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### *AN EXCITING WEEK*

The great event of the week is the Hesse murder, embodying a series of villainies too revolting for frequent repetition, and such as seldom illustrates the annals of crime. From an examination of the facts elsewhere given, it will not be a matter of surprise to any, including the cool reflecting mind, that our community should take formal occasion to give strong expression to its sentiments and have them embodied in a tangible form. The meeting of Monday evening after the murder, as attended by all the better portion of the community, all the substantial men were in sympathy, most of whom were personally present, including native and adopted citizens and all creeds. The proceedings were cool and deliberate, free from excitement and evinced a determination that is ominous for the future. While the revolting occurrences have been most sad and trying to the better nature, it is to be hoped, as we believe it will, exact a more rigid enforcement of the laws, a strict holding of public officers to their duties to an enforcement of the laws, a restraining of the liquor traffic and to a further and permanent elevation of public sentiment.

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### *THE OSHKOSH TIMES MISSTATEMENTS*

The Oshkosh *Times* contains a notice of the Hesse murder which for a paper that claims to have obtained its information on the ground, is full of errors, some of them, from their reflecting character, clearly inexcusable: - of the latter, we copy - "On Friday last, he (John Hesse) escaped and returned to Neenah, where he remained somewhat secluded until Saturday evening when he under the influence of liquor, swaggered about town, visited saloons and declared it to be his purpose to kill his wife, murder two or three others, and then take his own life. He was armed, and those who knew him felt that he would in all probability commit some hellish deed; still he was permitted to run at large, like a wild beast, until he committed an act that has cast a shadow over the whole community.

There is no evidence whatever, Mr. *Times*, that John Hesse was about town Saturday evening visiting saloons and under the influence of liquor. The evidence before the coroner's inquest and the statements of respectable citizens evince that he was in no other house but that of his brother Julius, until *after the murder*, when he went to the house of his brother, Wm. Hesse. Language in the spirit of the above attributed to the murderer, was uttered Sunday morning after the murder, as will be seen by reading the testimony of Mr. Robinson, published in another column and is what is probably referred to.

The *Times* further on continues in the same spirit of censure: - "We cannot understand *why* this man Hesse was permitted to run at large, by people who knew his true character, or why the officers of Neenah, knowing him to be among them, an escaped jail bird, and avowing murderous intentions, should be permitted to carry out his purpose. Why was he not arrested on Saturday; and why was not the family, the helpless mother and now worse than orphan children protected from that beast of a man?"

Neither the escape of Hesse or his presence in the village of Neenah was known to either the officers or citizens or to any one beyond his family. The first suspicion of his presence was in the murder of Mrs. Hesse, first known Sunday morning. A telegram was dispatched by officer Ellis at the earliest opportunity to the Sheriff at Oshkosh, stating that Mrs. Hesse had been murdered and to learn if John Hesse was at large. Previous to a reply however, the murderer made his appearance on the streets as elsewhere stated, which was the first time the officers or the public had any knowledge of his presence. From the moment the murderer was discovered, every effort was made by officer Ephraim Giddings to give early information to the Deputy Sheriff and village marshal who both promptly responded and to take every precaution to discover the whereabouts of the villain and secure his arrest. The facts relative to the presence of Hesse in Neenah will be found correctly detailed in another column.

Another item evinces the unreliability or stupidity, or both, of the *Times* statement, the astute writer speaks of being present at the scene of the murder, saw the murdered woman as she lay on the floor and says, "she was in her night clothes." The evidence at the inquest and of every other person present, except the *Times* editor, is that she had on a calico dress, the same dress she wore the day before.

The *Times* closes its report as follows: - "A fearful responsibility rests upon those who neglected the duty to family and community, of arresting and confining the fiend whose career of evil doing was only arrested by self murder, and whose life and conduct for years has been a reproach and by-word."

Yes! indeed! Brother *Times* there is a "fearful responsibility" resting somewhere for neglect of duty. You have perpetrated a great injustice on this community however, in so flippantly charging this "fearful responsibility" on our officers and citizens. Our Oshkosh contemporary might do a commendable work in casting about a little nearer home for the true resting-place of this "fearful responsibility." The *Times* owes it to this community, and will, if not actuated from a disposition to shift responsibility, give an early publicity of the facts in this horrible tragedy, equal with that of the erroneous statements published in its issue of March 1st, that the wrong may be partially righted. It is an impossibility to fully correct a misstatement once sent broadcast.

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### **From the Press Extra of Feb. 28.**

#### *MURDER AND SUICIDE*

In another column will be found the proceedings of a mass meeting at Pettibone Hall on Monday evening, with the resolutions passed expressive of the feelings of an indignant and outraged community, over the murder of Mrs. Magdalena Hesse by John Hesse, a German, and the conduct of the "Hesse boys;" being three brothers John, Julius and William. The occasion for the resolutions will be more fully appreciated by reading the following statement of facts.

