

WIDOW KILLED BY WILDBRIGHT ROBBER.

Mrs. Hannon's Assailant Believed She Had \$2,000 Insurance Money.

HAD NOT RECEIVED IT YET.

He Ransacked Her Room After Having Struck Her Down with a Bar of Iron.

BODY FOUND NEXT MORNING.

Bit of Theatre Programme, with Which a Keyhole Had Been Plugged Up, the Only Clew—Five Arrests Made.

Richard Sammon, nineteen years old, of No. 233 Kent avenue, Brooklyn, has furnished the police a clue as to the probable murderer of Mrs. Eliza Hannon. The woman, who was a widow, forty years old, was the owner of a junk store on the ground floor at that address, and lived alone in three small rooms in the rear of the shop. She was found dead in her apartments yesterday morning. Her skull was fractured in two places, the blows having evidently been struck with a heavy iron bar, of which there were several lying about.

Robbery was the probable motive for the crime. Mrs. Hannon was supposed, by her neighbors at least, to have received \$2,000 insurance money during the day. Everything in her room was found in the utmost disorder, and bureau, cupboards, drawers and boxes had been ransacked and their contents thrown upon the floor. Young Sammon lives with his parents on the second floor of the building, which is a four-story tenement. He works on the lighter monitor, down on the river front. He was not at home on Monday night, when the murder was committed. He explained this to the police by saying that he had gone to a theatre in the evening, and that when he returned home at 11 o'clock, he found the keyhole of the front door plugged with paper so that he could not unlock it, and that in consequence he had to go down to the lighter and sleep there over night.

An Important Clew. The police examined the door and found that the keyhole had been plugged just as young Sammon described. They dug out the paper and found that it was part of a theatre programme. They then arrested young Sammon.

Mrs. Hannon's children all died in infancy. Her husband, James Hannon, died last August. He left her the little junk store at the Kent avenue address, and an insurance policy of \$2,000 on his life. The two had been living in rooms over the junk store. The building is a four-story brick tenement. After his death, she moved into rooms on the ground floor in the rear of the store. There was a kitchen and two bedrooms.

The neighbors all liked the Widow Hannon, and there was a great deal of talk in the tenement about the \$2,000 insurance money, and when she was to receive it. The police have some doubt as to the error in the books which had delayed the payment of the money, but the widow had received notice finally that it would be paid over to her on Monday morning. The good news she joyfully communicated to all the neighbors. The money was not paid over, but who ever entered the widow's apartments on Monday night evidently believed that it had.

One Man Had a Coil of Rope. Among the widow's visitors on Monday afternoon was her nephew, Thomas Hannon, a Brooklyn saloon keeper. He went away at about 7 o'clock and then Mrs. Hannon, after closing up her little shop, went out into the hall and chatted awhile with Mrs. Margaret Sammon, who lives on the second floor of the house. The two parted, the widow retiring to her rooms for the night, and Mrs. Sammon going to her bakery for some rolls. The latter is positive that as she left the building she saw two men, one of them carrying a coil of rope, standing on the sidewalk opposite the door.

Mrs. Schep, the janitress, made the rounds of the lights. She stopped and knocked at Mrs. Hannon's door, but there was no response, and she went away. She was under the impression that the widow was asleep. During the night Mrs. Sammon says she heard a noise as of one piece of iron falling against another, and she went to Mrs. Hannon's rooms. She awoke her husband, but he said it did not amount to anything, and the two went to sleep again.

The blinds remained closed on the little junk store yesterday morning, and the neighbors wondered. The widow was still punctured, opening and closing the door, and surely she could not be still sleeping. Mrs. Schep became alarmed for fear that her tenant was seriously ill, and when she could get no response, she called on the police. She was fully clothed with the exception of a shoe, which was missing from her left foot.

Surgeons who were called in from the Eastern District Hospital said that the woman had received a compound fracture of the skull, evidently inflicted with a heavy bar of iron. She had probably been killed between the hours of 7 and 10 on Monday evening.

