

LEWD AND LUCKLESS LILLIE

A Reported Case of Infanticide Investigated By the Coroner.

LILLIE DE WITT'S DEAD CHILD.

The Body Found in the Cellar, Gnawed by Rats—Death Caused by Exhaustion Not a Crime.

A Young Girl's Shame.

In Saturday's BEE mention was made of the case of Lillie Dewitt, the young woman resident at 1325 North Twentieth street, who was supposed to have been the victim of incest. As stated then the young girl explained to a reporter that she had had a miscarriage on Tuesday last, and that the child was born dead. She furthermore stated that the responsibility for her unfortunate condition rested not with her father, as neighborhood reports had it, but with a young man named Sperm McFarlington.

Yesterday a young man appeared at police headquarters and informed Marshal Cummings that the dead body of the infant had been placed in the cellar, and that to all appearances the infant had been born alive. He furthermore stated that the circumstances of the case were suspiciously those of a crime. Capt. Cornick and Officer Mostyn went out to the house early in the afternoon, and found the young woman Lillie there alone, save for the company of her 15-year-old sister. To the inquiries of the officer, the latter replied, hesitatingly, that the child had been born dead, and had been buried in the back yard.

"You're sure of that, are you?" questioned Capt. Cornick. "Yes, I'm sure of it," replied the girl. "You're not telling me the truth. Go down cellar and get that basket with the dead child in it." The girl without saying another word immediately opened a trap door and fished up the remains of the dead infant. They were in a basket, and in a remarkably good state of preservation, and the child, to all appearances was born alive and fully developed.

Coroner Drexel, District Attorney Estelle and Dr. Crook, who was called in the afternoon, went out to the Dewitt residence to make further investigation.

At the house they were met by Maggie DeWitt, a younger sister, who led the way to a back room, and thence to the infant corpse. It was a horrible looking sight, rats having gnawed the body in a frightful manner. Dr. Crook performed a post-mortem examination, and the coroner summoned a jury and held an inquest.

Mary Johnson, 15 years old, sworn and testified: I came to the DeWitt house on Tuesday at the request of the little girl, who said her sister was sick. I don't know for certain that she was going to be confined. I was in the house for several hours. Lillie said she did not want anything with her. The baby was born while I was there, but I did not know it. I came back in the evening, and Maggie said that Lillie had had a baby, and that it was born dead. The baby was then lying in the kitchen, and I saw it. Maggie asked me to help her bury it, but I didn't want to, and she put it into a basket. She told me not to tell anybody about it. There was no one in the room with Lillie when she had the baby, and Maggie and I sat in the sitting room, and the door into the bedroom was closed. Lillie groaned while I was there, and after had gone Maggie went in and found the baby in the bed. Lillie said it had been born about an hour when it was taken from the bed.

Dr. Crook stated that he had examined the baby's lungs and found them inflated, which indicated that the child had breathed after being born. The body had been badly mutilated by rats. Only one of the lungs was fully inflated, the other being only partly so. An indentation was found around the neck, and this might have been caused by the cord becoming drawn tight and the circulation stopped. In his judgment, Dr. Crook believed the child to have been born alive, but it died before it could be taken to the hospital. As to the length of time the child lived he could not say. The body is fully developed and will probably weigh ten pounds.

Frank Gardner, who resides near the DeWitt house, was next sworn and testified: I called on the DeWitt girls Tuesday afternoon, and stayed about a quarter of an hour. Mary Johnson was there, but I did not see Lillie. I was told that Lillie was sick, but they did not know what the matter was. I talked mostly to Mary Johnson, but did not say anything about Lillie's sickness. I thought she was going to be confined, but I did not see her. I did not hear any noise in the bedroom where Lillie was. Frank Shannon, a bartender for Hill, used to come to see Lillie. He came to see her about two weeks ago while I was there. We drank a bottle of wine together and then I went away. Shannon has kept company with Lillie lately, and Tom Hayes, a gambler, came to see Maggie. He came to see the father of the child, Sherman McFarlington. He had been going with Lillie since last winter. She became acquainted with him at a party. McFarlington is now moving houses. He used to be a brickman on the Northwestern road, but was discharged. Father was home Tuesday, but went away about 10 o'clock, and the baby was born about 2 o'clock. Lillie had a child before, about three years ago, when she was 16 years old. She was very sick at the time, and a midwife attended her. The baby lived for nearly eight months and then died in a spasmodic way cutting teeth. When I saw this baby it was dead, and the cord seemed to be around its neck. We talked about it, and said it was too bad it was dead. Lillie is tender-hearted and would never kill a baby.