The family have been residents of the town of Neenah for the past fifteen years. These boys have always shown great viciousness in their temper and with growing habits of intemperance, have some one of them almost continuously been involved in some violent quarrel, not infrequently among themselves, and have been frequently under

arrest for drunkenness or disorderliness or for assault and battery or violent threats. This has been particularly the case with John Hesse, the murderer and suicide, for the past two years; and he had fairly become the terror of what has otherwise been an orderly, quiet community.

Never before has it become the duty of any one hereaway, to record so sickening a tale of crime.

#### THE PARTIES

The facts, as we have been to some pains to obtain them are as follows: -

Some eleven years ago John Hesse was married to Mrs. Magdalena Frize, a widow lady of respectability of fair attainments and a few hundred dollars in money. The result of the union has been seven children, five living, the oldest 9 years of age, the youngest about thirteen months. Formerly they resided in town and Hesse kept a meat market; for the past few years they have resided on a farm one and a half miles west, the property of Mrs. Hesse.

#### A DIVORCE

Last November, Hesse became so absolutely violent and abusive in his family that through the advice of friends, Mrs. Hesse was induced to make application for a divorce, personal service being had and no defense being interposed a judgement was obtained at the December term.

#### HESSE BOUND OVER TO KEEP THE PEACE

Hesse took deep offense at the divorce proceedings, especially from the title of the farm being in her name, and threatened the life of his late wife; for which threat on the 4th of January last, he was arrested and bound over in the sum of \$800, and for want of bail, although he had a father and a brother, either of whom were amply possessed of the means to furnish the same, he was committed to jail for six months.

#### THE ESCAPE

He had remained jail, at Oshkosh in charge of the sheriff until last Friday afternoon about six o'clock when Hesse, with another prisoner succeeded, it is thought by outside help as Sheriff Woodruff informs us, in wrenching the lock from the corridor door of the jail and the escape was effected near a half hour before the fact came to the knowledge of the officer in charge. Search was immediately made about Oshkosh for the prisoners without effect. No word was received at Neenah or Menasha from the Sheriff of the escape of Hesse, until the Sunday morning following, over 36 hours after the escape.

#### HESSE AT NEENAH

From the sworn statements of witnesses taken before the Coroner's Inquest we learn that John Hesse arrived at Neenah village about 10:30 o'clock in the evening and stopped with his brother Julius Hesse, who resides on Bond Street South of the Presby. Church, remaining in the house during the day Saturday. In the meantime Julius Hesse, as testified to by the latter, had purchased and given him a revolver; Julius' wife protesting in the presence of John Hesse, that Julius must not give him the weapon as he intended killing his wife.

John and Julius each left the house of the latter about 7 o'clock in the evening, witnesses testify that Julius was at the Fox River Saloon until 9 o'clock. John asserted the next day, Sunday, about 10 A.M. in Wm. Hesse's barroom in the presence of several that

he had murdered his wife the night before and that he was glad of it and expressed regret that he had not murdered others.

He remained over night with Julius and *first* made his appearance in public Sunday morning about 10 o'clock, when he boldly stalked through the streets with revolver in hand, bidding defiance and threatening any that evinced a disposition to interfere with him and went directly to his brother's house, the Neenah Hotel.

His presence in town, it is believed, was not known to any one but his immediate associates until after

#### THE MURDER

The evidence and attending circumstances indicate that the murder was committed between 7 and 10 o'clock Saturday evening. Mrs. Hesse resided on her farm near G. P. Vinings. Mrs. Vining had been in the house the evening previous. Mrs. Hesse referring to her troubles said, John had written to her and wanted her to bail him out, and that Henry Hesse, father of John, had been to see her and advised her – be it said to his credit, - not to bail him out, nor to have anything to do with him.

The murder was first discovered by one of the children, a boy about nine years old, at 6 o'clock Sunday morning, who came down stairs, found his mother laying lifeless and bloody on the floor near the stove, in the same dress that she wore the day before. It appears that it was her practice to sleep upstairs with the children. From this it would appear that she had not retired for the night, and must have been murdered in the evening. The boy being affrightened, terrified did not inform the neighbors until about 7 o'clock, when Mr. Vining, Capt. Giddings and Albert Huxley, with others were soon at the scene of the murder.

