

WASTE OF A LIFE AND DEATH.

Body of Smith, the Brooklyn Recluse, Discovered by Accident.

HAD BEEN DEAD THREE DAYS

Cash and Bank Books Found in His Rooms, Though He Lived in Poverty.

HIS STRANGE BURIAL SERVICE.

The Holy Name Society, of St. Agnes's Church, Informed of the Death at Its Meeting, Marched in a Body to Smith's Home.

A small, white, wooden house at No. 172 Butler street, Brooklyn, had for years the tragedy of Edward Smith's life, and for three days the tragedy of his death. A man who forced his way into it found his body yesterday. A few hours later the police discovered what he had tried so hard to hide: that he was a man of wealth comparatively, although he lived as live the poorest.

Edward Smith was fifty years old. He looked older, for hard work and harder worry had seamed his face, and whitened his sparse hair. He was born at Orster Bay, I. I.

Long ago, it is said, he had a love affair and death or something else broke it off. He never married, and this little romantic feature of his life is so little known that it resembles as much neighborhood conjecture as tradition.

The man had two passions that obtained the mastery of him. One was religion; the other the love of money. It is said he was not a miser, but he gave often in his will to himself. He had a miser's fear of robbery, however, and when he accumulated wealth concealed the fact from the world.

Some years ago Smith bought the little two-story house at No. 172 Butler street. The upper floor he rented, and the lower he reserved for himself. He lived absolutely alone, and had few visitors. It is said that \$1.50 would cover his weekly living expenses.

Smith was a worshipper at St. Agnes's Roman Catholic Church at the corner of Hoyt and Sackett streets. He was a very active member of the Holy Name Society attached to that church. He often gave money and alms to the poor of the parish.

Robert Spearman, of No. 148 Butler street, a plasterer, was employed by Smith. The latter was last seen on Thursday, and yesterday Spearman, thinking he was ill, visited the house. It was then 10:30 o'clock in the morning.

Spearman knocked at the door for half an hour and then went to the window. He could see dust on the plain furniture in the front room, and knowing that Smith was neatness itself in his habits, concluded that something must be wrong. He broke the window and climbed into the house. In the bedroom he found Smith's body.

The police of the Butler Street Station were notified, and they called in Undertaker Peter Dorn, of Hoyt and Butler streets. He declared that the man had been dead three days. It was evident that Smith was preparing for bed. His coat, vest and collar had been removed. He had fallen by a table and overturned it. The body lay near the bed, one roughened hand upon the foot of the table. Heart disease, it is supposed, caused death.

The detective Murphy and two policemen made a search of the rooms. In one bedroom they found bank books showing deposits in the amount of \$1,000. The books were hidden behind a religious picture.

The policeman searched everything thoroughly. Beds were overturned and upholstery tipped. There were 200 notes, and Murphy was examining an old-fashioned halibut soft in the front room when he "felt something in the lining," he said, as he opened the lining. He drew forth a large roll of bills wrapped in brown paper. They were counted and found to amount to \$235.

There were five bank books. Two of them were on the Dime Savings Bank, one on the Germania, one on the Brooklyn and one on the Fulton. They, the cash and the other property of the deceased were taken by the police and will be turned over to Governor Coombs today.

The matter was reported to the Holy Name Society, which held a meeting in the afternoon. There were 200 men present, and Father James Duffy, the rector of the church, was presiding. Under his leadership the entire organization marched to the house of death. As many as could crowded into the rooms. The service for the dead was chanted over the body. Father Duffy read the Latin for the soul departed, and the others gave the responses.

This was a strange scene. The room in which a lonely life had been passed, crowded with mourners praying for the spirit of the man whose white face showed oddly in the flickering light of the tall wax candles.

Only one relative of the dead man was present at the funeral. It was James Seymour, of Orster Bay, I. I. The funeral will be held to-morrow from St. Agnes's Church.

TWO SAVED FROM DROWNING.

Scott Fell Off the Dock and Dillon Slipped from the Deck.

Robert Scott, thirty-five years old, a sailor, whose home is in Glasgow, Scotland, fell from the dock at the foot of Court street, Brooklyn, at 12:45 a. m. yesterday. Charles Taylor and William Ponticelli, of the barge Rockwell, heard his cries, and threw him a rope. He was pulled from the water and removed to St. Peter's Hospital.

Half an hour later Robert Dillon, forty-nine years old, of Grand Street, fell overboard at the foot of Smith street. He was rescued by Charles Slicker, of the barge Chatterton, and removed in an ambulance to the Long Island College Hospital.

HELD UP IN MIDSTREAM.

