DESPONDENCY LED TO DEATH.

John W. O'Brien Ends His Life With a Deadly Draught

A SUIT AGAINST HIS FATHER.

He Was a Wayward Son and Scorned Parental Advice—Absolved From Connection With a Shortage That Arose While He Was a Deputy Tax Collector—His Final Messages of Despair.

John W. O'Brien, son of ex-Tax Collector Thomas O'Brien, committed suicide shortly after 6 o'clock last evening by drinking carbolic acid.

The deed was committed in a saloon at 222 McAllister street. It is supposed that ill health and financial difficulties were the causes.

O'Brien went to the saloon a few minutes before 6 o'clock and told the proprietor that he had an appointment to meet Sam Crowley there at that hour. The two stood at the door talking for fifteen or twenty minutes. O'Brien suddenly asked permission to go in the back room and sit down for a few minutes. Five minutes later he appeared in the bar room and handed the proprietor a small vial, about one-fourth full of some liquid, and remarked: "There is the balance of it, Jack."

When asked for an explanation, the young man said he had taken a part of the contents of the bottle, with the intention of ending his life. A moment later he fell on the floor in a convulsion.

The patrol wagon was summoned and in a few minutes the young man was in the Receiving Hospital. The poison had taken effect, however, and he died a few minutes after being laid on the operating table.

In the back room of the saloon three messages were found. O'Brien had written them on the blank side of the cards of Attorney E. P. Morgan. One was directed to Coroner Hughes and read:

*Dear Sir—*This is a clear case of suicide. Ill health and no money the cause.
J. W. O'BRIEN.

On another card was scrawled:

If I had my health I would not care, but you know how it is without it.

On still another card was the following memorandum:

Kindly post letters. I owe Bill White $3; Sam Crowley, $1; John A. Russell, 65 cents; F. Doyle of Los Angeles, $17; F. Noran of Los Angeles, $2 50; George Mitchell of Los Angeles, $2 50; Attorney Morgan, for borrowed money and fee, $15. My last wish is that these be paid.
J. W. O'BRIEN.

People around the City Hall say that O'Brien had been drinking heavily of late, and that he was very despondent because he was out of work and in ill-health. In his pockets was found a subpena citing J. A. Russell, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, to appear in the Superior Court to-day and bring with him the military roll of the years 1889, 1890 and 1891, the testimony to be used in the case of John W. O'Brien vs. Thomas O'Brien.

The bottle which had contained the carbolic acid showed by its label that it had been purchased at the Pavilion Pharmacy, 1249 Market street.

The suicide's father, mother, a brother and two sisters live at 1709 Broderick street. Two other sisters are at present in the country. It was not until several hours after O'Brien's body was taken to the Morgue that news of the suicide was conveyed to the family. His mother and sisters were prostrated with grief, but his brother went to the Morgue to see the body and make arrangements for its conveyance home.

His father said: "I am not greatly surprised at this tragic affair. The boy has been wayward for many years and was inclined to drink and otherwise dissipate. On two occasions I sent him to take the Keeley cure. When I was elected Tax Collector I gave him a clerical position in a fairly good place. He was not intrusted with the handling of any money while there, so he could not have been concerned in the shortage that occurred during the last six months of my administration. While he was employed by me I sought to save a portion of his wages, and it was for this reason that he left home two months ago and served me with notice of a suit to compel an accounting. He was twenty-six years of age and lived at home with us until he concluded to bring a suit against me. He was impulsive and erratic, yet I never thought he would end his days in such a terrible manner. He was despondent for a while because of enforced idleness. I gave him money to buy clothes the day before he went away. He had his peculiar faults, but was not dishonest. We will have his body brought home and the past shall be buried with the dead."

STOCKS AND BONDS.

The Mexican and Seg. Belcher Mining companies levied assessments of 25c and 10c per share respectively yesterday.

The following were the transactions in the San Francisco Stock Exchange yesterday:

MORNING SESSION—9:30 A. M.

400 Alpha	17c		750 G & C	1 00	
400 Alta	20c		200 Iowa	7c	
150 Andes	70c		500 Mexican	1 15	
100 do	69c		200 do	1 10	
300 Belcher	90c		500 Ophir	2 75	
600 Bodie	90c		100 Overman	23c	
600 B & B	1 60		350 Potosi	68c	
100 Bullion	25c		100 do	70c	
200 Chollar	42c		50 do	69c	
1350 C C & V	4 50		200 Savage	66c	
600 do	4 55		100 do	65c	
100 do	4 45		200 S Nevada	86c	
100 Con N Y	3c		400 Seg Belcher	8c	
500 Crown Point	75c		200 Union	67c	
350 do	76c		100 do	68c	
100 H & N	78c		200 Utah	8c	
300 do	80c		250 Yellow Jacket	64c	
100 do	79c				

AFTERNOON SESSION—2:30 P. M.

200 Andes	70c		150 Justice	20c	
250 Belcher	95c		350 Mexican	1 20	
450 B & B	1 65		100 Mono	20c	
100 Bodie	75c		325 Ophir	2 90	
200 Bulwer	10c		50 do	2 95	
200 Caledonia	16c		200 Overman	21c	
100 Challenge	45c		200 Potosi	73c	
200 C C & V	4 75		300 do	72c	
150 do	4 70		100 Savage	68c	
10 do	4 85		50 Seg Belcher	7c	
250 Crown Point	81c		300 Sierra Nevada	88c	
200 do	80c		100 Silver Hill	5c	
100 do	82c		50 Utah	8c	
1000 G & C	1 05		100 Y Jacket	66c	
150 Iowa	7c				

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

	Bid.	Ask.		Bid.	Ask.
Alpha Con	—	17	H & N	80	83
Alta	18	19	Holmes	30	—
Andes	68	71	Jackson	—	30
Belle Isle	—	10	Julia	—	5
Belcher	98	1 00	Justice	21	23
Best & Belch	1 60	1 70	Kentuck	10	—
Benton Con	50	—	Lady Wash	—	5
Bulwer	9	10	Mexican	1 15	1 20
Bodie	82	—	Mono	—	20
Bullion	22	25	Navajo	—	10
Caledonia	15	17	Nev Queen	—	10
Challenge	43	45	Occidental	—	4
Commonwlth	—	5c	Ophir	2 90	2 95
Chollar	43	45	Overman	21	25
C C & Va	4 65	4 70	Potosi	70	73
Confidence	1 20	—	Savage	66	68
Con Imperial	—	4	S Belcher	6	8
Con N Y	3	5	Scorpion	6	10
Crown Point	80	85	S Nevada	85	90
Exchequer	10	12	Silver Hill	—	5
E S Nevada	—	5	Union Con	68	70
Eureka Con	25	—	Utah	—	9
Grand Prize	5	10	Y Jacket	66	67
G & C	1 10	1 15			

Stock and Bond Exchange.

The transactions in the Stock and Bond Exchange yesterday were as follows:

Morning Sales—100 Hawaiian Com'l & Sugar, 7; 50, 7¼; 170, 7¼; 125 Hutchinson S P Co, 9¼. $2,000 S V 6 per cent Bonds, 119.

Afternoon—750 Hawaiian Com'l & Sugar, 7¼; 100 Hutchinson S P Co, 9¼; $5,000 S P of A bonds, 90¼; $6,000 S P of Cal 6 per cent bonds, 107¾; 100 Vigorit Powder, 1¼.

Sales Between Boards—Morning—100 Hawaiian Com'l & Sugar, 6¾; 300, 6¾; $1,000 Market-st Cable bonds, 121.