

THE
LIFE,
TRIAL, CONDEMNATION,
AND
DYING ADDRESS,
OF THE
THREE THAYERS!



Who were Executed for the Murder of John Love, at Buffalo, N. Y. June 17th, 1825.

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BUFFALO:
Printed for the Publisher.

11640 - Jan 07

A.

SKETCH OF THEIR LIFE.

Nelson Thayer, Israel Thayer, Jr. and Isaac Thayer, being about to receive the just punishment due to their crimes, by being cut off from the land of the living, and from among men, have detailed, since their condemnation, to various visitors of their prison, at different times, the following facts and history of their lives and conduct in the world :

They are all brothers and the sons of Israel Thayer, and all born in the county of Worcester, Mass. The oldest, Nelson, was 25 years of age ; Israel Jr. the next oldest, was 23, and Isaac the youngest was 21. They have all been bred up to farming, and have had but little care taken of their education. This they know by having seen others around them who were bred to the same profession, possessing much more knowledge of mankind, and of business and books than themselves. They all at an early day, contracted habits of idleness, and from this they date the commencement of that unhappy career, which is now cut short and ended upon the gallows. Their father about 8 years since, removed from Mass. to this part of the country, and brought them all with him. He chose a farm in Boston, Erie, or (as it was then called) Niagara county, where they were all more or less employed in cultivating the soil. The land being good they had but little trouble in raising produce enough for their own support. When they were not busy upon the farm, they were seldom in useful employment, and their time was often badly spent with idle people, at taverns and other lounging places. In 1819, Nelson, the oldest of them was married, and in 1824, Israel Jr. the second in age was also married. Isaac has never had a wife ; but while the other two took up farms, he remained at home being under age. Neither of them was improved in his habits as he grew older. This they have seen, would have been prevented, had they, in early life, given a right direction to their thoughts, and instead of attending shooting matches and hanging about taverns, had employed their time at home, and in reading instructive books. As they were all neighbours, after they were married they still associated together as before, and in proportion as they indulged in indolence, their business suffered by neglect. For some time, however, they managed to get their support from their farms, by adding to their product all that they could obtain upon credit from others, This practice though it helped them at the moment, was very ruinous to their estates at last. Their creditors became uneasy, and commenced prosecutions against them. These for a time they found means to settle, by procuring loans from different people, still, however, their

affairs were in a bad condition, which was more owing to neglect than any other cause.

In the month of Oct. last, JOHN LOVE, the unhappy man, for whose murder they were executed, came to the town of Boston, and boarded at one of their dwellings. He had no regular employment, but having considerable money, he continued to increase it continually by loaning it in small sums and for short periods. They being always in want of assistance, had frequent recourse to loans of Mr. Love, to relieve their embarrassments, and get clear of public officers. It was not long that they managed in this way, before they found themselves in the same trouble with Love, that they had been with others when he relieved them. When they had borrowed money and paid up an execution, they never thought of going to work to provide for the payment of the loan; but on the contrary when the debt was paid and the officer gone, they would resume their idle habits and increase their debts till the day of payment again arrived, and found them unprepared. Their affairs getting worse every day, and knowing no way to settle the just and lawful demands of Love, it was one day proposed when they were all together, to take his life, and thus settle his demands against them! This was 4 or 5 weeks before the fatal deed was done, during which time they kept their purpose in view and talked of it together.

At length finding their embarrassments increasing, they resolved to carry their bloody purpose into execution on the evening of the 15th December last. On that day Israel butchered his hogs, and as that would cause blood to appear about the house, they thought it a good time for their purpose. It was agreed, therefore, among them, that Love should be induced to go that night, from Nelson's house to that of Israel, where they would assemble to cut up the pork and spend the evening. They were careful to send a boy who lived with Israel, home to spend the night with his mother, who lived near, and Israel's wife was induced to go on a visit for the evening to a neighbour's house. They were successful in getting Love to the house, and there the arrangements for the fatal deed were completed. It was agreed that Isaac should shoot Love through the window, with a rifle, which was loaded by Israel and left near a log, while the other brothers should fix his attention by conversation. This was done, Love was sitting by the fire, talking with Nelson, when Isaac came to the window and shot the unfortunate Love through the head. It was agreed that if the shot did not entirely kill the victim, he should be dispatched by Nelson and Israel who were in the room. When Isaac had discharged the shot he went to a neighbour's, stopped a while and returned; as Love did not fall, Nelson with the meat-axe he was using, gave him a blow behind the ear, and back of the head. The last brought him to the floor, and a third cut the neck and face very much.— They then drew the body out of the house, and secreted it near it. Nelson and Israel finished cutting up the pork; and Isaac came back. On entering the house he said, there appeared to have been

