

## James Q.M. Lyons

( - 31 Jul 1875)

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**Lyons.** On the 31st of July at 6 o'clock p.m., J.M. Lyons, aged 31 years. The relatives and friends of the family are requested to attend his funeral from his late residence, No. 1305 I street northeast tomorrow (Tuesday) August 3 at 5 o'clock p.m.

*The Evening Star, August 2, 1875*

### **Suicide of a Government Clerk**

About 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon, James M. Lyons, a clerk in the Surgeon General's Office, committed suicide at his residence on I street, between 13th and 14th streets northeast, by taking two officers of laudanum. After receiving his pay for the month of duty on Friday last he went to Baltimore, and while there purchased the laudanum, and returned on Saturday, shortly before committing the act, very much under the influence of liquor. Taking a seat on the sofa, he took the vial from his pocket, and asked his wife, who was beside him, "Shall I take this?" As on previous occasions he had threatened, when in liquor, to take his life, she regarded it as mere idle drunken talk, and simply remarked, "You are not going to make a fool of yourself." He then drank about half the poison, when she attempted to get the vial away from him, but he seized her with one hand, and holding her off, drained the vial of its contents. He then laid down, and was soon asleep, his wife thinking that what he had taken was a simple narcotic. A short time thereafter Mrs. Lyons noticed that he was turning black in the face, and called in some of the neighbors who endeavored to wake him up, using antidotes, but without success. A physician was sent for, but before his arrival, Mr. L. was dead. Dr. Patterson, the coroner, held an inquest yesterday morning, and the jury rendered a verdict that deceased came to his death from an overdose of laudanum, administered by himself while under the influence of intoxicating drink. He leaves a wife and four small children, three his own and one adopted. His widow is an invalid, and in indigent circumstances.