

The Star,

AND CONCEPTION BAY SEMI-WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

Volume I.

Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, Tuesday, June 11, 1872.

Number 8.

JUNE.

S.	M.	T.	W.	T.	F.	S.
1	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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THE STUDENT.

Alone, at midnight's hour, a pale-faced lad Bends o'er his book and reads of things divine, His face at times seems bright, at times seems sad, At some engrossing, some o'erpow'ring line.

In mystic tales he dips his ardent eyes, From Jove's high power down to Circe's might, With Cume lives, with Pyramus he dies, He starts aghast at Troy's disastrous sight.

With sage Ulysses he harangues the crowd, He walks with Plato as a bosom friend, And with the voice of Stentor cries aloud, And tearful, mourns poor Philomela's end.

At length his task is o'er, and he retires, Care-worn and wearied, to his nightly rest, But dreamland hovers o'er him;—fancy fires The finer feelings in his heaving breast.

Prophetic voices murmur in his ear, Bright visions flash athwart his teeming brain; He dreams of sea, and fancies he doth steer Some heaving bark along the surging main,

Till in some far-off realm at length he lands, And by his wondrous deeds excites applause; There, greatly honored and renown'd, his hands Are ever lifted in fair virtue's cause.

Then, fleetly than the light, he homeward bounds, O'er hill and dale, o'er lake and ocean sheen, Nor stays to listen to enchanting sounds Which flow from sirens of the waters green.

But, nearer home, he trembles as he sees A fairy form in fairy garments dress'd; It is—and why is he so ill at ease? It is the dear one whom his soul loves best.

The old, old tale he tells with falt'ring tongue: "I love thee, dearest, more than words can say; I love thee, more than poet ever sung; I'll love thee ever: stay, my darling, stay!"

A misty veil appears before his eyes— The form is gone which lately near did seem; The morning light steals in; he starts, he sighs, And wakes, alas, to find 'twas all a dream!

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. Greene—Where I was working was further from Geehan's than where the Fitzgeralds were working. I heard the gun plain but no voice. I knew Sears well—never took notice of his walking lame. Have known Geehan 25 or 30 years—heard nothing bad of his character—he bore a good character. Never heard of any improper conduct between him and Hamilton. Fitzgeralds could have heard any cries better than me, because they were nearer. Fitzgerald was at my house that evening.

Patrick Morrissey, sworn—Live on the South side of Harbor Grace—know the prisoners well. Knew Sears and Mrs. Geehan. I remember when Mrs. Geehan's body was found. I had a conversation with Geehan after that. After the body was buried I went down to a neighbor's house—it was about half-past nine o'clock. I remained there about two hours or two hours and a half. When I came out I saw a man coming down the lane, and I thought it was Sears. His face looked queer, and I got a fright. Went on to my house and found the family sitting down to supper. I told them Sears was come and had just gone down the lane. My son said he would go down and see. I told him to stop where he was. About three or four o'clock next evening I saw Geehan com-

ing towards my house, and I went out and spoke to him. I asked him if what I was going to ask him was a fair question. He said "Yes, any question at all." Then I asked him did Garrett go down the night before. He asked me did I see him. I said, "I don't think I did." He looked down for a few seconds and then said, "He didn't go down unless he went dead." He asked me would I think but Garrett would kill his own sister. "Pooh," said I, "I fell in company with a good many in my time that read a good deal, and I read a good deal myself; but I never read, and no man ever told me he read of the brother ever killing the sister, or of the sister killing the brother; but I heard tell of many a one that read of the husband killing the wife, and the wife killing the husband." I turned away then and said, "Farewell now, for evermore." I don't know why I said that, but I said it. I never again saw Garrett Sears alive, and I don't know that I saw him then.

By the COURT—I was just coming out of the house when I saw the man coming down the road, and while I delayed he passed. I went out on the main road, and after looking at him said to myself—"Let Garrett Sears be dead or alive that's him." I said this without knowing anything had happened to him.

Cross-examined by Mr. Raftery—It was about nine or half past nine when I saw him. I couldn't tell what clothes he had on, and can't swear it was Garrett Sears. Mrs. Geehan was buried at this time, and Sears was missing. Geehan didn't answer me cheerfully, like one man would commonly answer another—he spoke weakly. I have been to the ice and made a good many passages with Geehan, and knew him to be a good, moral man. He always looked pale. He did not speak boldly to me as usual. The main line of road ran towards the road leading to Geehan's house.

By the COURT—When I saw the man he looked sideways towards me. I couldn't seem to see his face distinctly—couldn't seem to see the flesh—it was like something was drawn over it. I thought it was Garrett Sears—believed at once that it was him—and I got a turn. I went home at once, and told my family I saw Garrett Sears go down. I had not drunk a drop that evening. I was as sober as I am now. It was a fine bright night—the moon was shining. The man was three or four yards from me. Sears was a stiff, heavy man, about 50 or 60.

