

PARKERSBURG IS EXCITED

Over the Mysterious Assault of Mrs. Roberts, Yesterday Morning.

Earl Easley, the Negro, Arrested Upon Suspicion, Guarded by the Police—Feared That He May be Lynched—The Negroes are in High Dudgeon Over the Affair. Work of the Blood Hounds Easley's Shoes Fit the Footprints Found About the House.

Special to the Register.

Parkersburg, W. Va., August 15.—This city is still greatly excited over the dastardly assault, committed early this morning, upon Mrs. Roberts, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Deem, and there is little doubt that if the people were certain the man under arrest was guilty, they would make an effort, at least, to take the law into their own hands.

The negro population is more excited and more deeply incensed, if possible, than the whites, for the reason that they deprecate the actions of one of their own race which have placed many of them under unjust suspicion during the past eighteen months.

To-night the jail is guarded, and it is reported that the entire police force has been ordered to hold itself within easy reach of the jail, where Easley is confined, so they may repel any attack that may be made.

Mrs. Roberts is in a serious condition, not only from the wounds which she received, but from the nervous shock which followed the assault. She is hardly in a critical condition, but is very nervous, and serious results are feared by the doctors.

The officers feel confident that Earl Easley, who is under arrest, is the guilty man, though Mrs. Roberts was unable to positively identify him.

At the back of the Deems house, where the villain who assaulted Mrs. Roberts attempted to enter a window, he left very well defined footprints, even the shoe nails showing, in the soft, loamy earth of a flower bed. Easley's shoes, a long pointed pair, fit these marks perfectly, and the officers say they found loamy earth upon the shoes when Easley, was first arrested. Easley's hat had a dent across the front, where it may have struck a window sash as he entered the window. An old handkerchief was found in his coat, and the police believe it is the one used in making the weapon used upon Mrs. Roberts.

Oliver Littleton's blood hound, "Nell," was put on the track as soon as possible after the crime was discovered. She took the scent and went across lots and into an alley, and round several streets, winding up in front of a door, which she would have entered had she been permitted by her master. She was tried several times, and each time, took the same track, and went to the same place. It is not known if Easley was at this house or not, and it may be the dog has mixed the scent at some point where the tracks of the assailant of Mrs. Roberts and those of the person going to the house in question crossed. There is no reason to suspect any one living in the house.

There is not much doubt among the people in general that the person who assaulted Mrs. Roberts is the same who committed the series of crimes of a similar character in this city during the past year and a half, though it is hard to doubt that Sherman, the negro in the penitentiary for assaulting Miss Wetherell, is guilty, after Miss Wetherell's positive identification of him.

Easley will be given a preliminary hearing before Justice D. J. Jones on Monday. Mrs. Roberts was not able to attend a hearing to-day.