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GAMBLE WEIR DIED OF POISON.

The Late Superintendent of Police a Victim of Foul Play.

DUG UP AT MIDNIGHT.

Evidences of Powerful Drugs Found in the Dead Man's Body.

HIS DISEASE BAFFLED DOCTORS.

Racked by Paroxysm After Paroxysm of the Most Intense Suffering.

A Remarkable Murder Mystery—Prominent Municipal Official Slowly Poisoned to Death—Valuable Jewels Stolen From the Corpse—Suspicions Aroused by the Rapid Failure of a Man of Vigorous Constitution—A Quiet Investigation Begun—The Grave Opened and the Stomach Taken Out—Result of a Partial Analysis—Significant Signs of Deadly Drugs—Following Up Clues That Are Expected to Lead to the Discovery of the Perpetrators of the Mysterious Deed.

Gamble Weir was murdered. The old saying, "Murder Will Out," has once more been forcibly verified, and, four months after his death, it is now known that the late popular Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Police Department was the victim of a foul and fatal plot.

The question is, Who was his murderer? It is known beyond a question of doubt that he was poisoned, and that the poison was administered in a careful, cold-blooded way that could have had no other probable intent than murder.

The suspicion that his death was not the result of an ordinary illness forced itself upon those who were close to him at the time of his sickness and during his last moments in various ways.

The attending physicians puzzled. The disease that seemed to be rapidly dragging him to death, yet they applied themselves to their science as they probably never had done before.

One day he would seem to be growing better of the supposed disease. The remedies administered seemed finally to be having some effect, and the puzzled physicians would decide that at last they had discovered the true nature of the complaint. But the next day their patient would be found to be in a worse state than before, and for two weeks prior to his death he had been ailing.

For a month prior to his death he had been ailing. To his friends he complained of stomach trouble. He could not eat, and when, at times, he would by sheer determination force food down his throat, it would not lie on his stomach. Just before Christmas his condition became such that he was unable to continue at his business.

Notwithstanding his desire to fulfill the duties which had recently been placed upon him as Superintendent of the Police Department, and his loathing to drop for a moment the lines which he had so firmly taken hold of, he was at last compelled to remain in bed for nearly a week.

The rest seemed to improve him somewhat, though not nearly so much as he had expected, and when he returned to his office a couple of days before Christmas he looked a wreck of his former self.

A Man of Vigorous Constitution. Gamble Weir had been a remarkably strong, vigorous man, and his rapid decline surprised all who knew him. His haggard appearance was remarked by his friends, who called numerously on Christmas day and in the week following to exchange the compliments of the joyful season, but his jovial good nature was just the same as it had ever been, and his cheery answer to all inquiries as to his health invariably indicated his belief that his illness was only a trifling affair and that he would soon be himself again.

Two weeks before his death Gamble Weir went home to his boarding house for the last time. He left his office at noon one day saying he felt so badly that he could not stand it for the balance of the day, but thought that after a rest he would be all right in the morning.

A Night of Fearful Suffering. That night his condition became very alarming. His physician, Dr. Frank McDonald, was sent for and spent the most of the night with him. It was not until daylight, after a night of terrible suffering and pain, that there seemed to be any relief.

When it finally came, the patient was completely worn out with constant vomiting and retching and fell into a heavy slumber from which he did not wake until evening.

That night he took a little nourishment and seemed better, and it was expected that a day or two of nursing would make him a well man. He continued to improve until the next night and talked of returning to his office next morning, but suddenly without any warning whatever he died.

That night his condition seemed with fearful paroxysms of pain. The symptoms of his previous attacks returned with aggravated violence. Dr. McDonald and Dr. J. G. McCandless were hastily summoned, but their labor seemed in vain, and it was feared that Gamble Weir would not live to see another day.

A Brave Man's Battle for Life. His wonderful constitution stood him in good stead, however, and he battled for life as only a strong, brave man could. The conventionalists returned to him the next

day, and two or three days elapsed before another attack came. When it did it was but a repetition of the others, the only difference being that each succeeding paroxysm left him weaker and nearer to his grave, and his physicians were puzzled and worried.

