

B. M. SHAFFNER.

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Benjamin M. Shaffner, neatly dressed and
with a button-hole bouquet decorating the left
lapet of his coat, took the stand. He had no

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desire, he said, to hold back any facts, but at the same time he wished it understood that any information he had derived from his client was to be held sacred.

The Coroner and Mr. Reed said they thought there would be no difficulty about that.

Mr. Shaffner, in response to the Coroner's questions, testified that the woman's right name was Agélaide Robert. He was surprised, he said, on reaching Juessen's office Thursday afternoon, to find that she had preceded him. He made the remark, on entering the room, that he was ready to proceed. Just then he saw Mrs. Robert walk around the table in front of Weber and in less than a second he saw the blaze of the revolver and jumped forward to get hold of it. He heard no outcry from Weber, so didn't suppose he was hurt. As he grasped the revolver to get it from her, the detective pounced upon her and held her down on the lounge. Juessen removed Weber to another room, and when witness got in there Weber said, "Isn't this a nice piece of business?" or something of that kind. He replied that he was sorry for what had happened, and tried to render some assistance. He handed the revolver to a young man in the building, and hadn't seen it since. Then he ran out to get a doctor, but Juessen had anticipated him. The reason he took the revolver from the woman was that he feared there might be some further shots fired. When he caught hold of her she was falling backwards, as if in a fit. He saw no effort to cock the revolver, and heard no "click"; simply saw the flash and heard the report. The other chambers were loaded. He knew of no motive, but he presumed—well, he wouldn't of course say what the motive was. He couldn't say. He did not know that any one had instigated her, directly or indirectly. He did not see her again until the next morning.

In answer to the foreman of the jury, Mr. Cole, the witness, stated that Mrs. Robert was a widow,—that is, he understood that her second husband, Robert, had been killed in a railroad accident, and that she had been divorced from Bennert, her first husband. Witness was present when the chair was thrown, Wednesday, and Col. Juessen had narrated the occurrence pretty much as it happened.

"Did you hear her say anything just before the shot was fired?" asked Mr. Reed.

"I don't think that I did. I had been there perhaps thirty seconds when she walked to the table and said something to Mr. Weber. It was said in a low, mumbling tone, and I didn't understand what it was."

"Were your opportunities for hearing as good as Col. Juessen's?"

"I think I was nearer to her than he was. I think he was probably four or five feet west of her, and between me and her, not on a line, but west of us and between us, although not directly between us. I don't think I was more than two feet from her when she spoke to Mr. Weber; don't think there is any question of that."

Col. Juessen had testified that he was directly behind the woman, and so close to her as to almost touch her. From his position and his greater height, he could look over her head and see Weber.

"Did you know she had a revolver with her that day?" continued Mr. Reed.

"No, sir; I never saw her with a revolver, and don't think I ever heard her talk about one. I never heard her threaten to shoot Weber or make threats to use violence upon him, not that I know of. I know that whenever his name was spoken she seemed to be angry and frenzied."

"Oh, that is undoubtedly true," said Mr. Reed.

"I attempted to prevent any schemes," continued the witness, "and after this little scene of the chair-throwing I told her she must go out of the room or I would go out of the case."

"Have you stated to any newspaper reporter that your professional relation to her wouldn't allow you to tell whether she had a revolver or not?"

"I don't think that question was ever asked me."

"Did you see her fooling in her pocket during the examination?"

"I saw her fumbling under her cloak, but she has done the same thing at my office,—a sort of twitching that was very usual with her. I saw no handkerchief before the shot was fired."

"Have you ever had any talk with Henry Greenebaum about this case,—before the shooting?"

"Never."

"Any conversation with him about prosecuting it?"

"Never."

"Did he ever pay you anything for prosecuting the case against Mr. Weber?"

"No, sir. He has never talked to me about prosecuting the case, and never paid me a cent to prosecute it."

"Did he ever talk to you about Mr. Weber?"

"I think he has."

"What did he say?"

"Well, I think I met him on the street one day, a few days ago, and he told me that Mr. Weber had made some malicious statements in his report. He said the statements were not true, and he had certain notes and checks to prove it."

"I mean about the suit of Mrs. Robert against Mr. Weber."

"Oh, no; Mr. Greenebaum and I had no relations in reference to this suit."

"Nor any conversations in relation to it?"

"Well, sir, I don't think that we ever had. I don't suppose I have spoken to him three times in my life."

"Did you tell Mr. Greenebaum, or any friend of his, where this examination was to take place?"

"I think I told Mr. Greenebaum about it."

"How did you happen to tell him about it?"

"Well, that I don't know. I know he and Mr. Weber had been interested, and I told him the testimony was to be taken at a certain time and place. I think this was in the same conversation—when I met him one day on Washington street. I can't tell whether it was Wednesday or the day previous."

"Who first spoke of the testimony being taken,—you or he?"

"I can't tell you. It was mentioned in a casual way."

"Did he ask you whether the testimony was to be taken, or did you volunteer the statement when it was to be taken?"

"Well, I can't tell. My impression is that I stated it to him."

"That you told him yourself?"

"Yes, sir."

"Has any person ever promised to pay your fees to prosecute Mr. Weber,—that is, of course, except Mrs. Robert?"

"No, sir. Not a dollar."

"Who first introduced you to her about the case?"

"Well, sir, I can't tell how she came. I can only tell you what I heard. My brother-in-law, Emanuel Hartman, first spoke to me about the case, and asked me if I would take such a case."

"Is he in any way related to Mr. Greenebaum?"

"No, sir; he is my brother-in-law. I told him if it was a legal matter that I could honourably take charge of, I would do so, and in a day or two afterwards she called at my office alone. I don't remember whether she said anybody sent her or not."

"Did Adolph Moses, Mr. Greenebaum's attorney, speak to you about bringing the suit?"

"No, sir. She told me she had applied to him to take charge of the case, but, owing to the relations he sustained to Mr. Greenebaum, he said he couldn't do it, because his motives might be misconstrued."

This was all for the present; but the witness was afterwards recalled and asked how many barrels there were in that revolver. He said he thought there were either six or seven.

The revolver, by the way, hadn't been produced. It was still in the hands of Officer Bowen, who hadn't turned up, and immediate efforts were put forth to secure his attendance, as well as that of Cleary, the Pinkerton detective. Mr. Reed said the latter had been at Weber's house in the morning, but owing to some misunderstanding as to where the inquest would be held had not yet presented himself. The Coroner's right-hand man, however, subsequently came in with a story to the effect that the aforesaid detective had been ordered to be at the inquest and stay as long as Mr. Reed wanted him, and, furthermore, that the "office" didn't know where he was if he wasn't at the inquest. As a matter of fact, Mr. Cleary, or No. 1,001, or whatever his proper title is, conspicuously failed to show up at all, and the inquest had to go on without him.