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THE COURIER.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1850.

In another place we have given full details of the late burglaries in Toronto, and the capture of part of the gang. It is said that some of these villains have come down to Montreal, and, if they have, we predict that their booty will be worth the coming for, for we know no city that holds out so many temptations to plunder. In the first place, it is not lighted—its streets, unless it be a moonlight night, are as dark as the hether gloom; the adroit burglar may ply away at locks or window fastenings, without the least danger of being seen by any wandering Policeman, or if he should be seen by any unlucky accident, the probability of the Bellies are too old and decrepit to be able to pursue him. In the second place, if he only takes the advantage of a windy night, he may set fire to a wooden building somewhere or other, with the certainty that the fire will spread, involving some eighty or ninety capital houses, full of good furniture, plate, &c., and that he may enjoy four or five hours of uninterrupted pillage, without the slightest chance of being detected, and all by the outlay of a penny in lucifer matches. We really wonder that any "gentlemen of the night" should think of following up so dangerous a business in Toronto, when they might practise it here with impunity, under the very auspices of the Corporation.

We are indebted to Mr. Doane, of the Rutland & Burlington Line, for a copy of the *Boston Evening Times* of the 30th, with the account of Professor Webster's execution:—

The Day Before the Execution.

About two o'clock Thursday afternoon, the wife and three daughters of the doomed man paid their weekly visit to his cell. Their arrival at the jail door in a carriage, was the signal for a display of that morbid curiosity characteristic of mankind. Almost every window on Leverett street commanding a view of the premises had its occupant—while at some, many persons of female garb—they did not display the delicacy of the sex—peered with wondering eyes upon this truly unfortunate family.

Mr. Andrews, the keeper of the jail, received Mrs. Webster and her daughters with more than his usual courtesy and kindness—there was an air of deep sadness about his countenance which betspoke the feelings of his heart, and its commiseration for these poor afflicted creatures. Whether Mrs. Webster noticed this or not we cannot say, but still ignorant of the day fixed for her husband's death, she must have felt, from the unusually sad appearance of Mr. Andrews, that her husband's end was approaching. Still there was nothing in her features, nor in those of her daughters, which indicated that they were about to look upon a husband and a father for the last time.

Entering the cell, they were met by Professor Webster with extraordinary calmness, and affectionately embracing them as usual, proceeded to converse in a prayerful tone of resignation. This interview lasted from two o'clock until a quarter to seven in the evening, Mr. Schier, the prisoner's faithful counsel, being with him for a part of the time.

At the latter hour, the usual one for the termination of the visits, Mrs. Webster and her daughters left the jail building, and entering the yard, were the centre of gaze from hundreds of eyes—Placing their veils closed around their faces, they, attended by Mr. Andrews, avoided the usual avenue of egress, and passed through the yard—nearly upon the very spot where the object of their solicitude was soon to expiate his offence against the laws of God and man. The painful task has not yet been placed in view, for with a commendable feeling of humanity, Mr. Andrews determined the family of the Prof. should not have that agonizing spectacle placed before them. Mr. A. conducted them through his house on Lowell Street, expecting by that means to avoid the crowd—but on entering the street, he found the carriage besieged by a multitude of persons, and had actually to force a passage through the mass for Mrs. Webster and her daughters.

For a moment, the countenance of Mrs. W. was to be seen. It was a model of calmness and Christian resignation. Entering the carriage, the blinds were immediately closed, and the vehicle rapidly driven to the lately happy residence of this now heart-broken family in Cambridge. Thus ended the last interview with Professor John White Webster and his wife and children, the bearers of many hours of gladness, never more to be enjoyed on this earth.

THE SCAFFOLD.

The scaffold is the same as that upon which Washington Goode was launched into eternity—with a "modern improvement" in the shape of a spring, which, upon being touched, causes the drop to fall instantaneously, thus obviating the necessity of the executioner being exposed to view, as the object can be effected by a slight touch from the foot. It is a very ingenious contrivance, and the inventor almost deserves the fame, but we trust not the fate, of Guillotin, who perished upon his own instrument of death.

NIGHT WATCHERS—INCIDENTS, &c.

