EXECUTION

ANTON PROBST.

MURDER OF THE DEERING FAMILY

LAST SCENES OF THE TRAGEDY

CLAIMS OF JUSTICE SATISFIED.

Demeanor of the Notorious Octo-Homicide.

HIS LAST HOURS ON EARTH

The Dying Speech of the Wretched Criminal.

SCENES AND INCIDENTS ABOUT THE SCAFFOLD.

Compendium of Facts Connected with Probst and the Butchery.

RESUME OF THE TRIAL

Hangman's Day in Philadelphia

OUR SPECIAL REPORT.

Historical Sketches of Notable Executions in this City.

Eto., Eto., Eto., Etc., Etc.

The last act in the terrible tragedy which, in the violent death of eight innecent and unsuspecting persons, disclosed to us new and appa ang possibilithes in the perpetration of crime, has thus day been con-unimated by the execution of the chief actor, Anten Probet, the murderer. This multiplication of murders will stand in crimmal history as something horribly umque. That a whole household, consisting of eight persons, were killed in the same way, one after the other, in the daytime, by a single individual, without any outery or resistance, or any knowledge or suspicion on the part of the victims that the fearlu work of death was going on; that after six of the hapless ones were sain a pause of hours eccurred, and then upon the arrival of the last two the bloody butchery was again commenced and consummated; and that through a repetition of the same device all, save the h-red boy, were lured into the barn, and their mangled bodies lett there together, sleeping that sleep that knows no waking, was a conjunction or circumstances that could hardly have occurred once in ten thousand times,

The apparent inadequacy of motive also stamp this eight sold murder with a singularity all it own. The crime was out of all relation to the end to be attained by it. The creature desired money, and there were a thousand ways awrul and unlawin whereby he might have obtained it, without heaping upon his son; such an accumu ated load of damning guilt; but no, he seemed to be possessed with th icea that the simples, and easiest way to attain hi end, and to e-cape detection, was to kill the entire

Retribution, in this instance, has followed c'os upon the the nee's of crime. Scare by had the guilty wreich squandered upon his oratal lusts the price of blood-murder casting its ill gotten booty into the lap of harlotry- before the avenger was upon his track.

The escape of a murderer in civil zed communities is every day becoming more and more difficult-Science is mustiplying the tests by which the most secret of deadly takings off may be brought to light The telegraph intercepts the flight of the escaping criminal, and at the very moment when he tancies himself secure, Justice lays her iron hand upon his shoulder, and leads him away to swift punishment.

Even though the murderer hide i is terrible secret in the recesses of his own guing heart, yet he cauno keep it. It consumes him I ke an inward fire. Though no human eye may have seen him perform the drendrul deed, yet the Al-seeing Eye beheld him, and now fla hes terror through his trembling soul, How wonderfully Daniel Webster portrayed this feature of murder in his great speech upen the trowninshield case, when, after describing the workings of a guilty conscience, he summed up by saying, that there was no resuge for the criminal "except in suicide or confession, and suicide

We ought to be thankful, persups, that sometimes, when murgers do occur, they are of such a character as to exhibit the horrible crime in its most revolting aspect. Often murder attracts to itself a strange interest by its association with the exhibition of human passions in their most intense formsuch as ambition, revenge, jealousy, or eyea love. There may in such instances be such a thing as the "poetry of murder," and we are so absorbed in contemplating the passion, that we forget the guilt of the crime. But in the instance, there is nothing to relieve the hideousness of the transaction. Murder estands before us in its most revolting aspect, naked We all its hellish deformity-a thing to be turned from with unmitigated and unmeasured loathing.

Philadelphia, though one of the most orderly of cities, and though originally so targely imbued with the peaceful Quaker e ement of population, has still furnished many notable murd r cases It may be interesting as a matter of history to recur briefly to the more striking of these, confluing ourselves to those in which the perpetrators were tried and executed. We commence with that of

ONE ARMED TOM. Tom Robinson, a soldier who had lost an arm in the Revolutionary War, was hung on the 16th of October, 178s, for highway robbery and attempt to

kill one Captain Tolbert—these crimes being capital offenses in those days. The act was committed upon the road between Philadelphia and Nicetown, opposite to what was then known as Neagle's Woods. Captain Tolbert, who commanded a privateer during the war, was riding out with his wife in a chair, when they were stopped by two lootpads, one of whem had but one arm. They took all the money and other valuables from the person of the captain and cut his throat, leaving him as they supposed dend; but he recovered, and described his assailants to the officers, who offected their capture. Both he and his accomplice were hung While on the gallows

Tarents and friends at once insisted that she should return to her duties as the wife of Carson and for-sake Smyth. This she refused to co, considering he tell too lawful wife of Lieutenaut Smyth. Carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth Carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth Carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth Carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth Carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do. Smyth Carson sent for his wife, and entreated her to live with him, which she refused to do dend; but he recovered, and described his assailants to the officers, who effected their capture. Both he and his accomp fee were hung Whi e on the gallows Iom conlessed that he had previously outraged and murcered a young lady on the Gray's Ferry 10al, teat he had slipped the bloody kinfe into the pocker of a grunken man who was passing that the man was afterwards hung for the murder protesting his innecence and that he (Tom) was present at the excention and picked a drover's pocket while in the crowd. His dying moments were rendered hideous by the utterance of obscene jests and ribad projently. This was perhaps the most horr bie scene ever enacted in our city.