#### THE INQUEST

The facts elicited at the inquest held by Justice Conlon and from other persons in attendance were that she received a gun shot wound in the left side just below the ribs and that her throat had been cut on the [column 3] right side of the neck extending from the wind pipe backward and upward reaching to the spinal column severing the right carotid artery and the right jugular vein. To add to the horrible details and the worse than beastly character of the murderer, it also appears that Mrs. Hesse was *enceinte* [pregnant], seven months, that from the tumbled condition of the bed on the first floor in an adjoining room, not usually occupied and from the fact that her undergarment badly torn, as if violently wrenched from her person and from the marks on the person as well, it was believed that the inhuman wretch previous to his double murder and suicide had ravished his victim.

#### OFFICERS AFTER THE MURDER

We have stated that John Hesse was seen to go to the house of his brother Wm. Hesse. He was immediately followed by officers Giddings and Ellis and by Mr. Conover, Doton, Clark and other citizens who surrounded the house and commenced the search. He was traced, as it was thought, to a low garret over the ballroom in the hotel, which he had entered through a scuttle. A Mr. Whiting risking his life, ventured to open the scuttle and entered the garret sufficient to discover the presence of a person. While means were being devised to secure the wretch, a couple of pistol shots were heard, no sound following it was thought that he was shooting at random at those who were in search of

him. Persons in the crowd then commenced to fire pistol shots through the ceiling and commanding him to give himself up, after several shots had been thus fired and not hearing any reply or stir, a pike pole was procured and Mr. Conover commenced to tear off the plastering from the ceiling; as fortune would have it the object lay immediately over the hole made in the ceiling and from the dropping of blood through the opening and the quiet state of the body it became manifest that he had committed

#### SUICIDE

The body was examined as it lay in the garret and it was found that he had shot himself in the forehead the ball passing nearly through his head, death undoubtedly immediately ensuing. A revolver was clutched in his right hand with three chambers discharged. It is perhaps due to the officers and those in search to say that of the shots fired through the ceiling were none of them near where Hesse lay and that from the nature of the wound and course of the ball it was quite impossible for the shots fired from below to have effected the wound from which death ensued.

Thus ended a series of crimes such as it is seldom the misfortune of any community to have imposed upon them and are the facts and circumstances as carefully obtained from officers, well informed citizens and the testimony at each of the coroner's inquests.

#### THE MASS MEETING

It is from these facts and circumstances that a community rose up in mass and gave the unqualified expressions of the sense of the community, embodied in the accompanying Resolutions.

#### THE FUNERAL OF MRS. HESSE

Business was generally suspended pursuant to resolution, and the citizens turned out in mass to the funeral, at the Presbyterian Church, which was found quite too small to accommodate the assembled mass. The resident clergy were all in attendance, and a deep feeling was depicted on every countenance of the vast assemblage. A brief, appropriate and feeling discourse was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Chapin followed by earnest remarks by Revs. Babcock, Fellows and Sargent.

The assemblage and the attendant proceedings were such as will be long remembered, will it is to be hoped, make a deep and lasting effect for good on the community and will largely redound to the promotion of good order and a suppression of the liquor traffic, the great parasite of any society that takes a high stand in the promotion of the general good."

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#### THE HESSE MURDER! Meeting at Pettibone Hall! Indignation of the Masses!

At a public meeting of the citizens of Neenah, Menasha and vicinity, at Pettibone Hall, on Monday evening, Feb. 27th, 1871, to give expression to the feelings of an outraged community, relative to the murder of MRS. MAGDALENA HESSE, on Saturday evening, the 25th of February, and the criminal course pursued by the "Hesse

boys," the following proceedings were had. The Hall being crowded to its utmost capacity. The meeting was called to order by G. P. Vining and the following committee on organization were appointed, W. N. Moore, D. C. Van Ostrand, H. E. Gustavus. The following officers were reported and on motion were duly elected.

Gorham P. Vining, chairman, W. G. Ritch secretary, V. Proste, Hon. I. W. Fisher, F. Krueger, Henry Hewitt, Sen., Jas. Conlon, John B. Russell, A. Billstein, Hon John Proctor, II, E. Gustavus, W. F. Bauer, Albert Huxley, J. L. Clement, E. D. Smith, P. R. Williams, P. Sensenbrenner.

The following committee on resolutions were, on motion, appointed: Jacob Bell, E. D. Smith, J. B. Russell, Wm. F. Bauer, Fred Krueger, W. N. Conover, Louis Deal, H. P. Leavens, Phillip Sensenbrenner, D. C. Van Ostrand, V. Oberle, Frank Tuller, H. E. Huxley, I. W. Fisher, Wm. Krueger.

Remarks were made, the spirit of which are embodied in the following resolutions, by W. N. Moore, Dr. Galentine, John B. Russell, Wm. F. Bauer, J. L. Clement, D. C. Van Ostrand, P. R. Williams, Fred Krueger, O. L. Olmstead and others.

Remarks were also made by Prof. Cheney who had been announced for a lecture the same evening at the Hall, and gave way for the meeting. Wednesday evening, March 1st, being announced for the lecture.