Officer John C. Leighton, Clerk of the Jail, and Constable Edward J. Jones, were selected to watch the prisoner during the night. Although no one apprehended the Professor would commit suicide, yet the precaution of keeping good over him was very properly deemed advisable. Mr. Jones was the officer who attended Prof. Webster throughout the protracted trial, and, like Mr. Leighton, was conspicuous for his kindness and attention to the unfortunate man.

The Morning of the Fatal Day.

It opened brightly and beautifully, and as the sun shone upon the newly erected gallows, it seemed like a ray of fire branding the unhallowed instrument of death.

As early as seven o'clock, groups of persons collected about the jail walls—and as the morning advanced, blinds would be opened, curtains drawn aside, and the house-tops and stacks commanding a view of the scene of death filled with anxious spectators.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE JAIL YARD AT THE EXECUTION.

Last night the Rev. Dr. Putnam remained about two hours with Dr. Webster, uniting in devotional exercises. After the former had left, Dr. Webster continued his devotions fervently, fervently and connected with considerable freedom with the officers in attendance. Fully conscious of his doom, he more than once had a perfect dread and horror at the thought of being hung, but he had outlived it—he had no fear—but was perfectly and fully prepared to meet his fate. His appearance during the night seemed to confirm his statement in regard to being reconciled and resigned. His health remained good, and his spirit he was calm. About 12 o'clock he commenced a prayer which continued until half past four. On awaking he maintained his usual calmness, and partook a hearty breakfast. He had apparently not lost any flesh during his incarceration, but, if any thing, had gained in that respect.

It was near eight o'clock this morning ere the erection of the gallows, which was commenced after daylight, was completed.

Pursuant to a requisition made by High Sheriff Eveleth, a force of one hundred and twenty five men, comprising one hundred policemen and watchmen, and twenty-five constables, were detailed for guard duty—twenty-five constables at the same number of police being stationed within the yard, and the remaining seventy-five without.

The position of the scaffold, in the centre of the yard, was undoubtedly more open to the view of the outsiders than it would have been in any other spot—yet, giving perhaps double the view which was afforded at the hanging of Washington Goode. Perhaps all this was designed.

Although this change from the north-west corner to the centre of the yard was of that view from the direction of Well Street, it did not diminish the extensive view from the rear of the buildings on Lowell, while it added extensively to the view from Leverett Street.

Officers of the Sheriffality of Suffolk present:—High Sheriff Joseph Eveleth, Deputy Sheriff, Watson Freeman, Daniel J. Coburn, Jabez Pratts Erastus Rugg, Benjamin F. Bailey, and Jos. A. Willard.

From Middlesex County we noticed High Sheriff Samuel Chandler, and Deputy Sheriffs Charles Sumner, of Charlestown, and Adolphus Smith, of Watertown.

It was an incident particularly worthy of note, that a Mr. Wyethe, occupying a dwelling on Leverett street, at the west end of the jail, and who is well known to profess to be opposed to capital punishment, was driving a very brisk business during the morning by asking and receiving one dollar per head from applicants to enter his house to get sight of the execution from a window or from the house top. On the roof of the house there were not much less than one hundred persons standing in full view.—The windows of houses on the south side of Leverett street, overlooking the jail-yard, were chiefly thronged with the fairer sex, with parasollets in hand to shed the sun, and eagerly looking for the execution, the judicial murder of a human being.

The rear windows of the houses on Lowell street were many of them entirely taken out to give a free and well scoped view, and the heads of male and female protruded thick and numerous. Over the claivings of the roofs was a complete sprinkling of human beings.

The Rev. Dr. Putnam, the spiritual adviser of the prisoner, arrived at a quarter before eight o'clock, and proceeded to the cell, accompanied by Mr. Andrews, the jailer. No other person for the time being was allowed admittance.

At 8 o'clock the witnesses invited by the High Sheriff, by authority of the statute, began to flock in, together with others who had received invitations, either voluntary or solicited. We learned from the Sheriff, that the number present as spectators, was about the same number as comprised the guard—one hundred and twenty-five.

