

THE LATE MR. G. P. MELLY.

The painful suicide of Mr. Chas. Pierre Melly at his residence, Riversley, Elmswood-road, Ayr burth, on Saturday morning, was the subject yesterday of an inquest by the County Coroner, Mr. Samuel Brighthouse. The investigation took place at Riversley and was attended by members of the deceased gentleman's family and Dr. Hewson, of Coton-hill Asylum, Staffordshire, under whose care since October, 1883, the late Mr. Melly had been. After a brief explanation by the coroner, the eldest son of the deceased gave evidence of identification, and stated that his father, who was 51 years of age, had, since his mind became obscure, occasionally visited his family at Riversley. At home, although always in charge of an attendant, he was under no restraint, and no one had expected any tendency towards suicide. Thomas Robinson said he had been an attendant at Coton-hill asylum for 11 years, and during the past three and a half had had the late Mr. Melly under his care. On Thursday last he left Staffordshire with the deceased in his company, and arrived at Riversley the same evening. Deceased and his son in the same room. Nothing unusual occurred either on that or the following evening, and on Saturday morning he had a conversation with deceased as to how he had passed the night. Mr. Melly seemed more than usually cheerful, and said he had passed a better night than customary. At about seven o'clock witness went downstairs to get deceased's breakfast, leaving him in bed. He had had no suspicion of there being any dangerous weapon about, nor did he take any steps to ascertain if there was one. He was used to do so. He was absent about an hour. On returning he found Mr. Melly lying dead on the bed, having shot himself through the head. The pistol also was in the bed. He had never suspected a suicidal tendency on the part of the deceased, who had never exhibited any disposition to attempt his life, even although he had sometimes been on fishing expeditions at sea, miles from land, and in a small boat, and had frequently been on the pier at Scarborough. Deceased was hit by himself occasionally, but for only short periods. Dr. Hewson informed the coroner that Robinson had left the deceased in the same way on Friday morning. The rooms on either side were both occupied. Mr. George Melly said that when the deceased was at Riversley he was allowed the greatest freedom, never seeing his attendant but three or four hours at a time, and being sometimes left by himself. Robinson, after being down stairs for about fifteen minutes, heard a noise of that of a door banging. Dr. Hewson was of the opinion that deceased, in his opinion, was not acting suicidal, because he never spoke of or attempted anything of the kind. The greatest care was however, always exercised. Deceased gave the impression of a man who had an intense dread of being left alone, and he could not help thinking that the poor fellow must have got up in the impulsive moment, and shot himself whilst under a feeling he could not resist. The son of the deceased already called said he had removed the weapons out of the way himself, and two years ago he had put this pistol at the bottom of a box full of cricket materials. His father must have been it when rummaging, and have placed it in his bed room himself. A verdict of suicide whilst in a state of unsound mind was returned. At the conclusion of the inquest, Mr. George Melly, on behalf of the deceased, his brother's widow and family, expressed in the warmest terms their sense of the kindness and attention of Dr. and Mrs. Hewson, and their confidence both in the medical skill of Dr. Hewson and the care of the attendant Robinson.

The funeral of the deceased gentleman will take place to-day at the Ancient Chapel of Tanqueray Park-lane.