

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Ellett L. Titus Puts a Bullet
Through His Sweet-
heart's Head.

AND THEN TAKES HIS OWN LIFE.

Both Bodies Found in a Bath House
at Sea Cliff—The Su-
icide Is Known
Here.

SEACLIFFE, L. I., Oct. 18.—The dead bodies of Miss Mary Duff and her betrothed husband, Ellett Titus, of Brooklyn, were found last night in a bath house belonging to the young lady's father. Titus left the Duff residence accompanied by Mary on Tuesday evening and since then nothing had been seen of either of them until their bodies were found in the bath house. Bullet wounds in the heads of both told the story of what caused their deaths. The clothes of the girl were neatly and tidily arranged and the theory is that Titus after shooting the girl, arranged her clothing and then suicided. There is no apparent cause for the crime.

On Tuesday evening the members of Mr. Duff's family were looking for Titus, who, they said, called at his house in the evening and went out early, saying he would return in a few minutes, but up to a late hour he had not returned. His continued absence caused serious alarm. The fact that Miss Duff was with him was kept secret. Late yesterday afternoon the police and E. Floyd Jones, Miss Duff's brother-in-law, decided to go through all the bath houses on the beach. They broke open the bath house doors one after another. In the third bath house entered a horrible sight was disclosed. Lying on her back on the floor, her hands carefully folded on her breast her dress neatly and tidily arranged, lay the body of Miss Duff, her face blood stained and ghastly 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. The dead couple were then carried to the Duff residence.

When, where or how the dreadful idea which culminated in the tragedy crept in to the dead man's brain will never be known. So far as known there was not even the slightest shadow between the head couple, and they were to have been married next spring. Miss Duff was about 23 years of age. Titus was a southerner, whose mother lives in Florida. At the residence of Titus' aunt in Brooklyn that lady said that Titus and Miss Duff were to have been married in a month. "I got word this

morning" she said, "that he was dead. I can give no reason for his suicide." Titus' mother is in Titusville, Florida. She is very wealthy. The dead man was her only son. Miss Duff's father is Peter Duff, a wealthy furniture dealer. Why they should have preferred death to marriage is a mystery. Friends of both encouraged their love-making, and were delighted over the coming nuptials.

MISS DUFF WAS NOT SHOT.

SEA CLIFF, 4 p. m.—The result of the autopsy shows that Miss Duff died from the effects of chloroform, administered by Titus. It is thought without murderous intentions. He had previously purchased it for headache from which Miss Duff was suffering. It is thought he gave her too much, causing death, and Titus then shot himself. The blood on the girl's face and clothing proved to have come from Titus' wounds. No bullet wound was found in Miss Duff's head as at first reported. Titus was the son of the late Colonel Titus, of Titusville, Florida.

THE SUICIDE WAS KNOWN HERE.

[Ellett L. Titus was quite well known in this city, having visited here several times. The Titus family formerly resided in this city, but this was many years ago. He was about 26 years of age and was employed in a broker's office in Brooklyn. It is understood there was some objection to his marriage to Miss Duff, so much so that the young man had been living for some time at the summer residence of his prospective father-in-law at Sea Cliff, where the tragedy was enacted. He was a nephew of Mrs. Julia Miner of this city. Dr. Ned Hodskin, a cousin of the suicide, arrived in the city at 1 o'clock this afternoon and left three hours later over the Lehigh Valley Road for New York accompanied by Mrs. Miner.—EDITION TIMES.]