

had burned him in effigy and made a furious demonstration outside his house and had broken all his windows, he showed no signs of physical fear whatever. He did not owe his popularity as a lecturer to his good looks, for his face, which was admittedly ugly, was badly marked with small-pox, and he was blind in the left eye. Apart altogether from the odium he incurred from his connection with the murders, Knox was not popular with his medical brethren, for he was not diplomatic in his intercourse with them, and he held in opposition to them very strong views on some subjects of anatomical controversy. It is to be suspected that he rather enjoyed argument. He is described by his biographer, Lonsdale, a pupil, as really kind-hearted, especially to the poor; on one occasion he gave a starving man his last five shillings and dined off a penny roll.

The chief actors in this sordid drama were young: Knox was thirty-seven, and Burke only thirty-six years old when he was hanged, for he was born in 1792. He was a native of the parish of Orry in County Tyrone, Ireland. When was about twenty he married a young woman in Ballina, County Mayo, by whom he had seven children, all of whom, except one boy, died as infants. Deserting his wife, he went over to Scotland to get work on the Forth and Clyde Canal which was under construction in 1817 and 1818. While engaged as a labourer on this work in Stirlingshire, he met the woman Macdougall, recently a widow, and thenceforth they agreed to live together; according to the reports of neighbours they were continually quarrelling, and on one occasion Burke nearly killed her.

That there should have been a great outcry for the execution of Hare is perfectly intelligible. He seems to have been one of the most squalid and depraved wretches that human eyes were ever set upon—ghoulish, ferocious, diabolical, inhumanly ugly, are

the terms used to describe him. Burke averred in one of his confessions that Hare either alone or assisted by his wife murdered several of the sixteen victims, including "Daft Jimmie". To one of the jailers who had said to Burke that he never wished to see the man forgiven who could have murdered the poor, harmless idiot "Daft Jimmie", Burke replied, "I am soon to die. . . I have no interest in telling a lie. . . I am as innocent of Daft Jimmie's blood as you are. He was taken into Hare's house and murdered by him and his wife." All who examined Hare were unanimous in the conclusion that he was absolutely destitute of moral sense. He could neither read nor write. He had to fly from the vengeance of the Edinburgh mob by the help of the Dumfries coach one dark night in February, 1829. He was booked as "Mr. Black", a not wholly inappropriate pseudonym. Immediately on arrival in Dumfries he was recognized and greeted with cries of "Burke him, burke him". He would have been dispatched then and there had he not contrived to run for his life into the shelter of the town prison. From here he was smuggled away to his native Ireland. The mob assailed the building all day long, and not until one hundred special constables were sworn in was order restored. Hare was a native of Armagh, and believed to be only about twenty-five years of age at the time of the trial.

David Paterson, Knox's porter, was evidently a man not easily repressed. In April, 1829, he had the effrontery to write to no less a man than Sir Walter Scott, offering him a collection of anecdotes relating to the murders, and suggesting that he, Scott, should write something on the subject. The public believed that Paterson knew a good deal about the crimes. Burke distinctly stated that Paterson knew where he and Hare lived, but that neither Knox nor any of his assistants knew. Seeing that