

A Terrible Tragedy

On the Stage of the Music Hall in This City.

James Tuttle, of Brantford, Shot Dead

By William D. Emerson, of the Wesley Stock Company.

The Victim, the Business Manager; the Slayer, the Leading Actor.

Words Led to a Blow, and That to Murder.

The Prisoner Says the Deed Was in Self-Defense.

Graphic Description by Eye-Witnesses of the Act.

Startling Scene Between Emerson and His Wife.

The Dispute Arose Over Money Matters—Tuttle Struck Emerson and Emerson Whipped Out a Revolver—A Shot Through the Left Eye Causes Death—The Inquest.

A real, a horrible, tragedy occurred on the stage of the Music Hall last night.

It occurred at 10 minutes to 9 o'clock. At 8:30 p.m. Music Hall was well filled. The play on the bills was "The Candidate." It was to be a comedy in three acts. The audience little expected the tragic prologue.

As the shows have not been starting earlier than 8:30 this week, the house was not impatient at that time. Five minutes went by; then ten. The crowd began to chafe at the delay. Many stamped their feet. "Hurry up!" was the cry from the gallery.

Sum the curtain did not rise. The demonstration increased. It came to a sudden stop when the report of a pistol shot rang out. An actor appeared before the curtain. He was partly "made up" in his stage attire. His face was blanched and he seemed to be excited.

"There has been an accident," he said. The crowd laughed. They knew it was the first of April. The actor was springing a joke. It was very well done, they thought.

But the actor did not smile. He went on to say that owing to the accident the performance would be canceled. He advised the people to leave. They could get checks at the door. The audience then realized that it was no joke.

An actress ran on the stage frantically calling for a doctor. There was none in the house. Presently a policeman hurried through the house to the stage. A sort of panic ensued. The hall was soon emptied by the police, though not without effort, and a guard put on the doors.

"The curtain had risen, would have disclosed an awful scene. The stage was made up for the first act of the play. It was to represent "Jack Medford's summer home near Brantford. A table was neatly spread with dishes and cutlery and the other properties were grouped for the stage setting. Almost in the middle of the platform, near the east wing, lay the body of James Tuttle in a great pool of blood that nearly flowed to the footlights. Around him were actors and actresses sobbing and mourning. Tuttle had been shot through the left eye by William D. Emerson, the leading man of the company.

"I was in my dressing room at the time," said Mr. Charles Mack, one of the comedians. "I suddenly became death where Emerson and Tuttle stood. I heard a shot and the sound of a heavy fall. I naturally looked up and saw blood trickling through the boards over my head. I ran to the stage. Tuttle was lying on the floor, in a pool of blood, breathing his last. Emerson stood by, revolver in hand. He was bleeding at the mouth. 'Boys,' he said, 'I did it in self-defense.' Then he walked to his dressing-room. It seemed horrible. We all liked Emerson. He is a good actor and seemed a really superior man. I am sure he would have done anything for his friends."

LIVED ONLY THREE MINUTES. When the members of the troupe reached Tuttle he was lying prostrate, bleeding profusely from the eye, and breathing heavily. He never spoke, and in three minutes he was dead. When Drs. Drake and Plock arrived all was over. Dr. Plock, as coroner, took charge of the remains. On the person of Tuttle were found \$211.68, a diamond ring, a diamond stud, gold cuff-buttons, a gold watch and minor articles.

EMERSON ARRESTED. Emerson was arrested by P. C. Egleton. He was just emerging from his dressing room when the policeman met him. Prisoner and officer returned to the dressing room, where Emerson's wife was sobbing as if her heart would break, while their beautiful little child, unconscious of the tragedy, was laughing in infant glee. The revolver lay on the dressing case. "This is the weapon that fired the shot," said Emerson, picking it up and handing it to Egleton.

Someone asked if the coroner had been sent for. "Is it as bad as that?" asked Emerson, anxiously. When told that Tuttle was dead he

was dazed for a moment, and seemed to be in self-possession. He went on: "I did it in self-defense. I had to do it; he struck me."

The policeman warned him that any statement he made would be used in evidence against him. The prisoner asked what the law was in Canada in relation to self-defense. The officer did not care to discuss the matter. Emerson then walked to the police station escorted by Detectives Rider and Nickle and a posse of police. By permission his wife and babe accompanied him.

