

# AN OLD TRAGEDY RECALLED

Killing of Philip Barton Key by General Daniel E. Sickles.

## HISTORY OF THE TRIAL

It Excited World Wide Interest Because of the Prominence of the Parties Involved.

Established by the fact that a Husband Who kills the Destroyer of His Home Will Not Be Convicted of Murder—Mrs. Sickles' Fatal Beauty and the Man Who Met His Death as the Cause of It.

The marriage of Miss Sickles and Mr. Dayrell Crackanthorpe is announced.

It is impossible to refer to an event which so closely concerns General Sickles without recalling the memorable trial in which he was the chief actor.

That trial established for Americans the rule that a husband who kills the destroyer of his domestic happiness will not be convicted of murder.

General Sickles went further and established for himself the rule that a husband may forgive an erring wife without dishonor.

It was on Sunday, February 27, 1859, that Daniel E. Sickles shot Barton Key dead in a Washington street.

Sickles, whose career began in New York, was already a lawyer and politician of note. In 1853 he had married Miss Teresa Baglioli, daughter of an Italian musician living in New York. She was seventeen years old, beautiful, with the grace and fire of the Latin races in her figure and in her nature.

When Buchanan was appointed Minister to England he took with him as secretary of legation Sickles, who resigned the office of Corporation Attorney of New York City. He took his bride with him, and she was the admiration of the English, Russian and French courts. Her residence in London was an uninterrupted social triumph. She received most flattering attentions from Lady Palmerston, Lady Clarendon and other persons not only aristocratic but famous.

When Mr. Sickles returned to America he was elected member of Congress. He went to live in Washington. His house was in Lafayette square, then the centre of fashion. His hospitality was generous. His wife added charm to it.

In Washington the betrayer entered the Sickles' home. His name was Philip Barton Key, a name famous and honored in the land, for this one's father, Francis Scott Key, composed "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Philip Barton Key was District-Attorney for the District of Columbia. He was a brilliant ornament of Washington society. Physically he was tall, well made, and handsome. In old-fashioned parlance, they called him "a great ladies' man." It is a mild expression. He boasted that no woman could resist him for more than twenty-four hours.

Mrs. Sickles did not resist him long. She was the most tempting bait in sight for this bird of prey. He was much older than Sickles—almost old enough to be Mrs. Sickles' father. That fact caused him no shame.

The sinners were audaciously indiscreet. Their meetings became the talk of Washington. On February 24 Mr. Sickles had a dinner party at his house, after which he and his guests went to a dance at Willard's Hotel. As he was going out he received a letter which he thrust unopened into his pocket.

On his return home he read the letter. It was anonymous and revealed to him the relations between his wife and Key. It specified their meeting place, a house in Fifteenth street, between K and L streets, leased from a negro.

The husband sent an intimate friend to watch the house. He returned to confirm the allegations. Mr. Sickles accused his wife, and she at once confessed everything. She made a long written statement, in which she confessed without reserve all that had happened between herself and Key.

This confession Mr. Sickles laid before his friend, Mr. Butterworth, and asked his advice. As they were talking, another friend rushed into the room and announced that Key was at the moment making signals with a handkerchief toward the house.

The advice of Mr. Butterworth was: "If you are sure that this is common knowledge, there is but one course left for you. You need no advice."

According to the subsequent testimony of Butterworth, he then left the house. On the street he met Key, whom he greeted. He turned to leave him, and saw Mr. Sickles coming from his house. Mr. Butterworth then heard Mr. Sickles exclaim in a loud voice:

"K-y, you scoundrel, you have dishonored my house. You must die!"

Key attempted to hold Sickles, who freed himself and drew a pistol. As Key was backing away Sickles shot at him. Altogether he fired three times, wounding Key twice. The wounds were mortal.

Mrs. Sickles regarded her husband's action as the only one he could take. In letters to him she expressed the deepest admiration for him and contrition for her sin. He treated her gently, but took away her wedding ring and wedding presents. In response to a heartrending appeal he returned the wedding ring, but it was broken.

In jail Mr. Sickles received the visits of members of the Cabinet and eminent personages. President Buchanan sent

a message of condolence.

