

INSANE IMPULSE CAUSE OF MAYOR'S ACT

On No Other Theory Can Mr. McLane's Tragic Deed Be Explained.

WHOLE CITY IN MOURNING FOR DEAD

Courts And Municipal Bodies Pass Resolutions Of Respect And Adjourn—City Buildings Draped By Order Of Mayor Timanus—Funeral Will Take Place This Afternoon And Will Be Strictly Private.

While the whole city was shocked at the tragic death of the Mayor and the name of the dead man yesterday was on the lips of nearly everyone in the community, the one question uppermost in the minds of all was this:

"Why did he do it?"

The most intimate friends and associates of the late Mayor, his widow and his relatives are utterly at a loss to suggest a single reason why he should resort to self-destruction. Without the slightest possible motive for suicide there is but one answer to the question, and that is that the Mayor suddenly or instantaneously became insane and shot himself. This view of the affair is borne out by the testimony of eminent physicians. It is borne out by the facts of the Mayor's career and of his temperament and by the testimony of a dozen intimate friends who had every opportunity to study him.

WHAT DR. PRESTON SAYS.

Dr. George J. Preston, secretary of the Maryland State Board of Lunacy, who has had a wide experience with suicides and is called on every year, in his official capacity, to investigate the causes leading up to the death of numbers of persons who die by their own hands, said last night:

"The thing is so absolutely clear that I do not see how there can be the least doubt concerning the way in which the Mayor ended his life. When a man commits suicide he does it from one of two causes—either some strong, impelling reason why he desires to end his life or he is insane. You cannot get away from this proposition. No man ever killed himself except for one or the other of these two reasons.

"Now, look at the case of the Mayor. There was absolutely no motive for suicide. His prospects were of the brightest, his life pleasant and he was in no trouble. Those who knew him best bear testimony that at no time had he exhibited the slightest sign of depression or given the least hint that there was any trouble preying upon his mind. He had everything to live for, and yet he undoubtedly killed himself. I have known the Mayor personally for a number of years and can imagine no man with less reason for suicide. His devotion to his wife, his interest in his work, his many warm friends, his youth, his social position and his exemplary habits all form good reasons why he should have loved life and wanted to live a long time. Yet, he killed himself."

THE REASON

"Now, what was the reason? I think—ever since the fire in February—the Mayor had been forced to shoulder tremendous and almost unprecedented responsibilities. He worked, as his associates at the City Hall will testify, night and day, and devoted himself, with all his energies, to the enormous task of bringing order out of chaos and furthering the work of rehabilitating the city. New problems were constantly arising, differences of opinion on important questions were manifested, and there was considerable criticism.

"What happened?"

"The Mayor simply overworked his brain and put too severe a tax upon his whole nervous system, with the result that there came a moment when the brain collapsed and he became insane. It was then that he shot himself.

"There is no other solution of his death. None other is plausible or will hold water for an instant.

"There are plenty of cases on record of a similar nature, where a man, apparently in good health and good spirits, with every reason to live, has suddenly suffered a collapse of the nervous system; his brain has given away and suicide has followed.

"The Mayor may have been in his right mind up to the time he fired the shot that killed him.

"Such cases of sudden insanity, while they are rare, have frequently happened, and there are enough on record to make perfectly clear the way in which the Mayor came to die.

"If a man overtaxes his stomach by over-eating or overdrinking there may easily come a time when he suddenly develops Bright's disease or some other serious trouble, hitherto unsuspected and of which he had shown no previous symptom. The eyes may fall in the same way and as suddenly. The brain is no different from any other organ of the human body, and when overworked, as Mayor McLane's undoubtedly was, there is nothing very surprising in the fact that it gave way. To my mind there is not the slightest doubt that this is what happened."

CORROBORATIVE TESTIMONY.

The views given above by Dr. Preston, who is a recognized authority on the subject, are generally concurred in by physicians who have attempted to analyze the case. Every circumstance and condition surrounding the life of the Mayor combats the theory that he committed suicide while in his normal condition and right mind.

One of the strongest reasons why such a theory is impossible is the certain lack of premeditation or thought about the shooting.

On Saturday night the Mayor and his wife dined at home with Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Allan Poe and there was not the least indication that he was in any but his normal frame of mind.