JAMES BURKE.

JAMES BURKE. On the afternoon of Tuesday, the Sist of August, 1784, James Eurke, 17 years of age, the servent o Timothy McAuliffe, residing in Water street, wa seen to shut up the house, and after looking the door went off, previously stating to the neighbors that his master had gone on business to Jorsey, and that he master had gone on business to Jersey, and that he (Burke) was gome somewhere to work. No suspicions were aroused at the hims, McAuliffe and Burke being the only occupants of the house. For several days after Burke had gone a very disagreeable einell incommoded the neighbors in that viel nity, which seemed to come from McAuliffe's house. Suspicions were aroused. Buske was sought for and could not be found. Stronger and stronger became it emperiors at last it was proposed to break into the house, which was done. McAuliffe was lound murgered in his bed, and nearly devoured by verning. By a mark on his soult the deed, it appeared, had been committed with a hammer, which was had been committed with a hammer, which was tound near him. A reward of £20 was offered for Burke. It was finally ascertained he had sailed for Ireland. Mr. John Cornell, a friend of deceased set out in pursuit of the vessel, and overtook her near Bombay rook, about twenty miles below Reedy's Island. The person of James Burke was described and demanded. He was secured and brought up the Delaware to New Cast e, taken before Judge binney, and examined. He coancessed that an ac-complice committed the deed, dividing the money obtained. He was sent to Philadelphia and imprisoned in the Wainut stree Jall. He was tried found guilty, and executed on the 16th of Ostober, 1784 - the idea of an accompace not being believed. CPARLES REED.

This man murdered a boat man with whom he picked a quarrel, taunting him and orging him to ight, the boatman at first getting the advantage of Reed, who left, and in a short time returned, saying he would finish the fight. The combatants fell to blows; only a few blows were strucz, when the boatman dropped to the ground. Upon examination it was found he had been stabbed to the heart, and was a corpse. Reed was arrested at the corner of Market a corpse. Reed was arrested at the corner of Market and Water streets. S. arch was made for the knite. Nothing of the knite was found, and the the leaving the deek, a jack knife was found with the initials C. R. upon it, where it is expressed he had the win it. Reed was tried, found gui ty, and executed on the cid hanging ground in Broad screet, between Market and Chescut.

MURDER OF JOHN M'PARLAND. John McFarland was murdered on the night of September 18, 1789, at his house, Thirteenth and Market streets. He and his brother were drovers and had made a large sale of cattle, which the murderers know of. And they determined to possess themselves of the money The men, five in number, started after night to go to McFarland's house, one of the men's wile accompanying them. At Eighth and Market streets they took the handle of a pump, saying it might be useful to them in what they were about to undertake. Having reached the house of the drovers, they knocked and demanded entrance, but were retuied, the brothers suspecting foul play. One of the party managed to get through the window, and opened the door for his companions. They attacked the drovins, kining one. The other made his escape. They obtained \$2000 and left the house. While lot ering and drinking in the neighborhool of Fourth and Shippen streets, they got into a fight with a pa ty of sallors, one or them was knocked down, the others fied, were pursued by the police arre ted, tried, convicted, and executed. Ther names were Lavid Cronan Francis Burn., John Burnett, John Locan, and John Ferguson. Logan's

rife, who assisted, was parconed BAKER, BROWN, AND PETERSON. These three pirates were hung on Smith's Island, opposite Philadelphia, on the 9th of May, 1800. On the 27 h of August, 1799, Capta n William Whetand set sail from the port of Philade phia on board the schooner Eliza, bound for St. thomas. His crew consisted of two Americans, Thomas Croft (who terwards tecame Mate, and Jacob Luster, together

with the tures loreis pers the name of the supercargo was Charles Res, a Freich gentleman, who had married a Bultimore ady Neither air Rey nor the Captain had a good opinion of the three foreigners. They seemed to be men of reveneeful sprits. Soon after the *Eliza* ared, Peterson, having refused to obey the orders ared, Peterson, having retused to obey the orders of the hinte, the capta a struck him. Daker came to its assistance. Mr. Rev stepped forward to protect the Captain. After Baker received this treatment they promised to do their duty like good men—a premise hey kept for fourteen days. On the 12th of september, at 10 o'c ock at night, it being the hinte's watch on deck, Mr. Rey and the Captain had gone to seep. While he mate was asseep on deck one of the men, struck him on the head with an axe. Leaving Croft's body on the deak, they went to

the berth of the sleeping Captain, struck him a blow over the head with an axe, also stabling him in the aim with a sword. Me spring up and seized his pistols, which were under his head.

Rey, awakened by the noise, snatched the pistol from the Captain, and turning, tried to follow them. He received a severe blow over the head with a pump break, which knocked him down. When he oxing state the men threw him overboard dister, the remaining scaman, was also killed Captain Wheland recovered from the assault. The criminals were brought to Philadelphia, tried in the United States uncurt Court, convicted, and hung as above stated. JOYCE AND MATHIAS.

