

LIFE AND CONFESSIONS
OF
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THE
VEILED MURDERESS!

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the murder of Timothy Lanagan, and who is still under indict-
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A THRILLING WORK, RICH IN INCIDENTS.



BOSTON :

PUBLISHED AND FOR SALE BY DR. H. B. SKINNER,

No. 15 FRIEND STREET.

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Assuming a tragic attitude, she said to the Judge: "The Judge of Judges will judge you!"

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The Editor of the Albany Knickerbocker says: The history of this woman has so much mystery hanging about it that any little circumstance which helps to clear up the matter is not to be looked upon as otherwise than interesting. A few days since, while going up State street, we were touched upon the arm by an Irish laborer, who informed us that he had some facts to communicate with regard to Mrs. Robinson, which he thought no other person in this country was possessed of. Some few years since, Mrs. Robinson resided in Hamilton st., in this city. While so residing, our informant says, he, with other laborers, was engaged in digging a drain through the street. While thus employed, one day he heard a tap on the window. He looked up and discovered that the tap came from Mrs. Robinson, who was then beckoning him to approach. He did so and entered the house,

As soon as he got seated, Mrs. Robinson asked him if he had ever seen her before. He replied that he was not sure, but that he believed he had. She then asked him if he was not a native of Longford, Ireland. He replied that he was. She then wished to know if he did not recollect Admiral Pagnum, of Pagnum Hall, Ireland. To this he gave an answer in the affirmative, saying that he knew him, and that he was reared in the immediate vicinity of the castle. "And did you never see me there?" she asked. He replied, "I am not sure, I think I have, but you are so altered." At this word she burst out crying and wept most bitterly. During the paroxysm, she informed him that she was born at Pagnum Castle, that Admiral Pagnum was her father, and that she left Longford to hide her shame. She attributed her ruin to "young Robinson"—a son of her father's steward, who abducted her from her home and brought her virtueless to New York. In this latter city she remained for some two years, at the expiration of which time Robinson, the heathen villain, deserted her, taking with every penny she had in the world. This cruel ingratitude drove her to desperation, and plunged her still deeper in sin than she had been.

From New York she removed to Troy, where she became the mistress of certain well known gentlemen of that city. From Troy she came to Albany. She resided here for some short time and then returned to Troy, where she became reckless and dissipated, and where she committed that murder for which she is now under sentence of death. Our informant is a plain, straight forward man, and we

make no doubt but that he has given the world the first consistent history of Mrs. Robinson that has yet appeared in print. If Mrs. Robinson told the truth to that laborer—and at that time she had no living reason for doing otherwise—her situation is one that calls loudly for our sympathies. Her wickedness has been produced by the villainies of the seducer, rather than by a depraved heart. The world trampled on the woman and the woman turned and stung it.

Mrs. Oakes Smith, has written a description of her person obtained by her own observation in a recent visit to her cell. She says: "Phrenologically her brain is low above the ears, and her coarse black hair grows down upon the forehead even lower than that upon the bust of the celebrated antique of Clite. She has two projections in the region of what is called Constructiveness, extending backward, which of themselves would be sufficient to throw the whole character out of balance. When you add to this brain a refined lady-like form, round and compact, with a temperament of the highest and most excitable kind, it will be easily seen that education might retard and modify her destiny, but would hardly serve to recreate her into a reliable or very safe character.

She evidently is possessed of a remarkably healthful organization, capable of great endurance, and indicating longevity. Her eyes have a look of force and vitality, and when not excited by an insane mood are really fine. She is perhaps thirty, and though an idealist would never call her beautiful, she is quite perfect in kind, and the vulgar mind would call her handsome.

She talks fluently, with a ready use of language and appropriate imagery. She talked with me candidly, often with a child-like simplicity, laughing even over some by-gone experience,

and weeping like a poor, ill-treated child."

The trial of this unfortunate lady for the awful crime of murder took place at Troy, New York, in May last, 1855. We give in this work the most interesting details connected with the whole case.

About three o'clock Sheriff Price entered the Court Room accompanied by the prisoner Henrietta Robinson. A large number of spectators were present, and Mrs. R. attracted all eyes. She was richly and fashionably appareled, wearing an elegant black silk dress, white hat trimmed with artificials, and spotless white kids, which betrayed a very pretty and delicate hand. Her face was shrouded with a blue veil from the time she entered the court room until she left it. In person Mrs. Robinson is not above the medium height, is very erect and sprightly, and has a fine figure. We should say, also, judging from her disposition to converse with her counsel, that she has a talent for talking. She manifested considerable interest in the proceedings which were going on.

After the empanelling of the jury, which was a difficult and slow process, the District Attorney, Mr. Bingham, proceeded to open the case as follows:

Gentlemen: The prisoner at the bar has been heretofore arraigned, charged with murdering Timothy Lanagan in this city on the 25th day of May, 1853. She is now brought here for trial, and you are here to try her. The crime of murder is perfectly well understood. It is not necessary, at this time, to read its definition by the statute. I only propose, now, to give you an outline of the facts, as they will be established in the course of the testimony which we shall produce.

It will appear that the prisoner, on the 25th day of May last resided in the extreme north part of this city; that

she had resided here, previous to this time, a year or more, keeping house. What her antecedents were, it will not be necessary, at this time, to enquire into. On the opposite side of the street from this woman's house, resided Timothy Lanagan. He occupied a small dwelling, part of it for his family, and part he used as a grocery. He had been there from the previous October.

The prisoner and the deceased had no personal acquaintance at the time the latter moved there. After he had resided there some two months, the prisoner became a frequenter of his grocery, purchasing her household supplies there. About four weeks previous to the time we allege the murder was committed, a trouble arose between the prisoner and the deceased in this way: she attended a dance at Lanagan's house, and during the evening got into a wrangle with a man, or several of them, in the course of which she drew a pistol upon them. Upon this, she was put out of the room (or seen out) by Mr. and Mrs. Lanagan, and taken to her home. The next day, or very soon after she called at Lanagan's house, quite early in the morning, before L. himself was up, and abused Mrs. Lanagan. Some time elapsed before she resumed her visits to the grocery; but when she did, it was to purchase her groceries and provisions as before, and apparently on good terms.

On the 15th of May, 1853, she called at the grocery in the absence of Mrs. Lanagan, and after purchasing some trifling articles, she requested a loan of two dollars. The money Mrs. L. did not have. The same forenoon she returned to the house, and several men were there, before whom she conducted herself with so much impropriety that Mrs. Lanagan requested her to leave—to go away. She did go away: but about 12 o'clock M. she

returned to Mr. Lanagan's. The family consisted of Mr. Lanagan, his wife, and a young woman at the time visiting there, named Catherine Lubey. These three persons were at dinner, Mrs. Robinson took a seat at the table and partook of some of the food. While Mrs. R. was seated at the table, Mr. L. left the back room for the grocery, which was in the front, leaving the three women about the table. After they had completed their dinner, Mrs. Robinson says, "we must have some beer." The two others declined; she pressed her proposition, and said, "You must have some on my account." She also requested they should have some sugar in it. Mrs. L. left the room to procure what the prisoner had called for, and soon returned with the sugar in a saucer, and a quart of beer. Upon returning she found Mrs. Robinson walking the floor, and having a white paper in her fingers. She noticed the paper more particularly from the fact of her having wanted to borrow two dollars in the forenoon, and she looked at the paper to see if it was not a bank bill. Mrs. Lanagan then poured the beer into the tumblers, but the tumblers were not full. Mrs. R. insisted that the tumblers should be filled. Mrs. Lanagan, upon this, left the room for more beer, and when she returned she found that Mrs. Robinson had poured the sugar from the saucer into the tumblers, and also found a slight powder on the surface of the contents of the tumbler.

