

The Hammonton Item.

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DEATH OF FISK

He is Shot by Edw'd Stokes At the Grand Central Hotel, New York.

At four o'clock p. m., on Saturday, James Fisk, jr., left Jay Gould and others with whom he had been in consultation at the Grand Opera House, and, entering his carriage, a vehicle known throughout the city for its gaudy finish, was driven to the Grand Central Hotel. He passed in by the ladies' entrance, and meeting John T. Redmond, the porter on duty, asked him if Mrs. Morse, a widow, who with her family and mother, have been stopping at the Grand Central for some weeks past was at home. Receiving an affirmative reply, Fisk proceeded upstairs. Seven steps up there is a small landing. On reaching this Fisk looked upward, and saw Stokes standing at the head of the stairs, leaning on the balusters. There was something in Stokes' right hand, but before Fisk could divine what it was, the hand was raised, and Fisk saw the muzzle of a pistol directed toward him. Before Fisk could utter a word or turn to fly, the weapon was discharged. The ball struck Fisk in the abdomen and passed inward and downward. The wounded man uttered the exclamation, "Oh!" and fell on the landing. He arose, and as he did so Stokes fired again, the second shot passing through the fleshy part of the left arm, a short distance above the elbow. Fisk staggered and turned partly around, as though with the intention of seeking safety in flight, and as he did so a third shot was fired. This missed him. Fisk managed to reach the foot of the short flight of stairs, where he fell.

ARREST OF STOKES.

Stokes did not pursue him, but turning, walked to the door of the ladies' reception room and flung the pistol upon a sofa. He then walked excitedly to the main staircase, leading to the hallway and offices on the lower floor. Meanwhile the shots had been heard by Mr. H. L. Powers, the lessee of the hotel, and he started in the direction from whence the sounds came. At the same moment Redmond gave the alarm that a man had been shot. Stokes had just made his appearance in the main hall of the first floor, and on hearing the outcry of the porter ran toward the rear of the house, evidently with the intention of escaping by the Mercer st entrance. He was seen by Powers, who gave chase, and several of the employees of the hotel joined in. Stokes ran through the barber-shop, came out again into the main hall, and when but a short distance from the rear entrance tripped and fell. He was at once seized, taken to the porter's bench, and guarded until Officer McCadden of the Fifteenth Precinct came in and removed him to the Mercer-st Police Station.

THE WOUNDED MAN.

Fisk was conveyed upstairs into Room No. 213, and placed on a bed. Drs. Fisher and Trifler, both of whom are boarders at the hotel, were almost immediately in attendance, and proceeded to examine the character and extent of the wounds. They were proceeding to remove his coat, but Fisk complained so much of the pain it occasioned him that the garment was cut away. The wound in the arm was comparatively a slight one, although it was bleeding freely. That in the abdomen was a much more serious one. The ball, a large one, had entered five inches above the umbilicus and two inches to the right of the median line, passing inward and downward. The probe, at a depth of four inches, failed to indicate its whereabouts. Both surgeons were inclined to think the wound a mortal one. Prof. James R. Wood and Dr. White were sent for, and on their arrival made a critical examination of the wound. They coincided in the opinion of the other doctors that it was exceedingly dangerous, and that the life of the patient hung upon a thread. There was a bare possibility that he might recover, but this chance was deemed so slight that it was considered advisable that his ante-mortem statement be taken. Messengers were at once dispatched for the Coroners.

STOKES IDENTIFIED BY FISK.

While waiting for the Coroners to arrive, Capt. Byrnes of the Fifteenth Precinct brought Stokes into the room to which Fisk had been taken; and the two men were placed face to face. At this trying moment Stokes's demeanor was that of a cool, determined man. He looked at his rival and victim firmly and unhesitatingly, his internal excitement being betrayed only by the nervous manner in which he struck his right leg with the small cane which he habitually carries. On placing Stokes at the wounded man's bedside Capt. Byrnes said:

"Col. Fisk, you see this man; was it he who shot you?"

Fisk, by an effort, raised himself on his elbow and answered:

"Yes, that is the man who shot me; his name is Edward S. Stokes, and I fully identify him as the man."

Capt. Byrnes turned to Stokes, who had said nothing during the dramatic scene, and saying, "You will have to go with me now," walked away with his prisoner to the Station-house, leaving the hotel by a private entrance, and exciting little observation.

ANTE-MORTEM STATEMENT OF FISK.