some butchering done there, but he had performed his part and should do no more. Having said this he went away. Two of them, Nelson and Israel, then took up the body and carried it a few rods, to a brook, intending to bury it in the bottom of the stream; but were prevented by a rocky bottom a foot from the surface. They then buried it by the side of a log near the place. They then went to the house of Mr. Irish, where Israel's wife was, and after staying some time, they went back to the fatal house, taking Israel's wife with them. Isaac says that when he first put his rifle to his face to fire, he was so affected that it was with difficulty he could compose his nerves so as to get off the gun. They immediately took possession of all Love's property and cash, and commenced disposing of it. Finding a power of attorney necessary for the collection of his debts, they forged one, and commenced suits for his demands. The murder was committed on the 15th of December, 1824, and although much inquiry was made for Love, yet no notice was taken of the circumstances, until late in February, 1825, when search was made throughout the neighbourhood for the body of Love, which was finally found where they buried it. They were all three arrested and taken to prison, at Buffalo, together with their father, who they say was innocent.



A

SKETCH OF THEIR TRIAL.



At a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, held at the Court House in Buffalo, on Tuesday, the 19th day of April, A. D. 1825.

PRESENT—His Honor REUBEN H. WALWORTH, Judge of the 4th District; EBENEZER WALDEN, first Judge, and SAMUEL RUSSEL, CHRISTOPHER DOUGLASS, and JOHN G. CAMP, Judges of Erie Common Pleas.

The People vs. Isaac Thayer and Israel Thayer, jr. Indictment for the murder of JOHN LOVE.

Dr. *Daniel Ingolls* sworn. Says that he is a physician and one of the Coroners of the county—was called as a Coroner at Boston in February last, on the body of John Love, at a school house, on the Eighteen Mile Creek, in the lower part of said Boston; believes it was on the 24th February last—held the inquest at place aforesaid; there was a body said to be that of John Love; there ap-

peared to have been a shot hole that might have been through the head, near the outer angle of the left eye or a little below.—Witness assisted on the examination of the body with Dr. Gould—hole clear through the head—Witness' impression the ball went below the cavity of the brain; thinks this would not have produced immediate death—if it had struck the brain he thinks it might not have produced immediate death, but in the end would have produced death; the hole was probably one caused by an ounce or rifle ball—the hole on the right side not as large as the one on the left—another wound on the vertex or crown of the head, by the back part of the head up and down; thinks caused by the head of an axe, or some other such instrument—bones fractured and by pressure the bones would recede; bone might be fractured or injured two inches, and from half an inch to an inch in width, in the back of the head—which would probably have produced death—another bruise under the left ear, a fracture, the same instrument, the skin bruised—the blow might have produced a concussion of the brain; scalp broken through; another cut across the face in a sloping direction; a part cut or torn; cannot tell by what instrument; part of the bones of the upper and lower jaw laid bare; don't recollect which side of the face; next appeared the bridge of the nose, gristle and bone broken; the neck separated; the feet appeared as though they might have been frozen; the neck evidently broken; by the manner in which this was, it would probably have produced death, by injuring the spinal marrow; probably would have produced *paralysis* of the lower parts; the wound appeared to have been cut down into the wind pipe; thinks the edge of an axe would have produced such a wound with a drawing or glancing blow.

Cross examined.—Did not examine the hole with his finger, but probed it—had an idea that the wound in the back of the head was made by some iron instrument, did not observe any fracture on the bone of the face—it must have been a powerful or glancing blow with a sword to make such a wound—the wound was an oblique direction across the mouth—did not discover the chin bone broken, but might have been dislocated—his impression that the wound was made by an axe, a hatchet, or broad axe—from the appearance should suppose it to have been made by some short instrument if the blow was a glancing one—corpse smelt disagreeably—had begun to putrify—winter had been open, part of the time thawy weather, five wounds about the head, neck and throat—might have been dead from four to six weeks.