Elie DeWitt, the little sister, testified: I am 10 years old. I was in the house when Mary Johnson and Frank G. were there, but I did not know that Lillie was sick.

Lillie DeWitt, the mother of the child, was called and testified substantially as had her younger sister, Maggie. This closed the evidence and the jury retired. After a few minutes' deliberation they brought in a verdict to the effect that the babe had died from exhaustion caused by gross neglect, but without felonious intent on the part of the mother. The case, therefore, will be dropped here.

The body of the dead baby was taken to Drexel & Maul's undertaking establishment, where it will be held until Mr. DeWitt, the girl's father, returns home. He is now at Valley, but will probably come to Omaha Saturday. He knew that the child was born and was dead, but his daughter told him that she had buried it in the back yard. He would probably give it a decent burial. His daughter expresses a determination to hereafter lead a virtuous life.

Dr. McKenna has been called in to attend the two days' old child of H. Smith, 2416 Iowa street, which was born with a broken arm.

A SERIOUS CASE.

Abortion Practiced with Probably Fatal Results.

A woman, whose name is for the present withheld, came up to police headquarters Monday night and lodged information of a case of abortion which had been practiced upon a young girl, Lillie Hayes, who has been living at 912 Capitol avenue. According to the story this young girl in distress had applied to a certain physician of this city for relief, and in performing an operation which it is feared will result fatally. The girl was removed to St. Joseph's hospital on Saturday, where she is now in charge of a competent physician. She is very low however, and it is feared that she will not recover. She has been sick for some weeks on account of the operation said to have been performed by the physician.

A Sad Case.

Mrs. Lottie J. Duncan, the wife of Robert D. Duncan, is still very sick. Mrs. Paggely, the matron of the Woman's Christian association, was called out to her home Monday and found the unfortunate woman suffering terrible pain. A peculiar feature of her illness is that she spits blood frequently, which is caused, she says, by the injuries she received at the hands of her husband. Mrs. Duncan is living at the house 1903 Davenport street, attended only by her little daughter.

She declines to be taken to the hospital, as she shows that her husband will enter the house in her absence and take of the furniture. An effort will be made to have the unfortunate woman placed in charge of a competent nurse. The case is being handled by the police in front of the police court room by Mrs. Paggely, who told him that his wife was in a wretched condition and needed assistance. "I am afraid that she will die if I don't get help before long," remarked the lady. "She is lying there without anything in the house to eat."

"I don't care if she does die," retorted Mr. Duncan flippantly, "nothing would suit me better than to see her lying in her coffin."

A Gold Ring Fate.

Two well-dressed men entered Max Meyer & Bros.' jewelry establishment last evening about 5 o'clock, and asked for a gold ring. The gold ring was Mr. Mandelberg's, and he demanded it. The man asked for it. In doing this he casually noticed that one of the men wore a plain ring on his finger, which he removed to make trial of the stone. After a few minutes' inspection of the assortment, he announced that his tastes were not pleased, and making a feint to restore his own ring, started for the door. Mr. Mandelberg was too alert for the stranger, however, and seized his coat as he retreated from the counter. "Come, give up that ring," ordered Mr. M., and with a mild remonstrance the man obeyed. "I'll keep your too, just to see what it is made of, and if it were not for the crowd in the store, I'd have you in the clutches of a policeman. All you get your ring tomorrow." The two men at once made rapid exit, and have not since shown their features. They had attempted to flim-flam the store by substituting a worthless cut glass imitation for a solid ring.

The Millett Divorce Case.

The divorce suit brought by Mrs. Mary E. Millett against Byron Millett, former resident of Omaha, is still dragging along in the Denver courts. On the point of Mrs. Millett's demand for alimony, she testified that she was now working as a servant for \$15 a month pay, and Mr. Millett testified that his income for the past six months was only an average of \$31 per month.

