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## **MURDEROUS ATTACK ON TWO OLD LADIES!**

A most daring, atrocious, and cowardly attack was made about eight o'clock on Sunday evening last, upon two old women—widows—named Mrs. Maria Hunt, and Mrs. Sally Walker, residing in a cottage known as Prospect Cottage, within a very short distance of a thickly populated neighbourhood. The cottage stands in a garden opposite Prospect House Academy, and can be approached by a passage in Melbourne Place, or a lane leading to Parker's Piece, so, for a thief, great facilities of escape are afforded, and which were availed by the villain in the present instance.

The particulars of the case are these:—The old ladies keep a servant girl, who is about 16 years old, who, on the evening in question, was ordered to warm the bed, and while in the act of preparing matters was much alarmed by the entrance of a man. The girl says: "I opened the door leading from the front sitting-room into the passage. As soon as I opened it I saw a man standing in the passage, between the sitting-room and the front door. I said 'Oh! Mrs. Hunt, here is a man.'" The man then took the candle off the chair and put it out, and snatched the warming-pan from my hand, and threw it towards Mrs. Hunt, and he then pushed me into the passage, towards the front door. I looked into the room, and saw the man hitting Mrs. Hunt with something bright. I then ran out and gave the alarm." The girl screamed, and was seized by the fellow and hustled into the passage. He rushed into the parlour where Mrs. Hunt was seated, and attacked the poor defenceless old lady with a knife, inflicting several serious wounds upon her head and face, besides breaking her right arm with a bludgeon, of a most frightful description, being loaded with lead. The girl screamed "Murder," and made her escape from the house to give alarm. Mrs. Walker, who was up-stairs, hearing the cries, put her head out of the window and called for help, when the villain ran up-stairs and struck her several violent blows on the back of the head, leaving her insensible. The fellow then made off; he threw off the mask, which he left, with a hat, cloak, and knife, in the house. Outside was found the bludgeon, which is a terrible weapon. The girl gave instant alarm, and P.c. Samuel Carter, accompanied by some neighbours, went immediately to the house. Three men kept close watch at the front of the cottage, while the officer went to the back part, but the villain was, of course, gone. It was thought at first the old ladies

were dead, and as it was expected Mrs. Hunt, who had been so fearfully bruised, would not survive the night through, the Mayor (H. Harris, Esq.) was sent for to take her deposition; but the poor old lady did not think she was likely to die, but still her evidence was taken. Mr. Carter, surgeon, has attended both sufferers, and through the kindness of neighbours, no exertion to alleviate their pain of both body and mind has been spared. The police lost no time in making a most rigid search for the villain, and at last succeeded in apprehending, about three o'clock on Tuesday morning, a young man named Wallis, and who, it is believed, was the perpetrator of the atrocious deed. He was taken before the Magistrates the same morning, and remanded till yesterday (Friday).

On Friday (yesterday) the Police Court was again crowded to excess, the excitement being intense. The Magistrates present were the Mayor, H. Smith, Esq. (Deputy-Mayor), E. Smith, C. Balle, C. F. Foster, W. Warren, R. M. Fawcett, and S. Hurrell, Esqrs.

The prisoner, William Morley Wallis, a young man about 20, described as a plumber, and residing upon the Mill-road, it will be remembered was apprehended about three o'clock on Tuesday morning, and remanded till Friday, the prosecution not being prepared with the evidence.

The prisoner is charged with entering the house occupied by the old ladies, maliciously injuring them with intent to murder. The same determined look was maintained by the prisoner, who was undefended. Mr. Charles Henry Cooper (Town Clerk) appeared to conduct the prosecution.