The trial excited world-wide interest. More than a hundred talesmen were rejected because they declared they would acquit Sickles. Mr. Stanton made the chief speech for the defence. He boldly claimed that it was absolutely necessary for the security of the home that a husband should destroy a man who so wantonly invaded it as Key had done in this case. Mr. Sickles wept copiously during the trial and betrayed intense mental suffering.

The verdict was "not guilty." It was received with thunderous and uncontrollable applause.

Then a thing happened which astonished the public even more than the slaying. Mr. Sickles took back the wife whose conduct had caused him to kill a man.

It appeared that he had frequently expressed his intention of forgiving his wife in case he should be acquitted. One great reason for this was his desire to save his innocent daughter from the consequences of her mother's error, as far as possible.

Mr. Sickles' action raised a storm of comment, largely disapproving. It offended against the moral code of many men who had applauded his act of destruction.

Lovely, broken-hearted and penitent, Mrs. Sickles survived only a few years the tragedy which her sin had caused. She left a daughter to the care of the husband, who had forgiven so much.

General Sickles lived to become one of the nation's prominent men. He fought through the war and commanded the Third Army Corps at Gettysburg, where he lost a leg. Since then he has held many offices and been concerned in many events.

To-day he is a conspicuous figure in New York life—rich, active in spite of his years; one of the regular first-nighters at theatres. But his greatest claim to human interest is that he made the rule that a man may slay the invader of his household.

### INHERITED A RIGHT TO GET DRUNK.

One Man in the World Who Is Better Off Financially by Drinking.

A young man in Chicago has been making himself conspicuous recently by appearing almost constantly in a state of intoxication. He is the only man in the world who may be said to have inherited legally a tendency to drink.

His name is Robert Atwater Sanders, of Alabama, and he is a grandson of Grover Sanders, Lawyer Paul P. Harris, of Chicago, is young Sanders' counsel, and knows all about him.

"In 1895 the grandson, my client," Lawyer Harris, "was engaged in business in Birmingham and failed. He had indorsed notes for friends to the amount of \$38,000, and these, together with his financial liabilities, aggregated an indebtedness of over \$50,000. He was sued on the notes and judgments were entered against him for the full amount. He was also sued for his business indebtedness, and, though he fought some of the claims, he was defeated in the courts. The grandfather failed to come to his rescue and refused to see or have anything to do with his grandson.

"When the grandfather died, a year and a half ago, he left his property, amounting to about \$200,000, to his grandson and granddaughter, my client's sister, in equal shares, but with reference to the boy there was a clause in the will that read something as follows:

"And if at the time of my death or thereafter the said Robert Atwater Sanders shall be drunken, dissipated or vicious or shall habitually drink to excess of wine, spirits or malt liquors, the said share in hereinafore mentioned property shall be held in trust by the said trustee, who shall pay only the income of the same to the said Robert Atwater Sanders during such time as in his judgment the said Robert Atwater Sanders shall continue to drink wine, spirits or malt liquors to excess or continue to be drunken, dissipated or vicious."

"Now you can readily understand Mr. Sanders' jags. If he is sober and industrious the trustee, who is an uncle of mine, at once turns over the principal and the judgment creditors at once jump in and gobble up pretty much all of his property. If, on the other hand, he is drunken and dissipated, he enjoys an income of pretty nearly \$6,000 a year. Anybody can stay very comfortably loaded on that and have money to spare."

**The Spanish Girl.**  
Speaking of Spanish girls, a correspondent from abroad has said of them: "Spanish girls are convent bred. Their education consists largely of acquiring the art of embroidery, which they learn to perfection. Early marriages among them are seldom happy, but the divorce is unheard of. People unhappily married simply separate and live out their lives as best they can."

**A Curious Frog.**  
There is a species of frog which dwells on the Western Tiers, Tasmania, whose voice resembles the bleating of a lamb. In the olden days a shepherd, hearing the sound for the first time, thought he had discovered a contingent of lost ewes and lambs, and followed the sound for some days, returning in rags and half starved.

**Royal Wedding Cakes.**  
Royal wedding cakes are never sent out until they have matured at least six months. The actual baking process lasts from five to seven hours. So great is the demand for cake on the occasion of a royal wedding that the makers have always a stock of more than 2,000 pounds in the seasoning room.