On the night of December 18, 1807, a widow living in Black Horse alley was murdered by a negro named Joyce. Mrs. Cros., the widow, kept a small s ore, liven alone, and was reported to have considerable money, the possession of which Joyce wanted. He lured into the participation of the crime one of his companions named Peter Mathias, who did not know the purpose of Joyce until he got to the house, Joyce entered the store, Mathias waiting outside. Mrs tross was seated at her supper-table and while in the act of raising her sau er to her hips Jo co slipped a rope out of his pocket, which he had previously made into a noose, and threw it over Mrs. Cross' head, drawing it around her throat sufficiently light to prevent her from giving any alarm. Peter tried to interiere: Joyce prevented him. At this moment a child came in whom Joyce threatened to kill if she said a word. After the men had gone the child cave the anarm. Joyce and Mathias were cap ured that mehr by the ponce. Joyce was found in a dance-house and Mathias in a barn. They were soon ofterwards brought to irial and both were convicted. Mathias although in unwilling accessory was sen is teed to the same rigid iste as Joyce. Governor McKean appointed Monday, March 14th, 1908, for their execution, on which day it occurred.

LIEUTENANT RICHARD SMYTH. Captain Carson, a United States officer, married App B.ker, daughter of an officer in the United States navy residing in Pailadelphia. Directly after his marriage he left the United States service, and took command of the ship China, bound on a trading voyage to the East Indies. He was not heatd of for four years. Mis Carson, supposing herself a widow, and being left with three children to support, opened a chisa store at Second and Dock streets. She had many surfore, among the restlien enant Smyth, whom she married. Smyth was an Irishman by birth, came to this country when nine years of age, resided with his grandmother at Germantown, and served in the War of 1812 as a legienant. During the war he fought a duel, killing his adversary. Three months after his marrings with Mrs. Carson, they were very much surprised by the sudden appearance of Captain Carson, whom all had considered so long dead. Mrs. serson s herself a widow, and being left with three children

WILLIAM GROSS was executed February 7, 1823, for the murder of a woman of bad repute, by the name of Keziah Stov, with whom he had been living upon terms of intimacy. The murder was committed in a hous, of ill-fame kept by Keziah in Currant alley, ju-t after her return from a ball, the instrument used was a butcher-knife, previously whether by Gross for the purpose. The execution took place in the old jud, Sixth and Wainut.

JAMES MORAN was hung on Friday, May 19, 1837, at Cherry Hill, near where the Eastern Penetentiary is now located. Moran was born in Southampton, England, of poor but respectable parents. In early life he shipped as a saior from Liverpoot upon an American vessel, as darrived in Boston in June 1836. White in Boston in June 1836 white in Boston he tell in company with a Spaniard named Estevan Garcia a man of very bad character, who is the ed him to ship aboard of the schooner William Wirt, about to set sait to Rollandto. The schooner sated from Boston about the latter and of September 2000. b r. 1838. During the trip Moran and the Spannard mu dered Captain Smith and the mate, whose name was Ward. Gare a was killed on board of the ship. and Moran was pinced in custody, brought to this country, and tried before the United States circuit tourt, Judges Baldwin and Hopkinson upon the buch Thoughout his trial he proved himself one of the most nationed of wretches.

CHARLES LANGPEEDT was executed October 20, 1848, for the murder of Mrs. Rademacher, on Thursday night, Marca 23. Greans and screams were heard assuing from the house, old number 29, N. Fourth street, below Cherry, two doors from the Third Lutheran thurch. Mr. Koeliner, who occupied the third story, hearing the noise went to Mrs Rademacher's room, and found Mrs. Rademacher murdered, lying on the floor, de uged with blood. The body was horibly mutiated. While her nu band was terribly mangied, he was not dead, and alterwards reco-

Suspicion attached to a German named Langfelds who had served four years in the penitentlary for the robler; of the Lutheran church, and also a hardware store, we was convicted mainly on the testimony of Mrs. Rademacher. He had been re-leased from prison on the 7th just, and had obtained employmen at a shoemaker shop. His follow work-man missed a kinie from his workbench, which was sworn to as identical with the one found in the chamber. He was missed from his room on that particular night from eleven to three, returning after that hour in his stocking fee. He was tried and found guilty. He protested his innocency to the last

On Friday evening, January 30, 1852 two little pir s were playing upon the ice, near I. P. Morr s' iron foundry, on the Dela vare river, Kensington. A hole was observed in the ice. Upon examination three cloth bags were found. There were some men working near at hand, who examined the contents. One contained the head, stomach, entrails, and thinks; another the arms and trunk; the taird had

the legs and feet.

It proved to be the body of young Jacob Lehman, and seventeen years, son of a German peddler, residing No 497 N. Second street who had been missing since the 8th of January previous.

On Wednesday, the 12th of February, two Poles named Mathias and Blaise Skupinski were arrested. It was proved they had vaca ed a house in which they lived very suddenly. Articles known to have belonged to young Lehman vere found in their possession. After a tull investigation, they were committed.

It was proven beyond a doubt that they had murdered the boy for the sake of the jewelry he had with him, for the purpose of selling it. The jewelry was worth about \$200. A few months afterwards they were hung, but not on the same day.

