

A MURDERER ACQUITTED.

TROISVILLE SYKES SET FREE BY A CONSIDERATE JURY.

NEW-ORLEANS, Feb. 1.—The trial of Troisville Sykes for the murder of Kate Townsend, his mistress, came to an end to-day by the jury bringing in a verdict of "Not guilty," and the accused man was turned loose. The policy of the defense was not to dispute the killing, but to show justifiable homicide, and while the prosecution was conducted with remarkable weakness, the defense put on the stand a large number of witnesses, sporting men, politicians, and other associates of the accused man to testify to his quiet disposition and that the murdered woman, on the other hand, was a fierce and dangerous person. She had been Sykes's mistress for 25 years, and her fortune was the result of their joint efforts. He was her individual legatee and became possessed on her death of all her property. He promptly sold her real estate for \$70,000, which he distributed lavishly among his lawyers and others, paying several of them \$10,000 each, while a distinguished criminal Judge resigned his place on the bench to act as counsel in the case. No charge is made, however, that the jury were bribed.

The *Evening States*, the official organ of the City Government, in speaking of the trial, says: "The verdict of acquittal in the Sykes case is another instance of the burlesque character of jury trials in criminal cases in this city. It seems difficult, if not entirely impossible, to obtain justice and a vindication of the law through the medium of jury trials by the conviction of murderers and criminals, especially in cases where the accused has any political influence or money to back him in defying the courts, juries, laws, and public decency. That the jury in this case failed to recognize the enormity of the crime committed, of which there was no doubt, since it was admitted, and pronounced as innocent a red-handed murderer, is indeed a sad commentary upon the low and degraded standard of morality that seems to pervade this community and is so patiently and complacently tolerated."

Upon being turned loose Sykes was the recipient of a popular ovation such as is sometimes accorded to great heroes and public benefactors.