The committee reported a preamble and resolutions which were, article by article, read, considered and adopted and are as follows. – [column 4]

*Whereas* the people of Neenah, Menasha and vicinity have been thrown into great grief and tribulation, by the recent murder in cold blood by John Hesse, of a most esteemed citizen, Mrs. Magdalena Hesse, and by the concurrent circumstance of depriving a young and interesting family of five children of an affectionate and natural protector;

*And Whereas*, this community has been repeatedly outraged by the use of dangerous weapons in the hands, not only of said John Hesse, but severally in the hands of the "Hesse boys" so called, upon the person of private citizens of our town;

*And Whereas* repeated attempts have been made by the law-abiding citizens of this community to bring these offenders to justice through our legal tribunals – And whereas such attempts have through the inefficiency or culpable carelessness or collusion of public officers proved abortive;

THEREFORE, *Resolved*, that this community feel themselves outraged by the course of conduct of the "Hesse Boys" since they became residents of this community particularly for the past few years.

*Resolved* that a decent regard for the honor and good name of this community compels us to stamp their conduct with unqualified condemnation.

*Resolved*, that a longer tolerance of their presence in this community would be a dishonor to every good citizen and that their early and continued absence would not only meet the unqualified approval, but would also harmonize with the determination of an outraged community that they each and every one of them must and shall leave.

*Resolved*, that the action of Elbridge Smith, an attorney in protecting and defending these desperadoes on every occasion where efforts have been made to bring

them to justice, is extra official, demoralizing in its tendencies, unbecoming a gentleman and deserving of the severest censure of every good citizen.

*Resolved*, that the carelessness of certain officers in repeatedly allowing the escape of the Hesses and of prisoners generally and their lax efforts to make arrests are inexcusable and that every citizen should make it his duty, at the earliest opportunity, to enforce a remedy at the ballot box.

*Resolved*, that Josiah Woodworth, Sheriff of the County, well knowing the desperate character of the man, and the specific charges on which John Hesse had been imprisoned for want of bail is censurable for not immediately reporting to the local officers by telegraph or otherwise, his escape from jail. That had such notice been given there is no reasonable doubt but that the death of Mrs. Hesse would have been prevented. That unless extenuating circumstances can afford a proper explanation, it is his duty to resign, that the office may be more efficiently filled.

*Resolved*, that these five children, left orphans, are deserving of our warmest sympathies, to our humane protection, and to such pecuniary assistance as necessary.

*Resolved*, that we sympathize with the friends of the late Mrs. Hesse in this their sad bereavement.

*Resolved*, that although we deplore the necessity of recording a suicide in our midst, yet in the death of John Hesse this community has been rid of a desperate character and society relieved of a man whose name is a disgrace to any community and the rising generation should take warning in the termination of the life of such a man.

*Resolved*, that William Hesse be notified by a committee appointed for that purpose not to inter the remains of the murderer in the cemetery.

*Resolved*, that out of respect to the memory of the deceased, business be suspended tomorrow (Tuesday), the day of the funeral of Mrs. Hesse, and that the people of this community attend the same in mass at the Presbyterian Church at 10 o'clock A.M.

*Resolved*, that rum blunts the moral sensibilities while it excites the baser passions of our nature until they predominate; and that the recent murder may be primarily attributed to rum and that the traffic and sale of rum is a crime against the good order of this community.

*Resolved*, that the town and village authorities be requested to revoke all licenses so far as they legally can, and that the supervisors be instructed not to issue any more license during the ensuing year.

*Resolved*, that we pledge our sacred honor to stand by and support all efforts made for the suppression of the rum traffic.

*Resolved*, that a copy of these resolutions be furnished the WINNEBAGO CO. PRESS for publication, that 1000 copies be printed for general distribution, and that the town authorities be and are instructed to pay for said printing and for the use of the hall of his evening.

The following committee were appointed under the resolution to wait on Wm. Hesse: John Williams, John B. Russell, Fred Krueger, James Dolson, Henry Clark, Louis Deal, O. L. Olmstead, J. L. Clement, John R. Davis, Ephraim Giddings.

The following Resolution was offered by John B. Russell and unanimously adopted

*Resolved*, that when the meeting adjourn that it be to three weeks from this evening for the purpose of discussing the issues that have been forced upon our people incident to the recent series of tragedies with which this community has been overwhelmed.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Page 3, column 2 [In a column of miscellaneous jottings]

- Extra copies of the PRESS containing full accounts of the Hesse murder to be had at the office and at the news rooms.
- The old man Hesse, father of the murderer was in attendance at the funeral of Mrs. Hesse.
- John Hesse, the murderer, was buried this afternoon near the slough. The committee taking charge of the burial. No demonstration was made. His father and the committee were present.

