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TUMBLETY THE WOMAN-HATER BY MIKE HAWLEY

See Page 13

Contents

PAGE 4 - 5

THE WHITECHAPEL SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

PAGE 6 - 9

CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY

All the news from the Whitechapel and Ripperology.....

PAGE 10 - 11

NUMBER 19 PRINCELET STREET

Mike Pattison relates the fascinating story of Princelet St and Rodinsky's room.....

PAGE 12

CLARE SMITH AT THE WS 1888

Back by popular demand, Clare Smith lived up to all the billing with another superb presentation! Sue Parry reports.

PAGE 13 - 15

TUMBLETY THE WOMAN HATER

Mike Hawley offers us this thought provoking article on Ripper suspect, Francis Tumblety

PAGE 16 - 17

THE STAR INTERVIEW WITH ROBBIE IVES

Robbie Ives has amassed one of the biggest collections of Ripper books and memorabilia in the UK. Find out more about the man!

PAGE 18

MAYHEW'S MUSINGS - 'Cabinet Reshuffle'

Always original and entertaining, read Mickey Mayhew's regular page.....

PAGE 19 - 21

IN SHADOWS

David Bullock revisits Thomas Hayne Cutbush and tells us why this man should not be dismissed as a credible suspect.

PAGE 21

THE HANSOM CAB

Dave McCleave gives a short history of the Hansom Cab and tells us about the one he actually owned!

PAGE 22 - 24

RIPPER STREET - Series One Review and analysis

Damian Michael Barcroft gives a masterful appraisal of the Ripper Street series.

PAGE 25

LISTOMANIA - THE NEW LONDON DUNGEON

PAGE 25

I'M A RIPPEROLOGIST GET ME OUT OF HERE!

Robin Odell & another lively offering.....

PAGE 25

PAPERPAST - Diary Revelations of Dead Doctor



TONIGHT

April 6th 2013

Montague John DrUITT
The 'Great' Ripper Suspect

by

Thomas Toughill

Thomas Toughill is a History Graduate of Glasgow University and a retired Special Branch officer in the Royal Hong Kong Police.

Much of his research involves DrUITT's time at Oxford. Mr. Toughill explains the significance of his discovery that DrUITT was blackballed by the prestigious Oxford Union and uses that breakthrough to unlock the mysteries that had hitherto surrounded the 'Great' suspect.

PAST MEETINGS IN OUR HISTORY

One Year Ago

Titanic!

Philip Hutchinson, Andy Parlour, George Fleming and Lindsay Siviter

Five Years Ago

Sylvia Pankhurst: A Maverick Life

Shirley Harrison

Eight Years Ago

The Workhouses of Whitechapel

Peter Higginbotham

ON THIS DAY IN RIPPER HISTORY

April 6, 1887

Elizabeth Stride brings charges of assault against her lover, Michael Kidney.

~ On the day before ~

April 5, 1888

Emma Smith dies in the London Hospital as a result of her injuries.

Information provided by *Casebook Jack the Ripper* web page;
<http://www.casebook.org/diversion/thisday.html>

Tumblety the Woman Hater

By
Mike Hawley

We welcome this thought provoking article on Francis Tumblety by a new writer to the Whitechapel Society, Mike Hawley



Francis Tumblety

There are two valid questions that students of the Whitechapel murder mystery ask when the name Francis Tumblety comes up. First, did Scotland Yard consider Tumblety a suspect, and second, was he Jack the Ripper? The fact that the Head of Special Branch during the time of the murders, Chief Inspector John G. Littlechild, named him as a very likely suspect along with the fact that Assistant Commissioner Robert Anderson personally contacted US chiefs of police about him with respect to the murder case – at the peak of the murders - does a convincing job of answering the first question. A problem for researchers is we have little direct evidence as to why Scotland Yard Headquarters took Francis Tumblety seriously as the possible killer. If we did, it would help us better assess the second question.

