

EDDINGTON'S GORY ENIGMA.

The Tangled Threads of Circumstance
Lead to a Woman's Arrest.

RESULT OF A SISTER'S ANXIETY.

Probable Identity of the Murdered and
Dismembered Man.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HERALD BUREAU,
No. 112 SOUTH SIXTH STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 21, 1887.

At a late hour this afternoon it looked as if the Mann's Pond mystery was upon the point of being solved. The day has been one of hard and incessant work for Chief of Detectives Kelly and Detectives Geyer, Crawford, Miller and Tate. A large number of colored people were invited "to visit the Central Office" and Chief Kelly slowly but surely forged his chain of evidence.

District Attorney Eastburn, Coroner Siebert, Detective Geyer and Constable Jackson, of Eddington, compared notes at Bristol this morning and then separated, each bent upon doing his share of the work in his own way.

Coroner Siebert during the day called on Elias Hibbs, the man who found the mutilated body, and remained in close conversation with him about an hour. The Coroner then held a whispered conversation with Squire Vandegrift, who is the head centre for news in Eddington, and subsequently returned to Bristol.

MRS. MARY TABBS APPEARS.

The event of the afternoon was the voluntary appearance of Mrs. Mary Tabbs in Eddington, and her advent created a sensation. Mrs. Tabbs is the colored woman who lived at Mr. George Brock's house, near Cornwell's, and who was said to have disappeared. Mrs. Tabbs while at Mr. Brock's was assisted by her niece, Annie Richardson, the young woman with whom she and George Redding were acquainted.

Some people supposed that Mrs. Mary Tabbs was the mysterious colored woman who visited Eddington on the eventful Wednesday night last, and who is so much sought after by the authorities of Bucks county and those of Philadelphia. Mrs. Tabbs is a tall, rather slender mulatto, with prominent features. On May 25 last Annie Richardson disappeared from Mr. Brock's house, and it was said that all efforts to discover her have prove unavailing. Mrs. Tabbs, seeing her name mentioned in the newspapers, resolved to visit Eddington in order to learn what she could about the matter.

WHAT MRS. TABBS SAYS.

The HERALD correspondent subsequently met Mrs. Tabbs and questioned her concerning the tragedy. Mrs. Tabbs said:—

"I don't like to say that there is any connection between the murder and the sudden disappearance of my niece. I never could understand why Annie ran away. On the night when she went away George Redding did not come to supper, and the reason that I remember it is because he was always very prompt at his meals. In January last a young man named John Wilson came to my house and asked me if I heard from Annie, and when I told him that I had not heard from her, he said that he knew that she was living in Jenkintown. I then told him that I would give him \$21 if he could find her, and he replied that he would see about it. Later in the week he came to my house with Waite Gaines, with whom he seemed quite friendly. Wilson, when Gaines was out of hearing, told me that Annie needed clothes and money for her fare, and that if I could furnish them he would bring her to me on the following Sunday. I then gave him forty cents, some clothes and a hat and he went away, promising that he would bring Annie on the following Sunday. Gaines, when he was gone, seemed to be very jealous of Annie, and asked me if Wilson was going with Annie. I told him that I knew nothing about it, and that all I wanted was my niece. But neither Wilson nor my niece turned up on Sunday.

"One day I caught sight of Wilson in a cigar store and asked him what had become of Annie. He seemed to be very much confused and told me that the reason she did not come was because she was sick. I then said to him, John Wilson, if you don't give me back my money and clothes I'll have you arrested. A week later, on a Sunday, I think, he came to my house and rang the door bell, but I was out, and a girl who lives next door told me that he stuck a letter under the door and went away. I afterward found that it was a letter addressed to Waite Gaines, and supposed to have been written by Annie, but I know that it was in Waite Gaines' handwriting. The letter supposed to be from Annie, said that the writer was tired of life, and that all her friends had gone back on her, and that she was going away to some place where her friends would not find her. This is the last I heard of Annie, Waite Gaines or John Wilson.

"Gaines has been missing from the house where he boarded for the last few days, but I hear that on Saturday he wrote that he would be back to-day. Something tells me that this mystery is in some way mixed up with those three people."

TRACING WAITE GAINES.

Detective Crawford got hold of Waite Gaines' sister to-day, and subsequently the HERALD correspondent managed to see her, but all she would say was:—"I knew nothing about it until I saw his name in the paper. I have promised not to say anything as yet. I believe a woman did meet him on the street last Wednesday, and I have not seen him since. I will say no more. I have given the police all the information I can."

This woman, it is understood, took Detective Crawford to the house inhabited by a woman who is said to be mysteriously connected with Waite Gaines and the tragedy.

The HERALD correspondent also managed to find Mr. John H. Tabbs, husband of Mrs. Mary Tabbs. He is a colored man and is employed as a carver at the American Hotel. He lives with his wife at No. 1,642 Richard street. Mr. Tabbs was very nervous when questioned by your correspondent, and said that he did not know his wife had gone to Eddington.

"My wife told me," he said, "that Annie lived at Jenkintown. I know that my wife whipped Annie for being in bad company. Annie is a beautiful mulatto, with coal black hair, fine eyes and a delicate skin. I cannot say anything about the murder, for I know nothing. If I was to say anything those parties would put my light out as soon as look at me. Don't ask me any questions, for I can't answer."

ARREST OF MRS. TABBS.

It became known to-night that the mystery was all but solved. Mrs. Hannah Mary Tabbs was arrested at the Broad street station at about half-past five P. M. on her return from Eddington by Detectives Miller and Tate, and will be granted a preliminary hearing to-morrow before Magistrate Smith, at the Central Office. Mrs. Tabbs is suspected of murdering White Gaines, whose body, headless and limbless, is said to be the one found in Mann's pond on Thursday morning last.

This step was brought about by the fact that the detectives discovered that a young man named Waite Gaines had been missing for about a week. Waite Gaines had been boarding with a Mrs. Williams, at No. 207 Schell street, in this city. He had a sister, Mrs. Jennie Cannon, living at No. 1,013 Lemon street, and it was indirectly through her instrumentality that the arrest of Mrs. Tabbs was caused.

Mrs. Cannon has been very much excited ever since the newspapers first spread the story of the murder. She told Chief of Detectives Kelly to-day that she had not seen her brother since Tuesday last, and she was of the opinion that the body found in Mann's Pond might be his. He is described as stooping or high shouldered and is said to have been intimate with Mrs. Tabbs, who is much older than he, and who visited him at several of his boarding places, passing as his aunt.

Mrs. Tabbs is said to have been violently jealous of him, and upon one occasion attacked him in front of his sister's house and cut his face badly and forced him to run into the house and hide himself.

Conductor Frank G. Swain this evening was confronted with Mrs. Tabbs and positively identified her as the tall, gaunt woman "who acted so mysteriously with her heavy and light bundle on Wednesday night and got off the train at Eddington."