

# EVELYN THAW'S RECITAL OF HER LIFE STORY

Tells of Plots Hatched by Stanford White to Separate Her from Lover

Declares He Tried to Resume Old Relations After Her Return from Europe, and Even After She Was Married He Continued to Annoy Her—Her Tale Will Be Resumed on Monday—Court Room Crowded With Men and Women.

New York, Feb. 8.—Evelyn Nesbit Thaw today again the central figure at her husband's trial. She was still on the stand—her direct examination unfinished—when the usual weekend adjournment until Monday morning was taken.

Picking up the threads of her life story before she had dropped them the evening before, she declared, telling her story just as she had related it to Harry Thaw from time to time—brought the narrative down to her wedding in Pittsburgh, on April 4, 1905, and their return to New York following a honeymoon trip in the west. She declared she had heard White call to her on the street once after this and that on another occasion when she passed him in a cab she noticed his cab turn around and follow her in the direction of a doctor's office where she was going to have her throat treated.

Mrs. Thaw had taken up the story at the time of her trip from Europe in October, 1905, following her refusal of Thaw's offer of marriage on the grounds which she related yesterday. On Monday she may be called upon to finish the relation of the events which, it is claimed, brought on the explosive impulse in the diseased brain of the defendant and caused the killing of Stanford White.

## Says White Pursued Her.

While today's testimony was lacking in the vital personality which made yesterday's recital so dramatic, so compelling, so convincing and so full of revelations, she claims to have made to her husband. There were repetitions, too, at the suggestion of counsel, and incidents which had not been gone over in the first years of Mrs. Thaw's acquaintance with Stanford White were brought out in completion of the life story.

District Attorney Jerome, who had throughout silently listened to the young wife's statements, sent a thrill of excitement through the court room in the day by jumping to his feet and vigorously protesting against "this defamation of the dead."

"Is there no limit," he exclaimed, "to the aspersions that are to be cast upon this man? Your honor knows I cannot, under the law, controvert any statement made by this witness, but I cannot allow this witness to make any statement which is a defamation of the dead."

"Tenderloin Tattle," Says Jerome.

In tones bitterly sarcastic, Mr. Jerome spoke of "this tattle of the Tenderloin" and declared that the court had the right to limit such testimony "until competent evidence has been adduced here to show that this man is, or was, of unsound mind." "We don't know," he concluded, "whether or not this man was insane."

The question which called out the vehement protest from the district attorney was addressed to Mrs. Thaw by Mr. Delmas and its purport was whether or not Harry Thaw had at any time told her about "other girls who had met a fate similar to yours at the hands of this man." "What man?" snapped Mr. Jerome.

"Stanford White," replied Mr. Delmas with the calmness of voice and manner characteristic of him, and then he added still in the same low tone: "Who else?"

Justice Fitzgerald held that the district attorney's suggestion was a good one and he thought the defense should lay broader foundation to show insanity before proceeding along the lines suggested by Mr. Delmas' question.

"We will proceed to do so as soon as possible," announced the attorney.

**White Persistent.**

Mrs. Thaw declared today that Stanford White, during the year which followed her experience in the room of the mirrored walls, repeatedly sought to have her visit him alone.

"I told Harry," she said, "that Mr. White had begged me, had pleaded and cried and scolded and done everything he could to make me come to see him alone. I refused and he told me I was cruel and that I was as cold as a piece of ice and a human being. I told Mr. White I didn't care to trust him."

After her return from Europe and during the months she would spend with Harry Thaw because of the dreadful things Mr. White and his friends told me about him," she declared Thaw accused her of improper relations with the architect.

"I told him it was a lie and that I had not," she testified, with an emphatic tone of feeling.

The defense had Mrs. Thaw tell of another incident which has been cited in her life—her acquaintance with "Jack" Barrymore, the actor. Mr. Barrymore was in the court one day during the early part of the trial, at the instance of the district attorney it was said. Mr. Delmas asked Mrs. Thaw today to tell what she had told Mr. Thaw of her acquaintance with the actor.