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#### MRS. MAGDALENE HESSE

Mrs. Hesse, was murdered in her own house, in the town of Neenah as elsewhere described, Saturday evening February 25th, 1871. She was 37 years old, was of German descent, born in Hanover Germany. She, with her sister Mrs. Mink [sic Caroline Lena Minck], formerly a resident of Neenah now a resident of Philadelphia, came to this county some twenty-two years ago. She resided in New York and Boston previous to coming to Neenah eleven years ago on a visit to her sister. She had been previously married in New York and had two children, both of whom died. On account of the habitual drunkenness of her first husband she obtained a divorce; he committing suicide shortly after by hanging. Subsequently, she resided in Boston with a wealthy family, who thought much of her for her integrity and womanly virtues.

Soon after her arrival in Neenah, she became acquainted with Hesse and the union, that proved so fearfully disastrous to her, was consummated. By Hesse, she became the mother of seven children two of whom have died.

About seven years ago, Hesse and his wife professed a change of heart and became members of the Presbyterian church. Two years after, Hesse became intemperate in his habits and was suspended. He grew from bad to worse and for the past few years he became a terror to his family and to the community. Mrs. Hesse remained a consistent member of the church up to the day of her death and had ever been respected as an intelligent, kind-hearted and exemplary member of society. It seemed to have been her lot to have had cast upon her a manifold portion of the misfortunes, or more properly the villainies that are occasionally incident to human life. Her divorce, death, and funeral are detailed elsewhere.

Of the children, all were residing with their mother at the time of her death, three are boys and two girls, the latter 3 and 5 [Carrie] years old respectively. The oldest boy [Frank] is over 9 years of age, the younger 13 months. They are bright intelligent children



and are now well cared for by our best citizens and will find kind friends and sympathetic hearts to minister to their wants.

Her sister, Mrs. Mink [sic], arrived from Philadelphia on Thursday night and is stopping with Theodore Brown, Esq. a former acquaintance in fatherland.

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#### A CARD

On behalf of the family and friends of the late Mrs. Magdalena Hesse, I desire to tender to her neighbors and to the community, their most heartfelt thanks for their very generous sympathy and for the substantial assistance rendered them in this the hour of their most sad and heart-rendering bereavement. A sympathy and assistance for which they feel words are quite too inadequate to give proper expression.

Henry Wildfang [brother-in-law]

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#### Julius Hesse Arrested

On Monday afternoon Julius Hesse, brother of John Hesse the murderer, was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Giddings, on the complaint of Henry Clark, before C. C. Townsend, Esq., for being accessory to the murder of Magdalena Hesse, in that he procured arms for John Hesse, and harbored and aided him to accomplish his purpose. District Attorney Austin appearing for the State moved an adjournment of the hearing to the 9th of March. Hesse was bound over in the sum of \$1000 for his appearance and in default of bail was committed to jail.

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#### Temperance Meeting A CALL FROM THE LADIES

We the undersigned, hereby call a Temperance Meeting, to covenant at Pettibone Hall, Monday evening, March 6th, at 7 P.M.

Mrs. A.B. Gaskill, Mrs. Chapin, Mrs. Wm. Lindsley, Mrs. Brinkerhoff, Mrs. H. Fenton, Mrs. J.A. Kimberly, Mrs. A. Murray, Mrs. J. Proctor, Mrs. O.L. Olmstead, Mrs. J. Stevens, Mrs. C.A. Leavens, Mrs. S.A. Darlington, Mrs. D.C. Van Ostrand, Mrs. L. Olmstead, Ella Oborn, Mrs. Wm. Ford, Mrs. J. Janes, Mrs. D.E Gardner, Mrs. M.W. Jenkins, Mrs. C. Loyd, Mrs. H. McGregor, Mrs. L. Matthews, Mrs. Bidwell, Delia Bidwell, Mrs. C. Jenkins, S. Emma Kimberly, Mrs. A. James, Mrs. M.J. Dodge, Susie A. Clender (sp?), Mrs. I. W. Hunt, Mrs. A. J. Webster, Mrs. T. Moulton, Mrs. Sanford, Mrs. Boardman, Mrs. R. Hold, Mrs. W. P. Peckham, Mrs. J. L. Clement, Mrs. J. A. Hungerford, Mrs. F. F. Kellogg, Mrs. I. L. Doton, Mrs. E. J. Brinkerhoff, Mrs. C. C. Townsend, Mrs. Dr. Robinson, Mrs. C. B. Manville, Mrs. Wm. N. Moore, Mrs. M. Lomas, Mrs. A. M. Westgate, Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Wm. Krueger, Mrs. J. M. Ellis, Mrs. M.J. Sessions, Mrs. C. B. Clark, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Herrick, Ida Herrick, Mrs. A. B. Kellogg, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Koelsch, Mrs. Hussey, Ella Hussey, Mrs. Wait, Mrs. F.E. Smith, Mrs. Dutch, Mrs. O.W. Babcock, Mrs. Holbrook, Mrs. J. Ford, Mrs. Stiles,

