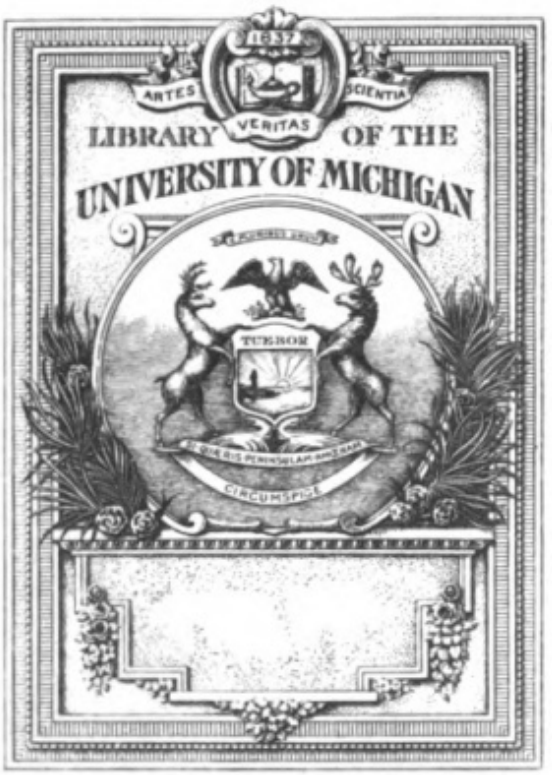
A 489379

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HV
6943
.H2

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE BRAVO MYSTERY
AND OTHER CASES

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE BOURBON RESTORATION

ENGLAND AND THE ORLEANS MONARCHY

GENERAL PICHEGRU'S TREASON

FOUR FAMOUS MYSTERIES

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FIELD MARSHAL H.R.H. ERNEST AUGUSTUS DUKE OF CUMBERLAND

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE BRAVO MYSTERY
AND OTHER CASES
BY SIR JOHN HALL, BART.

'Tis strange but true, for truth is always strange,
Stranger than fiction.—BYRON (*Don Juan*).

LONDON
JOHN LANE THE BODLEY HEAD LTD.

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

First published in 1923

Made and Printed in Great Britain at
The Mayflower Press, Plymouth. William Brendon & Son, Ltd.

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

PREFACE

SIR LESLIE STEPHEN once admitted to feeling some sympathy with those people who avowedly prefer the police reports to any other kind of literature. In them, at least, the reader is brought into "contact with solid facts possessing all the charm of their brutal reality." The remark was made in reference to *The State Trials* which he goes on to describe as the "police reports of the past." The series of *Notable British Trials*, a volume or two of which appears every year, now provides the reader with a selection of modern cases equal in human interest to any to be found in Cobbett's and Howell's older collection. But, as the name implies, only those cases are dealt with in which the accused parties were actually arraigned. Some of the strangest and most mysterious crimes are, therefore, excluded from this series, and three out of the five studies in this volume are devoted to cases which never came to trial.

No *cause célèbre* in modern times, not even the Tichborne Trial, has aroused a greater degree of interest than the Bravo case. For more than a month—in the hot summer of 1876—public attention was wholly absorbed in the proceedings of the Coroner's Court at Balham, where the first lawyers

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

of the day were vainly endeavouring to elucidate the mystery of Mr. Bravo's death. Nevertheless, the detailed story of the case has never been told in narrative form and anyone desirous of studying it has had to refer to the files of old newspapers. In my account I have followed the almost verbatim reports of the proceedings in the *Daily Telegraph*. Moreover, I have recently enjoyed the inestimable advantage of discussing the affair with Sir Harry Poland, K.C., the junior counsel for the Crown at the memorable inquest. Not content with giving me the benefit of his recollections, he has been so kind as to read and comment upon my MS. and I gladly take this opportunity of offering him my best thanks for his suggestions and invaluable assistance.

"The Northumberland Street Tragedy" is an affair of a totally different kind. Here there is no mystery; the facts are plain, their interest consisting in their "brutal reality." It is a drama of uncontrollable passion of which the last scene is a death struggle as terrible as any depicted in the pages of fiction.

Although the case of Sellis, the Duke of Cumberland's valet, is often mentioned in biographies and referred to by historians, no trustworthy account of it seems to exist. The contemporary pamphlet *A minute detail of the attempt to assassinate the Duke of Cumberland* is somewhat scarce and is to be found in very few libraries. Most people, therefore, who have felt any curiosity on the subject have been obliged to consult such deliberately untruthful works as *The Secret History of the Court of England*

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

and other worthless productions. They have, in consequence, as the Duke's many enemies intended that they should, gained an altogether wrong impression of the business. For, as I have endeavoured to show, the facts are simple and perfectly straightforward. My narrative is based upon the above-mentioned pamphlet and the papers, now at the British Museum, of Francis Place, the Radical tailor, the foreman of the Jury which sat upon the body of the deceased valet. Place, at any rate, cannot be suspected of any desire to screen a royal personage or to hush up a scandal in high places.

Turning over the pages of Fouquier's *Causes Célèbres*, I came across the picture of a convivial party at a Paris restaurant. It was an incident in a famous case the circumstances of which I have related under the title of " An Affair of Honour." In addition to its dramatic episodes, the story sheds a curious light upon the seamy side of literary and journalistic society in Paris, at the time when Balzac was writing his last works and the novels of the elder Dumas and Eugène Sue were appearing in serial form in the daily papers.

There is an entirely erroneous but widely entertained belief that George IV, as Prince of Wales, was, to all intents and purposes, warned off Newmarket Heath. True it is, however, that the inconsistencies of " form " displayed by one of his horses was the subject of an investigation by the Stewards of the Jockey Club, and the last chapter in this volume is in the nature of an inquiry into the running of the celebrated Escape. At this

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

distance of time the materials for such a task are not easy to find, but with the aid of the *Racing Calendars*, *Genius Genuine*, Sam Chifney's curious *apologia*, and the early volumes of the *Sporting Magazine*, I have, I venture to think, been enabled to set forth the main facts. In the course of the story I have given some description which will, I trust, not be considered too discursive of the racing world as it was and of the Prince's friends and associates at Newmarket.

21 DORSET SQUARE, N.W. 1.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

AUTHORITIES

The Bravo Mystery

The Balham Mystery, or The Bravo Poisoning Case. Published in 7 parts. London, 1876.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports of the second inquest (July 12th–August 13th, 1876).

Articles in contemporary papers, notably in the *World*, August 23rd, 1876, and in the *Lancet*, August 19th and 26th, 1876.

The Northumberland Street Tragedy

Annual Register, 1861.

The *Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, July, 1861.

The *Lancet*, July 20th and 27th, 1861.

W. M. Thackeray. *On Two Roundabout Papers which I intended to Write.*

The Duke of Cumberland's Valet

Annual Register, 1810 and 1813.

A Minute Detail of the Attempt to Assassinate H.R.H. The Duke of Cumberland. London, 1810.

The *Times* and the *Examiner*, June, 1810.

Place Papers, Brit. Mus., Add. MSS. 35, 144, and 27, 851.

T. H. Jessie. *Life of George III.*

Diaries and Correspondence of Right Hon. G. Rose.

The Trial of Josiah Phillips for a Libel on the Duke of Cumberland.

The *Times*, November 20th, 1851. Obituary notice on King of Hanover.

Graham Wallas. *Life of Francis Place.*

W. T. Thoms. *Hannah Lightfoot.*

The *Quarterly Review*, April, 1838.

Digitized by Google

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

An Affair of Honour

A. Fouquier. *Causes Célèbres*, Vol. II.
H. De Villemessant. *Mémoires.*
E. d'Auvergne. *Lola Montez.*
Autobiography and Lectures of Lola Montez. Published 1858.

George IV and the Jockey Club

Racing Calendars, 1789, 1790, and 1791.
Samuel Chifney. *Genius Genuine.*
H. Corbett. *Tales and Traits of Sporting Life.*
C. Pigott. *The Jockey Club, or A Sketch of the Manners of the Age.*
Sporting Magazine.
W. M. Thackeray. *The Four Georges.*
R. Huish. *Memoirs of George IV.*
" Nimrod." *The Chase, The Turf, and The Road.*
Sir T. A. Cook. *The History of the English Turf.*
Sir T. A. Cook. *Eclipse and O'Kelly.*
R. Black. *The Jockey Club.*
T. R. Robinson. *The Last Earls of Barrymore.*
T. R. Robinson. *Old Q.*
Buck Whaley's Memoirs. Edited by Sir Edward Sullivan.
Life and Letters of Lady Sarah Lennox. Edited by the Countess of Ilchester.
A Portion of the Journal kept by T. Raikes, Esq. Vol. III.
The *Quarterly Review.* Vol. 161.
The Trial of Daniel Dawson.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE BRAVO MYSTERY	1
THE NORTHUMBERLAND STREET TRAGEDY . . .	105
THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND'S VALET	140
AN AFFAIR OF HONOUR	190
GEORGE IV AND THE JOCKEY CLUB	238

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ILLUSTRATIONS

Field-Marshal H.R.H. Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland	*Frontispiece*
	Facing page
Mr. Charles Bravo	6
Mrs. Charles Bravo	10
Dr. Gully	42
Mrs. Cox	68
Hungerford Bridge from Savoy Wharf in 1861	110
A Plan of part of St. James's Palace	142
Lola Montez	194
The Duel in the Bois de Boulogne	212
Samuel Chifney	244
The Race for the Oatlands Stakes at Ascot in 1791	258

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE BRAVO MYSTERY
AND OTHER CASES

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE BRAVO MYSTERY
: AND OTHER CASES :

THE BRAVO MYSTERY

OF the unravelled mysteries of the nineteenth century the death of Mr. Bravo is the most perplexing. A case of suspected poisoning in which the persons principally concerned were in affluent circumstances and in a good position of life could not fail to excite enormous interest. But it is also memorable for other reasons than those connected with the strange revelations which transformed the inquiry held in the billiard-room of the Bedford Hotel at Balham into a *cause célèbre*. Never before or since have the proceedings of a Coroner's Court been conducted under similar conditions. The Attorney-General was present in person and some of the most eminent members of the Bar held briefs on behalf of interested parties. Yet no judicial inquiry has ever, in modern times, been carried on so unbecomingly. The coroner, although he had been furnished with a legal adviser, proved as incapable of preventing the introduction of irrelevant matter as he was of insisting upon a

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

decorous behaviour on the part of the audience and the members of the jury. While the eminent counsel engaged and a famous solicitor acting for the family of the deceased carried the cross-examination of witnesses to greater lengths than seems permissible, even at a coroner's inquiry, the spectators and some of the jurymen testified their approval or disapproval in the most open manner. And when after twenty-three sittings of the court the investigations came to an end no definite conclusion had been reached. That Mr. Bravo had been poisoned was established beyond the possibility of doubt, but by whom the fatal dose had been administered was still an unsolved mystery.

Charles Delaunay Turner Bravo was thirty years of age when he died under conditions which made his death the most absorbing topic of the hour. His real name was Turner, but on attaining his majority he assumed the name of Bravo, which was that of his stepfather, a rich city merchant, who treated him in all respects as though he were his son. He would not appear to have been sent to a public school, but he went to Oxford, where he left an excellent reputation behind him. After leaving the University he was called to the Bar, and rented chambers in Essex Court in the Temple. But his home was in one of those detached red brick mansions facing the green at the back of Kensington Palace, which seem to have been specially designed for merchant princes of the Victorian era. Here, at No. 2 Palace Green, he led a comfortable and easy existence, adored by his mother, and meeting with nothing but

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

affection and indulgence from his stepfather. In these circumstances, he had little incentive to work, yet he appears to have attended his chambers with regularity, and to have shown a laudable anxiety to make a career for himself. He was a man of good abilities and at the time of his death was already beginning to make some headway in his profession, although in the last twelve months of his life his earnings amounted to no more than £200. And, in addition to his ambition of creating a practice for himself at the Bar, he seems to have had thoughts of standing for parliament, as soon as his professional prospects should be more assured. When not engaged in legal work, he appears to have divided his time between the Junior Carlton Club, of which he was a popular member, and his stepfather's palatial home in Kensington. No incident of any importance seems to have disturbed the even tenor of his life until, in the autumn of 1875, he became engaged to Mrs. Ricardo, the widow of Captain Alexander Louis Ricardo, a former officer of the Grenadier Guards.