John Stafford sworn. Says he first discovered the body; he was not there when the body was taken away, but saw it at the school house. John Love had a scar on his forehead by which he knew him, and has no doubt it was Love's body. Love had dark hair.

Cross examined. Before he got on the log, he observed the ground had been lately moved or stirred; in passing within eight or ten feet would have discovered the ground moved—the logs looked as though there had been somebody there after wood.

Samuel Washburn sworn. Says that on the 15th Dec. the last time he saw John Love, not far from sundown—prisoners went towards Israel Thayer, jr's. in company with Isaac and Nelson—they went the road to Israel Thayer, jr's—has seen the coat at Charles Pierce's, saw the same coat on Love often.

Wm. Thompson sworn. Says he thinks he saw John Love on the 15th December last pass the saw mill, in company with Nelson, and Israel was ahead, going over the bridge to Israel Thayer, jr's.

Mrs. Sally Thayer (Nelson Thayer's wife) sworn. She was acquainted with John Love—saw him last at her house; Isaac was about the house; Israel in the house; she had gone away in the morning, and got back sun an hour high; and Love was on his colt, and Isaac came into the house; Israel asked my man to go and cut up the hogs; and her husband said that the meat would take no hurt if it stood till morning; Israel then asked Love to go home with him; Love said he thought he would stay at her house; Israel asked her husband to go, and Love said if her husband went he didn't care if he went along; Israel asked Isaac if he would not go along; and he said he didn't care if he did; they all started off pretty much together about sun-down; don't recollect seeing them any more, only Love getting on his horse; didn't see a rifle; didn't hear Isaac say any thing about a rifle, Isaac was at her house in the morning. Isaac returned next morning before witness was up; Isaac did not make it his home at her house, but at Mr. Washburn's; there was one person who returned with him; should think between day-light and sun-rise; did not stay long; expects he went to Washburn's.

Cross examined. Washburn's is near by; Love had frequently been at her house before; going to Israel, jr's from Washburn's would go by her house; her eldest child is five years old; and another person, a girl 13 years of age, Laura Wilson was there the evening before Isaac came there; says that her husband was absent all night and returned in the morning with Isaac; her husband was frequently gone nearly all night long.

Wendal Morton sworn. Says the latter part of December, a few days before Christmas, he saw Isaac, and asked him if Love had cleared out; and he said he had, and told witness that "I had a clew on Love's property;" witness told Isaac, if "he did not shave Love as Love did others, he," witness, "would flog him." Isaac said, "damn him, I guess he is where he won't trouble me."

Cross examined. Witness understood that Love had cleared out, on account of the forgery up the lake.

Sylvester Irish sworn. Says he has heard Isaac say, in the month of January, that Love was gone; asked Isaac how he had secured Love for all this property; Isaac informed witness that he had not assigned his article for land to Love; shewed witness his article for land; and shewed witness an article of land on Chesnut Ridge, assigned by Nelson Thayer to Rector, and from him to Isaac;

Isaac came to witness' house after he was abed; witness asked Isaac where John Love was; Isaac excused the matter; asked Isaac if he would shew him John Love for his oxen and rifle; "no, by God, I wouldn't show you John Love for \$200;" Isaac had intimated before this that when he went away he had seen John Love; witness was not home the day the Thayers killed their hogs; came home that evening; Isaac came there that evening early, and staid some time; came home about sunset, Israel, jr. and wife came there while Isaac was there; Israel, jr. returned immediately, leaving his wife there; his wife and Isaac staid awhile and Isaac went back to Israel, jr's. for something for Mrs. Thayer; was gone some time, an hour or more, returned, staid but a little while, and went away before Mrs. Thayer. Israel, jr's. wife staid till late that evening; no one came with Israel, jr. when he came after his wife, staid half an hour—witness laid down before the fire; did not go to sleep; Isaac came into the house one morning before he was up; don't recollect whether before or after they killed hogs; brought a rifle to witness to be cut or cleaned.

Cross examined. Isaac came there first after dark; about nine o'clock when Israel, jr. came after his wife—conversation in the evening as usual on a visit; impression that they went away between nine and eleven o'clock; soon after witness and wife went to bed; saw the colt at Israel, jr's.—Isaac said he had been towards Batavia, that the colt's ears hung down before he got to his journey's end; Nelson observed to Isaac that he had better take the colt along, and if he found the "short fellow," to deliver him to him.