Mrs. Wm. Kellet, Mrs. Kimball, Mrs. H. P. Leavens, Mrs. N. Demerritt, Mrs. A.L. Bradley, Mrs. R. Shiells, Mrs. J. B. Hamilton, Mrs. E. P. March, Mrs. E. A. Thomas, Mrs. P.R. Williams, Jennie Jamison, Mrs. M. Barns, Mrs. O. Stanhope.

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The slanderous statement published in the Oshkosh *Times*, that our local officers and citizens knowingly permitted the murderer Hesse to run at large, previous to his accomplishing his hellish purposes, was copied in the Milwaukee *Sentinel* and Green Bay *Advocate*, among other respectable state papers. The false statements of the *Times*, claimed to have been obtained on the ground, are inexcusable if not criminal, when thus sent forth well knowing they would be copied as current news. It has perpetrated a wrong on this community that it is quite impossible to wipe out. With the age and experience at the head of the *Times* it would almost warrant the belief that the statement was made from pure cussedness. We trust that all papers copying the *Times* blunders will make the corrections due to a community, sufficiently outraged in all conscience by the recent tragedies, without being held responsible for a neglect of duty for which they are in no way chargeable.

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#### INQUEST ON MRS. HESSE

On Sunday February 26th, an inquest was held on the body of Mrs. Magdalene Hesse, at the house of the deceased in the town of Neenah, by James Conlon, Justice of the Peace.

(Magdalena Frieze, the name of Mrs. Hesse before her marriage to Hesse was the name used at the inquest. ED.)

#### JURY

The following named persons were duly impaneled and sworn as a coroner's jury. – Albert Huxley, H.E. Huxley, Jerome Bailey, John W. Halstead, G. P. Vining, David Wells.

The verdict rendered by the jury on the testimony herewith given is as follows:

#### VERDICT

The jury upon their oaths do say: - "That the deceased, Magdalena Frieze, came to her death on the evening of the 25th of February 1871 between the hours of seven and eleven o'clock P.M., by having had her throat cut on the right side of her neck severing the carotid artery, jugular vein, by means of a knife or some sharp edged instrument then and there held in the hands of John Hesse, by whom said wound and the death of said deceased was there and then caused."

#### TESTIMONY

Dr. Galentine being duly sworn says: - "I knew the deceased formerly as Magdalena Hesse. I found her lying on her back near a stove, head and left shoulder on the zinc and a large quantity of blood. She was in her own house in the sitting room, her feet was towards the kitchen to the right and under the neck and shoulders there was a large quantity of blood. On turning the head to the left I discovered a wound commencing

over the centre thrance or wind pipe and extending to the right mastoid process upward and backward and reaching the spinal column, severing the right carotid artery and the right jugular vein, I think the wound was inflicted by a knife or other sharp instrument in the hand of a person that must have stood partly behind. I am satisfied that the wound caused her death the bleeding indicated that she was alive when the was wound inflicted; the examination of the wound it would be improbable that the wound could be inflicted by herself, I found her and examined her as above stated on the 26th day of February 1871. She appears to be *enciente* [pregnant] though we made no special examination as to that part, from examination I should judge that she was murdered before 12 o'clock last night." S. Galentine, M.D.

Drs. Fay and Potter being sworn, testified that they assisted Dr. Galentine in the examination and concurred in his statements.

Frank Hesse, being duly sworn says: - "I am a son of John and Magdalena Hesse, my mother was in this room last evening, there was no one but the family here, I went to bed a little while after dark, the other brothers and sisters went to bed before, I saw her in this room when I went to bed last night she sleeps up stairs in the room with the children, she did not go to bed when I did, she had on the same dress last night, that is on her now, I did not hear any noise last night, I got up a little after it was light, I found mother lying by the stove with blood around her, I then went up stairs again and staid until it was lighter and then went to Mr. Vinings I am between 9 and 10 years."

Franklin Hesse

Leenah Hesse (Wife of Julius Hesse) being duly sworn says: - "I know John Hesse, I seen him this morning about 9 o'clock in my own house, he was there the night before last about 10 or 11 o'clock, he staid all night the first night and all day the next day, that was Saturday the 25th February, and about 7 o'clock yesterday in the evening he left, he did not come back until I was in bed, I think it was about 11 o'clock, I did not hear him say where he was in the afternoon of Saturday, he said I would like to kill my wife, when he left a 7 o'clock he said he was going to California and bid me good bye, I think he was sober, he did not say where he was going this morning, my husband got him the revolver, last night about 7 o'clock. My husband, Julius Hesse, went with John Hesse when he left the house, they both came back together about 11 o'clock, he told my husband that he had about 50 dollars and that he gave the sheriff 30 dollars, he gave my husband an order to collect that money from the sheriff and send it to him."

