

THE SLOW POISONING CASE.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Before the Stipendiary Magistrate.

THE EVIDENCE OBTAINED.

Mary tells what she knows about Killing Cats by means of Arsenic.

Additional Tests by the Analyst.

SOME FURTHER PARTICULARS.

THERE was a considerable addition to the number of spectators in the Court, this forenoon, and many were kept waiting for a long time. The prisoner seemed to be brighter and better than she was yesterday,—but continues to recline upon the lounge.

About half-past four o'clock—while Mr. Samuel C. Nash was giving his evidence and detailing the results of his observations as to the alleged intimacy of Mr. Sutherland and Mrs. Weeks—the prisoner became too ill to admit of the investigation being continued. The court then adjourned until 11 o'clock to-morrow.

CONTINUATION OF YESTERDAY'S EVIDENCE.

MARY JANE STEWART (sworn)—Examined by Mr. Malcolm McLeod—I live in town. I have been in town off and on for the last three years. I belong to Crapaud. I am a sister of the servant of Mr. Sutherland. She is younger than me. I stayed at Geo. Simmons' when I first came to town. The next place was at the Rev. House. The next Mrs. Weeks'. I was with her eleven months. I went there in the fall. After I left Mrs. Weeks' I went to Mr. Hunter's. I do not know how long I was there. I then went home. I was at home something like three months. Then I came back to the Morell House, and stayed there,—I think, five months. I left there this day four weeks—that is Monday, 3rd February. Then I went up to Mrs. Sutherland's, and have been there since. I am not there now. (laughter) I left there this morning. I do not know where I am going this evening. I guess I'll have to take a boarding house. I hired at Mrs. Coffin's. I left Mrs. Weeks' and went to Mrs. Hunter's in the fall some time—last fall twelve months—1888. The snow was not on the ground when I left. I think I was with Mrs. Weeks near two months before Christmas. Mrs. Weeks moved out of Alley's house to Upper Prince Street on the week I went there. I went to Alley's house on Wednesday, and she moved that week. Mr. and Mrs. Groom live in the other end of the house on Upper Prince Street. I was slightly acquainted with Mrs. Groom. I know the people about there. I know Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland, and their daughters Marion and Ella, and their son Sinclair. I know the Nashes and Mr. Huggan. I have been at Huggan's and Sutherland's and Grooms. Winnie and Ella Weeks lived in the house with us. Mrs. Weeks' sister was living there for a spell—Lulu McLeod is her name. While there we killed cats; I don't know how many. I didn't watch them nor attend their funerals. Mrs. Weeks and I prepared the poison. Mrs. Weeks bought it. I never heard her call it arsenic. It was white powder. We tried it in milk. Then we tried it in meat. I guess the cats that got it were killed. I don't know how much there was left. There was some left. I did not keep it. I did not carry it out of the house. I suppose Mrs. Weeks had the keeping of it. I saw it when it was put on the meat. I don't think it was more than twice. The stuff was in a paper when I saw it. There was no more than a teaspoonful or a tablespoonful altogether. I did not hear Mrs. Weeks say how she got it. I did not ask. The poisoning was done once when the snow was on the ground; and once after the snow left. The poison was put away carefully—so the children would not get it. I knew that it would poison anything that would get it. We had no servant man. There was no one gave me any help. William Brown came sometimes. He used to come to run errands and do some outside chores. He was Mr. Sutherland's servant man. He cut the front lawn and sometimes shoveled out the snow. She never told me what she sent him to do. I saw J. D. McLeod's man, Mr. Williams, and Minister McLeod and Mrs. Weeks' brother there. I have seen Mr. Sutherland there in the evening; sometimes in the day time. None of them came to see me; they didn't think enough of me. Mr. Sutherland's visits were more than once a year. I could not count them. I never kept a day book. I saw him there. He went to the house pretty often. Some days he would be there and some nights he would be there. I would be out most every night myself. I always made it a rule to be home by ten o'clock. I have seen Mr. Sutherland go out of the house after I came home. Mrs. Sutherland and Mrs. Weeks were friendly when I first went there. I do not think they were towards the last. My sister went to Mr. Sutherland's this winter sometime. I visited Mr. Sutherland's house while she was there. I heard of the poisoning when the detective came to me about it. I heard about it after I went to Mr. Sutherland's house. I was out of a place, and went up to stay with my sister till I got one. After I left Mrs. Weeks' I went to Mrs. Hunter's. While there I visited Mrs. Weeks'. I saw Mrs. Weeks one day while I was at the Morell House. She was all alone. I do not think that my sister was with her. Mrs. Weeks wanted me to go back to her. After I left Mrs. Weeks, I think she had Annie Stewart; then Annie Gillespie; then, I think, Edith Monroe. I think Annie Gillespie stays there now. Annie Gillespie was there when Mrs. Weeks wanted me to go back. I did not know what the quarrel between Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. Sutherland was about. I have gone to bed and left Mr. Sutherland in the house with Mrs. Weeks. The children would be in bed. Mr. Sutherland and Mrs. Weeks would be up together.

