

# PLUNGED TO DEATH.

## Horrible Fate of a Wife and Mother.

### She Falls Thirty Feet From a Window.

#### The Accident Occurred on Twenty-ninth and Dolores Streets.

Julius Carstensen opened his grocery and barroom at 5:50 o'clock yesterday morning, as is his custom. His store is located at the corner of Dolores and Twenty-ninth streets.

For fifteen minutes, as near as he can judge, he had been waiting on customers, and while grinding some coffee he heard a fall that was dull and sickening from his residence just above, on the Twenty-ninth-street side.

Rushing out of the Dolores-street exit he looked down **Twenty-ninth street** and there saw the prostrate body of his wife on the sidewalk. Neighbors had seen the accident and were running to the assistance of the unfortunate woman. The husband did not heed them, but lifted the limp form of his wife in his arms and carried her up stairs and placed her on the bed. She was not yet fully dressed, and had evidently just arisen from her couch. He implored her to speak, but her lips were mute, the eyes closed and the form quivering from the effect of the cruel fall.

The noise had aroused the household, and the three children, two boys and a baby girl, sought the bedside and called to their mother and went into hysterics when it was apparent that she was dead.

The Coroner was notified and the dead-wagon was sent to the house to remove the remains of the wife and mother who had been so full of life and vigor a few moments before. At the Morgue the name of the woman was given as Sophia M. Carstensen. She was a native of Germany, 47 years of age and a housewife. As the Coroner was telephoned a request to keep the matter quiet he resolved to fully investigate the affair, and to that end set the inquest for to-day at 11:30 A. M.

The husband, when seen by a **CHRONICLE** reporter, stated that, as far as he knew, it was certainly the result of an accident. "My wife," he said, between his sobs, "was always in the habit of throwing the bay-window open the first thing in the morning after arising. This morning it was raining, and when she raised the window she probably attempted to pull down the upper sash, which was wet and slippery. It is only about twenty-four inches from the floor to the top of the window-sill, and she evidently lost her balance and fell."

Carstensen then showed the place from which his wife fell. Below was a heavy iron railing upon which her head struck in the descent, causing a fracture of the right side of the skull. The autopsy revealed the fact that such might have been the accident.

Mrs. O'Connor, of 1533 Dolores, just opposite where the accident occurred, saw the fall and was next to the husband.

Some of the neighbors declare that the woman deliberately threw herself out of the window in a fit of hysterics, but this is not borne out by the evidence of eye-witnesses as collected by the reporter. The fall was about thirty feet.

The bereaved husband is quite well known in the Mission, being a wealthy and influential citizen of that section. He owns the store, dwelling and considerable other property.