A valid argument against the possibility of Francis Tumblety being Jack the Ripper is that he was homosexual and male homosexual serial killers almost always victimize men. This generalization may be a correct about certain male homosexual serial killers, as evidenced by Jeffrey Dahmer killing and eating his young male lovers, but in Tumblety's case, the generalization is actually irrelevant, if we base our conclusion upon actual contemporary reports. According to the FBI, there are multiple motives behind serial killings including homosexual serial offenders¹. The following is the FBI list of motives of serial offenders based not upon serial offender interviews but upon offender actions and crime scene evidence: **Anger** (rage or hostility towards a certain subgroup of the population), **Criminal Enterprise** (benefitting in status or monetarily in a criminal group), **Financial or personal gain** ("black widow"), **Ideology** (to further a goal due to prejudice against subgroups based upon race, ethnicity, gender, such as racism and misogyny), **Power/thrill** (offender feels empowered and/or excited when he kills), **Psychosis** (severe mental illness

like paranoia, grandiose, or bizarre delusions), and **Sexually-based** (driven by sexual desires). The FBI makes clear that these are non-inclusive general categories not intended to discount other possible motives. They also make it clear that serial killers may be driven by multiple motives, which can even evolve throughout time. If Francis Tumblety was Jack the Ripper, the available evidence indicates that his motive was not at all sexually-based, but was a combination of other motives; the first being **ideology**, specifically misogyny, and the second being **anger** directed towards women ...*as impostors*.

If we follow contemporary evidence, the most common reason stated as to why Francis Tumblety was a Scotland Yard murder suspect is that he was a woman hater. Note just five of the many sources,

"... his feelings toward women were remarkable and bitter in the extreme, a fact on record." (Chief Inspector Littlechild, 1913)

"He was known as a thorough woman-hater and as a man who never associated with or mixed with women of any kind." (William Pinkerton, November 19, 1888)

"...and in New York his behavior was that of a man who had no liking for women." (San Francisco Chief of Police Patrick Crowley, *San Francisco Examiner*, November 23, 1888)

When asked about Dr. Tumblety's aversion to women, McGarry said: "He always disliked women very much. He used to say to me: 'Martin, no women for me.' He could not bear to have them near him..." (*New York World*, Dec 5, 1888)

"You are accused of being a woman-hater. What have you to say to that?" (*New York World* reporter interviewing Tumblety, January 1889).

This leads to another argument against the possibility of Francis Tumblety being Jack the Ripper, that Scotland Yard merely suspected Tumblety for the less than credible reason of him being gay. The argument states that even though Francis Tumblety was considered a 'woman-hater', in the nineteenth century, this expression meant one thing; homosexual, or lover of men, therefore, it had nothing to do with him truly hating women. In support of this, a broadsheet ballad in 1707 titled, *'The Women-Hater's Lamentation'*, about a group of gay men was used to point out that the term 'woman-hater' meant homosexual. Other evidence demonstrated that this meaning was used even into the 20th century. If true, this conclusion is sound, but it actually breaks down when we look at all of the evidence.

Cont'd Over

The ballad in question was written almost two centuries before the Ripper murders, and the English language is a living, dynamic language, and although the expression 'woman-hater' was still being used in this way at the time of the killings, another definition crept into the lexicon. A major social movement began to take hold in England and the United States just prior to the Whitechapel murders, a feminist movement called the *woman's suffrage movement*, which pushed for improving women's rights in a male dominated society². Men who were absolutely opposed to this feminist movement were at times labeled as 'woman-haters', because they had such a hatred of women and women's rights³. For example, in *Mencken: A Life*, author Fred Hobson states,

*"Depending on the position of the reader, he [H.L. Mencken, author of In Defense of Women (1918)] was either a great defender of women's rights or, as a critic labeled him in 1916, "the greatest misogynist since Schopenhauer," "the country's high-priest of woman-haters."*⁴

The term for this kind of hatred of women is known as *misogyny*, which was also used in the mid-to-late-nineteenth century.⁵ According to sociologist Allan G. Johnson,

*"Misogyny is a central part of sexist prejudice and ideology and, as such, is an important basis for the oppression of females in male-dominated societies. Misogyny is manifested in many different ways, from jokes to pornography to violence..."*⁶
[Emphasis added]

Thus, the expression 'woman-haters' had two definitions at the time of the Whitechapel murders, homosexuality and misogyny. Henry Havelock Ellis (1859 – 1939), a British physician and psychologist, focused his research on homosexuality in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and in 1897 published a book called *Sexual Inversion*.⁷ Prior to Chief Inspector Littlechild's woman hater comments about Tumblety, one of Ellis' case study homosexual subjects stated this,

*"Even their [women's] physical beauty has little or no charm for me, and I often wonder how men can be so affected by it. On the other hand, I am not a woman-hater, and have several strong friends of the opposite sex."*⁷

Note the clear distinction this man made between his homosexuality and the misogynist term of woman-hater. Here's yet another example. At the time of the Ripper murders, a theatrical play was being performed called 'The Woman Hater', by David Demarest Lloyd, featuring actor Roland Reed. It was advertised in the papers as 'THE WOMAN HATER. Reed as the Misogynist, Reed as the Bigamist, Reed as the Trigamist.'⁸ Reed played the bachelor, Samuel Bundy, who involves himself in no less than three distinct love affairs with mature widows'.⁹ The focus was not his homosexuality but his misogyny.