To Mr. Peters—I never poisoned anybody. I did not help Mrs. Weeks to poison Mrs.

Sutherland. I left Mrs. Weeks on good terms. I never heard Mrs. Weeks say anything unkind of Mrs. Sutherland. During part of that time Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. Sutherland were on very good terms. Mrs. Sutherland used to take some of the things which Mrs. Weeks sent over. I took over the chow-chow to Mrs. Sutherland. She said she had some in the house, and didn't want it. I heard of a dog that had bitten one of Mrs. Weeks' children. That was a spell after we tried to kill the cats. She showed the poison to me. Her own sister saw it. The dog wouldn't eat it. He was "cute enough." He'd paw it over with his paws, and almost say he didn't want it. I don't know where Mrs. Weeks put the poison. I was sent out to pick up what meat there was left. I think that I took it all in. It's a year and four months since I was a servant of Mrs. Weeks. Poisoning was never mentioned when I talked to Mrs. Weeks at the Morell House. She said her girl's mother was sick and she wanted me to go back. I partly promised to go back, but I didn't. I have been at the house once or twice since. My sister Bella came to stay at Mr. Sutherland's house four months ago. She is there yet. I went to stay with her till I got another place. I made myself useful. Mr. Sutherland saw me there, but didn't know when I went or when I came. I got a place to-day.

To Mr. M. McLeod—Mr. Sutherland told me that I might stay there till I got another place. That was the first night or first day that I went there. I think that it was Mrs. Weeks who carried the soup over to Mrs. Sutherland. I made the soup. Mrs. Weeks and I had some of the same soup for our dinner on that day. It didn't make us sick.

ALEXANDER S. CAMPBELL (sworn)—Examined by the Attorney General.—I am employed at Saunders & Newson's. I keep the books, cut meat, and so on. I had a party at Mr. Davies'. Mrs. Weeks called at the shop about that time. It was last summer. She asked to use our telephone, and said that she wished to speak to Robbins' livery stable. I gave her permission. I called the central, and gave the telephone to Mrs. Weeks. She said that Mr. Sutherland had ordered the team for six o'clock that evening, and not to send it. Mrs. Sutherland called in shortly after that, and referred to the matter. She referred to the telephone being used to countermand her orders. She appeared to be displeased.

To Mr. Peters—Mrs. Weeks usually obtained meat at our shop. I do not know whether she bought any meat. I do not remember her having told me that she was going out that day and having changed her mind. She was walking. It was early in the afternoon—about two or three o'clock—it might be four or five. Mrs. Weeks may have told me that she intended to go out to the cemetery that day. If Mrs. Sutherland had not come in I would never have thought of it again.

Court adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 4.

W. F. BEST, (sworn)—Examined by Mr. Malcolm McLeod. I have experimented with respect to "Rough on Rats" since I gave my evidence yesterday. I bought two packages—one at Hughes' and one at Johnson's. On opening the packages and comparing the color of the two I found that there was considerable difference in color. The contents of the package that I received from Hughes' drug store was much lighter in color than the package I got at Johnson's. I next dissolved some of the contents of the Hughes package—boiled it in water, 24 grains. After boiling this for half an hour, I poured the water containing the dissolved "Rough on Rats" into a bottle nearly full of whiskey. The "Rough on Rats" remained dissolved. I put in two fluid ounces which dissolved twenty-four grains. It remained in solution and is still in solution. I took a second bottle of whiskey and added to it 12 grains of "Rough on Rats" out of the Hughes package. I gave the bottle a shake and stood it to one side. After twenty minutes I tested the whiskey and found traces of arsenic. I then poured off the greater part of the whiskey until there was only a small quantity of whiskey standing over the sediment. I washed this into a filter and dried the filter and sediment. Then I removed the sediment from the filter paper and weighed it. I found that the sediment weighed ten grains. On comparing the color of the sediment with the sediment which was sent to me at St. John, I found that they were very similar in color and general appearance. The sediment from the last bottle which I examined being very slightly darker in the color than the other. I next took 50 milligrams (2 grains) weight of "Rough on Rats" from the Hughes' package, placed this in a glass tube, and heated it. A large quantity of white deposit was found in the upper part of the tube, and a small dark-colored mass remained in the bottom of the tube. This small dark-colored mass gathered together in the form of a small pellet which was loose in the bottom of the tube. I then took this small pellet out and weighed it. Of course, the balance was not as fine as I am accustomed to, but I am able to say that the weight of this dark-colored residue was equal to the one hundredth of the original weight of "Rough on Rats" taken. In other words, the weight of the white substance was 99 parts of a 100. I then tested the white deposit and found it to be arsenic. Practically, "Rough on Rats" is all arsenic. I do not know what the dark substance is. The dried residue was very much lighter in color than the "Rough on Rats." I can only say that having found that "Rough on Rats" loses part of its color after being in whiskey for a certain length of time, I would infer that if it remained a longer time in the whiskey it would lose more of its color. The difference in color between the sediment I received at St. John, and that which I examined yesterday might be due to that fact. I produce sample of sediment obtained from "Rough on Rats." I produce also the powder I received at St. John.