Mrs. Ricardo, who was about thirty years of age, was the daughter of Mr. Robert Campbell of Buscot Park, Berkshire, and of 37 Lowndes Square, London. Like Mr. Bravo, senior, he was a wealthy man and like him was generally described as a merchant, whatever the exact meaning may be of that vague, but comprehensive, designation. It was, apparently, while on a visit to Montreal in 1863 that Miss Florence Campbell first met the young officer whom she married the following year. At

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

that time, she was nineteen, and her husband, who in March, 1864, was gazetted a lieutenant and captain, had but recently attained his majority. It was from the beginning an ill-fated union. Captain Ricardo, who retired from the army in 1867, was singularly unsuited to domestic life and, in addition, appears to have been in the habit of drinking heavily. At times he showed signs of improvement, but he always reverted to his evil practices, which soon began seriously to undermine his constitution. In 1870, both husband and wife spent the greater part of the summer and autumn at Malvern and here Mrs. Ricardo seems to have decided that she could no longer live with her husband. Before this their relations had often been strained, owing mainly, it must be presumed, to the Captain's drinking propensities. But other causes of dissension not improbably arose at Malvern, where Mrs. Ricardo was under the care of Dr. Gully, whose hydropathic establishment enjoyed a high reputation. A formal deed of separation was accordingly drawn up, by the terms of which Mrs. Ricardo was to receive an allowance of £1200 a year. This state of affairs, however, did not endure for long. In April of the following year, Captain Ricardo died at Cologne, without having revoked a will by which he left his entire fortune to his wife. Thus, in 1871, Mrs. Ricardo, who was still a young and attractive woman, found herself a widow in possession of an income which, with her own settlement, amounted to close on £4000 a year.

When her husband died, Mrs. Ricardo was

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

staying on Tooting Common at the house of her solicitor, Mr. Brooks. Her residence with this gentleman has to be recorded, because it was there that she met the woman with whom she was ever afterwards so closely associated. Mr. Brooks's children were at the time receiving instruction from a daily governess, a widow, a certain Mrs. Jane Cannon Cox. This lady had been left almost destitute by her husband, an engineer, employed in Jamaica. In these circumstances, she was befriended by Mr. Bravo, senior, who himself came from Jamaica, where he had large business interests. Besides affording her some pecuniary assistance, he advised her to invest the greater part of the little money which she possessed in furnishing a house in Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, with the idea of letting it at a profit. He also appears to have been instrumental in obtaining admission for her three boys to a school at Streatham for the children of distressed gentlefolk. Thus relieved, in a great measure, of the care of her family, Mrs. Cox contrived to eke out a livelihood on her earnings as a governess and on the proceeds of the house in Lancaster Road. Mrs. Ricardo, however, conceived a great liking for her and when, at the end of about nine months, she left Mr. Brooks's and took a house for herself in Leigham Court Road, Streatham Hill, she invited Mrs. Cox to live with her as her companion. As may be imagined, she was only too pleased to exchange the drudgery of her life as a daily governess for the easy duties of housekeeper and companion to a kind and generous friend.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Mrs. Ricardo remained for about two years at the villa on Streatham Hill, "Stokefield" as she called it, in memory, seemingly, of a house of that name which she had occupied at Malvern. At the end of that time she acquired the lease of a larger and more pretentious abode at Balham, to which she and Mrs. Cox removed in the spring of 1874. Although Mrs. Cox was in receipt of a salary of £100 a year, Mrs. Ricardo always treated her, not as a paid companion, but as a friend. In conversation both ladies invariably addressed one another by their Christian names and, generally speaking, they seem to have lived together on a footing of equality. It was through Mrs. Cox that Mrs. Ricardo, about this time, made the acquaintance of Mr. Charles Bravo. Not long after they had taken up their residence at The Priory—as the Balham house was named—Mrs. Cox wished to pay her respects to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bravo, to whom, as has been related, she was under considerable obligations. It was, therefore, arranged that Mrs. Ricardo, one day when she was driving into London, should drop her in Palace Green and call for her after she had finished her shopping and other business. This programme was duly carried out, but Mrs. Bravo hearing that her protégée's employer was at the door, in her carriage, begged her to come in. Thus Mrs. Ricardo was introduced both to Mrs. Bravo and to her son, Charles, who happened to be present. On this occasion, however, neither seems to have made any particular impression upon the other.

In the autumn of the following year, Mrs. Ricardo,

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MR. CHARLES BRAVO

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

accompanied as usual by Mrs. Cox, paid a visit to Brighton. Soon after their arrival they were driving along the front when they caught sight of Mr. Charles Bravo. Not improbably they were only too glad to see anyone whom they could claim as a friend. In any case, Mrs. Ricardo ordered her coachman to stop and renewed her acquaintance with the young man. Mr. Bravo, in the King's Road at Brighton, was seemingly more susceptible than he had been in the family mansion on Palace Green. He now showed plainly that the meeting afforded him the keenest pleasure and, after making himself as pleasant as possible, begged to be allowed to see her again very shortly. His request was not refused and, during the next few weeks, wherever the two ladies went he was generally in attendance. It was clear that his attentions were not displeasing to Mrs. Ricardo and he was, accordingly, emboldened to make her a proposal of marriage. After some show of hesitation, on the plea that they scarcely as yet knew each other sufficiently, she accepted him, and thus when, early in November, 1875, they left Brighton they left as an engaged couple.

It was a most suitable marriage to all outward appearances. Mrs. Ricardo had a comfortable fortune of her own and her fiancé, although for the present entirely dependent upon his stepfather, might reasonably expect to be a rich man some day. In such circumstances, the pecuniary arrangements and other matters of that kind were easily arranged, Mr. Joseph Bravo agreeing to settle £20,000 upon his stepson. What he thought about the match in

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

his innermost heart was never disclosed. But about his wife's feelings it is possible to speak with certainty. She unquestionably, from the first, regarded her future daughter-in-law with aversion. There are no grounds, however, for supposing that she knew anything to her discredit or had any good reason for disliking her. Not improbably, she would have felt very much the same about any other woman whom her son proposed to marry. There being no real obstacles matters proceeded rapidly. The engagement was, for those days, unusually short. After a visit to Palace Green, Mrs. Ricardo went to her father's house in Lowndes Square and, on December 7th, the marriage took place at All Souls, Knightsbridge. The bridegroom's mother, however, could not bring herself to attend the ceremony. For the present, she would only express the pious wish that some day she might come to feel differently about her daughter-in-law.

After spending about a fortnight at Brighton, the newly married couple visited their respective parents at Buscot Park and Palace Green and, about the end of the first week in January, 1876, settled down at The Priory, which was to be their future home. The house in which Mr. Bravo's short married life was spent was a castellated stuccoed building erected, some fifty years earlier, when the sham Gothic style of architecture was very much the fashion. It consisted of about eleven bedrooms, a library, a morning-room, a drawing-room with a conservatory and a dining-room, and stood in its own grounds of ten acres, on the edge of Tooting

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Common. The front gate, which was in the Bedford Hill Road, was flanked by a lodge, recently built by Mrs. Bravo, for the accommodation of her coachman and on the other side of the house—on the common itself—there was a second entrance, also provided with a lodge, known as the Lower Lodge. The house still exists, but its amenities are sadly diminished. The grounds, which poor Mr. Bravo often jestingly described as "the estate," are now completely built over. Nor can any traces to-day be seen of the two lodges which, if they have not been pulled down, must long ago have been converted into small residential villas.

During her widowhood or at least since she had taken up her residence at The Priory, Mrs. Bravo always lived in considerable style. She was fond of horses and took great interest in her garden, for the upkeep of which she kept a gardener with two men under him. It was her practice to job her carriage horses, but she had a pair of cobs of her own which she herself drove in one of those low open phaetons, in which the footman sits in a dicky behind—a type of vehicle which must be familiar to every one who has turned over the pages of an old *Punch*. Her indoor establishment appears to have consisted of a butler, a footman and six women servants. But after her marriage her husband became apprehensive that they were living too extravagantly and, in deference to his wishes, she agreed to dismiss her maid and to be content with the services of her head-housemaid. With that exception, the household arrangements at The Priory seem to have been

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

carried on very much as they had been before her marriage. Most important of all, Mrs. Cox remained and continued to act as housekeeper. Indeed, she appears to have been on the same friendly and familiar terms with Mr. Bravo—whom she was also in the habit of addressing by his Christian name—as she had been for the past four years with his wife.

After he entered the married state and came to live at The Priory, Mr. Bravo attended to his professional duties as closely as ever. Between the beginning of January, 1876, and Easter, when the Courts rose, he went up almost every day to the Temple, his one complaint being that briefs came all too seldom. Meanwhile, those who saw anything of his domestic life were convinced that he was absolutely happy. Although somewhat careful in money matters, he was of a very sociable disposition and would often bring back a friend to dinner. In this informal and unpretentious way the Bravos seem to have entertained fairly frequently. But it was nearly always Mr. Bravo's fellow-barristers or other acquaintances who enjoyed the hospitality of The Priory. Outside her own family circle Mrs. Charles Bravo seems to have had few friends of either sex. The smoothness of their existence, during these four months, was only marred by two untoward events. Towards the end of January and again on April 6th Mrs. Bravo had a miscarriage. On this second occasion, she suffered a considerable amount of pain and discomfort and was obliged to keep to her bed for rather more than a week. It was consequently decided that, immediately

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MRS. CHARLES BRAVO

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

after Easter, she should go for a change of air to Worthing, where a small furnished house was to be taken.

Good Friday that year fell on April 14th and, on the following day, Mrs. Bravo was able to go out in the carriage. Accordingly, Mrs. Cox and she drove over to the school at Streatham intending to bring back Mrs. Cox's boys to The Priory for Easter. They were escorted by Mr. Bravo, who rode one of the cobs, for, although he was a most indifferent horseman, he seems to have been fond of riding. The schoolmaster, however, would only allow the boys to be absent for one day, and it was therefore arranged that they should be sent for early on Monday morning. Mr. Bravo had recently been engaged in setting up a newly acquired lawn-tennis net, and when the boys arrived on Monday he at once began to teach them the game. In this fashion he seems to have spent the greater part of Easter Monday.

About nine o'clock the next morning, Tuesday, April 18th, Mrs. Cox, provided with a flask of sherry to sustain her on the journey, started off for Worthing, where she was to select a furnished house, and rather more than an hour after her departure the Bravos drove into London in their landau. After stopping at a bank in Stratford Place, and at a jeweller's in Bond Street, Mr. Bravo alighted from the carriage outside the Turkish baths in Jermyn Street. Mrs. Bravo then proceeded alone to the Haymarket Stores, where she made one or two small purchases, and returned home to The

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Priory for luncheon. Mr. Bravo, in the meanwhile, partook of that meal at the St. James's Hall in the company of Mr. Ord, his wife's uncle. He was in excellent spirits, ate heartily and drank a pint of claret. There being nothing to detain him in London, after luncheon he set out on foot, about three o'clock, for Victoria, meeting in St. James's Street Mr. M'Calmont, a friend and fellow-barrister, who accompanied him to the station. As they strolled along together conversing on various topics, Mr. Bravo asked him to return with him and dine at The Priory. Owing to a previous engagement, he was unable to accept the invitation, but before they parted he promised to run down the next day and play a game of lawn-tennis.

Mrs. Bravo was in the morning-room at The Priory when her husband returned. She told him that after he quitted her in Jermyn Street she went to the Stores and bought him some tobacco. He seemed very pleased by this little attention and left the room saying that he should smoke a pipe of the new mixture in the garden. Presently, however, he looked in again dressed, to her surprise, in boots and breeches and announced his intention of going for a ride. When, soon after six o'clock, he came back, he appeared to be tired out and sank into a chair. He had, he said, been quite unable to hold the cob, which had twice run away with him. When at last he contrived to stop him, he was so exhausted that he could scarcely muster strength enough to extract a shilling from his pocket to give to the boy who had picked up his hat. As he complained very

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

much of stiffness, Mrs. Bravo recommended a hot bath and the butler was ordered to prepare one. Both of them shortly afterwards went upstairs to dress for dinner, which was to be, as usual, at half-past seven. While they were in their respective rooms, Mrs. Cox returned. Owing to the lateness of the hour, however, she did not change her dress and, directly she came down to the morning-room, they all went in to dinner which, on her account, had been kept back for a few minutes.

Ever since April 6th, Mrs. Bravo had taken her evening meal in her bedroom, and this first dinner which she ate downstairs in her husband's company proved a somewhat dreary affair. In spite of his hot bath and of the fact that his wife was once more seated opposite to him, Mr. Bravo, who was generally full of talk and fun, seemed depressed and out of sorts. He had recently complained of toothache and neuralgia and was, in addition, in the opinion of the butler who waited at table, suffering from the effects of his unpleasant experiences while out riding that afternoon. Moreover, just before going into dinner he had received a letter from his stepfather which caused him considerable annoyance. He was fond of engaging in small dealings—they can hardly be called speculations—on the Stock Exchange, by which he might if fortune favoured him make a profit of a few sovereigns. The contract note of a recent operation of this kind, which had resulted in a loss of £20, had inadvertently been directed to his stepfather, who was staying at St. Leonards, Mr. Bravo, senior, in

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

sending it on, took the opportunity of expressing his disapproval of such transactions. Mr. Charles Bravo, however, resented these observations, which he considered were especially uncalled for, seeing that his stepfather had only become acquainted with the affair by accident. During dinner, he several times reverted to this grievance, declaring that he should certainly "write the governor a shirty letter." So entirely did this business absorb his attention that he took but a languid interest in Mrs. Cox's account of her doings at Worthing and scarcely looked at the photograph of the house which she had selected for them. The dinner itself was short and uninteresting, consisting of whiting, lamb and a dish of eggs and bloater paste. Mr. Bravo declined the fish, but all three of them partook of the last two courses. During the meal, which lasted rather more than half an hour, he drank three glasses of Burgundy, while the two ladies between them disposed of nearly two bottles of sherry.