Even though both definitions were used around the time of the murders, how do we know those referring to Tumblety as a woman hater, most importantly, Chief Inspector Littlechild, meant actual hatred of women? First, the original argument claimed that 'woman-hater' only, or almost always, meant homosexual; therefore, the argument is now faulty. Specific to Littlechild, he never actually used the term 'woman-hater', so we really do not have to figure out which definition he meant. Instead, he made a statement about Tumblety's 'feelings toward women.' It being modified with 'remarkable and bitter in the extreme' can only refer to his hatred of women¹⁰. If Littlechild merely meant gay, then he was stating that Tumblety was not

gay, but really, really gay. This makes no sense. Also, Littlechild did comment about Tumblety's homosexuality, but instead of using the term woman-hater he used the term 'Sycopathia Sexualis'. He was stating that Tumblety was both a man lover AND a misogynist. Littlechild seems to have had the opinion that men with 'contrary sexual instincts' are prone to violence, but he was not saying Tumblety's man lover desires made him a suspect but his hatred of women did.

We also see Tumblety being reported as a misogynist in the British press, as well. The newspaper, *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent*, December 5, 1888, picked up the following cable dispatch from a foreign correspondent of a London paper, the *Daily Telegraph*. Even though Tumblety's name was not used, note the clear references to him,

It is reported by cable from Europe that a certain person, whose name is known, has sailed from Havre for New York, who is famous for his hatred of women, and who has repeatedly made threats against females of dissolute character.

The reporter highlighted two particular reasons for Tumblety's fame in connection with the Whitechapel murders, and if true, the information likely originated from Scotland Yard. In view of this, the reporter was informing the readers that Scotland Yard had perfectly plausible reasons for suspecting him of the murders. The use of both reasons make sense, only if hatred of women meant exactly that; hatred of women.

In the February 2013 issue of *Whitechapel Society Journal*, Joe Chetcuti's *Ripping Diatribes* article revealed a series of newly discovered British newspaper articles, thanks to the assistance of Chris Phillips and Robert Linford. *The Liverpool Leader*, January 9, 1875, reported on the recent appearance of a 'doctor' setting up shop within their community, who was advertising miraculous cures of Liverpool citizens, but with some investigative journalism, the paper believed they had exposed a fraud. Their investigation of the doctor, who was none other than Francis Tumblety, apparently revealed not only a misogynist, but a violent misogynist,

There comes to us a tale of a decent woman from the Isle of Man who sought his advice respecting a bad leg. He told her it was due to the immorality of her parents, but would cure it for 3 pounds. This she declined, whereon he ordered her to get out legs and all or else he would kick her out! Other women young & unmarried, have fled in alarm from his premises, and say his language and conduct suggested danger.

Is there any evidence as to why Tumblety had such a hatred of women, especially prostitutes? Before discussing who Tumblety hated, we will begin with who he was sexually attracted to; young impressionable men. Prior to the Civil War, Tumblety was single-minded in his goal of making money through his nefarious advertising Indian herb doctor business, and it worked. A few years after the Civil War, Tumblety seemed to have gone into semi-retirement but continued his traveling, even into Europe, especially England. Thus, began his practice of hiring very young men as assistants and even travel partners, obviously for the primary purpose of sexual relations. Examples are Isaac Golliday (*Evening Star*, Nov 21, 1888), Thomas Henry Hall Caine (private collection of Tumblety letters once owned by Caine) in England, and a young man named Joseph Lyons (*Rochester Democrat and Republican*, Dec 3, 1888) in the 1870s, and Martin McGarry (*New York World*, Dec

5, 1888) in 1882. In true misogynist fashion, Tumblety was notorious for warning these young men about women,

"He never failed to warn his correspondent [young Lyons] against lewd women, and in doing it used the most shocking language." (Grey River Argus, Feb 25, 1889) When asked about Dr. Tumblety's aversion to women, McGarry said: "He always disliked women very much. He used to say to me: 'Martin, no women for me.' He could not bear to have them near him. He thought all women were impostors, and he often said that all the trouble in this world was caused by women." (New York World, Dec 5, 1888)

In 1874 while in Liverpool, England, Tumblety began a relationship with young Thomas Henry Hall Caine, which lasted until 1876. Caine was in the habit of saving everything, including all of his letters and correspondences, and historian Neil Storey received special permission to look through the huge volumes of his material. In his newly published book, *The Dracula Secrets: Jack the Ripper and the Darkest Sources of Bram Stoker*, Storey reveals twenty new letters written by Tumblety to Caine¹¹. One of them gives a clue as to why he had such a hatred of women, especially prostitutes...