On Sunday evening Mr. and Mrs. McLane took dinner out and saw a number of friends, with whom the Mayor chatted pleasantly, as usual.

DAY OF HIS DEATH.

On Monday morning he took a walk, not going to the City Hall, because it was a holiday. While out he met several acquaintances, among them Mr. Henry J. McGrath and City Councilman Bushrod M. Watts. To both he spoke in the most cheerful kind of way and talked of matters he intended to do on the morrow.

Upon returning to his home he talked with his messenger, Mr. McGrath, over

the telephone and joked with him about riding on the cars.

According to the testimony of Mrs. McLane and the servants in the household, he ate his luncheon as usual and appeared well and happy.

After the meal he went upstairs into his wife's room, where he sat for a while laughing and talking.

Before one o'clock he wrote several notes making appointments for the following day. One of these letters was to Mr. John E. Semmes. Another was to Judge Henry D. Harlan, and in neither was there the slightest incoherence or any trace of trouble. They were exactly the kind of letters the Mayor might have been expected to write.

His whole mental make-up is against the intentional suicide theory. Those who knew him well knew him as a man of unusual calmness and serenity of mind. He was of what is termed the judicial temperament: cool, collected, dignified and reserved, with an apparent lack of emotion, rather than an excess of it. In describing him, most people spoke of him as being "level headed and well balanced."

NOT HURT BY CRITICISM.

In reference to the newspaper criticisms of his administration, it can be said with truth that there was comparatively little of it, and, in fact, none at all that reflected in any way upon the Mayor personally, or cast a doubt as to his own sincerity of purpose and integrity. The idea that he took these criticisms sufficiently to heart to become discouraged is declared to be absurd by his close friends.

Had the Mayor been in any financial trouble or was there any impending disgrace about to fall upon him, there might, it is claimed, be some grounds to believe that he intentionally shot himself, but there is every evidence to convince that the reverse was the case and that his whole life was well ordered and free from worries, except of the usual sort, as it is possible to imagine.

In view of these circumstances taken in connection with the testimony of the physicians, the detectives, the coroner, Mrs. McLane and the household servants, the friends of the late Mayor are now convinced that he was insane when the shot was fired and that his mind became unhinged suddenly.

FUNERAL TODAY.

The funeral of the late Mayor will take place this afternoon at 5 o'clock at the residence of his parents, 903 Cathedral street. It will be strictly private.

Interment will be at Greenmount Cemetery. By advertisement the officials of that burial place announce in THE SUN that the gates will be closed today and admission to lot-owners only will be made at the main gate.

THE PALBEARERS.

The pallbearers will be:

- Messrs.—
W. CABELL BRUCE.
D. K. ESTE FISHER.
EDGAR ALLAN POE.
HARRY W. RODGERS.
N. W. JAMES.
JACOB ULMAN.
C. MORTON STEWART, Jr.
EMORY McMICHAEL, of Philadelphia.

There will be no honorary pallbearers. The name of the officiating minister is not authoritatively stated.

Up to 8 o'clock last night the funeral arrangements had not been completed. About 2 o'clock Mr. James L. McLane and Gen. Allan McLane, the Mayor's father and brother, left the house, at 29 West Preston street. The latter stated that nothing had been decided upon.

Shortly before this Mr. Edgar Allan Poe had said the funeral probably would be held this afternoon at 5 o'clock from St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church. Later on in the afternoon he said that he did not know whether there would be a church funeral.

From this statement it is believed that the family was having some difficulty in securing the Protestant Episcopal Church service, for the reason that it is a law of the church that a suicide cannot be buried with that church's service. Inasmuch as Coroner Hayden rendered a verdict of suicide, Mr. Poe admitted that he was experiencing some trouble.

BISHOP PARET'S STATEMENT.

Bishop Paret said yesterday that the matter of Mayor McLane's funeral arrangements had not come before him. According to the laws of the church a suicide cannot be buried with the Protestant Episcopal service, but any rector can hold some other service if he feels so disposed. This is left entirely with the rector. The Bishop said it was not for him to decide whether the Mayor was sane or insane when he did the act. He also said the church would be governed by the action of the authorities as to whether it was suicide.

During the uncertainty as to the funeral announcement a statement was made by an intimate friend of the family that the arrangements would not be made public.

