



Title: first American pedestrian fatality

Source: Front page The World 9/14/1899

Location: www.citystreets.org/library

Henry H. Bliss, Said to Be a Relative of the Ex-Secretary, Fatally Hurt.

HAD JUST GOT OFF A STREET CAR.

Was Assisting a Woman to Alight When the Motor Cab Ran Him Down.

Henry H. Bliss, a real estate broker, No. 41 Wall street, was run over by an automobile at Central Park West and Seventy-fourth street, last night.

Mr. Bliss's head and chest were crushed and he will die. He is said to be a relative of Cornelius N. Bliss, the merchant, of this city, who was lately Secretary of the Interior in President McKinley's Cabinet.

Mr. Bliss and a Miss Lee were alighting from a south-bound Eighth avenue trolley car. Mr. Bliss, on the pavement, was assisting Miss Lee to alight when the automobile came whizzing along.

It veered toward the car to escape a truck, struck Mr. Bliss, knocked him down and ran over him.

He lay senseless, his brain substance escaping from the compound fracture of his skull. Miss Lee shrieked and became hysterical, the passengers in the car grew excited, a crowd gathered.

Dr. David Orr Edson, of No. 33 West Seventy-first street, said to be a son of ex-Mayor Edson, was in the automobile returning from a visit to a patient in Harlem. He instantly alighted, sent a call to Roosevelt Hospital for an ambulance and, until it arrived, did what little he could to save Mr. Bliss's life.

At the hospital the surgeons said there is no hope for him.

The driver of the automobile, Arthur Smith, of No. 151 West Sixty-second street, was locked up in the West Sixty-eighth street station. He protested he did not see Mr. Bliss ahead of his vehicle and that he turned toward the car only to avoid collision with the truck.

For blocks, Central Park West in that neighborhood is known to motormen and drivers as the "dangerous stretch." Many accidents have happened there.

Mr. Bliss lived at No. 225 West Seventy-fifth street, where Mrs. Kelly, a widow, keeps a boarding-house. He is said to have a son and daughter who reside in this city.