The first witness called was

Mary Eliza Pomfrey, who said: I am 16 years of age; I am servant to Mrs. Maria Hunt and Mrs. Sally Walker; they reside in a cottage behind Melbourne-place; the road by Park Side leads to it, and you can go by a path from it into Melbourne-place. Prospect row is at the back of the cottage. On Sunday, the 28th of February, about eight o'clock, I was coming down stairs into Mrs. Hunt's room for the purpose of putting her to bed as usual; I had a candle in my hand, and I said "I will do up the doors now;" I went into the room and spoke to Mrs. Hunt, and then went into the passage and fastened both doors, back and front; I then went back to Mrs. Hunt's room, and took up the warming-pan and poked the cinders into it; I took the candle off the table, and put it upon a chair near to the door. In the

passage, near the front door, I saw a man, and I said, "Oh! Mrs. Hunt, here is a man!" I did not see his face; he was all over black. The man did not say anything; he put the candle out, and pushed me into the passage, he then took the warming pan from my hand, and shut to the door of Mrs. Hunt's room; Mrs. Hunt was then coming towards the door in consequence of the alarm. I looked into the room and saw the man holding something bright up at her. There was a little fire. I then went out of the house, and called out "murder." I went into Mr. Samborn's and gave the alarm. The man had a hat on. I got assistance. I knew the prisoner by coming to tea with Mrs. Hunt; it is about a month since he was there. When I returned with a policeman the man was gone. When the prisoner came a month ago he stayed all the afternoon. I have lived with Mrs. Hunt for three months.

The Mayor (to the prisoner): Do you wish to ask any question?—Prisoner: No. All I wish to say is it is eight weeks ago since I was there.

By the Magistrates' Clerk (to witness): How did he spend his time upon that occasion?—Witness: I don't know; he read three murders to Mrs. Hunt. I did not see him strike her. He had something over his face.

Wm. Dunn, tailor, Melbourne-place, said: I went to the cottage occupied by the old ladies on the Sunday evening in question. About 8 o'clock I heard cries for assistance from the passage. My son, and a young man named Mansfield, accompanied me. The door was partly opened; a policeman came up, but as he had no light, my son fetched a candle, which, being lit, I, my son, and several others went into the cottage. We saw Mrs. Hunt lying on the floor in her own room, and the room was in confusion from the cinders. Mrs. Hunt's face was smothered with blood; she appeared much hurt. I lifted her up, and we put her in a chair. She had her pocket in her hand. She was sensible, and said, "Oh! Mr. Dunn, I am glad you have come in." I know her. She gave me her pocket. I said they had better go for assistance, and Dr. Green came in soon afterwards. I afterwards saw Mrs. Walker, within a quarter of an hour. I found her bleeding in her room upstairs. She said, "I've been calling for you." Mrs. Walker was sitting in her chair; she is a cripple, and walks on crutches. I went back to Samborn's, and induced the servant girl to come back to the house. Mrs. Walker pointed out where the towels were kept. On the floor of Mrs. Hunt's room I found a cloak, which I at first thought a rug. It had two slits in it. I gave it up to the policeman.

Prisoner said he had nothing to ask this witness.

Norman Mansfield, carpenter, Melbourn-place, said: — I heard cries of murder on Sunday evening last. I went with Mr. Dunn and his son to the cottage from whence the cries proceeded. I went into Mrs. Hunt's room; she was upon the floor; she appeared to be much injured. I saw the cinders on the side board, and the warming pan in the room. I afterwards went upstairs, and saw Mrs. Walker; her face was covered all over with blood. I left another man with her; I found a knife upon the bottom step of the stairs. That produced is it. [The knife was a large carving knife, quite sharp]. In the back room down stairs, I found a man's hat on the sink, and a mask in it. I recognize the mask and hat produced as the same.

Frederick Thomas Dunn, son of the former witness (Wm. Dunn), stated that he went with his father to the cottage of Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Walker. Witness returned home, and got a candle, and he, his father, and Mansfield all went into the house. Saw Mrs. Hunt on the floor, and the room was in confusion; the back of the chair was on the top of her head. Went upstairs to Mrs. Walker, whose head was covered with blood. Witness picked up the cloak in the house. That produced, a black one, is the same.