ARTHUR SPRING On Friday morning, March 12, 1853, two sisternamed Honora Shaw and Ellen Lynch, residing in Federal street, above Seventh, were found dead at their home. Ellen was in her night-clothes and lying upon her isce in a puddle of blood, which had come from her mouth. Her hands were lacerated with a knite, her head mangled by a plow from a

aden pipe. Her sister, Mrs. Shaw, lay in the sam : room in her eromary dress, with a horned gash in her right check and a deep stab in her breast. There were ferty-one wanneds on the bony of Mrs. Lynch and seventeen on the tody of Mrs. Shaw. Arthur Spring, an old convet, and an Irishman by birth, was suspected. Part of his under con hes found in his room had blood upon them. He was

sire-ted and convicted on the testimon, of his son and cish cen years o d. who related the contession his tasher and made to him several days previous to the murder. Spring refused to plead guitty, but ac-cused the son of having committed the crime. After the versict had been rendered of murder in the first degree, he the carefied to kill his son the first oppor-tionly be had. Owne to a legal informality the verdict of guity

was let as de, and Spring was scanted a new tru. Apri 4, on the same day Capie and Emmos were refused. Great difficulty was a xperienced in getting a buy who had not tormed an opin on. After three days trial the verdict was reaffirmed, whereupon be unisiteringly in Court accused his son.

Spring was suspected of several murders, bill accusing him of the murder of Mr Ri

kept a toy shop under the old National Theatre, was ound by the Grand Jury. He tried to commit suicide by sleeping with tobacco under his arm-pits, but without success. He was executed June 10. 863, with his last words implicating his son, and

THOMAS J ARMSTRONG.

This case is of such recent occurrence that the particulars are familiar to all our readers. Armstrong murdered a man named Robert Crawford, in the early part of November, 1860, and drove with the body from the lower part of the city to St. John street, where the murdered man was seen by one who was passing. The previous good character of Armstrong was a strong point in his savor, but a German who was observed by District At-terner Mann, late in the trial of the cast clearly identified the prisoner. He was convicted January 9, 1861, and sentenced to be executed February 27, 861. The penalty of the crime was carried out

Murder of the Deering Family. THE DEERING HOMESTEAD.

At the southern end of our eny, bet ween the Dela ware and Schuylkili rivers, in the First Ward, lies the ' Neck," familiar to all who have grown up from techood in this city. Its marshy, reedy banks are remembered as the scenes of many gunning exploits dustrious g. owers of vegetables and fruits for the city marke's its frog-hauted meadows stragge along between the distinct farm-noises, vielding abundant haivests, that can always be turned into

On Jones' lane, about a quarter of a m le from the Foint House road, stood the Deering home stead. It was an humb e frame building, with barn and outhon es, away two hundred yards from the neares

On Friday, the 6th of April, Mr. Deering, with his wife and four chi gren, lived there. The were plain unpretending, honest tolks, and lived within their moderate income. The farmer's main business was the buying and reeding of cattle for the city market. He employed bu two farm laborers to assist in the work. One was Anton Probst, who had been formerly discharged for relusing to obey orders, and had been re-engaged some months afterwards, on pleading an empty pocket. The other was Cornelius Carcy, a bound boy.

MURDER OF THE DEERING FAMILY. On Saturday, the 7th day of April, two months ago yesterday, the Deering family were murdered at their home. The father, mother, a niece on a visit, the bound boy, and the four little children, the eldest eight years and the babe two years old, had

their shalls and in part their faces stove in by mercilessly repeated blows of an axe. And to make the deadly work the more complete, each of their thicats was hacked from ear to ear with a size

On the following Wednesda a neighbor surprised at the unaccountable absence of the family, instrtuted a search, which finally resulted in the discovery o the bodies of Christopher Dearing and Euzabeth Doinn under a heap of hav upon the barn floor. A fur her investigation revealed the mutilated body of

iur her investigation revealed the mutilated body of Julia Dearing, 1910g side by side with her three little ones, John, Ihomas, and Abina, while the babe Emily lay across its mother's breast.

All were so wer away in a little crib eight feet by four feet, in the we tend of he barn. The sight was a most heart stekening one, even to those accustemed to look upon the unending horrors almost daily occurring in a great city. Every skull was beaten in, every face was manufed; the brains flowed out, and every throat was gashed entirely open. One of the little innocunis had a finger chopped off while end-avoring to ward off the narderous blow, and the little babe had a gash across its breast, as if the assame tired hand had missed its aim at the head of the helpless miant.

On the next day, after direct search, the corpse of Cornelius Carey was found mangied like all the others, hidden in a hollow of a har rick off in a

others, hidden in a hollow of a hat rick off in meadow, three hundred yards from the sarm house,

ARREST OF THE MURDERER. The German farm laborer, Anton Probst, who had disappeared from the neighborhood since that Sajurday morning on which any of the family were last seen, was suspected of the crime. The police were put on the alert, and on the evening of Thur. day, which with saed the recovery of the bound boy's bod . he was arrested while intent on cross n Na. ket street bridge to escape into the country.

To Mayor acd enael he volunteered a confession that he had murdered the German boy, but that an secomp ice had committed the other crimes. This was not believed at the time, and diligent search fully established its fa/sity.