Coroner Young was the first officer to arrive, and he immediately impelled a jury from the gentlemen present. The usual oath was administered to Fisk, after which he made the following deposition:

This afternoon, at about 4 o'clock I rode up to the Grand Central Hotel. I entered by the private entrance, and when I entered the first door I met the boy, of whom I inquired if Mrs. Morse was in. He told me that Mrs. Morse and her youngest daughter had gone out, but he thought the other daughter was in her grandmother's room. I asked him to go up and tell the day-lady that I was there. I came through the other door, and was going up-stairs, and had gone up about two steps, and looking up I saw Edward S. Stokes at the head of the stairs. At once I saw that he had a pistol in his hand, and a second after I saw the flash, heard the report, and felt the ball enter my abdomen on the right side. A second after I heard another shot, and the bullet entered my left arm. When I received the first shot I staggered and ran toward the door, but noticing a crowd gathering in front, I ran back on the stairs again. I was then brought up-stairs in the hotel. I saw nothing more of Stokes until he was brought before me by an officer for identification. I fully identified Edward S. Stokes as the person who shot me.

JAMES FISK, JR.

After he had appended his signature to the deposition Fisk became faint, and stimulants were given him by the attendant surgeons.

The jury rendered the following verdict: We find that James Fisk, jr., came to his injuries by pistol-shot wounds at the hands of Edward S. Stokes, at the Grand Central Hotel, Jan. 6, 1872.

FISK'S ROOM GUARDED BY THE RING.

In the room of the wounded man there were gathered around his bedside and in the adjoining room a number of men prominent in political and financial life. Among them were William M. Tweed and Jay Gould, fellow-directors of Fisk; and David Dudley Field, counsel of the Erie Ring, R. M. Simons, Managing Director of the Narragansett Steamship Company, Mr. White, Treasurer of the Erie Railway Company, W. H. Morgan, Homer H. Lane, Mr. Barr, Mr. Hison and, others, prominent for their connection, in one capacity or another, with the Erie Ring. There was a gloom resting on the faces of all, and an evident anxiety as to the result of the shooting. From the first moment of the arrival of Jay Gould, who was brought from the Opera House by Fisk's driver, soon after he was shot, strict orders were given that none but those attached to the Erie Railway in some capacity should be admitted. Policemen were stationed at the various staircases, and no person was allowed to ascend without a pass from the clerk or proprietor of the hotel, and at the door of the wounded man's room another sentinel refused admission to those whom Jay Gould did not care to see. Tweed himself, once all-powerful, had to make his way to the bedside by the permission of the magnate of Erie. The room was guarded by the Erie Ring as strictly as that of the dying, and delirious James Watson was by the Tammany Ring leaders a year ago, and, probably from the

same fear that the dying man might, in moments of delirium, betray some of the Erie secrets which he shared.

SCENE AT THE DEATH-BED.

At midnight it was stated that a physician had said that Fisk's strength of will might materially assist his recovery, and the loungers accepted this as reason to expect his ultimate recovery, and commented on the capital which he might be expected to make of his misfortune. But the watchers, among them Wm. M. Tweed and Jay Gould, saw the fast-failing strength of the wounded man, and despite the hopes of the physicians, they saw unconsciousness and death approaching, and when Tweed left the room he seemed dejected. Jay Gould is reported to have watched silently but eagerly, and he too seemed to fear that death was nearer than he cared to own. Two physicians, Drs. Fisher and Trifler, remained with Fisk.

At 3 o'clock, Dr. Fisher roused his companion who was sleeping on the sofa, and together they used medical appliances to revive the patient's strength. At four o'clock, Mr. Fisk was quite unconscious and evidently dying. At 4 1/2 o'clock both pulse and respiration indicated approaching death, and the watchers, advised by the physicians, knew that nothing could save Fisk's life. He continued to sink steadily, and it was feared that his wife would not arrive in time to see him alive. But as soon as the dispatch announcing her husband's wounding was received, Mrs. Fisk had left Boston in a special train and arrived at the Grand Central at 7 1/2 o'clock Sunday morning, but although he was still alive, Fisk had not regained consciousness. He lay on the side of the bed, his wounded arm resting on a chair, and his wife took a seat close by and waited with great anxiety for a return of consciousness. At 8 o'clock a consultation was held by Drs. Wood, White, Sayre, Fisher, and Trifler, and it was then decided that nothing further could be done.

Besides the two physicians who had attended Mr. Fisk during the night, his wife, his sister, Mrs. Hooker, Col. Hooker, Jay Gould and Col. Fisk's mother, soon assembled in the room, and the intelligence was given them that death was inevitable. From this time, nine o'clock, until half-past ten Fisk failed steadily, and then the last dose of morphia was given him. At precisely fifteen minutes to eleven he raised his head, gasped twice, and was dead.