Just at this time Mr. Lanagan, who was in the grocery all this while, called for his wife to come there; she went, and Mr. Lanagan, the deceased, came into the room where Mrs. Robinson and Miss Lubey were. Mrs. Robinson then stirred up the beer in the tumblers, and asked Mr. Lanagan to drink. Miss Lubey and Mr. L. all drank. Soon after this Mrs. L. left the

premises. Mr. Lanagan soon after left the house, to go down to the city. He returned soon to his house, very sick; physicians were sent for, and he died about 7 o'clock that evening; and we shall show, as we think beyond question, that he died from the effect of arsenic, and that the accused administered the poison.

We shall also show you, gentlemen, that some time previous to this transaction, the prisoner had purchased some arsenic, some two ounces, at one of the drug stores; that a quantity of that article was found concealed under a carpet, after this transaction.

Soon after administering the poison, Mrs. Robinson left her house, and came down to the city, and was arrested in the streets, charged with the crime. It will be our duty as prosecutors, to show, beyond reasonable doubt, that she did administer the poison; and that she is responsible for the crime with which she is charged. Of the nature of the defence we are not informed.

The opening of the Attorney as above given, presents a fair sketch of the facts proved on the trial, and as sustained by other witnesses.

Three points cover the whole case, viz.: 1.—Mrs. Robinson purchased arsenic, &c. 2.—She administered it to Lanagan. And 3.—That Lanagan died from the effects of the arsenic.

The next point of interest is the testimony of Mrs. Ann Lanagan, wife of the deceased.

Mrs. Ann Lanagan called, sworn, testified as follows: I knew Timothy Lanagan in his life time; he was my husband; he is dead; he lived corner of River and Rennselaer streets, where I now live; we had lived there about twelve months when he died, which was May 25th.

I knew Mrs. Robinson; was two months living there before I got ac-

quainted with her; she lived across the street from us; I saw her May 25th, first about 6 o'clock in the morning; saw her in my own place in the grocery; there was nobody there but myself at that time, that I recollect. She called for a quart of strong beer and a pound of soda crackers, and I furnished her with them. She took the beer and crackers away with her; my husband was not out of bed at that time; saw her again, about 8 o'clock in our grocery; there was an old man named Haley who lived in the house with Mrs. Robinson, who was in the grocery at the time; she came in and asked the old man what kept him so long; the old man was sent in by her to ask the loan of two dollars for Mrs. R. [This last question objected to by prisoner's counsel—admitted by the court.] I did not let the old man have the money; I told her that I denied him as I had no money in the house and I thought I could borrow some, and I would send and see. She asked me if I "was so scarce as that of money," and I said "yes." She said she was sorry, and that she would lend me one hundred dollars to-morrow. She then went away. She had been in my place about ten or fifteen minutes.

I saw her about 11 o'clock that day in the grocery again. She told me she was in great trouble. She told me that she got a telegraph letter a few minutes before that Robinson had got hurt on board one of the cars. A man stood by and said that if he heard that his wife was dead he would not fret until he saw her. He was a man named William Welsh. She turned away from the counter and went inside in the kitchen, in rear of the grocery; the upper part of the door is glass, between the grocery and the kitchen.

She went into the kitchen and stopped there for some time. A lot of

men were sitting inside there when she went in. I heard loud talking. I could hear Mrs. R.'s voice ; could not tell who the men were. I was in the grocery. My husband was not in the house at that time. He was down to Morrison & Lord's. I went into the kitchen before she left, and told her to go home, that it was no place for her to be there among such a lot of men. Can't say that she said anything to that; she left after a little time. There was no other woman in at that time. I saw her again that day about 1 o'clock, in the kitchen ; my husband and Catharine Lubey were in the kitchen at that time ; Catharine Lubey's sister was married to my brother ; she was stopping with me at that time ; she came from Albany on a visit. My husband and Catharine were eating dinner at the time. As she came in she said, "Are you at dinner?" and I said "yes." There was an egg on the table, and she asked whose egg that was? I answered that it was hers if she wanted it. She took the egg in her hand ; my husband stood up and went into the grocery ; she sat down, and I peeled a potato for her ; she eat the egg and potato. When she was done, she said, you Mrs. Lanangan, and Catharine must have a glass of beer from me. I told her that we did not want any beer ; that I did not want to take any. Catharine made answer and said that she did not like beer. She asked me if I had got any sugar in the house. I said yes, and told her that I thought she did not want any, as she got nine pounds from me the week before.

She said she did not want it to take home. She said she wanted to put it on the beer to make it good. I took a saucer and brought her in some sugar from the store ; it was white powdered sugar ; I then went for the beer and brought some in a quart measure. I poured it into two glasses. Mrs. R.

was walking back over the floor with the saucer in her hand at this time. I did not bring enough of beer to fill the two glasses full. I then went back and brought in some beer from the grocery. She was after pouring the sugar into the two glasses, when I came into the room the second time with beer. I poured in the remainder of the beer and filled the glasses.

When I sat down to the table to take my glass of beer, she was standing beside me. One of the glasses of beer stood before Catharine. I noticed a little foam on the top of my glass of beer and I thought it was a little dust that was in the sugar. I took a tea-spoon in my hand to take it off, but she took the spoon out of my hand and said, "don't you do that ; that is the best of it." My husband called me, and I went into the grocery. My husband then went into the kitchen. My glass of beer was on the table when I went out. I don't recollect anything further said when I went out. My husband said nothing before I went out. When he came in, he said I must go in and wait in the grocery ; he wanted to go down as far as Mr. Morrison's.

I went into the grocery. I turned around to the door and saw the glass of beer in my husband's hand. He was just putting it up to his lips to take it. I heard nothing said. Mrs. Robinson left in a few minutes afterwards. My husband came into the grocery ; I asked him to stop for a few moments ; Mrs. R. stood between Catharine Lubey and my husband near the table, when I saw him drinking. I couldn't see where the other glass of beer was then. I observed a piece of white paper in Mrs. R.'s hands, and on the table where she was eating the egg and potato. I don't know any further than what Catharine told me as to her drinking the beer or not. Mrs. R. did not

drink any beer at that time to my knowledge. After I went into the grocery, I did not return to the kitchen before Mrs. R. came out.

I had no conversation with her as she passed out; she said nothing to me. She passed out before my husband. My husband stopped in the grocery to put down some charges I told him of; I left him in the grocery then and went into the kitchen.

When he was ready to go he called on me and told me he was going down to Messrs. Morrison & Lord's. When I returned to the kitchen the glasses were empty on the table. My husband did go down street, I went back into the grocery.

Examination of Mrs. Lanagan resumed.—Do not know what time it was when my husband left for down street. He came back, as near as I can state, about 3 o'clock. Had seen Mrs. Robinson after my husband left and before he came back. She came over to our place. Cannot state how long after my husband went away she came over. She came into the kitchen through the grocery. Catharine was lying on the bed at the time; she was sick. She went over to the bed-side and asked Catharine how she felt. She said she felt very poorly, and that she (Mrs. Robinson) put something into the beer that sickened her. Mrs. R. said she put nothing in it but something to do her good. My husband came in at the time and I don't recollect that any more words passed. Mrs. R. asked me for a glass of beer before my husband came. I told her that I thought she didn't want any beer. There was a young man in at the time, and she asked him if he would have a glass of beer. The man said no, he didn't drink beer. My husband came in at that time, and laid down on the sofa. He was very bad; hardly able to speak. I turned to him and asked if he was sick.