The day before he died he seemed as well as the first day he took to his bed, and the physicians who called at his bedside had no idea the end was so near. Shortly before 9 o'clock that night the alarming symptoms began to reappear. The physicians were hastily summoned, as they had been so often before, but their efforts were as useless as they had been in the past.

The Odds Were Too Great. Poor Gamble seemed to feel that he was fighting his last battle, and his eyes wandered beseechingly to the friends about his bedside, but they could do nothing against the unknown, insidious destroyer that was working within him.

Several fearful attacks of pain convulsed his frame, and he was racked with excruciating efforts to expel the black nauseous vomit which his stomach threw off, but finally the physicians watching saw him collapse as one of these spasms seized him, and before it had more than half passed over Gamble Weir was dead.

The circumstances connected with the interment of the dead Superintendent are still fresh in the public mind. Thousands of friends attested their love and admiration in many ways, and the funeral cortege which followed the remains to the grave was one like few men have been honored with in this city.

A Brother's Suspicion Aroused. County Commissioner James G. Weir, a brother of the deceased, a few days after the funeral, conferred with one of the attending physicians to ascertain if possible the cause of his brother's death. Mr. Weir had watched by the sick man's bedside for days and nights and felt satisfied that it was no ordinary disease that had caused his death. There was to his mind substantial evidence of poisoning, but it seemed strange that if such was the case the physicians had failed to observe it.

The conference only strengthened the belief. With certain features of the case pointed out to him the physician finally agreed that it was more than probable that poison had been administered, but it was decided that for the time being it would be best to give the matter no publicity and nothing was said about it except to a few interested friends.

The Case Shrouded in Mystery. The work of ferreting out the person who committed the crime was one of difficulty. Whoever had given the fatal dose must have covered their tracks well, for after several weeks of quiet investigation those engaged in the work were compelled to cease. They had followed up every clue that could be suggested, but every effort proved a failure.

In order to satisfy the friends beyond a doubt that suspicion was well grounded, the body in Greenwood Cemetery was uncovered, the stomach and spleen were removed from the decaying corpse and submitted to an analytical chemist for examination. His work is not finished, but it has been found that enough poison had been taken to kill several men.

The stomach had been literally eaten up with a violent poison of one kind, and there are evidences that another kind had been used. One poison was corrosive sublimate and the other is thought to be arsenic.

The chemist was not even informed whose stomach it was that had been submitted to him, and every effort was made to keep the circumstance secret until some one to satisfy the straw stake of the crime might be discovered, but lately the matter has become pretty freely circulated, and it looks now as if the guilty person may go unpunished.

CONFIRMED BY PFELL. He Says Gamb's Weir Was Murdered and Expects to Capture the Poisoners—How They Opened the Grave at Midnight—Cut Buttons Missing.

As Harry Pfell, Mercantile Appraiser, was formerly a secretary in Gamble Weir's office and one of the people interested in the case, he was visited for a confirmation of the story. When his home, on Sheridan avenue, East End, was first visited he was not there, but, later, when the reporter called, Mr. Pfell came to the door and the reporter was taken into the parlor.

After a short talk on general matters the reporter mentioned that the object of his visit was to get the story of Gamble Weir's murder.

"What?" exclaimed Mr. Pfell, and that instant he turned white and sank back into the chair. "What do you know about Gamble Weir's death?"

"Simply that he was poisoned, and that you, with Dr. Dickson and County Commissioner James G. Weir, dug up the body and found he had been killed by arsenic," answered the reporter.

"You seem to have it straight. Some one has leaked, and if the cause of justice is stayed the blame is not with me."

Then he suddenly turned and asked: "What all do you know about the case anyhow?"

Pfell Admits the Truth of the Story. The reporter then briefly related the story of Gamble Weir's sickness and of his sudden death, the suspicion of foul play and the subsequent digging up of the body by the people named above.