A messenger announced this to the crowd which had assembled, and the news circulated with remarkable rapidity. At noon the throng of people attracted to the hotel filled the lobbies, and would have made their way to the room where the body lay but for the guard of police placed at the foot of the main stairway. Some persons managed to obtain admission to the room, and saw the face of the murdered man as he lay in the rough coffin in which he had been placed. At 2 o'clock a private carriage was driven to the rear entrance of the hotel. The shell containing the body of Mr. Fisk was placed in it and taken to his residence at No. 313 West Twenty-third st.

WHO IS STOKES?

and what was the cause of his murderous act? will be asked by every reader. Like the MacFarland-Richardson tragedy there is "a woman at the bottom of it." Stokes is a native of Philadelphia, of Quaker descent, his family moving in the best society in the city. He is said to have amassed a fortune of \$250,000 in the oil business. He became connected with Fisk in some of his operations, and about a year ago Fisk had him arrested for fraud.

Various suits have been pending between these two men for two years past, and by complication with the affairs of the former mistress of Fisk, jr., had become vexed and expensive, and it was supposed that Stokes had become financially ruined. He had grown very bitter towards his rival, and had resorted to many means to ruin him, while Fisk himself had lost no opportunity to crush his enemy. As a last resort, Fisk lately attempted to get Stokes indicted as a felon, and the Grand Jury who listened to the complaints of himself and witnesses stood nine to two for indictment. Subsequently Fisk secured a rehearing and introduced other witnesses, and it is said, secured an indictment, the knowledge of which, received in some manner by Stokes, is supposed, though not known to be, the immediate incitement to the shooting.

HAMMONTON!

A Few Facts Concerning It.

Mr. Editor: When I came to this country, being in the winter season, the general aspect of the land had to me such a sandy and barren appearance, it was a long time before I could convince myself that the soil was good for anything; soils of the same general appearance being really good for nothing in the north British Provinces from which I came. After a few months had run their course, however, after the genial spring (which sets in here early in the month of March) had dispersed the chilling frosts of winter which are never very severe in this country, I found that the soil with all its sandy appearance was good for something; that in fact it very readily responded to a moderate share of cultivation and manuring; that everything had a very rapid growth, far beyond what I had witnessed in countries farther north with a heavier soil, and apparently much more fertile.

As already stated the soil here very readily responds to a fair amount of cultivation and fertilizing. It requires a little manure often, but not more in the aggregate than would be required in a clayey, heavy soil, to produce a good crop. And let it be always borne in mind that less than one half the labor necessary in working a heavy soil is sufficient here to make it yield successfully. One horse will till as much land in this place, as could possibly be accomplished in a different kind of soil with a pair of horses.

The land in South Jersey is principally adapted for fruit growing purposes, and in average good years more can be made from the soil in growing fruit than in any other way; yet it is highly adapted for farming purposes. With a considerable degree of culture and best living it can grow very good wheat, a first quality rye, good corn at all seasons, potatoes of all varieties. As for sweet potatoes both in quantity and quality, I should think they were unsurpassed the world over; the nature of the soil being such as to produce them dry and nutritious even at four weeks. In rare instances 500 bushels have been produced to the acre; and from 150 to 200 bushels generally be obtained.

Clover readily takes root in this soil. New land in its first year's tillage, by putting upon it from 20 to 30 bushels of lime per acre, will grow good clover with rye or any other grain. And this is the way in which large portions of farms in this place ought to be disposed of; because in the absence of sufficient other manures, the land by this method would soon fertilize itself. In this more genial climate vegetable matters ploughed down decompose in far less time than in countries farther north. In our North British Provinces green sod must be ploughed down the year before, in order that the first crop may get the benefit of it, but here decomposition is so quick that it is sufficient to plough and land, at the time of sowing the crop, and the full benefit derived therefrom is quite available for that crop.