Mrs. Robinson was standing by. He said "send for the doctor immediately; I am done for." I did send; sent William Buckley, a man who was in the house. I turned around to her (Mrs. Robinson) and said, "what have you done! you have killed the father of my children." She said, "Oh, no, I wouldn't do any such thing." She thought to go over to speak to him; but he put out his hand against her, and told her to go. I put my hand against her and pushed her towards the door. Lanagan's mother also pushed Mrs. R. toward the door, and helped to put her out of doors. My husband when he put his hand up said, "go, woman." She then left the house. Before my husband had returned, the old man Haly came over, and said that Mrs. Robinson wanted me over to her place. I told him I couldn't go. Mrs. R. did not come back to our house after she was there. Did not see her afterwards. *Question:* Do you see her now? Witness could not identify Mrs. R. and counsel requested that she raise her veil.

A SCENE IN COURT.

[There was some sensation in court at this time. The court was applied to to order the prisoner to remove her veil. The Court said that it was desirable that the prisoner should remove her veil. The prisoner still hesitated. She finally partly removed her veil, but not sufficiently to show her face. Counsel for the prosecution still insisted that the veil should be removed so that she could be seen by the witness. Mr. Beach to witness: Mrs. Lanagan you look now at her face. Assuming a standing position Mrs. R. removed her veil in part, but concealed her face almost wholly by holding her handkerchief to her face. It was but for an instant. Witness said that she did not see her face; that the prisoner covered her face with her hand

kerchief so that her face could not be seen.

The Court said that it was a singular freak of the prisoner to keep her face concealed in this manner; and that her counsel should have advised her that such a course was likely to prejudice her case.

Mr. Beach said that it was a matter over which the prisoner's counsel had no control. They had advised her in reference to this matter, but they could not control it.

Mr. Pierson said that there were reasons reaching far beyond this trial why this woman desired to sit here veiled; reasons which the Court did not know, but which her counsel did.

The Court said that there must be some good reason in the prisoner's mind for such a course, and so long as she chose to pursue it, it was not the province of the Court to interfere.

Mrs. Robinson was a good deal agitated during these proceedings.]

Witness continued.

My husband died at 1-4 to 7 o'clock the same evening, and Catharine Luby died at 5 o'clock the next morning; I saw her dead; she died at the house of Mr. James Lanagan; Dr. Adams and Dr. Skilton attended her.

My husband did not leave the room after he came in from down street; he got no better before he died; a French clergyman, whose name I forgot, was present before my husband died; he is not living in town now; he was at the house when the doctor was; Mr. Lanagan's mother had sent for him. [Counsel renewed the offer to prove the dying declarations of Mr. Lanagan. Court: Do not think it will answer.]

I became acquainted with Mrs. Robinson about two months previous to this occurrence, recollect a disturbance at our house in which Mrs. R. was concerned. It was at a dance at

our house. I told her to go home myself on this occasion; I told her so because a young man asked her to dance; she wouldn't dance, and then she insulted the young man; Mr. Lanagan and myself were by at the time. What passed between the young man and Mrs. R. I can't say. They were at the door leading from the grocery to the kitchen, and I was in the grocery; she came to the counter soon; I was behind it; the young man also came to the counter; they talked for some time; I can't say what they were talking here; she said that he insulted her; and she pulled her pistol out and said that if he ever insulted her again she would blow his brains out; my husband came, and said he didn't want any noise in the place; that they must leave there; that he would have no more noise there; I went to her, and told her to go home; I went alone with her to her own door; told her to keep in her own place and nobody would insult her; she came outside the door again that night, but did not come into the grocery, she called for the young man that insulted her (Smith); she asked if Smith was in there; she knocked at the door and asked the person who opened it; Smith went out, and I heard nothing further.

Can't say when Mrs. R. was next at my house; whether it was the next morning or two mornings after. She said I was a very mean woman, and that I kept rowdies in my house to insult her. She said she would get us turned out of the place, and would not let us get any license to sell. I told her that I didn't want any bother with her; to go home. She kept still talking. My husband got out of bed in the back room, and told Mrs. R. that he wouldn't stand such noise, and that she must leave the house. She said she wouldn't leave the house for him. She asked him if he wanted to turn

her out when she was so good a customer. He said he didn't want her custom; he wanted her to go away. She said she wouldn't leave; that he would have to get a constable to turn her out. I told him to go inside, and I would send her away myself. She left in a few minutes afterwards.

Then I went into the grocery to get the sugar in the saucer, I got the sugar in a small box where we usually kept the sugar. The box and the sugar were taken in charge by the Coroner that night. Previous to the 25th of May, and before drinking the beer, my husband was well; nothing was the matter with him. The beer was the same kind that we were retailing out of the store daily.

William M. Ostrom.—Reside in Troy. I am a druggist. That was my business some time previous to the month of May, 1853. My store at that time was at the corner of River and Federal streets, near the bridge, considerable north of the residence of Mrs. Robinson. I did not know a Mrs. Robinson at that time. Should know her now, if she would raise her veil.

THE VEIL—AGAIN.

Mr. Hogeboom, I submit, your Honor, that we shall be obliged to try the veil experiment again. [Laughter and excitement in the room, during which the officer commanded "order."]

Mrs. Robinson made no motion to move her veil; she was conversing with Mr. Beach.

The Court said: If the prisoner prefers it, she may step forward to where the witness is, and unveil herself to him alone. [Mrs. Robinson came forward to the witness, and ascending the platform raised her veil in the face of the witness.]

That is the lady, sir, she was in my store several times in the month of May, 1853. In that month she pur-

chased arsenic in my store. It was in the form of a white powder. It was between the 10th and the 25th of May. She bought, as near as I recollect, two ounces. She was also at my store on the 25th of May, between 5 and 7 o'clock, about half an hour previous to her arrest. Had conversation with her at that time. When I came in from tea, I found her in the store very much excited. She said she was in trouble; had been charged with poisoning a couple of persons. I think she mentioned Lanagan's name for one, and said they resided opposite where she did. I asked her why they should suspect her of the crime; and she said she supposed it was out of revenge as she would not lend them a hundred dollars; that she did not want to draw that amount of money out of the bank in the absence of Mr. Robinson. She said she was very much in fear of the neighborhood, and wanted my advice as to what she should do to be protected. I referred her to the Chief of the Police, Amasa J. Copp; told her it was his duty to send a posse of officers with her, if necessary, to see that she was protected. She had a revolver with her on that occasion. I probed it with the handle of a pen; I found one barrel loaded; there were three or four percussion caps on the hammer of the pistol, but the lock was so rusty that I doubt if it could be fired off. I think the cap on the barrel loaded, the one that I probed, was in good order. On the Saturday evening previous to the arrest, Mrs. R. was at my store, and had a pistol with her. It was about 10 o'clock in the evening when she came in. On her visit to my store on the 25th, she said she had gone over to the grocery in search of her gardener, and that while there she was about drinking beer with Mrs. Lanagan and others; there was some confusion about the handling of the tumblers,

and that Mr. Lanagan was taken sick and they accused her of putting poison into the beer.

THIRD DAY.—There was not an unusual attendance at the opening of the Court this morning. The number of females present was not large. Mrs. R. appeared with the Sheriff, dressed as usual. After a call of the roll, the Court remarked that before the trial proceeded he desired to say a word or two. He said we have thus far proceeded with the trial with prisoner masked. We have had the singular occurrence of trying that person for a high crime with a veil on her face. It is a curious case. He confessed to a repugnance to the trial of a person he or the jury never saw. He was unwilling to proceed further with the trial unless she should unveil her face and sit with it unveiled.