As soon as dinner was over, they all went into the morning-room, where they remained until, at the end of about half an hour, Mr. Bravo suggested that his wife had sat up long enough. She agreed, and left the room, followed by Mrs. Cox, who offered to assist her to undress, Mary Anne, the housemaid, being still at her supper. Outside the door, Mrs. Bravo expressed the wish for a glass of sherry, which Mrs. Cox at once procured for her from the dining-room and carried upstairs. The first floor at The Priory consisted of five

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

rooms. The principal bedroom faced the stairs and, under normal conditions, was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bravo. Since the miscarriage of April 6th, however, Mr. Bravo had been relegated to an adjoining room and it was Mrs. Cox who nightly descended from her room, on the second floor, and shared his wife's bed. His dressing-room was next to Mrs. Bravo's room, but since he had been sleeping alone he does not appear to have used it. Beyond it again was another small room which served Mrs. Bravo as a dressing-room and at the other end of the passage, opposite to Mr. Bravo's room, was a spare bedroom. Thus, anyone ascending to the landing on the first floor would have in front of him the two bedrooms occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bravo respectively and, on his right hand, the two dressing-rooms.

Mrs. Bravo went to her dressing-room, where she drank her sherry and, with Mrs. Cox's assistance, proceeded to undress. Some twenty minutes later, while they were thus engaged, Mary Anne entered the room with a can of hot water. Having deposited it upon the washing-stand, she was about to leave the room, when Mrs. Bravo requested her to go downstairs and bring her up another glass of sherry. The girl complied at once, and as she was leaving the dining-room with a tumbler of wine in her hand Mr. Bravo came out of the morning-room and went upstairs to bed. It was barely half-past nine, but there was nothing unusual in his retiring for the night at this early hour. Contrary to his usual habit, however—for it was his practice to

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

adopt a very friendly attitude towards his servants—he passed her without speaking, "looking," as she afterwards described it, "queer and angry." He went straight to Mrs. Bravo's dressing-room, where, so Mrs. Cox afterwards deposed, he reproached her for taking too much wine. Already she had drunk nearly a bottle of sherry and now she had sent for more. He spoke these words in French, under the impression apparently that Mary Anne was close behind him. She, however, was discreetly waiting in Mrs. Bravo's bedroom, from which she did not emerge until she presently heard him pass along the passage and enter his own room. She then went out with the intention of rejoining Mrs. Bravo in the dressing-room, but on the landing outside she met her coming to bed. For the next ten minutes or so, Mary Anne was engaged in tidying the dressing-room and, having performed that duty, she returned to the bedroom to inquire whether her services were further required that night. By this time Mrs. Bravo appeared to have fallen asleep, but Mrs. Cox, who was sitting fully dressed by her bedside, told Mary Anne that there was nothing more for her to do. Accordingly, after removing the dogs, she left the room and was about half-way downstairs when the door of Mr. Bravo's room was suddenly thrown open and he appeared in his nightshirt upon the landing calling out loudly, "Florence, Florence, hot water, hot water!" He was pale and agitated and the girl, realizing at once that something very serious had happened, ran back to Mrs. Bravo's room.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Strange to say, Mrs. Cox had not heard Mr. Bravo's cries of distress, although the door of his room was only a few feet away and his voice had been raised to a fairly high pitch. But, when Mary Anne burst in with the news that he had been seized with illness, she at once went to his assistance without, however, arousing Mrs. Bravo. Mr. Bravo, by this time, had moved away from the door and was standing close to an open window through which he was vomiting copiously. Did he say anything to Mrs. Cox in explanation of his condition? That question was afterwards hotly debated and will need to be carefully considered, later on. For the moment, suffice it to say that Mary Anne, who had followed Mrs. Cox into his room, only heard him, in the intervals of his attacks of sickness, cry out again for hot water, which, by Mrs. Cox's orders, she at once went to fetch. When she returned, Mr. Bravo had sunk down upon the floor and Mrs. Cox was engaged in rubbing his chest. That lady was clearly of opinion that an emetic must be administered and Mary Anne was consequently again sent away in quest of mustard and camphor. A message that hot coffee was to be prepared was also despatched to the kitchen. Furthermore, Mrs. Cox herself went downstairs and, pushing open the pantry door, told Rowe, the butler, to send the coachman for Dr. Harrison, of Streatham, who had frequently attended Mrs. Bravo. Indeed, when the man transmitted the order to his fellow-servant he was under the impression that it was for his mistress that the doctor's services were suddenly

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

required. But he was speedily undeceived. Mary Anne, in the course of seeking for some of the articles required by Mrs. Cox, had occasion to go to Mrs. Bravo's medicine cupboard. Finding that she was still asleep and seemingly unaware of all that had happened, she took upon herself to awaken her and informed her of the state of affairs. Mrs. Bravo rose at once and, hastily putting on a dressing-gown, ran into the next room. At the sight of her husband lying upon the floor almost unconscious, with Mrs. Cox stooping over him, she testified the liveliest concern. Hearing that Dr. Harrison had been sent for, she insisted that Dr. Moore, who lived only a few hundred yards away, must be summoned instantly. Nor would she entrust the message to Mary Anne or to anyone else, but, rushing downstairs, she begged Rowe, in a voice broken with sobs, himself to go for Dr. Moore and bring him back as speedily as possible. Meanwhile, the mustard and water which Mrs. Cox had administered to Mr. Bravo had brought on renewed vomiting. Very soon, however, the unfortunate man lapsed into a state of unconsciousness and all that the women could do was to raise him up into a chair and await the arrival of the doctor.

Dr. Moore, whom Rowe had found at home, was quickly upon the scene. Mr. Bravo, when he arrived, was leaning back in a chair completely insensible. The action of the heart was almost suspended and the doctor's first impression was that he was on the point of death. Neither Mrs. Bravo nor Mrs. Cox could assign any reason for his

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

sudden and mysterious attack of illness. They talked of his misadventure while out riding that afternoon, and said that he had lately been worried about stocks and shares. Mrs. Cox, it appeared, had only given him an emetic because he had complained of a pain in his stomach. The doctor was completely puzzled and knew not what to do. For the moment, he could think of nothing better than to put him to bed, and, after that had been effected with Rowe's assistance, Dr. Harrison arrived. Before he was taken upstairs Dr. Harrison had a short conversation in the hall with Mrs. Cox, who was somewhat more communicative to him than she had been to Dr. Moore. Thus she related how Mr. Bravo had vomited out of his bedroom window, a circumstance which she had not seen fit to disclose to his colleague. Then, having enumerated the remedies which she had herself applied, she concluded by saying: "I am sure he has taken chloroform."

Mr. Bravo, having lately been suffering from toothache and neuralgia, had sought to alleviate the pain by rubbing his gums with chloroform. Accordingly, having consulted together, the two doctors proceeded to search the room to see whether they could "discover anything to account for the symptoms." They found a bottle of chloroform a bottle of laudanum and a bottle containing a liniment composed of camphor and ammonia. In Dr. Harrison's opinion, Mr. Bravo's "appearance and symptoms were closely allied to those that would be produced by taking chloroform." But

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

neither of them could detect the faintest smell of that drug in his breath and they were, in consequence, driven to look for the cause of trouble in some other direction. In these circumstances, the first conclusion which they came to was that " a large vessel near the heart had given way " and to stimulate its action they proceeded to inject brandy and water with a syringe, their patient being still unconscious and quite incapable of swallowing anything. Both of them, however, looked upon the case as wellnigh hopeless and they therefore suggested that further medical advice should be obtained. Mrs. Bravo fell in readily with this proposal and expressed the wish that Mr. Royes Bell, a Harley Street surgeon, should immediately be sent for. This gentleman was a cousin and a very intimate friend of Mr. Bravo and, moreover, had attended her in her recent illness. Dr. Harrison, consequently, wrote to him begging him " to come at once and to bring some one with him, as Mr. Bravo was suffering from failure of the heart's action." This note was given to the coachman with orders that he was to drive into London and bring back the doctors.

During the two hours which had necessarily to elapse before the carriage could return, Mrs. Bravo appeared unable to control her impatience. At one moment she lamented that the cobs had not been sent instead of the carriage horses, and at another she threw herself down beside her unconscious husband and addressed him in terms of the fondest endearment. But, as she almost immediately fell asleep, Dr. Harrison was constrained to awake her

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

and request her to remove herself from the bed, lest she should interfere with the sick man's breathing. About two o'clock, an important change manifested itself in Mr. Bravo's condition. His pulse rose and he began to vomit and to pass a bloody fluid. These symptoms, which betokened internal ulceration, were a clear indication to the doctors of the nature of his malady. Henceforward, they could feel assured that he was suffering from an irritant poison. About the same time as they made this discovery the carriage returned and Mr. Royes Bell and Dr. Johnson,[1] of Savile Row, were brought up to the sick-room. Directly they were made acquainted with this last development, they likewise regarded it as an unmistakable sign that in some way or another Mr. Bravo had absorbed an irritant poison. Meanwhile, the unfortunate gentleman was beginning to recover consciousness.

Directly their patient was in a condition to answer them, the doctors pressed him to tell them what he had taken. He had rubbed his gums with laudanum for neuralgia, he replied, and had possibly swallowed some accidentally. "But laudanum," said Dr. Johnson, "will not account for your symptoms." He persisted, nevertheless, in declaring that he had taken no other drug. While they were thus engaged, Mrs. Cox took Mr. Bell aside and asked to speak to him in private. Together they went to Mrs. Bravo's dressing-room, where she made the astounding statement that, when he was

[1] Johnson, Sir George (1818–1896), Physician, King's College, London. Knighted 1892.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

first taken ill, "Charlie," as she called him, had confided to her that he had taken poison. It was while he was vomiting out of the window, and his exact words were "I have taken poison, don't tell Florence." Mr. Bell did not conceal his surprise that she should have withheld this information for so long. "It is no good," he said, "sending for a doctor if you do not tell him what is the matter," and with that observation he left her and imparted this new and startling piece of news to Dr. Johnson. Dr. Johnson, after Mrs. Cox had repeated her story to him, immediately went back to the patient's bedside and said, "Mrs. Cox tells us you have spoken to her of having taken poison—what's the meaning of that?" "I don't remember," he replied, "having spoken of taking poison." "But have you taken any?" insisted Dr. Johnson. Possibly laudanum, nothing else, he assured the assembled doctors and, press him as they might, he constantly adhered to that statement.

On being apprised of Mrs. Cox's revelations, Dr. Harrison, not unnaturally, testified some annoyance that she had concealed Mr. Bravo's statement from him. In reply to his observations on the subject, however, she professed to be under the impression that directly he arrived she had told him everything. "You certainly did not," retorted the doctor. "You told me you were sure he had taken chloroform," and there the matter was allowed to rest for the present. About five o'clock, all the medical men returned to their respective homes, with the exception of Mr. Royes Bell, who announced

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

his intention of remaining in the house. Dr. Johnson, however, who was in charge of the case, carried back with him to London a jar containing a specimen of rejected matter which he proposed to test for arsenic.

After the departure of the doctors Mr. Bravo's condition underwent little change. He was frequently sick and suffered intense agony from pains in the stomach. Moreover, he was under no illusions as to the gravity of his situation. With the idea, apparently, that he might thereby be induced to tell them what he had taken, the doctors had let him see plainly that they entertained little, if any, hope of saving him. The sight of his wife appeared to be his chief consolation. More than once he asked her to kiss him and, about midday, feeling somewhat easier, he called for pen and paper and drew out a will by which he left her everything and appointed her his sole executrix. At the same time, he solemnly enjoined Mr. Bell to tell his mother, should she not arrive before he died, "to be kind to Florence." Later on, in the course of their rounds, both Dr. Moore and Dr. Harrison looked in, and about three o'clock Dr. Johnson arrived, and all of them in turn made renewed efforts to elicit from him the nature of the poison which he had swallowed. For unless Mrs. Cox had made a deliberately false statement—and they had no reason to suspect her good faith—it was plain that he must have knowingly taken some deleterious drug. But he replied always that nothing of a poisonous character, except possibly laudanum, had

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

passed his lips and the only result of their importunities was to irritate and annoy him. "Why the devil should I have sent for you, I if knew what was the matter with me?" Rowe heard him exclaim impatiently.