To Mr. Peters—The powder which was sent to me at St. John might have been "Rough on Rats." I don't say positively that it was "Rough on Rats."

JOHN WILLIAMS, (sworn)—Examined by Mr. Malcolm McLeod—I know Mrs. Weeks. I drove her up to the Capes. It was on Saturday morning. We left between one and two o'clock in the morning. It was the Saturday after the election. It was about 12 o'clock when my wife told me that there was a message to drive Mrs. Weeks to the Capes. Before my wife told me, I had no suspicion that she was going away. I found her very kind; and prepared to go at once. I got myself ready. My wife told me that the horse would be left at my door. I got the horse on the street between Mr. Haviland's house and our place. I think he was brought there by Dave MacKay. I left the horse at Robbins'. I thought it was Robbins' horse; I believe now that it was Robbins'. I heard since that it was Robbins'. I drove down to Mrs. Weeks', stopped there for a minute, then I drove around the block.

I knew that I was going to the Capes with Mrs. Weeks. My wife told me. I don't think that there was any conversation between Mr. McKay and myself before he got out of the sleigh at the prisoner's door. When I stepped into the sleigh I didn't know where I was going to from anybody but my wife. I waited there till Mrs. Weeks came out. Dave McKay got out of the sleigh at Mrs. Weeks' gate. I did not see him go in. I don't know whether he did or not. Mr. McKay came to the sleigh with her. They came out of the house. I saw McKay come out, but I didn't see him go in. I suppose that they came out of the house. Nobody else came to the sleigh but Dave McKay. It was after one o'clock when I drove off. I don't think any directions were given at that time. I just drove off. We started right away without instructions from her or Dave McKay. I thought she was going to leave the Island. My wife told me, and she told me on the way up. She said that it was hard that she had to go away. She told me that she was going across the Capes. I didn't ask her why she was going. She said it was hard for her to have to leave through other people. She said it was not for her own sake she was going away, but to save others—she said Mr. Sutherland. I told her she was very foolish. I had heard about Mrs. Sutherland being poisoned. I heard on Friday, I think. She seemed very quiet. She said that she had not anything at all to do with it. She had evidently heard about the poisoning. She said something about going away—that it would save all the talk. There has been talk about her and Sutherland. I did not ask her what she meant. We got up to the Capes about daylight and stopped at Suang's. I went to the barn and then came back again. She was talking with Mr. Strang. I heard her ask Mr. Strang when the boats would leave. He said the boats were all on the other side, except the Opposite boat—run by the Bells. We drove up to Bell's, about a mile and a half away. Mrs. Weeks got out of the sleigh at Bell's house but not at Strang's. When we got to Bell's they had the sleigh ready to go to the shore. She said that she wanted to get across. They said that there were a lot of agents going but they would take her, but they would have to leave some of the luggage. They hesitated a little about taking her. They told me that a couple of the agents did not go. The agents kicked up a bit of a row about it. There was no name given at all. I represented her as my wife that evening. After she was put on the other side, I did it to joke. I did not hear any enquiries as to who she was before she went. One of the crew was bound to take her. She was into the boat before the agents came. They wanted her to get out. They acted pretty near. I knew she was bound to get over if she could. I did not ask her why she could not stay till the next day. She knew about the poisoning before she left home. 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