

HER SKULL SPLIT OPEN.

A LONG ISLAND MAN SUSPECTED OF TRYING TO KILL HIS WIFE.

An attempt was made yesterday morning to murder Mrs. Louis T. Brower, of East Meadow, near Bellmore, Long Island. She was assaulted with an axe while she was asleep, and her skull is fractured so that she cannot possibly recover. Her husband is under arrest, suspected of being her assailant.

The first news of the crime was carried by Brower to his grandson, George Merritt, who is a near neighbor of the couple. Brower's story was that about 3 o'clock in the morning some one entered his bedroom when he and his wife were sleeping and struck at him with an axe. There was a dim light in the room, but not light enough for him to recognize his assailant. He sprang from bed and rushed into the woodshed. Brower added that \$330 was stolen from the house. It was 5 o'clock when Brower reached Merritt's. He had passed the houses of Barney Powers and Mr. Grant, who are nearer neighbors, on the way to his grandson's, but did not stop at either place. Mrs. Brower has a terrible wound on the right side and back of the head, as if she had been struck with the head or side of the axe, and not the sharp edge.

Neighbors say that when they first reached the house there was evidence that no one had occupied the bed with Mrs. Brower, only half the bed bearing marks of having been used. Mrs. Brower told friends not long ago that her husband had not slept in the house for more than three years. Brower has been very attentive to Mrs. Jane Lewis, who lives near him, and search was made for her yesterday to ascertain if she knew anything about where Brower was on Friday night. She could not be found, and later it was learned that she had gone to the railway station yesterday morning and purchased a ticket for the eastern part of the island.

Mrs. Brower has been an invalid for some time, and of late her husband has tried several times to get her to sign away her interest in their farm, which is a fairly good one of 60 acres. She is about 55 years old, and her wounds are such that she cannot possibly live. She was conscious at intervals yesterday, but though frequently questioned refused to say who struck her the murderous blows. Her husband is a strong, hardy man of 60. Family quarrels have been frequent, and one of his sons, who is now serving a term at Sing Sing Prison, tried some years ago to shoot his father. Suspicion pointed so strongly toward Brower as the man who made the assault that he was taken into custody almost immediately, and is now lodged in the Jamaica Jail awaiting examination. Brower declares his innocence.