Before Dr. Johnson left that afternoon, the dying man's mother and stepfather, who had been telegraphed for from St. Leonards, reached The Priory. They were accompanied by Miss Bell, Mr. Royes Bell's sister, and by Amelia Bushell, an old maid of Mrs. Bravo's, who had known Mr. Charles since he was a boy. As soon as they arrived, Mrs. Bravo begged her daughter-in-law to allow her and Amelia Bushell to take complete charge of the sick-room. She had, hitherto, always nursed her son in all his illnesses and he was quite accustomed to be attended by her. Mrs. Charles made no difficulty about consenting. Indeed, to facilitate matters, she gave up her bedroom on the first floor to the old Bravos and herself went to sleep upstairs with Mrs. Cox. That night no improvement took place and when, at nine o'clock on Thursday morning, April 20th, Dr. Johnson visited his patient, he found that his condition, if it had changed at all, had changed for the worse. And unfortunately Dr. Johnson was still as much in the dark as ever as to the particular poison which had caused the mischief, the test for arsenic, to which he had submitted the specimens removed the day before, having given a negative result. This he only confided to Mr. Royes Bell, but, before departing, he felt it his duty to inform old Mr. Bravo that he regarded his stepson's case

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

as hopeless. That gentleman at once broke the news to Mrs. Charles who, on learning that the doctors had definitely given up her husband, exclaimed, " They have had their way and I as his wife will have mine." She then proceeded to describe certain remedies which she had been advised would prove efficacious. She was a firm believer in homeopathy, and the treatment which she now advocated was of a homeopathic character. It consisted of a mustard plaster upon the spine, cold water applications to the stomach and small and frequent doses of *arsenicum*. Dr. Johnson, however, objected to the poultices, which would only subject the patient to useless suffering. But the *arsenicum*, in the form suggested, was perfectly harmless and he was quite prepared to allow it to be administered. Mrs. Charles Bravo did not say and, apparently, the doctors did not trouble to inquire from whom she had obtained this prescription.

About three o'clock in the afternoon, Dr. Johnson returned accompanied by Dr. Henry Smith, a brother-in-law of Mr. Bravo, senior. Dr. Smith, however, had nothing to suggest and could only express his general concurrence with Dr. Johnson's view of the case. In the meantime, however, Mrs. Charles Bravo had taken upon herself to call in Sir William Gull[1] and had already sent Mrs. Cox to London with a note begging him to come at once.

[1] Gull, Sir William Withey (1816–1890). Attended Prince of Wales 1871. Created Baronet 1872. Left personalty worth over £344,000 besides landed estates.

Digitized by Google

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The summoning of a new doctor in this unorthodox fashion was a serious breach of medical etiquette. Nevertheless, the matter was arranged amicably and, that evening, about six o'clock, Dr. Johnson and his famous confrère drove down to The Priory together. Ever since his successful treatment of the Prince of Wales, when he was lying at the point of death from typhoid fever, Sir William Gull had held a position in the public estimation which no other member of his profession has occupied since his day. But, apart from that particular instance of his skill, his penetration was remarkable and he was generally believed to exercise a veritable fascination over his patients. If it were true therefore that Mr. Bravo was concealing some vital fact from his medical attendants, Sir William was of all men the best fitted to overcome his obstinacy.

When he was taken up to the sick-room, Sir William expressed a wish that everybody should go out of it, except the doctors. Then, after a very short examination of the patient, he said to him, "This is not disease. You are poisoned, pray tell us how you came by it." Mr. Bravo, however, only repeated what he had so often said before, that he had rubbed his gums with laudanum and might have swallowed some. "It is much more than that," exclaimed Sir William, who went on to adjure him solemnly to reveal to them what he had taken. It might enable them, he added, to find an antidote, but, checking himself, he said "No, that would not be fair, I fear no antidote would do you good and it is not for me to press a dying man." At this stage,

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Dr. Johnson, who was standing at the foot of the bed, interposed with the grave words, " If you do not tell us more than we know at present, some one may be accused of being the cause of your death." " I cannot help that," was the reply, " I have taken nothing else." There was no more to be said and the doctors went into the adjoining dressing-room to consult together. Before this, Sir William had directed that the matter which Mr. Bravo had vomited through the window on the night on which he was taken ill should be collected. It was still lying upon the leads below and no difficulty was experienced in carrying out Sir William's orders, but, while Dr. Johnson was sealing up the jar in which it had been placed, Miss Bell appeared at the door of the room in which the doctors were closeted and told them that " Charlie " was calling urgently for Dr. Gull. Sir William at once returned to the sick man's bedside, only to discover, however, that he wished to repeat his former statement. As impressively as he could and in as loud and distinct a tone as his condition permitted, he now assured Sir William Gull, in the presence of Miss Bell, Amelia Bushell and Dr. Johnson, that he had told him the whole truth and nothing but the truth and that he made this assertion with the full knowledge that " I am going to appear before my Maker." He next asked whether anything could be given him to relieve his pain and whether there was " really no hope." Sir William felt his pulse and heart and told him that he had very little life left in him and that he was in short " half-dead "

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

already. He then went downstairs and soon afterwards returned to London, his visit having only lasted about forty minutes. It was his opinion, and he made no secret of it, that Mr. Bravo would not live through the night. Nor was he mistaken. About four o'clock, on the morning of Friday, April 21st, the poor man's long-drawn-out agony came to an end.

In such circumstances, there could be no question of granting a certificate of death, and Mr. Royes Bell immediately took steps to warn the Coroner and to arrange for a post-mortem examination. This last operation he entrusted to Dr. Joseph Payne, who performed it the following day—Saturday, April 22nd—in the presence of Dr. Johnson, Dr. Harrison, Dr. Moore and Mr. Royes Bell himself. Evidence of internal inflammation and ulceration was discovered, but no indication could be found of any natural disease which could cause death. As is usual in such cases, the contents of the stomach and intestines and various portions of the digestive organs were placed in jars, sealed up and sent off for analysis, in this instance, to Professor Redwood who, before this, had received specimens of the *dejecta* and of the vomited matter which Sir William Gull had directed should be collected from the leads below the deceased's window. Meanwhile, Mrs. Cox was in correspondence with Mr. Carter, the Coroner for East Surrey, on the subject of the inquest. Mrs. Bravo, wrote Mrs. Cox, was anxious that it should take place at The Priory itself, "where," she added

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

thoughtfully, " refreshments will be prepared for the jury." Mr. Carter, apparently, saw no reason to decline so kindly an invitation.

The inquest was opened on Tuesday, April 25th, 1876, in the dining-room of The Priory. There can be little doubt that it had been conveyed to the Coroner that it was a case of suicide and that the relations were very anxious that the investigations should be carried out as privately as possible Mr. Carter was an official of long experience who, it must be presumed, had hitherto satisfactorily performed his duties. On this occasion, he knew that the deceased was a barrister in very good circumstances and that his family and surroundings were eminently respectable. Under these conditions, he seems to have considered that he would be justified in confining his inquiry within the narrowest limits and in doing all in his power to avoid touching upon anything which might cause pain to the dead man's relatives and friends. Accordingly, no notification of the inquest was sent to the newspapers and none of their representatives were, consequently, in attendance. It must be remembered, however, that the reporters of that time were neither as pushing nor as ubiquitous as they are to-day. For, although everything was done to ensure the privacy of the inquiry, the proceedings, it is clear, were not carried on in a strictly closed Court. One or two neighbours contrived to secure admission and a Mr. Reid, a barrister and a friend of the deceased, was also present and, moreover, took notes of the evidence.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

the best of her belief he and Mrs. Bravo had always lived together most happily. Dr. Payne next described the result of his post-mortem examination which had disclosed no natural cause to account for death. The evidence of Dr. Theophilus Redwood, professor of Chemistry to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was to the effect that he had discovered antimony in all the specimens and organs submitted to him. In his opinion it could only have been administered in the form of tartar emetic, which was easily soluble in water and practically tasteless. The deceased's symptoms were those which a large dose of antimony might be expected to produce. From the food vomited through the window alone he had extracted ten grains of tartar emetic. He felt no doubt that the deceased's death was to be attributed to "antimony taken in sufficient quantity to cause death."

Mr. Royes Bell stated that from the time when he first arrived at The Priory, in the early hours of Wednesday morning, he remained with the deceased until he died, on the following Friday. Although frequently pressed to say what he had taken, the deceased had always refused to admit either to him or to any of the other doctors that he had taken anything except laudanum.

Mr. Carter, it appears, now considered that the jury were in possession of sufficient facts to enable them to return a verdict. His own notes and those of Mr. Reid are, however, the only records which exist of these proceedings. This much is certain, that he declined to hear Dr. Johnson and Dr. Moore,

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

both of whom were present and anxious to depose. Nor would he allow Mrs. Bravo to be called. She was, he understood, prostrated by the shock of her husband's death and he could see no reason why they should add to her sufferings by asking her to give evidence. From disclosures subsequently made, it is clear that the Coroner's decision thus prematurely to close the inquiry by no means met with the approval of the jury as a body. Certain members of it, unquestionably, regarded Mrs. Cox's evidence as unsatisfactory and insisted on recalling her and on examining her sharply. The Coroner, however, who seems to have persuaded himself that it was a case of suicide, would not allow any further time to be devoted to the case. No account exists of his summing up, but it is reasonable to suppose that it accorded with his own prepossessions. Nevertheless, when he had concluded and when the court was cleared, he took a very unusual step. Perhaps he was not altogether comfortable in his own mind or, possibly, he perceived that the jury were inclined to be restless and dissatisfied. Be the reason what it may, he sent for Mr. Joseph Bravo and asked him whether he entertained any suspicion that his stepson had been the victim of foul play. "No," was the answer, "but there are drugs in nearly every room of the house." The verdict, which the jury shortly afterwards brought in, was "that the deceased died from the effects of poison—antimony —but that there was no evidence as to the circumstances in which it had come into his body."

The next day, April 29th, the funeral took place

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Mr. Joseph Bravo was the first witness called. He formally identified the deceased as his stepson and stated that from the Wednesday, when he first saw him in bed, until the Friday morning, when he died, he never heard him suggest the cause of his illness. Mrs. Cox related how on the Tuesday night she had gone to Mr. Bravo's bedroom and how he had used the words, "I have taken poison, don't tell Florence." He had been suffering from neuralgia, and she concluded therefore that he had swallowed some of the chloroform or laudanum which he was in the habit of applying to his gums. When Dr. Harrison arrived she told him what the deceased had said to her. Mr. Bravo and his wife lived on the most affectionate terms and she knew of nothing which might have led him to commit suicide. Amelia Bushell described the sufferings of the deceased, who, however, remained conscious to the last. He had never accounted for his symptoms to her, nor to anyone else in her hearing. So far as she knew, he had no reason for committing suicide. Dr. Harrison related the different episodes which had come under his notice and stated that the deceased had always denied to him and to the other doctors that he had taken anything, except possibly laudanum. His symptoms, however, suggested that he had absorbed an irritant poison. Until informed of it by Dr. Johnson, he was unaware that the deceased had admitted that he had taken poison. At this stage, the proceedings were adjourned to Friday, April 28th, presumably to enable Professor Redwood to acquaint the Court with the result of his analysis.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Already on this Tuesday, April 25th, the Professor was in a position to inform Dr. Johnson that the tests to which he had submitted the specimens and the organs sent to him had revealed the presence of antimony in the form of tartar emetic. The news appears to have been passed on at once to Mr. Joseph Bravo who, taking the advice of his brother-in-law, Dr. Henry Smith, reported the matter to the police authorities at Scotland Yard. As a result of his communication, Inspector Clark, who was regarded as somewhat of an expert in poisoning cases, was instructed to make inquiries, presumably to ascertain whether the possession of antimony could be traced to anyone connected with the household at The Priory. Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to infer that Mr. Joseph Bravo was already convinced that his stepson had been murdered. There are grounds for supposing that he was rather inclined to think that he might have taken the poison accidentally. He knew that both his daughter-in-law and Mrs. Cox had medicine chests and that there were in the house innumerable bottles containing drugs, to which he gave the general name of "poisons." But he absolutely refused to entertain the notion that this unfortunate stepson had taken any noxious drug deliberately, and made no secret of his utter disbelief in Mrs. Cox's story.

When the Court reassembled on April 28th, Mary Anne Keeber gave an account of the different episodes connected with Mr. Bravo's seizure, with which she had been concerned, and stated that to

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

the best of her belief he and Mrs. Bravo had always lived together most happily. Dr. Payne next described the result of his post-mortem examination which had disclosed no natural cause to account for death. The evidence of Dr. Theophilus Redwood, professor of Chemistry to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was to the effect that he had discovered antimony in all the specimens and organs submitted to him. In his opinion it could only have been administered in the form of tartar emetic, which was easily soluble in water and practically tasteless. The deceased's symptoms were those which a large dose of antimony might be expected to produce. From the food vomited through the window alone he had extracted ten grains of tartar emetic. He felt no doubt that the deceased's death was to be attributed to " antimony taken in sufficient quantity to cause death."