Then the stomach was cut out, and the body was analyzed and found enough arsenic to kill several people. At this point Mr. Pfell simply nodded his head.

"Who could have given this out?" interrupted Mr. Pfell. "Your story is straight. There is no denying that, but I am surprised at it having been given publicly."

The reporter continued and told how a sum of money that was in Gamble Weir's pocket had fallen into the fire and burned to cinders, and how he had been buried with a knife and stopped up the gaping wound with ashes. Scott is in jail at Brandon, and the negro one threaten to lynch him.

The cases had been presented to the grand jury by the District Attorney early in the morning, and indictments found against all the offenders on seven counts.

A Pittsburgh Firm's Name Forged. New Haven, Conn., April 11.—Another forgery by Frederick L. Thompson, who lies in jail awaiting trial on several similar charges, has just turned up. The victim is the New Haven firm of J. H. & C. O. Williams, manufacturers of this city, who disconnected a \$1,000 bond bearing the signature of a well-known firm in New Haven, Conn., and a copy of the bond was turned over to the

People are not slow to shoot at people on such occasions, and I felt sure someone would open on us with a shotgun. No, one come, and I am satisfied now that a grave-digger had a good place in person to be concealed. Weir was a great friend of mine, and to exhume the body seemed awful to me, but we finally finished the work and closed up the grave. As you say, we found his cut buttons were missing.

We took the stomach and its contents to Prof. Hugo Blanck, and he has been working on it ever since. Mr. Blanck does not know anything more about the case than this, and does not even know from what body the stomach was taken. His tests have proved the presence of arsenic.

"As the body was embalmed could not the presence of arsenic be accounted for in that way?" was asked. "No," replied Mr. Pfell; "the arsenic would not be in the shape in which it was discovered, nor in that quantity. I am satisfied Gamble Weir was poisoned and that the perpetrators may yet be arrested."

CHARITABLE FIGURES.

The Administration Leader Gives Out a Little Table of Predictions.

ADVANCE SHEET OF A VOTE.

The Cleveland-Pattison People Expect to Get 336 Out of 463.

QUAY'S BIG VICTORY IN MERCER.

Where the Junior Senator Beats Daizeil to the Tune of 8 to 1.

OTHER COUNTY CONVENTION RESULTS

PHILADELPHIA, April 11.—Prior to his departure for Harrisburg this afternoon, Secretary of State William F. Harris prepared a statement of the probable vote by counties of the delegates to the Democratic State Convention. The table is made up, in the first instance, with Philadelphia and Allegheny counties omitted; and Mr. Harris' statement shows that the State administration, or Cleveland-Pattison element of the party, will have a clear majority of the whole convention, even if the entire vote of Philadelphia and Allegheny counties should be cast with the opposition. The latter event is not likely to happen, however, under any circumstances.

In commenting upon the table Mr. Harris said: "The suggestions made by disappointed and disgruntled and defeated factious of the party that the Philadelphia and Allegheny county delegates may dominate the convention are absurd, and have been made solely for the purpose of exciting jealousy. However, the Democrats from the interior cannot be so easily misled."

Figures That Are to Be Verified. "The truth is that it is with them that Governor Pattison's administration is particularly strong, and they are the people who will give it loyal and earnest support. The figures I give you are entirely reliable, giving the support of this number of delegates, and they are likely to be verified when the convention meets."

The convention will contain 463 delegates, continued Mr. Harris, "and 234 will be sufficient to nominate and elect. The Philadelphia delegation will have at least 330 of the 463 delegates, not less than 237 of them having already volunteered their support. Of this number 233, more than a majority of the entire convention, are from the interior counties, thus leaving the 26 members of the committee, Philadelphia of their own, and to select and control the convention, regardless of the attitude of Philadelphia and Allegheny county delegates, with the State administration. It is highly probable that many of those who are now considered doubtful will also be found in the interior counties."