The judge, in rendering his decision, said that it appeared to him that the two, plaintiff and defendant, were about equally fix'd so far as finances were concerned. The object of proceedings of this kind is to divide the property, and to place the wife on an equal footing with the husband in pressing a suit in court. Allowing the use and rents of the Millett house to the wife's share would make her well off financially as the husband. Therefore the judge refused for the present to make any order granting alimony, and for the same reason he refused to appoint a receiver to take charge of the house. The final hearing of the case was set for February 5.

His Runaway Wife.

Marshal Cummings received yesterday the following letter from Chas. F. Gish, of St. Joseph, concerning his runaway wife who deserted him last month: "Dear Sir: A woman with six small children, one a girl about 5 years old, and five boys, and the youngest a babe of only six months, came to my city about the 19th of November. Information of the fact was given me through a citizen of St. Joseph who happened to be in my city and had spoken to both the woman and children. They were then at a place called the 'New Hotel' on Capital avenue and the woman went by the name of Mollie Williams, which is her maiden name. I am the husband of the woman and wish to ascertain her present situation and mode of life, so as to give me some idea of what is best to do for my children."

That Police Wagon.

"I declined to sign that warrant for the patrol wagon," said President Points of the board of education, to a reporter yesterday, "simply because it was illegal. The board has no right to expend money for such purposes."

Secretary Conover yesterday said that he did not think that the payment of \$300 by the school board would be a legal measure, but declared that if the matter was tested by law Mr. Points would be in the end probably have to sign the warrant.

Police Court Docket.

Judge Stenberg disposed of the following cases in police court yesterday: George Anderson and W. C. Dickson, drunk and disorderly, \$5 and costs. Sam Lewis, vagrant, twenty days in county jail. Ed Hendershot, suspicious character, discharged with instruction to leave the city. John Cummings, fighting, \$5 and costs. John Smith and John Giffenher, fighting, \$10 and costs. George W. Yates, petit larceny, twenty days in county jail.

Badly Bruised.

A young man named Charles Carter appeared before Judge Stenberg late yesterday and swore out a warrant for the arrest of a Thirteenth street butcher, Joseph Colby, who had knocked him down with a heavy mallet.

CITY FATHERS IN SESSION.

A Short and Unexciting Meeting—Minor Business Transacted.

TROUBLED RAILROAD EMPLOYES.

Freight Handlers at the Union Pacific Depot Dissatisfied—Notes From the Courts—Other Important News.

The regular meeting of the city council was held last evening, President Bechel in the chair and present Councilmen Bailey, Behm, Daley, Ford, Furay, Goodman, Goodrich, Lee, Leoder, Schroeder and Thrane. The usual course of speaking was observed, and altogether the meeting was a short and tame one, the business transacted being put through with a rush.

THE COUNCIL MEETING.

From the mayor, appointing W. J. Brounch, Thomas A. Crough and W. T. Patrick appraisers to assess damages by the construction of a viaduct on Tenth and Eleventh streets. Confirmed.

From the city treasurer, recommending that the tax on the Equitable Life Assurance society be collected, as the company is a municipal one and the tax cannot be collected. Referred.

From the Union Pacific railroad company, asking that certain tax assessments on a piece of property be remitted. Referred.

From assessors appointed to assess damages by the change of grade of Hamilton and James streets, reporting that none of the property would be damaged by such change. Approved.

From Peter Goos, complaining of certain acts of Marshal Cummings in delaying the payment for meals furnished to city officers and other alleged irregularities. Referred to the police committee.

From John Christensen, offering to settle his case against the city for damages by the change of grade of Harney street for the sum of \$2,000. Referred to the city attorney.

From John H. Butler, submitting an ordinance providing for the inspection of boilers similar to the one in Chicago. Filed.

By Schroeder—That assessments on lot owned by Louis Bradford be reduced from \$600 to \$100. Adopted.

By Goodrich—That the city engineer be instructed to report the names of parties now occupying unlawfully the strip of land belonging to the city east of and adjoining the Creighton college grounds and Seewoy's addition. Adopted.

By Leoder—That the committee on fire and water works cause engine house No. 5, and also the new engine house on Cumming and Saunders streets, with their contents, to be insured forthwith. Adopted.