**Barrymore Wanted to Marry Her.**

She said she had first met Barrymore at a party given by Stanford White, the year following her introduction to the architect.

"I thought him very nice," she frankly said today, "and one day at Mr. White's studio he said 'Evelyn, will you marry me?' I said: 'I don't know.' He asked me a second time and again I said 'I don't know,' and everybody laughed. Mr. White told me I would be very foolish to marry Mr. Barrymore and my mother said so, too, and we all quarreled and the upshot of the whole thing was that Mr. White said I ought to be sent away to school, and I was to New Jersey."

After leading the witness to tell, in chronological order, of the incidents of her wedding with Thaw in Pittsburgh, Mr. Delmas asked her if she had seen Stanford White after her return to New York from the honeymoon trip.

I passed Stanford White one day on Fifth avenue. I was in a cab and he saw me and I heard him say: 'Evelyn,' just like that, and Mrs. Thaw raised her voice as if to call someone.

"I went back to our hotel and told Harry and he said: 'That dirty blackguard. He had no right to speak to you.' The next time I saw him I was driving him to Dr. Delevan's office to have my throat

## MR. JEROME, AS CROSS-EXAMINER, HURLING HIS BOMBS AT DR. C. J. WILEY.



Appearing as an alienist, Dr. C. J. Wiley, a physician, of Pittsburgh, was mercilessly grilled by the district attorney, who scored point after point against the man who it was sought to show was irresponsible when he shot and killed Stanford White.

ceitful, money-grasping, smooth-tongued, hard-hearted but soft speaking professional deceiver."

In the letter were also the words: "If I wished Evelyn to become mistress of my house, I would have to have chairs, but through them have been drawn a line."

"Did the 'he' in the letter refer to Mr. Thaw?" Did he speak of himself thus in correspondence? asked Mr. Delmas.

"Yes, sir," replied the witness. The letter and a small magnifying glass were passed to the jurymen, who spent some time examining the paper.

The next letter read by Mr. Delmas was very brief and was written by Thaw after reaching New York.

"Dear Longfellow: Enclosed find check, send — a \$10 bill (always clean) in first typewriting to morning. Send \$50 to Mary. Thank you more than ever, which is a great deal. I have nothing to live for."

"H. K. LAWYER."

The next letter contained the words: "Slept seven hours when I saw many Pittsburghers on the train. Mr. and Mrs. George Carnegie should be your loving sister and brother-in-law."

"I am so glad the Duse dress is pretty for you. I wish I always knew you would wear it first for me. I have something important to tell you when I see you."

I saw all through it. I believe you are hypnotized, but I know it is not your fault and you meant no wrong. I want you to know I shall never hurt you. You know I never lie. I give you my sacred word that by the hope that there is that heaven above your pure soul shall go through things without Stanford White."

The defense endeavored to get into evidence today the wills of Harry Thaw and Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, executed the night of their wedding in Pittsburgh. There were many incriminations, additions and erasures that Justice Fitzgerald held the documents were not admissible until the changes were proved.

Mr. Hartridge, of Thaw's counsel, said after court adjourned today that Mrs. Thaw would go on with her direct examination Monday morning.

Just what will be the nature of District Attorney Jerome's cross-examination when he takes the witness is mere conjecture. It is said he may try to establish that she had the ability to remember other things as well as she had the story she has declared she told Harry Thaw from time to time.

## Mrs. Thaw Resumes Story.

Justice Fitzgerald took his place on the bench at 10:35 and Thaw was called to the bar. The defendant, for the first time since the trial began, had lost the spring in his step, and instead of walking briskly to his place at the table of his counsel, he moved hesitatingly and looked constantly from left to right about the court room.

The big crowd seemed to annoy him. His pale face broke into a faint smile, as he recognized his brother, Edward Thaw, who was the only member of the family in court.

"Call Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw to the stand," requested Mr. Delmas of the clerk. When she took her place in the big witness chair she was dressed precisely as yesterday. She was very pale and her lips trembled as she answered the first simple question asked by her counsel.

