

# WHY HARRY THAW KILLED WHITE

## Jerome Admits That White Had Done Evelyn Nesbit a Great Wrong

THAT MOTIVE FOR MURDER

But This Motive, He Declared,  
Forever Swept Away the

District Attorney's Manner Entirely  
Different from What it Was a Year  
Ago. (The Boston Herald.)

New York, Jan. 50.—Conceding that Harry K. Thaw may have had irrational outbreaks now and then during the 36 years of his life, Dist. Atty. Wm. J. Travels Jerome in his plea for the conviction of Stanford White's slayer declared there was absolutely nothing in the case presented to the jury to show that Thaw was so insane that the right of the tragedy, that he did not know the nature or quality of his act, or that the act was wrong. The prosecutor followed this, however, by saying that Thaw very plainly that he believed in justice; was not a fanatic; and that a sane man should be found guilty of some lesser degree of criminal responsibility than one in the first degree. He explained a remark made by the jury that entered into a verdict of first degree murder, and then pointed the way to the possible findings—murder in the second degree.

In the first degree, Mr. Jerome surprised his hearers today by the contrast of his argument with that of a year ago. The vindictiveness was gone, the passion and the defense of White was gone; the defendant was now the victim and his place in his remarks. Instead there was a calm, analytical presentation of the defense, a concession of possible weakness in the evidence against the defendant, but always a recurrence to the hard and fast rule of the law. "If a man is to be excused must be so instant as not to know what he was about."

Mr. Jerome declared dramatically that there was no doubt Stanford White had been killed. He was wrong and that Harry Thaw had every motive for revengeful murder upon the man he killed. This motive, he asserted, was the love of a woman, the insanity which knows not what it does.

COURTROOM CROWDED.

New York, Jan. 30.—There was

other great crush at the criminal courts building today to hear District Attorney James H. Thompson address for the people in the Thaw case. When the doors were opened the court chamber was found to be crowded with specially privileged spectators. Just as the judge was in getting down town and it was some time after the hour set for convening, when he took his place on the bench to hear the rebuttal Thaw and Jerome began their argument. At this point the Thaw family had already been handled by him with some difficulty as he had had many other matters of importance to attend to at the same time.

**JEROME RATHER APOLOGETIC**

"If I have at any time lacked in the dignity that attaches to my office," continued Mr. Jerome, "at any time I have been less than perfectly considerate, I can only say now that I regret it. Any personal impression I have made or have not made should have no place in your verdict. You are to take up the district attorney's case and the people's case."

ney. Any sneers he may have made is not evidence for the people and neither is the fact that the defendant, Harry K. Thaw was insane when he killed Stanford White.

"As to the woman, if my manner was one of disappointment, the woman is being tried here. Harry Thaw is on trial for the murder of Stanford White and the defense is that he was insane on the night of the shooting," said the attorney. "He is generally insane or is insane now. All you have to deal with, all I have to deal with, is whether or not at a particular time and place this man was sane enough to pull the trigger when he shot and killed Stanford White. We know that the act was wrong and against the law of the land.

"The defense attorney, Mr. Moore added coldly to dissect the evidence in this case, to trace it step by step, and to show upon that the burden the law places upon the defense of proving the insanity of this defendant has not been met."

Jerome explained the different degrees of murder defined by the law, and said in this case the only verdict pos-

der in the first degree, murder in the second degree, manslaughter in the first degree, or not guilty on the grounds of insanity.

**WHY THAW KILLED WHITE.**

The district attorney declared Thaw plainly had a motive for killing White. Every act of his for two or three years before the tragedy pointed to his deadly

and consuming hate of the man he killed. Thaw believed that White had drugged and mistreated his wife, knew that White had kept him out of a New York club; he knew that White had threatened his life if the stage door man is to be believed and he knew just a month before the tragedy White had told May Mackenzie that he heard Thaw and Evelyn were not living happily together and he would get the

"It matters not whether you believe the girl's story of the drugging or not," declared Mr. Jerome. "The relations of this middle aged married man with the girl is cry out to heaven, and no decent man can say a word in defense. I certainly have no intention of doing so. But with all the things I have pointed out to you, if there was no motive in the heart of this defendant, I could not understand it."

In his speech last year Mr. Jerome passionately defended Stanford White, declaring that his spirit hovered ever near the courtroom, crying out to be heard in defense, crying for some one to tell the truth and protect a character Evelyn Nesbit had sought to blacken.

Justice Dowling announced as luncheon recess was taken today that he would not charge the jury until tomorrow morning. Dist. Atty. Jerome will conclude this afternoon.