

THE MOTIVE FOR A CRIME.

WHY A NEW-ORLEANS WOMAN WAS MURDERED TWO YEARS AGO.

NEW-ORLEANS, Nov. 7.—Two years ago this week the city was startled by the killing of Kate Townsend, one of the chief members of the demi-monde, by Troisville Sykes, who had been her paramour for 20 years. Early in the morning he crept down stairs to her room in his underclothing, carrying a dirk knife. He entered her room, locked the door behind him, and stabbed her as she lay in bed, inflicting a dozen terrible wounds on her neck and body, the knife penetrating to the heart. The woman's shrieks were heard by the servants and boarders in the house, but they refrained from interfering in what they supposed was a quarrel. When his bloody work was accomplished and his victim was dead Sykes opened the door, informed one of the women what he had done, went to his room, changed his blood-stained underclothes, washed and dressed himself, and surrendered to the police. His relatives called on him at the station house. He had but one word for them, "The will; go and find the will or we are ruined." The will was found and opened. It had been made many years before in favor of Sykes, and left him all of her property, valued at nearly \$200,000. The will was put into court and admitted to probate with unusual expedition. Sykes, while in jail waiting trial for murdering the woman, made haste to sell all the real estate, with which he raised funds and gave enormous fees to his lawyers and others. He was tried for the murder and was acquitted. No human eye had seen the deed committed, while the dwellers under Kate Townsend's roof swore that she was in the habit of beating Sykes, and he brought witnesses to prove that he was a physical coward and would never strike a blow unless he was cornered and afraid for his life. When Sykes left the jail he married a respectable widow in Biloxi, Miss., and has since been keeping a hotel at that popular seacoast resort. The case has been opened anew this week by the appearance in court as intervener of Mrs. Ellen Tully, of San Francisco, who claims to be a sister of the murdered woman, and asking to be placed in possession of her estate. She has made a strong circumstantial case. In the course of the trial yesterday R. G. McLean, a respectable young cotton merchant, furnished a startling clue to the motive for the crime. He swore that on the night previous to the murder Kate Townsend had expressed to him her intention of retiring from her evil traffic, eschewing her former associates, and living respectably in a private house. She declared her intention to make a new will, giving her property to the House of the Good Shepherd or the Charity Hospital, and told him to meet her at Pizzine's restaurant on the next day with a notary public and two witnesses, when she would make a new will. The fact came to Sykes's knowledge that he was to be discarded and to lose his mistress's wealth, and the early morning murder was the result. The court has issued an attachment for Sykes, but he is careful to keep beyond the reach of the Sheriff on the other side of the Mississippi State line.

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