By Bailey—That for the purpose of ascertaining the probable cost of lighting certain portions of the city with gas, the city engineer be invited, such proposals to state the price per each light, including the erection of suitable posts and everything necessary pertaining thereto. Said bids not to be for less than 100 lights. Referred.

The resolution called up considerable discussion. Some of the councilmen declared themselves in favor of the electric light, and some in favor of the gas. Mr. Behm defended the gas company, and asked the council to give more time to have the gas improved.

By Thrane—That the committee for the improvement of real estate be requested to appraise the several pieces of real estate along Sixth street recently vacated by ordinance, and report such appraisement to the council at as early a day as possible. Adopted.

By Furay—That the city engineer be instructed to prepare profiles and ordinance establishing the grade in alleys in Nelson's addition. Adopted.

By Deley—That the city engineer be directed to prepare a plan and estimate the cost of sanitary sewerage to cover that part of the city north of Nichols, west of Fifteenth and east of Eighteenth streets, also that part of the city north of Cumming, west of Eighteenth and east of Saunders street, also that part of the city north of Cumming, west of Saunders and east of James streets, such districts to run as far north as may be deemed advisable. Adopted.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES. Finance and Claims—Recommending that \$774.77, due contractor for grading Eighteenth street be paid. Referred to the board of education be requested to repay its share of the cost, \$725.70. Adopted.

Same—Announcing that the expenses of the engineering department of the city will be reduced about the middle of next month by \$2.00 per month. Adopted.

Grades and Grading—Recommending the allowance of damages as appraised on the widening of the street, from Furay to Harney. Adopted.

Fire and Water Works—Recommending the purchase of four horses for the use of the fire department. Adopted.

Same—Recommending the passage of the ordinance extending the city limits. Adopted.

Gas and electric lights—Reporting that the candle power of the street lamps has been according to contract, and that gas consumed through meters the quality has been of such a nature that there is good cause for complaint, and recommending that the city attorney cause an investigation of the matter to be made by the company to their contract. Adopted.

Paving, curbing and guttering—Recommending reference to the city attorney of the matter of issuing bonds to cover the 10 per cent reserve to be paid to the Paving company, as the committee did not believe in the propriety of such action. Adopted.

Declaring the necessity of constructing a viaduct along Sixth street, over the tracks of the Union Pacific and Burlington & Missouri railroads, and requiring the city engineer to prepare a plan and specifications thereof, together with the estimated cost of such work. Passed.

The passage of the ordinance was followed by a resolution by Schroeder, instructing the board of education to advertise for bids for the erection of the viaduct, to be of wood and forty-six feet wide, thirty feet of which shall be roadway. Adopted.

Providing for the inspection of steam boilers and the examination of engineers in charge of them. Referred.

Extending the fire limits of the city of Omaha to the blocks surrounding the court house square. Passed.

DISSATISFIED EMPLOYEES.

Trouble in the U. P. Freight House—A Knights of Labor Committee.

The employ of the company for years—were laid off. Some of the men were allowed to remain in the freight house, but had not been in the employ of the company for more than two or three weeks, or perhaps a little longer.

A reporter who went down to the freight house to investigate the matter yesterday talked with a number of the employees, clerks and truckmen. No little dissatisfaction exists among them on account of the treatment of those laid off and trusted employees who have been compelled to stop work to make way for new men. The Knights of Labor have taken the matter of men laid off by a committee of three to wait on Mr. Ooster, in order to influence that officer, if possible, to reinstate the men who had been cut off. The result of the conference, which was secret, is not yet known. It is understood, however, that the meeting was fruitless.

"This thing may create trouble," said one of the freight men to the reporter, "and the men who will be laid off by a strike. No one will deny that the business of the company is less at the present time than it has been through the summer and early fall, and consequently the number of men laid off is reduced. But what we are kicking against is that the company, instead of laying off or discharging their new men, has cut off the employees who have served faithfully and well for years."

District Court. Judge Wakely was occupied yesterday calling the equity docket. At 2 o'clock he announced himself ready to begin the hearing of Rhodes vs. Estabrook.

Judge Neville also had little business in the morning. A jury was impaneled for Bartlett vs. McCloskey, but after the panel was made the attorneys announced that the case had been compromised.

