

TWO SISTERS.

Miss Julia Force Deliberately Shoots

Miss Florence and Miss Minnie Force.

The Dead Bodies Found In Pools of Blood.

Full Particulars of the Fearful Tragedy.

The Slayer Surrenders to the Police,

Leaving Her Victims in the House.

Miss Force is Said to be Insane—She Belongs to an Excellent Family—Latest Particulars.

and then started to look for Miss Julia. In Miss Julia's room, which is just in front of that in which the dead body of Miss Minnie lay, he found lying on the bureau a small hammer, with which he at once suspected that the crime had been committed. He examined it, but could find no blood on it.

FOUND A PISTOL.

He then observed a small pistol lying on the floor. He picked that up, and on examination found two of its chambers empty. Mr. Force, as soon as the officers arrived begged them to go and find his sister, Miss Julia.

FEARED FOR HIS TWO SONS.

"My God," he exclaimed, "go and find my sister. She is crazy. My two sons are both at the store, and she will kill them, too." The policemen assured him that Miss Julia was already under arrest. This seemed to reassure him.

IN MISS FLORENCE'S ROOM.

Miss Florence Force, one of the slain sisters, has been an invalid for some time. The position in which her body lay indicated that she had risen from the bed in alarm, and just as her feet touched the floor, had received the shot which made her a corpse. She was lying on her back across the bed, both hands clasping her bosom, in the attitude of fright.

Her eyes were wide open with the fixed death stare and her features were hard to recognize, so clogged were they with the blood from the hole above her ear where the 32 calibre ball had entered. She wore her sleeping robe only.

There was no evidence of a struggle in the room. The medicine bottles were in their places on the table by the bed, and all the other arrangements were those of the ordinary sick chamber.

WHERE MISS MINNIE LAY.

On the floor below, the first lay the body of Miss Minnie Force, clad in a house dress of dark brown, with her head bare. She lay at full length on her back with her arms extended behind her as if she had thrown them up as she fell backward.

POOLS OF BLOOD.

Blood had ceased to flow from the wound but it lay in great pools around her, was matted in her hair and covered her face, to which it imparted a fearfully hideous look.

As Miss Minnie's body lay, it looked as if she was advancing towards the door when her sister entered, pistol in hand, and had received the fatal shot directly in the face.

THE MOTHER'S GRIEF.

When the mother of the three sisters was bent over the dead body of Miss Minnie moaning and uttering exclamations of the deepest grief.

Mr. Force had been down town when the tragedy occurred and had just returned to the house to find two of her daughters corpses and the other in the hands of the law as their slayer.

MISS JULIA'S APARTMENT.

The room occupied by Miss Julia Force was a picture of neatness and order. The bed was neatly and freshly made, the toilet articles on the bureau were all in place.

The only indication of the awful crime that had been done was a pistol—the weapon which had done the deed, which lay on the bureau, in strange contrast with the delicate articles of feminine use with which it was surrounded.

THE FATAL WEAPON.

The pistol was a thirty-two calibre Smith & Wesson double action revolver. It was new. It had never fired other than the two fatal shots.

Where it had been bought is not known. The pistol in the hands of the police.

THE SERVANT TALKS.

The negro woman employed in the Force household as a house servant, told a Journal reporter what she knew of the tragedy. She said that Miss Julia had sent her to a store to buy a broom. When she returned, the bodies had been discovered. When she went for the broom, she left only Miss Julia, Miss Minnie and Miss Florence in the house. Mr. Force was down town.

She said Miss Julia showed no signs of excitement when she sent her away from the house.

She said Miss Julia had been out of her head for three or four months.

WANTED THE CHIEF.

Miss Julia Force, when she first appeared at the police station, asked for Chief Connolly.

She appeared to be perfectly calm as if she was merely there on important business.

When she said that Chief Connolly was at dinner, she asked that he be telephoned for.

She refused to say what she wanted or to tell her name. A telephone message was sent to the chief and while the station house was being called, Miss Force stood quietly waiting for him.

Chief Connolly said that he had been in the office until 4 o'clock and that he was then at home.