This was after Mr. Delmas stated that before any oral testimony was taken he would continue to read the postscript of the last letter offered in evidence yesterday. The letter was addressed to Attorney Longfellow.

The postscript follows: "No one could have made me believe since I first saw her that she would show anyone except me, whom I first thought she cared for, any letters. It is true, that after trusting each other, no hypnotism can make you forget all, but it is inexplicably sad."

Mr. Delmas' first question to the witness was as to whether or not the "He" in the letter referred to the witness.

"Yes, sir," came the tremulous reply. The letter continued: "I have been asked not to have anything to do with you because you are a dangerous woman. He never lied to you. From the first time he ever saw you he wanted to do his best for you to send you to school in Paris with your mother or to send you both to school and he never did anything not respectful."

"To make you sure I'll explain. After I saw the poor ill-advised angel I was so sorry, she meant to do right and was right had she only kept the purest thing from pollution, lying, double-minded, de-

pire." It then continued: "You have lost all faith now when I've gone so broke to please you. You know I have always loved you the most. I have always been honest and trustworthy with you. Let your heart feel that there is faith. You ought to know something now of what faith is — of my being faithful until death and beyond. You begged me not to, so I have seen no ladies except — by accident. You have in three weeks gotten a dangerous reputation as for telling scandal, true or false. Take back about clean O. R. How would you like without my asking — When someone got you to say so, not someone you knew, some stranger perhaps. They also say you are going to pieces and in six months you will be in the gutter mentally or morally and dishonor your mother and family. How much it must mean if your mother trusts your friends who robbed you of your birthright as a young lady and made your father's name a by-word. If you only had let me save you before you were six teen. Follow these words through where a pen was drawn."

"He never would dare."

"The letter continues—'It would never have been told; I would have just acted as a friend you know, and my family would have rejoiced and said nothing. These stories about morphine, I have not used any of in my life. I never lie to you.'"

It was evident from this letter which was sent to Attorney Longfellow to be delivered to Evelyn Nesbit, had been written subsequent to the interview with the girl at the Hotel Navarre after their return from Paris in 1903. At this interview the girl told him of the stories she had heard about him and said she would not see him alone. The letter, which in places was blurred and had to be inspected with a magnifying glass, went on: "In October, 1903."

"Did you ever tell him?" "Oh, yes."

"When did you arrive from Europe?" "In October, 1903."

Mr. Jerome wanted to know what time of the month. Mr. Delmas put the question.

"It was near the end of October, I think. I am not certain."

"When did you tell Mr. Thaw?" "It was early in 1904—in January."

"Phase relate what you told Mr. Thaw." "He asked me how I came to speak to Stanford White after my return from Europe. I told him I was driving down Fifth avenue one day in a handsome cab with my maid and we passed Stanford White. I heard him exclaim: 'Oh, look at Evelyn.' A few days later I was called to the phone and it was Mr. White. He said: 'My, but I'm glad to hear your voice again,' and said he wanted to come and see me. I told him I could not see him. He said it was important that I should see him at once. He said he had had much trouble with my family, and mother me. I asked him if my mother had been ill. He said it was a matter of life and death; he could not tell me over the telephone. So he came to see me at the Hotel Savoy. When he came in he tried to kiss me, but I did not let him. He asked me what was the matter. I told him to sit down and asked him again if my mother was ill. He said 'no,' and once began to talk about Harry Thaw. He told me that different actresses had told him they knew Harry Thaw. He said presently that Harry Thaw took morphine and asked me why I went round with a man who took morphine. He said positively that Harry Thaw took morphine, that he was not even a gentleman, and that I must not have anything to do with him. After that he came constantly to see me. He also sent people to me who told me stories about Mr. Thaw. The first I told yesterday. I told Mr. Thaw afterwards that these stories worried me so much I could not sleep nights. I got very nervous when I knew Mr. Thaw was coming over, and I didn't want to see him. I told Mr. White I didn't want to see Mr. Thaw."

"One day Mr. White telephoned me that he was going to send a carriage for me and I was to come to Broadway. I did so and White met me and got into the carriage. He said he was waiting to see the Hummel, the greatest lawyer in New York, who would protect me from Harry Thaw. He said I was not to be afraid of Mr. Hummel, he was a little man with a big bald head, warts on his face and was very ugly."

