

Louis C. Hopson

(- 4 Oct 1878)

The Evening Star, October 5, 1878

Love and Suicide

Sad Death of a Young Man

The body of the drowned man found in the south channel of the Potomac, and made fast to a pier of the Long bridge, as stated in yesterday's Star, was removed to the eighth precinct station house, and last evening it was identified as the remains of a young man named Louis C. Hopson, who resides with his parents on 2d, between East Capitol and A streets northeast. He has been missing from home since Friday last, and it is believed from the circumstances surrounding the case, that he committed suicide on account of a disappointment in love. It is said he was paying his addresses to Miss Sands, living on Rhode Island avenue northwest, and that she did not reciprocate his affection. Last week he sent her a note, stating that he meant to take his life. A photograph of the young lady was found in a pocket of his coat. He was only 19 years of age, and a native of Wisconsin, and has been living here for the past four years. He was of steady habits, and much respected by all who knew him. The funeral took place this morning, and the testimony in the case is being heard this evening before Coroner Patterson.

The Evening Star, October 7, 1878

Died for Love

The Suicide of Louis C. Hopson By Drowning

An inquest was held last Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock at the 8th precinct station, in the case of Louis C. Hopson, who was found drowned at the Long Bridge last Friday morning. Miss Jennie Sands testified that she became acquainted with Hopson about three months ago. He was attentive to her for about a month, when a difficulty arose between him and her father. She told him that she thought it best that they should separate. Hopson, however, was persistent. He came to see her until Friday, September 27th, when he was last seen. He left her about 8 o'clock that evening. The next day Mrs. Hopson brought her a letter from Hopson. It commenced as follows: "Jennie, my own, my only one, may God forgive you, as I readily do. Before this reaches you I shall be a corpse, mangled and dead. In one hour my soul shall be suffering the torments of the damned, and it was you who drowned me." The letter was signed simply "Louis." Miss Sands was greatly agitated while giving her testimony, and once or twice seemed unable to bear up. Officer Berkely testified that Mrs. Hopson had told him that Louis left home about 10 o'clock, saying that she would hear from him about Monday or Tuesday, and gave her the letter to deliver to Miss Sands the next morning. The jury decided that the deceased came to his death from drowning, and expressed the belief that from the evidence deduced the drowning was his own act.