When he was called, he found Miss Force waiting for him.

comes," she replied.

Captain Wright took Miss Force up stairs to his room. In the meantime the news of the tragedy reached the station and the captain at once surmised who his prisoner was. He at once telephoned to the chief of police, who hurried to headquarters.

REFUSED TO TALK.

Mr. Force refused to talk to any of the reporters that swarmed about her or to any of the police officers.

She did not appear nervous, but had the appearance of one who was extremely weary and one who had long been unused to sleep.

THE CHIEF ARRIVES.

Chief Connolly arrived at headquarters soon after the tragedy. He hurried at once to the room where Miss Force was confined. She expressed a desire to be alone with the chief and the other officers present withdrew.

The chief was with Miss Force for half an hour. When he left her he had but little to tell the anxious seekers for information that thronged the corridors of the stationhouse.

WROTE A STATEMENT.

Miss Force was greatly exhausted and reclined in a rocking chair almost completely prostrated.

She talked to the chief in broken sentences and said very little.

She confessed that she had killed her sisters, but offered no explanation for the killing.

"I began a statement," she said, "of my relations with the family and the causes of my great trouble a year ago. That statement was finished today and it is now in the hands of a friend of mine and will be given to the public when the proper time comes."

"Who is that friend?" asked the chief.

"I refuse to say."

Many friends of Miss Force called at the stationhouse but she refused to see any of them.

DID THIS CAUSE IT?

It comes to THE JOURNAL from J. M. High & Co.'s dry goods store that this morning one of the dead sisters came to the store and requested that no more credit be extended her sister Julia, as she was irresponsible.

It is thought that the older sister learned of this, became enraged, and killed her sisters because of it.

FAMILY TROUBLES.

Mr. A. W. Force, one of the brothers, stated that his oldest sister had quarreled with her two sisters and that family differences were responsible for the tragedy.

THE MOTHER ABSENT.

The mother of the girls was absent from home at the time the tragedy occurred, and her family thinks that she too might have been one of the victims of the killing but for that fact.

WILL HOLD AN INQUEST.

The coroner has already gone out and will hold an inquest as soon as a jury is secured.

A STRANGE COINCIDENCE.

Last night about 10 o'clock a white man walked up to Ab Mayberry, the negro driver, who was on Captain T. E. Neal's carriage in front of the opera house, and said:

"Say, did you hear about those two people being killed on Crow street awhile ago?"

Ab told him he had not and the stranger went. When the tragedy occurred today Captain Neal asked Ab if he did not hear which he reiterated the story and said he could prove it by Oliver, a driver at Stewart & Bowden's, and Jim Montgomery, a driver at Jones stable.

LAI'D TO REST.

Special to The Journal.

ATLANTA, February 22.—This morning at 10:15 o'clock the body of the deceased lady arrived. A large crowd was in waiting, prominent among whom were Miss M. Buchanan, Miss Blanche Lipscomb, Miss Kate Buchanan, Dr. and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hill, Professor Buchanan, Dr. Lane and many others.

The Fullman coach drew slowly up to the orrising and the party alighted from the front end of the car. First came Capt. and Mrs. Harry Jackson, Gen. and Mrs. Henry Jackson, Miss Dr. Johnson and Mrs. H. H. Smith and Mrs. Parsons, who entered the carriage and drove away. From the rear end came a party of Atlanta gentlemen, among them being Mr. Ben Hill, Joseph Thompson, Peter Grant, Tom Payne, Pryor Bryant, Joe Cobb, Dr. Hugh Hagan, Ben Cravens and Captain John Millidge.

As the funeral procession proceeded, the pall-bearers, who were Mr. Ben Hill, Joseph Thompson, Peter Grant, Tom Payne, Pryor Bryant, Joe Cobb, Dr. Hugh Hagan, Ben Cravens and Captain John Millidge, carried the casket to the platform of the depot. The casket of the deceased lady was carried by way of College Avenue, Hancock Avenue, Parker Avenue, Prince Avenue, Hill Avenue and Millidge Avenue to Mr. G. H. Force's home. The funeral will start this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Mr. G. H. Force will arrive today at about 12:30 from New York, where he has been on business.

