

Henry Loosemore

Hampshire Advertiser - 7 March 1868

NEWPORT, Saturday, March 7.

SUICIDE OF A TRADESMAN. - On Tuesday evening the inhabitants were shocked by the discovery of the dead body of Mr. Henry Loosemore, senior, hanging by the neck, in a store in Lugley-street, formerly occupied by one of his sons, a house painter, plumber, etc. Deceased, a highly respectable tradesman, of long standing in the Town Council, was a most agreeable neighbour, and his many friends deeply sympathize with his sorrowing family. - In the afternoon Mr. F. Blake, coroner, held an inquest at the Star Inn, on view of the body, and the following evidence was taken : - Henry William Loosemore, of 8, Portland-terrace, deceased's son, who was a partner in the tailoring business in St. James's-square, said deceased was about 57 years of age. He has been nervous and in a low state of mind for some time past; and his state has become worse since the sudden death of my father-in-law (Mr. Thomas Duke). It seemed to prey on his mind, and he expressed an idea he had that he should die suddenly. I last saw him alive in his downstairs sitting room, at 7.30 last evening, and he appeared to be much the same as usual of late. We advised him to leave home for change of air, but he would not listen to it. He did not appear to be much worse during the last fortnight. He was not clear in his remarks of late. He had no real trouble, to my knowledge. He appeared to get into this low state somewhat suddenly. This morning I went down to business at 8.30, and, finding deceased had not returned to breakfast as usual after his walk out, we became uneasy, and at 9.15 sent our men, Tyler and Hayward, to seek him at Staplers and in another direction. We thought he might have fallen down in a fit somewhere. They returned with no tidings, and then went to the store, where they found the dead body. - Mr. Thomas Self, confectioner, one of the jurors, said he met deceased walking with his wife last evening, and noticed that he looked absent and gloomy and took no notice of his salutation. Deceased's ordinary manners in meeting with a neighbour were lively and kindly. - George Locke, aged 16, employed in deceased's shop, said deceased appeared to be in low spirits of late, and complained of being unwell. When witness was taking down the shop shutters that morning, about 7.25, deceased came in from the street, and about five minutes afterwards he went away, at his usual pace, in the direction of the store and never returned. - Arthur J. Leal, aged 14, mason's labourer employed at the store, where some alterations are being made in the building, said he was at work with his father in the store that morning when deceased came in before 8 o'clock and spoke to his father, and then went to another part of the store. After that witness heard a rustling like some straw being removed in the direction where the dead body was found. - James Hayward, general servant to deceased's son in the business, gave evidence that deceased had appeared very low and reserved in his manners of late; he had complained of a sore throat and his chest, Witness went with Tyler to seek deceased in the store that morning, about 10 o'clock, and upstairs they found the body suspended to a beam by a rope round the neck; the body was cold and hanging through a clap opening in the floor. Some straw close by appeared to have been cleared away from the clap. Deceased's hat was close by and contained his neck-tie and collar. The rope was such as deceased used for cording wool. - Henry Oxford, tailor, foreman in the business, said deceased had been low in health and spirits of late. He had complained of a loss he had sustained in the course of business. In transacting business in the shop he often showed absence of mind. - Mr. Tuttiert, of Pyle-street, surgeon, described the appearance of the body, which had been dead about two hours when he saw it just after it had been discovered. - Verdict, "That deceased destroyed himself in a fit of temporary insanity."

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