

THE VICTIM OF A RIPPER.

A Poor Outcast of The Streets Horribly Butchered.

HAD CAROUSED ALL NIGHT.

Treated For Alcoholism at the Hospital While Slowly Bleeding to Death.

DID "BIG LOUIS" COMMIT THE CRIME?

(SUBJECT OF ILLUSTRATION.)

A crime of singular fiendishness was committed Sunday morning, April 21, in an Italian tenement at No. 148 Thompson street, New York. The victim, Alice Walsh, was one of the numerous outcasts who make the streets between Broadway and South Fifth avenue the scene of their hideous methods of earning a livelihood. The murder resembles the "Jack the Ripper" murders committed in London.

The Walsh woman was the wife of John Desmond, a saloonkeeper, of Brooklyn, but had left him to become a homeless girl of the streets. She was only twenty-two years old but looked thirty. She had been on a drunken carouse in the neighborhood of the MacDougal street police station on Saturday night. During the night she visited, with several of her companions, half a dozen resorts in Thompson street. Early Sunday morning she had a violent quarrel with a big man who looked like an Italian, in Edward N. Garland's saloon, at 108 Houston street, on the southwest corner of Thompson street.

After leaving the saloon with the man shortly before four o'clock in the morning she was seen by a policeman staggering along Thompson street alone.

She was next seen a little before 5 o'clock by some Italian women who live in the tenement at 148 Thompson street, diagonally across the street from the Yorktown Hotel. She was leaning against the balusters in the hallway of the tenement, and the Italian women, supposing she was drunk, paid no attention to her.

Finally, about six o'clock, the janitor, Franciaco Inzigno, came down stairs and ordered the woman into the street. As she did not move or reply, he went around the corner and told Policeman Gorman that a drunken woman was asleep in his lower hall and wouldn't get out.

It seems that it was Gorman's day off, and he knew that if he went into the house and arrested the woman it would mean a day in the police court instead of a day off.

So he summoned an ambulance. One came from St. Vincent's Hospital. The surgeon glanced at the woman and said she was suffering from alcoholism and female trouble. He placed her in the ambulance, took her to St. Vincent's Hospital long enough to have a record made of her case, and then took her to Bellevue. At Bellevue Drs. Fisch and Riegelman first discovered that the woman had been bleeding to death all these hours from a horrible slashing stab wound, which began at the base of the abdomen and ran upward to the hip. It was then nearly 8 o'clock.

Coroner's Physician O'Hanlon was hastily summoned, in the hope that the woman might revive sufficiently to make an ante-mortem statement. She died at 11:15 without regaining consciousness. Dr. O'Hanlon performed an autopsy, and found that the woman must have been butchered by a strong hand with a stiletto having a blade not less than five inches long, and keen as a scalpel.

It is the theory of the police that the cutting was done in the Yorktown Hotel, which is patronized largely by women of the street. It was 11 o'clock Saturday night when Alice Walsh went into the place.

The people in the hotel agree that she was accompanied by a big Italian and by a woman called "Gimpy" Amanda. Half an hour later "Gimpy" left the place. At 1:30 the man left, and three minutes later Alice Walsh departed.

The police believe that Alice Walsh had her death wound when she staggered from the place. She had been drinking before she entered the hotel.

They believe she was too drunk to know that she had been cut, that she wandered about the streets, and finally was on her way back to the hotel to sleep, when she got to the house where she was found. She staggered into the hallway and remained there until she collapsed and was found unconscious.

The police did not know that the woman had been injured until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, although she was found at 5 in the morning. When the news came from Bellevue Hospital that the woman was bleeding to death from a stab wound, the police of the Central Office and those of the MacDougal street station began their work.

Philip Mewley, the clerk of the Yorktown Hotel, was arrested under arrest but was discharged on Monday morning.

The "Mickey" Walsh, with whom Alice lived for two years, furnished the clew, it is said, upon which the boys have been working. He said that a tall Italian whom he knows only as "Big Louis" had been pressing his attentions on the woman for some time. He claimed to have seen "Big Louis" in Houston street at two o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Certain facts have been learned by the police chiefly about some of the woman's former male associates, but one which leads with any directness toward the man who caused her death.

The police devoted themselves chiefly to locating these individuals and questioning them as to their ac-

quaintance with the woman and their whereabouts on Sunday night.

She lived with Walsh about two years ago, and took his name although she was still the wife of Desmond.

After ceasing her relations with Walsh the woman lived with Louis Laval for two weeks. He is a carpenter, who lives at No. 187 Thompson street. He visited a Bowery theatre Saturday night, returning home at half-past eleven o'clock, and going to work at a building in South Third street at seven o'clock Sunday morning.

She next transferred her affections from Laval to a man known as "Louis the Truckman" and also as "Big Louis," who was employed as a driver by Louis Farini, of No. 122 Prince street. She lived with him for two weeks. Then she had a row with him and assumed relations with Richard Herman, a former pugilist, nicknamed "Dutch Kelly," who is now employed as a bartender at No. 136 South Fifth avenue. She lived with him for six months, and then returned to "Louis the Truckman." In a short time she had another row with him, and went to live with a young man named Terrence Collins, who was recently sent to Elmira Reformatory for burglary.

The whereabouts of all these men last Sunday night were satisfactorily accounted for by the police, with the exception of Louis, the truckman, or "Big Louis," who is said to be of large stature and who resembles an Italian. He is being closely searched for by the police in the belief that he may have been the woman's companion on Saturday night.