Row Boats Did a Big Business While a Bridge Was Closed.

The old bridge over Newtown Creek, which connects Vernon and Manhattan avenues, was closed several hours yesterday for repairs. The passengers on both sides had a hard time in crossing the creek, and many tales of extortion are told by those who hired special boats to carry them across.

Nearly every rowboat on the creek annexed in the business of transporting passengers.

The fare at the point of embarkation was only five cents, but when the boat reached the middle of the stream an extra nickel and sometimes ten cents was charged. The few who had the courage to protest were rowed back again.

GUEST WAS A BURGLAR.

Rented a Room in a Brooklyn Hotel and Robbed a Regular Boarder's Room.

Anton Kroywa had an exciting experience in the Hotel Gurney, at No. 152 Twenty-fourth street, Brooklyn, at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. Kroywa is a regular boarder in the hotel and has a room on the third floor. He went to bed at 10 o'clock Saturday night. He awoke five hours later and saw a white robed figure in the act of making his gold watch from his trunk.

"Hold up there!" he shouted, jumping from the bed.

The figure darted out the door and down the corridor. Kroywa following in his robe de nuit. Suddenly the fugitive vanished. As he passed one door he heard a noise inside. He pushed the door open and found a man hurriedly getting into his clothing. He grabbed the man and struck at him with his fist. In an instant the two men were struggling on the floor.

The noise alarmed others in the house and Policeman Madigan was called in. At the same time he was in the act of making his gold watch from his trunk. He found it in the room.

The man was arrested. He gave his name as William Ewell, twenty-three years old, living at 111 West 125th street, New York. He told the police that he was employed by Campbell & McGarry, at that address. He rented a room in the hotel on Saturday night.

Made an Ante-Mortem Statement in the Hospital Fully Exonerating Buser.

DID NOT KNOW IT WAS LOADED.

The Owner Was Showing the Weapon to His Friend—Police Took the Precauton to Arrest Buser, Who Will Be Arraigned To-day.

KATAHDIN AGAIN DELAYED

Her Departure Postponed on Account of a Lack of Men.

The sailing date for the ram Katahdin has again been postponed. It is likely that the vessel will leave the Navy Yard until the latter part of the week. The Katahdin was to have left the yard this morning and join the fleet at Charleston. Everything had been made ready for the vessel's departure. The crew had been kept busy for the past few days stowing away stores and filling the bunkers with coal.

The delay is caused by a lack of men. The full complement of the ram is ninety men, and there are only thirty on board. The delay is caused by a lack of men. The full complement of the ram is ninety men, and there are only thirty on board. The delay is caused by a lack of men. The full complement of the ram is ninety men, and there are only thirty on board.

Was Charged, Twenty Years Ago, with the Murder of His Father.

Carl L. Skidmore, a well-known resident of Babylon, L. I., died yesterday. He was arrested twenty years ago as the supposed murderer of his father, Hoyte Skidmore.

Carl L. Skidmore, a man named Wright, formerly a wealthy Brooklynite, and the latter's mistress, a woman named Jackson, were burned to death in a lonely house where they lived, north of Babylon. The affair created great excitement at the time.

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BELIEVED TO BE OLD CROOKS.

Caught in an Attempt to Force Open a Showcase in Williamsburg.

Detective Campbell, of the Bedford Avenue Station, Williamsburg, late Saturday night arrested Paul Schroeder, of No. 233 West Forty-sixth street, New York, and Benjamin Willis, of No. 177 Leonard street, Brooklyn, while trying to force open the showcase in front of the hardware store of Louis Schaeffer, at No. 159 Grand street.

The showcase contained \$150 worth of revolvers and rifles. The prisoners were arraigned yesterday before Justice Goetting, in the Court Avenue Court, and were remanded for a hearing on a charge of attempted burglary. They are believed by the police to be well-known crooks. Before the men could be taken into custody they gave the detective a lively chase.

HAD NO LIQUOR LICENSE.

Freeman and His Bartender Charged with Excessive Violation.

John Freeman, a saloon keeper at No. 341 Stagg street, Williamsburg, and his bartender, John Baumman, were arraigned yesterday in the Ewen Street Police Court and remanded in \$500 bail for a hearing on a charge of violating the Saloon Law.

Freeman has a boarding house in connection with his saloon business. It is said he has been carrying on business without a liquor tax certificate for four months.

The arrest was made by Policeman Linberger, of the Stagg Street Station, on complaints of Henry J. Cumber and A. B. Michel, special inspectors under Colonel Michel.

ROBBED HIS GRANDMOTHER.