As to the Credentials Committee. "What about the Credentials Committee?" "From all I can learn," he replied, "it will not be possible for the opposition to secure a majority of the members of the committee. It is true that they have been industriously at work for three weeks past, and have been making all kinds of excuses and offering all sorts of excuses, and the members of the committee on Credentials, in order to deprive the regularly elected delegates from Philadelphia of their seats, and to elect those who have been elected fictitious contests. But their industry and enterprise will not avail them, as the State administration will not support them, and they will be defeated by a two-thirds vote of the delegates. It is not a fact that they have been the personal abusers of those who have not agreed with them, will not support them, and they will be defeated by a two-thirds vote of the delegates. The Quay element is strong here, and great harmony prevails."

QUAY'S FRIENDS SURPRISED. At the Way He Did Up Daizeil in Mercer by 8 to 1.

MERCER, April 11.—(Special.)—The primary elections held in this place to-night were almost equal to an election in number of votes cast. Mercer fell in line with the other counties of the Western district, and the Junior Senator's majority at 144, or 8 to 1.

This passed beyond the fondest hopes of the most sanguine Quayites. In East Mercer, Senator Quay had thoroughly canvassed the borough, and the result was a Quay landslide. In the South ward he polled 96 votes and Daizeil 7, and in the North ward Quay had 61 votes and Daizeil 11. In the West ward Quay polled 44 votes and Daizeil 3. In the East ward Quay had 33 votes and Daizeil 1. In the South ward Quay had 33 votes and Daizeil 1. In the West ward Quay had 33 votes and Daizeil 1.

Quay Makes a Sweep of Mercer. SHARON, April 11.—(Special.)—The indications from latest reports of the Republican primaries in Mercer county, to-night, are that Quay has swept the county by a big majority. Six wards in Sharon, on Senatorial choice, give Quay 423, Daizeil 30. Shenango township gives Quay 10, Daizeil 1. The same party carried all parts of the county. Dr. Caldwell has carried Sharon over 8-0. Koonce for Congress. The Senatorial choice in Mercer county will be Quay. The administration of President Harrison was warmly indorsed.

Harrison and Quay Indorsed. BETTEN, April 11.—(Special.)—The Republican County Convention which met here at 1 o'clock this afternoon was an interesting gathering. There was a large attendance of Republicans, and deep interest was manifested in the proceedings. The resolutions indorse Harrison and Quay, and also Phillips for Congress. The official vote of the convention was as follows: Quay, 2,377; Daizeil, 238. For National delegate Dr. S. Bell received 1,835 votes to E. E. Abrams, 1,145.

Quay's Walkover in Warren. WARREN, April 11.—(Special.)—The Republican County Convention met this afternoon. Delegates to National Convention Energy and T. B. Simpson carried the county. Energy having 1,188; Simpson, 938; Brown, 211. C. G. Thompson was nominated for Assembly, and Daniel Sheffer for County Judge. The administration of President Harrison was warmly indorsed.

Harrison Indorsed in the Seventh. NORRISTOWN, April 11.—(Special.)—The Republican Seventh Congressional District Convention to-day elected as delegates to the National Convention, Jacob Strassburger, of Montgomery county, and E. Wesley Keeler, of Bucks county. As alternates F. Howard Atkinson, and Daniel Sheffer were elected. The administration of President Harrison was warmly indorsed.

A Candidate Who Never Says Die. YOUNGSTOWN, April 11.—(Special.)—Although Judge King has secured 45 and possibly 50 of the 56 delegates, Matoung county will be entitled to the Congressional convention, Judge Johnson refused to withdraw and said: "I am a little disgraced but still in the race. No, I shall not withdraw at least at present."

PROPOSED CHURCH CHANGES. Columbus Methodist Ministers Have Several Requests to the General Conference.

COLUMBUS, April 11.—The Methodist preacher's meeting to-day adopted a memorial to the General Conference to enact legislation for the purpose of securing a more liberal and efficient system of church government.

AN INTERESTING GATHERING. Will the State Convention Surely Be Numerous Candidates Already on the Ground—Sure to Be Cleveland Convention, at Any Rate, the Elections.