Mr. Royes Bell stated that from the time when he first arrived at The Priory, in the early hours of Wednesday morning, he remained with the deceased until he died, on the following Friday. Although frequently pressed to say what he had taken, the deceased had always refused to admit either to him or to any of the other doctors that he had taken anything except laudanum.

Mr. Carter, it appears, now considered that the jury were in possession of sufficient facts to enable them to return a verdict. His own notes and those of Mr. Reid are, however, the only records which exist of these proceedings. This much is certain, that he declined to hear Dr. Johnson and Dr. Moore,

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

both of whom were present and anxious to depose. Nor would he allow Mrs. Bravo to be called. She was, he understood, prostrated by the shock of her husband's death and he could see no reason why they should add to her sufferings by asking her to give evidence. From disclosures subsequently made, it is clear that the Coroner's decision thus prematurely to close the inquiry by no means met with the approval of the jury as a body. Certain members of it, unquestionably, regarded Mrs. Cox's evidence as unsatisfactory and insisted on recalling her and on examining her sharply. The Coroner, however, who seems to have persuaded himself that it was a case of suicide, would not allow any further time to be devoted to the case. No account exists of his summing up, but it is reasonable to suppose that it accorded with his own prepossessions. Nevertheless, when he had concluded and when the court was cleared, he took a very unusual step. Perhaps he was not altogether comfortable in his own mind or, possibly, he perceived that the jury were inclined to be restless and dissatisfied. Be the reason what it may, he sent for Mr. Joseph Bravo and asked him whether he entertained any suspicion that his stepson had been the victim of foul play. "No," was the answer, "but there are drugs in nearly every room of the house." The verdict, which the jury shortly afterwards brought in, was "that the deceased died from the effects of poison—antimony —but that there was no evidence as to the circumstances in which it had come into his body."

The next day, April 29th, the funeral took place

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

at Norwood Cemetery, and, on the following Wednesday, May 3rd, Mrs. Bravo went to recuperate in lodgings at Brighton, at 38 Brunswick Terrace, which the ever useful Mrs. Cox had taken for her the week before. Prior to that the two ladies had not been alone. Mrs. Bravo's mother, Mrs. Campbell, and her brother, Mr. William Campbell, arrived before Mr. Bravo died; in fact, they were in time to see Sir William Gull—who was an old friend of the family. And after his stepson's death Mr. Joseph Bravo did not return with his wife to London, but stayed on at The Priory until after the post-mortem. By that time Mrs. Bravo's father, who had been too ill to come earlier, arrived and remained with his daughter until she went to Brighton.

Mrs. Bravo's peaceful seclusion at Brighton did not endure for long. Her deceased husband had been extremely popular and his friends one and all were profoundly dissatisfied with the conduct of the inquest. Indeed, a certain Mr. Willoughby, a barrister, who had attended the funeral, went to Scotland Yard the next day, and brought to the notice of the police several suspicious circumstances connected with the death of his friend. But, although the matter was very freely discussed in the social circle in which deceased had moved, the Press, for more than another week, made no allusion to the affair. The first intimation of it which the public received was a paragraph in the *World*,[1] headed

[1] The *World*, May 10th, 1876 (but it was apparently in the hands of the public the preceding day).

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"A Tragedy?" It was a tolerably accurate account of the principal incidents of the case, but no names were mentioned, Mr. Bravo being referred to as "a young barrister rapidly gaining a position at Westminster Hall, who had recently married." The following day, however, the *Daily Telegraph* was far more explicit. Under the title of "Mystery at Balham," it furnished its readers with the whole story of Mr. Bravo's fatal attack of illness and with the names of some of the doctors who had attended him. In a leading article, in the same issue, comment was made on the secret and generally unsatisfactory manner in which Mr. Carter had carried on his inquiry. And, from this time onward, the *Telegraph* began an active campaign in favour either of a new inquest or of reopening the investigations in some other way. It was very well informed and the public were soon in possession of the main facts of the case. The interest aroused was enormous. Every day letters appeared, not only in the *Telegraph*, but in the medical journals and other papers, from persons anxious to suggest how the fatal dose had been absorbed. The most popular theory was that there was poison in the Burgundy which the deceased gentleman drank at his dinner. A large quantity of tartar emetic, wrote one correspondent, could be introduced into that particular wine without fear of detection, while another asserted no less positively that Burgundy, by reason of the tannin which it contained, was a most unsuitable vehicle for the secret administration of antimony. Both Dr. Moore and Dr. Harrison related their experiences in the *Daily*

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Telegraph and Dr. Johnson supplied the *Lancet* with the medical history of the case. Before she had been a fortnight at Brighton, Mrs. Bravo was painfully aware that people were everywhere discussing the circumstances which had made her, once again, a widow. The language of the newspapers and their correspondents was, if unpleasantly suggestive, necessarily somewhat guarded, but the writers of the anonymous letters which she daily received stated their suspicions with brutal frankness. By the advice of her father she caused an advertisement to be issued, on May 16th, offering a reward of £500 to anyone who could prove a sale of antimony or tartar emetic, " in such a manner as would throw a satisfactory light on the mode by which Mr. Bravo came by his death."

Two days later, on May 18th, the Liberal member for Dewsbury, Mr. Sergeant Simon,[1] having given the usual notice, asked the Home Secretary "whether your attention has been called to the unsatisfactory character of the Coroner's inquest on the late Mr. C. Bravo." In reply Mr., afterwards Lord, Cross acknowledged that irregularities had been committed. He was, he declared " entirely dissatisfied with the way the inquiry had been conducted." He was not as yet in a position to say what action would be taken, but meanwhile all the papers were in the hands of the law officers of the Crown. Already, before the Home Secretary delivered this pronouncement, Mr. Stevenson, the Solicitor for the

[1] Simon, Sir John (1818–1897), Sergeant-at-Law. Knighted 1886. Founder of Anglo-Jewish Association.

Digitized by Google

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Treasury, had been charged to hold a private inquiry. In addition to examining everybody who could be expected to throw light upon the matter, Mr. Stevenson, in pursuance of his instructions, directed Professor Redwood and Inspector Clarke to make a thorough search of The Priory. Before carrying it out, it had been necessary to obtain Mrs. Bravo's permission; but this was readily given. Little hope, however, can have been entertained that a perquisition of this kind would lead to any useful discovery. Five weeks had elapsed since Mr. Bravo's death and, if a crime had been committed, the guilty party would surely, long before this, have removed or destroyed anything of an incriminating character. Two days, nevertheless, were devoted to the operation, but nothing of any importance was found. Both in Mrs. Bravo's and in Mrs. Cox's rooms there were homeopathic medicine-chests, besides a great quantity of loose bottles, but when their contents were tested they proved to be "harmless domestic medicines." On May 27th, the *Daily Telegraph* announced that thirty witnesses had been examined and that the inquiry was at an end. The concluding sentence of this, apparently, inspired paragraph was significant: "For various reasons neither Mrs. Bravo nor Mrs. Cox, although questioned by the police, has been asked to give evidence."

Both ladies, doubtless, realized that the public would draw ominous conclusions from their absence from the inquiry, and both, accordingly, asked to be allowed to make statements. Before consenting to hear what they had to say, however, Mr. Stevenson

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

insisted that it must be clearly understood that they came forward voluntarily and that he should ask them no questions. Mrs. Cox's statement, dated June 2nd, which she drew up after consultation with Mr. Brooks, Mrs. Bravo's solicitor, was to the following effect. She had been a witness at the inquest on the late Mr. Bravo, but " from a mistaken idea of shielding the character of Mrs. Bravo " she had not told " the full particulars." As a fact, what Mr. Bravo had told her, when he was first taken ill, was, " I have taken poison for Gully, don't tell Florence. . . . There was no reason for his thus desiring to commit suicide." Mrs. Bravo, she was positive, had no communication with Dr. Gully since her marriage, and their acquaintance, before the marriage, was " though very imprudent," she conscientiously believed, " entirely of an innocent character." Mr. Bravo was a man of violent and hasty temper. On Good Friday, four days before his fatal illness, he was annoyed because Mrs. Bravo wanted to rest after luncheon and did not wish him to remain in her room. That evening, she sought to pacify him, but he only replied that his wife was " a selfish pig " and that he should go away and wished that he were dead. " Let her go back to Gully," he exclaimed more than once. She continued, nevertheless, to try to appease him and at last becoming more reasonable " he kissed me on the cheek " and said, " You are a good little woman," and the next morning made up the quarrel with his wife. Some weeks earlier, he had had a similar altercation with Mrs. Bravo about something which

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

his mother had said. On that occasion, he actually unbarred the front door in the middle of the night, and went out saying that he should never return. She, however, pursued him and persuaded him to come back. "These sudden passions seemed to overtake him, because at other times he was quite pleasant. . . . He constantly said how he hated Dr. Gully and how he wished he were dead. He was jealous of him, though he knew everything before marriage."

Mrs. Bravo's statement, which was also dated June 2nd, was made under the same conditions as those imposed upon Mrs. Cox. It was a lengthy account of the chief events which had preceded her husband's death, but only that portion of it in which she described her actual relations with him need be repeated. On that subject what she had to say was, shortly, as follows. When she married Mr. Bravo on December 7th, 1875, she had a fortune of about £3000 a year. He had nothing but a small income of his own and "casual allowances" from his father. For all that, he constantly pressed "me to put down my garden and my cobs—my two great hobbies—and turn away Mrs. Cox," by which he hoped to save £400 a year. She, however, could see no necessity for this "retrenchment." "He told me that he had kept a woman before his marriage at Maidenhead for four years, and I believe he continued her an annual payment, and owed her or her sister £500, which he had borrowed." "He was a very passionate man and short-tempered to the last degree." He once struck her, "because

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

his mother was interfering—requiring me even to put down my maid. . . . He always met the postman himself, and took and read my letters." He disliked the expense of the contemplated visit to Worthing, after her miscarriage. They quarrelled about it in bed and he jumped up and rushed into his dressing-room saying that he should cut his throat. On Good Friday, he flew into a passion, because she wished to be left alone to rest. "He was always reading Shakespeare, and we had a happy three weeks before then, and I got quite to like him and forgot his meanness, which had previously disgusted me." Ever since she had been Dr. Gully's patient at Malvern, in 1870, in the lifetime of her first husband, the doctor had "taken a great and increasing interest in me and my welfare and I became attached to him and grateful for his care." He resided near her when she lived at Streatham, and when she moved to the Priory he took a house close by, in Bedford Hill Road. He was at that time a free man, having given up his practice at Malvern, in 1871. Before she married Mr. Bravo, she told him of her former "attachment" to Dr. Gully and they made a compact that his name should never be mentioned. This "attachment," however, had been "quite innocent, and nothing improper had ever passed between us." Yet, although she never saw or communicated with Dr. Gully after her marriage, her husband "was continually, morning, noon and night, speaking of him, always abusing him, calling him 'that wretch,' and upbraiding me for my former acquaint-

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ance with him." On the morning of the day on which he was taken ill, he made a scene in the carriage as they were driving to London. It began when they were passing Dr. Gully's house. She told him that she thought "it was cruel of his always bringing up that name, I am not always talking to you about that woman." He admitted that he was in the wrong and asked her to make it up and kiss him. But in a pet, she answered, "No, I won't," and he said, "You will see what I will do when I get home." His appearance was so determined that she was frightened and kissed him. After his seizure, when he first recovered consciousness "he looked up to me in the most piteous manner and said, 'Kiss me, my wife.'" Later on, he said to her, "You must marry again, but not a word of the past." In the last hours of his life, "he kissed me several times and repeatedly asked his mother to be kind to his darling wife. When we first married he thought I took too much sherry, and I gave it up to please him, for which he thanked me." He never admitted to her that he had killed himself, nor did he charge anyone with having killed him. "He made no inquiry as to what had caused his illness."

James Manby Gully, whose name was thus suddenly brought into the affair, was no obscure practitioner. He was in his sixty-eight year, having been born in Jamaica in 1808. As a young man, after studying in Paris, he passed on to Edinburgh, where he took his medical degree in 1829. About this time, his patrimonial estates in the West Indies

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

were rendered practically worthless by the abolition of slavery in the British Colonies and he found himself, in consequence, almost wholly dependent upon his profession for a livelihood. Being convinced of the value of hydropathy he moved, in 1842, to Malvern, which in a great measure owes its prosperity as a watering-place to him. The fame of his cures spread far and wide and he could count devoted followers who believed that he had completely revolutionized the art of healing. Among them, seemingly, was Charles Reade, who introduced him into *It's never too late to mend*, one of the best known of his novels, in the character of Dr. Gullson. Dr. Gully himself was the author of numerous works, mostly on medical subjects, but among them was a play, adapted from Dumas' *Mlle de Belleisle*, which was produced at Drury Lane in 1839. He seems to have been a clever and intellectual man with considerable personal magnetism, whom women, especially, found most attractive, notwithstanding that he was short of stature and inclined to be stout.

