

Miscellaneous.

[No. 1.]

COPY OF GOVERNOR'S LETTER TO COLONIAL SECRETARY RELATIVE TO CASE OF PATRICK KENNY, PRISONER FOR ASSAULT,—THE MURDER AT BAY ROBERTS OF ISAAC MERCER—AND THE ASSAULT ON MR. MOORE AT HARBOR GRACE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
5th January, 1861. }

DEAR SIR,—

I have received and perused the Police Magistrates' letter addressed to you relative to the case of Patrick Kenny, sentenced by them to pay a fine of £5, or, in default of payment, to be imprisoned for forty-two days, for an aggravated assault on Daniel Lamey, whose deposition, taken before the Magistrates on oath, they also, very properly, sent for my perusal.

I have informed the Magistrates that I concur with them in thinking that the assault was a brutal one, and, therefore, that any mitigation of the sentence is entirely out of the question.

I observe, however, that by the deposition of Lamey, he and the prisoner appear to have been playing cards and drinking at the house of a person named Walter Joy, in Water-street, where they quarrelled, and it seems that Lamey was waylaid and assaulted by Kenny on his way home.

I have directed the Magistrate to inform me whether the house of Walter Joy is a *licensed* Public House, and likewise to refer me to the laws now in force relative to licensed Public Houses.

When the Legislature meets again I shall call their attention to this subject, and *again* allude to the small number of Policemen in St. John's.

On New Year's Day the Attorney General called upon me, stating that the Government had received intelligence of an assault having been made, as the Attorney General believed, by some (of what he designated) "*Mummers*," on an individual named Mercer, at Bay Roberts, which had terminated fatally, and that an inquest had been held on the body, and a verdict of "*Wilful Murder*" returned against some person or persons, in disguise, unknown.

The Attorney General informed me that he was anxious to proceed to Bay Roberts to investigate the case, and I entirely concurred in the course he proposed to adopt; he promised to send me a copy of the information he had received, but I have heard nothing from him since. I shall therefore thank you to let me know if any, or what information you have received on this subject.

I observe, also, that an individual named Moore had been assaulted at Harbor Grace in a very outrageous manner, and had fired a revolver on his assaulters. This, however,