Mrs. Robinson unveiled her face and stood up. She made some remarks almost inaudible, by way of apology for the concealment of her face.

The Judge remarked on the singularity of her course. It was unusual, and not allowable. In requiring her to sit in Court unveiled he was doing nothing that was unreasonable.

Mr. Beach (one of Mrs. R.'s counsel) stated that he had previously addressed her in regard to the matter alluded to by the Court. He said that she, in declining to comply with his admonition, said that she preferred to sacrifice herself and suffer all the punishment the Court could inflict, to yielding to his suggestions.

The examination of Dr. Bontecou, given below, contains the entire ground of defence, and also establishes the fact of the death of Lanagan and Miss Lubey, by poison:

Reed B. Bontecou sworn—examined by Mr. Hogeboom: I reside in Troy; am a physician; have been about 9 years; lived in Troy in May last; was

then Coroner of this county. I held an inquest over the body of Timothy Lanagan; verdict was rendered by the jury.

Question.—Is it proper to give the verdict?

The Court stated that it was of no importance.

The inquest was held on the same evening of his death, the 25th. I made a post-mortem examination of his body; that was done at the house of deceased the following day; quite a number of people were present; the jury, Dr. Skilton and Dr. Seymour were present; I was associated with Dr. Dakin in making an analysis of the contents of the stomach; I took the stomach from the body myself; I analyzed the contents of the stomach in the latter part of June last; the analysis continued two or three weeks.

I applied chemical tests with a view of ascertaining the substances which the stomach contained. We found arsenic in the stomach. We applied several different tests; they all resulted in showing arsenic. In Mr. Lanagan's intestines we found 40 grains; there was enough to produce death; he died in consequence of the poison, which I can state professionally. I took charge of a box of sugar in Mrs. Lanagan's house; It was white, fine sugar; I got it from Mrs. Lanagan; it was from behind the counter on one of the shelves below the level of the counter in the store; Mrs. L. pointed it out to me and I took it; she told me there was all the sugar there was; I did not see any other sugar there. The box could not be touched in its situation except by a person getting over and behind the counter.

I should judge there was three or four pounds of sugar in the box; I took possession of it and kept it until the time of the analysis. Prof. Dakin and myself analyzed it. We searched

for arsenic and tested it therefor. The tests showed there was none. Did not discover any foreign ingredient. One or two of the most delicate and proper tests were employed in analyzing the sugar. I am not a professional chemist; Mr. Dakin is I understand.

I tested the beer at Lanagan's by drinking it. I produced no very unpleasant effect upon me. It did not kill me. There was no poison in it. Some of the jurors drank of it and one or two other persons.

The beer was drawn by Mrs. Lanagan; I was present at the time; I do not know of any other barrel or keg of beer being in the house at the time. I went to the house of Mrs. Robinson, I never had seen her before this transaction; her house was a little above Lanagan's, next to Boutwell's; it was a white cottage; found arsenic in the back parlor, which was used for a bed room; it was on the south-east corner of the room under the bed and carpet; it was wrapped in a paper; the paper was soiled, but was not white; but it was as near white as may be; it was not done up in a regular form; it was merely folded and the paper pressed about it. There was one dram 60 grains of the arsenic there; I took possession of it; it is what is commonly known as arsenic; we tested it and found it to be arsenic; the arsenic is here in a package.

On the 25th of May I saw Catharine Lubey, the person alleged to be poisoned at the same time; saw her I think at the house of James Lanagan, a relative of the deceased. I was there about 9 o'clock in the evening of the day, I took the coroner's jury there for the purpose of holding an inquest. She was sworn on the inquest and I took her evidence in writing; she was lying in bed at the time and appeared to be sick at her stomach.

Her appearance seemed to indicate

that she had taken something into her stomach; she vomited; did not purge to my knowledge; think she asked for a drink one or more times while I was in there; she did not complain of her throat or of a burning sensation; it was my professional opinion that she had been poisoned, judging from her appearance and from what she told me. [Objected to and ruled out by the Court.]

I examined the contents of her stomach with Prof. Dakin. That showed the presence of arsenic sufficient to produce death. I think she died from the effects of the poison administered; applied same tests as the other case with same effect. When I saw her I told her she would recover, and I thought so at that time.

I don't know that she expressed herself on that subject, whether she would recover or not.

When I first approached the bed I felt of her pulse. I spoke a few words to her and told her I thought she would recover. She observed that she felt very sick. I did not change my opinion about her recovery before I left, and did not communicate any different opinion to her. I held an inquest on her body the 26th of May, about 9 A. M. I made the post mortem examination on Miss Lubey first, on that day, and then I went to Lanagan's to make a post mortem examination on Mr. L. The same kind of arsenic was found in Mrs. Robinson's house as found in the stomachs of both the deceased.

Cross Examined by Mr. Pierson: These tests were conducted principally by Prof. Dakin. I first saw Mrs. Robinson in prison on that evening, the 15th, after 9 o'clock. She was not at either of the inquests to my knowledge. I conversed with her in jail.

COURT.—The Judge stated that if the defence were to rely upon facts

relative to the sanity of her mind, he would request the prisoner to remove her veil. He said he would give such an order to the Sheriff—that the veil be removed. He regarded it as an imperative duty, that the veil be removed, if the defence were to set up the plea of insanity.

Mr. Beach here removed the veil from her face. She was seen smiling and keeping her handkerchief up to her face.

The Judge stated that he hoped he would not be under the necessity of alluding to that subject again.

Cross Examination resumed—I have seen a number of insane individuals. I pretend to be a judge of cases of aberration of mind. This woman was not rational on the evening of the 25th. Her appearance was very singular that evening; don't know as I could describe it to you. She acted very strangely and had a wild, unnatural appearance of the eye; she laughed; her answers to questions put to her were not pertinent to my remarks; she had on skirts and a loose habit or sort of Jenny Lind as ladies generally wear; her dress was loose and the upper part was not attached to the dress below. Her person I think was not exposed. I took from her the keys of her house at that time. I went to her house and found a small quantity of arsenic, perhaps 4 or 6 inches under the carpet near the corner of the room. I also found a box containing jewelry under the carpet also at the same place. Found a watch, chain, and I think a locket under the carpet. The watch and chain I believe were in the box of jewelry I speak of. There were several other trinkets, breast-pins, cuff-pins, &c., in the box. I next saw Mrs. R. the day following in jail, and conversed with her. At that time I saw she was not rational; her mind was much the same as the evening before.

She acted very strangely and quite unnatural. Her answers were not satisfactory. I didn't get the information which I asked for. I can't recollect exactly what she said; her answers were not pertinent to the questions I put to her; I went to ask her something about her furniture; I stayed with her on the second occasion about 10 or 15 minutes; perhaps about 10 minutes on the first occasion.

The second time there was a wild, unnatural appearance of the eye. I can't say that her actions were any way peculiar—she was sitting I think at that time—I mean her gestures; before I came away she left her chair and walked to the window. I visited her on several occasions, probably two or three times a week, for a fortnight perhaps after her confinement. I was always impressed with the idea that she was not rational. I told her once that I heard Lanagan and Catharine Lubey were dead; she took no notice of the remark that I could see; I think she did not know what I meant. I did, on one occasion, in the second or third week of my visit, charge her with poisoning these persons.