Benjamin Fowler sworn. Says that he purchased a colt on the 23d or 24th of Dec. of Isaac Thayer—colt called 3 years old this spring—a pumpkin and milk colour—recollects it was a day, or day but one, before Christmas—gave \$40 for it—Isaac said if he could not sell the colt here he should go to Batavia—said he had the colt of his brother—witness asked him if it was the colt that one Thayer had down there in the fall, he said *yes*.

Judah Simon sworn. Says that he heard Israel, jr. say on the 20th, that he had a right to sell the colt, and offered it to him.

Cross examined. Asked Israel, jr. if John Love had sold him the colt, he replied that Isaac had the care of Love's business; and had a right to sell the colt.

Mrs. Sally Thayer called again. Recollects that Isaac was at her house and the old man, on the evening of the 17th Dec. between midnight and day, and wanted Isaac to go and help him on with a large log on the saw-mill; the old man went to bed; Isaac went away; the boy said he would go before day and help his father; the old gentleman went away and came back with Isaac, and after Isaac came into the house and asked her husband if he was not agoing to get up, they all then went out, and the old man came back and went to bed; her husband and Isaac came back before day; witness went to sleep; Isaac lay on the floor; her house is about thirty or forty rods from Washburn's.

Ebenezer Walden sworn. Testifies that Isaac and Nelson Thayer were brought before him on Wednesday early on habeas corpus; they wanted time to procure John Love; witness inquired where they expected Love was? they observed on the other side of the River, below the ferry and above Queenston; Mr. Torry had proposed to go and ascertain whether Love was there or not; witness required that some credible person should go, either Mr. Torry or some other one, they only wanted till Saturday to procure Love.

Reuben Irish, Sworn. Recollects assisting Mr. Washburn tend a coal pit on the night of 15th December last, and recollects a gun was fired, appeared some distance off, when he was going to the coal pit, 10 or 15 rods from the house, but cannot tell at what time of night.

Amos Smith sworn. Says John Love left a note with witness for collection against Caleb Pierce; Isaac received the money, and came with a power; witness thought the power was incomplete; thought the signature not Love's.

Cross examined. Love used to come to his office; he has seen Love write five or six times; witness thinks the signing of the power of attorney in Nelson Thayer's hand writing; would not know John Love's hand writing; Isaac Thayer commenced a suit before D. Swain, Esq. and recovered a judgement; and was paid by virtue of the power of attorney; Isaac said he had seen Love within a few days; on the 15th day of January Isaac called, and witness told him if Love would come to his office, he would pay the money over, to which Isaac replied, "my God, Love is farther from this country than any body has an idea of."

D. Swain, Esq, sworn. Says he was the magistrate who examined Isaac and Nelson on the 19th and 21st February, then produced the examination then taken; said Isaac had no improper inducements held out to him to confess any thing; had counsel, &c. Examination then read by District Attorney; [too long for insertion here;] but the amount of it was, that "Isaac last saw John Love in Boston, and from 4 to 10 days after they had parted at the school-house; as related on the 19th, was with Love at the school-house about sunrise; Love gave Isaac all his papers; departed in haste, as a man approached who Love had heard was after him; had not his pocket-book, but papers; saw Love two other times in a field; never saw Love in a house; nor at his father's; nor with any one; went and returned each time; gone two nights each time he went to see Love; last he saw Love 3 or 4 weeks ago; not seen him within 3 weeks."

N. D. Rector says he has no doubt that the body he saw at the school-house was that of John Love; don't recollect scar on Love's forehead; body had such scar; knew Love well, and the great coat; Love's hair was dark.

Nehemiah Smith says he was acquainted with John Love; thinks the body and great coat were Love's; Love had a scar in his

forehead, 1 or 1 1-2 inches long; Love said it was made by the kick of a horse; also a scar on his left foot. Witness examined the corpse.

Aaron Benson sworn, Says he saw John Love on Sunday Dec. 12, going south on a light coloured colt; lives nearly south of Israel Thayer, jr's; on Saturday Love came to witness and wanted him to trim a colt; might have seen Love the morning after; two days previous to this, Love had a judgement against witness for \$20; witness had paid all but \$4 by turning out a note against Job Whipple, and a town order; Love left the place between the 1st and 10th December; heard reports that Love had committed a forgery in Pennsylvania; had a conversation with Isaac and Nelson the day after they were examined, of five minutes in length; witness advised them to produce John Love, for they were bringing trouble upon their friends and acquaintance; Nelson said if they should send Torry, he could not see him; they did not seem to say much about it; witness offered to go 300 miles after Love at his own expense; they turned away, has had no quarrel with them; married their sister; note against Whipple turned out was forty-eight bushels of corn.

The Jury returned a Verdict of "Guilty," at 12 o'clock, M. against the prisoners.

[The minutes of the second trial were taken, but on examining them, we find no material facts relating to the prisoner, which are not presented on the first trial—we therefore think it unnecessary to copy them. It may be well to observe that Nelson Thayer was reserved for trial after his brothers in order to make use of the evidence of his (Nelson's) wife on their trial.]

About 12, M. the Jury returned a Verdict of "Guilty," against the prisoner.

THEIR SENTENCE.

On Monday Morning, 25th, the prisoners were brought to the Court-Room, and in the presence of spectators, his honor, Judge Walworth, pronounced the following SENTENCE:

NELSON, ISRAEL, Jr. and ISAAC THAYER:—

You have been indicted by the Grand Jury of this county, for the murder of John Love, at the town of Boston, on the 15th of December last. You have respectively had fair and impartial trials, in which you have been aided by able and intelligent counsel. After a deliberate and patient investigation of your several cases, by petit juries, they have been constrained and compelled

by their consciences and their oaths, to pronounce each and all of you guilty of the most foul and aggravated murder. Have you or either of you any thing to say, why the sentence of the law should not be pronounced against you in pursuance of your conviction of this offence?

The feelings and emotions with which I enter upon the discharge of the solemn and important duty which devolves upon me, and which I am now about to perform, are too painful to be expressed. To pronounce the dreadful sentence which is to cut a fellow mortal off from society, to deprive him of existence, and to send him to the bar of his Creator and his God, where his everlasting destiny must be fixed to eternity, is at all times and under all circumstances, most painful to the Court. But to be compelled at one and the same time to consign to the gallows three young men, who have just arrived at manhood, standing in the relation to each other of brothers, and connected with society in the tender relations of children, brothers, husbands and fathers—presses on my feelings with a weight, which I can neither resist nor express.

If in the discharge of this most painful duty which can ever devolve on any Court, I should in portraying the horrid circumstances of this case, make use of strong language to express the enormity of your guilt, and the deep depravity which it indicates, I wish you to rest assured it is not with the intention of wounding the feelings of your relations, or for the purpose of adding one pang to your own afflictions, while the hand of an offended God, is pressing so heavily upon you. But it is for the purpose, if possible, to awaken you to a proper sense of your awful situation, and to prepare you to meet the certain and ignominious death which shortly awaits you. It is to endeavor, if possible, to soften your hearts and to produce a reformation in your feelings; that by contrition and repentance, you may be enabled to shun a punishment, infinitely more dreadful than any that can be inflicted, by human laws, the eternal and irretrievable ruin of your guilty souls.

From the testimony which has been given on the trials of your several cases, there is no room to doubt the certainty of your guilt, or the aggravated circumstances attending the perpetration of the bloody deed. The man whom you murdered was your companion and your friend; he had loaned you money to relieve your necessities and to support your families; he was the lenient creditor, renewing and exchanging his judgments and his executions from time to time, to prevent the sacrifice of your property; he was the lodger of your father, and frequently enjoying the hospitalities of your own roofs. In the unsuspecting hour of private confidence you decoyed him to the retired dwelling of Israel Thayer, jr. and there, while he was enjoying the hospitality of the fire-side, you stole upon him unperceived, you aimed the deadly rifle at his head, and with the fatal axe, you mangled and murdered your victim, mingling his blood with that of your butchered swine.

But your guilt and depravity did not stop here. Scarcely had you committed his lifeless corpse to its shallow grave, before you began to collect and to riot upon the spoils of his property. To the crime of murder, you added those of theft, fraud, and forgery, and repeatedly imprecated the vengeance of Heaven upon your perjured souls.

The punishment of death has been denounced against the crime of murder, not only by the laws of all civilized nations, but also by that law which was written by the pen of inspiration, under the dictation of the unerring wisdom of the Most High. And as God himself has prescribed the righteous penalty for this offence, so there are many reasons to believe that very few murders are committed which are not ultimately discovered and the wicked perpetrators thereof brought to merited punishment.

Wretched and deluded men! In vain was the foul deed perpetrated under cover of the darkness of the night; in vain was the little boy sent home to his mother, and the unsuspecting wife removed from her house that no human eye should be near to witness the foul and unnatural murder; in vain did you expect the snows of winter to conceal the grave until the body of your victim could no longer be recognized. You forgot that the eye of your God was fixed upon you; and the eye of that God who suffers not even a sparrow to fall without his notice. You forgot that you were in the presence of Him to whom the light of the day and the darkness of midnight are the same—that he witnessed all your movements; that he even withheld the accustomed snows from falling on the earth, or his breath could melt them when falling, leaves the grave uncovered, and thus exposes you to detection and condemnation.

His vengeance has at length overtaken you—The sword of human justice trembles over you and is about to fall upon your guilty heads. You are about to take your final leave of this world and to enter upon the untried retributions of a never ending eternity. And I beg of you not to delude yourselves with vain hopes of pardon which can never be realized—Your destiny for this world is fixed and your fate inevitable—Let me therefore intreat you individually and collectively by every motive temporal and eternal, to reflect on your present situation and the certain death which shortly awaits you—There is but one who can pardon your offences—There is a Saviour whose blood is sufficient to wash from your souls the guilty stains, even of a thousand murders. Let me therefore intreat you to fly to him for that mercy and that pardon which you must not expect from mortals.

When you again shall have returned to the solitude of your prison, where you will be permitted to remain for a few short weeks, let me intreat you, by all that is still dear to you in time; by all that is still dreadful in the retributions of eternity, that you seriously reflect upon your present situations and upon the conduct of your past lives. Bring to your minds all the aggravated hor-

rors of that dreadful night, when the soul of the murdered Love was sent unprepared into the presence of its God, where you must shortly meet it as an accusing spirit against you. Bring to your recollection the mortal struggles and the dying groans of your murdered friend. Recollect the horror which seized upon you, while you dragged the mangled remains to their place of concealment. Think upon the situation of your aged father to whom you are indebted for your existence. Think of the grief of your distracted and disconsolate mother who has nursed you in the lap of affection and watched over the tender years of your infancy; who must now go down to the grave, sorrowing over the ruins of her family.

Think of the dreadful agonies—think of the unnatural and desolate widowhood to which you have devoted the unfortunate partners of your bed and of your bosoms. Think upon the situation of your poor orphan children, on whom you have entailed everlasting disgrace and infamy; and who are now to be left fatherless and unprotected to the mercy of the world—And when by such reflections as these your obdurate hearts shall become softened, let me again intreat you, before your blood stained hands are raised before the judgment seat of Christ, that you fly for mercy to a Saviour and endeavour to seize upon the salvation of his cross.

Listen now to the dreadful sentence of the law; and then farewell forever—until the court and you with all this assembled audience shall meet together in the general resurrection. You and each of you are to be taken from hence to the prison from whence you came, and from thence to the place of execution, and there on the SEVENTEENTH DAY OF JUNE next, between the hours of twelve at noon and two o'clock in the afternoon, you are to be HANGED BY THE NECK until you are DEAD. And may that GOD whose laws you have broken, and before whose dread tribunal you must then appear, have mercy on your souls!

According to the account of these brothers since the murder, they have experienced much mental suffering. They declare their father innocent—say he knew nothing about it. We are told that they acknowledge that there is no hope for pardon; they study their bibles, and the ministers of religion faithfully attend upon them. May they be prepared for the awful fate that awaits them!

To-day, June 17, 1825, at two o'clock, this tragical scene closed. These three unfortunate brothers have closed their earthly existence, all at the same instant. Many thousands of people witnessed this solemn ceremony. Who can view such a spectacle without weeping over the frailty of human nature, and regretting the necessity of capital punishment? But stern Justice must be satisfied.

There is not probably, a parallel case to this in the history of man. It was truly afflicting to see three young men, brothers, thus brought to an ignominious death for a crime committed to gratify a love for idleness and a lust for money. May all others take warning by their example!!!

Dying Address.