"The Chinamen are as nasty as Locust, they devour everything they come across, rats and cats, and all sorts of decomposed vegetable matter, they are a species of the Digger Indian. Grass hopper is a luxury which they partake with delight. This is not all, the Chinese that are now being landed on the Pacific shelf are of the lowest order. In morals and obscenity they are far below those of our most degraded prostitutes. Their women are bought and sold, for the usual purposes and they are used to decoy youths of the most tender age, into these dens, for the purpose of exhibiting their nude and disgusting person to the hitherto innocent youths of the cities."¹¹

Notice the ideological prejudice Tumblety displayed against the Chinese and 'Digger Indians' (indigenous peoples in the Great Basin), and he then compared the Chinese to 'our most degraded prostitutes'. The clear inference is that Tumblety had a similar prejudice against prostitutes, most likely referring to female prostitutes. He further revealed his misogynist ideological beliefs as he then narrowed the subject to 'their women'. Of particular interest is what he stated about these women being 'used as decoys' on his preferred sex partners, 'innocent youths' 'of the most tender age'. Recall what young McGarry said Tumblety told him, "all women were impostors, and he often said that all the trouble in this world was caused by women." By itself, the use of the term *impostors* is confusing, but when we realize what Tumblety stated about Chinese female prostitutes, that they were used as 'decoys', it begins to make sense. If you think of duck decoys in hunting, the decoy is a duck impostor designed to lure the prey. In Tumblety's mind, females, especially prostitutes, are 'sex partner' impostors, designed to lure young males away from their intended sex partners, older males. They do this by confusing young males at an impressionable age, making them have unnatural sexual desires for the wrong gender.

Tumblety was accused of decoying, as well. In 1873, eighteen year-old Paddington, England, resident Henry Carr was asked by Tumblety to be his secretary and move to Liverpool. In the *London Times*, December 1, 1873, it states,

[Henry Carr's] parents objected to his doing

so, but eventually he went to Liverpool with the gentleman... [Henry's father Charles] said that this was the person who had decoyed his son away.

We now know Tumblety understood the use of 'duck decoys'. One particular Liverpool article published by Joe Chetcuti discusses how Tumblety hired people as 'duck decoys' and place them in his office waiting room. When a new customer would enter Tumblety's waiting room, the 'duck decoys' would impersonate actual satisfied customers. In other words, they were impostors, paid by Tumblety to spin a web of lies in order to convince new customers of how effective his treatments were.

So, a more thorough evaluation of the available evidence suggests that the reason why Francis Tumblety had such a hatred of women, especially prostitutes, was two-fold. First, he had a deep-seeded misogynist ideology clearly evident in his letters and actions, and second, he displayed much anger that women – especially prostitutes – acted as decoys, or impostors, and stole young men away from their true intentions, sex partners for older men. Note that these are two of the motivations behind serial killings identified by the FBI, and in Tumblety's case, both of these motivations are directed towards the exact type of person Jack the Ripper mutilated. If we look at how the Whitechapel victims were mutilated, a common conclusion is that the motivation behind Jack the Ripper was sado-sexual, since the killer spent so much time attacking the reproductive organs in the abdominal region. Keep in mind, though, no one really knows who the Whitechapel fiend was, so this is an educated guess made by qualified persons using the available evidence. The killer's motivation may also have been one or more of the others if the evidence supports this conclusion. Sociologist, Dr. Johnson, did state that the ideological belief of misogyny can manifest itself through violence, and the focus of the Ripper mutilations were upon *the areas that identify one as female*. This could easily have been the result of someone with a deep-seeded hatred of women, blaming them for all the woes of the world. The ferocity of the attacks also suggests a tremendous buildup of anger being released through the blade. It should now not be a surprise as to why Scotland Yard took Francis Tumblety so seriously as the possible Whitechapel fiend, and it also shows why students of the Whitechapel case today should still take him seriously.

Acknowledgments:

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