Mrs. Julius Hesse

Julius Hesse, being duly sworn says: - "I am brother of John Hesse, he came to my house Friday night about 10 o'clock, he stayed all night and the next day, he left Saturday evening about 1-2 past 6 or 8 o'clock; I left before he did, about 1-2 past 6 or 7 o'clock he must have left soon after I did, I next seen him near the Presbyterian Church, it was about 9 o'clock he met me as I was going home, John was going towards Main street north, we sat down east of the Railroad track and behind a pile of boards about ten or fifteen minutes, I advised him to leave and not stay round home, we started to see William, no person passed while we were sitting at the place near the railroad track. It was from 1-2 past 6 or 7 o'clock until the time I met John in front of the Presbyterian Church, at the Fox River Saloon kept by August Melchert in Neenah. I went directly

there from my home and was no where else, I bought a revolver on Saturday forenoon, It was to resist being taken if they undertook to arrest him again that he said he wanted the revolver for; he told this to me before I bought the revolver for him, I was not at the Long Bridge with John last night. Mat Loomis and Frank McGinn were in the saloon when I was there, when I came back with the revolver, my wife told me I should not give him the revolver as he said he was going to kill his wife, this she told me in John's presence, he said he would do as he was a mind to." Julius Hesse

August Melchert being duly sworn says: -"I know Julius Hesse he was in my saloon about 7 o'clock he left 1-2 past 9."

Ephraim Giddings, was also sworn, the substance of his testimony will be found in that given on the inquest of John Hesse in another column.

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John Hesse, the murderer, is a German by birth, a son of Henry Hesse, was born and lived in the city of Crivitz, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, came to Neenah with his father in 1855. He was a thick set, strong muscular man, medium height, weighed 170 pounds, dark complexion, black hair and eyes. Under the influence of liquor he showed a most villainous cast of countenance.

In connection with his being a member of the church, elsewhere stated: Hesse told the following story while in jail. He said at that time, he was entirely sincere and never before had been so happy and continued so until he became suspicious about the security of an \$800 loan he had made. He took council with a prominent lawyer at Oshkosh relative to the matter, who replied to him in a repelling manner that he "was too damn pious to ever recover anything." Hesse said that after that he came home, the thought clung to him and haunted him, that he took to drink was expelled from the church and as he remarked, "I am what you see."

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#### INQUEST ON JOHN HESSE

On Sunday afternoon February 26, an inquest was held before Justice Conlon on the body of John Hesse in the dancing hall at the Hotel of Wm. Hesse in the village of Neenah.

The following jury were duly impaneled and sworn: - George Wilcox, Franklin Pickard, J.C. Mossop, J. H. Bennett, Carl Stridde, W. P. Peckham.

#### VERDICT

The jurors upon their oath, do say "that the said John Hesse came to his death on the 26th day of February, 1871, by a pistol shot received in the forehead above the roots of his nose, evidently fired by his own hand."

#### TESTIMONY

Doctor Galentine, being duly sworn says: - "I made a post mortem examination on the body of John Hesse, I found the body lying on the back and upon a close examination I found a circular opening through the base of the frontal bone above the

roots of the nose. It seemed to be a gunshot wound from the front, I then removed the top of the skull and took out the large brain, found that there was a hemorrhage in the cavity of the skull, I examined the brain and found a piece of lead evidently a small pistol bullet, I have good reason to believe that the piece of lead, a bullet, was the cause of his death. I examined the rest of the body and found no cause that I could attribute death to. I found no other wounds on the body whatever, or no other cause whatever. I, with others, examined his pockets and found a box of cartridges, a safe key, a wiper, a pair of mittens and a white handkerchief wet and blood stained. On comparing the piece of lead found in the brain it is evidently the same as one of the cartridges found in the box, I am fully confirmed in the opinion that the lead found in the brain was received from the front. If the person was standing up the pistol must have been elevated, on a level I should think. It seemed to go directly back to the base of the brain, this examination was taken the 26 of February 1871 at the town of Neenah in the County of Winnebago and State of Wisconsin."