The expression I made was something like this:—"You know you have poisoned these people; now I want you to tell me all about it." She made no answer to it, but went on chattering away with the same jumbling and incoherent sentences, that she had been using. As far as I could judge, I could not see that she comprehended what I meant. From the beginning to the end of my visits, on all occasions, I was satisfied that she was not a rational woman. I gave all the articles of jewelry to Dr. Hegeman which I found at her house under the carpet.

Re-Examined on part of the Defence, by Mr. Beach—I have often had in

the course of my practice patients temporarily delirious, feverish, &c.

My practice has been extensive in this city. I was associated with Dr. Brinsmade for two years. At my first interview with Mrs. R., the expression of her eye did not indicate drunkenness; neither did the expression of her face. I directed my attention to the condition of her mind at my interviews with her; partial alienation of the mind, I believe to be the common form of insanity. Her answers to my remarks were not generally responsive; I have a clear remembrance of that. At almost every visit she was laughing; the fact of her not replying to my remarks was one of the inducements that led me to believe that she was not rational; do not know of her having access to stimulating liquors after her confinement.

Prof. Francis Dakin, sworn.—examined on the part of prosecution by Mr. Hogeboom:—I reside in Albany; profession is a chemist; have been for several years a chemist; have been in the habit of analyzing subjects; I attended the analysis of contents of stomachs of Mr. Lanagan and Miss Lubey, at Dr. Bontecou's house; there was arsenic in both stomachs. We applied 5 or 6 different tests, each of which resulted in showing the presence of arsenic; I have no doubt of the presence of arsenic in the stomach; the result of the analysis—the compositions obtained—are in that jar, [produced in Court]; found arsenic in large quantity; should judge, sufficient to produce death; I am not a physician. We analyzed the sugar and found no arsenic in it; we applied the same tests; Dr. Bontecou's family used the sugar afterwards.

I analyzed Lanagan's stomach and found 40 grains of arsenic. I took the mucus from the stomach of Miss Lubey and found arsenic in that. The

contents of the paper found at Mrs. R.'s house we also analyzed and found to be arsenic.

JUDGE HARRIS AND THE VEIL AGAIN.

Judge Harris.—Before proceeding with this case, we will make one more effort to go on with an unmasked face. I trust I feel all the delicacy consistent with my position; but I must do my duty fearlessly and fairly. Notwithstanding all my efforts this morning, one veil has been withdrawn and another substituted. As yet I have been unable to see the face of the prisoner, and I doubt if any of the jury could identify her out of doors. I know the sting is severe but it can't be helped. The Jurors and witnesses must confront the prisoner, and if she will not remove her mask it will be taken from her.

[Mrs. Robinson, after some hesitation, threw her veil partially over her bonnet, and, as if sobbing, bent forward her head, burying her face prettily much wholly in her handkerchief. She was much affected, apparently, throughout the afternoon, and succeeded effectually in concealing her face from view. The Court room was crowded during the afternoon.

There were several other points of testimony, but all included in what has been given. That of Miss Dillon we offer as presenting some new features of the

VEILED MURDERESS.

Mary J. Dillon sworn.—Reside in Troy, in the upper part of the city. I knew Mrs. Robinson. I resided but a short distance from where she did. Saw her frequently before she was put in jail. My business was dress making. Some time in March, 1853, she came in and asked me if I done plain sewing. I told her I did. She had a dress she wanted me to fix. I told her that I had so much sewing in the house that I didn't

see how I could do it right away. She said she wanted it done so bad, she would pay me any price to fix it for her. She said it was too short in the waist. She had the dress with her. I told her I didn't think I could make it any longer in the waist. She then told me to let the waist go as it was, and fix the other part. Don't recollect who she said cut the dress. I believe she told me first that she cut it herself, and afterwards that a dress-maker cut it. She said that Oliver Boutwell himself and family had slandered her. She told me her name was Mrs. Robinson. She told me she was a lord's daughter in Ireland; that she was turned away from her father's castle for marrying a poor man. She then cried. Soon afterwards something seemed to pass her mind, and she laughed, and danced about the floor, and began to tell something; I don't recollect what it was.

At another interview, quite a spell afterwards, she showed me a daguerreotype, representing a lady with a bundle of flowers. She said it was the daguerreotype of her mother; she said the flowers were gathered from the garden of the King of France. She said her mother gave her this likeness when her father turned her away. She told me another time her mother died when she was a small child. Another cause of her being turned away was her stepmother. This was at the time she told me her mother died when she was a small child. It was at another time she told me her husband was a lord in Ireland. She told me one time she was educated in a nunnery; at another time that she was educated at Mrs. Willard's Seminary. She told me at one time, after her father had sent her away, he sent for her to come back, that he would forgive her. She said, at one time, her father had sent her one hundred and

fifty dollars to purchase a single dress to appear in court against Oliver Boutwell for slander. She said she could jump into the river and swim until she got tired, and then she had a cork which she could put between her teeth and rest in the water and not sink.

I was on the bank of the river with her, near her house, which was near the bank of the river; before she went on the bank of the river, she saw a boat coming down; she said that Oliver Boutwell had stopped the navigation, and the boat should'nt pass. While on the bank of the river, she began to hoot at the hands in the boat, but they did not hear her. She had a revolver in her hand, and began to climb up the rocks. She got about half way up, and turned to me and said, "Mary Jane, wouldn't I make a good soldier?" She said she was sick at one time, sent for Dr. Buswell, he came and left her a bottle of medicine. She said she suspected the medicine was poison; said she went to a neighbor and gave the dog some of the medicine; said the dog died in a half an hour; she then said she put the cork in the bottle and threw it into the river; that some one found it and brought it back to her; she said she paid five dollars for the dog; was frequently at our house; recollect of her coming there one time without any dress on; it was about a month before she was put in prison; it was about half past 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning; she had a night dress on and a white sun-bonnet; had on no shawl; only my brother was up at the time; she wanted me to lend her a dress; she said she wanted to go down street to purchase a revolver, and take out a warrant for Dave Smith; I let her have my clothes; she went off with them; that same day I sent my sister for the dress; recollect of her coming to our house on another occasion about 11

or 12 o'clock in the night, in March or April.

The family were in bed when she woke us up. She wanted my sister to go after Dr. Buswell—that her husband had just come home then and was very sick. She told my sister if she would go she would give her a revolver to take with her, and pay her a sum of money, the amount of which I don't recollect. My sister told her she didn't want to go. Mrs. Robinson then said that she didn't want Dr. Buswell for her husband; her husband was not sick, but she wanted to get him to blow his brains out, as he was at her house the night before and insulted her; I once told Mrs. Robinson to go home, that I did not want her there. She said she would not go. This was about three days before she was put in jail. She said she would let me know what authority she had there. I told her to go—to go out of the house. I said no more on that subject afterwards. She went shortly afterwards. Three days after she came in and said she had a warrant for me, that I had slandered her. Asked her what I had said about her. She made no reply; came up and kissed me and asked me to forgive her.

FOURTH DAY.—The attendance was very large to-day; the number of ladies present being also considerable. Mrs. Robinson appeared as usual, conversing freely with her counsel, and seemingly to take a deep interest in the examination of witnesses. She had her face nearly uncovered from the veil—the latter article hanging partially on one side—but she kept her kerchief up to her face pretty much the whole time.