At ten minutes before 9 o'clock, High Sheriff Eveleth called the names contained in the list of witnesses invited—not all of whom answered to their names, but a sufficient number for the purpose. Among the names were the following:—

B. F. Edmands, Philip Greeley, L. H. Wright, Isaac Adams, J. Put Bradlee, Robert Cowdin, Peter T. Homer, Wm. Schouler, Henry M. Hooper, Thomas Gill, John T. Heard, John Beals, Wm. Barnicout, J. T. Crocker, Joseph Smith, Osman Brewster, Benj. Adams, B. Perley Poore, Newell A. Thompson.

The Sheriff stated to the gentlemen present, that they had assembled by invitation from him as lawful witnesses of the execution of JOHN WHITE WEBSTER, for the crime of murder, for which he had been convicted and sentenced. He detailed to them the order in which the proceedings would take place, and expressed his hope that the utmost quiet and good order be maintained, as consistent with the solemnity of the occasion. He hoped that he should not hear any loud talking, not a voice, during the progress of proceedings.

The company then, at the Sheriff's request, formed in column, two and two, and proceeded to the culprit's cell.

The hall leading to the cell was nearly filled with the spectators, and the utmost stillness and solemnity prevailed, while a very impressive prayer was offered up by Dr. Putnam. The witnesses then retired and proceeded to the yard, and surrounded the scaffold in order.

Shortly after, at twenty minutes past 9 o'clock, High Sheriff Eleveth, attended by Deputies Coburn, Freeman, and Rugg, Mr. Andrews, the Jailer, Mr. Holmes, the Turnkey, and the prisoner, accompanied by Dr. Putnam, came out and ascended the platform of the scaffold, the prisoner taking his position upon the drop.

The High Sheriff read his warrant for the execution. The prisoner appeared perfectly calm and subdued, not raising his eyes but casting them downward. He did not seem disposed to make any remarks to any one present excepting to Dr. Putnam, with whom he had a few brief words and shook hands, as he also did with the Sheriff. His limbs being bound, while he seated himself in a chair, he stood up and the rope was adjusted about his neck, and a black cap drawn over his head and face by Deputy Sheriff Rugg. Everything seemed now to be going on with haste and despatch, evincing that it was the desire of the unfortunate man to be executed as quickly as possible.

The High Sheriff advanced to the front railing of the scaffold, and said—Gentlemen, I now proceed, in the name of the Commonwealth, to discharge the duty imposed on me on this occasion. Turning round, his foot rested on the fatal spring and JOHN W. WEBSTER was launched into eternity!—it being nine o'clock and thirty-five minutes when the drop fell. Immediately on falling there was considerable contraction and drawing up of the muscles, which continued for a number of seconds. Indeed, there was a muscular movement, a lifting up of both the feet, when he had hung nearly two minutes. Dr. Putnam informs us that it was the prisoner's expressed desire that he be executed as quickly as possible after mounting the scaffold. As the rope was being placed about his neck, his face was flushed and his eyes suffused with tears. He complained that the rope was too tight.

Dr. Clark and Stedman having reported to the Sheriff that life was extinct in the body, at 10 minutes past 10 o'clock, it was lowered into a temporary black painted coffin, to be at a proper time given up to the friends of the deceased. The funeral will take place at Cambridge, and the body of JOHN W. WEBSTER will be buried at Mount Auburn, on a lot there owned by the Webster family.

Sheriff Eveleth now remarked to the gentlemen who were present as witnesses, that he felt thankful to them for having lent him their aid and countenance in the discharge of this painful and very distressing duty,—and as this duty was now completed strictly in compliance with the requirements of the law, the witnesses were no longer required to remain within the jail-yard, but might retire at their convenience.

Dr. Webster has left behind no further confession than what has heretofore officially appeared to the public.

Thus have terminated the events of what, in the commencement of this article, we properly pronounced the darkest tragedy that has been known to the existing generation in New England.

THE SAVINGS' BANK.—We understand that Mr. Bristow is to be one of the Commission, appointed under the recent Act, to inquire into the defalcations connected with the late Provident and Savings' Bank. We are quite sure that a better selection could not have been made.

