
THROUGH THE BRAIN

**Determined Suicide of Mrs. Charles
H. Lombard Last Night.**

CAUSE OF THE ACT A MYSTERY

**Suspicions of Domestic Trouble—Her
Father Also Killed Himself—The
Husband Prostrated.**

"The Hill," a boarding-house, which is regarded as the fashionable resort of the elite and wealthy of Portland, was last evening the scene of one of the most sensational tragedies that has ever occurred in this city. Mrs. Charles H. Lombard, wife of a prominent and wealthy real estate broker, played the principal part. She sent a bullet crashing through her head. Her body now lies in the luxurious apartments she and her husband occupied in the Hill house.

THE SUICIDE.

About 8:30 o'clock the people living on the third floor of the house were startled by a pistol shot. Immediately after Mr. Lombard was seen to rush from his room and heard to give a cry of alarm. Mr. D. P. Thompson, who has a room on that floor, ran into Mr. Lombard's room. That gentleman was nearly distracted, and pointed into a rear room. Mr. Thompson entered and found Mrs. Lombard lying with a large hole in her left temple. She was gasping when Mr. Thompson stooped down and took from her right hand a 38-caliber pistol, which was still smoking. He raised her head gently, and after one or two spasmodic struggles Mrs. Lombard died.

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The woman, from all indications, had secured her husband's revolver, seated herself upon the floor, and after arranging her clothes delicately about her person, placed the muzzle of the pistol to her left temple and sent a bullet through her brain. The ball passed clear through the head and lodged in a transom.

She was dressed in evening attire, and wore considerable jewelry. When Mr. Thompson saw her she was lying gracefully upon her right side.

AFTER THE TRAGEDY.

The news soon spread all over the house, and friends rushed to Mrs. Lombard's room, anxious to render any assistance required. But there was no need for their services. The unfortunate lady was beyond all human aid. The body was tenderly raised and placed upon the bed in the room. Then a physician was called, but he could not do other than pronounce her dead. The coroner took charge of the body, but permitted it to lie in the room in which the tragedy occurred.

Mr. Lombard was permitted to seclude himself and only his most intimate friends were allowed to enter his room to offer him consolation. He was completely broken down, and the only statement that he offered was to the effect that he was in the front part of his suite of rooms and his wife was in the rear, when suddenly he heard the report of a pistol, and rushing back, saw his wife lying upon the floor. He ran into the hallway crying for assistance.

WHAT WAS THE CAUSE.

Mr. and Mrs. Lombard were married a little over a year ago in Seattle. Returning to this city, they shortly afterwards took up their residence at the Hill house, and have lived there since. Mrs. Lombard was quite an attractive lady and made many friends among those with whom she associated, but she was apparently of a morose disposition and adverse to mingling in outside society. This was often remarked, but all inducements offered her to take part in entertainments and social events were delicately rejected. She seemed content to solely enjoy her husband's society, and the two were regarded as a most happy pair.

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pair.

A few days ago one of Mrs. Lombard's lady friends spoke of her not looking well, but she said that she was in the best of health and spirits. So no further attention was paid to her physical appearance.

Yesterday when dinner was announced at the Hill house, Mr. Lombard came down accompanied by his mother. He said nothing regarding his wife, and no questions were asked. Little attention was paid to the incident until after the sad tragedy occurred. Then were suspicions of domestic trouble aroused. Nothing of a convincing nature to this effect could be mentioned, but several people succeeded in recalling little incidents that applied to the case. If there was really any such difficulty it will probably never be made public, for the matter is a sacred one, known at the time only to two. One of these is cold in death. The other will respect the dead and keep his secret.

Intimate friends of the family claim that this was not the cause of Mrs. Lombard's suicide, although they are unable to offer any explanation. In fact, they do not wish to intrude in any way upon the society of the affected household, in order to gratify curiosity, but are content to nurse their sorrow for the tragedy that brought to an end a beloved friend and neighbor.

HER FATHER KILLED HIMSELF.

Mrs. Lombard's maiden name was Elizabeth Marshall. She was a daughter of James Marshall, a wealthy Seattle citizen, who committed suicide a few years ago. From him she inherited considerable property and was regarded as being wealthy. While quite young she made a matrimonial venture which proved to be unsuccessful. She obtained a divorce and had permission granted by the court to resume her maiden name. She has but one near relative, a sister, living in San Jose, Cal.

Mr. Lombard is a well-known real estate and money broker, whose office is in the Concord building. He is regarded as being quite wealthy and stands high in business and financial circles.

Coroner Dolman will hold an inquest over the remains today.

Oregonian

Portland, OR

Monday, October 31, 1892