

The Star,

AND CONCEPTION BAY SEMI-WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

Volume I.

Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, Friday, June 14, 1872.

Number 9.

JUNE.

S.	M.	T.	W.	T.	F.	S.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MOON'S PHASES.

NEW MOON..... 6th, 11.53 A. M.
FIRST QUARTER.... 14th, 3.48 A. M.
FULL MOON..... 21st, 3.27 A. M.
LAST QUARTER.... 27th, 5.57 P. M.

NOTICES.

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WORK FOR ALL.

There is a noble work to do—Work for all. Work of love and beauty too, Work of good and duty too; Everywhere the earth, the air, The sky, the winds, the sea declare, By all their voices grand and rare, There's work for all.

Every life more noble grows Through labor done— Labor which true goodness shows, Labor which no baseness knows; Labor which is meant to give Good to fellow men who live Lives of virtue, and believe There's work for all.

He makes effort ne'er in vain Who e'er strives To do good, and tries to gain The prize which sluggards ne'er obtain; The prize which only toilers win, Who fight for right and combat sin, And see that there are victories in Labor well done.

Little labors ne'er despise, All are good; Often grandest works arise From beginnings small. Be wise! Proudly do what'er may fall To your hands; obey the call Honor makes, and conquer all The ills of sloth.

Let us then all do the share To us given; Labor's skies are always fair When the laborer's do and dare— When they fear no frown or spite, But e'er toiling for the right, Good they do in Heaven's sight, And triumphs win!

Supreme Court.

Trial of Patrick Geehan and Johanna Hamilton for the Murder of Garrett Sears.

(From the St. John's Morning Chronicle.) FRIDAY, May 30.

[CONTINUED.]

Cross-examined by Mr. Emerson—I saw the body of Mrs. Geehan and examined it. There were marks of violence over the eye and on the forehead. They were not in themselves trifling, nor yet serious. They were such as might happen from a very slight fall, and might have been occasioned by a blow which might not have been very severe. They were not so severe as to cause death to a person in health. There were no other marks of violence, with the exception of a very slight mark on the front of the throat, which might have been occasioned by the fastenings of the dress—the bonnet strings and cloak being all fastened in the same spot. I examined them very closely on the morning of the 23rd of November, and they were then scarcely perceptible. At the inquest I gave the opinion that from the appearance of the body the woman had died of disease of the heart, occasioned by exposure and fatigue, but I was suspicious. I did not find any mark of violence upon the body, but suspected something from the finding of it. I performed a post-mortem examination two days after. On examining the external surface of the body, I found a discoloration of a livid yellow over the abdomen, and some slight putrefaction about that part. The discoloration was the appearance I would have expected to find upon the setting in of putrefaction. I examined the wound on the head, and found some infusion of blood about these parts. The skull appeared perfectly sound. I examined the heart and lungs, and found the heart diseased. This disease was of some standing. Any violent excitement or terror to a person with that disease might cause death. The lungs were somewhat congested but not excessively so. The state of the lungs was such as I would have expected after death from various diseases. Sudden death from heart disease would produce congestion of the lungs to some extent. The position of the body after death would tend to produce congestion. In strangulation by hand there would be more marks than would be necessary to produce death. There would be extravasation of blood about the eyes, and I would look for congestion about the head. In suffocation the tongue would protrude and swell, and there would be a frothy mucus about the nostrils and mouth. If suffocation were effected by anything placed over the mouth and nose, without violence, the heart, lungs and other organs would be congested. The right side of the heart is generally filled with blood on these occasions, and I would expect more or less congestion of the same. In suffocation the heart is

sometimes found nearly empty—the left ventricle would be empty even where no disease. There were no marks externally which indicated death from strangulation or suffocation. Congestion of the lungs might be caused by the means used for strangulation or suffocation, or might have resulted from other causes—one of which causes might have been diseased heart. My opinion was the woman died from disease of the heart, which might or might not have been accelerated by other causes.

Cross-examined by Mr. Pinsent—I said her death was caused by fatty degeneration of the heart, accelerated by fatigue and exposure, because I believed she had gone up the Bay with her brother. I formed this opinion in the absence of any suspicious circumstances attending her death. The evidence before me did not point to any suspicious circumstances, and it was upon that evidence I formed my opinion. It was not until afterwards that I heard Sears was not to be found; then I had suspicions. Mrs. Geehan was liable to sudden death without any accelerating cause whatever. I formed my opinion of accelerating causes from the representation then made of her having gone up the Bay. Her disease was fatty degeneration in the middle stage. People often live many years with the disease in that stage. The disease was not in that stage that you would expect a sudden death, though she was liable to die suddenly at any moment of her life. A struggle or an attempt at suffocation would have caused her death. A person with such a disease would be more easily suffocated and would have less marks than a healthy person. Her death would then be less marked as death from suffocation than as death from heart disease. If she had been healthy I would have expected to find more evidence of strangulation. If she had been carried from Geehan's house and laid on the road on her chest and abdomen, the lungs would be congested. The blood would gravitate from the back to the lungs and chest some time after death. Congestion of the lungs does not generally arise from fatty degeneration. The throat was not swollen. I inspected the throat particularly, and did not find any marks of violence there. Suffocation by a pillow might have caused the appearances presented by the body, but those appearances were not sufficient to warrant me in saying that the accelerating causes were. There may have been no accelerating causes.