SAWYER'S UNION MAGAZINE.—Mr. R. W. Lay, bookseller, 193, Notre Dame Street, has received the September number of this popular Magazine; it contains, among other embellishments, portraits of President Fillmore and Zachary Bronson.

THE LAST LINE.—It appears that this beautiful contralto will do in New York as she did in England, that is, not suffer herself to be made a Roland of. She has taken a house in a retired part of New York, and it is said that she herself is in a suspicious condition with Mr. Barnum. But she is not to be intruded on by visitors; in short Jenny will not be made a show of for the curious, and therein shows her modesty and good sense.

More Robberies.

(From the Times Office.)

On Monday night the house of James Stanton, Esq., John Street, was entered by the front door, and robbed of a quantity of plate, consisting chiefly of silver spoons of an old-fashioned make, marked W. C. S., some of a more modern description marked W. S. with a quantity of plate of various kinds, in all valued at about £30.

On the same night, the house of John Crickmore, Esq., John Street, was entered by the front door, and property to a large amount taken away. From a table in the bedroom where Mr. and Mrs. Crickmore and an infant child were sleeping, a gold watch and the pocket money which Mr. C.'s pantaloons contained, were taken. They also succeeded in carrying off a quantity of plate.

On the same night, the house of Mr. Thos. Mars, was entered, and his watch taken from the head of his bed; but as Mr. Mars fortunately did not sport a gold watch, it was suspended by the chain round the handle of the street door, as being unworthy of a place beside that of Mr. Crickmore or Col. Antrobus. Nothing particular was removed from the house of Mr. Mars.

On Tuesday night the house of Dr. McCaul, on Front Street, was entered, also, by the front door, which had been locked from the inside before the family retired to rest. Two other doors were unlocked, by which they reached the drawing-room, and succeeded in breaking open the sideboard, they abstracted therefrom a quantity of plate worth £100. The following is a list of the articles stolen: Eight large silver forks, nine small do., twenty-four large spoons, twenty four dessert spoons, twenty-four tea spoons, one soup ladle, two salt spoons, two cake baskets, one egg stand, one sweet stand and eighteen dessert knives and forks. Dr. McCaul had taken the greatest precaution the night before retiring to rest to see that the house was properly secured, and had boasted, during the day, that had the depredators come to his house, instead of that of Col. Antrobus, they would have found a different person to deal with. He slept so lightly that there was no danger of a thief coming in without being detected. It would seem that the depredators had some instrument by which they turned the key left in the lock in the front door, as the point of the key has marks on it as if small holes had been drilled in it in order to apply the instrument. They seem to have been very well acquainted wi h the manner of th ir profession, for the base of the egg-stand, which was plated, was twisted off and left lying on the floor, while the top part, being silver, was carried off. The mustard pot in the cruet stand was broken and the silver ring and top taken away.

Apprehension of Silver Melters.

(From the same.)

Considerable excitement has been kept up in the city for a few days past, in consequence of the daring burglaries which have been effected, night after night, in spite of all the precautions taken by the families robbed. The police have been all attention; but until yesterday forenoon, no direct clue was obtained to the guilty parties. From information received from Mr. William H. Kilwo'n, hair-dresser, Church Street, Mr. Superintendent Allen and his officers went to the shop of Mr. Saxon, watchmaker, Church Street, and in the cellar under the shop found Mr. Saxon busily engaged in melting silver and forming it into ingots. A young man who gave his name as Talbot stood beside Saxon, and in reply to the question of Mr. Allen said that he had purchased the silver from a man in the streets and had come there to get it melted.—Saxon assured Mr. Allen that the metal in the crucible and the ingots which they had just run off, was all the silver that was in the premises, and that it was merely cuttings; but the officers commenced a thorough search, and they discovered two separate parcels of cut up silver spoons lying among some firewood. It is admitted generally that there is a certain fatality—some malignant star—always attendant upon people who reside from the beaten track, and so it was here. These parcels contained twenty-three shanks of one kind of silver spoons, twenty-four of another kind, and five of another kind, all bearing the crest of the Jones family, and consequently closely resembling, if not really the very identical spoons stolen from Dr. McCaul but a few hours previous. Had that end of the spoon been melted first, they could not have been so easily identified. Mr. Allen immediately caused Talbot, Saxon the his apprentice to be arrested and taken to the office. In a short time afterwards another man, who gave his name as George Lay, was arrested at the North American Hotel. This person is strongly suspected as being the leader in all the robberies that have taken place in the city. In his bed-room was found a small tin lamp about 14 inches in diameter, with a bottle of very pure salad oil for feeding it, several pieces of spermaceti candles, and an abundance of lucifer matches. In Talbot's possession was found an elegantly decorated bowie knife, the gilding of which was dimmed by stains of blood, indicating that it had recently been in operation. No letters or papers have been found to give the slightest clue to any connection in any under-hand process, so that it is only a very probable conjecture that the police have struck the mark. Shortly after the apprehension of Lay, other three persons were lodged in jail, on suspicion of intimate connection with the affair, and what would seem to confirm the suspicion is, that in the pocket of one of them was found a key which Mr. Mara identifies as the key of his cash box, which was taken from his house on Monday night. One thing is certain, that it fits the lock as exactly as if it had been made for it. An examination will take place today, when full particulars will be elicited.