A PITIFUL SCENE. The prisoner was placed in the cells after the questions as to his age, residence, etc., had been asked. His wife sat on a bench in the waiting-room sobbing pitifully, while the child, too young to comprehend the mother's grief, played at her knees and called for "papa."

The police kindly allowed the prisoner a good-night interview. An advertiser reporter witnessed the touching episode. It was enough to dissolve the heart of adamant. Emerson fairly rushed into his wife's arms. "Don't break down, dear," he said, fondly, as he kissed her again and again. Then taking the little one up, he kissed it tenderly, his tears falling thick and fast.

It was a scene of mingled love and grief that transcended all the representations of the stage. They made a handsome couple—Emerson comely, well proportioned, and with regular and pleasing features; his wife tall and also prepossessing. Both had an unmistakable air of refinement. Emerson and his wife could scarcely be parted. He embraced her and the child alternately, murmuring words of comfort. Several times he turned to go, but his wife threw her arms around his neck with despairing cries. "Someone will take care of her," said Emerson in an appealing tone to the police. The chief assured him that his wife and child would be made comfortable, and this seemed to ease him. "Good-bye!" he added, with a farewell kiss on the lips of his wife and child. He then taken back to the cells. Presently his wife and child were escorted to the Grigg House, where sympathetic friends showered every kind of attention on them.

EMERSON ASKED FOR MONEY. Chief Usher Selkirk says that when all was ready for the performance to begin Emerson met Tuttle on the stage. "I want my pay before I go tonight," said Emerson. A dispute followed, and then the shot which Selkirk says he did not see.

THEY SAW THE ACT. This morning several members of the company admitted to a reporter that they saw the tragedy. Said one of them:

As I entered the stage, Tuttle and Emerson were in warm dispute. I just caught the last words. "You refuse to play," said Tuttle. "No," said Emerson. "With that," continued the actor, "Tuttle struck Emerson in the mouth as quick as a flash. Before we could realize it Emerson whipped a revolver from his hip pocket and fired."

This story is corroborated by other eye-witnesses.

Said Mr. Barton Booth today:

"I knew Emerson had received notice to play last night unless his salary was forthcoming. He asked me if I would back him up and refuse also to go on. I promised I would. Most of the troupe were standing on the stage, including Emerson. Tuttle had been informed of Emerson's intention, and walked up to him with a threatening look. He asked Emerson if he refused to play. Emerson replied 'yes.' With that Tuttle struck him a hard blow on the mouth."

"Emerson's hand flew to his hip pocket and a shot followed. I can't really say whether he fired through his pocket or pulled the revolver out and pointed it at Emerson. The shot was done so quickly. If the revolver was out it was no higher than his hip. I never saw a man shot before," added Mr. Booth. "Tuttle did not even reel; he sank straight down without a word. My wife fainted and I hurried her into the dressing-room. When I returned Tuttle was dead."

"Emerson was in the habit of carrying a revolver, and I am sure he had no thought of killing Tuttle. Personally, I liked Emerson very much. I am certain he had no murder in his heart."

THE CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE. Tuttle was the financial manager and backer of the company. He was organized in Brantford on March 7. It took three days to get the troupe to this city. At last a date was secured at Elginburg, where the troupe played on Thursday and Friday last. Tuttle promised to pay two days' salary last Sunday. This he did not do. Several members asked for their pay this week and got it. Emerson did not, and his demand last night was the direct cause of the tragedy.

His colleagues all say that Emerson was a man of education and ability. He was born in Cincinnati 42 years ago, and had been on the stage over twenty years. Previous to his theatrical career he graduated at the Annapolis Naval Academy. His present home is in Chicago. For five years he was with the company of Charles Frohman's dramatic company, playing in "Charlie's Aunt" and "The Charity Ball." Later he was with Paul Cavanaugh's romantic actor, who appeared in London last fall. He was out of an engagement, and in answer to an advertisement in the "Chicago Herald" he was assigned to the company of Harry O. Wesley. He was assigned to the company of Harry O. Wesley, playing usually the "heavy villain." It was in Brantford that he met Tuttle. The latter is the eldest son of Mr. Robert Tuttle, proprietor of the American Hotel Brantford, and lessee of the opera house.