Hitherto settlers in this region have given their chief attention to the cultivation of fruit, but although some years the profits realized in this way are greater than could otherwise be obtained, yet as a permanent thing, taking one year with another, it is thought that by laying out a larger portion of small farms in grass and clover, which would enable the farmer to keep more stock, would in the long run remunerate even better than the method first spoken of. The healthfulness of our climate in South Jersey is scarcely to be excelled anywhere. Having abundance of clear, pure water to drink, and a pure bracing air to breathe, and extremes of temperature being far less than in many other places, the mercury in winter very rarely going down to zero, and not being hotter here in summer than it is in the month of August in more northern countries, all these circumstances conduce largely to make this place healthy. Chills and fever in this central or inland part of South Jersey are scarcely known; and if brought here, very aggravated and long-standing cases of asthma have been thoroughly cured. Sufferings from rheumatism have been greatly alleviated. Chronic dyspepsia has been cured almost without number. For years before I came to this country I suffered considerably from dyspepsia, I had also weak lungs, which caused me to cough almost incessantly during the winter months; but now I can easily and candidly state that I have been cured of both. The improvement brought about in my health has by no means been accomplished by medicine alone, but by a pure and bracing air; by using freely the different fruits in their season; by vegetable diet, and other Hygienic measures. I conceive my health has been restored. Feeling grateful then to the land of my adoption for the many benefits it has conferred upon me, and desiring that many others whom it might suit to emigrate to this part of the world might be equally benefited. I have adopted this plan of giving publicity to these candid and honest sentiments. Candid and honest I wish to be, for I would be sorry to mislead any person by publishing and holding forth inducements to individuals which they were not likely to realize after coming here. I will therefore briefly state the classes of persons whom I consider would be chiefly benefited by coming to this place.

The class of persons whom I consider would be chiefly benefited by coming here, are: 1st. Those of some means who could bring some money with them, from \$2,000 to \$4,000 in hand, or a yearly income equal to the interest of that. This would be sufficient to purchase a comfortable home for them, and a little industry, knowledge and tact in farming on a small scale would ensure for them comfort and competency. 2d. Persons not enjoying very good health where they live and would wish to improve it. 3d. Persons who would regard their health rather than their wealth. 4th. Persons who would rather live quiet, easy lives with a competency, rather than toilsome, hazardous lives with the chance of breaking ones health or making a fortune. 5th. Those who wish to engage in a manufacturing business; rents and labor being cheap.

Fruit growing and farming on a small scale, although requiring constant attention, have nothing in them of the same toil and labor that is required in newly opened up countries to clear land and farm on a large scale. But I must not forget that it may so happen in this place when fruits turn out favorably, not too penny nor too scarce, which medium I consider is most likely to realize a good market price, as many persons have made and still may make little fortunes. There are many things to be had in the inland parts of South Jersey which cannot fail to make this place very congenial to the ways and habits of a large number of persons. The climate may be said to be almost temperate all the year round. Not only that the winters are never very severe, but there are other circumstances in connection with this region which ensure dryness of atmosphere, more genial weather and sunshine all the year round, than is to be found in many other countries. The land being of a sandy nature is very absorbent, so that let it rain all night or all day, or even for days and nights together, wet and moisture soon disappear. Mud and muddy roads, an unknown in this region, although they often prevail on the outskirts of the State and along the Delaware, which causes chills and fever to prevail at certain seasons of the year in those localities. What a fish boon is this of itself to be free from muddy roads spring and autumn which are so prevalent in other parts of the world.

Snow storms are never very severe or of long duration in these parts, and the weather generally is not so cold in winter, but almost every kind of labor can be carried on; not excepting even tilling and ploughing the soil. As a general thing whatever snow falls at night is melted away by the warmth of the sun before mid-day. Of sunshine we have a great deal here, even in the winter season, and the rays of the sun falling on the soil which is sandy, soon causes a very genial warmth to arise. How agreeable must all this be to persons who appreciate mild weather in winter. Persons, for instance, fond of gardening. Early at the very beginning of March, they may make their hot beds, not with a view, as in many other places, of the seed lying dormant for a month or more, but with a hope of its almost immediately taking root and growing rapidly; and gardening of every description soon follows. And then persons have a long summer of open weather before them (which although pretty hot at times is not more so than is to be found in more northern latitudes in the month of August.) This enables a gardener not only to produce one crop, but two if desirable.

And then of all places in the world this is the quietest and most peaceable. Although persons here, differ considerably both in religion and politics, yet there is this one thing peculiar, that one man so far recognizes the civil rights of another, that each may quietly sit under his own vine and fig tree, none having the power to make him afraid. Although few persons in this region now fence their farms or even their gardens, it is a rare occurrence that fruit or anything else is carried away. I could identify in many instances pears and peaches on trees along the very pathway, and allowed to come in maturity, then to be safely gathered by their owner.

Hammonton, which is 20 miles south of Philadelphia contains from 5,000 to 4,000 inhabitants in a compact township. This place abounds with neat cottages and well laid out streets, in many places beautifully ornamented with trees along the sidewalks. There are quite a number of eligible residences with small farms of from 10 to 20 acres for sale throughout the Hammonton tract. There could be bought on reasonable terms, suit almost every variety of purchasers. Hammonton, from its healthfulness and nearness to one of the principal cities in the States is destined ere long to become thickly settled. Persons can find good society and churches, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist, are represented.

I am very truly, W. SWANBY,
Late Minister of the Episcopal Church at Hammonton and Waterford.