Intended to Rob the Widow. The police believe that the woman was killed by some one who concealed himself in her apartments with the idea of robbing her of her insurance money, and that the murderer refused to believe her story that she had not yet received the money. It is also probable, they declare, that the murderer was some one whom Mrs. Hannon knew, and that he killed the woman because he knew that he had been recognized.

Charles Kelly, twenty-four years old, of No. 121 North Fourth street, a relative of the woman, who sometimes made his home with her, was arrested. Charles Seifert, nineteen years old, of No. 124 Wythe avenue, the young man who climbed in the window for Mrs. Kelley, was also taken into custody. Two other arrests made last night were those of John Seatchford, a truck driver, twenty-three years old, of No. 35 South Fifth street, and James E. Ryan, twenty-two years old, of No. 124 North Fourth street. They are held on suspicion. The autopsy was completed by Dr. Frank Valentine last evening, and showed that the woman had been most foully murdered. The first blow she received on the top of her head inflicted a scalp wound about three inches long. It was probably while she was trying to get up that the murderer gave her a terrific blow on the right side of her head, and when she fell he gave her

another, which crashed in the left side of her head. Coroner Nason last night discharged from custody John Blatchford and James E. Ryan. He ordered Sammon locked up. After the body had been laid to rest, but was friendly with her faithful little black watchdog. This dog was not on the premises when Mrs. Hannon was killed. The dog was with Sammon on Monday night. Sammon said he met the dog on his return from the theatre. The prisoner was unable to explain to the coroner the existence of blood stains on his right thumb. He finally recollected that the stains were the result of a cut.

The coroner told a Journal reporter that to-day he would have Sammon's clothing subjected to a microscopical examination.

GIRL ELECTRICIAN'S ACT. Restores Incandescent Light in a Trolley Car When the Conductor Was Nonplussed.

Trolley car No. 315 of the Bayonne, N. J., line had reached Forty-second street on its way to Jersey City, last night, when its incandescent lights went out.

Conductor Miller jumped for the trolley rope, but to his surprise the trolley had not left the wire. Only the feeble rays of two old lamps at either end of the car saved the vehicle from being in utter darkness.

The conductor tried in vain to ascertain the cause of the difficulty, and had about given up trying, when a neatly dressed young woman, dressed by a female companion, went to the rescue.

Advancing to the centre of the car she detached one of the bulbs, and taking it to the end of the car examined it carefully by means of the kerosene light. She shook her pretty head dubiously as she replaced the bulb. One by one she removed the bulbs until she reached the one at the rear end of the car.

"This is the one," she exclaimed triumphantly, as she examined it. "See, the casing film has burned out. Smash that globe and I will fix your lights for you."

The conductor, after some hesitation, complied. When the globe was returned to the young woman, she deftly twisted the broken carbon ends together, explaining to the conductor meanwhile that by so doing the circuit was again connected. The young man was not averse to touching the joined filament, she sprang the stub back into its place, and let all the other lights were instantly illumined.

With blushing face, the young woman returned to her seat, followed by the admiring glances of the other passengers. When a reporter, who was in the car, tried to ascertain her name she refused to give it, and added:

"I have studied electricity in Jersey City, and the trouble seemed so easy to remedy that I could not resist the temptation to repair the light."

Professor F. C. Waite, of Hasbrouck's Institute, Jersey City, said later that he thought probably the young woman was one of his scholars. He will try to locate the promising young pupil.

VALISE DROPPED—BANG! Revolver in It, Belonging to Mr. Deiters of Texas, Accidentally Shoots James Casey in Hoboken.

When John Deiters, an El Paso (Tex.) merchant, was out for his own rifle, he placed his "gun," which is of 44 calibre, in his valise. This El Paso habit caused a peculiar accident in Hoboken yesterday, by which a young man who was carrying the valise was badly wounded in the right leg.