After receiving Mrs. Bravo's and Mrs. Cox's very remarkable statements, the authorities soon came to a decision as to the course which they should pursue. On June 19th, the Attorney-General, Sir John Holker,[1] made application to the Court of Queen's Bench for a writ to bring up the

[1] Holker, Sir John (1828–1882), Q.C. 1866. Very successful in patent cases which constituted the larger part of his practice. Solicitor-General and knighted 1874. Attorney-General following year.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

DR. GULLY

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Coroner's Inquisition, in order that it might be quashed, and for a rule *nisi* calling upon the Coroner to show cause why a fresh inquiry should not be held, before him or before Commissioners appointed by the Court. The sitting was a lengthy one, the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Alexander Cockburn,[1] and his learned brethren on the Bench,[2] showing some reluctance to comply, notwithstanding that the Attorney-General stated plainly that he suspected it "to be a case of murder" and that, if a new inquiry was granted, "facts might be elicited which would justify a charge against some one or other." In these circumstances, Mr. Attorney was reluctantly compelled to read Mrs. Cox's statement from beginning to end, omitting only the name of Dr. Gully. The admissions contained in it that information of the first importance had been withheld from the knowledge of the Coroner's Court overcame their lordships' scruples and the rule was granted. A week later, it was made absolute and Mr. Carter was directed to hold a fresh inquiry with a fresh jury.

The second inquest on the body of Mr. Charles Bravo was begun, on July 11th, 1876, in the billiard-room of the Bedford Hotel, which immediately adjoins Balham Station. It was opened under conditions very different from those

[1] Cockburn, Sir Alexander (1802–1880). Knighted 1861. Solicitor and Attorney-General 1851. Prosecuted Palmer 1856. Lord Chief Justice of England 1859. In previous year succeeded to baronetcy. Twice declined a peerage. Represented British Government in Alabama arbitration at Geneva.

[2] Mr. Justice (Sir John) Mellor and Mr. Justice Field.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

which had surrounded the first inquiry. That had been a kind of family affair of which the public had no cognizance. Now, every inch of room which was not reserved for counsel or for the representatives of the Press was taken up by deeply interested spectators, while less fortunate persons, unable to gain admission, thronged the approaches to the Court. Mr. Carter, on this occasion, was assisted by Mr. Burleigh Muir, who took his seat as legal assessor to the Coroner. The Attorney-General in person, Mr., afterwards Sir John, Gorst, Q.C., and Mr., now Sir Harry, Poland represented the Crown. Sir Henry James, Q.C., afterwards Lord James of Hereford[1] and Mr. Biron[2] appeared for Mrs Bravo, Mr. Murphy, Q.C., took charge of Mrs. Cox's interests, and Mr., afterwards Sir George, Lewis,[3] at that time the junior member of the famous firm of Lewis and Lewis, solicitors, of Ely Place, watched the case on behalf of Mr. Joseph Bravo and his relations generally.

After it had been constituted by the swearing in of seventeen jurymen, the Court was conveyed by train to West Norwood Cemetery, for the purpose of viewing the exhumed body. In order to render this formality as unobjectionable as possible, a small portion of the coffin lid had been cut away

[1] James, Sir Henry, First Lord James of Hereford (1828–1911.) Q.C. 1869. Solicitor-General and knighted 1873. Attorney-General same year. Raised to peerage 1895.

[2] Biron, Robert John, Q.C. Father of present Sir Chartres Biron, chief magistrate at Bow Street.

[3] Lewis, Sir George (1833–1911). Knighted 1892. His reputation was largely established by the Bravo case.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

and a piece of glass inserted. As soon as the jury had thus complied with the law's requirements, they were taken back to the Bedford Hotel and the remainder of the day was devoted to the evidence of Mr. Joseph Bravo. Replying to Mr. Lewis, who examined him, Mr. Bravo described his stepson's early life and his subsequent career at the Bar. Outside his profession, he was greatly interested in surgery and would sometimes attend operations at King's College Hospital, of which the deponent was a governor. Nevertheless, he had no reason to suppose that, apart from surgery, he had more than a very general knowledge of medical matters. He had always lived on the most affectionate and intimate terms with the deceased and, knowing him as he did, he could not believe that he had committed suicide. His stepson was a man " full of fun," and hitherto he had never doubted that his marriage had proved very successful. He and his wife appeared to be very fond of each other and, so far as he could judge, he seemed to be perfectly happy. Nothing had ever arisen to make him think that the deceased was jealous of anyone and, when directly questioned on the subject by Mr. Lewis, he replied emphatically that he had never heard the name of Dr. Gully mentioned.

At this stage, three letters were put in which the deceased had written to the witness and to his mother, just before his fatal illness. If they were any indication of his state of mind, he was up to the last in the very best of spirits. In one, dated as late as Easter Sunday, April 16th, he described

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

how, after putting up the lawn-tennis net he had had a game with the butler and afterwards " a very vigorous one with Osman." In short, as he put it, he had " loafed vigorously and enjoyed " himself thoroughly. Continuing his evidence, Mr. Bravo related the circumstances in which he became acquainted with Mrs. Cox.[1] Soon after his marriage, his stepson consulted him about her. He said nothing against her, on the contrary, he admitted that she was very useful, but to retain her added £400 a year to the household expenses and that was a greater expense than he considered he was justified in incurring. " I agreed with him," said Mr. Bravo, " and advised Mrs. Cox to return to Jamaica. She said she should not return." Coming to the deceased's illness and death, Mr. Bravo stated that, when he and Mrs. Bravo arrived at The Priory, Mrs. Charles Bravo never suggested any explanation of her husband's alarming condition. On the following day, however, Dr. Johnson said, " I may as well tell you that Mrs. Cox informs me that he has taken poison." To this he replied at once, " There is no believing such a thing," and he was firmly of that opinion still. His stepson was a singularly truthful man and he had heard him deny repeatedly that he had knowingly taken any harmful drug. Moreover, when he spoke thus, he knew that he was going to die, the doctors having told him that they could hold out no hopes. Questioned about Mrs. Charles Bravo's demeanour while her husband lay dying, Mr. Bravo replied, " She did not appear much grieved in any way at the state of affairs."

[1] *v.* p. 5.

Digitized by Google

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Certain letters written by Mrs. Charles Bravo to the witness from Brighton, soon after the first inquest, were now put in. In all of them she addressed him as " Dear Father Joseph," although in the first, dated May 5th, she complained angrily that he had caused " dear Charlie's drawers to be sealed." She must, therefore, remind him that " nobody but myself has the power to touch one single thing belonging to him." Her father, she warned him, " will take care that I have all my dear husband left to me." On the following day, she again wrote, in this instance, to tell him that " a letter received from Royes Bell fully confirms my suspicions as to poor Charlie's committing suicide. Hence his motive for reducing our expenditure, as he could not tell me how hard he had been pressed by that dreadful woman. I wish he had, poor fellow, for I should not have been hard upon him." In a third communication, dated May 8th, she withdrew all she had said in her first letter, which was written under a misapprehension. She regretted it very much, having since she knew him only " experienced kindness and consideration." In future, she hoped that he would think of her as his " loving daughter " and cease to address her as " Mrs. Florence Bravo." It was only in legal documents that she should be so addressed. In reply to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Bravo declared that there was no truth in the suggestion that the deceased was pressed for money. As to the " dreadful woman " referred to he knew of no woman who was pressing him. At an earlier stage of his examination, he had fully

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

explained his stepson's pecuniary position. When he married he settled £20,000 upon him and since that he had given him about £1100. "Practically speaking," he allowed him, "whatever he desired to have." The deceased kept an account at the London and Westminster Bank and he told the manager never to let his credit balance fall below £100.

In answer to Sir Henry James, Mr. Bravo allowed that he simply regarded the term "that horrid woman" as the "expression of one woman about another." Only after his stepson's death had it come to his knowledge that "he had known a person at Maidenhead and that that woman's sister had left £500 in his hands," and he was told elsewhere that "the woman had a boy thirteen or fourteen years of age, not his, but whom he had promised to educate." Letters found after his death in the deceased's chambers were, the next day, put in which fully confirmed the witness's statements that no demands for money were being made upon his stepson, who, it was made perfectly clear, had parted from this unknown woman—her name was very properly not disclosed—on quite amicable terms. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that, three days later, Mr. M'Calmont stated in evidence that the deceased had discussed the matter of the Maidenhead lady with him and had said that "everything had been arranged most satisfactorily and that she had behaved in the most exemplary manner." Questioned by Sir Henry James about his stepson's peculiarities, Mr. Bravo admitted that he "was quick in temper." Never, however, had he said

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

that he had " a horrible temper," but it was true that he had said that " he had a rough edge to his tongue when he was put out."

Before Mr. Bravo concluded his evidence, he was asked by Mr. Gorst about an incident to which he had alluded when under examination by Mr. Lewis. One day, early in March, about six weeks before his fatal illness, his stepson arrived, as he frequently did, about breakfast time at Palace Green. On this occasion, he was very pale and, in explanation of his appearance, said that he had been seized with a violent fit of nausea in the train between Balham and Victoria. So sick was he that he was afraid that the other persons in the carriage must have imagined that he had been drunk overnight. However, after drinking a glass of curaçoa he felt better and went on to Westminster Hall. It was a most unusual occurrence. Before his marriage, said Mr. Bravo, the deceased was never subject to attacks of vomiting.

The next three days were devoted wholly to the medical evidence. Dr. Moore and Dr. Harrison described the condition in which they found the deceased, when they were called in, on the night of Tuesday, April 18th, and Dr. Johnson and Mr. Royes Bell related the history of the case from the time of their arrival, in the early hours of Wednesday, until the end came, on the following Friday morning. " Directly the deceased recovered consciousness," said Dr. Moore, " he asked his wife to kiss him. He was very affectionate in his manner to her and she appeared to reciprocate his affection." As far as he could judge her attitude towards him was " perfectly

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

natural." He had " never seen a case of poisoning by antimony " and had " never heard of such a thing as suicide by antimony." Vomiting, in his opinion, would set in about a quarter of an hour after a large dose had been swallowed. Dr. Harrison was positive that during the four hours in which he was in the house before the arrival of Mr. Royes Bell and Dr. Johnson, Mrs. Cox never told him that the deceased had acknowledged to her that he had taken poison. But, had she said anything to that effect, Dr. Moore and he could scarcely have acted differently from what they did. "To have used the stomach pump must have killed him instantly." He did not see " the slightest sign of feigning or acting on the part of Mrs. Bravo. She seemed to be natural in her affectionate remarks to her husband." He never knew of a case of suicide by antimony. He had once himself accidentally taken a fairly large dose of antimony and he only began to vomit two hours later.

The evidence of Mr. Royes Bell and Dr. Johnson was mainly concerned with the symptoms of the deceased and with those incidents immediately preceding his death which have already been fully described. In addition, however, both gentlemen gave the Court the benefit of their observations and general impressions, and these, needless to say, are deserving of careful consideration. Mr. Royes Bell knew the deceased intimately since he was a child and, on April 9th, " the Sunday before Good Friday, spent the afternoon with him. He was then in perfect health and good spirits and full of fun."

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Although not a religious man, before he made his will, on the Wednesday, the second day of his illness, he offered up an extempore prayer and invited all who were present to join with him in repeating the Lord's Prayer. He never perceived, said Mr. Bell, " any trace in the deceased of a jealous or unkind feeling towards his wife. He often kissed her and called her by a pet name. After he had made his will, he was tossing about in his bed and I said to him," continued Mr. Bell, " ' Charlie, have you anything on your mind ? ' ' No,' he replied, ' I have not led a religious life.' In my judgment," added the witness, " he was not at all a likely man to commit suicide."