Further Particulars of the Robberies.

GLOBE OFFICE—1, A. M.

The success which attended the exertions of the Police yesterday, only stirred in them a greater desire to secure, as far as possible, every particle of tangible evidence connected with the parties in custody. Mr. Allen, and some of his force, went to the house in March Street, in which Talbot lodged, and, after a search of several hours, succeeded in discovering, in a chimney in the cellar, two pairs of very nicely finished tubular-pointed pincers, grooved inside, for turning keys. By the use of these pincers, a door locked, and a key left in it, can be as easily opened from the other side as if you had the use of the key. The pincers are so formed as to catch a key, however far back it may be in the lock. A great quantity of silver plate was also got in the cellar, cut up, and a large pair of scissors, which had evidently been used in cutting up the plate. Two bunches of keys were found, and a bottle of Aquafortes. Mr. Allen and his officers finished their search about midnight, and, by their unceasing exertions, from the moment in which the clue was given, up till 12 o'clock last night, they have earned a claim on the esteem and gratitude of the citizens of Toronto, which, we doubt not, will be fully appreciated.

On Friday night a very serious riot occurred in this City between a party of the Royal Artillery, and a number of civilians, in which several individuals, on both sides, were severly injured. Chief Constable Chamberlain, in endeavouring to part the combatants, received a number of blows on different parts of his body, inflicted by the Artillery men, with sticks and stones, and having followed the rioters to the barracks in order to give the necessary information to the Military Authorities of this infraction of the peace of the City, he was there struck by one of the rioters with a stick. We understand that two of the soldiers are in Hospital in consequence of the injuries they received in the fight, and that two others are under arrest. We forbear making any comments on this affair at present, as we learn that as soon as the wounded men are able to leave the hospital an investigation will take place, which we doubt not will shed a clear light on the affair, and place the guilty parties in the pillory.—*Kingston Chronicle.*

THE ARMY.—Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence, 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade, is daily expected to arrive in Kingston from leave of absence, in order to re-assume his command of the above mentioned corps.—*Ib.*

COUNTY ROADS.—It is probable that the City Council will enter the lists as competitors for the purchase of the County of York Roads. A committee has been appointed to negotiate with the Government on the subject.—*Toronto Patriot.*

A Lady seeing upon a window some verses, inditing her design of non-marriage, a gentleman wrote the following lines underneath:—

"The lady who this resolution took,
Wrote it on glass to show it could be broke."

Local Eight's Arrival.

(From the Hamilton Gazette.)