THE BURIAL OF THE VICTIMS, No sadder record could be written than that

given '7 the funeral notice:—

DEERING—On the 7th instant, CHRISTOPHER
DEERING, aged 38 years; also his wife JULIA DEERING, aged 48 years; their son, JOHN DEERING aged
8 year; their son HOM 88 DEERING, aged 6 pears;
their daughter, ANNA DEERING, aged years;
their daughter, ANNA DEERING, aged 29 years;
their daughter, EMILY DEERING, aged 29 years;
his nicee: CLIZABETH D. JLAN, aged 25 years; and
CORNELIUS CAREY, aged 17 years.

Their reiniaves and friends are respectfully invited to
attend their tunera, from the office of simon Gartland,
No. 35 8. Tair cearth street this (faturday) af ernoon,
at 1 o'clock without further notice. Interment at 8t.
Many's Cometery.

No person with be admitted to view the bodies without
the cometn of the 'amily. given to the funeral notice:-

the consent of the amily.

Thousands gathered to view the bodies, and the

long ines filed through the carkened room, to take a hasty glance a the cight offins side cyside Many sobbed and cried at beholding the horrid sight. those eight corpses Battered skulls and gashing, gaping wounds to d how mercilessly the fleudish

At length the funeral took its long line through the streets, and thousands halted to show their hearitelt sympaths. Crowds followed to the cemetery to view the last sad rites paid to the poor remains.

TRIAL OF THE MUNDERER. On Wednesday, the 25th of April, the trial of Anton Probst commenced. Much difficulty was experienced in obtain ng a jury of unbiassed men. At the close of the first day the panel was exhaus ed, and only ten secured. The following morning the two others required were obtained. Competent counsel having been assigned by the Court to the presencer, the contest between the presenction and the decree was a well-lought one. Sull, it was a fight without hope, for the prisoner, with his he at stake upon the issue of the trial could not call one witness to corroborate his declaration that he was innocent of the murder of Christocher Deering the dated not even call one affiness to testify to his previous good character.

one dot even can the winess to testify to his previous good character.

On a turday morning the counsel for the delense
delivered most brilliant appears for mercy, rather
than arguments for justice. Discret Attorney Mann
closed the case in an eloquent, masterly a sech,
Judge A lison submitted the case to the jury in one
of his most celebrated charges.

Attorney contend to writteen minutes the large After an accence of only litteen minutes the jary returned a vergiet of "Guilty of Murder in the First

On the followine Tuesday, the 1st of May, Auton Projet was sensenced to be taken of the place from where he be came, and to be hanged by the nick suits he was dead-dead-dead!

HIS DEMEANOR.

Anton Probst, in height, is but one inch under six feet. He is broad-saou dered, but strops forward and walks with long, slouching steps. His complexion is florid, his hair a light brown, and his eyes grevish blue. He has a head builet-shaped at the sides and flattened at the top. His mouth is large with big, roughly outlined lips; but his small pus ness, upturned, is the weakest and the ughest of his

During the long days of the trial his face were stelld moffensive, meaningless look. Occasionally evocaces of a waichful cutting would momentarily sesh out in as eyes, and vanish as suddenly to hing startled sim during the trial. The stronges estimony a sainst him the visible detestation of 'i tie Wills,' who had providentially escaped chih at hi hands b being away from nome—the is passioned depunciations of the District Astorney, if a not cease him to fluch. lie was immovable, save when a witness made a

auguable statement, or something ludicrous oc curred; then his face would right up with sup-possed laughter. But when he was exposed to the race of the thousands who througed the s reets, and their yells of hatred came to his ears, he would fear death at their hands, and cower near the office

who guarded him.

It is imprisonment in the murderer's cell at Movameasing he has borne contentedly, eating hearty nears ano sleeping soundly at all times. The visit of the Sheriff to read to him the day fixed for his execution produced not the slightest impression upon him. He seemed to think that he had been sanght, and might as well make up his mind to giv up hope, hang for it, and be done with the who called On the 9th of May, 1863, exactly three years before, he had arrived in this country from Bremen What a terrifying anniversary! HIS CONFESSION.

On Sunday, May 6, Anton Proost made his first true confession of the crime to his spiritual adviser, the Rev J A. M. Grundtner, Pastor of St. A phonsus Church, at Fourth and Reed streets. On the tollowing day he gave a detailed account of how he executed the murders, and his motives in so doing, to the reporters of the press. He detailed his past life: h a several enlistments and desertion- from the Union arroy; and to d that he was only twen y-four years od Wish his fingers intertwining among the boads of his ro ary, and his eyes often glancing at the rue ax, he tole, with a coolness of expression and mitutize of de ail that made every nerve of his hearers quiver, the tale of the murde s from bogin

no g to end
so eaking of his return to the Deering farm, he
soid, "I made up my mind to get some of the movey;
that is what I went back fir. I planued every day
to get the money and never had a chince" the detirm ned eight or ten days before that fatal; attarday to butcher the whole family, "as I could not
ge the money in any other way," but his heare
falled him on several occasion as he stoid ready at
the bottom of the staus to crush the axe through
their skulls when they separately came do at to Leir skulls when they separately came down to

breaklast On that rainy Saturday, after Mr. Deering had start d to the city, he was off in the meadow with Coreclus. The boy sat under the tree to be out of the rain, and chafted with h mabout the work unti-the kulled him from behind with the axe. He hid the body where it was found; passed to the house with a load of wood, and beguiling the mother and the children separately to the barn, he braned them and h d them, one after the other.

