

A PROBABLE MURDER.

John Semmonian, an Armenian, Shot
by a Fellow-Countryman.

FOUR BULLETS WERE FIRED IN-
TO THE MAN'S BODY.

His Death Expected at Any Mo-
ment.—The Assailant Under Ar-
rest.—The Affair Occurred in a
Tenement House in Furlong
Court, Chalkstone Avenue.

In an Armenian tenement house in Furlong court, directly in the rear of 298 Chalkstone avenue, about 1:30 yesterday afternoon, John Semmonian, an Armenian about 46 years old, was shot by Chabour Chougslan, a native of Harpoot, Turkey in Asia. Semmonian was shot four times in the upper part of the body, and was taken to the Rhode Island Hospital, where his death is momentarily expected. His assailant was arrested by Franklin McGair, driver of the patrol wagon at the 2d station, who took him to that station assisted by Deputy Sheriff Samuel E. Gardiner. Here he was locked up to await the result of his victim's injuries.

Chougslan is about 20 years younger than his victim, being 26 years of age. He worked at the Rhode Island Locomotive Works, and has been in this country about two years. He has a wife and child in Harpoot. His victim is a laborer, who has lived in the United States about seven years, four years of which time have been spent in Providence. The men first met about seven weeks ago. Chougslan, who lived on Derry street, was induced to call on Semmonian at his home, in the rear of 298 Chalkstone avenue, and here, he claims, Semmonian ill-used him. He brooded over the affair and finally determined to kill Semmonian and then commit suicide. He purchased a fine 35-calibre, self-cocking, five-chambered revolver and a box of cartridges at a down town store during the latter part of last week and loaded the weapon.

Sunday night he called on Semmonian intending to kill him then, but there were visitors present, and he delayed



THE MURDEROUS ASSAILANT.

the murder until a time when they should be alone. Yesterday he took the loaded revolver, put seven extra cartridges in his pocket, together with a good sized knife in a sheath, and started for Semmonian's lodgings on Furlong court. He arrived there about 1:30 and went at once up stairs to Semmonian's tenement. Here he found the man, he was looking for and immediately asked him in Armenian 'Can I come here to live?'

'No,' replied Semmonian, angrily. Chougslan then whipped out his knife, which, although dull on the blade, had a sharp point, and made a lunge at Semmonian. The two men differ considerably in size. Chougslan is small, and weighs about 120 pounds, while Semmonian was much larger. As Chougslan lunged, Semmonian closed in on him and after a struggle, in which Chougslan received a slight cut on the chest, Semmonian secured the knife. Chougslan then drew his revolver and fired four shots, all taking effect.

The first bullet struck Semmonian in the right shoulder near the neck. The second ball buried itself in the centre of the victim's chest. The third entered the right chest near the nipple, and the last struck the man in the lower part of the body.

Chougslan then ran down the stairs into the yard, closely followed by Semmonian, who was rapidly becoming weak from loss of blood. The sound of the shooting and the noise of the wrangle attracted a large crowd.

Morris Chalef, a shoemaker at 266 Chalkstone avenue, at the entrance to Furlong court, was opposite the house and ran in as soon as he heard the shots. Driver Franklin McGirr, who was passing on his way to the 2d station after dinner, ran in the yard and placed Chougslan under arrest just as the latter handed the revolver to Chalef, saying that he had killed Semmonian and was glad of it.

Deputy Sheriff Samuel E. Gardiner, who was serving a writ of dispossession on a family near there, assisted McGair to take his prisoner to the 2d station. Word was sent to that station and officers responded. Semmonian was placed in a wagon and taken to the station house. His condition was there seen to be critical, and the ambulance was summoned. Dr. Charles J. Smith made a hasty examination and dressed the wounds temporarily, after which the man was taken to the acci-

dent ward at the Rhode Island Hospital, where Drs. William R. McGuirk and Charles H. Higgins made him as comfortable as possible. It was seen that the injuries were mortal, and that death would be a question of only a short time.

Coroner Eugene H. Lincoln was called, and by the aid of an Armenian interpreter sent from the 2d station took the dying man's ante-mortem statement.

Chougsian was placed in a cell at the station, and his weapons, including the revolver, knife and the flattened bullet, which had gone through Semmonian's body and struck the wall of the room, were taken possession of by Capt. Reuben R. Baker.

Chougsian, after being locked up, said that he went to the house with the purpose of killing Semmonian in revenge for the way he had degraded him. He asked if his victim was dead, and when told that he was still lingering, expressed regret that he had not fired the other cartridge at him and finished his work.

Semmonian's story of the shooting, as given to Coroner Lincoln at the hospital yesterday afternoon, differs somewhat from that given by Chougsian and others. Semmonian says that Chougsian first fired two shots at him, after which he followed him to a lounge, where he had gone to lie down, and fired two more shots. Chougsian then went down stairs and as he did so threw his revolver over his head, up the stairs.

Semmonian says that he followed his assailant down the stairs, and picking up the revolver gave it to Chalef. Driver McGair says that he took the weapon from the hand of the murderer, and Morris Chalef says that Chougsian gave the revolver to him and several Armenians corroborate this.