

FAMOUS ROGER MURDER

Where Poe Got the Plot for a Famous Short Story.

BAFFLING GOTHAM CRIME

Details of the Most Puzzling Murder Case in New York's Criminal Annals—Pathetic Fate of Beautiful Mary Rogers—Attempts to Solve Riddle by Expert Criminologists.

The most famous murder mystery in New York was the case of Mary Rogers, around which Edgar Allan Poe wrote his famous story of Marie Rogêt. Mary Rogers was a pretty smart girl who worked on lower Broadway and lived with her mother. One Sunday morning she left home, and was seen later boarding a stage coach at the Astor House with a strange man. About a week later the body was found in the North River, opposite the Stevens Institute in Hoboken. Poe was living in Philadelphia at the time, but read the New York papers—at that time there were several flashy Sunday papers in New York—and from the clippings of these Sunday papers he wrote his celebrated Marie Rogêt, setting the scene of the murder in Paris instead of New York. That story and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" are the two stories that made Poe famous on both continents and established his reputation as a writer of detective tales.

His theory was that a young naval officer had gone with the girl to Hoboken, to the Elysian Fields which was not unlike the Coney Island of today, but without its large buildings, where people went on Sunday to drink beer. Poe's theory, as brought out in his story of Marie Rogêt, was that the young naval officer had assaulted the girl and choked her in a small boat that he had previously moored on the Jersey side, and that he rowed down the river, threw her body overboard and escaped to his vessel in the lower harbor. In justification of this theory Poe describes marks on her back as having been the imprint of the ribs of the boat where she lay before being thrown overboard. He also noted the fact that a boat was found floating in the bay about where the Liberty Monument now stands. That was generally accepted as the solution of the mystery.

Superintendent Byrnes, in his book on "The Criminal Cases of America," takes up the Mary Rogers case and puts another construction on the case—that she was accompanied by a dark man who came from Philadelphia and murdered her and then escaped.

The girl's body was found in the river nearly nude, but in a thicket on the shore of Hoboken, arranged with very dramatic effect, were found her belongings—hat, shawl, &c.—to give the impression that the murder had been done there. Some four or five years ago, writes William M. Clemens, I went to Hoboken and looked into this case. I found, fifty years after, that there were five living witnesses. I found one old gentleman who was a constable in 1842 and endeavored to make an arrest in the case. I found there was a roadhouse run by an old woman and her two sons, two rough, tough boys of the Bowery type, and it was proved by these witnesses that this girl had been seen at the roadhouse, justifying the theory both of Poe and Byrnes. But, going over the newspaper files, I found a small account of the finding of a man's body in the river off Fulton street without coat or hat, well dressed, as a dandy of that day dressed; and in further investigating the case and talking with these old people, I proved to my satisfaction that both the man and the woman were killed in the road house for their money and both thrown into the boat, and the girl's apparel placed in the thicket to attract attention. One of these witnesses was arrested on suspicion at the time, and afterwards moved West and disappeared. The other was drowned.

The Bachelors' Excuses.

At a June wedding breakfast in Pittsburg, the bachelors were called upon to give their reasons for remaining single.

The following were among the reasons given:

"I am like the frog in the fable, who, though he loved the water, would not jump into the well because he could not jump out again."

"I am too selfish, and honest enough to admit it."

"I prefer, on the one hand, liberty, refreshing sleep, the opera, midnight suppers, quiet seclusion, dreams, cigars, a bank account and club to—on the other hand—disturbed rest, cold meat, baby linen, soothing syrup, rocking horses, bread pudding and empty pockets."

"I have a twin brother and we have never had a secret from one another. He is married."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Windsor Chair.

Windsor chairs are thought by many to have derived their name from Windsor Conn., where they were made in Colonial days. In an article in Country Life in America, however, Mr. Walter A. Dyer states that they were of English peasant origin and were made in England before the first specimens from Windsor, Conn., were turned out.

The Badge of Honesty.

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Ceremony Under Difficulties.

Sir Frank Lascelles, our ambassador to Berlin, has had some exciting experiences in the course of his diplomatic career.

He was with Sir Edward Malet in Paris in 1870 during the siege and the Commune, and tells the story of an extraordinary dinner which they had at the embassy shortly after a cannon ball had driven in the front wall and reduced the kitchen to ruins. A general retreat was made to the cellar.

And here the two Englishmen solemnly arrayed themselves in dress clothes and sat down to dine in as much "state" as possible, amid a hopeless jumble of treasured bric-a-brac, valuables, clocks, china, &c., for not a scrap of the usual ceremony and etiquette was waived, despite the incongruous surroundings.—Tit-Bits.

Honduran Hardwood.

A railroad in Honduras which has just been opened to traffic as far as Celba, thirty-five miles, was built with creosoted pine ties from the United States. It is worthy of note that while creosoted pine ties are being shipped from the United States to Honduras, hardwoods are coming to the United States from that country. Americans are doing the shipping both ways. A tract of 8,000 acres in Honduras has been secured by an American company which will cut the mahogany and other valuable hardwoods and ship them to the United States.—Forest and Stream.

Citric Acid and Water.

Dr. Riegel of the Austrian army describes in Archiv fuer Hygiene a number of experiments with citric acid to determine its value as a sterilizer of water. The experiments were made with typhus, diarrhoea and cholera bacilli. A solution of 0.5 per cent citric acid was placed in shallow vessels. The cholera germs were killed in 15 minutes; the diarrhoea bacilli were killed in 5 to 6 hours and the typhus in 24 hours. When the vessels were placed in the sun's rays, the action was much quicker: the cholera germs were killed in 5 minutes and the typhus in 1 1/2 hours.

It is therefore probable, says Dr. Riegel, that the use of citric acid in water exposed to the rays of the sun in hot countries would be of great benefit in countries where the usual sterilization methods (boiling, ozonization) cannot be well employed, as is the case in most of the tropical and sub-tropical countries.

A Late Alarm.

"One of the most extraordinary sounds I hear in New York," said an early riser, "is the alarm clock that strike at 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning. I was born and brought up on a farm and my time for rising is 5 a. m. In the summer I not infrequently get up at four and am hard at work by 5. Some time along in what seems the middle of the day to me I hear an alarm clock suddenly begin to strike and keep whirring away as if to wake the dead. I never get used to it. I invariably think it had struck by mistake, and then I remember that it is just arousing some of my neighbors. What troubles me is how anybody can sleep so late with the fearful racket of New York dinning all around him."—New York Press.

Missouri's Eggs.

Missouri marketed 107,155,658 dozen of eggs in 1908, for which was received more than \$16,000,000.

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