

# A.T. STEWART'S BODY FOUND

## THE GUILTY PERSONS ALL KNOWN.

CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OBTAINED AGAINST EVERY MAN—SEVERAL RESPECTABLE PERSONS IMPLICATED—NO POSSIBILITY OF ESCAPE FROM PUNISHMENT—WHAT JUDGE HILTON SAYS—INCIDENTS OF THE CHASE.

THE TIMES has official permission from the highest authorities connected with the Stewart body-snatching case to make public the fact—which it has known for several days—that not only has the body been found but the perpetrators have been discovered. Nearly complete evidence has been secured, sufficient beyond all cavil to send each one of the thieves to State Prison, and an officer of the law holds every man in his grasp, only awaiting the signal to drag him to prison. In starting out in their investigation three distinct lines of clues were followed. Chief of Detectives Kealy had one, Inspector Murray another, and Judge Hilton and his private staff of detectives the third. All three concentrated until they ran in the same groove, by following which the exact hiding-place of the body was discovered. This having been settled by ocular demonstration, the inquiry was continued until it was learned that those having custody of the body were an entirely different set of persons from those who actually perpetrated the robbery, and that the conspiracy branched out beyond these two classes, inclosing in its limits several others. One by one all the criminals were run down, and bit by bit the evidence to connect each one with the outrage was accumulated. It is not permitted to-day to mention names, but when the full story comes out, to use the language of one of the chief officials engaged in the search, "it will raise the hair on the heads of the people of New-York." Several persons of hitherto unquestioned respectability, who would never be suspected of complicity in such a crime, are among the most guilty participants in the hellish plot. One of them is a prominent attorney, in whose direction every trail that has been worked leads with unerring accuracy. Except the principal, every guilty person was in New-York City last night, and behind each man was a detective ready to pounce upon him at the word. The man alluded to as the principal is out of town, but an officer is at his side, and he cannot escape. So certain is he to be captured that on Wednesday night Judge Hilton received a telegram from the officer, asking, "Shall I arrest?" He answered, "No." His reasons for the delay, which cannot be extended much longer, will be readily appreciated by everybody. His object from the start, has been not merely the recovery of the body. That he might have accomplished several days ago. He considered that unless he made a full and severe example of the robbers and their confederates a precedent would have been established which would have resulted in unlimited evil to the community. This was the first case of the kind that had ever happened in this country. In Judge Hilton's hands lay an opportunity to make the practice so obnoxious that few would care hereafter to take the risks involved. It only needed a little patience, a great deal of hard and skillful work, and the expenditure of a considerable amount of money. All these Judge Hilton was willing to expend for the benefit of society, and he was aided by the best assistance that the country afforded. The result has been as already stated. The entire "gang" has been known for two days past, but the evidence against all was not considered complete up to last evening. Hence the delay in making the arrests. Judge Hilton does not want to let a single man escape by any possibility. It is believed that the guilty parties know that they are shadowed, for they all exhibit considerable nervousness. It was not intended to make any arrests last night. The probabilities are that a complete swoop will be made to-day, and the entire gang lodged in jail at the same time. There is no further necessity for keeping back this information, as all that is needed is a few additional links in the chain of testimony connecting one or two of the inferior members of the gang with the conspiracy, and these it is expected will be soon obtained. As Judge Hilton stated yesterday in his published interview in THE TIMES, the regular Police deserve all the credit for this successful termination of one of the finest pieces of detective work ever performed.

A reporter of THE TIMES called upon Judge Hilton last evening to obtain further particulars of the case for publication. The Judge was in his most amiable mood. Asked whether the search was likely to end in smoke, he responded with an emphatic "No, Sir-ree!" A portion of the story as given above was detailed to him, and he was asked to give it his official sanction. He smiled, and refused, adding: "Why didn't they tell you the rest?" The remainder having been related to him, he listened with interest, and, after a few moments' hesitation, said: "I will not confirm it."

"Will you deny it?" asked the reporter.

"I will not," was the emphatic answer.

"Is the search nearly ended?" was the next question.

Judge Hilton smiled again. "Have patience," he said, "and you will get a story to fill three or four columns. I am *very* hopeful, (with emphasis on 'very.') We are much further advanced than yesterday. I will say that."

"Has the disappearance of the advertisements offering a reward of \$25,000 from the columns of the newspapers any significance?"

Judge Hilton again smiled. After some hesitation he answered: "No; the orders were that the advertisements should be inserted a certain number of times. Possibly there was neglect in renewing the orders, and the papers left them out."