Mr. Deiters some time ago decided to treat himself and "gun" to a European tour. He packed the rifle in the valise, and packed it so that it would not be damaged. He packed it in the valise, and packed it so that it would not be damaged.

When Mr. Deiters reached Hoboken on his way to the steamer he engaged a messenger to carry the valise containing the revolver. Casey, when he reached the steamer's deck, dropped the valise. A 44-calibre bullet in his right leg, dropped to the deck.

Mrs. Mary's Hospital it was said that his wound was dangerous, but that the bullet would be extracted without much trouble. Mr. Deiters was arrested, but when he explained the matter, Revolver McDonough was released. Casey's mother insisted that he should pay her \$10, which he did. The accident caused him to miss the steamer, which sailed away while he was in court.

Last night Mr. Deiters, of Texas, set fire to the office of Hudson street hotel, the big revolver reposed in his pocket. "No more valises for this gun," he said. "There's no telling what might happen when I reach the other side."

MANY MINISTERS OBJECT. Marriage License Law Would Deprive Camden and Jersey City Preachers of Fat Fees.

Trenton, N. J., March 9.—When the Assembly adjourned last night it was to meet on Wednesday morning at 10:30 o'clock, in order to allow the members to attend the township elections.

The Senators this morning passed the charter bill for Asbury Park and Ocean City. Senators Francis and Ross advocated the measure, and Senator Skirm, of Mercer, asked that the bill should be laid over for a week, in order to draft an amendment empowering the people, and not the Boards of Education, to say what money should be applied to school purposes. The bill is to permit policemen after twenty years' service was laid over after encountering opposition from Senator Voorhees, leader of the Senate, who said he intended to exempt the city of Elizabeth from its operation. If possible, Senator Parry's bill substituting county commissions for boards of freeholders will be amended by the addition of a referendum clause.

Lloyd's marriage license bill has entered the shadow of defeat in the Senate, notwithstanding that it passed the House last night by a vote of 49 to 1. Ministers of Camden, who marry about 5,000 Philadelphia each year, and of Jersey City and Hoboken, who do an equally extensive business, seem to have a lobby employed to defeat this bill. They declare that the bill is bad, because it would tend to throw obstacles in the way of marriage, would result in immorality.

Senator Miller, who is opposed to the use of tobacco in all its forms, introduced two bills, one of which provides a penalty to be imposed upon the Superintendent of any public asylum, penitentiary or other penal institution who shall issue tobacco to inmates. The other would punish, with a fine of \$100, and six months' imprisonment, persons manufacturing cigarettes in the State.

TO SELL OUT F. A. MAGOWAN. Household Effects and Securities Must Go For Sale to Satisfy Judgments.

Trenton, N. J., March 9.—Sheriff Ashmore announced yesterday on Thursday morning, after for sale the contents of ex-Mayor Frank A. Magowan's colonial mansion, on North Clinton avenue, and the following securities: Sixty shares of Trenton Hall Building Association, 1,200 shares Trenton Light and Power Company, 1,650 shares Trenton Pottery Company, 604 shares of Philadelphia City Company, 219 shares Trenton Oilcloth Company, and 1,048 shares Empire Rubber Company. There are about thirty judgments to be satisfied by the sale. Some of the judgments are for the ex-Mayor's complete downfall; others that it is the commencement of his career as a public enemy, and that he stands, commercially and socially.

BALM FOR WIDOW CURRY'S HEARTACHE

Jury Fixed the Price at the Moderate Sum of \$1,500.

MERRILL WILL APPEAL.

Although Worth \$200,000, He Declares He Will Not Pay.

ROMANCE OF A TOBOGGAN.

The Aged Coney Islander Ran a Slide and Engaged the Pretty Widow as His Cashier—Result Not Unexpected.