HARRISBURG, April 11.—All signs point to a very interesting gathering of representative Pennsylvania Democrats at the State Convention, which meets here Wednesday. The convention will elect eight delegates at large to the National Convention, and will choose two candidates for Congressman at large and a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court.

Interest centers altogether on the eight delegates at large, and there are numerous candidates already on the ground. Many of the delegates arrived this afternoon, and evening cordials of the hotels are filled with men quietly laying wires for the election of their favorite candidates. It is rather an attempt to indicate who the successful candidates will be, but the selection of delegates to the State Convention is a matter of the State is generally conceded.

Six-Senator Robinson, of Scranton, arrived to-day. With him came on a special train a delegation from the counties of Sullivan, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne, Bradford, Wyoming and a portion of the Luzerne delegation. All are said to favor Mr. Robinson's candidacy for delegate at large. E. G. Scott, of Wilkesbarre, also here, accompanied by Senator Hines, and is making a good case for the home sought by Mr. Robinson. For the time being the Luzerne county delegation and those from other counties as well.

Congressman Reitzel is mentioned as the man who will probably be selected to preside over the convention. There are delegates so far from the counties of Philadelphia, Allegheny, Blair, Carbon and Franklin in places in the convention, being distributed in total membership of 463.

The gathering will undoubtedly be a "Cleveland" convention. Everybody seems to favor the indorsement of ex-President-elect's candidacy. There are many hints as to the anti-administration vote, but as a majority of the delegates have arrived to-night, nothing can be said as to their plans.

WALLACE ON HARMONY. The Ex-Secretary Sweeps Away the Cloud of Secrecy—How He Attempted to Unite the Factions That He Feared Were Splitting Up His Party—Now Undecided.

HARRISBURG, April 11.—Ex-Secretary Wallace, who will probably appear as substitute delegate to the Democratic State Convention, made a statement to-night with reference to various publications that appeared concerning the "harmony movement" recently held in Philadelphia. The statement is as follows: "In the beginning of March mutual friends brought together at the Aldine Hotel, Philadelphia, Messrs. Harris, Harris and John R. Reed on one side, and Messrs. Muehler, Guffy and myself on the other. The avowed object of the meeting was to endeavor to reach a basis of harmony, so that no contest will occur at the State Convention, if it were possible. It was then suggested by myself that harmonious action might be obtained by uniting on Governor Pattison as the candidate for Governor. The result was that we made a basis, and nothing came of that meeting.

The last of March I was asked by a friend to meet Governor Pattison, and I called on him. We had a pleasant talk over the situation, and he expressed his opinion that unless something was done to curb the bitterness that was being aroused we would be forced to a contest. He said that he would be dispirited by his administration. I said he could be made the basis of harmony, and we were agreed to call again. He asked what detail I had to suggest as a basis. I said, divide the delegates as follows: Harris, Harris and John R. Reed, or if he declines, I will leave the election of a national committee to the national delegation, and thus avoid the question of the Philadelphia delegates. He said that he would be dispirited by his administration, and I said that I would be dispirited by his administration. He said that he would be dispirited by his administration, and I said that I would be dispirited by his administration.

DRIGGS' BRIGHT EYE.

The Presbytery That Sustained Him in December Turns Him Down

IN A DELEGATE ELECTION.

A Practically Solid Set of Men Against the Doughty Doctor

FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

A Surprise Sprung by the Opposition and Worked Nicely.

CHARGES OF WIREPULLING FLY TRICK

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.) NEW YORK, April 11.—The New York Presbytery, which voted in December last to dismiss the charges against Prof. Charles A. Briggs, elected to-day a practically solid anti-Briggs delegation to represent the Presbytery in the General Assembly, which meets next month in Portland, Oregon. Charges were freely made that the result had been brought about by wirepulling, and it was discovered that a ticket bearing the names of the anti-Briggs men had been distributed among the members before the voting.

It was a very full meeting of Presbytery. Dr. Briggs' friends were there in force. President Hastings, Dr. Philip Schaff, Prof. Marvin L. Vincent and Dr. C. K. Gillett, of the Union Seminary, faculty, were present, and several Dr. Parkhurst found time to attend and cast a vote for Dr. Briggs.