"When I got to Mr. Hummel's office White went away. Mr. Hummel's office walls were covered with photographs of actresses with writing on them. He asked me how I came to go to Europe with Harry Thaw, and I told him that I didn't care so much for him I would marry him, but I was doing what I did for his own sake."

"Did Mr. Thaw, when you were in London, tell you to see the Countess of Yarmouth?" "Yes."

"And how were you received?" "Very kindly."

"Mr. Thaw told me," she said, replying to a question, "that his family would welcome me. He was several times in Pittsburgh Mrs. Thaw said she visited New York."

"The first time I saw Stanford White after my marriage," resumed Mrs. Thaw, "was on Fifth avenue. I was driving in a cab, and as I passed, I distinctly heard him call out 'Evelyn,' but I did not reply. I went back to the hotel and told Mr. Thaw."

"How was he affected?" "He made me promise never to speak to Stanford White and to tell him whenever I saw him."

"When did you next tell Mr. Thaw that you had seen Mr. White?" "Some time later. It was on Fifth avenue again. I was in a handsome and was going to see Dr. Delevan about my throat. He was also in a hansom, and we passed. He did not speak, but stared and stared. As I got out of the cab I saw Mr. White's hansom turning into 33rd street. I went upstairs to the doctor's office, but I was so nervous I couldn't stand so I ran down again, got into the cab with me on looking to the right or left and drove back to the Hotel Lorraine, where I told Mr. Thaw. He was greatly excited. He walked up and down and bit his nails."

"Why did White send you to school?" "He knew that his attentions to me were hopeless. Time and again he asked me to go to his office or his studio or see him, but I refused. He said I was as cold as a fish, and that I wasn't a human being, but I still said no. About this time when I was in the 'Wilders' Company Mr. White gave a dinner and I was invited. I thought he was very amusing. I used to wait at our stage door for someone, I don't remember whom, and I used to see him and speak to him. One night he asked me to go to a party with him. He said 'I had, but I couldn't see what

that had to do with it. Mr. White also called me up and said if I wasn't willing to help in every way they couldn't protect me from Mr. Thaw. He said I must do just what Mr. Hummel said, so I made the letters up in a bundle and took them down to Mr. Hummel's office. He said he did not want to read them, but he did not care what they contained. He asked, however, if they were love letters, and I said 'yes.' He said he just wanted to hold them over Harry Thaw for breach of promise. I said that if there was any breach of promise it was on my part. Mr. Hummel said a breach of promise would be a fine advertisement for me. I told him I didn't care for that kind of advertising. Lots of actresses had done the same thing, and he explained that he had won lots of cases for them. He declared he could easily win a suit for me. I said I did not want to sue anybody. This made Mr. Hummel very mad, and angry, and he told me I was foolish."

"What more did you tell Mr. Thaw?" suggested Mr. Delmas to give the girl witness a breathing spell.

"Mr. Thaw asked me if I had signed anything in Mr. Hummel's and I said I had not. He said that was funny for if I wanted a cause I could not have signed anything. I said I had signed absolutely nothing in Mr. Hummel's office."

"Mr. Thaw said Hummel was a shyster and I asked him what that meant. He said Mr. Hummel was a disreputable man and no decent lawyer would have anything to do with him, that he was a black-maller."

"What happened next?" Mrs. Thaw said a reputable lawyer came to see her. She was not allowed to state the name but it was generally understood to be Mr. Longfellow, the Thaw family attorney.

"He came," she continued, "and told me Mr. Thaw would soon be here and wanted to know what I was going to do. I said I wasn't afraid of Mr. Thaw and that I had been to see Mr. Hummel. He asked me what in thunder I had done that for. I said Mr. White had taken me to see him."