In answer to further questions, Judge Hilton was drawn into expressing his views on the question of punishing the thieves. He was very emphatic in saying that nothing less would for a moment be countenanced by him. He instanced a recent case in Sicily in which the daughter of a rich man was abducted and a ransom of £10,000 was asked for her return. Her father indignantly spurned all negotiations of the kind. The robbers immediately cut off the girl's ear and sent it to him with a demand for £20,000. He was obliged to pay it." "If I do not make this case an entire success," said Judge Hilton, "the state of affairs will be repeated in this country. The entire community is as much interested as I am in having the punishment of the criminals made complete, and I will not be satisfied with anything less under any circumstances whatever."

This was all that Judge Hilton would say, but the sources from which the facts given above were obtained leave no doubt of their entire trustworthiness. The following incident, which was learned yesterday, has an important bearing on the case, and there is no harm in relating it: Across the way from Mrs. Newton's now famous boarding-house is another boarding-house kept by Frederick Wichman, a German. It is No. 44 Stuyvesant-street, and directly faces St. Mark's grave-yard. Two domiciliary visits by different sets of detectives have been made to it since the 8th inst., and the inmates have been especially warned to hold no conversation with the reporters. It has been ascertained, however, that several weeks before the robbery three men, of whom the Police obtained a full description, hired a front room on the second floor of No. 44. Their movements on the morning of the robbery are not known to the other inmates, but it has been discovered that at 7:10

L. M. a hack drove up to the door and several runks belonging to these persons were placed upon it. Neither men nor baggage has been seen since. It is supposed that the body was in one of the trunks, having been taken across and placed there immediately after the robbery. The hackman has been found, but the Police refuse to say who he is, Peter Relyea, an undertaker, of No. 3 Willett street, obtains his carriages from John Graham, a livery stable keeper, at No. 25 1/2 Sheriff-street. Graham had in his employ a hackman named Kelly, who was on duty on the night of the robbery. He turned up at 1:45 A. M. on Thursday morning with \$2, which he said was all he had earned. On Thursday afternoon he drove two fares, and then mysteriously disappeared. Some people who saw him on Friday say that he appeared very flush of money. One of his fellow-employees says that he spoke of going West, but his disappearance without warning is regarded as exceedingly strange.

The following letter, composed of letters and words cut from a newspaper, was received at Police Head-quarters yesterday. It is postmarked Rutland, Vt., Nov. 13:

IN 8 Hour I will Be in Canada WITH A. T. Stewart's Body. A WOMEN Has his remains.

It is addressed in the same style:

The chief of police

NEW YORK

The following, received at Police Head-quarters last evening, is explanatory of the manner in which it was mailed. Woodhouse is supposed to be a railroad employee:

RUTLAND, Vt., 12th inst.

Chief of Police, New-York City:

A lady handed me a letter from car window, directed to you. I do not know as it is of any of my business, but having read in New-York papers of the efforts and excitement over the Stewart robbery, I have connected the two matters. Letter was directed in print. Lady about 40, large, very bright dark eyes, and rather prepossessing, but rather masculine in appearance. Man with her who asked "what that was," and said something about his doing it or her. Don't remember which way the train went, but think north. Lady was quite well dressed and appeared to be of good class. Handed me the letter with direction down. May be of importance.

GEORGE W. WOODHOUSE.

A lunatic visited Police Head-quarters yesterday afternoon, carrying a citrate of magnesia bottle filled with some milky fluid smelling slightly of carbolic acid. When shaken it broke into tiny white flakes. The man gave his name as H. Zelinski, and said that the bottle contained the body of A. T. Stewart, which he had reduced by means of a white powder, a portion of which, wrapped in paper, he produced. Chief of Detectives Kealey thanked him warmly, and he took his departure, apparently greatly pleased. He left the bottle behind him and did not ask for any reward.

Following is the official report of the chemical and microscopical examination made by Prof. Bellinger White, at the School of Mines, Columbia College, of the stains found on the porch:

My analysis revealed the presence of fat and oil from human adipose tissue. I, therefore, deduct the following conclusions: That the stains are due to the deposit of decomposed animal matter. That these stains occurred during the removal of the corpse. That the removal must have taken place at an early date and not a month ago, because the chemical nature of human oil is known to be such that, under the combined influences of friction, heat, and oxidation, their stains and odor disappear very rapidly.

Capt. McCullagh and the Head-quarters detectives made two domiciliary visits last night to two different houses in the vicinity of St. Mark's church-yard. When questioned, they said they had merely done so to satisfy people who were pestering them with information, and that there had been no result.

