

## Clarence C. Turner

( - 3 Feb 1904)

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**Turner.** Suddenly on February 2, 1904, Clarence C. Turner, son of Smith and Rebecca Turner, in the 26th year of his age.

A precious one from us is gone  
A voice we loved is stilled  
There is a vacancy in our heart  
That never can be filled.

Would we call him back again--  
Our dear, suffering son?  
No, we must submit and say,  
"O God! Thy will be done."

By His Loving Parents

Funeral from residence of his parents, 415 G street southeast, February 5, at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

*The Evening Star, February 3, 1904, p. 6*

### **Takes His Own Life**

#### **Clarence C. Turner Swallows Fatal Dose of Laudanum**

#### **Occupied a Room at the Fredonia Hotel, but Declined to Register in Advance**

Clarence C. Turner, a drummer in the employ of Eugene S. Cochran, tobacconist, at 1115 Pennsylvania avenue, committed suicide at the Fredonia Hotel last night by taking laudanum. He went to the hotel about 9 o'clock yesterday morning and his body was found shortly before noon today. An empty bottle found in the room showed that the poison had been purchased at the Belmont pharmacy, corner of 12th and H streets.

The proprietor of the pharmacy says that the young man made the purchase yesterday morning. He said there was nothing in the purchaser's demeanor to arouse his suspicion. Turner gave his own name to the druggist and his business address. His reason for wanting the poison, he said was that his horse had fallen on the ice and cut his foot. He did not register at the hotel.

The hotel proprietor was in the office when Turner called and said he wanted a room for a few hours, as he wanted to get a little rest before going to work.

"If I oversleep myself," he said, "don't call me, for I'll pay whatever extra charge there is."

"Will you register?" he was asked.

"I'll register when I come down," the young man said. He then went upstairs to his room.

### *Had Evidently Lost Sleep*

Turner's appearance indicated to the hotel proprietor that he had probably been without sleep the night before, but refrained from questioning him to any extent. This forenoon the housekeeper reported that she had been unable to arouse the occupant of the room that had been assigned to Turner. The proprietor looked through the transom and became convinced that the occupant of the room was dead. The engineer was summoned and he climbed through the transom and unlocked the door. He found that the man's body was cold and there was not a sign of life left.

Captain Boardman was communicated with and he sent Detective Horne to the hotel to take charge of the room and contents until relieved by first precinct officers or the coroner. The only thing found in

the pockets of the dead man's clothes to show his name was a letter that had been addressed to him by a young lady he had been visiting in Northeast Washington. Statements contained in the letter indicate that Turner was not physically strong, and that he had been depressed in spirits. It was stated today that last Saturday he made a remark to a friend which showed that he contemplated taking his life. The young lady on whom he had been calling was considerably agitated about his failure to visit her home last night and called at Mr. Cochran's store to inquire about him. She was unable to learn anything and returned home.

*Complained of Illness*

Turner was 24 years old and lived with his parents at 415 G street, southeast. He had been in the employ of Mr. Cochran for about one year, and was regarded as an excellent salesman. After being away from the store several days he returned Saturday and was paid what salary was due him. At that time he said he had been sick.

Coroner Nevitt investigated the case and gave a certificate in accordance with the facts. Arrangements were made for the removal of the body to the morgue. Later in the day relatives of the dead man were informed of his death and they took charge of the remains. Turner's parents formerly lived in Charles county, Md., not far from Marshall Hall, and his body will probably be taken there for interment.