Dr. Johnson had " never seen Mrs. Bravo before this case and her usual manner was unknown to me." She appeared to be anxious for her husband to recover, and her conduct, generally, seemed to be perfectly natural. In one instance, however, her demeanour surprised him and gave him cause for reflection. " While talking in the presence of Mrs Bravo, I unintentionally," said Dr. Johnson, " referred to Mrs. Cox's statement that he had taken poison, and Mrs. Bravo, turning to Mrs. Cox, asked, ' Did he say that he had taken poison ? ' Mrs. Cox replied, ' Yes, he did.' Nothing more passed and I was astonished that Mrs. Bravo did not display more feeling than she did display when this was mentioned." Questioned about Professor Redwood's report, Dr. Johnson declared that the deceased must have swallowed a large quantity of antimony, perhaps thirty or forty grains. It could hardly have been

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

less, seeing that in the food vomited through the window ten grains were discovered. Had he swallowed such a dose " in the earlier period of dinner, he would," in Dr. Johnson's opinion, " have been taken ill before he left the table. If thirty or forty grains were mixed with Burgundy a good judge of wine would detect the intrusion. The wine would become turbid." With regard to Sir William Gull's visit, Dr. Johnson stated that he followed Sir William into the sick-room, when he returned to it at the special request of the deceased. He heard the poor man call upon God to be his witness that he had spoken nothing but the truth in denying that he had taken poison. " I was struck," said Dr. Johnson, " by his earnestness." Neither Mr. Royes Bell nor Dr. Johnson had ever heard of a case of suicide by antimony.

Sir William Gull, it was notorious, was disposed to think that the deceased had deliberately poisoned himself. Moreover, the account which he now gave to the Court of his visit to The Priory differed in several important particulars from that of Dr. Johnson. He was, consequently, somewhat severely cross-examined by Mr. Lewis, a proceeding which he resented greatly. When the deceased recalled him to his bedside, it was merely, stated Sir William, in order to inquire whether " I thought that he was dying." Dr. Johnson was not present on that occasion. He could not recollect that the deceased had said anything to him to the effect that he had spoken the truth and nothing but the truth. He might have done so, indeed, he was not prepared to swear that

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

he had not. And when he made that admission, he complained angrily that he had not come into Court " to prevaricate " and that Mr. Lewis's questions were " unbecoming." He had been called in, said Sir William after this outburst, to see the deceased " for disease," and " on my own responsibility and without consultation I informed him that he was not suffering from disease but from poison." To his astonishment he displayed no surprise. It was inconceivable " that a man should not exhibit surprise when such a statement was made to him, and I was, therefore, led to conclude that he knew it already." He allowed, however, that, if the deceased had already been told he was suffering from poison, he might well receive the same news from him without expressing astonishment. Previous to this business, he had never met Mrs. Bravo herself, but he had known her family and her father for a long time past. In her note to him she merely said, " My husband is dangerously ill. Could you come as soon as possible to see him ? " " I think," said Sir William, " if Mrs. Bravo had the slightest conception that her husband was dying of poison she would hardly have written to me as she did." In his opinion, it was impossible for a man to take forty grains of antimony without tasting it, but he had no personal knowledge of a case of poisoning by antimony.

In consequence of the discrepancies between his evidence and that of Sir William, Dr. Johnson was recalled, at a later stage of the inquiry, and made a second deposition, to the following effect. When

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

he drove down to the Priory with Sir William Gull, he not only imparted to him the whole history of the case, but told him what Mrs. Cox, had said. If after this conversation with him in the carriage, Sir William still expected to see " a case of disease " he must either have disbelieved him completely or have been " strangely forgetful." And he had to complain of another inaccuracy. He was certainly present in the sick-room when Sir William returned to it, at the request of the deceased, who, in his hearing, asserted with great earnestness that he had kept nothing back but had spoken " the entire truth." It was about four o'clock in the morning of the Wednesday, April 19th, that he inadvertently referred to Mrs. Cox's statement, in the presence of Mrs. Bravo. Undoubtedly, therefore, she was aware that her husband was supposed to be suffering from the effects of poison when, on the following day, she wrote to beg Sir William to see him.

The greater part of Professor Redwood's evidence was merely a repetition of what he had said at the first inquest. But, on this occasion, after stating that the specimens submitted to him contained antimony, in the form of tartar emetic, he went on to make some explanatory remarks. The amount taken by the deceased could not, he considered " have been less than twenty grains, and probably ranged between twenty and forty. A dose of one and a half or two grains would act as an emetic in half an hour. Taken in water twenty minutes would be the minimum time. Taken in Burgundy and with food the action might be delayed somewhat.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

I have experimented with Burgundy and other wines. There was no sensible difference in colour." Then, turning to another aspect of the case, he " produced a glass containing forty grains of antimony and four ounces of water, and observed that a small quantity of the mixture might be held in the mouth for a short time without any taste being perceived." To illustrate this, the witness took some in his mouth and Sir Henry James and several jurymen followed his example. No taste, they declared, was perceptible.

Frederick Rowe, the butler, was an important witness, inasmuch as he was the only person who might perhaps be able to explain what had happened to the Burgundy left undrunk at the deceased's last dinner. He seems to have been a well-disposed and truthful person, but, unfortunately, it was soon apparent that he was not a careful servant. He entered, he stated, Mrs. Ricardo's service about a month before she married Mr. Bravo. For dinner, on April 18th, he decanted two bottles of sherry, one of Marsala and one of Burgundy. The establishment was conducted on liberal lines and this was the usual scale on which wine was opened. His cellar book, it should be mentioned, fully bore out this last statement. The ladies, undoubtedly, drank a good deal of sherry, but Mr. Bravo seldom took more than a pint of wine. On this particular night, he drank, to the best of the witness's belief, about three glasses of Burgundy only. Had he emptied the decanter, he would have been greatly surprised and must certainly have noticed it. Any wine left

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

over from dinner was placed in a cellarette which was never locked. On the night in question, the decanter, being still about half full of Burgundy, was certainly put away as usual. But he could not remember what happened to it subsequently. Somebody undoubtedly must have finished it. He had told Inspector Clark that the doctors drank what was left, but he had since ascertained that that explanation was incorrect. His cellar book showed that, on the following day, April 19th, he opened another bottle of Burgundy. He could not, however, recollect for whom or by whose orders he brought it upstairs. The entry in regard to it was made on the 20th. But he admitted that he was in a " muddle with my book at that time and was making it up." Later on, in answer to a question put to him by one of the jury, he said, " The house was in confusion, and I made up the book hastily, thinking it might be asked for." Mr. Bravo, he declared, was very particular about his wine and, had there been anything wrong with the Burgundy, he would certainly have perceived it.

As regards other matters, Rowe stated that he had heard of Dr. Gully, but had never seen him. To the best of his belief, he never came to The Priory in his time nor, as far as he was aware, did Mrs. Bravo see him. He did not know that Dr. Gully lived at Balham, but, quite recently, since the case had begun, the house had been pointed out to him. Mr. and Mrs. Bravo always appeared to him to be very happy together. " I never heard them quarrelling. Mr. Bravo was a very kind, considerate

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

gentleman, one of the kindest I ever knew." In the witness's "mind" his sudden illness, on April 18th, "was accounted for by the cob running away with him that afternoon." When the deceased went upstairs to dress for dinner, and to take the bath which the witness had prepared for him, he seemed to be in pain and moved stiffly. He, also, appeared out of sorts at dinner. "Now tell us," said Mr. Gorst, "do you think he was poisoned before dinner?" "I cannot tell," answered Rowe after some hesitation, "I think there was something wrong with the deceased's stomach at dinner. I put it down to the horse accident at the time."

Mary Anne Keeber, the housemaid, proved a most intelligent witness and gave a very clear and lucid description of all that happened when the deceased was first taken ill. What she had to say on that point, however, has been related on a former page. But in regard to other matters she also gave some important evidence. Prior to April 18th, she had been in Mrs. Bravo's service for about two years and three months, having come to her just before she moved from Streatham to The Priory. When, after her marriage, Mrs. Bravo gave up her maid, the witness, in addition to her other duties, waited on her personally. She had thus numerous opportunities of observing the newly married couple. They appeared to be very fond of each other and she never perceived the smallest sign of jealousy on the part of the deceased. Nor did she ever hear the name of Dr. Gully mentioned between them. Mr. Bravo was a kind and considerate master and she

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

and all her fellow-servants were devoted to him. Before the marriage, Dr. Gully constantly came to luncheon and to dinner at The Priory and he was there at other times besides. But, since the marriage, she did not believe that he had ever been to the house. In reply to Mr. Gorst, she stated that when the deceased was sick, after Mrs. Cox had given him mustard and water, she held the basin. Afterwards, by Mrs. Cox's orders, she removed it, threw the vomited matter down the sink, washed the basin and brought it back to the deceased's bedroom. Mr. Bravo made a practice of cleaning his teeth three times a day. He certainly washed them when he dressed for dinner, on April 18th, and she filled up his water-bottle, when she was tidying his room, while he was at dinner. She could not say whether he was in the habit of drinking water from this bottle before he went to bed.

Amelia Bushell, Mrs. Joseph Bravo's maid, repeated what she had said at the first inquest.[1] But, in answer to Mr. Lewis, she now added that she was present in the sick-room when Sir William Gull returned to it, and that she heard the deceased declare to him in the most solemn manner that he had taken nothing except laudanum. After Sir William left, the deceased repeated the Lord's Prayer and asked her and the other persons present to say it with him. On the Wednesday, the day of her arrival at The Priory, Mrs. Charles Bravo, who was crying, said to her, "What a dreadful thing, Amelia. The only thing by which I can account

[1] *v.* p. 30.

Digitized by Google

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

for it is that Mr. Charles took lunch at St. James's Hall and had something cooked in a coppery pan." From the witness's knowledge of the deceased, having lived in the same house with him for fifteen years and having seen him grow up, she could say that he was "a most unlikely person to commit suicide—the last man likely to do so."

Miss Ann Maria Bell's account of what took place, on the occasion of Sir William Gull's visit, was substantially the same as the last witness. On the previous afternoon, shortly after she arrived at The Priory, she walked round the garden with Mrs. Charles Bravo. Speaking of her married life, Mrs. Bravo said to her, "We have been very, very happy and Charles says that he has never been so happy in his life. We have never had a word together." She never, continued Miss Bell, hinted for a moment that the deceased was jealous or had cause for jealousy. Nor did she in any way account for his illness. "From my intimate knowledge of the deceased," declared the witness, "I can say that he was not a man at all likely to commit suicide." In answer to Sir Henry James, she said, "I did not know anything about Dr. Gully, and until public attention was directed to his name I never heard anything about him."

As soon as Miss Bell's deposition was concluded, George Griffiths was called—a witness who was to occupy the attention of the Court for the greater part of three whole days. But, when his evidence came to be tested, it was found to be of little value. Put very briefly it amounted to this. He drove Dr.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Gully for about eight years, while he was in practice at Malvern, and was, subsequently, engaged as coachman by Mrs. Bravo—Mrs. Ricardo as she then was. He remained with her for about four years and, while in her employ, married Fanny Plascot, her former maid. Soon after that event, he quitted her service for a time, but came back to her at The Priory in the spring of 1875, about six months before she married Mr. Bravo. And, as he quite frankly told the Court, it was his impression that, had it not been for that gentleman, he would still be her coachman. The deceased, however, considered that he was unsafe and, in consequence, he received notice to quit. He had, he acknowledged, come into violent collision with another vehicle, on the day of the Lord Mayor's Show, when he was driving his mistress and Mrs. Cox in Bond Street. Accordingly, on January 3rd, 1876, two or three days before Mr. and Mrs. Bravo returned from their honeymoon visits to Buscot and Palace Green, he left The Priory in a very aggrieved state of mind. The importance, however, which was attached to his evidence was due to the fact that he asserted that, while he was in the service of both Dr. Gully and Mrs. Ricardo, he was in the habit of administering tartar emetic to their horses, not "black antimony" nor "liver antimony," but white tartar emetic, the very drug which had killed Mr. Bravo. Now, Griffiths had departed before the deceased took up his residence at The Priory, but, if it were true that for some time before that a supply of tartar emetic was kept at the stables, some of it might very well

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

have come into the possession of an evil-disposed member of the household. Griffiths maintained that it was always carefully put away in a cupboard and that, before he left, he threw the whole of it down a drain in the stable yard. That Griffiths had at Malvern, in 1869, procured two ounces of tartar emetic was proved by his signature, which appeared opposite an entry to that effect in the chemist's books. But his statement that he purchased smaller amounts, at various times, at shops in Balham and Streatham was flatly denied by the chemists concerned and by their assistants. And, after much time and trouble had been expended in seeking to elucidate the question, the matter had to rest at that.[1]

Griffiths, however, was examined on another point and a curious, although probably quite unimportant incident, was brought to light. "Did you ever," asked Mr. Lewis, "express an opinion that Mr. Bravo would not live for long?" "I can't remember," was the reply. "I might have done. I said all I could about him, when he put me out of my home at The Priory." "Did you say," continued Mr. Lewis, "that he would not live four months?" "No, I do not think that I said as much as that," answered the witness. Thereupon, Mr. Stringer, the landlord of the Bedford Hotel, where the inquiry was being held, was requested to stand up. "Now," said Mr. Lewis, "answer my question face to face with Mr. Stringer. Did you not say, 'Poor fellow, he won't live four months'?" He

[1] *D.T.*, July 21, 22, 25, and 26, 1876.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

might have said "five or six months," admitted Griffiths. "And what did you mean by that?" inquired Mr. Lewis. He meant nothing. "I said it in aggravation," protested Griffiths. That was, doubtless, the truth, nevertheless, Mr. Stringer was sworn and related that, on the day on which Mr. and Mrs. Bravo were married, he had a brief conversation regarding them with the last witness who, he was aware, was under notice to leave The Priory. "Missus," said Griffiths, "will be sure to have a lot of brandy before she goes to the wedding. Poor fellow, I should not like to be in his shoes; he won't be alive in four months."