Mary J. Dillon, cross-examined on the part of the prosecution by Mr. Van Santvoord:—I could tell at what interview Mrs. R. said her father was an Irish lord; it was the same interview

that she showed me the daguerreotype; didn't think it was the first interview. The second interview was the next day after the first; she did not come to get her dress then; she brought me more sewing; had a long conversation with her at this time; chatted and talked together considerable; don't recollect any other subjects we talked about except what I stated to Mr. Pierson; I don't recollect telling her anything about my family. My oldest sister was at Mr. Howard's in this city; don't remember to have mentioned my eldest sister's name to Mrs. R.; don't think anything led to the subject we spoke of, relative to her father being an Irish lord; this was a new subject she introduced. When she told me that, I was rather pleased with her conversation; she appeared to be a good-natured lady to talk with; her manners were agreeable at the time; don't know as I did believe the story she told me about her father being a lord. My father is an Irishman, I was born in Vermont.

She told me her father was an Irish lord and then she showed me the daguerreotype; this daguerreotype she told me was her mother's; that the flowers had been gathered in the garden of the Queen of France; the picture was a lady about thirty. Don't think she told me when her mother was in France. Don't think I believed this part of the story; don't think it made much impression on my mind, when she told me of her father and of the flowers in the garden of France. She cried violently when she talked about her mother's death: believe she cried when she showed me the daguerreotype; she cried a very short time; think I said something to her; don't remember what it was; can't say as I felt on friendly terms with her. Don't remember what she said to Mrs. R. to pacify her while crying; think she said something; and

then she commenced conversing about some other subject; and then commenced laughing; don't recollect the subject; a short time after, she commenced laughing; we laughed together; while laughing she commenced dancing; continued dancing a short time; think the subject she talked on was rather amusing; don't think it was about balls or parties; I did not dance or take any steps; my sister was not present then; don't think there was any other person present but myself and Mrs. R.; her dancing was not regular; she kind of jumped around; could not exactly call it dancing; 'twas a figure I never saw danced before; she did not offer to show me any steps of dancing; think I laughed at this performance; we parted in good friends.

It was at the same interview she told me her father was a French lord; don't remember what I said to her when she told me that; she did not tell me who the man was she married when she was turned away from her father's castle; she told me at one time she was 27 years of age; don't know how old she is. Don't remember the time she came for her dresses; think I took them home; think it was the first time I was ever in Mrs. R.'s house; don't remember how long I staid there; think it was two hours and a half; think I was engaged with Mrs. R. in conversation all the time; she didn't want to have me go, was the reason I staid so long; I wanted to go; she did not detain me by force, but by persuasion.

At that interview think she told me stories that I did not believe to be true; don't remember one of the stories; yes, there was one, but I don't remember if she told the story at the time; think she did, tho'; the story was that she had been insulted at Mr. Galvin's; her conversation was, part of the time, as pleasant and agreeable as on former occasions; part of the time 'twas not;

don't recollect what part of conversation was not agreeable; every now and then it was not so agreeable; think part of her conversation was coarse, that was not so agreeable; she used profane language; don't remember if other things struck me as disagreeable in her conversation. When I left she asked me to come and see her again; think I told her I would; don't recollect what I told her.

No person lived in the house with her then, to my knowledge. I went to see her again; think it was next day; she had been to my house before I called the second time; at my house had a very short interview; she asked me to come back with her; I went with her; staid there all day; went there between the hours of 8 and 10 in the morning, and took dinner with her; did not take tea with her; think I then began to feel on pretty intimate terms with her; this familiarity continued for about two weeks afterwards; during the time I visited her house frequently and she did mine; almost every day I saw her; there was about four days, I think, that she did not come to our house, nor I go to hers; had a very pleasant visit part of the time, at her house, the day I stopped there.

[At this stage of the proceeding, the counsel rested some fifteen or twenty minutes, during which Mrs. R. and her counsel commenced conversing freely together. At times, she was noticed apparently crying, and at others showing her usual cheerful and smiling aspect; after a while she drew the veil over her face, and seemed to be speaking very positively for some time of something; making many gestures with her head and hands, &c.]

At this point the case was rested.

Next followed the arguments of counsel on both sides. For the Government, the District Attorney, Bing-

ham, Henry Hogeboom, and George Van Santvoord.

On the part of the defence, appeared Hon. Job Pierson, Wm. A. Beach, Levi Smith, M. E. Townsend, Abram Olin, and Sam'l Stover, Esq's.

From this array of legal talent it may well be supposed that the argument on both sides displayed an unusual amount of legal knowledge, deep research, and marked ability.

The whole ground was gone over, and each point presented with clearness from every available position. It does not come within our design in this brief sketch, to trace out the arguments on either side. We have presented such facts only as would tend to unfold the leading traits of character in this strange woman.

The charge by Judge Harris, was very logical, and displayed an unusual depth of research and learning. The facts and incidents were each in turn presented distinctly, to the minds of the Jury, with an earnestness and pathos at times truly affecting. At the conclusion of the charge, the case was given to the Jury at 6 o'clock in the evening.

VERDICT—EVENING SESSION.

The room and gallery were densely crowded some time before the hour of re-opening arrived. A large proportion of the audience were ladies, many of whom had retained the side benches from the afternoon, without retiring during the recess. The officers had some difficulty in keeping the large and excited crowd quiet. About half past 8 one of the Associate Justices took his seat at the bench, and an officer reported to him that the Jury had agreed upon a verdict. The information was sent to the presiding Justice (Harris), and the Sheriff. The Judge was shortly in his seat. The Jury then came in. The character of the ver-

dict might have been seen in the countenances of the Jury. Some of them were in tears, and all of them appeared to be oppressed with the solemn duty they felt that their oaths and their consciences called them to discharge. The Judge evidently divined the decision, for he appeared to be deeply affected; and in the few words that he uttered, manifested great emotion.—The Sheriff (Price) brought in the prisoner by the private passage, at 5 minutes after 9. Besides the Sheriff, she was accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Price, that officer's wife and daughter. Both of the latter as well as the Sheriff evinced much feeling. The prisoner wore the impenetrable blue veil as usual. In passing in, a slight tremor of her frame was observable; she faltered once or twice, but this last might have been occasioned by the difficulty of seeing distinctly her way along the crowded passage, through her close disguise.

The solemn ceremony of receiving a verdict in a capital case was somewhat varied in this instance, no doubt in consideration of the sex of the prisoner, and the extraordinary manner in which she had chosen to present herself in Court. Instead of placing her in the dock, she was given her previous seat inside the bar at the hand of one of her counsel (Pierson) and near the seat occupied by the ladies accompanying her. She was not told to "stand up" and "look upon the Jury," nor were the Jury asked to look upon the prisoner." The verdict was as we have said given with the prisoner veiled and seated within the bar.

The Jury roll was called. The silence was deep and the excitement intense.

Harvey Bets, Esq., Deputy Clerk, put the question—"Gentlemen, have you agreed upon the verdict?"

The Foreman of the Jury, Col. AL-

ANSON COOK, answered in a subdued tone, "We have."

The Clerk—"How do you find the prisoner at the bar— guilty or not guilty?"

No answer, or at least none that was heard at the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk repeated the question.

The Foreman, Cook, as if with an effort then pronounced audibly, yet in an undertone, and as if with pain and difficulty, the words which sealed the fate of the unfortunate woman—"GUILTY." Whether the countenance of the prisoner changed or not—or what was its manifestations, that impenetrable disguise prevented any of the hundreds who surrounded her, from knowing. Certain it is, her frame exhibited no sign of extraordinary feeling, though it is known that down nearly to the close of the argument, if not down to the hour when the Jury retired, expressed the strongest confidence in obtaining an acquittal, or at least, of non-conviction by disagreement.

Mr. PIERSON, after holding, as it appeared a moment's conversation with her, said: "I ask that the Jury be polled."

The Clerk than asked each Juror separately whether the verdict rendered was his verdict? They answered affirmatively though the answer of some were almost inaudible.