"He then asked me if I had retained Mr. Hummel. I said no, that he was Mr. White's lawyer, and that Mr. Hummel said that he was one of the cleverest lawyers in New York. Then this lawyer also said Mr. Hummel was a shyster. Mr. Thaw and I talked frequently about the lawyer and Mr. Thaw said I had no business speaking to Mr. White again. He accused me of having had improper relations with Mr. White since my return from Europe. I said I wasn't afraid of Mr. Thaw and then said people would think me a black-maller if I went to Mr. Hummel's office. He said I was a fool. 'My dear child, Hummel is a lawyer was against Mr. White.'

"One night late in November of 1903 Mr. White came to my hotel greatly excited. He just walked up and down and ran his fingers through his hair for a time, and then he came and sat down beside me on a trunk and said: 'My dear child, what in the world have you told Abe Hummel?' I said I had told him nothing except when I was threatening to bring suit against Mr. Thaw, when I told him he had better look out because Harry Thaw knew a lot of dreadful things about Mr. White. He then squeezed \$1,000 out of me and the Lord only knows how soon he will squeeze another. Soon after this I remember signing some papers at his office at his house in the tower of Madison Square Garden. I began to wonder what it was and telephoned White and asked him what the papers contained. He said it was just a paper and it was in Mr. Hummel's office. I told him again I must see the paper at once."

"Mr. White promised to meet me in the afternoon at the theatre. He did and when I insisted that I see the papers, he took me to Mr. Hummel's office. I saw a boy brought in I readied for it, but Mr. White got it first. Then he turned the paper so that I could see my signature. Mr. Hummel got some material out of the paper. As soon as I saw Mr. Thaw I told him all about it."

She said Mr. Thaw went to Europe before she and her mother saw him. "I was so sick I couldn't walk," she said.

"When you met Mr. Thaw in Europe in what way did he show you his love for you?"

"He was driving every day, he carried me in his arms down stairs when I couldn't walk and out the front and flower bed. He was very kind and attentive to me."

"Mrs. Thaw said she was married April 4, 1905, at the Hotel Lorraine. Mr. Thaw said: 'Before this you persistently refused to marry me.'"

"Yes."

"Because of my reputation. Much that he said was true. Mrs. Thaw said she knew about Stanford White. I told him that it wouldn't be good for himself or his family. I told him that if I didn't care so much for him I would marry him, but I was doing what I did for his own sake."

"Did Mr. Thaw, when you were in London, tell you to see the Countess of Yarmouth?" "Yes."