J. B. Long of Chicago entered suit in attachment against Henry Hickman to recover \$1,230.75 on account. The plaintiff at the same time issues process against the Omaha National bank, Jennie A. Forsyth, Thomas Martin, Tribune Printing company, T. J. Keller & Co., and Curtis E. Hickman, who, he avers, hold assets of the defendant.

The district attorney filed information against Powell, the Florence shootist, for murder in the first degree, and against John Carroll, the man who pulled the trigger in the victim's thick skull, for assault with intent to kill.

In two suits against the city by Messrs. Hamilton and Rogers, for damages by the opening and widening of Leavenworth street a compromise was effected and the suits settled. The former gentleman was given \$600 and the latter \$1,200.

The trial of Powell and Lauer for murder will not come up until the next term of court.

County Court. Judge McCulloch was busied all morning trying Thore vs. Ditzel, a suit on a Lucifer match bill of \$72.

Michael O'Brien entered suit against the Union Pacific for \$485 damages. The petitioner states that on June 5 last he was working on the Marysville & Blue River branch of the Union Pacific. On that day while helping a crew pull up a whistle post by fastening a wire and rope to the post, he fell to a locomotive, he was struck on the leg by a flying bolt and permanently crippled.

Marriage license was issued to Amos Gottham and Wilhelmina Schmitz.

United States Court. The jury in the case of the Northwest Electric Light company vs. the State Insurance company returned a verdict for the defendant last evening.

Judge Dundy commenced yesterday the trial of the four Denver land fraud men held here in custody.

A SPEEDY COURTSHIP.

The Romantic Marriage of the Niece of an Omaha Man.

Mr. T. N. Bray, the well known resident of this city has received a letter from his niece, now Mrs. Dr. Graham, who with her husband is at Aintab, Turkey, as missionary for the American board.

The romantic marriage of Miss Ella Bray to Dr. Graham, brief mention of which has already appeared in the telegraphic columns of the BEE took place last month. The circumstance, as reported by the bride, was as follows: Early last summer Dr. Graham, an estimable young man and a graduate of the University of Michigan, offered his services to the American board of missionaries, and was appointed to go to Turkey.

The officers of the American board were very glad to gain so valuable a recruit, but the young man had a peculiar notion, in an indubitable rule of the American board not to send single men to the mission fields, but the services of unmarried young women are readily accepted.

Dr. Graham was engaged to marry Miss Bray, a young woman about the same age, who was a native of Omaha, and who had been a student in the University of Michigan.

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The dull season enabled us to buy them regardless of price and we will sell them for less than what the raw material cost.

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Table with 2 columns: Suits and Overcoats. Lists various items and prices.

Pants.

Table with 2 columns: Suits and Overcoats. Lists various items and prices.

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POPULAR PRICES

ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES. Be sure to consult your interest by inspecting our stock before purchasing. An Early Inspection Invited. Mail and Telegraphic Orders Will Receive Prompt Attention.

MAX MEYER & BRO., Cor. 11th and Farnam Sts., Omaha, Neb.

Prof. F. M. Steinhilber, well and favorably known here as the director of the grand orchestra at the Saengerfest four years ago has been engaged by Mr. Julius Meyer to take the leadership of the Musical Union orchestra. The professor will remove here with his family at once.

Turner Officers. At a meeting held Monday night in Germania hall the Omaha Turn Verein elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Chas. E. Barmister; vice president, Henry Hausman; secretary, E. G. Grobe; second secretary, Robert Stein; treasurer, Chas. Metz; turn warden, Robt. Rosenzweig; second turn warden, Wm. Schlicht; song warden, Emil Koenig; turn chairman, E. Brandel; Trustees—Phillip Andrus, C. C. Schaeffer, John Baumer, and G. F. Spetman.

Broke His Arm. Valentine Gonzalez, an old man living in the family of Fred Schmidt, soloist on south Tenth street, slipped on the icy walk in front of Krug's hall Monday night and in falling broke his right arm near the wrist. Dr. Darrow reduced the fracture which, owing to the sufferer's age, was very painful.

The messenger boys of the A. D. T. service, have been provided with new caps, of navy blue cloth, with flat tops.

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