Twelve-Year-Old Joseph Weingardner Returned Home from Leeds, N. Y.

Joseph Weingardner, twelve years old, who ran away from the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Fitzpatrick, a week ago, and was found in Leeds, N. Y., was yesterday brought to Brooklyn, charged with larceny.

Before the boy's disappearance he robbed his grandmother of \$10. Mrs. Fitzpatrick refused to press the charge against her grandson and he was permitted to go home.

The parents of young Weingardner are dead. When Joseph ran away from his home he was accompanied by another boy, Frank Kelly, who was taken to Leeds, N. Y., New York, on railroad trains, where they were picked up by the police.

LOHMANN TO BE A WITNESS.

The State Excise Money in Brooklyn, of Which the City is Suing.

Corporation Council Burr, of Brooklyn, has begun an action against the old Board of Excise to recover \$10,000, the amount stolen by William L. Lohmann, the cashier in the department. Lohmann had been stealing for some time. When Charles A. Schieren, the reform Mayor, was elected, he could no longer consent to Lohmann's going to Canada. He was subsequently sent to Sing Sing, where he is serving an eight-year sentence.

Lohmann will be produced as a witness this week in the suit brought by the city.

Relieved of His Gold Watch.

John Kehloltz, Living at No. 32 Melrose Street, Williamsburg, Attended an Entertainment in Michaelson's Saloon, Broadway and Dodworth Street, Saturday Evening.

John Kehloltz, living at No. 32 Melrose street, Williamsburg, attended an entertainment in Michaelson's saloon, Broadway and Dodworth street, Saturday evening. When he left the place he discovered that his gold watch had been stolen. He reported the matter to the police of the Vernon Avenue Station.

GRACE M. E. CHURCH MEMBERS MOVE INTO THE HANDSOME STRUCTURE IN PORT RICHMOND.

Episcopal Church, at Port Richmond, Took Formal Possession of Its New Church Edifice Yesterday and Celebrated the Event with a Series of Services which Attracted Large Congregations. The Celebration Will be Continued with Services each Evening this Week, and the Formal Dedication of the Church will Take Place Next Sunday.

Buser Aimed a Rusty Old Pistol at Ditz and Fired in Fun.

WOUNDED MAN WILL DIE.

Made an Ante-Mortem Statement in the Hospital Fully Exonerating Buser.

DID NOT KNOW IT WAS LOADED.

The Owner Was Showing the Weapon to His Friend—Police Took the Precauton to Arrest Buser, Who Will Be Arraigned To-day.

By the accidental discharge of an old-fashioned, rusty pistol, which was presented as a relic by Conrad Buser, a resident of Long Island City, George Ditz will probably lose his life. The wounded man, who has been Buser's lifelong friend, lies in the St. John's Hospital in a dying condition, having exonerated Buser in his ante-mortem statement to Coroner Benjamin String.

Ditz supported his wife and three children by keeping a butcher store at Skillman avenue and Lowery street, on the outskirts of the city. One of his customers is Buser, who lives at No. 341 Lowery street with his family.

When Ditz called on Buser yesterday afternoon the conversation centered on the darling chicken thieves who have recently harassed the community. Buser got out an old peculiar shaped weapon, which he told his friend had been in the family since the beginning of the Civil War. He said he would put a hole through the first thief who molested him.

The pistol had chambers and resembled the cheap twenty-five cent pistols of today. The second barrel projected under the regular barrel. Ditz laughed heartily and remarked:

"You can't hit the side of a house with it. Go and bury it. It's no use."

Buser loaded one barrel, the upper one, and discharged it against the side of the house.

Buser then handed the revolver to Ditz, who refused to take it, saying: "This is the nineteenth century, not the seventeenth."

Buser, who did not know the other barrel was loaded, aimed the revolver at Ditz and pulled the trigger. It went off with a loud report and Ditz fell to the ground. As he fell he raised his hand to the right side of his abdomen.

Policeman Peter Kelly, of the Fourth Precinct, took Buser to the station house, while an ambulance conveyed the dying man, now unconscious, to St. John's Hospital. Buser was also taken to the hospital and his three children and wife stood weeping in the doorway. Buser will be arraigned to-day.

TWO FACTORIES BURNED.

Early Morning Fire in Jersey City Causes a Total Loss of About \$60,000.

A fire that broke out at 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning in the large coopersage supply works of the Richard Grant Company, in Henderson street, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, Jersey City, and communicated to the adjoining building, resulted in a loss of \$60,000, the works were in a one-story frame building, 100x150. The fire was discovered by a citizen, who sent in an alarm, which quickly brought Assistant Chief Denmead and the engines from the lower part of the city. Denmead immediately sent in a third alarm, which called out a number of engines from the Heights. The engines, especially those which came along Grove street, had great difficulty in forcing a passage through the upper portion, which was so thickly laden with stored goods.