P.c. Samuel Carter, said: I went to the house in question about eight o'clock on Sunday evening; I was in Orchard Street; I heard screams of murder, and at once proceeded to the spot. I saw the servant girl at Mr. Samborn's, and she said some one was in her mistress's house. I at once went, and there I saw Mr. Dunn and his son, and Mr. Mansfield. I left them, and went to the back door, but could not get in. After that, I returned to the front door, and we succeeded in getting in. I saw Mrs. Hunt, with her face smothered with blood; they were then helping her up. I went upstairs, and saw the knife on the third stair, which Norman Mansfield picked up. I found Mrs. Walker also covered with blood; she was sitting in her chair. She said, "I wish you would protect me." I said, I will. I then went into the back bed-room, and also the other rooms in the house, but found no one. I found the hat and mask in the back room on the ground floor. In the hat was some pieces of paper to make it fit; the paper was put under the lining. The mask, made of oil table cloth, was here put on by the Superintendent of Police (laughter).

The Mayor: This is no laughing matter.

The prisoner said he had no questions to put.

By the Mayor (to witness): I did not meet the prisoner that evening that I am aware of.

Mr. James Carter, surgeon, was the next witness. He said: I was called upon to attend Mrs. Hunt shortly after nine o'clock on Sunday evening last. I have attended her before. She was in her bed-room sitting in a chair. She is between 70 and 80 years of age. She is not infirm for her years. I found she was suffering from very severe injuries. Her face was much swollen and discoloured, in consequence of violent blows received; the upper part of the chest and shoulders were also discoloured and bruised, owing to repeated violent blows. There was a lacerated wound across the nose, and wounds on each lip. From these wounds she had lost a considerable quantity of blood. The right hand and fore arm were injured by blows received; one of the bones of the fore arm was fractured. The back of the hand was very much discoloured, as from a very severe blow. There were also three small penetrating wounds on the back of the right hand, as if done by some sharp instrument. From these wounds she had also lost a considerable quantity of blood. She was very faint.

By Mr. Hurrell: The wound on the nose was produced by some blunt instrument. Witness considered her life in great jeopardy. Partial pleurisy had been brought on by blows on the chest.

By the Mayor: The fracture, no doubt, was the result of a blow; the knife produced would be very likely to produce the punctured wounds upon the hand. The bludgeon produced would have caused the other wounds.

By the Mayor: It is the ulnar which is fractured.

By the Magistrates' Clerk: Supposing she had been holding up her hand in self-defence, are the blows such as she would have received from a knife?  
—Witness: Yes, I should say they are.

Dr. Thomas Green said, on the evening of Sunday he was called in to attend Mrs. Hunt. He found very severe contusions, and wounds on the nose and face, as described by Mr. Carter. In addition, witness discovered a wound at the back of the head, from which a good deal of blood had been lost, which was done apparently by some sharp instrument.

By the Mayor: Not at all likely to have been the result of a fall. He concurred with the statements of Mr. Carter; but his own notion was that the wounds were the result of a sharp instrument.

By Mr. Cooper: Speaking generally, should say that some of the wounds were the result of a sharp instrument, and others of a blunt one. Noticed considerable bleeding from the mouth. Considering her age and the wounds received, he thought she was going on very well.

Mr. Edward Knowles, surgeon, Newmarket Road, stated that he was called upon to attend both old ladies. He saw them at half-past eight o'clock on the Sunday evening. He subscribed to all that had been deposed by Mr. Carter and Dr. Green, but he should add, that there was considerable injury to the left wrist of Mrs. Hunt. He examined Mrs. Walker, who is about 70 years old. He found that she had received a lacerated wound, a half-an-inch in length, upon the scalp, and a contused wound at the junction of parietal bone, and also another at the occipital junction. There was considerable effusion of blood under the scalp. The wounds were produced by a bludgeon. They were of a dangerous character when inflicted. She is progressing favourably; she may probably be able to attend here next week. The bludgeon now produced is likely to have inflicted the injuries on Mrs. Walker's head. Witness examined the bludgeon, and said it appeared to have stains of blood and hair upon it.