Thomas Bates, sworn—Am Inspector of Constabulary. Went to Harbor Grace last 23rd November. Was induced to go there from a rumor that a woman had been murdered on the Spaniards Bay Road. Have known the prisoners since that time. Was at Geehan's house frequently. The rumor had reference to Mrs. Geehan. Saw her body on Friday, after it had been removed to the house. Observed scratches on the throat and a mark on the temple—think left temple. I saw Hamilton in Geehan's house. Had a general conversation with her as to probability of her coming to her death. She told me Mrs. Geehan and Sears had gone away about six o'clock on Tuesday morning—that Sears was going to St. John's for Hospital treatment, and that Mrs. Geehan was going up to Turks Gut. A post-mortem examination of the body of Mrs. Geehan was held on Saturday, 24th at her husband's house. The Attorney General, Mr. Lilly and myself were in Harbor Grace, and had viewed the body and it struck us from certain marks on the throat that a post-mortem examination was necessary, and it was held on the following day, after which Geehan and Hamilton were arrested. I made investigations at Geehan's house frequently afterwards. There was discoloration of the body found in the pit, and identified as Sears's. The body was partly decomposed. The clothes which have been produced in Court were those he had on when taken from the pit. The shirt was brought up covering the face, and the sou'wester brought down covering the eyes. I was at the pit when the body was discovered—I discovered it was a ramrod. In the morning I was determined to have a thorough search, and directed the police to bring a ramrod. In the morning, before that, Dr. Allan and myself were looking at some blood on the bedclothes of a bed up stairs, and on some articles of female apparel. Afterwards I went to the pit, and had the ramrod. The men seemed to doubt that there was anything there, but I thought I would search. I pushed with the ramrod in several places, and discovered something about two feet down. I directed the men to dig away the clay, and after getting about two feet down saw something of a greenish color. I asked the constable what it was—he said a squid. The constable shook the dirt from it and found it to be a man's hand. It did not have the body removed till sent for the Doctor and Coroner. After they had come we had it removed to Geehan's house. The post-

mortem examination was held in Geehan's house, and the inquest in the Court House at Harbor Grace. While searching the house I found a gun under one of the beds, said to have been the bed on which Sears slept. It was between the bed and the bedstead. The barrel appeared to have been cleaned and greased since last fired. The lower guard and trigger guard had been removed, the latter not recently. On 24th November, before Geehan's arrest, I heard Geehan say he gave his wife £5 before she went on the journey up the Bay. I examined the yard subsequently, and saw a cart there with shot-holes in it. They were in the front board and tail board, and I extracted one. The shot pitted the cart. The tail board was riddled with shot, which passed through it. The tail board was one and a half inches thick. The gun must have been fired near, or else had a heavy charge. I was in Geehan's house almost daily; found some shot there, much the same as that produced. It was in a leather case. Also found some powder. (The tail board of the cart here produced and identified.) Geehan had scratches on right cheek. When the body was taken from the pit the nose was found to have been split by some heavy blows from a sharp instrument—there were punctures on each side. The skull was beaten in and broken, one of the ears gone, the fingers of one hand gone from the first joint. Dr. Allan saw the body before it was removed.

Cross-examined by Mr. Emerson—The distance across the yard from North to South was about forty feet. I saw the cart in the yard; it was not more than ten feet from the back door. There was one door looking into the yard from the dwelling house, one from the cellar and one from the stable. The distance from the cellar door to the cart was about twelve or fourteen feet, and about the same distance from the stable door to the cart. I am acquainted with the use of guns, but could not give any idea how far from the cart the person who fired the gun stood—it would depend very much on the charge; the appearance of the tail board is as though fired very close. I have had no experience with shot of that description, but know it would not scatter more than smaller shot.

Cross-examined by Mr. Greene—I was at the pit when the body was dug up, and paid particular attention to the body. It was about two and a half feet down. I was not digging—the policemen Dalry and Hatcher did that. Daniel Shougharow was present. I told Police to be careful while digging up the body. It was necessary to be careful. Hatcher seemed to think there was no body there. The clothes were removed from the body four or five hours after it was taken up. Dr. Allan and some constable removed them—I was present part the time while the clothes were being removed. My impression is they cut the clothes off. I was at the post-mortem examination of Mrs. Geehan, but not at the inquest. I went swear to the tail board belonging to the cart I saw in the yard. There were some stones in the yard near the door. I saw marks I supposed to be blood about the yard, stable and kitchen. A gun would not look greasy after being fired. I afterward saw Geehan in the Penitentiary and remember he made a statement there. Mr. Lilly was there—don't remember the day of the week. I remember having been sent for by Geehan, and went down with Mr. Lilly. It was the day after. Geehan had a conversation with him about the statement made the day before not being correct, and wanted to make a fresh statement. Mr. Lilly said he had not the power to take a fresh statement, or words to that effect. I don't remember if Geehan, said what particular part of that statement was incorrect. To the best of my belief Mr. Lilly did not say the next statement the prisoner would make would be the correct one. I was present when the first statement was made in the Penitentiary, and was there the second time with Mr. Lilly. I think I heard all the conversation. The prisoner attempted to go into particulars, but Mr. Lilly stopped him, and told him he could not take a fresh statement. The prisoner said the former statement was incorrect, and he wanted to make a fresh one.