Mr. BINGHAM, the District Attorney, asked the Court if sentence would be pronounced to-night.

Mr. PIERSON, rose to ask—

[The Prisoner interposed, "Shame on you Judge."]

Mr. PIERSON, said that the Counsellor on the part of the defence asked for a suspension of sentence until Monday; that they might have an opportunity for consultation. There were some law point on which they desired to confer before judgment was pronounced.

[While Mr. P. was speaking the prisoner in her seat continued her inter-

ruptions. Her other expressions were, "The court is corrupt!" "The District is corrupt!" "Some of the Jury are corrupt!" "I demand another Judge." The tone of her voice furnished no indication of great emotion. It might have been considered as indicating settled lunacy; but the general impression no doubt was that it was more characteristic of the cracked voice woman of the *pave*.]

Mr. TOWNSEND said, this judgment is rendered against as confirmed a lunatic as was to be found. He appealed to the Court to grant the suspension asked for by his associate counsel.

Judge HARRIS said that he was to open a circuit in another county on Monday, and that the delay would be inconvenient. And would suggest to the defence, that they could present their points as well after the entering of judgment as before.

Mr. TOWNSEND suggested that the adjournment might be made at an early hour on Monday, so that his honor might be able to grant the suspension asked for, and yet be enabled to reach Catskill in time to open the appointment.

Judge HARRIS said he would be willing to put himself to any personal inconvenience of the kind, if the council considered a suspension necessary.

Mr. HOGBOOM, speaking in behalf of the District Attorney, said that the prosecution would not insist on passing sentence to-night, against the expressed desire of the defence for an opportunity for consultation prior to sentence, but he did not see the necessity of postponement when, as had been suggested by the Court, the points could as well be presented after judgment has been entered up as before.

The JUDGE said that he would not insist on passing sentence now, but adjourn the Court to Monday morning, at half past eight o'clock.

This trial was had, as will be seen in May, 1854, and though conviction followed the trial, yet sentence was delayed, and she was not brought up for sentence until June, 1855. We will relate the incidents following this event until her final incarceration in her cell at Sing-Sing Prison.

SENTENCE OF DEATH.

Mrs. Robinson made her appearance in Court at a quarter past 3 o'clock this afternoon, in the company of Sheriff Pierce and Deputy Hegeman, by direction of the Court, for sentence.

She wore a light blue veil, which she threw back from her face on being asked to do so by the Judge.

She immediately commenced laughing, giggling and conversing with Mr. Pierson, one of her Council.

The District Attorney, after she was seated awhile, moved for her sentence.

Mr. Pierson arose and said that before her sentence, he desired to enquire relative to that motion of the amendment of the record made by him last week?

The Court said the rule was not yet entered, although he had made up his mind to grant that motion and strike out the affidavit.

Mr. Pierson then desired to say that he had exerted all the powers that God and nature had given him to save this woman. He believed she was unjustly convicted, and that a new trial should have been granted her. He had done all he was able to do for her without fee or reward; and remarked Mr. P., "I shall do what I can to relieve her from the sentence of the law, if she is to be hung."

The Court then remarked, "It is my duty to announce to you that the Supreme Court has denied the application made by your counsel for a new trial, and has ordered this Court to proceed to judgment. Have you anything to say why judgment should not be passed upon you?"

Mrs. R.—"Yes, I have a great deal to say, but I fear I may be interrupted. I have been persecuted on account of John C. Mather.—Shame!"

Judge H.—"The law has pronounced its verdict. Here life is lost; character is gone; friends are gone—"

Mrs. R.—"No, not all."

Judge H.—"Life is worth but little to you—"

Mrs. R.—"Don't trouble yourself about that."

Judge H.—"If I thought you would hear me, I would say more. But why this eccentricity—thy feigned insanity?—for only this I can consider it."

Mrs. R.—"P-o-o-h!"

Judge H.—"I see that it is in vain to attempt to reason with you. Therefore, without taking up farther time of the Court we will proceed to pronounce your sentence, which is that you shall be taken to the County Jail, and be there confined until the Third Day of August next, when, between the hours of 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and 2 o'clock in the afternoon, you shall be hung by the neck until you are dead—and may God have mercy on your soul!"

Mrs. R.—"You had better pray for your own soul." [Mrs. R. then turning to the Sheriff and spoke to that officer in a low but angry tone, complaining of his treatment to her, and also of the course of her counsel. Mr. Townsend.]

The Judge then ordered the Sheriff to remand the prisoner.

Mrs. R. on rising to leave the room in charge of the officers pointed her finger to the Judge and said, in a bitter and sneering tone, "May the Judge of all Judges give him his reward."

The Court directed the audience to remain until the prisoner was withdrawn, and she was then removed to the Jail to await the day of execution.

The reporter of the Troy Whig gives a more full account of this clos-

ing event of the trial. It is so full of interest, we cannot well refrain from giving it to our readers.

Henrietta Robinson, convicted more than a year since of the murder of Timothy Lanagan, and still under indictment for the murder of Miss Jane Lubin by poison, in Troy, in May, 1853, was brought into Court yesterday afternoon for sentence.

Sheriff Price entered the court room, accompanied by Mrs. Robinson. She walked with a light step, and, seating herself by the side of Mr. Pierson, she bowed to several whom she recognized. She was dressed with her usual good taste, wearing a fashionable light summer hat, (and the inevitable blue veil, of course,) black silk dress, lace neck-dress, kid gloves, &c. &c. The prisoner at once became the object of all eyes, and though fully conscious of it, the circumstance did not seem to disturb her. Her free chat with those about her, and her not inaudible laughter, occasionally, told that she was in the good spirits she has uniformly evinced on state occasions.

All becoming quiet, the District Attorney addressed the Court, stating that he had a motion to make in the matter of Henrietta Robinson, who stands convicted of the murder of Timothy Lanagan. I understand the prisoner is present, and if it please the Court, I move the sentence of the law be now passed upon her.

Mr. Pierson, of prisoner's counsel, made some inquiries about the correction of an informality in the record, which being answered by the Court, he said he had nothing to offer against sentence being now pronounced. I have, said he, exerted all the powers that God and nature have given me to this woman, and that, too, without reward or prospect of it. I believe she was entitled to a new trial. But the Court above has ordered it otherwise,

and it is my duty and my only choice to submit.

The Court—Has Mrs. Robinson any objections to removing her veil?

The prisoner threw her veil one side, disclosing a beautiful and intelligent face, evidently not undisturbed, but still the most cheerful of any in that large assemblage.

The Court—It is my duty, Mrs. Robinson, to inform you that the Supreme Court has denied the application of your counsel for a new trial in your case, and has ordered this Court to proceed to pass the judgment of the law upon you. Have you anything to say?

Mrs. Robinson—Yes—I have much that I would like to say—but I shall be interrupted if I attempt to speak.

The Court.—You have been convicted of the murder of Timothy Lanagan—

Mrs. Robinson. Yes, by the false evidence. You and the Jury—and

The Court. The law has proceeded with a steady unwavering step, until this final consummation. It has dealt mercifully and justly with you in every phase of the proceedings. It has pronounced its verdict; and now to you life is lost. The world is lost to you. Your character is gone. Your friends are gone—

Mrs. Robinson. No—not all.

The Court. And virtue is gone, and life is worth but little to you.

[Mrs. Robinson continued to talk at times to herself.]