He to'd him he concealed the weapons, washed off the blood from his clothes, and made his cumning ar-rangements to musder Mr. Deering on his return He rangements to muider Mr. Deering on his return He was momentarily irightened at see any Miss Do an unexpectedly coming with him on a visit; but his cruel heart did not relent, nor his lying tougue fall him with flimsy excuses nor his bloody hands tire He murdered them separatery, hid their bodies, ate a meal at the hours, spent hours in steading everything that was portable, left his bloody clothec under his own bed, tearing, her his own bed, tearing, her beering's muit instead, shaved himself with Mr. Deering's razor, and finally decamped at nightfall.

He said, 'I expected to find much money' (laugh-He said, 'I expected to find much money" (laugh-

ing, For his find sh deeds he obtained scarcely twenty dollars and a lot or trumpery trinkets. With the short-subtedness or all debased beings who be come murderers for plunder, he lott behind him all out mialible test monies of his guilt, and every hour of his carousings furnished additional evidence. No moral eye saw the committal of the deed; but on too trail a chain of c.rcumstantial c.idence was evolved that a most revealed the exact details of its progress and established his gui't teyond the sha-

of a doubt

I ow of a doubt

Though the doubt upon the charge of murdering Christopher Deering, yet his conviction morelly and practically condemned him as the sole as assin of eight beings whom he had lodged with. The public med did not reed the corroboration of his own corresion to satisfy the medice of his entire guit. He evinced no penitence while narrating his infamous crimes. In sober truth, the writer who then saw and heard him declares his face often glowed with quite laughter while he to dhow cumningly and successfully he had accomptished the eight murand successful y he had accomp ished the eight mur-

THE PERLING OF THE COMMUNITY,

The popular heart yet quivers with horror at the creadful deed Humanity stands appalled at the utter fleudishness of all the details. Eight victims slaughtered-feded to the ground like dumb cattle tacir skulls crushed by an axe their throats cut convulsed the community with terror. But the fact that five of the batchered victims were little prattling, innocent children, that their joyous gambols must have often awakened the sympathy of even the present hardened crim nal towards them, the conction that they could have done nothing to exc te his deviling passions, the rectal of their endeavors to escape his flondish purposes, all these touched to the heart of r entire community. On all occasions that trobst has been brought before the public on his conveyance to or from Meyamensing Prison, the excitement of the populace has found yent in excited exclamations, and several attempts to save the cited exclamations, and several altempts to seize the

prisoner from the hands of the officers.

With a wise forethought, independence Square was closed to the public during the trial, that all the entrances to the court-noise might be guarded. Still, every day of its progress thousands clustered about the non-railings, anxious to catch a glimpse of the nurderer. On his every appearance the air would be rent with tumultuous groans, hisses, and curses.

Never before in the annals of crime in our city has such a universal concernment of city bas such a universal concernment of the openity exhibited. Every one took the dreadful atroctices to heart as if the little ones siain in the oarly dawn of life had been their own. Each father and each mother thought of their innocent, gambolling, hreside fairses brutally slaughtered, and turned from the cradit of the little table suiters in target of the little. side infries brutally slaughtered, and turned from the cradle of the little babe smiling in its peaceful sicep, with an inter abnorance of the being who con discoulty outrage all the holiest affectors of humanity. Well it was that two hundred stalwart potential guarded the murder of his every ap-pearance, or the gallows might have been children in the right in docs.

A VISIT ON THURSDAY TO MOYAMENSING.

the Execution a Most Private One.

FROBST'S LAST DAY OF LIFE.

A Talk With Him in His Cell. HE WOULD NOT LIVE IF HE COULD.

Throughout yesterday the gloomy walls of Moyamersing were a barrier beyond which could pass no one but a Prison Inspector, the priest, or other persent peculiarly favored with the talismanic "open sesame." To see for tens of thousands of curious and interested cit zens, the writer obtained admitterce, and will try to sketch what passed inside of

O ore massive gates. The true rumor that spread widely about, of the cloung of the prison to all visitors until Saturday, meruly women, who mostly seeded designs of visiting some imprisoned friend. But a dear car and a peremptory retusat were given to all their plead-So strictly were the orders of Sheriff Howell obeved, that even the suppliers of nocessaries, the carriers of ice, were requested to leave a double portion, that it might last until Saturday.

As much comment has arisen upon the impossibility of obtaining admittance to the execution

through fear, or invor, or money, we append the official record upon which the sheriff bases his

official record upon which the Sheriff bases his action:

An Act Abolishing Public Executions, passed April 10, 1834.

Section I. Whenever hereafter any person shall be consemned to sufter death by hanging for any crime of which he or she shall have been convicted the raid punishment shall be indicted on him or her within the wais or yard of the jai of the county in which he or she shall have been convicted; and it shall be the duty of the sheriff or coroner of the said county to attend and be present at such execution to which he shall lavite the presence of a physician a former general, or departy attorney general of the county and twelve reputable citizens, who shall be selected by the Sheriff; and the said sheriff shall, at the request of the criminal, permits he himisters of the Gospel not exceeding two as he or he may name, and any or his or her immedials relatives, to attend and le present at such execution together with such officers of the prison and such of the Sheriff's deputies as the said Sheriff or Coroner in his discretion may think it expedient to have presen, and it shall be only permitted to the persons above disguarded, to withess the said execution. Provided that in person under age shall be permitted, on any account, to witness the same.

