

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS.

HOMICIDE ON LONG ISLAND.

FRANK EVANS SHOT AND KILLED BY NATHANIEL HOLMES IN HEMPSTEAD—THE DEED APPARENTLY COMMITTED IN SELF-DEFENSE.

East Meadow, in the town of Hempstead and about three miles eastward from Hempstead village, Long Island, was the scene of a homicide on Sunday evening, the victim being a German named Frank Evans, who met his death at the hands of a resident of the town named Nathaniel Holmes, the former being in the employ of Mr. P. C. Barnum as a farm laborer, and the latter as a miller. These two men, with a number of others, went to a small public house in the vicinity, where they drank considerable liquor, Frank becoming intoxicated, while Holmes was comparatively sober. The hour at which the men left the place is not known. Holmes lives in a small house near Mr. Barnum's mill, about a quarter of a mile from Mr. Barnum's residence. He is a married man, but as his wife was absent from home at the time, he went to Mr. Barnum's place and attended to his customary duties, after which he went into the house to get his supper. While eating, some one entered and informed him that there was a great noise at the mill. Somebody was there smashing things to pieces. He immediately started to go there, and when near the mill found that the noise proceeded from his house, which was on the opposite side of the road. All his household goods had been thrown outside and smashed, the glass in the windows and the sashes had been broken, and the entire place made a wreck.

On attempting to enter at the door, which he found had been burst off its hinges, he was confronted by Frank Evans, who was apparently in a towering rage. Holmes does not remember whether he said anything, but Evans exclaimed, "Now, 'Than. Holmes, — you, I'm going to kill you!" and immediately struck Holmes a heavy blow with his fist. Holmes, who is naturally quiet and timid, turned and started to run, pursued by Frank. They ran around the house three times, Holmes for his life and Frank intent on overtaking him, when Holmes happened to see his gun upon the ground, where it had been thrown with the other things out of the house. Picking it up he turned hastily upon Evans, and without taking particular aim fired, the charge taking effect in the side and small of the back. Evans immediately fell severely wounded. Holmes then went back to Mr. Barnum's house and related what he had done, when the wounded man was taken care of. He died, however, about 11 o'clock that night. Early yesterday morning Coroner Hicks was informed of the homicide, and, proceeding to East Meadow, impaneled a jury. The inquest was to be proceeded with upon the arrival of District Attorney Downing, who was expected last evening. Holmes, who has not been placed formally under arrest, is a native of Hempstead, and about forty years of age. He has for a long time been in the employ of Mr. Barnum, and is regarded as a faithful man, rather simple-minded, and entirely inoffensive. Evans has been in Mr. Barnum's employ for about three years, and has been regarded as a good hand about the farm.