James Tuttle was the assistant manager of the theatre. Having a penchant for dramatics, he volunteered to assist Mr. Wesley company for a brief period on the road. He was to leave them tonight in this city, and Mr. Wesley was to assume the management. Some members of the troupe would not be paid. Emerson was not to appear in tonight's cast as it was to be a vaudeville show. Consequently, he determined to register his complaint last night. Tuttle was selling tickets at the door, and was not aware of the delay in beginning the performance, until a message was sent to him with Emerson's ultimatum. He

hurried to the stage, and there encountered Emerson.

TUTTLE'S FATHER HERE.

The father of the dead man arrived in London this morning, accompanied by his son-in-law, Dr. Fyle. Mr. Tuttle is past middle age. He is the oldest keeper in Brantford, having been in the business there for 50 years. Mr. Tuttle is naturally broken up with grief. "I did not want my son to take the theatre," he said to an advertiser reporter, "but he flouted the protest, and said he might as well make a little money. Most of the \$211 found on him he had before he left Brantford. The salary list of the company, I understand, was not more than \$95 a week."

Mr. Tuttle was sorry for the company, and in trying to make arrangements for their temporary hotel accommodation. The Tuttle family is one of the best known in Brantford. Besides the father and father there is another younger son—Winnet—Tuttle, and four daughters—Mrs. (Dr.) Fyle, Mrs. Fred Beeny and Misses Gladys and Audrey Tuttle.

EMERSON IN THE POLICE COURT. Emerson was arraigned in the police court this morning, the charge being murder. He slept a little during the night, but this morning he was very nervous, evidently realizing more clearly his position. His face was much flushed. He did not utter a word during the court proceedings. A large crowd had attempted to gain admission, but only a few were allowed in.

Mr. James Mack, counsel for the crown, said that some evidence should be heard to afford grounds for remanding the prisoner.

The magistrate was inclined to agree with this view.

Mr. J. H. Plock, who appeared for Emerson, said that the prisoner until after the inquest was advisable. Finally a remand until Thursday was agreed upon, by the request of the prisoner through his counsel. Emerson was then taken to the cells and shortly afterwards removed to the jail.

(Continued on page 3.)

Irritating Uncertainty

Characterizes the Spanish-American Situation.

Prevailing Impression That a Conflict Is Inevitable.

The President's Message to be Presented on Monday.

Neither Side Shows an Inclination to Make Concessions.

Spanish Statement—Cuban Independence Does Not Figure in the U. S. Propositions.

Washington, D. C., April 2.—There is little doubt that the president and the members of his cabinet are now regarding the conflict with Spain as almost inevitable. In his message to Congress, which will be sent early next week, it is understood that the president will review the record, as it stands between this government and Spain, but will not insist upon the time in which to continue negotiations looking to a peaceful solution of the Cuban problem.

The cabinet meeting yesterday morning was unquestionably the most important held in many years. It reviewed Spain's answer to the ultimatum of the United States government, and finding it unsatisfactory, practically decided upon a policy which seems certain to involve hostilities. The whole record will be laid before Congress, and the question is now under careful consideration. Meanwhile the majority of Congress are already ready to await the executive lead before taking action, and are disposed to adopt Mr. McKinley's suggestion on this point.

THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. The sub-committee of the Senate committee on foreign relations, appointed to draft and prepare a form of resolution, outlining a course of action which the government shall pursue toward Spain with reference to Cuba, will be in the first place for the recognition of the independence of the Cuban republic, and in the second for the intervention by the United States with her army and navy for the purpose of assisting the Cubans to secure independence in case Cuba refuses to concede to the committee will report upon Monday, unless the president is unable to complete his promised message for lack of time.

Both the United States and Spain regard the issue as one of life and death. Likelihood of further negotiations between now and the time when the committee will submit the whole case to Congress seems very remote. The president's demand and Spain has given her answer. Thus the case stands.

IN CONGRESS. After an exceedingly turbulent session of six hours, the house passed the naval appropriation bill, and then adjourned until Monday. The war spirit was manifested in all speeches, and over-rode the naval committee itself by increasing the number of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers to 24, the bills, as reported providing for but 12.