Prisoner: I have no questions to ask.

P.c. William Maltby said: I had some conversation with the prisoner on Monday evening last. I saw him at his grandmother's house, East Road, and I asked him where he was on Sunday evening? He lives at the adjoining house with his father and mother. He said, "I came from Grantchester. I got home about a quarter past six, and did not leave home again that night." At two o'clock the same morning, having received further information, I again went to his house. I was accompanied by p.c. Sanctuary. I found him in bed; I told him to get up, and when he came down stairs I told him he was charged with entering the house and cutting and wounding Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Walker, with intent to murder. To that he said, "yes, with intent to murder, and not guilty." I left him in charge of p.c. Muncey and Deeks. I and Sanctuary searched the house. The prisoner is a plumber and glazier. In the workshop I found three pieces of oil skin

table cloth in a cupboard. Had compared them with the mask, and they corresponded. About 9 o'clock in the morning, Sanctuary discovered something else in some cinder dirt in a washhouse at the back of the prisoner's father's house: it was a small piece of oil cloth of the shape and size of an eye hole cut out.

The prisoner said: Respecting those things I know nothing about them.

P.c. James Sanctuary said he was at the two searches with Maltby made at the house, 194, East-road. Behind that house, where the prisoner lived, the pieces of oil-cloth were found. In some cinder dirt in a washhouse adjoining the house, witness found the circular piece of oil cloth now produced. Upon comparison, it fitted the hole in the mask, and the pattern corresponded.

The prisoner: I have nothing to ask him.

Wm. Webster, slater, Prospect Row, stated that City-road was at right angles with Prospect-row, and there was a small lane between Brandon-place and Prospect-row. Witness lived opposite to Mrs. Hunt's cottage. On Monday last, about eight o'clock, he found a bludgeon, loaded with lead, in the lane lying to the left. It was in a corner, in a perpendicular position. Witness gave the bludgeon to the police.

Mr. Cooper: It is not yours, I suppose?

Witness: Oh, no.

By Mr. Fawcett: I noticed footpads—impressions of footmarks without shoes. Observed garden moulds on the gravel. Went out between four and five o'clock on Sunday afternoon, and was sure there was no bludgeon there then.

Henry Freeman, sergeant at-mace, and parish constable, of Adam and Eve Row, said he went on Tuesday morning to the prisoner's house, between two and three o'clock, with the police. The house was searched then. Witness found lamp black in a tin box, which was in the workshop; some strips of lead were found in a drawer; he also discovered a piece of lead, being the upper part of the bludgeon, and which fitted exactly with the other portion of the instrument. The bludgeon had been colored with lamp-black; and a morsel of wood, corresponding in appearance with that

forming the case of the bludgeon. There was also a ladle, used for melting lead, found. When he went into the house with the police-constables, and was speaking to them, prisoner said to witness, “you are very busy in collaring things, you have got my ladle, and that’s my box wi’ h lamp-black in it.”

Prisoner: I am a painter, and not a plumber. Those things belonged to my father.

Detective Kirbyshire said that he examined Mrs. Hunt’s premises on Sunday evening, and found two foot prints near the wall at the back of the house. The heels were towards the wall, as though some one had jumped from the wall; and apparently without shoes. It seemed to witness as if the impressions were made by a person whose feet were covered with rags. On the same evening he discovered two foot prints near some rails in the same garden, and which divides the house from the road. On the following morning he traced the impressions still further, continuing from the first two seen on the previous evening. They continued to about the middle of Prospect row, where he lost them. They appeared to have been made by a person running, having taken long strides. The witness here corroborated what passed between p.c. Maltby and the prisoner, adding that he said “I can’t think what you mean by asking me these questions,” and that if anybody said that he went out after his return from Grantchester they would tell lies. He said that he had been to a person’s house named Wilson, of Grantchester, a farmer. Was at the prisoner’s house on Tuesday, the 1st inst., and saw Sanctuary find the oil-cloth. In the workshop on the bench witness found a piece of black thin flannel with two eye-holes in it, as though intended for a mask [Produced].

