

EDEY, FEARING SUIT, KILLS WIFE AND SELF

Retired Banker Faced Action for
Alienation of His Wife's Affec-
tions Brought by Murdock.

ENDS DOUBLE ENTANGLEMENT

Liveryman Aroused Gossip by Atten-
tions to Mrs. Edey, and Banker Then
Became Friendly with Other's Wife.

Angry because papers had been served on him which would revive the scandal in which he and his wife were involved last Summer, Henry C. Edey, a retired banker, and brother of Frederick C. Edey, of the brokerage firm of Huhn, Edey & Co., at 74 Broadway, shot and killed his wife at their country home in Bellport, L. I., early yesterday morning and then committed suicide by shooting himself. The tragedy occurred in their bedroom on the second floor of their home before other members of the household were awake.

The murder and suicide was the climax of an entanglement which began last August when Mrs. Edey came to this city with Gardner Murdock, a livery stable proprietor of Bellport. At the time it was reported that both Edey and Murdock intended to obtain divorces and that the retired banker intended to wed Mrs. Nellie Murdock, to whom he had been attentive.

Mrs. Edey first became friendly with Murdock when her husband's brother gave him a spirited saddle horse which she wished to ride. Murdock was a skilled horseman, and Mrs. Edey engaged him to give her riding lessons. The village gossips began to comment on the friendship between Mrs. Edey and her riding instructor. They frequently went on long carriage drives together.

In the meantime Mrs. Edey had introduced her husband to Murdock and in this way the retired banker met the

young wife of the liveryman. Soon Edey was observed to be in Mrs. Murdock's company as frequently as her husband was in Mrs. Edey's. The four went on automobile and yachting trips together and the state of affairs seemed to be perfectly satisfactory to all of them.

The double entanglement was brought to a head when, on Aug. 1 last, Mrs. Edey and Murdock departed from Bellport for New York on the same train. Murdock later went to Texas and Mrs. Edey went to the home of her sister, Mrs. Talmadge, at the Elsinore Apartments, in West 123d Street. After three weeks Edey and his wife were reconciled and departed on an extended cruise to Porto Rico and the West Indies, from which they returned on Nov. 15 to take up their residence in their Bellport home. In the meantime, Murdock had returned to Bellport, sold his livery stable to his partner, Leslie B. Raymond, and, after effecting a reconciliation with his wife, had gone with her to Staten Island to assume the management of the Terra Marine Inn, at Huguenot Park. He has not been seen in Bellport since last December, but his wife returned to the little town ten days ago for the Christmas holidays, and has since been staying with her parents. Her father is H. C. Corwin, Postmaster at Bellport.

Apparently the old scandal had died out, and both the Edeys and the Murdocks were reconciled. According to relatives of Mr. Edey he appeared to be on the most affectionate terms with his wife, and there was no suspicion of any disagreement between them. As late as Christmas Eve the retired banker spoke of his wife in the most affectionate terms to his brother Charles, and said that their "second honeymoon" had healed the breach between them.

On Wednesday night Mr. Edey seemed to be laboring under much excitement, and it was believed that he had been apprised of a suit for \$50,000 which Murdock had brought against him for the alienation of his wife's affections. He telephoned before retiring to Tappen's livery stable in Bellport and directed Albert McCarthy, a hostler who answered the telephone, to call at his home early yesterday morning with a carriage.

"I am obliged to go to New York on very important business," McCarthy said that Edey asserted. "It is absolutely necessary that I should catch the 8:43 o'clock train."

After sending this message both Mr. Edey and his wife retired, and no sound was heard from their room until one of the servants, Mamie Hughes, passed the bedroom through an outer corridor soon after 5 o'clock yesterday morning. She noticed that the door was slightly ajar, a most unusual occurrence, and that the gas was lighted. As she was about to descend the stairs she heard the sound of labored breathing and a low moan. Becoming frightened, she summoned Minnie Buckley, another servant, and they peered into the room. The screams of the servants on discovering the suicide aroused Mary Edey, the 12-year-old daughter of the Edeys, who had been sleeping in an adjoining room.

The servants prevented the little girl from entering the death chamber, and, without explaining the cause of their fright, sent her back to her own room. The servants telephoned to Dr. L. C. Buckley of Bellport, and when the physician arrived he found that Mrs. Edey had been killed by a bullet from a revolver which penetrated her brain directly above the left ear.

Mrs. Edey lay on the side of the bed with her face toward the wall. She was partly dressed, which was thought to indicate that she had intended to accompany her husband to New York. Mr. Edey lay beside his wife, clad in pajamas, with a bullet wound in his right temple. He died as Dr. Baldwin arrived at the bedside. The physician notified Charles and Frederick Edey, brothers of the dead man, and also informed Dr. F. S. Moore of Bay Shore, the Coroner of Suffolk County, of the tragedy. Charles Edey arrived from New York at 10 o'clock and took charge of the household. One of the first things he did was to send his little niece to the home of Mrs. Frederick C. Edey, her aunt, at 10 West Fifty-sixth Street, in the custody of Mrs. Cass Smith, the librarian of Bellport.

From Judge John R. Vunk of Suffolk County, the first clue to the probable cause of the tragedy was obtained. Judge Vunk said that last November he had been asked by Murdock to bring a suit against Edey for the alienation of his wife's affections. He declined to take the case, but he said he thought the liveryman had obtained other lawyers.

Mrs. Nellie Murdock admitted last night that she had made an affidavit three weeks ago at her husband's request to substantiate such a suit. She said that a firm of New York lawyers had taken the case, but did not recall the name of the concern. She said that she had expected to appear as a witness for her husband. Mrs. Murdock said that she had no intention of returning to her husband, with whom she asserted she was on friendly terms.

In the opinion of the authorities, the quarrel which led to the shooting was due to an attempt on the part of Mr. Edey to persuade his wife to make a similar affidavit against Murdock in the hope of bringing a counter suit and thereby stopping the litigation. It is believed that Mrs. Edey reconsidered her determination and decided not to subject herself to such humiliation. This is thought to have provoked a quarrel which ended in the shooting.

Litt Estate \$1,268,490.

The accounting of the estate of Jacob Litt, the theatrical man, who died Sept. 27, 1903, comes up to-day in the Surrogates' Court for judicial settlement and shows the total receipts, both principal and income, to amount to \$1,268,490.00. The sum of \$896,000 is shown to have been paid to the legatees, of which Ruth Litt, the widow, received as her share \$230,000.