The senate spent most of the day in the discussion of the resolution from the senate committee on foreign relations for the acquisition of the West Indian Islands owned by Denmark, and the session closed with the practical withdrawal of the resolution by Senator Lodge, its author. The senate adjourned until Monday, so the president's message will not go in until then.

A CRITICAL SITUATION. There is no present intention of pursuing further negotiations which will change the status of the Cuban question. Members of the cabinet regard the situation as of the very grave and most critical character possible.

SPAIN'S PROPOSALS. The following is an abstract from the telegram received from Gen. Blanco on the general situation in Cuba. Gen. Blanco has revoked the bando relating to the "matreros" in the western provinces of Cuba—Matanzas, Santa Clara, Habana and Pinar del Rio. The Spanish Government has placed at the disposal of the "matreros" the credit of 5,000,000 pesetas to the end that the country people may return at once to their homes. The Spanish Government will accept whatever assistance to feed and succor the United States may be sent from the plan now in operation. He proposed to confide the preparation for an honorable and stable peace to the Insular

Parliament, without whose concurrence the Spanish Government would not be able to arrive at the final result, it being understood that the powers reserved by the constitution to the central government are not lessened or diminished. As the Cuban chambers will not meet until the 4th of May, the Spanish Government will not, on this part, object to a suspension of hostilities, if asked for by the insurgents from the general-in-chief, to whom it will belong to determine the duration and the conditions of the suspension." The above was made public immediately after the cabinet meeting.

STRONG WORDS. Madrid, April 2.—The most important comment on the situation is that of the ministerial El Liberal, which may be looked upon as undoubtedly reflecting the position of the Spanish Government. The paper says: "We have done all we can to prevent a pretext for a rupture. If President McKinley refuses our concessions, we, with a quiet conscience, will await any trials which may come and defend Spain to our rights. The entire nation supports the government. Spain must no longer first under the continual menace and unrest of the past three years. Even a rupture is preferable."

A POSSIBILITY. London, April 2.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says there is reason to believe that a certain number of Spanish troops would be withdrawn under a decent pretext, from Cuba, providing the American Government would accept the most generous to accept the new order of things.

Most people believe that Spain's sovereignty is in danger, and that if it were lost by diplomatic means, the civil war would ensue. Despite the strongest protest, majority in the Spanish cabinet is that of supporting the government. Spain really desires the most peace, and no government can afford to go to the limit of the matter of concessions than the present Liberal cabinet. But even it must draw the line somewhere.

"AN IMMORAL DEVICE." Madrid, April 2.—A semi-official statement has been issued which says: "One of the most immoral devices to injure Cuba and mislead opinion in the United States is that of supposing that Spain would be disposed to recognize the independence of Cuba in return for the payment of an indemnity. It is our duty to declare in the most demonstrative manner that this is the slightest admission to the independence of Cuba, either with or without indemnity, has been made to the Spanish Government. The government would straightway reject any such proposition, and that there is no party or statesman in Spain disposed to listen to such a suggestion."

THE FEELING IN ENGLAND. A New York World cable says: The consensus of views of the members of parliament obtainable in the House of Commons lobby is in the opinion of the last resort, will find some means of escaping a war for which she has no resources and which must end in not only Cuban independence, but an enormous increase of Spain's already ruinous burden of debt. A Radical member expressed the opinion that the British North American squadron would assist in repelling any attack on defenses east coast cities. But in contrast there are evidence of sympathy for Spain in Conservative circles.

The Globe (Conservative) shows decided anti-American bias. It raises a warning voice concerning the possibility of interference by the United States elsewhere if their action regarding Cuba is permitted without protest.

AN APPEAL FROM CUBA. The Cuban Government (meaning thereby the present home rule authorities in Cuba and not the insurgents) has appealed to the United States to respect the will of the majority of the people of Cuba. The appeal declares that the majority represents those in favor of home rule under Spanish sovereignty; that the insurgents are in the minority; that the majority has a right to rule its own destinies; that it would be an injustice for a foreign will meaning the United States to impose upon this majority a political regime contrary to its will; and that it would be a grave wickedness to dispose of its lot without its own consent. The appeal to the president does not in terms demand the independence of Cuba, but its tenor is to protest against any form of Cuban government other than that of home rule.

The appeal is signed as follows: Jose Maria Gálvez, President of the United States; Manuel de los Rios, the president of the morning. SPANISH FLEET BOUND FOR CUBA.