#### JUDGE HILTON'S CORRESPONDENTS.

Judge Hilton has received thousands of letters from citizens since the outrage was made public offering advice and suggestions, and every mail brings a fresh batch. Most of them are worthless, except as curiosities, but there are many which appear to be written in good faith, and give clues that are considered worthy of following up. Judge Hilton wishes it known that he will treat all such as confidential, and will continue to be grateful for their receipt. He permitted the TIMES reporter to look at the others yesterday and cull a few specimens for publication. A large proportion contain offers to produce the body for a stipulated sum, which runs all the way from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000. What the object of the writers could have been can only be conjectured. If the half of them are honest it must have required a good-sized regiment to carry out the robbery. The most business-like, as well as the highest-priced, is as follows. It is postmarked from Brooklyn:

NEW-YORK, Nov. 9, 1878.

Henry Hilton, Esq.

DEAR SIR: Proper and honorable negotiations will be made with yourself and the widow of the late A. T. Stewart, Esq., and, in the meantime, let me assure you that the remains of this gentleman are safe beyond the possibility of detection, and have been for some time. We shall require a most substantial reward before you can hope to obtain the return of the body. It must certainly strike a man of your experience that those who have watched and labored for the scheme that the paltry sum you have offered will never reveal the discovery or the body or its return. Perhaps, after you have waited a month, or a year, or 10 years, this will be apparent, for we have taken the precaution by scientific means of proving the body even were it 10 years to come, and as it is safe we can afford to wait. To be brief, when a reward of \$1,000,000 shall be paid, and perfect immunity from prosecution be most thoroughly guaranteed, then, and not till then, shall we for the instant entertain any idea of opening negotiations with yourself or any of the friends of the deceased. Any or all future communication you may have to make must be done through the columns of the Herald personals, addressed to yours, &c.

OSWALD BAXTER.

The following was posted at Station F No. 13, at 5 P. M.:

STATION E, Nov. 13—5 P. M.

To Whom it May Most Concern:

The remains of A. T. Stewart are beyond the possibility of discovery, and they are and will be kept in as perfect state of preservation as possible. Though not a party to the act of securing them, their whereabouts will immediately be made known by offering an unconditional and suitable reward for their recovery through the press. When this is done we will put ourselves in communication with the party offering the reward.

N. N.

Following are other curious specimens of the same ilk:

Judge Hilton, Esq., N. Y.:

SIR: If you make the reward fifty thousand dollars and no questions asked, the body of Mr. Stewart will be returned; please advertise in Herald. R. Y. P. O., N. Y., Nov. 12, 11 A. M. K.

The following, written in a fine, feminine hand, and with a square piece cut out of one corner, was posted at Station C, Nov. 9, at 3:30 A. M.:

I. CITY, Nov. 8, 1878.

Mrs. Cornelia Stewart:

DEAR MADAM: Your terms are unsatisfactory. Whenever you wish to make the sum \$100,000, you will place a personal in the Herald, as follows:

Agreed to—S. H. H. C.

Until then you will not hear again from U. S.

II.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 8, 1878.

Company —

\$100,000 will find the body of A. T. S. in two days. By order of

N. B. J. & B. S. Lodge.

SAM RILEY, Sec.

III.

To Mrs. A. T. Stewart, Judge Hamilton, Mr. Libby.

Skull and Crossbones

Signal.

DEATH

If this reward is not given in

5 days it shall be lost through herald.

SAM, Pres.

WILL, Vice-Pres.

MICH, tres.

CONNERS, sec.

IV.

N. Y., 11, 13, 78.

Judge Hilton:

DEAR SIR: If you will promise me not to lock me up, and give me \$10,000, I will tell you where the body and remains of the late A. T. Stewart is.

ONE OF THE ROBBERS.

Answer in the N. Y. Tribune quick as possibly, or I will take

P. S. This is private.

V.

Boston, Novm 13 '78

Judge Hilton

Sir

I know where the body of a t stewart is he is not in your city i know where he is. you will have to make the reward larger and stop the police from huntin fer him. You can communicate with me by addressin a personal in any of the Boston papers to

THOMPSON

Chimny No. 129.

VI.

Postal.

ALBANY, Nov. 13, 1878.

Mr. Hilton:

SIR: Put a personal in New-York Herald appointing interview in New-York City, and I will give you information that will astonish you. I know where Stewart's body is now and where it can be found

and all else will disclose, but the men who did the work must not be touched. After everything is done reward me. Yours truly,

A. D. X.

VII.

Dear Madam:

As long as I can make no money now, I will let you know wehre the Body is if you promise to finish the new Catholic Church in fifth Ave. and 51 and 52 street under written guarantee this is a good proposition and you must look at this the Body is in new York on Murray hill in a Cellar and we can keep it for 2 years longer.

Answer through personal in herald under

A. T. S.

VIII.

