

# BOTH MURDER AND SUICIDE

## A Prominent Man Shoots Woman and Himself.

### HIS ACCOUNTS SHORT

Was Madly In Love, as Is Shown by Letter Found on His Body—Members of Family Insist That He Was Insane.

(By Associated Press.)  
NEW YORK, September 2.—Henry Townsend Edson, son of former Mayor of New York, Franklin Edson, in his apartment at No. 222 West Ninety-second Street, to-day shot and instantly killed Mrs. Fannie Pullen, of No. 173 West End Avenue, and then shot and killed himself. The murder and suicide appear to have been premeditated, and followed a dramatic scene, in which Edson called upon Mrs. Pullen, a close and honored friend of his wife and family, to desert her husband and children and fly with him to another State. Mrs. Pullen, a very handsome woman, is said to have been the daughter of a United States naval officer. The double tragedy brought to the surface the fact that Edson, who was "compromised" by the fact that he had been suspected of misappropriation of funds belonging to the parish, and expert accountants are at work on his accounts. It was declared by those related with the family that Edson was financially distressed because of Wall Street speculations.

A Love Letter.  
Whatever may have been the precise cause of the tragedy, members of the Edson family insist that the man was insane. There are many indications that Edson was madly in love with Mrs. Pullen. On the body of the man was found the following letter:

"Mrs. Pullen—Trust John implicitly. He will always be a go-between and faithful. I know him thoroughly. He will tell you where I am waiting for you, to see your sweet face once more before I go. I am going far, far away, but will die true to you. No matter how long I live, I shall lead a new life and an honest one, and if I can ever come back to you with my past cleaned up, I will, dear. O. my God! let me see and speak to you once more. I cannot go until you do. I hope and pray that you will die in to-day's personal. Anyway, I answered it. In to-morrow's I hope you see it. I cannot sleep. I can only pray and pray that you will come to me once more. Surely you will after all you have been to me. The past ten years. You do love me, darling. I know you do. Come to me once more, darling. If only to say goodbye. I shall wait here until you see me, no matter how long. John will tell you my home name. Ask clerk for me."

The Personal.  
The following "personal" was published in a morning newspaper yesterday:  
"B. Loyal—Nothing in answer to message: be good to me; worried about you; I hope and pray that you will die in to-day's personal. Anyway, I answered it. In to-morrow's I hope you see it. I cannot sleep. I can only pray and pray that you will come to me once more. Surely you will after all you have been to me. The past ten years. You do love me, darling. I know you do. Come to me once more, darling. If only to say goodbye. I shall wait here until you see me, no matter how long. John will tell you my home name. Ask clerk for me."

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Where No Happy.  
The life of the couple had not been happy. Edson had been acting in a peculiar manner. For that reason furniture movers were in the house packing up furniture and bric-a-brac.

Mrs. Edson spent last night with her mother. Mrs. Pullen was about to go out this morning, when a note came from Edson, asking that Mrs. Pullen accompany his wife to where he was. Edson, his wife, Mrs. Pullen and Dr. David O. Edson, a brother of Edson, met in Edson's home. During the night Mrs. Pullen turned away from Edson and he followed her. Edson, after sharply rebuking his brother, left the room with Mrs. Edson, but both returned in a few minutes, when Edson again turned to Mrs. Pullen and began to entreat her to elope with him. Mrs. Pullen, who was in a state of confusion, and possessed with fear of the man, ran out of the room. Edson, however, seemed to recover his self-possession, and went into the dining-room again. A very few moments after, Mrs. Edson, who was weak and trembling from the shock, was assisted to another room by Dr. Edson. A moment later, according to Woods, a furniture man working nearby in the hallway, Edson pulled a revolver from his pocket, and pointing it at Mrs. Pullen, shouted: "You must go with me. If you don't elope with me I'll see that you go with me anyway!"

Four Shots.  
In terror, Mrs. Pullen started to run from the room. She had gone but a few steps when four pistol shots rang out in quick succession. The first bullet tore Mrs. Pullen's left cheek, and the second entered the right side of her head. According to Woods, Edson looked at the woman for a moment, and then turned the muzzle of the revolver to his head, firing two shots almost simultaneously. Both entered about the middle of the forehead, and he fell, his head striking the floor, resting on the feet of Mrs. Pullen's body. At the first shot Dr. and Mrs. Edson

rushed to the door of the room, reaching there just as Edson fired the shots which ended his own life. Mrs. Edson fell to the floor in a faint.

Coroner Jackson, after making a thorough examination of the house, said that the evidence showed that the murder and suicide were premeditated; that he had found letters and other papers which Edson's possession which showed that he had a love affair.

Mr. Pullen, the husband of the murdered woman, who is a vestryman of St. Michael's Church, made a statement to-night, in which he branded Edson as a defaulter and forger, and said that he had stolen from the funds of St. Michael's Church. He also declared that Edson had attempted to kill Mrs. Edson, but missed and killed Mrs. Pullen by error.

Very Close.  
Mr. Pullen's statement was not borne out by the investigation of Coroner Powell. O'Hanlon, who found powder marks on the left side of the woman's face, showing that the pistol must have been held very close.

Dr. Cyrus Edson, a brother of the suicide, said to-night that the intimate and improper relations between the brother and Mrs. Pullen were absolutely false. His brother, he said, had recently been acting very strangely and had admitted that he was involved in financial difficulties.

His family, Dr. Edson said, had become alarmed over his mental condition, that arrangements had been made to have him examined by an alienist.

The shooting, Dr. Edson declared, was undoubtedly committed in a moment of mental frenzy.

MURDER NOT MADE  
Colored Insurance Company to Increase Stock Greatly, However.

The stockholders of the American Beneficial Insurance Company, a colored organization, with home office in Richmond, held their first annual meeting at the Hotel Richmond, to-day.

The capital stock of the company is \$25,000 at present. About nine per cent of the stock is owned by the colored members of the board.

Adolphus Humbles, of Lynchburg, one of the wealthiest negroes in the State, is president of the company. Other members of the board are: Robert Anderson, of Richmond; W. H. Watkins, Richmond; E. A. Washington, and A. D. Price, Richmond. During the past year \$6,000 passed through the hands of the company.

Officials representing a number of colored financial organizations of the country were present and spoke in favor of or against merging all the colored insurance companies of the country. No decisive action was taken.

The board as now constituted will meet next week for reorganization. It is expected that the present officers will be re-elected. Rev. W. F. Graham is president.

MR. LANG DEAD  
Well-Known Merchant Who Had Lived Here Many Years.

Mr. Solomon Lang, a native of Germany, but for many years a resident of this city and a merchant, died at 12:40 o'clock this morning at the family residence, No. 313 North Second Street, after a brief illness; aged seventy-seven years. Mr. Lang was a native of Galligen, Baden, Germany, but has resided in this country for the greater portion of his long life. He was taken ill on Sunday morning and grew gradually worse until his death this morning soon after midnight. Mr. Lang had retired from active business some years ago, but he had been in the old business of his long life. He was survived by his wife and eight children, viz.: Messrs. H. L. Monroe, Albert, Joseph and Adolph, and Misses Fannie, Bertha and Dora Lang.

Arrangements for the funeral have not yet been completed, but will be announced later.

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