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THREATS MADE TO EASTON WOMAN

"Leave $1000 at Cemetery Gate Wednesday Night."

"If You Don't We Will Murder You In Cold Blood."

NORTH EASTON, Jan 1—Two black-hand letters demanding $1000 under pain of murder, received before and during the Christmas holidays by Miss Mabel Wilbur of Depot st, Easton, have put her in a state of terror of what steps her blackmailers will next pursue.

The police have as yet no substantial clew to the writers of the missive, but feel suspicion of certain residents and are running down the case as fast as possible. The fact that the letters had been sent to Miss Wilbur did not come out until this morning, so secretive have the police and Miss Wilbur been.

Miss Wilbur is the daughter of the late Lemuel K. Wilbur, who, when he died some years ago, was generally thought one of the wealthiest citizens. His property, including the fine estate on Depot st, was divided among his three children, Miss Wilbur receiving a substantial share. She is of middle age and has lived of recent years in the Depot-st home.

First Letter Received Dec 16.

No writer of black, stirring melodrama could devise a more horrible threat than that contained in the first letter sent to Miss Wilbur, received Dec 16. It lacked nothing of the worst that one could picture, except that it was written in a fairly legible hand, and apparently was the work of some partly educated, if not well-educated, person.

Miss Wilbur, on her way into her home, on Depot st, paused at the letter box of galvanized metal, which is so common in the country where the rural free delivery is made by the Postoffice employes. Among her mail was this plain white envelope, carefully addressed to herself, but bearing no stamp. Apparently it had been dropped in the box by a passer-by.

While it seemed strange to her for the moment, she thought nothing of it until she had entered the house, torn open the envelope and read the following:

"We want you to leave $1000 at Cemetery Gate, Wednesday night. If you don't we will murder you in cold blood, or, as sure as there is a God in Heaven, we will send you to h—l so quick you will not want to come back."

The only signature was a skilful drawing of a skull and crossbones, symbols of piracy and lawlessness.

Letter Box Post Torn Up.

Miss Wilbur, at first only surprised, was soon stirred with terror over the threatening letter. The time mentioned for her to leave the money was evidently that same night, as Dec 16 was a Wednesday. After pondering for some time over the matter she resolved that the best thing to do would be not to take any notice of the missive and to keep the matter to herself, to see whether there would be any further development in the case. It seemed probable that a second letter would come later if her blackmailers were thoroughly in earnest.

The following morning she was surprised to find that the wooden post in front of her home and the metal letter box which stood at the top of it had disappeared. The post had been wrenched from its place and the earth torn up. No sign has been seen of the post since then.

For some days, though thoroughly wrought up with uncertainty, Miss Wilbur heard nothing, and had begun to think the matter would pass into oblivion until Dec 22, when the second letter came, through the mail, postmarked "South Boston, Dec 22, 1914."

The text of this second letter was not given out by the police, but it is understood to have been even more threatening than the first. She was warned to leave the money at the designated gate before 8 that night, if she should "value life more than $1000."

This time she had no hesitancy in placing the matter in the hands of policemen Thomas Downey, Elisha Ellis and Ellsworth Simpson, who took charge of the case. At the same time the Postoffice authorities were informed of the blackmailing work, and inspectors were set to work hunting for clews.

Two "Women" Ran Away Into Woods.

On that evening an envelope was planted at the Cemetery Gate, as the letter commanded. Through some mistake one of the policemen was a little late in arriving on the scene and while looking about for the others, he saw two people, apparently women, standing near the cemetery. Upon catching sight of him, they promptly turned off into the field and hastened away through the woods. The policeman, thinking that he had no grounds for detention, did not pursue them.

There the matter rests at the present time. Since that night, more than 10 days ago, the blackmailers have taken no further steps to carry out their threats or to secure the money and the police and postal inspectors have been left with little information on which to run the culprits down. It is understood, however, that they suspect certain people and developments within a day or two are possible.

There is a large foreign population in Easton, including Portuguese, Swedes and other nationalities, some well educated and others ignorant. Whether the police suspect any in this group could not be learned.

Miss Wilbur is very well known in Easton, where she lives, and is popular with the people of that section. Her plight, when it became known this morning, stirred the town to a high pitch of excitement.

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