By the COURT—There were thirteen distinct wounds on Sears. I found no shot in his brain, though I examined it very particularly. There was no indication that shot had gone through the brain, in at one side and out the other. Mrs. Geehan's brain appeared natural. The severance of Sears's fingers might have been occasioned a day or two after death. The proceedings of the day here closed and the Court adjourned.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1.

Catherine Hamilton, sworn—Live at Harbor Grace—am the sister of Joannah Hamilton—know the prisoner Geehan. I was at his house the Sunday night before Mrs. Geehan was missing. Mr. and Mrs. Geehan, Sears and my sister were there. I remained about half an hour. I heard nothing about Sears going away until I was going home, when my sister told me outside the door that her mistress was going away in the morning—that she was going part of the way with Garrett Sears, who was going to St. John's for something for his sore feet. She did not say where Mrs. Geehan was going. On the Friday night before my brother was sick in bed at our house. I was at Mrs. Geehan's wake the two last nights, Friday and Saturday nights. I heard Geehan say he expected a letter from Garrett. He said he did not expect Garrett to come back, but he expected a letter. He was afraid Garrett would blame him for his sister's death. This was Saturday night. When I saw Mrs. Geehan she was not complaining. I was on the Labrador in the summer, and saw her when I came back in the fall—I saw nothing the matter with her. My sister told me one night Mrs. G. was complaining, but didn't know what the matter was. That was on the Friday night before she was killed. I never saw her or Sears alive after Sunday. On the Sunday night Mr. Geehan was playing the concertina on his own bench. I never heard him playing there before.

Cross-examined by Mr. Emerson—When I said, "before she was killed," I meant before her death. I had no other meaning. Cross-examined by Mr. Greene—I had known Sears long, and don't know if he had sore toes. I never noticed him to walk lame. I know of no quarrel between them. I have known Geehan some time. He bore a good character, as far as I knew.

By the COURT—Mrs. Geehan was buried on Sunday. My sister followed me out

and told me that Mrs. G. and Sears were going up the Bay. I asked her no questions. She told me of herself, without my asking her about it, and what she said couldn't be heard by those inside. She followed me out the back door and shut the door after her. She said nothing else to me, and turned upon her heel and went in, and I went home. I am positive about what occurred. I did not hear a word in the house about the projected journey. The first I heard about it was when my sister told me. I had been to the house only twice for the winter. At other times my sister did not go outside the door with me. I live two miles from Geehan's house. It was about six o'clock on Sunday night she told me that they were going up the Bay.

Tobias Hackett, sworn—Live at Brigus—am a police constable. I know the prisoners at the bar. I saw Geehan at Brigus last fall. I saw him there the Tuesday following the finding of Mrs. Geehan's body, the 29th November. He was in a public house. I knew he was a stranger, and I inquired his name. I was told he was the husband of the woman found dead upon the road, and I made it my business to speak to him. I asked him his business at Brigus, and what he was about. He told me he was looking for his brother-in-law, Garrett Sears. I asked him where he expected to find him. He said he was going to Mrs. Denchy's, a first cousin, who lived at Turk's Gut. I told him I didn't think he would get him there—his friends had been looking for him but could get no tidings of him. He said he would look for himself. I asked him would he like to see him. He said he didn't care whether he say him or not, but he would like to know what came of him. He went to Turk's Gut next morning, and I followed him till he went into Mrs. Denchy's. I followed him because I had a suspicion of him, and thought he might try to slip through. He returned to Brigus on the Wednesday, and then went to Harbor Grace. Other constables saw him go home. On the Monday following I went to his house at Harbor Grace, and knocked at the door with my stick. This was between seven and eight in the morning. I listened at the door to hear what part of the house he came from. I heard him come down stairs, and he opened the door. He had his pants on, and his suspenders were hanging down over his clothing. I asked him to show me his bed-room. He pointed out a door on the kitchen floor, but when I went to it I found it locked. I asked him to show me the room he slept in last night. Police-man French went up stairs before me, and I followed shortly after. French was standing on the lobby with the door in his hand. I went into the room, and saw Hamilton in bed in her night clothes. I asked her where Geehan's bed-room was—she said down stairs. I told her I wanted to see the room he slept in last night. She said—"He slept in this room." She was sitting up in the bed in the act of dressing herself. I asked her whether he slept in the bed she was in. She said—"No, in the bed opposite." There was another smaller bed in the room. We examined the small bed, and came to the conclusion it had not been slept in some time—to the best of my belief it had not been slept in for some hours. It was not warm. The bed Hamilton slept in was a better bed. I said it was queer she should have the best bed, and her master sleeping in the same room, or words to that effect. I said, "What's the reason you slept in this room together?" She replied they slept there because they were lonesome. She said the bed she slept in belonged to Sears, and Geehan did not like to sleep in it. Some of Sears's clothing was hung up there. At the foot of the bed I saw a pair of boots, and asked whose they were. She said she supposed they were the skipper's. She was frightened at the time, and I don't think she looked at them. At Brigus he said he and his wife always lived peaceably, and she was a good wife. All he said was favorable to her.