The jury gave Mrs. Jessie L. Curry \$1,500 damages in her suit for breach of promise against Ezra F. Merrill, the wealthy Coney Islander. Merrill is seventy-three years old and the pretty widow is thirty-four. When the verdict was announced, Mrs. Curry took her two boys by the hand and sobbed a little. Her mother put her arms about her daughter and led her to a seat. "Well, my child, you have been vindicated anyway," she said to her.

Asa W. Tenney, counsel for Merrill, moved to set aside the verdict as contrary to the evidence. This was denied. He obtained a stay for thirty days to prepare an appeal.

During the last two days of the trial Mrs. Curry sat near the counsel's table and faced the jurors. Several witnesses gave evidence reflecting on her department. Mrs. Curry would turn her eyes toward

the jurors. She were a perpetual look of pained indignation. She would shake her head deprecatingly at these attacks. Merrill, the aged defendant, showed no particular emotion either during the taking of testimony or when the verdict was announced.

He is said to be worth nearly \$200,000, most of it in Long Island property. His counsel says he will fight till the last he will pay.

Mrs. Curry first met Merrill at the Island in August, 1893, when he engaged her to sell tickets at his toboggan slide. She worked for him all the next year, and she would have made love to her in the ticket box. In the latter part of 1894 she claimed the old man waked her up at her apartments and proposed to her in the hearing of her two sons and another employe, Fred Stewart.

Merrill denied the widow's story. He also had witnesses who swore that they overheard Mrs. Curry say she was after the old man's money. Mrs. Curry declared that she still loved Merrill, in spite of the way he had treated her.

TWO KILLED, ONE IDENTIFIED. Young Men Who Lost Their Lives on the Railroad Tracks at Elizabeth.

The body of a young man was found beside the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad near Mary street, Elizabeth, N. J., yesterday morning. He had evidently been hurled by a train against a signal post. His body was not mutilated, but his neck was broken. He was about thirty years old, dark, slightly ruffled, and was probably a Polish Jew. Part of a Polish paper and a handkerchief with the letter "S" on it were found upon him. The body is at Mitchell's morgue, Elizabeth.

The young man killed at Murray street, Elizabeth, by Pennsylvania's train last Friday was yesterday identified by Captain Miller, of the Philadelphia police, as Martin Roberts, of Philadelphia, who, with two young companions, left that city last Monday to see New York. Some of Roberts' relatives will claim his body today and take it from the morgue. Just how he met his death is a mystery, and his two companions are being searched for.

FATHER O'HARA'S JUBILEE. There Will Be a Three Days' Celebration of the Event in Greenpoint.

It was announced in Greenpoint yesterday that the committee which had been appointed by the parishioners of St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church to make arrangements for the celebration of the silver jubilee of the Rev. P. F. O'Hara, the pastor, had completed all the arrangements. The celebration will be held for three days, commencing on Friday, the feast of St. Joseph's Day, and concluding on Sunday, the 21st.

The first day of the celebration will consist of ecclesiastical ceremonies. On the evening of the second day (Saturday) 5,000 men, members of the various Catholic societies and clubs of Greenpoint, will have a torchlight procession, and will parade through the principal streets of that section of the city. On Sunday, the last day of the celebration, Archbishop Martinelli, the Apostolic Delegate, who has been a friend of Father O'Hara since he was a student in the Propaganda at Rome, will be master of ceremonies at the pontifical mass in honor of Father O'Hara's jubilee. In the afternoon a banquet will be held, at which prominent clergymen and laymen from all parts of the country will attend.

DINNER ESCORT OF 1,000. Striking Paterson Silk Weavers Silently Follow a Deserter to and from His Restaurant.

John Ridgway, an aged Paterson silk weaver, had a dinner yesterday that he will not soon forget. He was escorted from and to the mills of the Phoenix Silk Manufacturing Company, where he is employed, by upward of 500 persons, while 1,000 people crowded near the restaurant where he dined and watched him eat.