Across the street from the works are three tenement houses, owned by Patrick Sullivan, and their tenants were greatly alarmed at the close proximity of the fire, and many of them at one time began to remove their effects.

The building occupied by the Pure Water Supply Company was a two-story frame. A number of cats and birds, pets of the tenants, were killed. The cats were all burned to death, except a large "tabby" that managed to crawl through a broken window and escape. The birds were all killed. The fire was extinguished by the fire department. The loss is estimated at \$60,000.

RAN INTO AN OPEN SWITCH.

Passenger Train in Collision with an Engine Near Llewellyn, N. J.

A passenger train consisting of an engine and three coaches, in charge of Engineer Johnson, on the Orange branch of the New York & Greenwood Lake Railroad, ran into an open switch just south of Llewellyn Station, at West Orange, at 1:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The engine bounded over the tie for some distance, and ran into an engine standing on a siding, smashing its own cowcatcher and cylinder head, and butting in the side of the other.

Several passengers in the coaches were shaken up, but no one was injured.

DISTRESS IN PINE DISTRICT.

Many Starving and the Almshouse at Pemberton Overflowing.

Burlington, N. J., Feb. 14.—Ex-Prefeher Charles Pittman while here yesterday reported that starvation and destitution prevail in the Pine district, which he has just visited. The principal industries there are oatmeal, burning and the making of kindling wood. This is sold at a low price. The people living in the Pine know little of the rest of the world. The almshouse at Pemberton is overflowing with inmates.

OYSTER PIRATES CHASED.

Darkness Saved Them from the Guard Boat in Delaware Bay.

Bivalve, N. J., Feb. 14.—There is danger of another oyster war in the New Jersey waters of the Delaware River and Bay. Although for a year past there has been but little piracy a guard boat has been sent out yesterday and it is feared the pirates will darkness set in.

MRS. ELIZABETH SAVAGE DEAD.

Deceased Husband Was Consul.

Rahway, N. J., Feb. 14.—Mrs. Elizabeth C. Savage, widow of Hon. George W. Savage, died yesterday at Dundee, Scotland, where she resided with her son, John Savage. The body will be brought to America by the ship "The Scotia," which is expected to arrive at Dundee, two days ago, when she represented the United States at that port.

IN THEIR NEW CHURCH.

Grace M. E. Church Members Move Into the Handsome Structure in Port Richmond. Episcopal Church, at Port Richmond, Took Formal Possession of Its New Church Edifice Yesterday and Celebrated the Event with a Series of Services which Attracted Large Congregations. The Celebration Will be Continued with Services each Evening this Week, and the Formal Dedication of the Church will Take Place Next Sunday.

Treated to a Brassy Midnight Serenade in Swell New York.

VILLAGE BAND GETS LOST.

Musicians of Butler, N. J., Do the Grand on Their Patron's Wedding Night.

CHARTER A SPECIAL TRAIN.

Unable to Find the House, the Band Strikes Up "The Fatal Wedding" and the Bridegroom Promptly Appears.

Twenty-five gay troubadours, garbed in reverberating uniforms of red and blue, marched wearily to and fro along West Forty-fifth street late Wednesday night. The glow from the electric lamps lighted up their eager faces and reflected the polished gleam of their brass cornets, slide trumpets and snare drum. But no martial music sounded to the muffled tread of marching feet.

This was because the Silver Cornet Band, all the way from Butler, N. J., could not find the happy man it longed to serenade. A special train had been chartered to fetch the band from its native haunts, forty miles away, but, alas! William Kell, the leader, had neglected to secure the address of the man whose bosom they faintly would soothe.

Richard Butler, aged sixty years, owns the rubber works and many other things at Butler. He is also a director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and a member of the Union League Club. On Wednesday evening Mr. Butler wedded Mrs. Mary Hassall, at the residence of Judge Hinsdale, No. 32 West Forty-fifth street. The village band at Butler did not hear of the approaching event until late that evening, and the hearts of the musicians sank low. That a citizen of Butler should get married and miss a sweet serenade was the hands of Miss Butler. He is also a director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and a member of the Union League Club. On Wednesday evening Mr. Butler wedded Mrs. Mary Hassall, at the residence of Judge Hinsdale, No. 32 West Forty-fifth street. The village band at Butler did not hear of the approaching event until late that evening, and the hearts of the musicians sank low. 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