S. Galentine, M.D.

Charles B. Clark being duly sworn says: - "I live in Neenah in Winnebago County, I know John Hesse. I seen him up on the street in front of Pettibone Block this morning he was crossing toward Wm. Hesse's, I asked Mr. Holbrook to go for E. Giddings, constable. I spoke with Mr. Doton that if he would stay at the front of Wm. Hesse's house I would stay at the back until Mr. Giddings would come and I done so. Mr. Giddings came to the back door and asked me if he had not passed out I answered he had not, he came a second time and asked the same question and I told him no. Mr. Whiting came to the window and said he was here I then came round into the house; I came up stairs they told me he was up in the garret. I then went to the drug store, whilst there Mr. Williams came in and said we must hurry back for they were shooting there. I came back and came up stairs and Mr. Conover said they wanted a spear to knock off the plastering, and I went after one. Mr. Conover took it and commenced knocking off the plastering of the ceiling and I seen his hands, I think he was then dead. I went after a rope and we took the body down; he had a revolver in his hand as he lay there; I think he shot himself. I helped to lay him on a bench he was then dead, - we left him there. I do not think the shots fired up there hit him."

C. B. Clark

I. L. Doton being duly sworn: - confirmed a portion of the above and further testified: "helped to search for him as it was reported that he had murdered his wife, there was no one there then but Giddings, Whiting and myself, we searched the whole bottom part of the house and came up stairs, Mr. Whiting punched the board off from the scuttle hole and we could see a man in there, we stood talking a few moments, we heard a pistol go off up in the garret over the hall and in about a minute or a minute and a half we heard another go off, we fired a number of shots up there afterwards, broke the plastering there and could see where he lay, as soon as the plastering was broke the blood began to come down and I went up and found him dead; when I found him he was lying across the joist he was dead. In his right hand he had a revolver which I took out of his hand, - the pistol being shown to the witness says, - that is the same one. I saw a hole in his forehead, evidently a ball hole. Mr. Conover and I put a rope round his body and let him down and laid him on a bench, I do not think that any of the shots fired from below hit him as there was no holes within four or five feet from where he lay, they could not hit him, the hole

in front of his head could not have been made from any shot from below; from the way he lay, one of the shots he fired himself must killed him. I heard the report of the pistol in the garret some minutes before they fired through the ceiling. There were three chambers of the revolver empty when I took it from his hand." I. L. Doton

W. N. Conover was sworn , and concurred in the testimony of Mr. Doton.

H. Harder being duly sworn says: - "I live in Neenah, I know John Hesse; The revolver, cartridge box, with a wiper, - being shown to the undersigned says: - they look like the same implements that I sold to Julius Hesse, Saturday in the forenoon sometime between 9 and 1-4 past ten in forenoon, he claimed that he was going to some new place to start business and that he would like to have one along, he paid me 15 dollars it was all the money I seen, he said it was all he had. The quantity of cartridges I let him have seem to be about the same as what is in the box, I counted 50 to him, there is a few short, when Julius Hesse came in he looked as rational as I ever saw him." Hiram Harder

Henry Robinson being duly sworn says: - "I live in Neenah, Winnebago County Wis. I know John Hesse, I seen him this day between 10 and 11 o'clock, I seen him go into Wm. Hesse's Bar room; I was sitting in a chair there, Wm. Hesse and I were talking about the murder of John Hesse's wife, when he came in, he stepped up to the bar and asked for something to drink, he was refused; *he then said he murdered his wife last night and that he was glad of it.* I made a move to go out, he took out his revolver and said I must not move, he said he was sorry that he did not kill Wildfang last night and some others; he went into the dining room [Henry Wildfang was John Hesse's brother-in-law], I went out doors, I was at Looses Saloon (immediately opposite Wm. Hesse's hotel. ED.) when I seen some person climbing into the garret, I supposed it to be John Hesse; when he came into the barroom, he said he had murdered his wife and was glad of it, he said he went out there between 8 and 9 o'clock last night, he said he went in and pulled her off the bed and asked her which way she wanted to die easiest, she gave no answer and he said he pulled out his revolver and shot her through the heart; and then cut her throat, he said to die easy. He said he was prepared for all emergencies and that he knew he had to die and that he would never be taken alive, he said he would shoot the first officer or man that would offer to arrest him, I told some of these men that went to take him to look out for him." Henry Robinson

Ephraim Giddings, constable being duly sworn says: - "I am a constable, this morning, I came from Magdalena Frieze's house, she was murdered last night and I heard that John Hesse was in town, I suspected him strongly for the murder [column 6] I called on some of the citizens to help arrest him. I tracked him to this house, we found him where you see that opening in the ceiling, as soon as we discovered his whereabouts, we heard a shot, it sounded like a revolver shot and the bullet struck something soft like the hitting of a body of a man and as soon as it was possible to raise the hand, another shot was fired that seemed to strike the boards, we got a spear and broke a hole through the ceiling and found him dead. I asked Wm. Hesse what time John was here last night, he said about 1-2 ten o'clock; he did not order me out, but he ordered out some of the men that I brought in with me." Ephraim Giddings