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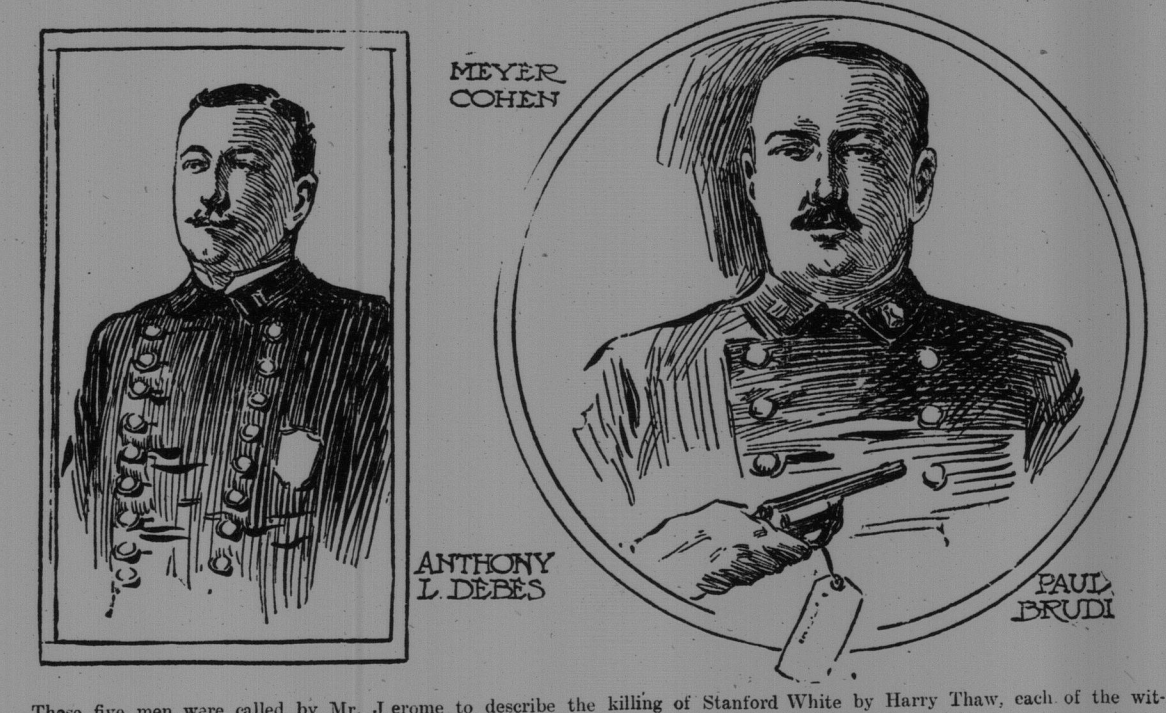
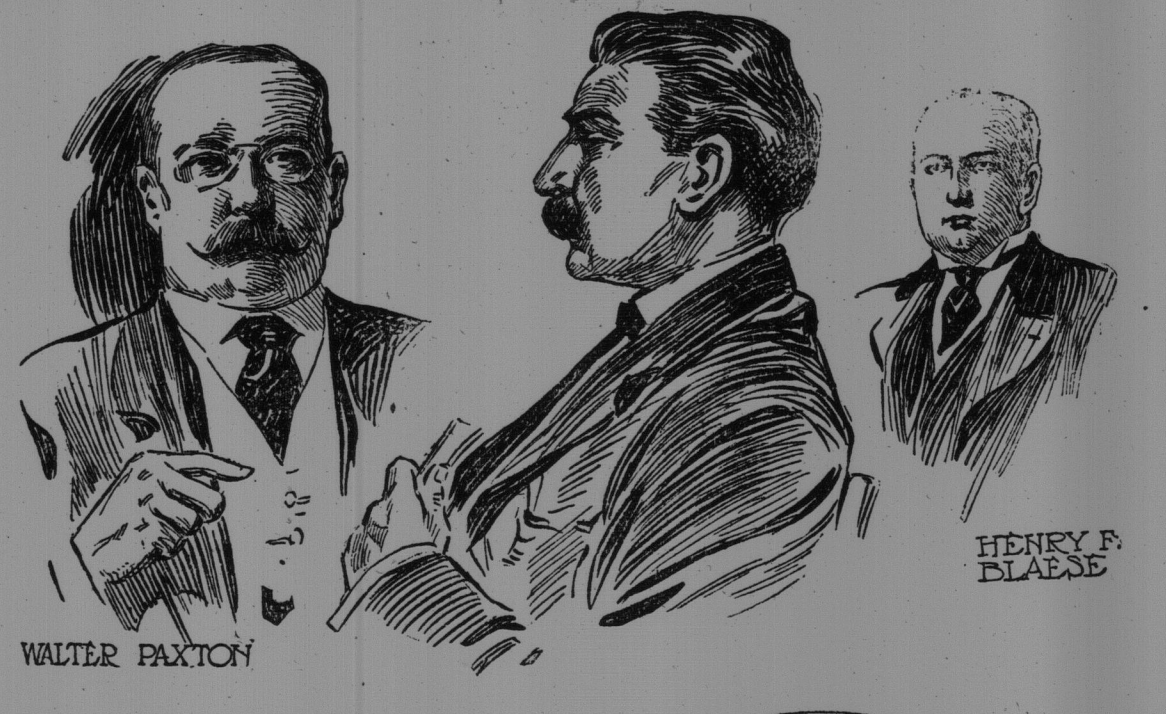
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(Continued on page 5.)

## MEN WHO WITNESSED THE TRAGEDY ON THE ROOF GARDEN



These five men were called by Mr. Jerome to describe the killing of Stanford White by Harry Thaw, each of the witnesses having been near the scene of the tragedy and taking some part in the following excitement.

