

THE TRIAL, CONVICTION SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

OF

John Mawn, a Private in Her Majesty's 16th Regt.

FOR

THE WILFUL MURDER

OF

Sergeant Edward Quinn of the same Regiment,

was not dead then; Dr. Ferguson examined; I gave evidence at the inquest. Day of July, 1862.

THE MURDER.

About 1 o'clock on the Morning of Thursday 10th of July 1862, the officers and soldiers belonging to the 16th Regiment of foot, stationed in the Molson Barracks, Quebec Suburbs of Montreal, were thrown into a state of the greatest excitement and alarm, by the report that a Sergeant of the regiment had been shot, and an attempt made at stabbing one of the privates, by a soldier belonging to No. 5 Company, while his comrades were asleep in the Barrack-room. The sensation soon spread to the street, especially when it was known that the victim was dead and the assassin in custody,—having admitted and boasted of the deed. The military authorities were no sooner aware of the horrible facts of the case, than communication was made by them to Mr. Coroner Jones, who at 10 o'clock the same morning summoned a highly respectable and intelligent Jury, and, at the Military Hospital, where deceased was lying, commenced holding

THE INQUEST.

The prisoner when brought into the room appeared about 5 feet 7 inches in height, light haired, and wore a heavy brown moustache. His face had a red weather-beaten tinge, and the features were not unpleasant when in repose; his hands trembled violently, and he seemed to be nervous as if from the effects of a debauch, or great terror. Otherwise, he looked indifferent at the awful position in which he was placed, his eyes were seldom lifted from the ground, and he displayed throughout a sullen apathy which seemed to argue the absence of all hope; he was dressed in a trowsers, the fatigue coat of the regiment, instead of the military jacket; appearing in fact in the same attire he had on, when the murder was committed. The Jury being sworn proceeded to view the body, with all the appearances of the ghastly crime connected with it: deceased look-

ed very little older than the prisoner who had taken his life: his face bore traces of severe suffering and the wounds in the abdomen and left side, deponed to hereafter, were distinctly visible. The Coroner having ordered Dr. Ferguson, the regimental Surgeon, assisted by Dr. Robillard, an M.D. of this city to make a *post mortem* examination, and having heard the evidence of the witnesses brought forward, the Jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Mawn, and he was handed over to the civil authorities to await his trial at the then ensuing term of the Court of Queen's Bench.

THE FUNERAL

of deceased took place on Saturday afternoon, about half-past 2 o'clock. The body was laid in a handsome coffin upon which a silver plate told his name and age. The coffin was borne out of the Hospital by four men of the 16th, and placed on one of the guns of the Armstrong Battery, which was drawn by six greys. The procession then started along St. Mary Street. First came the firing party, taken from the fifth company of the 16th, with reversed arms, next came the Band playing the *Dead March*, then the gun-carriage and coffin, on which were placed the accoutrements of deceased. After that came the whole battalion of the 16th, except two companies that were out of the city, followed by the non-commissioned officers of the 47th, Scots Fusilier Guards, Grenadier Guards, Royal Artillery, &c., and last of all the Officers of the 16th Regiment. The procession proceeded along Notre Dame and Great St. James Streets up Beaver Hall Hill, and thence to the Roman Catholic Cemetery, on the Cote de Neiges Road. The men of the 16th wore crapes tied with white on their sleeves, but apart from the outward signs of mourning, there was that in their faces and looks which proved that the grief was sincere. The procession was a