The Phoenix Mill strikers, elated by the dismissal of complaints against twenty-two of their number on Monday arrested for following those who had deserted the cause, turned out in force at noon yesterday. He was the only one brave enough to go out to get his dinner. A hundred strikers, men and girls, at once formed in marching column behind him, and before two blocks had been traversed 300 strikers were trailing in his wake. He was not molested, nor did the strikers make any noise. He went to a restaurant on lower Market street, and ate leisurely. Then he lighted his pipe, and strolled out, disregarding entirely the crowd of nearly one thousand persons, that watched him.

Five hundred immediately fell in behind him, and as he led them through the principal business streets, hundreds of curious men, women and children joined the throng. He returned to the mill without indicating that he knew he was so well attended.

Opinions differ as to the legality of this proceeding on the part of the strikers. Their counsel, Dunn Brothers, claim they

have that privilege, and they claim to have secured a like opinion from City Council Solicitor. The police are averse to their tactics, and will make a determined effort to break up the practice.

IT'S HEIDER'S TURN NOW. Has the Wife, Who Sent Him to Prison, Arrested on a Charge of Bigamy.

Mrs. Lillian Heider, who was arrested on Saturday night at her home in West New Brighton, S. I., waived examination yesterday before Justice Landdon, and was held for the Grand Jury on the charge of bigamy, preferred by her husband, Herman Heider, of No. 121 Orchard street, this city, who says that while he was in jail she married and has since been living with William Banker, a motorman on the Staten Island Electric Railroad.

When arrested, Hugh Campbell, a saloon-keeper of Broadway, West Brighton, secured her release, but she has not yet refused to continue on her bond.

Mrs. Heider was accompanied yesterday by Banker and her three children, who, when they were living in Brooklyn, were taken in charge by James W. Allen, agent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Heider and his wife were married at New Brunswick, N. J., in June, 1887. Heider was then a foreman in a factory in New Brunswick, N. J. Heider, then sixteen years old, was Lillian Blackney, daughter of Jacob Blackney, of Jamesburg. A year ago the couple were living in Brooklyn, where Heider caused the arrest of her husband on a shocking charge, and he was tried and sentenced to one year in the State Prison. Heider and his wife were taken in charge by James W. Allen, agent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Heider claims the charge of which he was convicted in Brooklyn was the result of a conspiracy in which his wife took part in order to get rid of him and marry Banker. Heider was released from the penitentiary a few days ago, but soon found a divorce.

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BROKEN WIRE OR FIREBUG? Cause of the Fire in Sprague Electric Elevator Works a Mystery.

Flames were discovered shooting from the roof on the main building of the Sprague Electric Elevator Works, at Watsegg, N. J., at 3 o'clock yesterday morning by Policeman James Avery. The Fire Department quickly responded to his alarm, and prevented further spreading of the flames. The fire was very much hampered in their work by the low water pressure and the vast amount of iron on the ground about the building.

The cause of the fire is believed by some to have been a broken electric wire in the electrical department, which was gutted by the flames. The head of the firm, however, suspects incendiarism, and has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the firebug.

The damage will reach about \$5,000. During the fire J. H. Englehardt, of the truck company, was struck on the nose by a piece of falling debris and slightly injured. A thorough investigation into the cause of the fire is to be made.

TRIED TO ABDUCT AN HEIRESS. Edith Colyer Was in School When a Woman Made the Attempt.

An attempt was made Monday afternoon to abduct fourteen-year-old Edith Colyer, of Elm street, North Arlington, N. J. The child, who is heiress to a considerable sum of money, was in school in Kenner when she was summoned by a woman who had driven up in a stylish carriage. She went out, but as soon as she saw the woman, she ran back into the school again, screaming in terror.

The woman pursued and attempted to drag the child away, but was prevented by Principal Gordon. It is said that the woman's address is Mrs. H. C. Ingraham, of Philadelphia, a step-sister of Edith. The child lived with her a few weeks ago, but on reporting that she was badly treated was taken by her brother, Thomas Colyer, to live with her aunt, Mrs. M. A. Middleton, in North Arlington.

