

Estella Hutton

(- 23 Oct 1876)

Hutton. Suddenly on October 23, 1876 in the 18th year of her age, Estella Blanche, beloved daughter of Jacob D. and Kate S. Hutton. Funeral will take place from her late father's residence, 111 2d street n.w. on Thursday at 2 p.m.

The Evening Star, October 24, 1876

Sad Suicide of a Young Girl She Takes Arsenic "To Frighten Her Mother"

A very distressing suicide occurred at the residence of Mr. Jacob D. Hutton, No. 1112d street southwest, yesterday, the victim being his daughter Estella, an interesting and beautiful young lady 17 years of age. It appears that for some months past she has been given to fits of despondence in consequence of having been disappointed in obtaining a position in one of the government departments. Sunday evening she seemed to be in a very cheerful mood, but yesterday morning her mother had some words with her as to some household affairs, and she immediately went to her room, saying that she would take poison. Nothing was thought of her threat, as she had made similar ones before, but about noon one of her sisters went to her room and sat there with her for some time. Although she had taken the arsenic some time before, and it must have caused her pain, she did not show it. About 4 o'clock, however, she was taken violently ill, and physicians were sent for at once. Dr. G.L. Magruder responded, but it was then too late, and death occurred in about fifteen minutes.

The Coroner's Inquest

Dr. Patterson, the coroner, visited the residence this morning, and directed the officers to summon a jury to be present at 11 o'clock. At that hour the jurors appeared, and were sworn over the body, which had been placed on ice.

Testimony of the Father

Mr. Jacob D. Hutton, the father of the deceased, was first sworn, and he testified that he returned home at 3 1/2 o'clock, and his little daughter was in the room. His oldest daughter, Kate, called her out, and told her to go to Mr. Driscoll, at the Lafayette House, to get a doctor, as Estella was sick. Mr. Driscoll sent for two doctors, but they were not in. Witness' wife came down and informed him that Estella had acknowledged having taken arsenic. Witness sent for Dr. Wells (dentist), and he administered an antidote, which relieved her by vomiting. (Dr. Wells said that he stated to Mr. Hutton that that was the best thing to do until the physician came) Dr. Magruder came and gave a prescription, but before it could be procured she died. Yesterday morning her mother reprimanded her about some household matters, and she took it to heart, and being very sensitive, threatened what she intended to do. She had expected to have procured a situation under government at the close of the session of Congress, but did not succeed, and became very melancholy about it. She was a girl of very even disposition, but self-willed. She had procured arsenic--ten cents' worth--from Nattans' drug store, to kill rats with. They all knew she had it, and had attempted to get it away from her, but without success. She had threatened before, in the presence of witness' wife and others, to take arsenic, and yesterday she told witness' wife that she had taken it, but not with the intention of killing herself--only to frighten her mother.

Testimony of Dr. Magruder

Dr. G.L. Magruder testified that he was called and arrived about 4 1/2 o'clock, found the deceased in the upper room, found her with cold extremities. She said she had taken arsenic (t cents worth) about 11 o'clock. Witness wrote a prescription but she died in about 15 minutes. She was suffering from irritation of the stomach, and not having eaten anything the poison was more virulent. Witness did all in his power to get up a reaction but did not succeed. Witness asked the cause, and Mrs. Hutton, in the presence of deceased, said that she had had some words with her in the morning, and she had threatened to take poison.

The Verdict

The jury found a verdict that death was caused by an overdose of arsenic administered by herself, not with intent to kill, but to frighten her mother.