In the conference between the Mayor's father and brother and Mr. Poe it was decided not to have the body lie in state at the City Hall. The members of the family desire that the funeral ceremony should be as quiet and unostentatious as possible.

REMAINS SEEN BY FEW.

The body of the late Mayor was viewed yesterday by only a few persons. The majority of the callers contented themselves with leaving cards.

Among those who saw the remains were President Evan H. Morgan, of the First Branch of the City Council, and Councilmen Stephen C. Little and Roger T. Gill. They called at the residence and learned of plans for the funeral in order that the City Council might take action in the matter. They left after waiting nearly an hour without obtaining the desired information. The remains were placed in a casket yes-

terday afternoon. The casket is of cedar, covered with the finest black broadcloth. The handles and plate are of plain oxidized silver. On the plate is engraved "Robert Milligan McLane, Born November 20, 1867. Died May 30, 1904."

The body is dressed in the familiar dark-faded business suit which the Mayor's friends have observed recently. A broad-dilly collar and a blue-checked necktie complete the dress. By a clever arrangement of the pillows and the use of cotton, the wound on the right temple is hidden from view. A number of floral offerings are distributed about the room.

MANY CALLERS AT HOME.

During the day a great many persons called at the house, the majority leaving cards. Many were of the lower walks of life and pleaded to be allowed to see the Mayor's body. The doorkeeper, however, was obdurate and refused admittance.

It was learned that Mrs. McLane was recovering from the shock of her husband's death. She denied herself to callers and was said to be attended by Mrs. Elliott Schenck and the Misses Van Rubber.

On Monday night Assistant City Solicitor Poe and Mayor's Secretary Rodgers guarded the body. They shared the responsibility again last night.

THOSE WHO LEFT CARDS.

Among those who called at the house yesterday and left cards were Mrs. Alexander Brown, Mrs. Van Lear Black, Mrs. Rosa W. Whistler, Mrs. John Carroll of the Caves, Judge Oscar Leach, of the Appeal Tax Court; Water Engineer Alfred M. Quick, Rev. Arthur Chilton Power, rector of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church; Mr. George W. Penniman, Mr. Edwin L. Turbull, Mr. Jacob W. Hook, Mr. Rauben Foster, of the Burnt District Commission, and President George W. Gall, Jr., Edward M. Parrish and A. Roszell Cathart, of the Fire Board.

THOSE WHO LEFT CARDS.

Others who left cards late in the day were:

- Mr. and Mrs.—
Robert T. Taylor,
Bancroft Davis,
Raleigh C. Thomas,
George Reuling,
Eugene Levering, Jr.,
George B. Brown,
Mrs. McLane—
George F. Thomas,
Frank Key Howard,
W. Murray Carter,
Mary R. Carroll,
Andrew H. Whitridge,
Francis K. Carey,
William DeFord,
Alexander T. Leftwich,
Edgar Allan Poe,
Misses—
Duer,
Cora E. Thomas,
Messrs.—
Bernard C. Steiner,
Dr. E. McE. Van Ness,
Dr. Nathan R. Corser,
George K. McGraw,
Dr. John N. Mackenzie,
Lee Doran,
Randolph N. Dame,
George P. Thomas, Jr.,
Dr. H. H. Biedler,
Declarator H. Miller, Jr.,
Charles Morton,
Roger B. Hopkins,
Charles G. Nicholson,
Walter B. Brooks, Jr.,
Charles K. Lord,
Clarence Shelter,
John Glenn, Jr.,
Dr. H. M. Thomas,
Wilson M. Carr,
T. W. Tongue,
Albert S. J. Owens,
August C. Binswanger,
Felix R. Sullivan,
Cowan W. Rams,
Clinton Peters,
David Murdoch,
T. Robert Jenkins,
William H. Fisher,
Dr. Isaac R. Trimble,
George M. Upshur,
John B. Morris,
Henry W. Wardell,
Norman James,
N. Winslow Williams,
Henry A. Orrick,
Clayton C. Hall,
Elford Gould,
Messrs.—
Henry Daingerfield,
Benjamin F. Horwitz,
George C. Carter,
A. Wardell Martin,
Fuglinand E. Chatard,
Clinton P. Payne,
Walter F. Smith,
Francis E. Pegrum,
Misses—
Alice G. Rowdoin,
Messrs.—
B. M. Watts,
Dr. Joseph A. Chatard,
Henry O. Thompson,
Andrew J. Young,
J. Webb Thomas,
Bernidge H. Young,
Edmund A. Schultz,
S. Gross Horwitz,
D. K. Este Fisher,
R. T. Pendall,
George Mar.,
J. H. B. Whitridge,
Dr. Thomas H. Buckley,
Edward Key,
John C. Rose,
P. W. Wilkinson,
A. S. Goldsborough,
Franklin W. Loveling,
George A. Finch,
Edmund V. Cumming,
N. D. Sellers, 4th,
Joseph L. Wickes,
Ferdinand C. Latrobe,
Dr. Edwin Geer,
Leri Weinberger,
Sherlock Swann,
John F. Parlett,
Charles W. Field,
Robert K. Waring,
Theodore Marburg,
William M. Byrne.