Henry Farnham, keeper of the Thatched Cottage, stated that he knew the house where the prisoner lived. In the passage immediately adjoining the prisoner’s house, witness, while on his way home from the Railway Station, about half-past eight on Sunday evening, noticed a man stooping down; he watched both ways very closely; he was looking first one way and then another. Witness stopped and said “What is amiss, old fellow?” He said “All right, old mate.” “Not feeling satisfied, witness went back again and said to him “What’s amiss, old fellow—what have you got on?” He said “All right.” Witness returned the third time, and said “What, arn’t you well; get up!” and being determined to see him went to the front of the

passage, when the man went and put his foot upon the first rail, as if to do up his boot. Witness saw there was no one but the man. The young man witness saw was about 5ft. 7in. in height; with dark whiskers, dark hair, bushified in front. He would not like to swear the prisoner was the man, but he was very much like him. He had no hat on, and went towards South-street. Knew the prisoner by sight. He answered witness in a gruff voice.

The Prisoner: I have nothing to say.

Thomas Ship, keeper of the Duke of Gloucester, Prospect-row, said, about half-past seven o'clock on Sunday evening he was sitting in his parlour with some friends. Hearing a person come into the passage, witness got up, and to his great surprise he saw a young man standing in the corner, close to the parlour; he said to him "What do you do here?" he made no answer; but turned his face from witness, which prevented a full view. He then left by the front door. Saw the back part of the man; he had no hat on. When witness first saw him he observed that his hair was brushed up in front. Made the remark to Mr. Wells, who was coming in at the time, that he had either slippers or very thin soled shoes, as no noise was heard when the man walked.

By Mr. Hurrell: It was the step of Mr. Wells that witness heard. Upon Mr. Wells coming into the house witness saw the man.

The Prisoner: I don't want to ask any questions.

Samuel Wells, of Adam and Eve Row, recollected going to the Duke of Gloucester public-house, about a quarter past eight o'clock on Sunday evening last. Saw a young man with no hat on come out of the back lane. Saw him clear of witness's house; if he had any shoes on they were thin, as they made no noise. He went down towards Prospect-row.

James Hawes, tailor, City-road, stated that on Sunday evening he was in Prospect-row, about half-past seven o'clock. Remembered meeting a man coming from the direction of Mr. Samborn's, he had something like a cloak on his arm. That is the man I met.

Mr. Cooper: You would know the man if you saw him.—Witness, looking at the prisoner: Yes; that's him.

The Prisoner (vehemently): Oh! Oh! you black liar; you will swear black is white, and blue is no colour. I was not out after half-past six o'clock, when I returned from Grantchester. You will say anything for a shilling.

The Mayor: You do yourself no good.

Prisoner: He expects to get a shilling.

Witness continued: When I first saw him he was opposite Barber's School. I lost sight of him against Mrs. Hunt's gate.

Mr. Fawcett: You say you know him.—Witness: Oh, yes; by sight. I have seen him several times before. I am quite positive he was the person. He was on one side of the road, and I on the other. I caught sight of his face from the lamp. (Cloak produced). He had that cloak hugged up under his arm.

The Prisoner: I wish to say that what he says is false. If he or any one else says that I was out after half-past six o'clock, they say that which is false. My opinion is that that man will swear black is white, and blue is no colour.

It was now near three o'clock, when the Superintendent of Police asked for a further remand; he had several more witnesses.

The Mayor then told the prisoner that he would be remanded for a week.

The Prisoner: I have nothing to say.

It is thought by next Friday Mrs. Walker will be able to attend.

Mr. Rowe, Town Surveyor, prepared a plan of the premises, and the roads leading to and from the cottages, which was of great service.