London, April 2.—A steamer which has arrived from Las Palmas, Canary Islands, reports having met four Spanish torpedo boats and three torpedo boat destroyers, with an escort ship, on March 23, a few miles distant from Las Palmas. They were going south and west, understood to be toward Cuba. The flotilla was steaming slowly, looked most imposing, and had no guns showing.

The Pall Mall Gazette gives for once unqualified support to the American policy of declaring independence to Cuba. It says: "It seems more than likely that the Spanish Government will have to face it, if it is not of Woodford's opinion."

Little importance is attached, in political circles here, to rumors of insurrection by Cuban powers, especially by France or Russia. All have enough on their own hands without antagonizing the United States by taking the Spanish side for sentimental reasons.

ARBITRATION URGED. Paris, April 2.—The French International Arbitration Society has sent a letter to the Spanish minister of foreign affairs, Fernán Cailon, and to the American secretary of state, Mr. John Sherman, urging the advisability of arbitration of the differences between Spain and the United States. The journal Des Batailles, commenting on the "inadmissibility of America's exorbitant pretensions," complains that are advising Spain to sell Cuba. It says: "It would appear that for these journals the view point of national honor does not exist."

The sympathy of Frenchmen inclines rather to Spain, and the hope is still there to at least postpone the issue will be found through the "sound sense" of the two governments and the good offices of the powers."

NOTES. The Spanish torpedo flotilla has arrived at Porto Rico. The United States flying squadron is to remain in Hampton Roads for the present at least. Commander Brownson is offering tempting prices for British ships owners to return at once for unarmored cruisers, says the London correspondent of the World. There is not a very large number of this class of vessels available.

Ship owners in London and Liverpool are paying a large rate for insurance on all vessels going to American ports.

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Pol Plancon and the Heintzman Piano

"The great basso Plancon sang before an audience of about 5,000 people at the Armories last night.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

The most notable musical event given in Canada during the season 1897-98 was unquestionably the Plancon Concert in the Toronto Armories on the evening of March 27, under the auspices of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto and the direction of Mr. Charles A. E. Harris. Monsieur Pol Plancon, the great French basso, had purposely deferred his sailing for Paris so as not to disappoint the Canadian public, and to the grandeur of his voice the splendid proportions of the structure were well suited. The Toronto Armories comprise within their four walls the largest building in Canada, and the main hall measures 230x82 feet. Such a structure offered a severe test for a piano, and only an instrument of the highest quality and power would be effectual. The Heintzman & Co. Concert Grand was especially selected for the occasion, and not the least among the triumphs of the evening was the success achieved by the piano. Its splendid resonance, its dynamic expression, and its superb singing quality filled the hall, while even the pianissimo passages and the lightest shades of tone color were heard in the farthest confines of the vast auditorium. In the words of the Toronto Globe:

"Even the daintiest efforts of the pianist were wafted with an ease that did not necessitate straining the ear in the least."

The following lines from Monsieur Plancon evidence the great singer's appreciation:

TORONTO, March 27, 1898.
MESSRS. HEINTZMAN & CO., TORONTO:
DEAR SIRS,—In singing to your piano last night at the Armories it afforded me the greatest pleasure to know that so fine an instrument is manufactured in Canada.
Faithfully yours,
(Signed) POL PLANCON.

It is more than noticeable that Madame Albani, August Hyllested, the great Danish pianist; Nutini, the famous blind Italian pianist; Hubert de Blanc, pianist at the Plancon concert; Katherine Bloodgood, Madame Van Der Veer Green, and others of the world's great artists, in their visits to Canada, invariably select a Heintzman & Co. Piano. The fact is its own argument.

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The all-round views which produce moderation, which prevent extremes which check extravagances, and subdue hot haste, are among the greatest needs of men and women.

LIFE SAVED.—Mr. James Bryson Cameron writes: "I was confined to my bed with inflammation of the lungs and was given up by physicians. A neighbor advised me to try Dr. Thomas' Eucalypti Oil, stating that his wife had used it for a throat trouble with the best results. Acting on this advice, I procured the medicine, and used it half a bottle cured me. I certainly believe it saved my life. I was with reluctance that I consented to a trial, as I was reduced to such a state that I doubted the power of any other remedies do me good."

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