

THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

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A WANTON ATTEMPT TO MURDER AN HEIR

A TERRIBLE LOVE OF MONEY

A POISONOUS DRAUGHT – THE FIENDISH PURPOSE FOILED.

The tranquility of the little hamlet of Centerville, five miles north of the city, on the Brewerton road, was thrown into a state of great excitement on Thursday last, which pre (illegible) arising from the discovery of what seems at this writing to be a ruthless and cold-blood attempt at murder. As far as possible under the circumstances, the details of the affair have been withheld from circulation with careful secrecy, but a recital of the salient facts at this time will be perused with interest. Unbounded faith is reposed in our sources of information, in the most part corroborated and substantiated by the personal investigation of the SUNDAY COURIER'S reporters. That the ends of justice may not be defeated the names of the leading actors in the story are not given. The following are the particulars of the case:

SUSPICIOUS GUESTS

On Thursday afternoon there drove up to the Clarendon Hotel, in Centerville, a two seated sleigh, drawn by a span of horses, which contained four men. Two of the occupants of the vehicle alighted, but the other two remained motionless, and were, to all outward appearances helplessly under the influence of liquor. Both seemed utterly stupefied and lay back in their seats, unable to assist themselves. The horses and sleigh were drawn under the shed adjoining the inn, and the men who had alighted, after giving some directions in regard to the horses were about to enter the hotel, when the proprietor, Charles Crocker, suggested that their companions ought to be taken

IN OUT OF THE COLD,

as he said if they were left there they might freeze. They objected at first to the change, but subsequently acquiesced, and the two apparently drunken men were removed to the bar room of the hotel. Very little attention was bestowed upon them at first, as such sights are not uncommon thereabouts, but it was not long before observation was attracted to them. Their condition differed from the maudlin intoxication witnesses every day in the country bar room. They lay motionless in a lethargic stupor.

MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE

Suspicion was soon aroused, and a medical examination of the men revealed the truth – they had been drugged and were under the influence of the narcotic. By administration of restoratives, the older of the two revived, but the other remained unconscious, and at last accounts yesterday was

not out of danger. Dr. Witting, of Centerville, who was called, arrived at the opinion that the poison employed was morphine.

When sufficiently recovered from the effects of the efficacious poison the older man imparted to one or two persons a partial solution to this circumstance so shrouded in

DEEP MYSTERY.

His bearers gathered the information that on Thursday last the party of four started from Cleveland, a small village in Oswego county, in the sleigh ostensibly to make a purchase of some land, the advances for which were to be made by the younger man, upon whom the poison acted most potently. It seems that the latter is by the will of a near relative the legatee of an amount neighboring on \$7,000, and that one of his companions is his brother-in-law and the husband of his only sister. Thus it will be seen that in case the young man would die the bequest would revert to the next of kin, his sister.

THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY.

At once suspicion falls on this brother-in-law, who would in the event suggested above, be the virtual gainer, and through his wife heir to the \$7,000. The party proceeded direct to Central Square making stoppage at the hotel. Here, after partaking of a round or so of drinks, they were again on the road, bound for Brewerton. On their arrival at the latter village the entire party alighted and made an extended halt at Washburn's hotel, occupying a good part of the time in playing billiards.

UNSTINTED POTATIONS

were indulged in, the brother-in-law being particularly officious in furnishing the party with drinks. While the other three engaged in playing billiards, he left them temporarily and went to the bar in an adjoining room, where he ordered of Charles Kinney, the bartender, four glasses of brandy, or as the concoction is titled in that region "blue ruin," which he, himself, carried in to his companions. It is at this time, ample opportunity being given, that he is suspected of having

DRUGGED THE LIQUOR

intended for the young man. Not long after this important circumstance the party left the hotel and resumed their journey towards Syracuse. All were more than "half seas over," but the brother-in-law was the soberest man in the quartette.

The next heard of the party was at Centerville, when they arrived as before mentioned at the Clarendon Hotel in the afternoon.

The man to whom we have repeatedly referred as the brother-in-law, immediately upon learning that the young man was seriously ill, and that even his life was despaired of, made haste to inform people about the hotel that he would go for his parents at Cleveland, from which time he

has not been seen, and up to yesterday no tidings of his whereabouts had been received. His rather sudden disappearance was considered another convincing evidence that

FOUL PLAY WAS IN THE WIND.

Thereupon a warrant for his arrest was issued by Squire Lawrence of Centreville, sworn out by one of his victims, at which time the younger man was still very weak from the effects of the poison. Subsequently, Dr. Bausenger of this city, was sent for and visited the sick man, who, without a doubt, received the larger quantity of the poisoning drug. It is surmised that this brother-in-law distinguished between the younger and the older man in drugging the brandy, intending the former to be his victim. The poisoning of the other, it is thought, was intended as

A DECOY,

in order to conceal his motive for the murder, had it been consummated. We learn that Mr. Warshburn, proprietor of the hotel at Brewerton, where the poisoned liquor is supposed to have been drank, has carefully preserved the bottle of brandy from which the drinks were poured. This he proposes to have submitted to a chemical analysis, in order to exculpate him from any blame.

We learn that the brother-in-law and his intended victim reside in Cleveland, Oswego county; one in this city, and the other near Manlius. All are Germans.

The crime was premeditated and very cleverly planned, but "murder will out," and doubtless the culprit will be brought to justice in due time. Further developments will be awaited with interest.