

SENTENCE OF THE PRISONERS.

Sentences of Death on Hugh Breen and Patrick Slavin Sen.

The Court was now densely crowded in every part, and so intense and breathless was the excitement that a pin might be heard fall.

The Attorney General having prayed judgment, the prisoners were severally asked if they had anything to say why sentences of death should not be passed on them.

Breen said nothing. Slavin only said--"I'm satisfied."

The Judge then said--Hugh Breen and Patrick Slavin, although you have pleaded guilty on separate indictments, the evidence and your own statements show that your offence was one, and was committed in addressing you together. On your own solemn confession you stand convicted murderers. (Herbert Breen said, "Yes, Sir.") You deliberately planned and perpetrated this murder under the most atrocious circumstances--that have filled every one with feelings of horror and alarm, so that, because of your conduct, many persons are afraid to pursue their usual avocations. You killed this man, his wife, and four little children for the sake of possessing yourselves of the means he had acquired by his honest labor for the support of his family; and now you stand as a terror and warning to all evil-minded persons, who desire to take by force the property of their neighbors. I hardly know what to say to you under such circumstances. You yourselves seem to be sensible of the awful position in which you stand. I can only entreat you to ask mercy of your God who none can pardon you. You have time, though this was not granted to your wretched victims: make good use of that time: send for the minister of your religion; address yourselves to your Lord in heartfelt earnest prayer, and may He through the precious merits of his Son grant you pardon. It only remains now for me to pronounce the awful sentence of the law for your diabolical crimes. The Judge then (addressing each by name) pronounced the sentence of the law:--That you be taken hence to the place from whence you came, and thence on Friday the 11th day of December, to the place of execution, and that there you be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and may the Lord have mercy on your souls.

The prisoners were then remanded. They preserved the same firm demeanor they had exhibited throughout.

Patrick Slavin, Jr., Found Guilty.

The Jury soon after came into Court and returned a verdict of guilty against Patrick Slavin, Jr., but with a recommendation to mercy. The Court then adjourned.

POSTSCRIPT.

Sentence of Patrick Slavin, Jr.

On Friday at 2 o'clock, Patrick Slavin, Jr., having been brought into Court, and the Solicitor General having moved that sentence be passed, his Honor, Judge Parker, addressed the prisoner. He said:--

Patrick Slavin, you stand in as dreadful a position as any man can stand, and I hope you will therefore attend to what I now say to you. You were charged with having aided your father and Hugh Breen in the murder of Robert McKenzie, and after a most patient and attentive consideration of your case, after all that able counsel could do in your behalf, a most respectable and intelligent Jury have found you guilty. There never was a verdict received with more approbation, for the evidence was such as to bring conviction to every man that you were guilty. The Jury taking into account your age, your want of education, the bad example of your father, and the fact that you might have been in some degree under coercion, and influenced by a dread of his severity, have recommended you to mercy. There can be no doubt that you knew what the intentions of your accomplices were. When Breen went up for McKenzie, when your father waited in that dark room with the axe in his hand, and you were with him, you must have known what his intentions were; and when McKenzie came to the house, and was struck down before he could utter one prayer for mercy, what was your conduct? You did not interpose to save him; you did not attempt to alarm him, or ask that he may be spared, nor did you, when the deed was done, fly in terror, or show in any way that you had not expected it, but you hovered round and searched the body for plunder. What was your conduct after? Keen for the work, to use the expression of Breen, you went with them to the other house and looked on while, with another axe, your father killed that poor woman, and then with a brutality unparalleled, struck down the little children. I do not know if there is recorded any case so horrible, so brutal as this. Yet you looked on it all. When you returned to the house again you heard the moans of the wretched victims, yet you assisted your father in searching the house for the plunder you sought. And what was your conduct after your return home? While your father narrated to your mother and your little brothers, the horrible deeds he had committed, you coolly enquired what part of the clothes of the murdered man you could appropriate to your own use.

All this fully proves that if your conduct has not been as black and dark as that of the two principals in this crime, it has been black and dark enough, and leads to the question if at the age of sixteen you were as capable of so great a crime, what will you be ten years hence, should your life be spared; and were it not that the two others convicted of the same crime seem even more guilty than you, it is probable that you would pay the extreme penalty of the law. But as the demands of justice would seem to be satisfied in this case by the death of the two greater criminals, I have not thought it inconsistent with my duty to recommend to Her Majesty's representative that the mercy prayed for by the Jury be extended to you, and I can now give you hope that your life will be spared; but I can hold out no hope that you will again be let loose on the community, although it is not for me to say what your penitence and years of good conduct may effect. The clemency of the country will always be granted to the deserving. The learned Judge then exhorted the prisoner to a sincere and heartfelt repentance and an earnest effort to amend. He had already, while in gaol, received some instructions--let him hearken to instruction and profit by it. The story he told Mr. Scullar, and the cunning with which he strove to relieve his father and throw the weight of guilt on Breen, showed that he did not lack intelligence, and he would now get the opportunity of amending, if he chose. While in the Penitentiary he would meet with many entering on the paths of crime. These he should warn of the evils of such a course, and he should by his whole conduct and demeanor prove his sorrow for his crime, and his gratitude for the mercy shown him. The learned Judge then pronounced sentence, *pro forma*, that the prisoner be executed on the fourth of March next.

The prisoner, who, during the whole time kept his arms folded and seemed perfectly unmoved, was then removed to gaol.