

Attempted Seduction!—Severe and Summary Punishment.

The Sixth Ward was alive with excitement yesterday, growing out of the circulation of exaggerated reports of an affair which occurred in that part of the city, at the St. Charles Hotel, on Broadway, not far from the Surgeon market, and in which Mr. HOFFMAN, a German citizen, extensively known, Mrs. BAKER and WILSON C. BAKER, her husband, and JOHN M. HAWLEY, JACOB B. BURROUGHS and MILO L. SMITH, friends of BAKER, were concerned. The account here given is according to statements by a person friendly to BAKER and his party, and who signed as security for one of them before the committing magistrate; although widely at variance with the story so prevalent yesterday, it may be relied on as correct so far as relates to the incident itself.

HOFFMAN is an advertising agent for one of the German newspapers. He is a man of some accomplishments, and of superior education, much respected and lauded by his friends; but others represent that he has more admiration than respect for the opposite sex, and is neither scrupulous nor prudent in manifesting it. They charge him in this instance with deliberately attempting the seduction of Mrs. BAKER, with whom he has been some time acquainted. He was untiring in his attentions, carrying them so far as to accompany her to theatres and places of amusements, and more than once insisted upon making her presents. At length having mistaken her politeness for a partiality for him, he made some indelicate advances, which she repulsed, and informed her husband. HOFFMAN still persisting in visiting her at the St. Charles House, the husband wrote a note, warning him of his displeasure. He then gave his wife a loaded pistol, directing her to shoot HOFFMAN, should he presume to renew his addresses.

Unfortunately, on yesterday morning HOFFMAN again made his appearance at the hotel and sought Mrs. BAKER's room. He had hardly entered when she fired twice, but being frightened and excited at the moment missed him. He turned, ran down stairs into the street. BAKER's friends—SMITH, BURROUGHS and HAWLEY—who boarded with their families in the house, pursued and overtook him, and, leading him up stairs, confined him in a room, and sent for BAKER to his grocery store, near Buckmaster's ferry.

Arriving at the house, with the assistance of the others, he stripped HOFFMAN, and tied him down to a bed with a strong rope. He then procured a couple of cow hides, whipped him until one of them was worn out, and then fell upon him with the other. The victim received hundreds of stripes. His back was flayed by the unceasing application of the lash, and BAKER ceased only when he was prostrate and half-dying, to consummate his revenge by inflicting a shocking wound with his knife upon the scrotum. The wound will not, in the opinion of the physician who was called in, cause deprivation of virility or endanger life. HOFFMAN was removed to the Sister's Hospital, and although his injuries will long confine him, it is thought he will recover.

A citizen of the Sixth Ward soon informed the City Marshal of the affair, and at his direction a party of policemen arrested BAKER, BURROUGHS, HAWLEY, and SMITH. The two former appeared before the Recorder, accompanied by counsel, and stated their readiness to give bond to answer. His Honor intimated that he should require bonds in heavy sums, but not then having leisure to fill the necessary writs, they went before Justice CADY. BAKER gave bail in the amount of \$700, and BURROUGHS and SMITH for \$300—all to answer to "assault and battery." HAWLEY gave security to bond for \$300 before Justice ALLEN.—*St. Louis Intelligencer.*