

## A MYSTERIOUS TRAGEDY.

### A Man Slays His Betrothed and Then Takes His Own Life.

Seacliff, Long Island, N. Y., Oct. 18.—The dead bodies of Miss Mary Duff and her betrothed husband, Ellett L. Titus of Brooklyn, were found late last night in the bath house on the beach, belonging to Peter Duff, the young lady's father. Titus had called to see Miss Duff on Tuesday evening, but was missed from the house early, under circumstances that caused the family to search for him. Next morning it was discovered that Miss Duff had not occupied her room on the previous night.

Search for the couple was fruitless until last night, when bath houses were examined. The latter are merely frame cabins large enough for one person to use as a dressing room, and had been locked and abandoned for the season. The keys of Duff's bath houses could not be found, so they were broken open. In one of them the couple were found. Miss Duff was lying on her back on the floor, her hands carefully folded on her breast, her dress neatly and tidily arranged, her face blood-stained and a bullet wound in her temple. Titus' body was found in a corner, with a bullet in his brain. The walls and floor of the bath room were covered with blood.

No explanation of the tragedy can be given.

The door of the bath house in which the bodies were found was locked and the key removed from the lock. The neat and tidy way in which everything about his victim was arranged shows that after shooting the girl the murderer, before taking his own life, must have paused long enough to compose his victim for her last long sleep.

So far as is known there was not even the slightest shadow between the dead couple. Had they lived they would have been married next spring.

Miss Duff was about 23 years of age. Titus was a Southerner, whose mother lives in Florida. He has resided in Clinton street, Brooklyn, with an aunt. He has spent a great deal of his time in the family of Mr. Duff, and had been betrothed to Miss Mary for several years.

### ANOTHER VERSION.

Seacliff, Long Island, N. Y., Oct. 18.—Edward P. Floyd-Jones, Miss Duff's brother-in-law, reports that the result of the autopsy shows that Miss Duff died from the effects of chloroform administered by Titus, but it is thought, without murderous intent. It is now remembered that Titus had a small bottle of chloroform with him the day previous and offered Miss Duff a small quantity to allay a severe headache. It is believed that he again prescribed the same in a larger quantity, while they were out for a walk and the drug, caused her death, Titus shot himself. The blood on Miss Duff's face and clothing proved to have come from Titus' wounds. No bullet was found in Miss Duff's temple, as was given out in the first report. Titus was a son of the late Henry Titus, founder of Titusville, Fla. His mother, who is one of the Hodgkins families, well known in Southern social circles, is still living at Titusville. At her death, young Ellett Titus would have been heir to a fortune.