JUDGE HILTON YOU AR TO FRESH DO YOU THINK WE STOLE THAT BODDY LAST NITE THAT BODDY HAS BENE BERRED 1 YERE IF YOU WANT TO NO WHAR IT IS, ASK

HERALD PERSONAL

JUGE HILTON

NEW YORK

STEWRTS STOR

A man in Rochester, who gives what purports to be his real name, says he is one of a gang of seven that robbed the grave. He professes to be repentant, and offers to appear against a woman (name and residence given) who, he says, paid all the expenses of the robbers. "Blanck" wants \$50,000 and immunity, or else the remains will be "cremated and burned to ashes." "Johnstone's" terms are similar. B. S., for \$10,000, will send "the remains of your dear husband by express." "X X X" will do the business in two hours for the same sum. "Your Penitent" will be satisfied with \$5,000 if the "thieves are exorated." "Mendazo" will tell Detective George H. Dilks where the body is if the reward will be equally divided between himself and Dilks. He says the latter has done him a good turn once and he wishes to repay it. There are many others of a similar character.

Among the letters containing information is the following, in pencil:

Judge Hilton:

Some years ago when the conspiracy was put up to kidnap Mr. Stewart, one of the principals in it was a man named —, known among sporting men as (a well-known bank robber.) He was once a salesman in Mr. Stewart's store, but for 10 years he has been connected with burglars, thieves, and gamblers, and has been reputed to have been connected with many of the principal burglaries and forgeries throughout the country, his chief part being the concocting and planning the crime beforehand and the disposing of the property afterward, either by sale or by negotiation between the thieves and losers. A short time before the robbery he was overheard in a gambling-house talking with a man of bad appearance, and evidently a criminal, about robbing Mr. Stewart's vault, and saying it would bring a large reward, and could be easily done. Since the robbery he was overheard in conversation with a man who, dressed differently, looked like the same man, when, in answer to some questions, was overheard this answer: "It is all right. The body is safe enough." The answer was thought to come from —, and it is not improbable that it may be concealed in his house in a doctorized condition. At the first interview referred to, the conversation was earnest and prolonged. The writer does not wish to mix up in the matter publicly, but communicates this information to you.

Among the curious suggestions offered is the following:

PASSAIC, N. J., Nov. 11, 1878.

Judge H. Hilton:

DEAR SIR: Privately offer the Roman Catholic Bishop from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for the return of A. T. Stewart's body, and I think it will be returned without the thieves being rewarded for their labors.

A Wall-street banker writes that during the war of the rebellion many Southern graves in Vicksburg were rifled by Federal soldiers for the sake of the rings and mementoes contained in them, and suggests that some of these scoundrels may have "committed the sacrilego of last week." W. C. M. offers the following, which is decidedly ingenious: "Find the body! Do it with such necessary publicity as you can safely devise. I suggest that it be found in Ninth-street, in the immediate neighborhood of St. Mark's—that one or two parties be arrested for the stealing. Find with the remains a *fac-simile* of the plate stolen from the casket. Everything, in short, requisite to a complete identification. Your identification will be all-sufficient. Pay over the reward offered, have the remains found buried secretly, and wait events. The robbers, finding their game spoiled, will, if their object be money, shortly show their hands." A woman makes the awful suggestion that the body may be buried in the cellar of the nearest Police station, "way down deap in a damp place." She adds that "people must not think because men are pliceman they are all right." Judge Hilton is advised to search barrels of spirits in bucket shops, sewers, the side walls of the vault, under the steps in the vault, the inside of the other old coffins in the vault, and numerous other equally ridiculous places. One man thinks the attempt to land a yellow fever corpse at Tarrytown for burial some months ago may have had something to do with the case. Another suggests that reducing the reward by degrees as the weeks pass would have a good effect. When the thieves are caught he wants them lynched.

Letters without number have been received inclosing cards from clairvoyants. Others—many of them evidently written by people of education—advise in the strongest terms the aid of clairvoyance or Spiritualism. A Western Union Telegraph manager figures prominently in this line. A lady says that a medium told her that Mr. Stewart's body was broken in two and carried in two sacks, first to Tompkins-square and then to Ninety-second-street, East River. A man describes a séance at which the ghosts of Messrs. Vanderbilt, Fisk, Nathan, and Stewart appeared. The latter wanted his wife informed that by visiting the medium he would tell her where his body lay and who were the thieves. A letter from London, Ontario, advises a trial of mesmerism. Hundreds describe dreams that they have had. But the most unique communication of all as regards orthography is the following, written on a postal card:

New-York Nov 9 78

Dear, Friend, Mrs Stewart I have, Dremp't a Bout Night Before that they Carried Mr. Stewart your Hosband the Back part of your Manchim and Layed him their So as. true as their his a. Gord in hoven i think it is so. So i Wish you. Would have your, Manchin Sureh for i think their is know. Harm in doing so. i will Come to the house to Morrow afternoon. From your Friend. Mrs. J. O.

Nearly all these people ask to be remembered if their clues should prove correct.