

SUICIDE OF MR. WALTER GRIMSHAW.

On Saturday morning last about eight o'clock, Mr. Walter Grimshaw, who resided at Bagdale House, Bagdale, was found dead in his bed room with a terrible gash in his throat, the wound having been evidently self-inflicted with an old razor, which was found by his side. Mr. Grimshaw had been in a somewhat desponding way for some weeks, though there was no apparent cause, except that his wife was a confirmed invalid. The deceased distinguished himself in the chess world, and was acknowledged to be one of the best amateur chess players in England. Certainly he was the best amateur composer, and among chess players of the first order his problems are well known. In local matters Mr. Grimshaw took a deep interest, and there are few men who were better known and so generally esteemed. In shipping affairs his chief interest lay, and at the time of his death he was the holder of a large number of shares in Whitby owned and managed steamboats. Mr. Grimshaw was a native of York, in which city he served his apprenticeship in the pawnbroking business. He took over an old-established business in that line in Whitby in 1856, and has resided in this town ever since. He retired from business several years ago, being in opulent circumstances. He was in his 59th year. He was in London only a week or two prior to his death, and consulted an eminent physician, who prescribed absolute rest and quiet, and avoidance of all excitement, worry and anxiety. Mr. Grimshaw had seemed unsettled for some days, and had suffered sleeplessness at nights, and his mind appeared to be unhinged.

THE INQUEST.

The inquest on the body was held at the residence in Bagdale, on Saturday evening, before George Buchanan Esq., Coroner. Mr. W. G. Lockey was chosen foreman of the jury. The following evidence was adduced.—

Mr. Walter Edwin Grimshaw, son of the deceased said: I live at No. 6, Bold-street,

asked him if he had slept any better and he said he had not. I knew he was under the doctor's hands, as he had told me so. His appetite was fairly good on Christmas Day, and we dined at home by ourselves, and had no company. We stayed indoors all the rest of the day with the exception of an hour when we went out together, and called at the Angel hotel where we stayed till 10 o'clock and then came straight home. We sat together over the fire till about 12 o'clock, and then went to bed. He was quite sober, and was a man of regular sober habits. The only thing that I can account for his depression was his loneliness, and he referred to the loss of his brother some months ago and also the sudden death of Mrs. Forth, which seemed rather to prey upon his mind, and he seemed to be very timid about his own health. Yesterday morning we were out together for a walk, but nothing special occurred. I did not go out with him in the afternoon, but in the evening we went out at 10 o'clock. We called at the Angel and stayed till 11 o'clock, when we returned home. We went to bed about 12 o'clock. I stayed in his room for half-an-hour until he undressed and got into bed. I thought he seemed more cheerful that day, and when at the Angel he seemed more lively than usual, but he was quiet after we got home. When he got to bed he said he should like me to leave Liverpool and come and live here with him for company. I replied that I should have to do it if he did not get better. Nothing whatever occurred to cause me to think that he would make away with himself. As soon as he got into bed we bade each other good night as usual, and I went to my bedroom. I never saw him again alive. At about 8 o'clock this morning, the nurse, Mrs. Raw, knocked at my door, and from what she said to me I rushed into my father's room. I found him quite dead with the wound in his throat which the jury have seen. I sent for a doctor at once. I know of no other reason for my father's depression except what I have stated, and it was very perceptible.

Mrs. Raw said: I am a widow, and for 8 months have been attending upon Mrs. Grimshaw, who is an invalid. I had not noticed anything particular about Mr. Grimshaw's health until last week, when I found that he could not

good. He saw me yesterday morning at my house. He looked very haggard in the face, his pulse was a nervous pulse, but he made no complaint. He seemed a good deal depressed, and his state led me to suppose that his suffering was almost entirely mental, but I saw nothing to lead me to suppose that he would commit suicide. I cross questioned him many times, but could get nothing of that sort from him; the sleeplessness was the thing complained of. This morning between 8-30 and 9 o'clock I was sent for to come and see the deceased. I found him in the room where the jury have seen him lying on the left side with the knees drawn up. An open razor was on the floor close to him on the right. Life was extinct but the body was still warm. There was a wound in the neck 5 inches long extending from a point one inch to the left of the middle line upwards towards the right ear. About a pint of coagulated blood lay on the floor, half near the mantel piece and half near the window. The cause of death would be the severance of the right carotid artery. I also found a wound on the left hand between the thumb and forefinger. It was very deep but would not have been dangerous to life. Both hands were covered with blood. There was also a small wound about an inch long situated lower down in the neck than the fatal one running in a vertical direction with its deepest part at the upper end. That wound was not serious. From the position of all these wounds I have no doubt they were self inflicted. I should say his mind was unhinged by the long continued want of sleep and general condition of unrest during the day.

The Coroner briefly addressed the jury, remarking that he had deemed it right to go exhaustively into this matter, and from the evidence before them they would have no doubt but that Mr. Grimshaw took his own life. It would be for them to say the condition of his mind at the time that he committed the act.

The jury found that deceased committed suicide while in an unsound state of mind.

THE FUNERAL.

The interment will take place at Bagdale on Monday next.