District-Attorney James W. Osborne.

DEFENDANT'S COUNSEL—Bartow S. Weeks and George Gordon Battle.

mind must have conceived the plan of writing such. Why did he use the names of his enemies? That is told in the death of Barnett. Barnett could not rise from his grave and say, I did not send for the reagent for dead men tell no tales.

Mr. Osborne paused before making his next point, which, by the solemnity and emphasis he gave to it, he evidently regarded as the strongest link in the chain about the defendant.

"This poisoner, whoever he may be, wrote a letter to the Marston Remedy Company. He signed the name of H. C. Barnett. He enclosed \$5 with the diagnosis blank. The man who committed this double crime here identified himself. He wrote a letter to the Marston Remedy Company, and in it he gave me an increasing number of details of the description of the murderer. He must now in the usual course of events, if he is innocent he will not protest, for he can say, 'I am not that man.' If he is guilty he will protest against this new description.

Points Out Tell-Tale Letters.

"In making the letter A it will be found that the man I have described did not make the upward stroke as it is in the copy books. He started on the downward stroke, thus," Mr. Osborne made the letter A with his index finger in the atmosphere.

"An unfeeling, unconscious characteristic is a break after the letter L. He brings down the letter I with a sharp stroke and stops. Then, as if writing another word, he makes a second one like this man. Suppose the TRI—then a space—and AL. In writing 'confidential' there is a break between the I and the D. In writing 'which' there is a break between the H and the I. One of the most pronounced characteristics is in making the word OBLIGE. There is the same break between the W and the G; but, in addition to this, he has three methods of writing 'oblige.' When he writes it slowly there is simply the break, and the E is well formed in writing. It is in a hurry, in addition to the break is a mere nick in the E; and in the third method, the G is made like an H, with the nick added. The break occurs again between EN and CLOSE in 'enclose,' and between KNI and KNECKER in 'Knickerbocker.'

Peculiar Break in Words.

"Again," said Mr. Osborne, "I have added to my difficulties, for I must now find a man who has answered all the other points of the description, but a man who makes breaks in certain words, and what is more difficult, a man who has three distinct methods of writing 'oblige.' Surely this gives every benefit to innocent men. You may search all the handwriting from Phoenicians down to the present time and you will find but one man who has three methods of writing 'oblige.' There is but one such man. All other men are innocent."

Handwriting's Big Part in the Case.

District-Attorney Is Forbidden to Make Use of a Blackboard as He Wished.

Mr. Osborne said that hitherto he had not gone into an analysis of handwriting. He would now illustrate by a blackboard the unconscious characteristics in the handwriting of the man who had written the Barnett, the Cornish and the Harpster letters.

A court officer brought out a blackboard and began to place it on an easel in front of the witness stand. Mr. Weeks jumped to his feet. He said:

"Your Honor, I object at this time any such demonstration in advance of placing the exhibits in evidence."

The Recorder sustained the objection and the blackboard was taken away. "I shall have to do the best I can. I shall make letters in the air. I want to say one thing before I enter the ques-

tion for his climacteric peroration. Molineux strained forward with a leer upon his face for what he knew was coming.

"Of the three names I have mentioned, which does the description fit? Does it fit Cornish? Does it fit Harpster? Does it fit Barnett? No."

"Then, who, in June, '98, was thirty-one years of age? Roland B. Molineux."

Molineux, his face ashen, met sneeringly the gaze of the Assistant District-Attorney. "Who, in June, 1898, was contemplating matrimony? Roland B. Molineux."

"What man measures thirty-seven inches about the chest, and thirty-two inches about the waist? Roland B. Molineux."

"Who, in the diagnosis blank, wrote that there had been consumption in his family? The maternal grandmother of Roland B. Molineux died with consumption. Molineux laughed outright at this statement.

Knew How to Make Poison.

"Who had in his possession the means of making cyanide of mercury? Roland B. Molineux had pounds of Prussian blue in his laboratory, from which the poison could be extracted.

"Who knew that Hardegen & Co. had silverware and bottle holders for sale? Roland B. Molineux, for Mr. Arnold, of that firm, is Molineux's warm personal friend. Who knew the Plumb & Stern blue stationery with the intertwined crescents upon it? Roland B. Molineux, for Molineux's firm bought its stationery of Plumb & Co.

"Who used the blue stationery in writing those letters? Roland B. Molineux. Who sent the letters by mail? Roland B. Molineux. Who wrote to the firm for Parker's Marriage Guide? Roland B. Molineux."

"Who applied to the Marston Remedy Company for a remedy for the loss of manhood, and said he was contemplating matrimony? Roland B. Molineux. Who, in all these letters, used the same phraseology, 'Please' and 'Oblige'? Roland B. Molineux."

"And suppose," said Mr. Osborne, lowering his voice, "that I should show you that a woman came to like this man. Suppose close relations sprang up between this man and this woman. Suppose the woman broke with the man. Suppose that a strong healthy man won the affections of this woman, and that the other, despondent, brooding over his wrongs, as perverted men do, should have some sample package of powders to his rival? Suppose the receiver of this package should have died? Suppose the woman should have died? Suppose the relations, should, within a few days after the death, have married? Who would say, harbored a hatred for H. C. Barnett? Roland B. Molineux. Who had a slow, low-burning hatred for Cornish? Roland B. Molineux. Who hated for some reason Harpster? Roland B. Molineux. And who, to make the chair content, lived at the Knickerbocker Athletic Club when Cornish, Barnett and Harpster stayed there? Roland B. Molineux."

Points at Molineux.

"Then, gentlemen of the jury, I have built the poisoner. I have completed the description. Of all mankind, of all men on earth, there is but one who can fill it, only one, and that is the defendant at the bar."

Mr. Osborne spoke loudly, and at strong sentences turned and pointed toward Molineux, who met his look steadily, smilingly, scornfully.

Mr. Osborne's effort had tired him. He asked the Court out of mercy to grant an immediate adjournment. His voice had suddenly grown hoarse. In the reaction of his long exertion, Recorder Goff granted the request. Taking of evidence will be begun at half-past 10 o'clock this morning. Dr. E. R. Hitchcock will be the first witness.

REVIVAL SERVICES IN SIXTY CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

Revival services were held in sixty Roman Catholic Churches in Brooklyn last night. This is in accordance with the plan of Bishop McDonnell to have a general awakening of the Catholics in his diocese. The missionary fathers are in charge of the meetings, being assisted by the pastors. The revivalists will hold meetings in all of the leading churches this week. The special efforts of the revival are making special efforts to interest non-Catholics. In each church the basement or lecture room is set apart as a school of instruction, and competition is made for the conversion of the faith to new members.

WHO BUT MOLINEUX? THUNDERS OSBORNE.

Dramatic Peroration of the District-Attorney in His Opening Speech.

DURING all the foregoing analysis of the evidence he expected to present, Mr. Osborne had been building what he said was the body, the mind and the identity of the poisoner. It had not mentioned the name of the poisoner. He girded himself