

MURDER OF JAMES FISK, JR.—James Fiske Jr., whose highest gratification it has been to lead a nonconformist life, who has recently caused much excitement in the theatrical and financial circles of New York and who, within a short time past, has been prominently before the public through the libel and alleged blackmailing case of Miss Josie Mansfield, was shot on Saturday afternoon by one Edward S. Stokes, who had figured prominently in the suit. The affair occurred at half-past four o'clock, just as Fisk entered the vestibule of the Grand Central Hotel. The assailant was immediately arrested, and incarcerated in the Tombs. Two balls entered the person of Fisk, and the wounds, which were not at first considered as fatal, proved to be so, however, at a few minutes before eleven o'clock next morning. The wife and family-in-law of the deceased, together with many of his personal friends, were at his bedside when he expired. The remains were removed to his late residence, No. 313 W. Twenty-third street.

THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS speaking of this tragedy says: "Fisk's death, in all its tragic and wretched features, is an impressive lesson for the hour. His life and example have been beneficial, and the manner of his taking off was perhaps needed to point the moral for the thoughtless and heedily dazzled. With all his seemingly brilliant success, with all his wonderful tact and power, with all his resistless energy and infinity of resource, his life has been a mispent, fruitless, dissipated one. He achieved notoriety at the cost of character, and everything he plucked turned to ashes in his hands. It is well for our youth to learn that all apparent success purchased at the cost of conscience is worthless, that the respect of good men is better than riches, that conscientiousness may only by vulgarity and dissipation be made socially instead of open to the world. With all his power and influence, he was a man without influence; for influence is the measure of confidence had in the person exercising it, and rests on a moral foundation. With all his money and ships and steamships, he was a man without money; for money is a mere instrument of exchange, and is of no use unless it is used for the benefit of the community. At 8 p. m., the doctors were probing for the bullet, but had not yet succeeded in finding it.

STOKES, on being taken to the station house, was interrogated on the subject of the shooting, but on advice of counsel refused to make any statement. Wood and White are in attendance on Fisk. There is considerable nervous prostration, but no other morbidly information has as yet been given.

11:30 p. m.—Many of Fisk's acquaintances and friends are at the hotel, among them Tweed and Jay Gould. Fisk is calm and collected, and is able to converse. About 9 p. m. the coroner heard his statement as to the shooting, which is already telegraphed.

At 9:30 he was engaged with his lawyers in making his will.

The weapon used was a four chambered Colt revolver. One of the detectives at the station house, who is in custody, pronounced the bore the widest he has ever seen. The bullet found in the stairway was in size more like a rifle than a pistol ball. About ten o'clock Dr. Carmichael examined the patient and pronounced the wound fatal, and that recovery was of little probability. Fisk himself said that while he knew himself to be in a critical condition he thought he would get over it. According to one report Fisk on receiving the shot, in the abdomen fell on his back, and on being assisted to a chair, he walked to the reception room. Stokes it is alleged rode down from the Yorkville police court with his counsel, ex-Judge McKean and Assistant District Attorney Fellows. They got out at Fourteenth street, and went into the Hotel de Ville, where they had lunch they discussed the case, and agreed that it had broken down, and was sure to be dismissed by Justice Bibby. Stokes thereupon observed in an excited tone: "Is there any way to lead this man?"

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