

Mrs. Slavin, then, under the greatest possible pressure was induced or compelled to say that a man named Breen or Green, whom her husband had met at the water works, and with whom he had worked on the Railway, but had never known previously, had been stopping for some time at her house. (She gave a description of him, which corresponded with that given of a man called Williams, who was already suspected of the murders or having a hand in them.) He stopped there in all about fifteen nights, but he had not been there for ten days before last Sunday morning, when he came there for a shirt of his, she had to wash. He got there between seven and eight o'clock, and said he had walked out from town. He did not look soiled or dirty, and she never saw any mark of blood on his clothes. He put on the shirt—a white one—the shirt he wore before was stripped. He said nothing of the fire at McKenzie's, or of the murder. Breen took his breakfast there, and left soon after, and she had seen nothing of him since. He said he was going to Boston, or to Woodstock, where his brother lives. She swore positively he was not there during the week before. She often heard it said, for many a year past, that McKenzie had money. She one day heard his man Polly, who has gone away, tell Breen in King Square, that he had £30,000, but that he kept none in the house but enough to pay his men. On Monday morning, after breakfast, she left home for the city, leaving all her family at home, and she did not know what became of them since. She told Mr. Scoullar that she had seen her husband on King Square, but that was not true. She could prove the time she came to town, and that she borrowed an umbrella on the road. She protested that she knew nothing of the fire at McKenzie's, or of the fate of the family, nor could she tell where her husband and son were. When pressed on this point, her firmness forsook her, and she cried a little, and just at this time her second son was brought into court to give evidence. On seeing him unexpectedly she cried piteously, exclaiming, while the officers removed her, "Oh! Johnny, Johnny, you won't hang your poor father."

The boy, John Slavin, to whom the mother referred, is twelve years old, and his replies were given in a quick off-hand manner not common at his years. He stated his own age to be ten. On the Monday before the Inquest when Mr. Scoullar went to gather information at the place of the murders, this boy told him his name was Dunn. He said his father had told him to do so. He knew Hugh Breen. His father and mother had known him in the old country. He described his dress and appearance. He said he was staying at their house for five weeks, and was there every night last week, but Thursday night (the night Williams slept at McKenzie's). On Saturday morning he heard Breen (who, he said, was sometimes called William James) and his father and brother speaking of McKenzie, and what lots of money he had. After breakfast Breen, his father, and his brother Pat, all left (they said) for town. They did not return until after night; he thought about two hours after night. He had been asleep, and awoke when they came in. They had a bag about the size of a flour bag. They threw it on the floor, and it made some noise. He thought there were clothes in it. They talked in whispers, he said, and he could not hear what they said. His mother, who had been in bed, got up and got them some supper. The men all washed their hands and went to supper. The bedroom door was open but he could not see all that was done. He saw a long purse with steel beads in Breen's hands, and heard him say how heavy it was, and he saw a watch, that looked yellow, in his hand, but no chain. When pressed hard, he said that he once heard Breen say they had a lot of money. Next morning they took out the bag. After breakfast they went out again into the bushes, near the house, and as he went out to mind the cow he watched them, and saw Breen hold a pocket-book full of gold and notes open. That evening Breen went into town and went out again on Monday morning early; Breen said he had been down to Knox's and told that McKenzie's house was burned.

After breakfast on Monday the three went into the bushes opposite the house, and in the course of the day he went out where they had made a camp, about a quarter or half a mile from the house. They told him to go home again. They did not come to the house afterwards, and he did not see them, only he saw Pat early on Tuesday morning, when he came to milk the cows. He stayed there all day, preparing his own food, and slept there that night, and next day he came into town to a friend's named Carrol, where the policeman found him.

Mr. Maguire, living near the Marsh Bridge, appeared to state that a man answering the description of Breen called at his shop on Sunday evening, and had such a large purse as the boy described, and appeared to have a great deal of money.

Mr. Ramsay, living near the Valley Church, said that Breen came to his house about ten on Sunday night, and slept there, leaving about six in the morning.

On Thursday, John Dunn was again brought up, and gave exactly the same evidence not contradicting the previous statement in the slightest particular.