Re-examined—I can't say where the tail board was found. I first saw it with the Police at Geehan's. On the 4th December I observed marks about the fireplace and wall which I thought were blood, but on closer examination thought them to be paint, and I now believe they were paint. It would require an analysis to tell. There was a great deal of paint about the house. There were marks on the end of the stable also. While examining the body, after I saw the hand, I told them to be very careful in removing the earth. They followed my instructions.

By the COURT—I was under the impression that I put the ramrod through the soft portion of the body, as I pressed

pretty hard. If I did at all, it must have been through the stomach. No damage was done to the body by the shovel or spade. The fingers looked as if bruised off at the joint—it was a fresh wound. The parts around the ear looked decomposed where cut off. Dr. Allan and his son held a post-mortem examination. The Doctor first made a careful examination at the pit, and afterwards at the house.

William Allan, sworn—Am a physician and surgeon in Harbor Grace. Remember December last. Met Inspector Foley about that time—on Dec. 6—and also met Mr. Lilly. I went to Geehan's house with them. We found some blood on a bed and on some articles of female clothing. Inspector Foley and myself further examined, and on turning up a bed and bedding on the opposite side of the room upstairs we found a gun. That looks like the gun. After examining another room and the kitchen we went out into the yard and the stable. Coming out of the stable we went to look at a cart lying on a dung heap. I saw nothing about it to attract my attention. I then went up from the yard to the cellar behind. I saw Mr. Lilly and Mr. Coughlan trying to force the staple—just then some one called, and I found it was Inspector Foley calling from the pit. He was there when I went up, with two policemen. When I got to the pit I saw part of a human hand protruding from the earth. That was the only part of the human body visible at that time. It was the left hand. The rest of the body was covered with earth. I gave instructions to the police to be very particular in removing the earth, so as not to wound the body with the shovel. I was there all the time, and observed that they followed my instructions until they uncovered the body. When the earth was removed the body was found lying straight on its back, with the arms crossed on the lower part of the abdomen. I went down then into the pit and removed the sou'wester, which partly covered the lower part of the face. It was a dark sou'wester. The outer shirt was drawn up over the lower part of the face—it was a dark woollen shirt. I observed a depression on the left side of the head, put my fingers upon it and found the depression was caused by an extensive fracture. The fingers of the right hand were removed from the second joint. The flesh about the parts was torn and bruised, not the effect of decomposition. It was severance of the fingers from the hand. I remained till the Coroner and Jury came, when the body was viewed in the pit by the Jury, and then removed to Geehan's house, where the clothes were removed from the body. The sleeves were cut away, and the body of the garment drawn off. There was a wound a little below the right eye—a fractured wound. I put my finger into the wound about two inches. The wound was somewhat circular, and went back to the cavity in that part of the cheek—it was likely to have been produced by some pointed instrument. The graff produced at the inquest might produce a similar wound, or a pitchfork with three prongs might produce it. I observed contused wounds on the left side of the head, and also wounds on the right side. I introduced my fingers into the wounds on the right side, and discovered a fracture of the skull. I examined the wounds on the left side of the head, and found that three of them were fractures of the skull. The hole in the cheek might have been made by the gaff now produced. There was another wound on the left side of the face, outside of the eye, penetrating to the bone. It was a bruised wound, not as if cut by a sharp instrument. There were bruises about the right side of the neck, and an abraded spot upon the right arm, about two inches below the shoulder, couldn't say by what caused. It was rather on the outside of the arm. About three inches below there were two other small openings in the arm, about two and a half inches apart, and of a circular shape. I suspected at the time they were caused by gunshots. I did not examine them further then. I think the wounds might have been produced by shot of the kind now shown passing through the arm. That evening I examined the toes, and found a sore upon the big toe of each foot. They were ulcers—the effect of disease and not a wound; they had the appearance of sores. That was all I observed that evening, except the discoloration on various parts of the body. There was discoloration on the scalp on the left side of the head, around the eyes, over the right temple, on the right side of the neck, and patches about the sides of the chest, on the abdomen, the anterior parts of the thighs and arm, and others on the neck—some of them partly caused by putrefaction, others by blows. Am not aware of anything more being done that evening, and I left the body in the house of Geehan. It was identified as the body of Garrett Sears. The post-mortem examination was held