John Pritchard, Dr. Gully's butler for the last twenty years, was now called. It should be mentioned that, while Griffiths was under examination, Mr. Archibald Smith informed the Court that he had been instructed to watch the case on behalf of Dr. Gully, in conjunction with his learned friend, Mr. Sergeant Parry. This step was, doubtless, considered necessary, in consequence of a suggestion which had been made to Griffiths that he had purchased tartar emetic at Malvern, not for his own purposes, but by order of the doctor, his master. There was a "great attachment," said Pritchard, "between Dr. Gully and Mrs. Ricardo." But, about the beginning of last November, they became, what he might call, "not so friendly," and he received orders to refuse admittance both to Mrs. Ricardo and to Mrs. Cox. About the same time, Dr. Gully sent back to Mrs. Ricardo the key of the gate at The Priory, which he had hitherto had in

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

his possession, and returned all the presents which she had made him. Mrs. Ricardo, on her side, acted in the same manner as regards the pictures and other articles which he had given her. On April 19th, the witness learnt that Mr. Bravo was very seriously ill and, on the following morning, Mrs. Cox came to the door and, in the circumstances, he took upon himself to admit her. At these words, there was an outburst of derisive laughter from certain persons in Court which caused Mr. Sergeant Parry to protest strongly against such behaviour. Mr. Gorst, he complained, had joined in the laugh, a remark to which the learned counsel replied by saying that he should smile when he chose, he was not going through the case with "a wooden face." This retort was so warmly approved of by the audience, that the Coroner was constrained to warn them that he should clear the Court, if there should be any further disturbance. Mrs. Cox, continued the witness after this interlude, was only with Dr Gully for about four or five minutes and he was not informed of the reason of her visit. He knew Mr. Bravo by sight and often saw him pass the house, on his way to the station. He did not appear to take any special interest in it and never looked up. After the deceased's death, Dr. Gully remarked to the witness that it was "a bad job and the last inquest was not satisfactory."

At this stage, several of the deceased's barrister friends were called to testify to various matters which had come under their notice. All of them, in turn, declared that it was inconceivable that the

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

deceased should have committed suicide. He had neither worries nor cares, to their knowledge, and seemed very happily married. Mr. M'Calmont stayed at The Priory, about February 14th, and had some conversation about Mrs. Cox with the deceased, who spoke of her with affection, and said she was " very useful." Mr. Edward Stanley Hope [1] dined at The Priory, on March 22nd, when the deceased made the same remark to him. He next saw him, on April 11th, in the Exchequer Court. He had a pen in his hand and appeared to be engaged upon some calculation. Presently, he remarked to him, " After all, Mrs. Cox must be costing us £300 a year," and the witness replied, " Why, you might keep another pair of horses for that." In his opinion, the deceased was " not fond of money, but liked to talk about investments." Mr. Edward Carlyle Willoughby, the gentleman who, it has already been mentioned,[2] communicated with Scotland Yard after the funeral, deposed that the deceased had recommended him to follow his example " and get married." Mr. T. Jepson Atkinson lived with the deceased for two years at Oxford and, more recently, stayed with him in London and in Paris. He always took, before going to bed, a deep draught of water from the bottle on his washing-stand. " It was an inveterate habit of his." The deceased had made a special study of medical jurisprudence, and the witness was certain that " no feeling for a

[1] Afterwards Sir Edward Stanley Hope, K.C.B. Died February 15th, 1921.

[2] *v.*, p. 34.

Digitized by Google

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

woman would make him take a painful and uncertain poison with the effect of which he was thoroughly acquainted." Mr. Meredith Brown, a stockbroker and a member of the firm of Alexander and Co., deposed that he had carried out a number of small transactions for the deceased, whom he knew intimately. These, since the year 1873, resulted in a profit of £87. "The deceased was a very careful man and would no doubt be worried by losses. He was deeply interested in financial questions."

Much of the evidence of Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Bravo's mother, was concerned with the circumstances and conditions of her daughter's life while she was married to Captain Ricardo, and had only a remote connection with the questions before the Court. Nevertheless, both the Attorney-General and Mr. Lewis elicited some interesting facts from her. When she and her son arrived at Balham Station, on the afternoon of Thursday, April 20th, they were met by Mrs. Cox with whom they drove to The Priory. From Mrs. Cox's manner and from what she said, the witness gathered the impression that her son-in-law had deliberately taken poison. But, when they reached the house, her daughter only spoke of the cooking vessels at St. James's Hall as the source of the mischief. At that time, her daughter appeared to know nothing about the suggestion of poison. It was not until an hour or two later, after Sir William Gull's visit, that she seemed "to know it." Her daughter "first learnt that it was tartar emetic the deceased had taken from the elder Mr. Bravo after the funeral. She said that

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

deceased should have committed suicide. He had neither worries nor cares, to their knowledge, and seemed very happily married. Mr. M'Calmont stayed at The Priory, about February 14th, and had some conversation about Mrs. Cox with the deceased, who spoke of her with affection, and said she was " very useful." Mr. Edward Stanley Hope [1] dined at The Priory, on March 22nd, when the deceased made the same remark to him. He next saw him, on April 11th, in the Exchequer Court. He had a pen in his hand and appeared to be engaged upon some calculation. Presently, he remarked to him, " After all, Mrs. Cox must be costing us £300 a year," and the witness replied, " Why, you might keep another pair of horses for that." In his opinion, the deceased was " not fond of money, but liked to talk about investments." Mr. Edward Carlyle Willoughby, the gentleman who, it has already been mentioned,[2] communicated with Scotland Yard after the funeral, deposed that the deceased had recommended him to follow his example " and get married." Mr. T. Jepson Atkinson lived with the deceased for two years at Oxford and, more recently, stayed with him in London and in Paris. He always took, before going to bed, a deep draught of water from the bottle on his washing-stand. " It was an inveterate habit of his." The deceased had made a special study of medical jurisprudence, and the witness was certain that " no feeling for a

[1] Afterwards Sir Edward Stanley Hope, K.C.B. Died February 15th, 1921.

[2] *v.*, p. 34.

Digitized by Google

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

woman would make him take a painful and uncertain poison with the effect of which he was thoroughly acquainted." Mr. Meredith Brown, a stockbroker and a member of the firm of Alexander and Co., deposed that he had carried out a number of small transactions for the deceased, whom he knew intimately. These, since the year 1873, resulted in a profit of £87. "The deceased was a very careful man and would no doubt be worried by losses. He was deeply interested in financial questions."

Much of the evidence of Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Bravo's mother, was concerned with the circumstances and conditions of her daughter's life while she was married to Captain Ricardo, and had only a remote connection with the questions before the Court. Nevertheless, both the Attorney-General and Mr. Lewis elicited some interesting facts from her. When she and her son arrived at Balham Station, on the afternoon of Thursday, April 20th, they were met by Mrs. Cox with whom they drove to The Priory. From Mrs. Cox's manner and from what she said, the witness gathered the impression that her son-in-law had deliberately taken poison. But, when they reached the house, her daughter only spoke of the cooking vessels at St. James's Hall as the source of the mischief. At that time, her daughter appeared to know nothing about the suggestion of poison. It was not until an hour or two later, after Sir William Gull's visit, that she seemed "to know it." Her daughter "first learnt that it was tartar emetic the deceased had taken from the elder Mr. Bravo after the funeral. She said that

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

she had never heard of that poison." From about the time of Captain Ricardo's death, in April, 1871, until she became engaged to Mr. Bravo, in the autumn of 1875, her daughter was completely estranged from her family, owing to her intimacy with Dr. Gully which, Mrs. Campbell stated, had their " entire disapproval." She also had reason to remonstrate with her daughter about the amount of wine which she was in the habit of drinking. About this same time, her daughter brought a suit in Chancery against her father, in regard to certain matters connected with her marriage settlement. It was not, however, on that account that they declined to receive her, but solely because of her " attachment " to Dr. Gully. Yet " I did not accept my daughter's position with Dr. Gully as being criminal." She merely thought that she " entertained an extraordinary infatuation " for him. This unhappy state of affairs went on until, about the end of October, 1875, her daughter wrote to assure her father that she had given up Dr. Gully and that " the past " was for ever " blotted out."

Both she and her husband, said Mrs. Campbell, thoroughly approved of their daughter's second marriage and their relations with their son-in-law were always most friendly. When they were first engaged, he confided to her that her daughter had " behaved most nobly " and had told him about her former " attachment " to Dr. Gully. It never " struck " her that he understood by that that " their intimacy had been of a criminal character." She imagined that, like herself, he regarded it as " an

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

innocent infatuation." Nevertheless, she endeavoured to persuade him to tell his mother all about it, but he would not accept her advice, and grew angry when she persisted in pressing it upon him. She was convinced that he was very fond of her daughter and she was equally sure that her daughter loved him and that "her love for him remained until his death." She had every reason to think that their married life was perfectly happy. When the deceased was staying at Buscot, after the honeymoon, he spoke to her about an anonymous letter which he had received. He talked of it as "a vile letter" and said that he suspected that Dr. Gully had written it. Never at any time, however, did he lead her to suppose that he was uneasy on Dr. Gully's account. It was her daughter and Mrs. Cox who told her that he was very jealous of him and was "unhappy when he passed his house." Her daughter never said to her that she had ceased to like her husband, or that she was "disgusted with him," or that he was "mean." It was true that "she thought him penurious and saving, meanness is according to people's ideas." When her husband died, her daughter "seemed quite stunned and exhibited every mark of sincere grief." After the funeral, she went to Brighton with Mrs. Cox and, about the beginning of June, the witness took her home with her to Buscot. Her daughter was "mentally excited," owing to "the newspapers and the wicked anonymous letters which were sent to her." Mrs. Cox did not accompany her to Buscot. That lady was now staying in Manchester Street and

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

" intended going to Jamaica, as soon as the inquiry was over." Her daughter and Mrs. Cox were still on good terms. The witness did not think that the deceased was a likely man to commit suicide. In reply to a member of the jury, she described him as having " a money mania." He constantly spoke of " the cost of things, the cost of carriages and such-like." She was aware that, although her daughter inherited a fortune from her first husband, she refused to pay the debts which, she supposed, they contracted together. It had come to her knowledge, the witness understood, that when Captain Ricardo died at Cologne " there was some woman with him."

There was a great stir in the densely. crowded Court, as in response to the summons, " Call Mrs. Cox," a middle-aged woman of somewhat insignificant appearance, dressed entirely in black and with spectacles upon her nose, made her way to the table. Apart from any question of her veracity, Mrs. Cox was not a good witness. She spoke in a low and not very distinct voice and, when an awkward question was put, developed a habit of looking down and of reflectively brushing the table with her gloved hand. In answer to Mr. Murphy, she told the story of her early life and related how she had been befriended by Mr. Bravo, senior, and how her intimacy with Mrs. Ricardo had begun.[1] She was about to recount the incidents of Mr. Charles Bravo's courtship at Brighton, when Mr. Lewis interposed with the remark that she was certainly capable of speaking louder. This observation was

[1] *v.* p. 5.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MRS. COX

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

received with noisy approval by the audience, an irregularity which evoked angry protests from counsel representing the different parties. "This is monstrous," said Sir Henry James, while Sergeant Parry's indignation knew no bounds. "Applause in a Court of Justice!" he exclaimed. "It is terrible, it is fearful. There is a sort of reign of terror in reference to everybody who is called." "It is not surprising," complained Mr. Murphy, "that the witness cannot be heard, if she is subjected to demonstrations like that." After the Coroner had issued his usual warning, that the Court would be cleared should anything of the kind occur again, Mrs. Cox proceeded in a somewhat louder tone. Even before she was formally engaged to him, Mrs. Ricardo was perfectly frank with the deceased about her former "attachment" to Dr. Gully, and the witness herself advised him to tell his mother about it. But "he would not hear of it." Before this, Mrs. Ricardo had completely broken with Dr. Gully and, when she returned to The Priory from Brighton, sent back all the presents which he had made her, receiving in exchange those which she had given him. Before the marriage took place, the deceased told the witness that, as regards herself, nothing should be changed, and he cordially expressed the wish that she would stay on at The Priory. After the honeymoon, he spoke to her of an anonymous letter. It contained something to the effect that he had married Dr. Gully's former mistress for money. He showed it to her and asked her whether the writing was Dr. Gully's. She replied that she did not think so.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN