

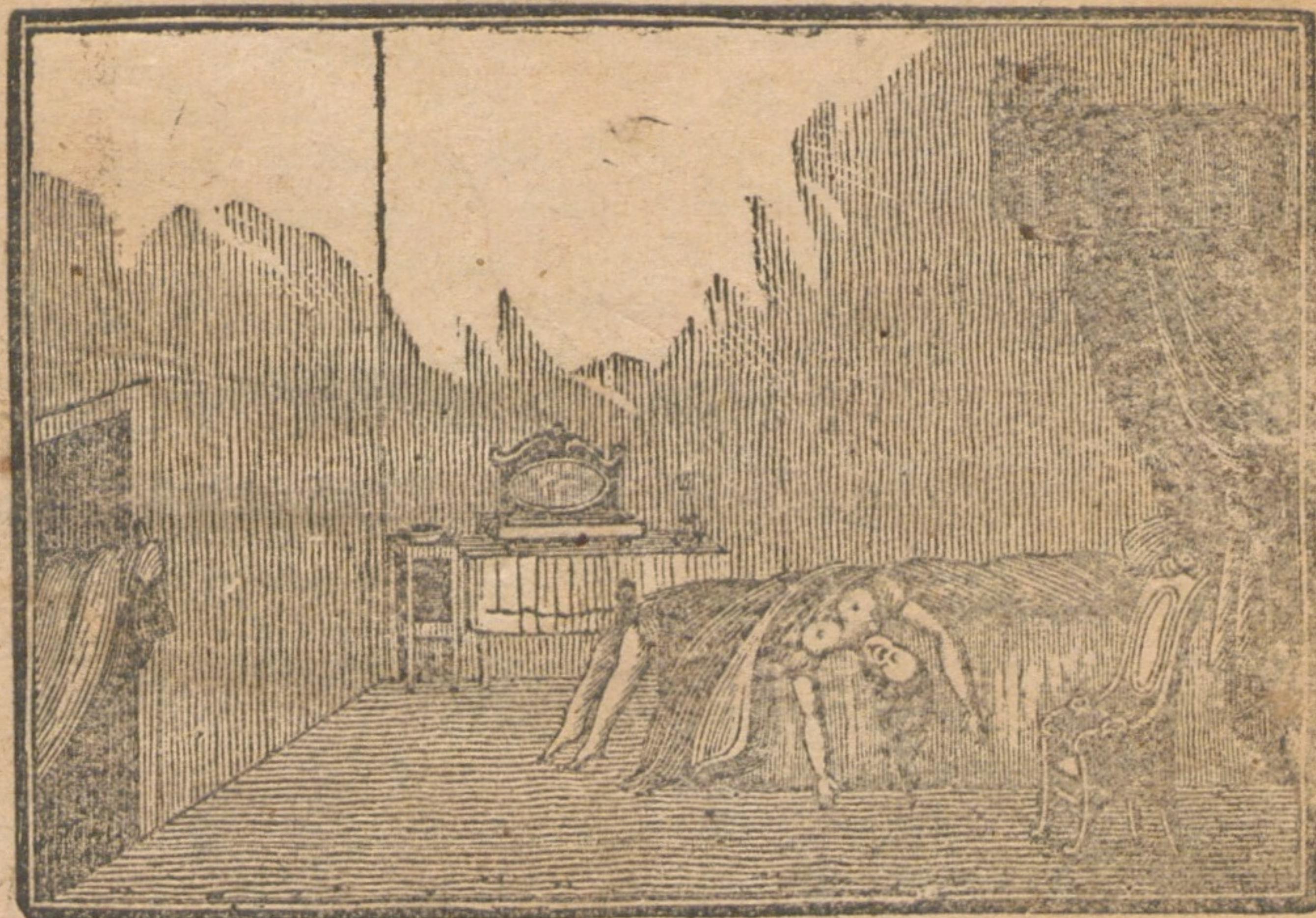
The Thomas Street

TRAFFORDY.



TRIAL OF  
ROBINSON!

## *Murder of Ellen Jewett.*



INTERESTING PARTICULARS

Connected with the APPALLING TRAGEDY, and

## **Trial of the Prisoner; AN IMPRESSIVE WARNING**

To Youth; affording striking Evidence of the Misery resulting from Licentiousness,  
and that Sin, and Shame, and Sorrow, await the Frequenters of

## **DENS OF INFAMY!**

“Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth.”

NEW-YORK:  
PRINTED FOR AND SOLD BY THE BOOKSELLERS  
1836.



11643 - Law 47



THE  
*THOMAS-STREET TRAGEDY.*

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“ When wandering, and when erring youth,  
“ Forsake the paths of Peace and Truth,  
“ Disgrace and Shame attend their ways,  
“ And Mis’ry marks their closing days.”

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THE miseries inevitably attendant upon vice, were never, perhaps, more strikingly developed, than in the appalling fate which cut short the earthly career of the fair and unfortunate Ellen Jewett. To the seducer her untimely end affords a lesson, which ought to awaken the deepest feelings of contrition and remorse. To the vain, the fickle, and the thoughtless, of the softer sex, it appeals in language the most persuasive and powerful. It exhibits woman, when deprived of that “ immediate jewel,” Virtue, as subject to the most bitter calamities, and ending the few brief years allotted to human existence in all the recklessness of dissipation and effrontery of Vice. Let the unthinking pause in the midst of their unhallowed pursuits, ere they become bewildered on the brink of that precipice to which they are hastening, and a sudden and fearful doom fill up the measure of their iniquities.

The major part of the following interesting particulars are collated from the columns of the penny Morning Herald, a paper conducted with consummate ability by its witty proprietor, James Gordon Bennett:—

“ **MOST ATROCIOUS MURDER.**—Our city was disgraced on Sunday, the 10th of April, 1836, by one of the most foul and premeditated murders that ever fell to our lot to record.

“ Richard P. Robinson, the alleged perpetrator of this most horrid deed, had for some time been in the habit of keeping (as it is termed) a girl named Ellen Jewett, who has for a long period resided at No. 41 Thomas-street, in the house kept by Rosina Townsend,

“ Having, as he suspected, some cause for jealousy, he went to the house on Saturday night as appears, with the intention of murdering her, for he carried a hatchet with him.



On going up into her room, quite late at night, he mentioned his suspicions, and expressed a determination to quit her, and demanded his watch and miniature, together with some letters which were in her possession. She refused to give them up, and he then drew from beneath his cloak the hatchet, and inflicted upon her head three blows, either of which must have proved fatal, as the bone was cleft to the extent of three inches on each place.

“She died without a struggle; and the cold-blooded villain deliberately threw off his cloak, cast the lifeless body upon the bed, and set fire to that. He then ran down stairs unperceived by any person, went out of the back door, and escaped in that manner.

“In a short time Mrs. Townsend was aroused by the smell of smoke—she rushed up stairs and saw the bed on fire, and the mangled body of the unfortunate girl upon it. She ran down, raised the alarm, and the watchmen rushing to the spot, rescued the body, and preserved the house from being consumed.

“Robinson’s cloak was in the room, and at once they suspected the murderer. Mr. Noble, the assistant Captain of the Watch, instantly went and aroused Mr. Brink. They received such information as the horror-stricken inmates could afford them, and proceeded on their search. On Sunday morning, at seven o’clock, Robinson was arrested in bed at his boarding house, No. 42 Dey-street, and brought at once to the house where had been committed the foul deed.

“On seeing the body he exhibited no signs of emotion, but gazed around and on his victim coolly and calmly.

The Coroner was summoned, a Jury formed, and on a patient examination of the testimony, they returned a verdict that ‘she came to her death by blows upon the head inflicted with a hatchet, by Richard P. Robinson.’

“Robinson is a native of one of the Eastern States, aged 19, and remarkably handsome and intelligent, and has been for some time past in the employ of Joseph Hoxie, 191, Maiden Lane. But his conduct upon this occasion, must stamp him as a villain of too black a die for mortal. Of his intentions there can be no doubt, for he took the hatchet with him, with which the murder was committed; and the deed done, he attempted to destroy all evidence of his guilt, by firing the house, and thus induce the public to believe that she had perished in the flames. He is very well and highly connected, and the sad news that must soon reach his parents’ ears may be fatal to them.

“Ellen Jewett, was a finely formed and most beautiful girl—a girl about twenty years of age, and endowed by nature and education, with talents and accomplishments which should have saved her from her ignoble situation.

“On his examination before the Coroner’s Jury, Robinson denied himself and his name, and asserted that he had not been in the house that night; but a woman was brought



from his boarding-house, who swore positively to his cloak. The fact of his having carried the hatchet with him, is substantiated, by their being a piece of twine attached to his button hole, which tallied precisely with a piece attached to the handle of the hatchet. On leaving the house yesterday, he leaped lightly into the carriage which was to carry him to Bridewell, his countenance clear, calm, and unruffled, and on being put into his cell, his last request was for some segars to smoke. The remains of the poor unfortunate victim will be interred this day."

### VISIT TO THE SCENE.

"Yesterday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, the sun broke out for a moment in splendour. I started on a visit to the scene at 41 Thomas-street. On passing through Chapel-street, I came to the corner of Thomas-street, which runs west from behind the Hospital yard to Hudson street. A large crowd of young men stood around the door, No. 41, and several groups along the street in various directions. The excitement among the young men throughout the city was beginning to spread in all directions.

"The house is a large four story elegant double one, painted yellow, and on the left hand side as you go to Hudson-street. It is said to be one of the most splendid establishments devoted to infamous intercourse that the city can show. I knocked at the door. A Police Officer opened it stealthily. I told him who I was, 'Mr. B. you can enter,' said he, with great politeness. The crowds rushed from behind seeking also an entrance.

" 'No one comes in,' said the Police Officer.

" 'Why do you let that man in?' asked one of the crowd.

" 'He is an editor—he is on public duty.'

"I entered—I pressed forward to the sitting room or parlour. There I found another Police officer in charge of that apartment. The old lady of the house, Mrs Townsend was sitting on a sofa, talking to several young men, in a great state of excitement. She was describing what Ellen had said—how she discovered the fire—how she made an alarm—how she called for the watch. The room was elegantly furnished with mirrors, splendid paintings, sofas, ottomans, and every variety of costly furniture. The Police officer when he saw me said—'Mr. B. would you like to see the place?'

" 'I would,' replied I.

He immediately rose—I followed him. We mounted an elegant stair case—dark and gloomy, being in the centre of a large double house. On reaching the second story, the Police officer took a key from his pocket—and opened the door. What a sight burst upon me! There stood an elegant double mahogany bed, all covered with burnt pieces of linen, blankets, pillows, black as cinders. I looked around for the



object of my curiosity. On the carpet I saw a piece of linen sheet covering something, as if carelessly flung over it.

“ ‘Here,’ said the Police officer, ‘here is the poor creature.’

“ He half uncovered the ghastly corpse. I could scarcely look at it for a second or two. Slowly I began to discover the lineaments of the corpse, as one would the beauties of a statue of marble. It was the most remarkable sight I ever beheld—I never have, and never expect to see such another. ‘My God,’ exclaimed I, ‘how like a statue! I can scarcely conceive that form to be a corpse.’ Not a vein was to be seen. The body looked as white—as full—as polished as the purest Parian marble. The perfect figure—the exquisite limbs—the fine face—the full arms—the beautiful bust—all—all surpassed in every respect the Venus de Medicis, according to the casts generally given of her.

“ ‘See,’ said the Police officer, ‘she has assumed this appearance within an hour.’

“ It was the first process of dust returning to dust. The countenance was calm and passionless. Not the slightest appearance of emotion was there. One arm lay over her bosom—the other was inverted and hanging over her head. The left side down to the waist, where the fire had touched, was bronzed like an antique statue. For a few moments I was lost in admiration at this extraordinary sight—a beautiful female corpse—that surpassed the finest statue of antiquity. I was recalled to her horrid destiny, by seeing the dreadful bloody gashes on the right temple, which must have caused instantaneous dissolution.

“ I then looked around the room. It was elegant, but wild and extravagant in its ornaments. On the drawers was a small library, composed of light novels, poetry, and monthly periodicals. There hung on the wall a beautiful print of Lord Byron as the presiding genius of the place. The books were Byron, Scott, Bulwer’s works, and the Knickerbocker.

“ A work table in a state of disorder, stood near by. It was covered with fragments, pens, ink, paper, crayons, pamphlets, &c &c. Above the mantel piece hung several theatrical fancy sketches.

“ I returned to take a last look at the corpse. What a melancholy sight for beauty, wit, and talent, for it is said she possessed all, to come to such a fatal end!

“ I came down stairs—the house looked dark and gloomy, all the windows being half shut—but it was throughout splendidly furnished.

“ The murdered girl was one of the most beautiful of her degraded *cas’e*. She was a perfect Millwood. She has seduced by her beauty and blandishments, more young men than any known in the Police Records. She was a remarkable character, and came to a remarkable end.”

“ Her private history is most remarkable—her character equally so. She is a native of Augusta, in the State of Maine,



and her real name is **DORCAS DORRANCE**, but in New-York she has generally passed under the name of **Ellen Jewitt**—in Boston as **Helen Mar**. She was an orphan—her father and mother, poor people, having died when she was in her infancy. In Augusta, Maine, lived a highly respectable gentleman **Judge Western**, by name. Some of the female members of his family pitying the bereaved condition of young Dorcas, invited her to live at the Judge's house. At that time Dorcas was young, beautiful, innocent, modest, and ingenuous. Her good qualities, and sprightly temper, won the good feelings of the Judge's family. She became a chere-amie of his daughters---a companion and a play-mate.

“At an early age, and just as her mind was budding, she was sent to a Female Academy, at Coney, we believe it is called, over the Kennebeck river. At school her intellectual powers shone forth with great and remarkable brilliancy—but not more so than her form, appearance, and looks. She was the pride of her teachers, she was beloved of her school mates, she was obliging, good-tempered, intellectual and refined.

“After having continued at the Academy for some time, Dorcas, during the summer of 1829, went to spend the vacation at a distant relative's, at Norringewock, a town on Kennebeck river, about 28 miles from Augusta. Dorcas was then sixteen years of age, and one of the most lovely, interesting-black eyed girls, that ever appeared in that place. In intellectual accomplishments, particularly the art of conversation, interspersed with brilliant wit and repartee, she was unsurpassed. Yet even at this young age, she occasionally gave indications of a wild, imaginative mind---without fixed principles, or a knowledge of the true point of honor in morals. Her passions began to control her life. Her education only gave additional power to her fascinations.

“In this town, in the course of visiting, she became acquainted with a young man by the name of H—— Sp——y, a fine youth, elegant and educated, since said to be a Cashier in one of the banks in Augusta. After a short acquaintance with him, all was gone that constitutes the honor and ornament of the female character.

“She returned after a short season to Augusta. Her situation soon became known in the Judge's family. A quarrel ensued. She left her protector, after having in a moment of passion lost all the rules of virtue and morality.

“After having recovered from her first lapse from the path of virtue, she retreated to Portland, took the name of **Maria B. Benson**, and became a regular **Aspasia** among the young men, lawyers, and merchants. In this town she gave out that her family name was Benson, and that she had several connections of that name, at a short distance.

“Her life at Portland was rather experimental. She was quite young and retained some traces of modesty. Falling into a difficulty there, she took an opportunity one morning



and came to Boston. Here she assumed the name of Helen Mar, from a popular character in one of the young lady's novels. She lived in Boston about a year and a half, and left that city in company with a distinguished man, for New-York.

"In New-York she took the name of Ellen Jewett, and has lived at several houses round town. During the last winter she resided with a Kentuckian in a disguise for several weeks at one of our fashionable hotels. Her way of life in New-York has corresponded with the terrible state of society in this city. At such fashionable houses, young men, married and single and all, meet together in the evening spend their time and their money, exhaust their treasures and their sensibilities, and break down every moral tie that hitherto has kept the elements of social intercourse together.

"Ellen Jewett was well known to every pedestrian in Broadway. Last summer she was famous for parading Wall-street in an elegant green dress, and generally with a letter in her hand. She used to look at the brokers with great boldness of demeanour, had a peculiar walk, something in the style of an Englishwoman. From those who have known her, we have been informed that she was a fascinating woman in conversation, full of intellect and refinement, but at the same time possessed of a very devil, and a species of mortal antipathy to the male race. Her great passion was to seduce young men, and particularly those who most resisted her charms. She seems to have declared war against the sex. 'Oh!' she would say, 'how I despise you all--you are a heartless, unprincipled set--you have ruined me—I'll ruin you—I delight in your ruin.'

"Her great intellectual passion was for reading the poems of Byron, and particularly Don Juan, which, however, has no doubt, produced more wretchedness in the world, than all the other moral writers of the age can check. With a happier destiny, and steady moral principle, this young woman had talents for the highest sphere in life."

*Court of Oyer and Terminer, Thursday June 2, 1836.*

## TRIAL OF ROBINSON, FOR MURDER.

The Judge and his assistants having taken their seats on the bench, the Court was opened soon after 10 o'clock, and the District Attorney, Mr. Phoenix, announced to the Court that he was ready to proceed with the trial.

The District Attorney informed the Court, that on the last previous occasion when this cause was before the Court, a number of the female witnesses, on leaving the hall, had been grossly insulted and threatened; and to prevent a recurrence of such a disgraceful out-



rage, he had placed them in the opposite building, from whence he should send for them severally, as he should want them.

Mr. Maxwell rose and hoped the District Attorney did not mean to inculcate the prisoner in the outrage mentioned; to which Mr. Phoenix readily assented.

By request of Mr. Price, the panel of the petit jurors was called, and fifteen persons not answering to their names, the Court ordered a fine of \$25 to be imposed on each of the absentees.

*Richard P. Robinson* was then placed at the bar, by the side of his counsel. He appeared much more composed, and was much less pale than when he was arraigned on his indictment, and when called upon the clerk to rise, and informed by him of his right to a peremptory challenge of twenty of the jury, and throughout the preliminary proceedings, he exhibited much firmness and resignation.

The jury, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Isaac Winslow, Burtis Skidmore, Daniel Comstock, Joseph M. Imlay, Perry Jewett, James S. Schermuhorn, Edward D. Boker, Gerah Bull, Jeremiah R. Field, James C. Parsells, Selek Waterbury, and John J. Matras, was then sworn, and the indictment against the prisoner was read to them.

The court then took a recess of half an hour.

The Court having resumed their seats on the bench, the cause was opened, on the part of the prosecution, by Mr. Phenix, in an address to the jury, of great eloquence, in which, without attempting to impress upon the minds of the jury, a single unfair impression unfavourable to the prisoner, he at the same time, drew a most vivid and soul-stirring picture of the horrible murder, the firing of the bed on which the hapless victim lay, in order, by destroying the building, to conceal the crime, and the other prominent features of the case. He then proceeded briefly to detail the material points of the evidence he was about to introduce, the most essential portions of which appeared in the *Suu* at the time of the perpetration of the massacre, and the arrest of the prisoner.

Officer Bowyer was then despatched to the room in which the females had been placed, and by direction of the District Attorney, brought in

*Mrs. Rosina Townsend*, who, being placed at the stand and sworn, deposed that she was acquainted with Helen Jewett, and saw her the last time alive on Saturday night, 9th April about 11 o'clock, or it might be a quarter past 11. She knows the prisoner at the bar, Robinson, he was known to her, at and before the night of the 9th April, by the name of Frank Rivers, and no other. Helen Jewett was a boarder in deponent's house at the time, and had been three weeks previous to the 8th April. Deponent had seen the prisoner at her house about six or seven times prior to the night of Helen's murder. She was on one occasion requested by Helen to notice the prisoner particularly, which she did; this was the second or third night after Helen came to live with her. She saw the prisoner at the bar on the night that Helen was murdered. On that night, about half past 9 o'clock, she heard a rap at the door, and she went to the door and enquired who was there? A person without enquired for Miss Jewett; the door was locked. When she received the above reply, she again asked who was there? The reply was the same as before—enquiring for Miss Jewett. She then opened the door. She did not open when she received the first reply, because she wanted to see if she could distinguish the voice of the person. She had a



particular reason for wishing to know whose voice it was before she let him in. Miss Jewett had requested, in case a person came to the door by the name of Bill Easy, not to let him in. Deponent knows a person that goes by the name of Bill Easy; he was in the habit of visiting Helen Jewett at deponent's house; he had visited her on each of the three previous Saturday nights. The reason that Helen gave for not wishing deponent to admit Bill Easy on that night, was, that she expected Frank Rivers. [The Court here, by request of Mr. Hoffman, of counsel for the prisoner, charged the jury that the declarations of Helen, were not to be received as evidence.]

The witness deposed further, that at the time she opened the door she was not certain the voice was that of Frank Rivers, but she felt positive it was not Bill Easy's. When she opened the door Frank Rivers was there;—by Frank Rivers she means Mr. Robinson, the prisoner. On that occasion he wore a black coat and hat; the cloak was made of a dark cloth, but deponent can't be positive of the color. When she opened the door, he was resting his shoulder against the casing, and the light of the hall lamp fell upon his face, which was then bare. She cannot be mistaken as to its being the prisoner at the bar.

He then came in; his first motion on entering was to raise his cloak so as nearly to conceal his face. He passed through the entry before deponent; but he said nothing after entering the door, neither did deponent speak to him. Deponent followed directly behind him to the parlour door, which was standing ajar, and which deponent pushed open and called for Helen, who was sitting in the parlour nearly opposite the door. When deponent called Helen, she said to her "Frank has come." At that time Frank had turned in the entry to go up stairs. There are two flights of stairs from the entry, landing on the same platform; the prisoner went up the flight on the right hand. Helen's sleeping room was on the first floor, on the west side of the building; a rear room, near the landing. When deponent informed Helen that Frank had come, Helen came directly out of the parlour and went up stairs. Deponent saw her take hold of Robinson's cloak, and say "My dear Frank, I am glad you have come." He was then at the first landing of the stairs where they turn.

Deponent did not see Helen again till 11 o'clock; she remained up stairs till that hour. A person had called with a boot of Helen's which he had been repairing; but deponent placed the boot in her own room. Helen came down and got the boot, but deponent did not see her. About 11 o'clock Helen came to the stairs, called deponent, and ordered a bottle of champagne, which she offered to take to her room herself, to save deponent the trouble of going up stairs. Deponent went to the closet in which she usually kept her wine, found she had no champagne out of the basket, and told Helen that as she was in her night clothes, and a basket had to be opened, she had better not wait, and herself (deponent) would bring the wine up. Deponent took up the bottle of wine and two champagne glasses, on a waiter, to Helen's room. Helen asked deponent to come in and take a glass of the wine; but she did not go into the room. Deponent stood in front of the door, which fell wide open at the time Helen took the waiter from deponent's hand, and deponent could see the bed and what was on or in it: there was no curtain round the bed: it was a French bedstead of ordinary height. There was a person in



Helen's bed at that time, that person was Robinson, the prisoner at the bar. He was lying on his elbow, inclining a little to the left. The bed was against the side of the same wall in which the door was—the foot of it towards the door. Deponent stood about four or five feet from the foot of the bed, and she distinctly saw the prisoner's side face. She cannot be mistaken that the person whom she saw in that bed, his head reclining upon his elbow, was the prisoner at the bar. In the other hand he held a paper or book, which he was reading. There was a candle standing either on the pillow, or on a table near the head of the bed—she thinks it was on the pillow. After this deponent went immediately down stairs, and she saw no more of the prisoner at the bar that night. At the time of seeing the prisoner on the bed, deponent observed an appearance about his head which struck her attention;—his hair was very thin on the upper back part of his head, where it was parted. Deponent has had no opportunity to observe the fact in relation to his head since that time; but she spoke of it to Mrs. Mary Gallagher, on the 19th April, at the time her furniture was sold, and to officer Brink, and enquired of the latter whether it was not so.

On the night of the 9th April, deponent retired to bed about a quarter past 12 o'clock. She had a clock standing on the mantelpiece of her own bed room, which she looked at before going to bed. Twelve o'clock was the hour at which she had made it a rule to shut up the house; but that night it was a quarter past. Her bed room was a front room, on the first floor, on the right hand as you enter. There is a room directly opposite on the first floor; it is a double house. After getting abed and asleep, deponent was partially awake by some person knocking at her bed room door, but she can't tell at what hour; the person asked deponent to let him out, but she told him, "get your woman to let you out;" and deponent remained in bed; she heard no other attempt to get out of the house. About 3 o'clock she was awake by some person knocking at the street door;—she cannot give any supposition of the length of time that transpired between the two knockings. She let in the person who knocked at 3 o'clock; she knew him; she had a light in her room at the time.

After letting that person in, deponent discovered a light in her parlour, which was an unusual occurrence at that hour. The parlour runs across the hall the whole width of the house; it was in the rear. On discovering the light, deponent entered the parlour, and found a lamp burning on the parlor table; it was a long glass globe lamp, with a square bottom. Deponent had but two lamps of that description in her house; they were used exclusively in the rooms of Helen Jewett and Maria Stevens, which were adjoining each other. Deponent discovered that the back door, which leads from the parlor to the yard, and was fastened by a bar, was open. On making this discovery, deponent went back to her own room, sat down five or ten minutes, and got partially in a doze. She then recollected herself, and that if any person had gone into the yard, as she had at first supposed, they had not come in again, she went to the back door, threw it quite open, and called twice "Who's there;" but receiving no answer she closed the door, and secured it with the bar. She then took the lamp and ascended the left flight of stairs, which brought her to Maria Stevens' door first. She tried the door and found fast. She then went to Helen's door, which was so the latch, opened it, and the smoke rushed out in torrents. She then knocked



Caroline Stewart's door, which was directly opposite, and called to Caroline to get up, that Helen's room was on fire, and to rise and help her get Helen out, as she was suffocating.

Her knocking at Miss Steven's door alarmed the whole house, and the girls all came to the landing apparently about the same time; can't tell which came first. Miss Steven's and deponent attempted to go into Helen's room, and Miss Steven's was the first who reached the bed. Miss Stevens was the one who had the lamp corresponding with the one found by deponent down stairs. The bed was on fire, the bed clothes all consumed: it appeared that they had burned without blazing. Deponent called the watch, and three watchmen came in first, and four others afterwards. One side of Helen's body was burnt. When deponent first saw Helen, she was lying nearly on her back, her left side much burnt, and a large gash on the side of her head. She did not see the body till after the watchmen came. Miss Stevens went into the room first, and returned with her hands full of the remains of the bed clothes. When deponent saw Helen, after giving the alarm, she was dead. During the time Ellen boarded at deponent's house, she had no quarrel or falling out with any of the girls, nor with any person that visited there that deponent is aware of.

*Cross-examined by Mr. Maxwell.*—Deponent is 39 years of age; is not certain that her husband is dead; she has not lived with him for eleven years past. She was married to him at Castleton, on the North River, seven miles from Albany. She never lived in New-York or at the South before her marriage. She came to New-York, without her husband, in 1825. Her husband left her at Cincinnati, Ohio, and went off with another woman. Directly thereafter she came to New-York, and has resided here ever since. She has never been to Savannah nor Charleston. On her coming from Ohio, she went home to her parents a few weeks, but came to this city in September, boarded at an aunt of her husband, and took in sewing till the last of December of the same year, 1825. She then gave up sewing on account of her head becoming so affected, that on Christmas day she could not discern the light of day. She was attended professionally by Dr. David L. Rogers. She went to live as a chambermaid with Mr. Henry Beekman, in Greenwich-street, but her arm, in which she had an issue became so bad that she could work no longer, and she went to board with Maria Pierce, who kept an assignation house, in Duane-street, and remained with her till April, 1826. During the time she left Mr. Beekman's up to the present time, she has been a boarder in or keeper of an assignation house. Helen Jewett boarded with deponent in 1833, about nine or ten months, during which time she and Helen had no quarrel nor misunderstanding; nor does she recollect of Helen's having a quarrel with any other person. Deponent has never had a quarrel with any person whatever, in reference to Helen Jewett. Defendant knows a person called English Charley, but she has never had any quarrel with him about his visiting Helen Jewett. The six or seven visits of Robinson to Helen were during the last three weeks of her life. One of these times he came on Sunday afternoon; the other visits she thinks were during the night. He never went into the parlour, but he once came into deponent's room; Helen and two young men from the South were present at the time. Thinks Robinson was at her house on the Thursday night previous to the murder of Helen, at which time he wore a cloak or cap. Robinson was known to all in the



house by the name of Frank Rivers; another person by the same name visited the house. (Stamping and hissing by the audience.)

Deponent's attention was directed to the prisoner by Helen to get her opinion of the relative beauty of the prisoner and Bill Easy. Bill Easy is the tallest. Deponent is not mistaken as to her hearing the enquiry for Helen Jewett when she was brought to the door by the knocking on the evening of the 9th April. She was not positive that it was Robinson's voice. Deponent has not to her recollection on her examination at the police office, made a different statement in relation to this matter, nor does she think that before the grand jury she omitted the name of Bill Easy; nor does she recollect of stating, on her examination before the Coroner and elsewhere, that she *knew* it to be Robinson's voice that answered. She does not recollect what kind of a night it was on the 9th April. She opened the door wide enough to admit any person—the door is of common width, occupies nearly the width of the entry, which is not very wide. Deponent's face was towards prisoner till he passed her to go up stairs. The lamp was hanging behind her, near the foot of the stairs; the light from the lamp falls directly upon the face of any person entering. It was a globe lamp, with strained oil, hanging high, more than seven feet from the door. A person on the stoop would stand below the level of the entry: but the prisoner stood on the stone above the stoop on the level of the entry. The prisoner was in the habit of raising his cloak to his face in passing through the hall; and deponent does not think he did so on this occasion for the purpose of screening his face from her own view, but from others who might be about. Miss French was standing at the door of her room, which opened from the hall, at the time the prisoner entered. At the time Helen accosted the prisoner with "My dear Frank, I'm glad you've come," deponent was standing at the foot of the stairs, and Helen and Robinson at the first landing. After the prisoner went up stairs, deponent went to her sleeping room—it was between nine and ten o'clock, the precise point of the hour she does not know.

After prisoner went up stairs, and before Helen called for the champagne, deponent admitted several persons into the house. She let all in who came in after eight o'clock that evening; before eight o'clock some of the girls admitted some persons, but she does not know who all of them were, and there might have been persons in the house that she did not know of. Deponent drank no wine that night, nor was any liquor drank in her house that she is aware of, except a bottle of champagne in the parlour. There was no male person in deponent's room till eleven o'clock in the evening. There is but one bed in her room; the male person who afterwards came into her room remained till morning. She thinks he was awakened by the knocking at the door. The door of Helen's room was a good sized door, and opened directly against the wall, clear of the bed. There was nothing to obstruct her view of the person in Helen's bed. The person in the bed lay rather turned over, apparently resting on his elbow, knees, and stomach. She had a full view of his side face. Beside the candle which stood either on the pillow or small square small table, Helen's lamp stood on another table on which some books lay. He was covered to the shoulders with the bed clothes; deponent stood at the door perhaps two minutes. She does not think she stated before the police magistrate that the light stood between herself and the person in the bed, nor that she turned from the door and went off immediately. The spot on his head which appeared to be thinly covered with hair, seemed almost bare. She can't tell why she did not mention the fact of the thinness of the prisoner's hair, immediately after the murder, unless it was, that, like many other things it was driven from her memory by the murder. Deponent thinks it was about an hour and a half after admitting Robinson, that she took up the champagne; and about an hour after that she shut up house. She had



ten girls in the house. She was not acquainted with all the men in the house, either by person or name. They went out when the alarm was made. When she admitted the watch, she left the key in the door, when they went out. She thinks John Farmer was the watchman who came in. She does not recollect that any order was given to prevent any person from going out, but thinks she should have recollected it had it been made. Deponent let no one out before the watchmen came in. The person who came in at three o'clock went to the room of the young lady who was expecting him, and remained till after the watchmen came in. She is not certain that the watchmen came in before the murder was discovered or not, but thinks not. She does not know that when the watchmen first came, two men were standing in the entry in their shirt sleeves; and she has not heard that a person was found standing at the door of Helen's room when the watchmen came in.

There would have been no difficulty for the person who committed the murder to have escaped through the front door, after the key had been left in it. There were perhaps eighty or a hundred persons in her house during the week---persons from all parts of the country. Deponent generally made it a rule to dress early in the evening; but upon that evening she was rather unwell, and very tired, and it was probably eight o'clock when she got dressed.

*To a Juror.*---Deponent was present at the Coroner's jury on Sunday morning. Robinson was also brought there: but she does not recollect to have seen him with his hat off on that occasion: but thinks he was uncovered during his examination before the police magistrate.

*Direct resumed.*---When Robinson was examined, deponent did not notice that Robinson was in the room till she was asked by the examining officer if she recognised Robinson among the persons present. On looking round she discovered him, and recognised him by his face. She had no opportunity to see the back of his head.

*To a Juror.*---Both of the Frank Rivers were at deponent's house on the evening of the 9th April.

*To Mr. Hoffman.*---The day after the prisoner was arraigned, she heard the prisoner's head had been shaved at Bellevue, and she has since read some intimation of the like kind in the Sun; but she has never heard nor read that it was shaved for any unfair effect on the trial.

*Doctor David L. Rogers* sworn, deposed that he is a surgeon, and was called to view the body of Helen Jewett, on the 10th April. It was lying on a bed in a back room, second story, of the house of Mrs. Townsend in Thomas-street. She was lying on her back, much burned on the legs, arms, and back. There were three wounds on the head, the largest, which was on the right side of the head, was attended with a fracture of the skull. The two smaller wounds were simple contusions not attended with fracture. The largest wound was 2 1-2 inches in length---the depth extended to the bone, which was driven into the brain. He is of opinion that the larger wound produced immediate death. Thinks he found her in the same situation in which she lay as she received the blow, as she was perfectly stiff, and to turn her head it was necessary to turn her body. There was no distortion of countenance, and but little hemorrhage. The appearance of her countenance and person, external and internal, indicated that she could not have come to her death by the burns, which were too slight to cause death, nor by suffocation, as it would have been attended by discoloration of the countenance and affection of other parts of the system, which, upon a post mortem examination, were found not to be affected. The wound had the appearance of having been made by a heavy dull instrument, like the back of an axe. He was shown the hatchet found on the premises, by the Coroner, and judged such an instrument a very likely instrument to make such wounds. [The hatchet was here produced.] De-



ponent thinks the hatchet now shown him is the same he saw at the time of the examination. It had then considerable blood upon it, and a string round the handle, as it has now.

*Richard Eldridge* sworn. Was a watchman, and on the watch on the night of the 9th April.---Was at the house of Mrs. Townsend about a quarter past four o'clock on the following morning. Went up stairs and saw the woman lying dead.---Had some conversation with Mrs. Townsend. Went out in the yard, in company with several others, with a light, but made no discoveries. Returned to the house and sat in the room with Mrs. T. and some of the girls till day-light, when he and Mr. Palmer went out into the yard. Palmer got on the fence, and discovered a cloak lying in an adjoining lot, fronting on Hudson-street, and forming an angle with a corner of Mrs. Townsend's yard. Does not know whose yard the cloak was found in. Deponent found the hatchet [now produced] in the south-west corner of Mr. Townsend's yard, about fifteen feet from the fence. He did not notice the marks of a person having climbed over the fence. The blade of the axe was discoloured, but whether with rust or blood he cannot swear. He locked the cloak and hatchet in a room till the Coroner came, to whom he gave the key of the room. He did not examine the cloak particularly, and did not discover a piece of twine either on the cloak or handle of the hatchet.

*Cross examined.*---The fence of Mrs. Townsend's house was about nine feet high on the right hand side, and about twelve feet on the left. The cloak lay more than fifteen feet from Mrs. Townsend's fence, and could not have been dropped or thrown there by a person on the fence. It was lying nearer the house fronting on Hudson-street than Mrs. Townsend's. He never saw the string on the handle of the hatchet till after he received it from the Coroner, though he had it in his hand half an hour after finding it, and examined the blade several times. There was a heavy fall of dew that morning, and the hatchet was very wet on both sides, and rusted; but deponent discovered no blood on it. It has now the appearance of blood near the edge, in which respect it differs from its appearance when he found it. There is no alley to the houses in Hudson-street by which a person might escape from the yards on that street, between Thomas and Duane-streets.

*To Mr. Phenix.*---An escape could be made through the lots in Duane, Chapel or Thomas streets, to which lots there are several alleys. The females of the house were looking out of the window, when he found the hatchet. Some of them might have thrown it there, but he did not see such a thing done; and from the quantity of moisture on it, he thinks it must have lain there some time. There was no other person but himself in the yard. There was earth both on the blade and handle.

The testimony of Eldredge being closed, the Court, at half past nine o'clock, adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

Friday morning.

The Court met at ten o'clock pursuant to adjournment---Judge and Assistants present as before. The prisoner, Robinson, was brought in a little before the opening of the court, escorted by Mr. Lyon, keeper of the prison, and Benj Hays. He appeared extremely well, and indeed, composed and cheerful, and conversed freely with several of his acquaintances, who were admitted within the bar.

*William Schureman*, sworn.---Deposed that he is the Coroner for the city and County of New-York. Between three and four o'clock of the morning of the 10th April, before day, he was called to view the body of Helen Jewett at the house of Mrs. Townsend, No. 41 Thomas-street. He was there when a cloak was found in one of the yards; that cloak was handed to him in the yard of No. 41 Thomas-street, by the watchman whom he saw come over the fence with the cloak in his hand. The



watchman stated that he found it in the second yard from Townsend's. He saw the watchman hand the cloak over the fence, but he was not the first who received it from the watchman, though it was directly handed to him. The cloak in Court [here produced to witness] is the same then given to him. The string now attached to the cloak was noticed by deponent when it was first handed to the prisoner, before he went into the house. He is positive of that fact, observed it particularly when in the middle of the yard.

A hatchet was also found, of which deponent obtained possession about the same time he received the cloak. The hatchet in court [here produced] deponent believes to be the same hatchet--has no doubt of it. He merely looked at it when handed to him; it was wet with dew, but he observed no particular discolouration at that time. He did not observe a string upon the hatchet when it was handed to him in the yard, nor until it was brought to him the second time, before the jury, when the string was pointed out to him by one of the officers, he thinks Mr. Brink. He and the jurors compared the strings upon the cloak and hatchet--they were similar in all respects. They were new twine, and apparently had been cut. It was after day light when hatchet and cloak were handed to deponent, and it was probably half past nine o'clock when they were brought before the jury. They were handed to deponent, on the inquest, by one of the watchmen or officers--he thinks by Mr. Brink.

Deponent's attention was attracted to the string on the cloak when he first received it—he did not observe whether it had the appearance of having been cut or not. He cannot say that the string on the hatchet appeared longer or shorter when he first observed it, than it does now. It was then clean. Before the cloak was found, deponent and others had been in the yard. Deponent does not recollect of any conversation with Mrs. Townsend about searching the yard. He does not know where Mr. Brink procured the hatchet and cloak when he brought them before the jury; nor does he know where they had been deposited.

*To Mr. Morris*, associate counsel for the prosecution. Deponent's attention was particularly called to the tassel of the cloak before the cloak was found, and his mind was particularly called to the tassel by some information he had previously received; and whilst looking at the tassel he found the string.

*George W. Noble* sworn. Was assistant captain of the lower watch on the night the murder was committed. He was called from the watch house by some watchmen who told him a murder had been committed in Thomas street.—Mr. Eldredge walked in company with him to Mrs. Townsend's. The cloak and hatchet had not been found when deponent arrived there, which was not fifteen minutes after the alarm was first given. He was probably there an hour and a quarter or a half before the cloak and hatchet were found. When they were found, deponent was in the room in which Helen Jewett lay: it was then after day light, but not near sun rise. Deponent heard a noise in the yard, looked out of the window, saw a man getting over Mrs. Townsend's yard, and some of them said, "Here's the cloak now," or "There's the cloak now." Deponent immediately ran down and took the cloak in his hand, at which time the hatchet had also been found. Deponent examined them both, before they were brought into the house. The cloak in court is the same; the string now on the tassel was there before it was brought into the house. The hatchet in court is also the same—knows it by the shape and bluntness of the edge. He noticed the string on the handle of



the hatchet in the yard, and Mr. Brink, in deponent's presence, compared the strings on the cloak and hatchet in the yard, before they were taken into the house—the conclusion was, they were the same strings, and had been united together. That was deponent's conclusion. The cloak was deposited in a right hand back room, in the northwest corner of the chimney, in a recess. Don't know whether the hall door was locked; watchmen were stationed at it. There are folding doors between that room and another, which were locked, and not opened.—Deponent was not at the house all the time the coroner's jury was formed; he went with Mr. Brink, in a carriage, to Maiden Lane and Pearl-street. They went to find out something about who was the perpetrator of the deed. He was with Mr. Brink at the time the arrest of the prisoner was made. The prisoner was found in Dey street, between Broadway and Greenwich.

*By the Court.*—The arrest was made about 7 o'clock, on Sunday morning, 10th of April—the same morning the murder was committed. The prisoner was in bed, in a front room below stairs—did not go in without knocking.

The Coroner had not the cloak and hatchet all the time before they went into the house. He can't say whether the Coroner was near or looking on when Mr. Brink made the comparison of the strings. He thought it was a very important discovery, but he did not communicate it to the Coroner. There were no girls in the yard when the exclamation was made "there's the cloak." Deponent left Mrs. Townsend's house after the cloak and hatchet were found; they were gone perhaps an hour before they returned with the prisoner. He cannot say that the door of the room in which they were deposited might not have been entered during his absence. They had no difficulty in getting the prisoner. He was in his bed, and Mr Brink told him they wanted him to go with them to the police, he believes. He got in the carriage with them and they drove to Mrs. Townsend's.

*To Mr. Morris.*—There was no other officer in the room with prisoner; Mr. Brink and himself were the only officers there. He noticed nothing particular about the prisoner's clothes then, but about half past 8 in the morning, he noticed something. The prisoner was then in a lower back room of Mrs. Townsend's. On the right side of the right leg, below the hip, and on the left side of the left leg, below the thigh, he saw something which he took to be lime; but whether it was lime he cannot swear, as he neither tasted nor smelt it. There was another person in the room when Robinson was found—a young gentleman in bed—the one who got up and opened the door for deponent and Brink.

When the door was opened, deponent and Brink went into the room just as the young man was getting into bed. He can't say whether the young man got over Robinson, or in at the foot of the bed. After they got into the room, Robinson was touched by the young man alone. If he was asleep, he waked very easy. The young man accompanied them to Mrs. Townsend's. Robinson told him he might go if he had a mind to, and he jumped up, dressed himself, and went along.—Before Robinson, deponent and Brink left the entry of Robinson's boarding house, something was said about a cloak—they three alone being present, nearer the front door than the croom door. Brink asked Robinson if he was not the owner of a blue cloth cloak, or if he ever wore a blue cloth cloak—he thinks it was the latter expression. He replied no; but he had an old camlet



cloak which hung up in his bed room. The cloak was spoken of three or four minutes. Mrs. Townsend's fence was a board fence, rather high than otherwise. Against the south west corner is a stable, where the fence is as high as the stable. The fence at the rear of the yard is 9 or 10 feet high, and is whitewashed, as is also the south west corner, by the stable, as high up as the rest of the fence, if not to the top, where there are pickets to keep the people from climbing over. A person climbing over the angle of the fence would be likely to rub whitewash on the right side of him, unless he was a left handed man.

*Dennis Brink* sworn. He was at the house of Mrs. Townsend on the morning of the 10th April—is one of the police officers of the city. He went to the house about half past 4 o'clock in the morning—before day light. He was there when the cloak and hatchet were found; the hatchet and cloak now here are the same. Deponent went with Mr. Noble, and arrested the prisoner. About seven o'clock in the morning he entered the house No. 42, Dey-street, together with Mr. Noble; he rang the bell, a servant came to the door and opened it. He asked if Mr. Robinson boarded there, and was answered yes. He asked where his room was; she replied, "the first room you come to on the floor." She knocked at Robinson's room door, and deponent observing that the door was then ajar, he opened it, and walked in. He then asked Robinson if he had a blue cloth cloak, a blue black cloak, or a cloth cloak of any kind, and whether he had worn one. The prisoner answered "No—he never had a cloth cloak." He then remarked that he had an old camlet cloak—"it hangs there"—pointing to it. Deponent after arriving at Mrs. Townsend's, and noticing that her fence was whitewashed, again took notice of the prisoner's pantaloons, and on the right leg below the knee, partly in front, he observed what he thought to be whitewash. On the other side he did not see it so particularly. He didn't think particularly of the whiteness on the pantaloons till after he saw the fence. On first going into Mrs. Townsend's yard in the morning, he saw a carpenter's bench near the south west angle of the fence, against the west fence, and within two feet of the south fence. A person by getting on the bench could get over the fence with much more ease than without it.

When deponent examined the strings, on the hatchet and cloak in Mrs. Townsend's yard, he thinks Mr. Noble stood by. He did not say any thing of the strings to the Coroner, because he thought the Coroner knew all about it. He saw the cloak and hatchet placed in the hands of the watchman. The strings might have been changed a dozen times in that time without his knowledge. The prisoner acted the most singularly of any person he ever arrested. He did not appear to mind the arrest at all. Just before he arrived at the house of Mrs. Townsend, he charged the prisoner with the crime for which he was arrested. He remarked a change of countenance in the prisoner several times; once in Mrs. Townsend's house.

*Charles Tyrel* sworn.—Is acquainted with the prisoner, and boarded in the same house with him. On the evening of the 9th April deponent walked with the prisoner, between half past 7 and 8 o'clock from their boarding house in Dey street as far as Beekman street opposite the Brick Church—deponent went down Beekman street, the prisoner went toward the park. The cloak was dark, with velvet collar facing the color of the cloak he cannot tell. As they were walking



along, deponent asked the prisoner where he was going, to which the prisoner answered that he was going to Clinton Hall, but to deponent's knowledge he did not go into the hall. Deponent did not know that the prisoner visited Helen Jewett—he has heard the prisoner and the other boarders joke each other about Helen.

*Cross examined.*---Deponent was in prisoner's room before leaving the house, and saw him put on the cloak--cannot say whether he took the cloak from his trunk or bedstead. He saw the entire cloak, and if there had been a hatchet attached to it, he should have seen it. When at the head of Dey-street, and when leaving deponent at Beekman-street, the cloak got partly open, and there could not have been a hatchet attached to the tassel without deponent seeing it on both occasions. He appeared to be in a calm, cheerful state of mind, and had been laughing and joking before leaving the boarding-house. In Beekman-street the prisoner spoke of that day as being his birth day—that he was that evening 19 years of age. He spoke it with cheerfulness and pleasure.

*To Mr. Phenix.*---Deponent has frequently before seen the prisoner wear a similar cloak---he has not seen such a cloak in prisoner's room since his arrest. He thinks but is not certain, that the prisoner that evening took the cloak out of his trunk; he kept it in his trunk.

*Elizabeth Salters, sworn.* Knew the prisoner, Robinson, before the 9th April last. Had known him about seven weeks. Had been in the habit of seeing him at Mrs Townsend's. He came there to see deponent. She did not see him there on the night of the 9th April. He passed there by the name of Frank Rivers. He generally wore a cloak when he called at Mrs. Townsend's at night--- a dark cloth cloak. There was a black silk cord and tassels on the cloak. One of the tassels was broken off at one time. They were long silk braided tassels, one of them had been broken off and sown on again---about two weeks before Miss Jewett came to the house. Deponent was at Mrs. Townsend's the morning after the murder was committed, and at the time the cloak was found. Deponent before the cloak that was found was shown to her, stated something to another individual in relation to the cloak of the prisoner. The cloak now in Court is the same cloak she has seen the prisoner wear.

[The cloak was here exhibited to the jury that they might see the fact that one of the tassels had been sewed on.]

*To the Court.*---Deponent has never known the prisoner by any other name than Frank Rivers. Another person calling himself Frank Rivers came to Mrs. Townsend's. The other Frank said he and his namesake were cousins.

*To Mr. Phenix.*---Helen Jewett had lived at Mrs. Townsend's about three weeks. She knew Helen before she came there. Deponent knew of no quarrel between Helen and any person in the house. She was a general favorite with the girls. Deponent was alone during the night of the murder up to the time of the murder. Toward morning a gentleman called to see her---it was about 3 o'clock. He was in her room at the time the alarm was given. He came to her room about a quarter of an hour before she heard the alarm.

Deponent had expected him there. He was undressed at the time the alarm was given. She did not hear him till he was in her room. She went to bed about half past ten o'clock, after which she heard Helen Jewett call to Mrs. Townsend to bring a bottle of Champagne into her room---it was about eleven o'clock. Deponent had a conversation with the prisoner in relation to the manner in which the tassel of his cloak was broken off. He said it was broken off during a sleigh ride; but at that time it was sewed over again. She had the tassel in her hand. Prisoner told her he



had it sewn on at a tailor's---this was about two weeks before Helen's death.

*Cross Examined.* Deponent was 19 years of age on the last day of last April. Before living with Mrs. Townsend, she lived with her mother. She left her mother about two years ago, and has since lived the most of her time with Mrs. Townsend. She heard no person up that night previous to the alarm of the murder---except when the gentleman called to see her at three o'clock. She heard no person attempt to get out of the house before the alarm; but has heard Mrs. Townsend say a person attempted to get out. She don't know who the person was, or how he got out.

Helen Jewett did not to deponent's knowledge know that the prisoner had been in the habit of visiting her (deponent) before she (Helen) came there to live. The other Frank Rivers has visited the house together with the prisoner---they have both come dressed in Boston wrappers, and in cloaks; differently at different times. When the alarm was given deponent came out of her rooms without waiting to dress. She don't know how many were on the landing, there were three men there. She did not go down to the parlour till day light; but was in Miss Stevens' and Miss Stewart's rooms. She does not know that any of the men attempted to get out of the house. She did not see a young man at the door of Helen Jewett's room when the alarm was given, nor has she ever heard Mrs. Townsend say that such a young man was there, or that two men were standing in the entry.

Deponent has not observed a scar on the prisoner's face, nor did Mrs. Townsend remark to her that he had such a scar, till one day last week. If she had not told her of it, she would not have known it. Deponent has more than once seen the prisoner undressed, and his head exposed and never till Mrs. Townsend mentioned the fact to her, did she know that the prisoner had a bald place on the crown of his head.

*To Mr. Phenix.*---The person said to have visited Helen on Saturday nights was called Bill Easy.

*To Mr. Hoffman.*---When Helen came to Mrs. Townsend's the prisoner left deponent and visited Helen.

*To Mr. Phenix.*---She did not know that the prisoner visited Helen till after Helen came to board at Mrs. Townsend's; but it occasioned no quarrel nor misunderstanding between them, because the prisoner was no particular friend of her's. He only came to see her occasionally.

*By the Court.*---One of the Frank Rivers is light complexioned, the other dark.

*James Wells sworn.*---Is in the employ of Mr. Joseph Hoxie as a porter, has been in his employ since the 8th June last. There was a hatchet belonging to the store, which was chiefly used by deponent in splitting up wood. The last time he saw the hatchet was on Wednesday before the murder. Richard P. Robinson was in the employ of Mr. Hoxie at the time he last saw the hatchet. Deponent was in the habit of opening the store in the morning. He first missed the hatchet on Monday morning after the murder, before he was informed of the murder. He wanted to use it, and looked thoroughly for it, but made no enquiry for it before he heard of the accident. [The hatchet in Court was here shown him, and he was directed by the Court to look carefully at it.] He has no doubt that it is the same hatchet. He has never seen it in the store since that time.

*Cross-examined.*---The hatchet was for general use, in the store, in the cellar and on the side walk to open boxes. He saw the prisoner at the store after 5 o'clock P. M. perhaps half past 5---he did not see him go out. He was conversing that afternoon, with his usual cheerfulness, with Mr. Hoxie and others in the store. He has always found him amiable and mild. He has never observed a bald place on the prisoner's head---thinks if had been, he should have known it.



*To Mr. Maxwell.*---On Friday and Saturday he painted white the windows and uprights, and whitewashed the ceiling of the store. Persons not particularly careful in going about the store, would have been apt to get paint on their clothes, particularly on the front upright of the store. Mr. Hoxie got some paint on him.

*To the Court.*---The hatchet when deponent last saw it in the store had the same appearance of rust on it that it has now.

*Emma French sworn.*---She lived at the house of Mrs. Townsend at the time of Helen Jewett's death. She had then lived there sixteen months. She knew Richard P. Robinson as Frank Rivers. He had not visited deponent. She had seen him four or five times. She knows of his having been there on the night of Helen's murder. He had on a hat and cloak. Deponent's room is on the first floor, opposite Mrs. Townsend. Deponent was standing in her room door, which is in the entry near the front door, when the prisoner entered. She was expecting somebody to see her, which was the reason of her standing in her door. He came between nine and ten o'clock. She saw him go up the right hand stairs, and not afterwards. She saw him to go into the recess. She heard Helen Jewett say, in the parlour, about half an hour before the prisoner came, that "Frank was coming."

Deponent went to bed about twelve o'clock. She was alone that night. She saw Helen afterward, about eleven o'clock, when she came down stairs for the boot which the shoemaker had brought.---Deponent had before that seen the prisoner in Miss Salters' and talked with him there.---On the night of the murder she did not hear him speak. Mrs. Townsend let him in. She heard him knock at the door before he entered. Mrs. Townsend asked twice "Who's there?" before she let him in---that was between nine and ten o'clock. The lamp in the entry was lighted. It hangs from the ceiling, opposite the stairs---it hangs high---it was so light that she could see distinctly.

Deponent's door is but a step from the front door. She came to her door just as Mrs. Townsend admitted the prisoner. She heard Mrs. T. ask "who's there," but did not hear any answers---she had not then opened her door. When deponent saw prisoner enter, he was holding his cloak up to his face, and concealed the lower part of it: but she saw his eyes and forehead. She cannot swear positively that it was the prisoner.

She does not know of Mrs. Townsend letting out any persons; nor does she know of the key being left in the door.---when she heard the cry of fire, she went directly up stairs. Two or three men---two of whom she knew---stood on the landing, entirely undressed. She did not hear any man cry out "don't take me, I don't belong to this house."

When gentlemen are let out in the morning, the ladies generally get the key from Mrs. T. and let them out themselves. Deponent saw the cloak and hatchet on Sunday morning---thinks Miss Salters and a watchman were by when she saw them. She now lives with Mrs. Brown, who keeps the same kind of house that Mrs. Townsend did.

*By the Court.*---One of the Frank Rivers---the one that called himself the cousin of the prisoner---called to see Miss Salters on the same Saturday evening, prior to the murder. One of the Franks is light complexioned the other dark.

*Dennis Brink recalled by Mr. Phenix.* Deponent slightly looked over the contents of Robinson's trunks at his lodgings; there was no cloth cloak in either of them, nor in his bureau, nor in the room. He thinks the coroner got the letters and other articles belonging to Helen Jewett.

*Mr. Eldridge recalled by Mr. Hoffman.*---When the cloak was found in the yard, it was spread out, about two-thirds its length.

The court then adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.



On the third day the Court assembled without difficulty, in consequence of the judicious arrangements in keeping order in and out of the City Hall. The first witness examined was a colored girl, named Sarah Dunscomb, who was employed in dressing Helen Jewett and keeping her room clean. She testified she saw a miniature of Robinson in Helen's possession on the Friday before her death. On the cross-examination of this witness there was an evident discrepancy in the testimony given at the Police and in Court. In the Police she swore positively that the young man she saw in Helen's room on Saturday afternoon about five o'clock, was Robinson, and in Court she doubted who it was, and endeavoured to reconcile the difficulty by saying she was frightened and did not know what she said. There was in fact nothing material in the testimony of this witness. The next witness was Joseph Hoxie, jun., a clerk in the store of Joseph Hoxie, who was called to identify Robinson's handwriting, and after stating what his situation and employment was, and how many clerks were employed, and whether he knew Robinson's hand writing, was shown some letters which he thought resembled Robinson's hand-writing, but he could not swear to it. William Van Nest, a public porter, was then called who testified, that having a letter once to deliver to Robinson, he met him at Mr. Hoxie's door, and told him of it, and he requested him to go through the store and leave the letter on a beam in the back building, which he did not do but kept it and meeting Robinson afterwards, gave him the letter and received two shillings. Witness lived at 28 Thomas-street, and having heard of the murder, went to see the corpse and recognised it as the person who had given him the letter to deliver to young Robinson. Mr. Price on behalf of the prisoner, objected to any testimony showing that the prisoner had been in the habit of writing letters. The Court ruled in favour of the objection. Edward Strong a young man sworn, he did not know Robinson, but knew Helen Jewett, and went to see her the Saturday afternoon prior to her death, and was in her room between five and six o'clock, and was the person seen by the colored girl, when she entered with a pitcher of water. Samuel Van Nest, a porter, knew both parties, and had carried letters from Robinson to Helen, but could not identify any on being shown several. Mr. Justice Lownds testified that he visited the house 41 Thomas-street, and described its situation, fences, and boundaries, the difficulty of escaping, and the manner in which an escape might probably be made—he described part of the fence leading from Rosina Townsend's to the yard of Hudson-street houses as dilapidated and broken down, so much so as to be crossed easily. He was in the Police office when Robinson's trunk and bureau were examined.

Elizabeth Salter was recalled, who said that she was in the room of Helen Jewett shortly after the discovery of the murder, and found between the bedposts and pillows a silk handkerchief, which she should know again. (She was shown a handkerchief which she identified as the same.) She said the other Frank Rivers she saw at Mrs. Townsend's on the Saturday evening between nine and ten o'clock, and she spoke to him—He did not stay long, and the next time she saw him was on Sunday morning in company with the prisoner, when the officers Brink and Noble had brought him to Mrs. Townsend's. Here a young man by the name of Tees was asked to stand up, and Miss Salters said that was the other Frank Rivers.

Mary Gallagher on being sworn, testified, that she went to Rosina Townsend's house on the Sunday, and there saw the Prisoner, and asked him in the kindest manner what could have induced him to commit an act so cruel and barbarous; to which he answered, "do you think I would blast my prospects by so ridiculous an act. I am a young man, only nineteen yesterday, with most brilliant prospects." To which witness replied, "My dear boy, God grant that you may prove innocent." "Why," said the prisoner, "there is another man's handkerchief under the pillow, with his name at fall on it." I am not afraid but that I shall be acquitted." Some other conversation ensued, which was interrupted by Brink, the officer.