Section 2. After the execution, the said Sheriff or Coroner shall make outh or affirmation in writing, thus he proceeded to execute the said criminal within the wais or yard aloresaid at the time designated by the death warrant of the Governor, and the same shall be disc in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Oyer and reminer of the aloresaid county, and a copy thereof published in two or more newspapers one at least of which shall be orinted in the county where the execution took place.

PRIVACY WITHIN MOYAMENSING

PRIVACY WITHIN MOVAMENBING To the many who will longingly wish to be within

those walls, it may be a consols ion to know that hundreds who are with n will be as blinded to the scene as they. The offic als will have their proper duties to discharge, and their positions, by no means snecures, will in some cases have additional numer mp sed. as to the prisoners confined for various offenses

as to the prisoners confined for various offenses, is impossible to keep them ignorant of an income of execution. Though the officers be guardealy stent, yet the entrance of new convicts from the bundle world, and the visits of reands, exp them well posted in researd to such the confiners. Yet, even with regard to him, have efficient measures been adopted to present the grainfication of their currosity. Hereto ore cafful a have been erected in the north corrotor, posts to a range of cells, from which hundreds if convicts could stare down upon the ghastly sight.

was executed young Armstrong
the scheriff Howeli has assumed the duties of schee, two murderers have been astroned to schee, two murderers have been astroned to to the day of execution; while Christian Berei's death under sentence is too recent to to be a remembered. Thus at his first oversignt of an extremely the Stretchest and the first oversignt of an extremely the Stretchest and the first oversignt of an extremely the Stretchest and the stret cution, the Sherm aus entorced his constitu he strict ie ter of the law, by ordering a reformain of the o'd usage.

freme western was, and in its n w location but we cell w ndows can look down upon it. Even from ess few cells the numates are o be removed, that he strict reading of the act may be fathfully ea-

To understandingly locate the position of the affold, a brief description of the ground plan of Movamensing Prison is necessary. The extrema nor hern building is called the Deptors' Prison, and is not an integral part of the penitentlary. It is assigned to securely retain witnesses, sometimes parties convicted of obtaining money under false pretenses, and debtors who have cheated their distant

Immediately adjoining is the main prison, which is divided into the north and the south corridors. These are separated by the keepers' apartments, which he between

The south corridor holds the unfried prisoners and

those who are sentenced to imprisonment for their crimes. The north corridor contains the convicts, and these sentenced to hard labor.

he strictly legal place for execution is the south terricor, in the following way: - Mayamensing fracen was ericled from 1831 to 1835, tar beyond the From was erected from Isal to 1835, ar beyond the then city limits, to take the place of both the old Arch Street and the Wainut Street Prisons The Arch street and to te the untried prison, and in it all accused and convicted mudderers were conduced. As the legal seatence is that the mudderer shall be taken to the place of execution," and as the south corridor represents the ancient prison, it legal, y is thus designated.

But in practice the reverse is a most always the case. The northern corridor is the stronger and the saler. Cell "B." second floor north side, northern corridor, has received the name of the "Mu dorer's Cell." In it have been confined Arthur Spring, Baise Skupinski, Charles Langfeldt, and from thence they have gone to the scaffold, in it was temporarily imprisoned voung Armstrong, though he was taken from another cell. In it died Christian Berger. To it, on his first day's imprisonment, was removed Anton Probst for salety, and on account of the unparalelled enormity of his crime, out from it to-day he will walk to the place of execution.

THE GALLOWS Entering at the gateway of the northern corridor, to the right hand hes the keeper's office, by which visitors are conducted beyond the convicts' depart ment, to the left hand the keeper's rooms, walle di rectly in front, towards the west, extends the paved pa saye-way known as the north co ridor. Walking down this street, past the to vering massive waits gown this street, past the to vering massive walls pierced with the many narrow cell windows, the gallows comes in sight, turning to the norm at the bottom. It stands about twenty feet now the oute west wall that bounds the prison. It was nearly erected at 8 ofcock on Faursday afternoon. It is a simple plain structure, and has done all the required work for many years. Two stout nor pht beams aixteen feet in height, support a cross beam eight feet long, from which stands the condemned man a stacked to the uprophis eight feet from the a stached to the uprights eigh, test from the

It is supported at the outer sides by two temporary he is supported at the outer sides y two temporary bars, which are knocked out when all is ready, and by a hinged pin 3 by 4 inches, and about 8 feet long, that holds the time last moment the drop at its centre. The hinge at the middle of the pin is prevented from bending this last upright by a hook and staple on the opposite side. Several holes are bored in this upright pin, and cooks are attached so that at any mement by a slight pull the hook is uplifted, the two ninged parts of the pin tall from the perpendicular, the drop is overturned, and the sentence of the law is carried into force. is carried into force.

ANOTHER ASPECT.

