

# PARRICIDE!

## Important Arrest at Rome Saturday.

Theodore Farnsworth Charged with Poisoning His Father.

### HIS BROTHER AMOS AND ANOTHER MAN IMPLICATED.

Three Arrests—The Crime Committed in St. Lawrence County in 1872—Statement of the Accused to an Observer Correspondent.

Rome Correspondence Ulica Observer.

Rome, December 15—8 A. M.—Quite a sensation was created in Rome on Saturday evening by the arrest of Theodore Farnsworth, foreman of the *Sun and Recorder* newspaper office, of this city, charged with the poisoning of his father at Hermon, near Canton, St. Lawrence county, March 27th, 1872.

#### THE ARREST.

Officer Murphy, of Canton, arrived in Rome at 9:20 P. M., on Saturday, and with Chief Orcutt arrested Farnsworth in the American Hotel. After being handcuffed he was informed that he was charged with

#### THE MURDER OF HIS FATHER.

Farnsworth was very much agitated and declared his innocence. He was taken to the Rome jail about 10 P. M., Saturday, where he remained until 4:20 P. M. to-day, when he left for Canton in charge of Officer Murphy.

#### STATEMENT OF THE ACCUSED.

The *Observer* correspondent visited the jail in company with Joseph I. Sayles, Esq., counsel for the accused. Farnsworth repeated his declaration of innocence, and gave the following circumstances connected with his father's death:

My father owned and kept a hotel, bar and billiard-room at Hermon, St. Lawrence county. I acted as bar-keeper and received my board and the proceeds of the two billiard tables for my services. I had two brothers, one (Amos) older than myself and one younger, and a sister. Amos was unsteady and reckless.

#### HE AND FATHER DIDN'T AGREE.

They sometimes used harsh words. A man named Brown boarded with us at the time of the poisoning. He owed my father \$800. On the evening of the poisoning my father asked Brown for the money and was refused. He told Brown that he would go to Canton on the following day and sue if the account was not settled.

BROWN POINTED A REVOLVER AT FATHER, and said that he would prevent him going, and if that did not do it he would not live to sue him.

#### THE POISONING.

A phrenologist was at our house examining heads on that evening. There was a great crowd in the bar-room, all of whom went to the sitting-room to listen to the phrenologist. I left, leaving the bar entirely vacant. I returned and gave ale to several, who drank and went back to the sitting-room. I drew a pitcher of ale and went to the other room. My father was in the habit of drinking before he retired. He poured part of a glass of ale, drank it and sat down by the stove. In a few moments he was seized with cramps. He told me that his limbs felt numb, and he felt badly. He went into the kitchen, laid down and grew worse very fast. A physician was called, who said father had the symptoms of

#### STRYCHNINE POISONING.

Father told him he had taken nothing but half a glass of ale. I took the tumbler and pitcher to my room and locked them up.—Brown asked me if he should help me carry the things to my room. I thought he wanted to destroy the evidence of the crime. I closed the bar and the party all left.

#### KILLED A CAT.

The doctor took the ale home, and four ounces of it killed a cat instantly. The ale was analyzed and strychnine was found.—The crystals were plainly seen in the pitcher when the ale settled.

#### BROWN CHARGED WITH THE MURDER.

After the conversation between Brown and my father was related, Brown was arrested and tried for the murder in August, 1872. I was on the stand all of one day, testifying in that case. Brown was acquitted. He said he would make me suffer.

#### LEFT HOME.

My arrest is probably the result of this threat. After the trial I went to Lowville and worked in a printing office. I heard that Hermon people said I ran away. I remained in Lowville until last March, then I came to Rome and was made foreman of the *Sun and Recorder* office.

#### NO FEARS OF CONVICTION.

I am not afraid of being convicted on this charge if the truth is told and justice is done, but Brown will be a bad man against me.

#### AMOS FARNSWORTH AND SMITH.

The brother of the accused, Amos Farnsworth, and a man named Smith are in jail at Canton on a charge of being implicated in the poisoning. Theodore thinks his brother and Smith are innocent. Counselor Sayles was requested to accompany the accused to Canton.

#### OFFICER MURPHY'S STATEMENT.

Officer Murphy says that Amos Farnsworth was waiting upon Deputy Sheriff Tanner's daughter at Canton. His dissipated habits caused her father to forbid him admission to his house, and Mr. Tanner instructed his daughter to avoid his company. Finding that they had clandestine meetings, on the day of the poisoning, Mr. Tanner offered to give his daughter \$1,000 if Farnsworth would give an equal sum to his son, so that they could be married and go away. Mr. Farnsworth refused to do this and told his son that he would

MAKE HIS WILL AND DISINHERIT HIM.

Amos remarked that his father would not succeed in carrying out his threat. On that night his father died. These, with other facts, were developed on the trial of Brown. They were testified to before the Grand Jury of St. Lawrence County, and Brown told his story.

#### BROWN'S STORY.

Brown alleges that on the night of the murder he stood across the street from the hotel under an apple tree. He claims he saw Theodore Farnsworth hold the ale pitcher over the bar while Smith emptied the contents of a small package, like a powder, into the ale, and Amos Farnsworth stood guard at the door to prevent any one from entering the bar room while the dose was being prepared.

#### THE PRISONER.

Theodore Farnsworth is described as 23 years of age, and a young man of more than ordinary abilities and propossessing appearance. He has large black eyes black hair and moustache, and is about five feet eight inches in height. He has the appearance of being a gentleman.

#### STRANGE.

It seems strange that Brown should have refrained from making this charge since March, 1872, especially as he was charged with the murder. A gentleman from Rome informed an *Observer* reporter last evening that Brown has been absent from Hermon for some time past and made the complaint on his return. Smith is described as a reckless, lazy fellow, and has relatives in Rome.

## LOCAL NOTICES.

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