George B. Marston, on being sworn, admitted that he was the person known by the name of Bill Easy. He knew Helen Jewett, and was in the habit of visiting her, particularly on Saturday, but was not there on the Saturday previous to the murder. He knew the handkerchief—it was his, and marked by Helen. She had frequently mended things for him—was obliging that way. He described her jewels, rings, buckles, &c. her numerous rich dresses, and considered her the most richly dressed woman in the Theatre. A great number of persons visited Mrs. Townsend's; it was called the City Hotel. He was not in the house on the Sunday when the murder was discovered.

Joseph Hoxie was sworn to prove the hand writing of Robinson, and after a long examination, identified some pages in a journal as his handwriting, but could not identify various letters that were shown to him, purporting to be from him to Helen Jewett.

Frederick W. Gourgons sworn—is a clerk to Dr. Chabert, the Fire King; knew the prisoner, but not by the name of Robinson, but of Douglass; had seen him several times in the store, and about two weeks before the murder had asked him for some arsenic to kill rats, but they had none in the store. Such, however, were the contradictions of this witness, and his evident want of memory, that the Court directed the jury to discard his testimony altogether.



Newton Gilbert was sworn—Is salesman in Mr. Hoxie's store; knows the prisoner's hand writing, and identified several pages of the Journal, and several letters, which he believed were his; as also seen Robinson wear a dark cloth cloak.

Elizaleth Stewart was sworn, with the view of proving that the prisoner had tried to hire a room from her in Reed-street, but the Court would not allow her to proceed.

Mr. Morris, under the direction of the District Attorney, proceeded to read the letters of the prisoner to Ellen Jewett; but the reading was opposed by Mr. Hoffman, on the ground that although they contained nothing material, yet they were illegally obtained from the prisoner's room, without the shadow of authority, and documents thus obtained had ever been held in English courts as inadmissible testimony, particularly in capital cases. The District Attorney agreed to waiving the reading of the letters, and for the present the prosecution rested.

Mr. Hoffman opened the defence in a brief and eloquent address, describing all the difficulties to which they were subjected in a contest with the prosecuting attorney, who had at his back the police and numerous officers, all on the look out for testimony against the accused—while he had to depend on those chances and providential interferences which attended innocence. Happily, however, they were not without proof, and proof so positive, so respectable, that placed in competition with the polluted witnesses against the prisoner would outweigh all that they could produce. The counsel proceeded to call Robert Furlong, grocer, corner of Nassau and Cedar street.

Mr. Furlong testified that he had lived in that neighbourhood twenty six years—having been brought up in the store of Miles Hitchcock—that he knew the prisoner by sight, as he had been in the habit of purchasing segars in his store, and he believed him to be a clerk in the neighbourhood. Mr. Furlong deposed that the prisoner, came to his store on Saturday evening, previous to the murder, at about half past 9 o'clock, and purchased a package of 25 segars—lit one and took his seat on the head of a barrel in the store and commenced smoking and conversing. Being Saturday night, his boys or clerks were out, and no one in the store but his porter who was asleep, sitting between two champagne baskets. The prisoner remained in the store conversing, until the clock of the Dutch church struck 10; the witness drew out his watch to see how it kept time with the church clock; the prisoner took from his pocket a small silver Lepine, and compared watches together; the prisoner was a minute too fast. The striking of the clock awakened the porter, who reminded Mr. Furlong that it was time to shut up the store; it being Saturday night, it became necessary to take in all the casks and boxes that remained in front of the store, by order of the Alderman of the ward, in order that the walks might not be encumbered on Sunday. This occupied until a quarter after 10, when the prisoner rose to go, and buttoned up his frock coat; he wore a cap, and about that time, he said he would go home, as he was tired, and left the store. This was at full a quarter after 10 o'clock, and the distance from his store to 41 Thomas-street, is full a mile, probably more. The night was Saturday; it was cold and damp. The next morning the porter told the witness, who lives in Anthony-street, that a murder had been committed; but as this was no uncommon case in that neighbourhood, it did not occupy his attention. A few days afterwards, reading a description of Robinson in a penny paper, he suspected it might be the person who was in his store on Saturday evening, and he determined to go out to Bellvue, and satisfy himself. Being acquainted with one of the keepers, he readily admitted him, and on going into Robinson's room, he immediately rose, shook hands with witness, and said, how do you do, Mr. Furlong. He was satisfied that it was the same person that was in his store, and left him. The witness having mentioned this fact, it reached the ears of Mr. Hoxie, who begged him to postpone a journey he was about taking with his wife, as his testimony might be of great consequence to the accused. As he was thus made a party to the suit, and still apprehending that he might be in error, he made another visit to Bellvue, some time after the first visit, and again saw the prisoner, and has no doubt that he was the man who was in his store on the Saturday evening, and had remained there until a quarter past ten o'clock; he cannot be mistaken; he was no relation to Robinson, or any of his family.

The witness was closely cross-examined by Mr. Phenix, the District Attorney, but he did not vary in his statement; he was positive as to the identity of the prisoner. Mr. Maxwell took from Robertson's pocket a small silver Lepine, and asked him whether that was the watch he compared with his own, on Saturday night when the clock struck. He said it was; and Mr. Hoxie said he bought that watch for Robinson.

It being nearly ten o'clock, the Court adjourned.

Tuesday, June 7.

The court met at ten o'clock this morning, and proceeded with the trial of the prisoner. After some remarks from the District Attorney with regard to the legality of reading the letters, Mr. Maxwell consented, and the following letter, dated 14th November, 1835, was then read:—

Miss Maria—.I think our intimacy is now old enough to speak plain. I am glad you used that expression in your note yesterday, "and as long as



you pursue a gentlemanly course of conduct, &c. &c." I now know on what footing I stand with you, any deviation from the line of conduct which you think I ought to pursue, and I am blown. All of your professions, oaths and assurances are set aside to accommodate your new feeling towards me. *Even this very letter* will be used as a witness against me to avenge a fancied insult received at my hands. Poor Frank has indeed a thousand insurmountable difficulties to encounter, bandied about like a dog, who as he becomes useless is cast aside no longer worthy of a single thought *except* to be cursed. No sooner extricated from one difficulty than he is plunged into ruin or disgrace by one whom he had confidence in, one who professed attachment more sincere than any other, and swore to be true and faithful and *all others* be false, she would be my friend till death parted us. Ah! has it come to this, and *she* the first to forsake me whom I so ardently sought to gain her lasting regard and love, *then* are *all* vows false, and Frank is indeed altered. He has but two wishes left, *either* of which he would embrace, and thank his heavenly father *with all the ardor of his soul*, death, or a complete alteration, and make me what I once was——'tis strange, yet 'tis true——after reflection on our situation all nights I awoke this morning feverish and undecided, and so ill as to be able to, attend to but a portion of my business of the day. I have, however, come to the conclusion that it is best for us to dissolve all connexion. I hope you will coincide in this opinion, for you well know that our meetings are far from being as sweet and pleasant as they were; and moreover, I conclude, from the tenor of your last note, that you would not regret such a step. I am afraid it will be the only way for me to pursue a gentlemanly course of conduct.

In my opinion, my conduct the last time was far from being gentlemanly or respectful. I behaved myself as I would never do again, let the circumstances be what they might, even if I have to prevent it by never putting my foot into your house again. I was very sorry for it, and now can beg your pardon. I have come to you as I never have to anybody else (in the case where other gentlemen are concerned;) *this* I hope will be forgiven as there is no harm done, and let the circumstances justify the act. I have always made it a point to study your character and disposition. *I admired it more than any other female's I ever knew*, and so deep an impression has it made upon my heart that never will the name of Maria G. Benson be forgotten by me. *But for the present we must be strangers.* I shall call on you to night to return the miniature, and then ask you to part with that which is no longer welcome; that you should think I would use subterfuge to obtain the cursed picture, wounded my feelings to the quick, for God knows *I am not* nor never was as mean as that. *Your note of Wednesday I never received that I am aware of.* I will not insult you by leaving you to infer that another will receive my visits, for "Pius" I shall remain. Nelly I have only to say, do not, do not betray me, but forget me. I am no longer worthy of you.—*Me ex memoria amitte et sum tuus servus.*

Respectfully, FRANK.

After the examination of two or three witnesses, the testimony, by agreement, closed on both sides.

The respective Counsel delivered most powerful and argumentative speeches, at the conclusion of which his Honour Judge Edwards charged the Jury at great length, recapitulating the prominent parts of the testimony, and laying down the law for the guidance of the Jury. The Learned Judge concluded by charging the Jury, that if they entertained any reasonable doubt of the guilt of the prisoner, those doubts were for the benefit of the prisoner, and they were bound to acquit him; but if they were without a reasonable doubt of his guilt, the Jury should find him guilty.

The Jury, after retiring about 15 minutes, returned into Court with a verdict of **NOT GUILTY!**