

About New Jersey

BULLETS FOUND WRONG VICTIMS

John Baxter in Trying to Kill His
Wife Shot Mr. and Mrs.
Ryan

Says He Is Sorry He Did Not Accom-
plish His Purpose—Woman
Will Die

John Baxter, aged 39 years, of Wilmington, Delaware, a fireman on the steamer Brandywine, last night shot Jeremiah Ryan, aged 33 years, through the shoulder, and Ryan's wife, Mary, aged 31 years, in the back and in the neck. The shooting occurred at Twenty-sixth and Washington avenue, East Side, Camden. The victims were taken to Cooper Hospital. Mrs. Ryan, who is enclente, will probably die.

Baxter has been separated from his wife and children for over a year. Last spring his wife was living at service at Orston, Camden county. Baxter went there to see her, and after a quarrel tried to shoot her. He was indicted for this, but sentence was suspended by Judge Armstrong because he had served as a fireman on the St. Paul under Captain Sligsbee in the Spanish-American War. Baxter promised the Judge that he would leave the State and not molest his wife any more.

On Saturday night last Baxter appeared at his old home, where the shooting occurred, and tried to persuade his wife to live with him again. She became alarmed because of his threats and sent for the police. He was taken to the Third district station house, but was afterward released.

CAME ARMED TO KILL

After quitting work last night in Wilmington Baxter is said to have purchased a 32 calibre revolver and brought it to Camden with the intention of killing himself and his wife. What happened is best told in his own words after his arrest:

"I went in the back gate and a little terrier dog commenced to bark. I grabbed it and killed it. I looked in the window and saw James Brown caressing my wife. I called to her to come out. She did so. Ryan and his wife, Harry Horton and James Brown also came out. I said to my wife: 'Annie, will you come to me and save me from this desperate deed?' She said, 'Go away from me, I want nothing to do with you.' I could stand it no longer and pulled my revolver. As I was just about to shoot her they all closed in on me and I shot Ryan and his wife."

In a dramatic manner Baxter exclaimed: "I am only sorry, as God is my judge, that I did not kill my wife and put a bullet in my own brain. Take me out and kill me or hang me, or do whatever you please! That is the whole truth. I did it because I love her, and can't live without her."

After the shooting Mrs. Ryan, who is a very stout woman, ran up Twenty-sixth street to Federal and down that street. When near Twenty-fourth street she fell into the arms of Mrs. Lizzie Sullivan, of 2631 Master street. A crowd soon collected and she was taken to Wells' drug store, Twenty-fourth and Federal streets. She was examined by Drs. Martindale and Sherk and ordered removed to the hospital.

CAUGHT AND BEATEN.

Before Baxter could get away he was grabbed by Horton and Ryan and beaten about the face and body in a terrible manner. The pistol with which the shooting was done was found on the back door step by Policeman Paul.

Chief of Police Foster, Detective Hart and William P. Walsh, of the Prosecutor's office, were soon upon the scene and took Baxter and Harry Horton to the city prison. Mrs. Anna Baxter was arrested at a late hour by Policeman Paul and taken to the City Hall, where she told the story of the shooting to Chief Foster and Lawyer Walsh.

When Baxter was searched, in addition to some loose change, a razor was found on him. On seeing it he said:

"Oh! If I only knew I had that with me I would have cut my head off."

At the Cooper Hospital last night the physicians said Mrs. Ryan would probably die. After Ryan's injuries were dressed he returned to his home.

After the police investigation Ryan and Horton were locked up as witnesses, and Mrs. Baxter and Brown were dismissed.