During the three last days of these three unfortunate men, they evinced great anxiety of mind and contrition of heart. No tongue can describe their misery! As the fatal day approached, they seemed more sensibly to realize the awful nature of their crime and its penalty, than they had done before, and to all reasonable questions they seemed willing to reply. Nelson once said, to a person who visited them in prison a few days before the execution, that they had no other excuse to plead in extenuation of their crime, than the fact that Love had obtained almost all their property for small favours, which he had granted them, and then threatened to take it from them and send them to State's Prison besides. He added, "I thought I might as well run the risk of being hung as to lose my property and go to prison too." Clergymen of different denominations have visited them during their confinement, to all of whom they have manifested a willingness to receive instruction.—Towards the last days of their lives, they seemed to be quite humble and penitent, and entertained strong hopes of God's forgiveness. May God have mercy on their souls, and may this awful scene prove a salutary admonition to all.

Again the murderers' ruthless hand
Has stained with blood our happy land;
Again the hapless victim dies,
To lust of gain a sacrifice.

Three brothers bent on crimes and blood,
In bold defiance of their God;
More monstrous than the savage fiend,
Have murdered Love, their nearest friend.

And now condemned in jail they lay,
Waiting, in bitter grief, the day
When they must yield their forfeit breath,
And share the murderer's shameful death.

How awful does their state appear!
Condemned to leave their children dear—
Forego their tender wives' embrace,
And die in misery and disgrace!

And now behold them kneeling low,
In all the wretchedness of woe;
Confess their sins and crimes accurst,
And own their heavy sentence just.

“ We long had plann’d the fatal deed,
And on the horrid crime agreed;
And none except the eye above
To view our deeds, we murdered Love!

“ With hearts as hard as devils have,
We hollowed out the shallow grave;
And vainly hop’d no human eye
Would e’er the mangled corpse espy.

“ What feelings then our soul’s possest!
No subterfuge could yield us rest,
In dreams we saw his ghastly wounds,
And heard his voice in hollow sounds.

“ The wind that whistles by our ears,
Upon its wings his moaning bears;
And tells aloud in accents clear,
That guilt will soon or late appear.

“ The righteous christian never knows
The pangs the sinner undergoes;
No harmony can sound so clear,
But discord mingles in his ear.

“ And now ye guiltless, happy youth,
Whose lives are yet all love and truth,
By our sad end a warning take,
And learn a better choice to make.

“ Oh! never suffer passions vile,
Your thoughts a moment to beguile;
Let no temptations from abroad,
Divert your minds from wisdom’s road.

“ We, like you, are young in years—
But just have left a mother’s fears;
That mother who is doom’d to see
Her children die in infamy!

“ The gallows, now must end our days,
And we must walk the unknown ways
Of that dark world beyond the tomb,
Where all must meet their final doom.

“ Oh, Jesus! hear our earnest cries!
On thee our only hope relies!
No human aid can help us now,
To thee alone we trembling, bow.

“ Had we been taught to read thy word,
The record of our murdered Lord,
The awful crime that bows us down,
Our guilty souls had never known.

“ Left to indulge in sin and lies,
Thy holy Sabbath to despise,
No wonder that this awful fate
Should on our sinful lives await.

“ But now we love that blessed book;
To heaven with fearful eyes we look,
And for a flood of mercy pray,
To wash our thousand sins away.

“ Still mercy, Jesus! is our cry,
In thy blest arms we long to die;
And hope, thro’ boundless grace and love,
To taste thy smiles in realms above.

“ And now to all we bid farewell!
That you may shun the gates of hell,
And never feel the griefs we share,
Is our best wish and dying prayer.”

“ Now see their father, wretch forlorn!
Bow’d down with age, with misery torn,
Lament, with unavailing tears,
His own neglect in former years.

“ Ye parents, blest with children dear,
O! teach them young, God’s word to fear;
Let piety be strong impress’d,
And vice will shun the youthful breast.

Had I been taught these truths in time,
My sons had not in manhood’s prime,
Had reason, with their dying breath,
To curse their parent for their death.

On me alone rest all the blame;
’Twas I who reared them up for shame,
’Twas I who taught them in their youth,
To disregard the words of truth.

How heavily am I repaid,
By truth how much is sin outweigh’d;
A soul in vice, so much bound up,
Can scarcely look to heav’n for hope.

Once more I say to all, beware,
Avoid sin’s death-alluring snare;
Let every thought, and word, and deed,
Be governed by our Saviour’s creed.

Then shall heaven’s bright glorious sun
Illumine your path till time is done;
And when the last loud trump shall sound,
Its heavenly light your souls surround.”