

THE LONG ISLAND MURDERS

THE MULATTO, RUGG, MAKES A FULL CONFESSION.

EXAMINATION OF EDMUND S. TAPPAN—THE

THEORY THAT HE IS SIMPLY WEAK-

MINDED GAINING CREDENCE.

Charles H. Rugg, the mulatto who is charged with the murderous assault on Mr. and Mrs. Sealey Sprague, at East Meadow, on Friday morning last, yesterday made a full confession of his crime to Jailer Murphy and Detectives Wood and Smith, at the Queen's County Jail, in Long Island City. When the confession was concluded District Attorney Fleming was telegraphed for, and he went to the jail at once. On learning that Rugg had confessed he ordered his examination to take place at noon to-day at Long Island City. At the jail last night, however, it was said that orders had been received to forward Rugg to Hicksville to-day under a strong guard, although the authorities profess to regard the threats of lynching him, should he be taken there, as not worth serious consideration.

District Attorney Fleming said last night that it was true that the confession had been made, but he declined to give any of the details. He claimed that these had not yet been communicated to him, as during his brief visit to Long Island City he had been busied with more important matters. He intimated that these had reference to the Maybee and Townsend cases, and added that, so far as he had been informed, there was nothing in Rugg's confession to indicate that he was connected with these crimes. He declined to state what had transpired in reference to these cases, beyond saying that he hoped and believed that these would also be cleared up within a few days. Nothing could be learned at the Long Island City Jail beyond the fact that the confession had been made. The impression, however, is very general among the jail officials that it connects Rugg with the Maybee and Townsend cases. A prominent police official who has been hard at work in the Maybee case said, in his opinion, there was not the slightest doubt, from Rugg's revelations, that he was the murderer.

Since Rugg's confinement in jail he has lost the confidence and coolness which he at first displayed, and in an interview with the detectives and officials on Saturday he became very nervous when questioned as to his complicity in the various crimes. He finally made a statement to Detective Wood, in which, after giving a long history of his life, he endeavored to account for the money found in his possession, and of that he had used in the purchase of the articles at the store in Westbury. He persisted in the statement that he left Glen Cove on Thursday morning, early, and rode part of the way with a man whom he cannot describe, and whom he left near East Williston. He then took the railroad track, he said, and crossed the lots and meadows to the store where he bought the hat and other articles. He stated that he had got together about \$35, which had been given him for work during the Fall, and which he intended to use in paying Capt. Hubbard, to whom he owed it. Finding himself short \$1 of the required amount, he borrowed \$1 25 from his wife, but without telling her of the use which he intended to put it. He said that neither she nor anyone else knew of the debt to Hubbard or of the money he had. When he went out of the house he used to hide it away. He declined to say why he had bought the hat, but he persisted in the statement that he had paid for it and the other articles out of his own money, which, as far as he could recollect, consisted of a ten-dollar and a five-dollar gold piece, a two-dollar bill, the balance being in fifty-cent pieces.

Rugg slept soundly on Saturday night, but after breakfast on Sunday he became very excited and troubled, and refused to eat any dinner or supper. On Sunday night his sleep was very much broken and frequently interrupted by moans. A strict watch was kept upon him, the officers fearing that he might make an attempt on his life. When his breakfast was brought to him yesterday morning he refused to eat, but drank a little coffee, which seemed to nerve him up a little. He requested Jailer Murphy to be sent for, as he wished to talk to him. The jailer informed Sheriff Furman, who placed his private office at the jailer's disposal for the interview. Murphy and Rugg were closeted from 8 A. M. to 4:30 P. M., and Detectives Wood and Smith were also present from about 11 o'clock and took down the confession which Rugg made.

Mr. Sprague's condition was yesterday very much improved, and he was able to recognize the friends who called upon him. His physician said last evening that his symptoms were quite favorable, and that his recovery was not improbable. When the news of Rugg's confession reached Hicksville last evening the feeling against him was greatly intensified, and it is stated that a number of men have organized for the purpose of taking the law into their own hands and summarily lynching him, should he be taken there for examination. It was reported at Jamaica last night that Mrs. Townsend had fared greatly during the day and was not expected to survive the night.

Edmund S. Tappan, with tears coursing down his pale and haggard cheeks, was fairly lifted into the court-room at Jamaica, Long Island, by two constables yesterday morning. He is only 50 years of age, but in the past two weeks he has grown as bent and decrepit as a man of 70. The prisoner's conduct during the brief examination only confirmed the belief of many that he is a poor, weak-minded fellow, driven through fear into making an unreliable statement. This theory has found more supporters since the developments in the Sprague assault case. The police authorities, however, feel confident that both the Tappans and Rugg were implicated in the Maybee murder and the attack on Mr. and Mrs. Townsend. People came from all parts of Queens County to attend the examination yesterday. Four times as many men and women jostled and elbowed their way into the Town Hall as the court-room could possibly hold. The disappointed ones simmered into an overflow meeting in the basement, and discussed all sorts of probable and improbable theories.

Tappan bowed his head in his hands and sobbed violently as W. H. Remsen told of finding the bodies of Mrs. and Miss Maybee in the barn covered with leaves. He said that that of the daughter was still warm. District Attorney Fleming carefully covered every point for the prosecution, but there was no one to speak for the prisoner. "Do you want counsel?" asked Justice Betts. Tappan simply shook his head, looking first at his wife, who sat only a few feet away from him, and then at the wife of John, the brother, whom he accuses of committing the crime.

Halsted H. Frost, to whom Edmund made the so-called confession, is an auctioneer, a farmer, and a newspaper editor in East Norwich, town of Oyster Bay. He said: "The first interview I had with Edmund Tappan was on the morning of Jan. 16. At that time John Tappan had been arrested for the Townsend assault. I met Edmund on the road to Norwich, near Mr. Franklin's house. I did not make any agreement to meet him again, but the same evening sent him the following letter:

ESTEEMED FRIEND: I would like to see you to-morrow (Thursday) morning. Would like to have a private talk with you. I will remain at home until 12 o'clock to see you. With kind regards and genuine sympathy for this trouble that seems to surround you, I am yours truly, HALSTEAD H. FROST.

P. S.—Inclosed please find \$1, which I trust will pay for the time you lose in calling upon me.

"John came to my house the next morning," continued Mr. Frost, "and told me that he wished to make a clean breast of the whole thing. He could stand it no longer. He wanted to tell me all about the Maybee murder. I suggested to him that he should make his statement to the Rev. Mr. Smock, of Brookville. He refused to act upon my suggestion, declining to make a statement to any other person than myself, so I told him to go ahead. He then made the statement which has been published and swore to it. My wife heard it all from another room, but he did not know it."

Edmund Tappan's wife was very bitter toward Mr. Frost, and she interrupted his testimony with frequent unintelligible comments. After the hearing was over she said to him: "You simply want to hang Ed and get the reward offered for the Maybee murders, that's all. I ain't got no money to pay my fare to court."

"Don't take on in that way," said Mr. Frost; "here are \$5 to pay your expenses to court."

"I don't want your money," exclaimed the woman angrily. "You had better keep it to help hang Ed." She became so violent that the officers had to remove her from the room.

The hearing will be continued next Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.