About 3 o'clock, P. M., on Thursday last, the Government Steamer Mohawk bore in sight, bearing our *Sire* Governor General. His Excellency thought proper to land at the military wharf, and the soldiers were accordingly drawn up to receive him. About two dozen civilians gathered on the bank to see the face of a live Governor; but not a cheer, not a groan, not a sound of welcome or reprobation, arose. His Excellency, not at all assured by the silence of this imposing mass, ordered the gates to be closed and guarded, and that no civilian be allowed to pass. Finding, however, that the yard was not stormed, nor the government stores burnt to the ground, by an infuriated mob, His Lordship took heart of grace, and ventured to ride through the town in an open carriage, accompanied by two gentlemen of his suite. But there was the same ominous silence; nobody cheered, nobody groaned, nobody even raised his hat, except one polite Canadian. He then walked through town to the Marine Railway, where about 100 persons were collected to see the Hercules propeller dragged on the ways—still all silent—just such a reception as Aaron Burr would have got in the States. He then sent for Captain Ives, conductor of the works, of whom he asked many questions regarding the railway, and expressed his gratification at its strength and efficiency. This morning at 5 o'clock, the steamer was gone; but we are told that his Lordship is still secreted in the garrison, where he remains well guarded, in expectation of an address from his radical friends.

A BUNCH OF SCOTCH HEATHER.—We have received from Mr. A. Unsworth, Steward of the City of *Glasgow* steamer, a bunch of Scotch heather, which, after being carried across the Atlantic, and cut near twenty days, looks as blooming and fresh as the day it was severed from its native soil. All the wilds and shooting grounds of Scotland and Ireland are covered with this simple but beautiful evergreen dwarf shrub. It grows upon a bog or peat soil, and bears a small purple blossom, whose fragrance is very sweet. Accompanying it is the remnant of a bouquet, which is also fresh and fair.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The Evil Eye in Italy.

That a people thus carefully trained to folly should be the victims of many absurd superstitions will surprise no one. Amongst others, that of the evil eye exists, it appears, amongst all classes, especially of the Neapolitans; and the little hands and horns of coral continually offered for sale, which attract the attention of strangers, are intended as talismans to ward off its effects. The men wear them attached to their watch chains, the ladies to their brooches; the common people to ear-rings, or attached to a string round the neck. The people who have the reputation of this unlucky *Malocchio*, are called *Gettatori*, and are believed to have usually a peculiar physiognomy; and persons with thin, strongly-marked features, curved noses, and piercing eyes, are very suspicious, and by no means to be encountered without proper precaution. Should our readers meet any such one it will be prudent to place the third and fourth fingers and the thumb in the palm of the hand, and present the first and little finger in the figure of a pair of horns in the direction of the danger. In the fashionable world of Naples, a certain Duke V——o, though by no means answering in appearance to the above description, has, it is asserted, on the authority of no less a person than Mrs. Grundy, the not very desirable peculiarity of these "witching glances." He is known and esteemed for many excellent qualities, admired for his talents, having written several dramas of high pretension, but he is a *Gettatori*, and people dare not speak with him without placing themselves in the above-mentioned posture of defence. A clever foreigner, in whose company I happened to meet a member of the Duke's family, (for the evil eye is a distinction hereditary in certain families,) immediately, when addressed by him, made, I noticed, the above sign. I laughed at her for it, and asked, "if she were not ashamed to give way to such a superstition?" "Well, it is foolish," she answered, "*but really things happen so strangely!* This family brings misfortune wherever it comes; and, in spite of my partiality for the Duke's family, I dare not sit beside him, lest the evil eye is a distinction hereditary in certain families,) immediately, when addressed by him, made, I noticed, the above sign. I laughed at her for it, and asked, "if she were not ashamed to give way to such a superstition?" "Well, it is foolish," she answered, "*but really things happen so strangely!* This family brings misfortune wherever it comes; and, in spite of my partiality for the Duke's family, I dare not sit beside him, lest the evil eye is a distinction hereditary in certain families,) immediately, when addressed by him, made, I noticed, the above sign. I laughed at her for it, and asked, "if she were not ashamed to give way to such a superstition?" "Well, it is foolish," she answered, "*but really things happen so strangely!* This family brings misfortune wherever it comes; and, in spite of my partiality for the Duke's family, (for the evil eye is a distinction hereditary in certain families,) immediately, when addressed by him, made, I noticed, the above sign. I laughed at her for it, and asked, "if she were not ashamed to give way to such a superstition?" "Well, it is foolish," she answered, "*but really things happen so strangely!* This family brings misfortune wherever it comes; and, in spite of my partiality for the Duke's family, I dare not sit beside him, lest