The electioneering began almost as soon as the Presbytery had convened, at 10 o'clock. Seven ministers and seven ruling elders were to be chosen delegates, but nominations were made in the morning and posted up around the room, and both the friends and opponents of Dr. Briggs worked industriously to carry the day.

Briggs as an Electioneering Man. The ticket which the Briggs men favored for the ministerial delegation bore the names of Thompson, Hoadley, Rossiter, Smith, Brown, Spining and Eising. Dr. Briggs himself talked with one and another of the ministers before the voting, which began at 8 and was transacted. His friends worked hard to obtain votes among ministers and elders, both Dr. G. W. F. Birch, Chairman of the Committee on Prosecution, led the forces on the other side, and had considerable talk with the members every few minutes.

In the afternoon the members entered another of the rooms, and the vote on the system they proposed to vote, and this gave an opportunity for more electioneering on both sides. Dr. Briggs' friends were not to be outdone. Dr. Robinson got up to insist that the stated clerk should bring up the names of the representatives of the anti-Briggs men, and that other Presbyteries. With these three men out, the Presbytery would have been a mere rubber stamp.

"I must protest against such action," said Dr. Briggs, "before the meeting of the day, and I proposed to vote, and this gave an opportunity for more electioneering on both sides. Dr. Robinson got up to insist that the stated clerk should bring up the names of the representatives of the anti-Briggs men, and that other Presbyteries. With these three men out, the Presbytery would have been a mere rubber stamp."

The Doctor Sidelined on One Point. The Presbytery sided with Dr. Briggs on this point. Considerable excitement was caused among the Briggs men when it was found that the other side was industriously circulating type-written ballots containing an opposing list of names. Dr. Briggs' ministers whose names appeared on the ticket were Bliss, Lampe, Smecker, W. D. Buchanan, W. H. B. Sample, J. J. Sperry, The elders were Logan C. Murray, John C. Tucker, J. J. McCook, F. Blume, J. J. Stevenson, W. H. B. Sample, J. J. Sperry. The elders were collecting the ballots, Dr. Spiny said: "Is there any law by which a type-written ballot can be used? It ought to be cast out."

Dr. Atterbury wanted to have all the ballots cast out that were not written in pencil or ink. Dr. John R. Faxon, who had been waded through the room, got up in a state of considerable excitement. "I saw one of the tickets," he said, "and I saw the name of Dr. Briggs on it. I saw a ticket there is no way of stopping them. If they get up earlier than they do, they will have a chance to get the tickets, and I can say that it was as blue as Scotland."

Further delay was caused by an announcement of the seven ministerial delegates. The total number of votes cast was 143, and Moderator John C. Buchanan was elected on 102. The others elected on the ballot were J. D. Ramsey, R. F. Sample, J. J. Sperry, W. H. B. Sample, J. J. Sperry. The elders were collecting the ballots, Dr. Spiny said: "Is there any law by which a type-written ballot can be used? It ought to be cast out."

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A Practically Solid Set of Men Against the Doughty Doctor

FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

A Surprise Sprung by the Opposition and Worked Nicely.

CHARGES OF WIREPULLING FLY TRICK

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.) NEW YORK, April 11.—The New York Presbytery, which voted in December last to dismiss the charges against Prof. Charles A. Briggs, elected to-day a practically solid anti-Briggs delegation to represent the Presbytery in the General Assembly, which meets next month in Portland, Oregon. Charges were freely made that the result had been brought about by wirepulling, and it was discovered that a ticket bearing the names of the anti-Briggs men had been distributed among the members before the voting.

It was a very full meeting of Presbytery. Dr. Briggs' friends were there in force. President Hastings, Dr. Philip Schaff, Prof. Marvin L. Vincent and Dr. C. K. Gillett, of the Union Seminary, faculty, were present, and several Dr. Parkhurst found time to attend and cast a vote for Dr. Briggs.