Cross-examined by Mr. Raftus—There was a distance of four or five feet between the beds. I never knew Geehan or Sears to speak to them. By the COURT—While I was talking to Hamilton, Geehan was down stairs. Geehan's boots were on the floor. All I know about the boots is what Hamilton said. The second bed was rumpled, and the corner turned down. We put our hands all through it. I think there was a blanket and two rugs on the bed, but no sheets. It did not feel warm. There was a small pillow on it, covered with calico. The bed clothes were over the pillow except at the outer corner, where the clothes were turned down a short distance. The clothes were not sufficiently turned down to enable a man to get out of bed. Anybody getting out of that bed must have thrown the clothes back.

George Winslow, sworn—Am Sergeant of Police in Harbor Grace. I know the prisoner at the bar, I was at Geehan's

house several times, and was there after the finding of Mrs. Geehan's body. I went on one occasion to search for the tail-board of Geehan's cart. Constable French was in charge of the house, and I went out to the stable five or six yards off, to look for the tail-board. We found it on the north side of the stable, and marked it. The cart was in the yard. The tail-board is the one produced. The shot-marks were on it when found. There were a few little red marks on it like blood. I counted thirty-six shot holes in it. I took two shot out of the head-board—two separate shot had gone through each of these two holes. These shot went completely through the front board, and I think they passed through the tail-board first. I have been in the army, and am accustomed to shot marks. The gun must have been fired very close. Geehan's yard extends about forty yards from East to West and is seven or eight yards broad. It is situated in a hollow or low ground, with an embankment on the South side, seven or eight feet high. The stable is about twenty yards from the West end of the house. The East end of the house is nearest to the stable, say five or six yards. It must have been eight or ten yards from the tail-board where the man stood when he fired. Constable Hackett was in Geehan's house the morning we arrested the prisoners, and took them over to Harbor Grace. It was the 4th of last December.

Cross-examined by Mr. Greene—I judged the marks were blood by their appearance. No red paint I ever saw looked like it. The marks don't appear now as they did then. They look darker now. The effect of the shot would depend on the charge, and might possibly be produced at a distance of fifteen yards. The cart was distant from the back door ten or eleven yards, about eighteen yards from the West end of the house, and two or three yards from the stable door. It was between the stable door and the East end of the house. There is a back and front door to the dwelling. The tail of the cart was to the Southward, and the back-door looked in the same direction. From the West end of the house the cart could not be seen. The scattering of the shot would depend much upon the kind of gun fired from. The cart could be seen if standing three or four feet from the West corner of the house. [The shot were here produced.] By the COURT—The tail of the cart was towards the embankment. The shafts rested on the ground.

Edward O'Brien, sworn—Am a Constable in Conception Bay. I saw the prisoners last fall in the Harbor Grace Court House. I know their house on the South side, and remember the pit on Geehan's land out of which the body of Sears was taken. I was engaged with other policemen in taking it out. The outside shirt was a black gurnsey, and underneath were a cotten shirt and a woolen shirt. He had on a canvas trousers, swanskin drawers, blue stockings, buskins, cravat and sou'western, the latter laid over the face. I helped take them off the body and kept them in my possession. We had to rip and cut the shirts. The same with the drawers and stockings. We had a difficulty in getting them off. The clothes were the same as those which were produced in Court. I saw a mark on the right arm of the shirt. The top shirt was riddled with shot above the elbow of the right arm, the shirt under less cut. I saw that the two corresponding holes in the arm passed through. There was a third shot-hole, but can't say whether it passed through the arm. The shot went in on the outside of the arm. I passed some of it through the holes in the shirt, and found they exactly corresponded. We found the shot up stairs in the bedroom. There was a good deal of blood on the right arm, extending from the shoulder down to the wrist. There was none on the left arm. Think the blood on the right arm must have come from the right ear. The fingers were off the right hand from the second joint. They appeared to be cut off, leaving very little fragments. There was a small hole on the right side of the nose—don't think it was a shot hole; a pitchfork would make it. I saw a pitchfork in the stable. One prong might enter the face and the other pass clear of the left cheek. We found powder where we found the shot. I saw a gun in the prisoner's house. I picked some shot out of the cart, which was similar in size to those found in the house. The gun shown is the same as the one found in the prisoner's house. It was cracked in the stock like this.

Cross-examined by Mr. Raftus—A person standing at the West end of the dwelling house could not see the cart, which was at the North East end of the dwelling. The back porch runs out six and a half or seven feet from the house. I took the gun in my hand and went to see if I could come to a conclusion where the person who fired must have stood, and think he must have stood about the corner of the cellar. The