# BIG FARO PLAY IN DAWSON

How Nervy Jack Smith Made Gambler Simon Quit the Game.

## HAD \$7,000 ON THE QUEEN

He Lost it in Three Turns and Left the Table Without Even a Mugger.

Stud Poker and Faro the Favorite Games and Everything is on the Level—Roulette Is All Luck and the Bank at the Finish Gets All the Money—Very Few Quarrels in the Gambling Halls.

Old Forty-niners who hear and read gambling stories from the Klondike laugh at the smallness of the games reported from Dawson City.

In the old days on the Pacific coast, when San Francisco was "wide open," it was nothing for a miner to drop a fortune of gold dust in an hour or two, but in Dawson stakes don't range so high. That is why Jack Smith is now being talked of and written about as the nerviest gambler in the Klondike.

Every man out there is a gambler, more or less, but Jack Smith is a professional who does nothing but guess how the cards will come out of the box.

Not long ago Jack was chipping away in bets of \$5 and \$50 at Kirkpatrick's faro bank in Dawson getting poorer by a thousand or so nearly every deal. He had won out about \$10,000 the night before and when his lucked changed for the worse the word was passed along the row of faro banks that Jack Smith was up against it for fair.

Another gambler, known as Simon, concluded he would take advantage of Jack's bad streak and joined in the play at Kirkpatrick's. He followed Jack's play right along, placing his money to win when Jack played card to lose and copping when Jack played it to win. Jack's streak stuck to him and Simon was several hundred ahead when Jack got rattled at his persistent copping.

No man likes to be followed all over the table by another who bets the other way. So Jack was rolled and when Simon taunted him on his poor play, Jack turned to Kirkpatrick and asked:

"Tom, how much have I got in 'our safe'?"

"Oh, about \$6,000, I guess," was the reply.

"Shell it out," added Smith.

The money was counted out, and with what he had Smith made up \$7,000.

"Limit don't go this crack eh, Tom?" asked Smith.

"Pile it up," the grim man behind the box replied. "We'll cut a hole in the roof for you, Jack if the stack goes that high."

"Now, show up with your dust!" remarked Smith, turning to the man who had been taking advantage of his hard luck. There's \$7,000 on the queen, open confound you! Copper it for the same money, if you dare!"

Simon sized up his pile, thought a little and walked away. It was too much for him to go on one turn. Smith thought, let his money stay on the queen, and in three turns out of the box the queen was the loser. Smith never said a word and walked out to await another day when luck might be better.

In Dawson stud poker and faro are the favorite games. Smith considers that roulette is all luck, and he is extremely proud of his abilities as a gambler. But in the end, however, the bank always beats him; and the gentlemen who hang around the saloons and look innocent and friendly always come out ahead of him in the end by playing a cinch game of stud poker. All the houses, however, maintain that their games are strictly "on the level" and that they are joined together to prevent fraud.

There are few quarrels in the gambling halls of Dawson. Only once has a pistol been fired. The man who fired it took a boat down the creek that night without waiting for a hint from the police. The peaceableness of the mining town due for one thing, to the Northwest mounted police of Canada. Their powers are exceptional for maintaining order and they do not hesitate to use them. The government is liberal unless they are restricted.

**Pumice-Stone Boat.**  
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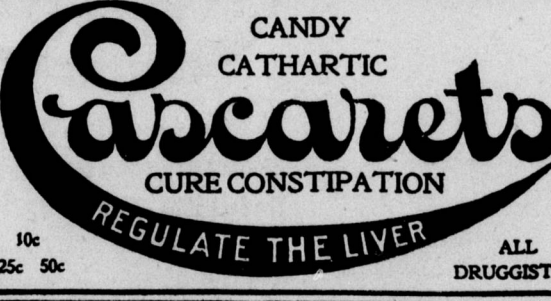
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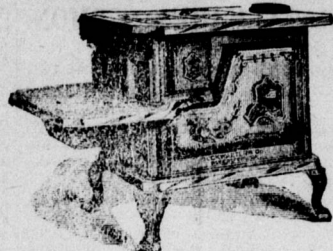
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