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Alice G. Rowdoin,
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Charles W. Field,
Robert K. Waring,
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William M. Byrne.

DR. BOSLEY'S VIEW

"Uncontrollable Impulse At Sight Of Pistol," His Theory.

"I believe that the taking of his own life was entirely unpremeditated," said Health Commissioner Bosley, in speaking of the death of Mayor McLane.

"When he entered the room I am confident an uncontrollable impulse seized him when he saw the pistol. A similar feeling comes over us all when we look from the top of a monument or high tower to precipitate ourselves to the depths below."

In speaking of Mayor McLane Dr. Bosley said:

"Like every other citizen I was immensely shocked when I was informed of the death of Mayor McLane. Only on last Saturday I had a very pleasant chat with him. He seemed then to be in good spirits and talked with me about the Health Department and matters and conditions that will arise within the next two months. He showed a lively interest in the efforts the Health Department is making to prevent the spread of smallpox, and went so far as to have me vaccinate him.

"I looked upon Mr. McLane as possessing some of the highest attributes of manhood. I believe that in all his official acts he was prompted by the purest motives, and if he committed errors of judgment they were very small and few in number.

"He was always courteous, and every one who met him left with pleasant recollections of his agreeable manner.

"I had a personal knowledge of his great desire to bring about the rehabilitation of Baltimore. His earnestness in this respect greatly impressed me."

ALL THE COURTS ADJOURN

Eulogistic Tributes To The Character Of The Dead Mayor.

The death of Mayor McLane was announced in the United States District Court yesterday morning by District Attorney John C. Rose, who, addressing Judge Thomas J. Morris, said:

"Personally I feel and I believe the judgment of the public will agree with that the city has suffered a very serious loss. I know of no man in my lifetime who has brought to the service of the public a clearer intellect, a more unswerving honesty and a greater desire to do his duty as he saw it, and who combined with those qualities that courtesy and dignity which made the dispatch of the public business come easy to him and pleasant to those brought in contact with him.

"He was called on to face a most extraordinary crisis in the city of Baltimore. That some criticism should be leveled at him or at any man under such circumstances was inevitable, but I believe that as time goes by it will be found that the criticism was for the most part unjustified and that the Mayor was giving to the city a service of a very high and valuable character. His taking of life is a great loss to this community and I should move to this court, when it adjourns today, do main adjourned until Thursday, the day after his funeral, and that the reason this adjournment shall be entered up the minutes of this court."

Mr. William L. Marbury, former District Attorney, said:

"He was as truthful and honest a man as I ever knew, as faithful a man to his pledge he ever gave that I have ever known. The pleasure of becoming acquainted with him honestly believe that as far as a man can do so he, in good faith, endeavored to carry out in letter and in spirit every pledge or promise upon the strength of which he secured his election to the office of Mayor of Baltimore, and that no man in this country or any other country had the actual power of its government and the administration of its affairs in the hands of a man who had an eye so minutely single to the city's interests.

"We have here a peculiar situation: a city of nearly 600,000 people where the powers of government, practically the preme power, is vested under its new charter in a body of five men, the Board of Estimates, which has the real power, the controlling power and voice in the government of the city. That board consists of five members, of whom the Mayor and two appointees constitute a majority. The people of Baltimore have had in it a board, as the result of Robert McLane's selection, at a time when there was no money to be expended, more responsible to the people's history and body of men who had