Turning to the east from the clayer ground on which rests the gallows, a brick wall, bounded by broad green lawns, luxuriant shrubbery, crimson roses, and other sweet flovers, leads back to the visitors' room Many cells look out upon this green oasis. The gallows are hid in the far distance, and the thought of the day of death passes from the mind, until the keeper's fin er point; to the second cell window on the second floor. It scarcely needs the words. 'That is Probse's cell," to tell the tale,

and to bring back the creary impending shadow.

Lake an effort to get a little relief the question was asked, "Which road will be go?" An unknown stake of the head was the answer. It may seem only a trifle, but a last wask by those budding flowers, a last look at their bright co.ors and a last inhaling of their sweet perfume must strangely their the of their sweet perfume, must strangely thrul the heart choids of one who in health knew he saw them for the one last moment. It was jurring to urn one's thoughts to any past

record of the great crime. But there was one tring now attainable that had many a time before eluded the active reportorial instincts that endeavored to appropriate it for the pub ic good, and tals was

PROPST'S LETTER HOM'S.

The appended let er has been thus far withhold from publication, owing to the fear that it mig it unduly excite the public mind against the prisoner. It will be noticed by its date that it was written after Probst had heard thousands tondly crying out against him at every time he was brought from the prison to the Court, as if they were c'amoring for his blood. The trial was not yet concluded, and, as he has since comessed, he dared not acknowledge that he had murdered the entire eight, for fear t being torn to pieces by an entured me reasse tod the falsehood of an accomplice that he had first invented at the Mayor's Office, and maintained the idea until the day of his first true confession to his prest, Rev. F. A. M. Grundtner.

his priest, see F. A. al. Grander.
The letter, the priest states was written in excelent foromatic German, and the following hieral translation was prepared by him and retained. Had t not been too late, the epistic would have been destroyed on the withdrawai of the statement in re-gard to an accomplice, but it had already left this

THE LETTER. PHILADELPHIA, April 18, 1866.—Beloved Parents, and Brother and Sister:—I write you now for the last time, and I will inform you of the horrible fate which has betalen me. I have come so far in America hat I and a commade of mine from the Cauton of Scha fibausen, killed a who e family of eacht persons. I was soon caught on the third day after, and I do not anow the day on which I must die. The other iclon, who was with me, is not found out yet. I intended not to write to you any more, but I could Intended not to write to you any more, but I could,
not overcome the feeling of my eart. I must let you
know the h-rible murder You will be surprised
how I could come so far I will tell you—When I
e-me to this country, I instantly became a soldier,
where I heard nothing but cursing and a yearing, nd selped and joined in all wickedness. And when I got discharged from the army, I out up with bad women and bad company too And, therefore, I have come so mr that I did not believe in God, and

noredy e se, any more. Now 1 beg your pardon, and do not take it too hard into your head; it has been done for once, and we cannot remeay it any Therefore I beg once more your forgiveness. I entreat you to pray for me, for I need it. It I think how sind you have been to me, and how good I had to with discussion and now I have gone so far, that it, when with you, and now I have gone so far, that I must die on the pallows in my you half only wish that I could be with you one hour, the i I would readily die. If I tank of you, father, mother, brothers, and of my little ester Mary, then I lose all my senses. But it is done now, and we cannot help it any more. So I beginned more your forgiveness, and do not trouble yourselves too much, think oone, and we cannot he p it any more. herefo entreatyou, pray for me as much as you can. I will close my letter with many thousand greetings, and I have been your ungraterul son and brother. ANTHONY PROBST. Once more I bee you all to forgive me and I wish

you happiness and blessing, and pray for me. HOW PROBET APPEARS TO HIS CONFESSOR,

It was easy to chang the current of thoughts, and o ask oneself. What! is the man now truly penitent? Not an hour before we had asked the Rev. Father F. A. M. Grundtner at his residence, How is Probat spiritually and rel g ously?

His faithful confessor had seen him that morning at 104 for an hour, expected to visit him that afternoon, and on the fata! coming Friday to be by his side at 7 A. M. He answered in Irank carnest to the

"lie is very cheerfu', and realizes his last hour in a truly Corastian sporit."
The priest emphatically said in reply to a question as to the la sity of a contemporary's statement;

- the never said he was asrry that he nurdered everybody but Mr. Deering. If he could nado it, the cond do it he struly pentient. He trusts in the mercy of Jesu Christ his Saviour. He took me o day, II od will only accept wast httle savided I can male! (meaning his life, the aartichies of prison, and the anxiety) as an alterment for my navial crime, this would make me exceedingly happy.

Of course I officially assured him of that the ufinite mercy of God. He reads religious booss all the day allowed to himself. "He has plended reader in German. He has had a

first rate education, such as con d b. reserved in the ordinary villages of Germany by one whose trade was a carpenter.

Was a carpenter.

'He never did anything wrong at home, and that is borne out by his irlende who knew him from child-hood. He is no u ally k ndev. In recard to the murier, he got the one idea in his mind, and it preced on him. The eight marders were all one age to him.

"He exteriences the power of prayer. he can pray now three or four nours without the least disruction. The officers of the prison c u.d not refuse their respect to hem. On account of his behavior in the prison they all respect him.

"He reads German religious works; one book in particular, peculiarly appropriate to men in circum-

[Continued on the Eighth Page.]