PRETTY GIRL STANDS BY HER FATHER.

Furrin's Devoted Daughter Trying to Save Him from Conviction.

TESTIFIES IN HIS BEHALF.

Trial of the Alleged Firebug Continued Before Judge Hurd in Brooklyn.

MRS. LIEBERMAN'S ORDEAL.

Almost Collapsed When Confronted with the Statement to Which She Had Previously Sworn Before the District Attorney.

Davis Furrin's devoted daughter, Mary, was again present in the County Court, in Brooklyn, yesterday, ready to testify in his behalf, when his trial on a charge of arson was resumed. She came accompanied by her mother. She wore a black silk dress and a green hat, plumed with enormous ostrich feathers. A gentle smile played over her face as she listened to the testimony. Serenity and innocence seemed to be depicted there.

The star witness of the morning was Morris Schoenholz, who had been brought from Sing Sing to tell his story under oath. After Albert W. Palmer, an insurance adjuster, had testified regarding the losses at the Snedeker avenue fire, Schoenholz said that Furrin, Lederer and Steinberg came to his house in New York one evening in November, 1884, and talked about insurance.

Next came the daughter, Mary Furrin, who, with smiling and waving fingers, was swaying gracefully above her green hat. She said: "I live at No. 158 Adams street, New York, and worked for a clock manufacturer, Polzenbaum, at No. 15 Pitt street. I remember the fire in Snedeker avenue. It was my custom to come home to his house in New York one evening in November, 1884, and talked about insurance."

"No, there were many shops at work up to the time the fire came. I don't remember whether father was at home on the Friday before the fire. I went home as usual to remain over Saturday, and remember father coming to my room and asking for the policy. It was 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening."

Mr. Mendelsohn, who looked like a black and white character, said he had been superintendent for Cohen & Co., of No. 442 Broadway, for twelve years. He gave Furrin a good character. He said he was a hard-working man. He had known him six or seven years, and an one occasion, through an error, another man's pay, to the amount of \$30, had been given him in the pay envelope, but it was returned to him.

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husband was absent also. Steinberg went downstairs to watch. Schoenholz swore: "I opened the clothes about the room, sprinkled them with naphtha, then turned on the light and struck a match to throw into the room. An explosion followed, and the ceiling fell around me as I ran into the street. Steinberg was there, shouting 'Fire!' I waited until the engines came."

Lawyer Callahan, for the defence, asked Schoenholz if he had not been Steinberg's house on a former occasion in Henry street.

"And you knew there were fifteen or twenty families in the house?" "I suppose so," answered Schoenholz indignantly, and if ardent he would have looked for no commutation of his sentence for testifying in the case, and that he was testifying only in the interest of law and order, this being in behalf of justice by a Sing Sing convict was one of the sensations of the morning.

He testified that the alleged firebug testified as to the various pieces where her family had lived. She said they went to Steinberg's house in Snedeker avenue, Brooklyn, because of the superior water advantages and cheap rent. They had been living over a cellar full of water, with no water in their rooms, when they moved there. She said that a few days after they had moved Steinberg opened conversation on insurance. He said he usually carried \$10,000, and if ardent he would have looked for no commutation of his sentence for testifying in the case, and that he was testifying only in the interest of law and order, this being in behalf of justice by a Sing Sing convict was one of the sensations of the morning.

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"No, there were many shops at work up to the time the fire came. I don't remember whether father was at home on the Friday before the fire. I went home as usual to remain over Saturday, and remember father coming to my room and asking for the policy. It was 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening."

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Mrs. Furrin, who looked like a black and white character, said he had been superintendent for Cohen & Co., of No. 442 Broadway, for twelve years. He gave Furrin a good character. He said he was a hard-working man. He had known him six or seven years, and an one occasion, through an error, another man's pay, to the amount of \$30, had been given him in the pay envelope, but it was returned to him.

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