The funeral service will be held at the residence of Mr. G. H. Force, 1000 Peachtree Street, at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Interment will be made in the cemetery at 2:30 o'clock.

From Our G.

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TWO GRAVES SIDE BY SIDE

HIDE THE EVIDENCES OF A DARK TRAGEDY.

THE FUNERAL OF THE MISSES FORCE.

Two Ministers of Different Denominations Officiate.

One of the Strangest Funerals the World Has Ever Seen—Music and Flow- ers—The Scene at the House.

Two coffins side by side, heaped up with garlands and wreaths of flowers; within the caskets two pulseless hearts that had been stilled while they were beating with love for the very hand that slew them. There they lay, two sisters, and it was a sister's maddened brain which made them lifeless clay.

In the parlor of the Force residence on the corner of Crew street and Woodward avenue, the remains of Miss Florence Force and Miss Minnie Force had been robed and prepared for burial.

At three o'clock yesterday afternoon fully two thousand people were assembled in and about the home to witness the funeral exercises of the two ladies who had met such tragic deaths at the hands of a maddened sister. Some were there because they had loved the dead ones in this life; some to pay respect to the family in this hour of agonizing grief, and some were present to look at the awe-inspiring scene. So great was the crowd that a police officer was necessary to keep the street clear for the cortege as it moved away.

The two caskets in the parlor were near each other, that containing the remains of Miss Minnie, the younger of the sisters, was next to the window on Crew street.

Two ministers were present from different denominations, Dr. G. B. Strickler, pastor of the Central Presbyterian church, being present to officiate at Miss Florence's funeral, and Dr. T. C. Tupper, rector of St. Phillips parish, to read the burial service over the remains of Miss Minnie.

In their lifetime the sisters had both been active church workers. Miss Florence in the Central Presbyterian church, and Miss Minnie in St. Luke's Episcopal church.

Each minister of God sat at the head of one of the caskets, no one directing them, but by accident Dr. Strickler sat near that containing Miss Florence, and Dr. Tupper near the coffin in which were the remains of his parishioner. Dr. Tupper afterward remarked on the coincidence.

A choir had been arranged by members of both churches and the funeral services were opened by the singing of the hymn: "Lead, Kindly Light."

Dr. Tupper in a low and impressive voice, read the full Episcopal burial service.

When he had concluded, the choir began the singing of the old and beautiful hymn, "Jesus, Lover of my Soul."

As the sad and sweet music floated through the open casement, a hush fell upon the great throng on the sidewalk and in the street. There were tears on the cheeks of the women and the men bowed their heads in solemnity.

"Rose the song as some storm-tossed bird
Beats with weary wings the air;
Every note with sorrow stirred,
Every syllable a prayer."

Out upon the street a voice trembling and low caught up the sad refrain—a woman old and gray, whose heart had tasted of the sorrows of this life was singing "Let Me to Thy Bosom Fly."

When the last words of the hymn had been sung Dr. Strickler paid a tribute to both the sisters whose lives had been so suddenly cut off. He said that each had in her own church worked in the Master's vineyard. They had lived noble lives, and those who knew them felt assured that even now while their friends on earth were paying a last tribute to their memory, they were in the home of the Savior, and were joining in the anthems of the redeemed and blessed.

Dr. Strickler concluded his part of the services with a short prayer.

The services at the house were closed with the singing of "Nearer, my God, to Thee."

The first hearse, under the direction of Undertaker Patterson, drew up in front of the gate, and the casket containing the remains of Miss Minnie Force was borne out of the house and placed in it.

The first hearse moved away and the second took its place. The pall-bearers returned to the parlor and carried the other coffin from the home over which hung the shadow of as dark a tragedy that has ever been recorded in the history of the world.

A long line of carriages formed the cortege to Oakland cemetery.

Miss Minnie's coffin was first lowered into the grave, as the hearse containing it was in front.

The two graves were very close together, almost forming one sepulchre.

Dr. Tupper read the committal burial

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