

THE LATE MR. C. P. MELLY.

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Belhouse held an inquest on the body of Charles Pierre Melly, aged fifty-nine, a well-known Liverpool merchant, who shot himself at his residence, Riverley, Aigburth, on Saturday morning.—The eldest son of the deceased gave evidence as to identification. He stated that his father was fifty-nine years of age, and that he had been for some years an inmate of Coton Hall Asylum, Stafford. During that period deceased had been allowed to make occasional visits to his friends at home. He arrived at home from Stafford on Thursday, accompanied by an attendant named Robinson. It was three weeks since he had been at home previously. There was no doubt that deceased was of unsound mind. When he arrived home on Thursday he appeared to be much better.

Thomas Robinson, an attendant at the Coton Hall Asylum, Stafford, said he had been connected with the asylum for eleven years. He had seen the deceased frequently during that period. On Thursday afternoon he left Stafford with the deceased for Aigburth. They arrived between four and five. Witness slept in the same room with the deceased that night. Deceased's malady was not such as to require his constant attendance upon him. When deceased was with his friends there was no necessity for witness to be present. There was nothing unusual in his manner on Friday night. On Saturday morning when witness awoke he had a conversation with the deceased, who then appeared a little more cheerful than usual. He asked about the weather, and whether it had been raining or not during the night. Witness said, "You had a better night than usual. You slept very well." Deceased replied, "Yes," and added "How did you get on during the night?" Witness left the deceased for the purpose of going downstairs in order to get him his breakfast. This would be a little after seven o'clock. He left the deceased in bed. At that time there was no weapon in the room so far as witness knew. He returned to the room in half an hour to an hour afterwards. It was not an unusual time to leave the deceased alone. When he entered he perceived the smell of powder, and then found that the deceased had shot himself through the head. A revolver was lying on the coverlet at the foot of the bed. During the whole of the time he had been with the deceased he had never manifested any suicidal tendency. At Scarborough he had been on several fishing expeditions with the deceased, and always found him very calm. He never for once supposed that the deceased would take away his own life.

Mr. George Melly.—Has he ever in your hearing threatened to take away his life?

Witness.—No, sir, never.

In the course of further evidence, it appeared that persons occupied rooms on each side of the deceased's bedroom.

Dr. Hewson, who volunteered evidence, said he had known the deceased for two or three years. At Stafford the deceased never attempted to do any violence to himself. Deceased was not a man with any suicidal tendency. He suffered from intense depression at times. He thought that deceased must have been seized with a fit of depression, and that whilst he was in this mood had shot himself.

In reply to the coroner, a son of the deceased stated that two years ago he removed the revolver and hid it at the bottom of a box which was full of cricketing things. His father must have found it whilst rummaging, and have himself placed it in his bedroom.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst in a state of unsound mind."

Mr. George Melly then said:—I wish to state on behalf of my brother's widow and family that no blame can be attached in this matter to anyone. We are all deeply sensible of the kindness and tender care with which Dr. Hewson and Mrs. Hewson have watched over my brother for some years—since October, 1833. My brother always spoke to me and other members of his family in the warmest terms of their kindness and attention. Dr. Hewson has shown particular attention to all the wishes expressed by the family. He has allowed him great liberty as far as medical skill and knowledge would allow him to do so. We also wish to express our confidence in my brother's attendant, Robinson. He was extremely careful. He took constant care of him and showed him great kindness and consideration in the arduous duties which he was called to perform. Everything that could be done by human care and medical skill has been done, and what has occurred has been beyond the power of anyone to prevent.