

Not Scorned, Avers Mrs. Foraker, But Refused to Buy a Man's Love

Widow of Son of Former Senator Tells Court Alphonzo Pelham Declined to Pay Hotel Bill With Money She Gave Him—Denies Shooting Him.

New York, June 30.—The dull drab of the ordinary Jefferson Market court cases was relieved by a splash of real warm color by a hearing in a case involving love, pistol shots, swords, money and most of the other component parts of drama, all in one jumble, many questions having to do with the life of persons having more or less money—enough to pay hotel and taxicab bills and with enough left over to buy two glasses of sherry for breakfast—were brought into the limelight. Mrs. Joseph B. Foraker, jr., widow of a son of the late Senator from Ohio, was leading woman, chief principal and complainant; the leading man and defendant was Alphonzo Pelham, 36, Princeton graduate, and son of Alphonzo E. Pelham, of 45 Riverside Drive.

Arrested Him Herself.

Young Mr. Pelham was in court for a hearing on the charge made by Mrs. Foraker that he cashed a check for \$350 which she sent him on March 31 to pay her bill at the Majestic Hotel and kept the money instead of paying the bill. She arrested him herself last June at the offices of the Pelham Operating Company in West Twenty-sixth street, although she was accompanied by Detective Cooney, of the Second branch.

Magistrate Krotel, after listening to the evidence, told the attorneys that he failed to see the slightest evidence for holding Mr. Pelham on a charge of larceny, but would give Gerald Van Castell, her counsel, until July 18 to file a brief.

The matter of the number of drinks which a lady should take with her breakfast was touched upon. Mrs. Foraker, who lives at the Plaza Hotel, said that she had two glasses of sherry on the morning of April 3 at the Biltmore Hotel, but she had just got in from Chicago and was not feeling well—besides she was thirsty, anyway.

\$6,000 in Her Stockings.

She said that she smoked as many cigarettes as any society woman, and admitted carrying money in her stockings—on one occasion she had as much as \$6,000 in them. That sum was not sufficient, it developed, for Mrs. Foraker told Magistrate Krotel:

"Al said that unless I had \$20,000 it was all off—that he wouldn't marry me. And I said: 'I am buying your love, am I?'"

Mrs. Foraker is a small woman. She wore a blue tailored suit with a large diamond bar pin and a ring with two big diamonds and a sapphire. She was quite vehement in her denial that jealousy was the motive which prompted her to bring the charge of larceny against Mr. Pelham.

Loved Mr. Pelham, She Says.

She said that she had loved Mr. Pelham once and was engaged to be married to him, but that she no longer cared for him. She may have been jealous of him in the past, but then he was more jealous of her, she said.

Terence J. McManus, one of the attorneys representing Mr. Pelham, who was in court, accompanied by his father, obtained an admission from Mrs. Foraker that Mr. Pelham was shot twice in the neck in her apartment in the Majestic Hotel on May 19, but denied that she shot him or pointed a revolver at him and said, "If I can't have you no other woman can have you either."

Shot Himself, She Says.

On the contrary, she said, "Mr. Pelham stole \$200 from my purse," and asserted that she had given him more than \$700 to pay his hospital and physician's bills after he had shot himself.

When Mr. McManus asked her if Mr. Pelham had ever remained in her room after midnight, she replied: "Yes, when other persons were there, too. We were engaged."

She denied that she had ever threatened Mr. Pelham with her dead husband's sword when he said something she alleged was insulting about her husband. "I told him if my husband were alive he would run him through for what he said."

"After he said these things about your dead husband, you still went around with him?" asked Mr. McManus.

"I did, but only after he had got down on his knees and apologized."

Had Been to His Home.

She testified that she had met young Mr. Pelham more than a year and a half ago and had been to his home on different occasions. She said it was the usual thing for her to hand him \$10 or \$20 or \$50 or \$100 to pay the checks with. She declared that she had loaned him between \$10,000 and \$12,000 since she met him. When she arrived from Chicago in April she said she asked Mr. Pelham if he had paid the Majestic Hotel bill and that he replied, "No, dearie, I didn't have time."

Mrs. Foraker denied that she quarreled with Pelham on that occasion because he asked her not to drink so much and asserted that Mr. Pelham asked her to have a second glass of sherry. She also denied that Mr. Pelham had handed her the \$350 in a taxicab while leaving the Biltmore.

Saw Him With Another.

She told of having seen him with another woman, but denied Mr. McManus' insinuation that she was jealous of Mr. Pelham. "I was not half as jealous of him as he was of me," she said.

"Isn't it true that the other woman is back of this whole proceeding?" Mr. McManus asked.

"No, the check for \$350 is back of it," she replied. "Mr. Pelham threatened my life two dozen times and I have a witness in the courtroom to prove it."

Mr. McManus pronounced the affair as another case of a woman scorned in his last words to the court. Mrs. Foraker's counsel will submit a brief.