The Court. If I thought you would hear me, Mrs. Robinson, I would urge you to abandon this vain struggle with the world; I would urge you to abandon this feigned insanity, and prepare to meet with womanly resignation the fate that awaits you. (Mrs. Robinson continuing to interrupt.) But I am aware you will listen to nothing from me, and shall proceed to pass sentence upon you; and the sentence of the

Court is, that you, Henrietta Robinson, be detained in the county prison, until the third day of August next, and that on that day, between the hours of 10 o'clock in the morning, and 2 o'clock in the afternoon, you be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and may God have mercy on your soul.

Mrs. Robinson. You had better pray for your own soul. (Turning to Mr. Pierson.) Why should I be quiet (Pointing to Judge Harris.) Why should politicians set up a conspiracy, and persecute me, and I be silent!

Some confusion here ensued, when the Sheriff signified to the prisoner that they would leave.

Mrs. Robinson, assuming a somewhat tragic attitude, and pointing her finger to Judge Harris, said—

“And the Judge of Judges will judge *you*”—and thereupon left the Court room.

During all this scene, Mrs. Robinson was wholly unveiled. Her countenance evinced deep emotion, but not the emotion of a broken or daunted spirit—far from it. That indomitable self-will so conspicuously displayed on her trial, was betrayed in every feature and every motion. Her air was defiant not to the Court alone, but to others, Mr. Townsend, of her counsel, and Sheriff Price. The usual formulas of Court proceedings she put under her feet, and had not the remotest idea of allowing Judge Harris to do more than half the talking—thus showing the characteristic magnanimity of her sex, in such matters. Like fair Portia before the Venetian Court, she said by her manner and every gesture, “*I am informed thoroughly of the cause,*” but her impression obviously was that the Court and those about her were making sorry work of it; unlike Portia, however, she had no plea for that “*quality of mercy, which is not strain-*

ed, but droppeth as the gentle dews of Heaven upon the place beneath”—not she.

Had this woman friends to whom she would listen, and by whom her conduct would be controlled, we should be justified in telling them thus publicly that whatever hopes of the future may be entertained for her, through executive interposition, are seriously damaged by exhibitions like that of yesterday. But she has no friends to whom she will listen, and more the pity. From first to last, her bearing has been that of an injured and persecuted being, struggling vainly, but not without hope, to disentangle herself from the toils of her enemies: Every step has made more clear her final fate, and this she has keenly realized, only to blame all the more those to whom she entrusted her cause, and to whom she has reasons to be grateful. She is yet to show the first sign of contrition, or of apprehension of her final fate. She has asked no favors and scorned all public sympathy. And yesterday, in passing through an ordeal in which the hearts of stout men felt deeply for her, and her own sex present were moved to tears—she stood up, as if glad of an opportunity to confront the Court—to breast the storm gathering about her, and roll it back by reiterating the charge of “*conspiracy*” against judge and jury. Her mien was that of the heroine, and of the drab; but vainly did we look for the woman.

After the sentence of this unfortunate woman, great and earnest efforts were made to save her from the scaffold, by obtaining an act of commutation of punishment from the Governor. This effort was successful, and a few days before the day fixed for her execution she was committed to imprisonment for life, in the States Prison at Sing-Sing.

Two sympathizing and christian ladies, called at the jail a day or two since and requested to see Mrs. Robinson. Permission having been granted them, they entered the room, and after some little conversation proposed prayers. No objection being raised the two ladies together with Mrs. R., knelt down, and each of the former by turn fervently addressed the Supreme Being, after which they requested Mrs. R. to do the same. She however at first raised some objection, but upon their insisting, finally did as they desired; but had not succeeded in uttering but a few words when she burst out into a loud and hearty laugh. The ladies looked surprised, and no doubt were mortified at such unseemly conduct. In answer to their inquiring look, Mrs. R. begged them to excuse her, as the circumstances reminded her so forcibly of her girlhood, when she and other children used to erect an altar and kneeling round it, made believe to pray, that she could not help laughing. The attempt was then given up, and Mrs. R. was not again asked to pray during that interview.

THE SHERIFF AND MRS. ROBINSON.

The news of the commutation of the sentence of Mrs. Robinson was communicated to her this morning. She exhibited no signs of gratification on the reception of the intelligence; but on the contrary, became greatly excited and raved and railed against the Governor, Sheriff, Judge, District Attorney, &c., as she has been wont to do on all previous occasions, when strangers were present, or when exciting news was communicated to her.

She remarked that she thought the Governor had been imposed upon; that he was a fool for listening to the marvellous tales and stories of those pretending to be her friends; and that she thought it was just as disgraceful to be sent to Prison, as it was to be executed on the gallows! It may be

MRS. ROBINSON AT PRAYER.

proper to state that she has been longing for execution ever since her sentence, and has stated on many occasions that she *would* be hung any how!

She has been making preparations for leaving the jail all morning. On going up to her cell at noon, with her dinner, it was discovered that she had nearly every article of furniture (that could be) broken up, and piled near the centre of the room. All the straw and husks were taken from the beds and thrown on the top. Her leather trunks were torn to peices; her clothes press broken; and a roaring fire had been started in the stove with some of the broken furniture!

On being questioned why she thus acted, she said it was none of their business; that she knew; she was not going to leave anything belonging to her after her, &c. It is supposed her intentions were to set fire to the jail, by which means she undoubtedly intended to destroy herself.

As soon as the discovery was made, the Sheriff had her cell cleared of every article that could be consumed, and a watch was put on her operations. When asked where she would sleep after destroying her bed, she said she could probably sleep on the floor.

REMOVAL OF MRS. ROBINSON TO SING-SING.

Mrs. Robinson took her final departure for Sing-Sing on Saturday afternoon, in charge of the Sheriff.

Previous to leaving the jail she threw out of the gratings of her window several articles of her wearing apparel to a crowd of young girls, who had gathered in front of the jail, and who live in the old block of wooden buildings immediately opposite that building. For an hour previous to her departure she was busily engaged in packing up a small bundle, which she took with her, and in decking herself out in her best clothes for the trip she was about to make.

She was neatly dressed in black silk, and with her face wreathed in smiles, looked blooming and happy. An hour or two before she left she had completely recovered from the disappointment she experienced when she first learned that her taste for a tragic execution scene had been nipped in the bud by the commutation of her sentence by the governor. She was in excellent spirits just before she started, and said that any change from the monotony of the rooms in which she had been so long imprisoned would be a relief to her. She joked and talked freely but somewhat incoherently.

On her way down to prison her mind seemed to wander, and at times she imagined herself on the way to Quebec. When she arrived at Sing-Sing, she seemed disappointed at being compelled to stop there, declaring that they had not yet arrived at Quebec, and insisting on going on until they arrived there. When conveyed to prison she seemed to have no conception of the character of the spot to which she was assigned, or of the fate which awaited her.

She for a long time refused to answer any question put to her by the keeper, or to communicate with those having the prisoners in charge.

We understand that she evinced stronger evidences of insanity during this trip than she ever has to the Sheriff before.

HER CONDUCT AT SING-SING AS REPORTED
SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1855.

Mrs. Robinson conducts herself at Sing-Sing in a quiet and orderly manner, and gives but little trouble. She is at present employed in winding cotton. So far, she has dropped the many eccentricities she betrayed while an inmate of the jail at Troy, with one exception. We refer to the singular practice of concealing her face from visitors; in that respect she seems to be incurable. Whenever a visitor approaches her, she hastens to hide her countenance with whatever may be within her reach—sometimes a fan, and sometimes a piece of pasteboard, or whatever else is handiest; in other respects and that is but a harmless freak, there appears to be no cause of complaint.





THE 'VEILED MURDERESS' UNVEILED.