THE COURTS.

PROCEEDINGS YESTERDAY.

Opening of the Trial in the Case of the Murder of George Neal.

Over Two Hundred Witnesses Subpœnaed.

Judges Allison and Thompson.

The case of the Commonwealth vs. William Murphy, who is charged with the murder of George Neal, on board of a Gloucester ferry-boat, on the 28th of June, 1858, was resumed yesterday morning. The court room and its vicinity were thronged, by those interested in the proceedings, and a universal desire appeared to prevail to secure comfortable places inside. Among those in attendance we noticed a number of professional politicians, including some members of Congress and the State Legislature. Others of lesser note, from the "invincible Fourth" were on hand in great abundance, and manifested about as much concern in what was going on as they might be expected to evince if their own necks were in danger of the halter from the judicial twist.

The aged mother of the prisoner in the dock, his wife, and sister, sat directly in front of him watching with anxious eye every incident in connection with the case. The former, bowed under the weight of many years, would now and then reach her head forward to catch the words of a witness who implicated her son in the dreadful tragedy, and when they would seem to fasten upon the mind a conviction of guilt, the fast falling tears would attest the deep devotion of a mother's heart, which under all circumstances will cling to the object of its love with a constancy that death alone can sever.

Murphy, pale and thin, sat with his left arm over the railing of the dock, his head bent eagerly forward, and his countenance betokening much mental anxiety. Inside of the space generally allotted to members of the bar, there was quite a respectable addition to the usual class of auditors. This comprised several theatrical celebrities, several local reporters who have a traditionary aversion to all kinds of courts, and a well known pugilistic looking gentleman, whose propensities, however, are diametrically opposed to everything in the shape of the "manly art."

The jurymen into court looking about half used up by their all night's stay from their homes, but with a contented expression that implied their willingness to make a virtue of necessity by sitting on the case in the heated atmosphere of the legal barn-house. After a little delay we managed to get our usual seat from a stranger, and being provided with a cheap fan, a glass of water, and some sweetmeats from the polite "junior District Attorney," Mr. Charles Mann, who acted as the amanuensis of the prosecuting counsel, we noted the evidence given during the tedious session as follows:

George B. Fisher was the first witness called, who testified: I was employed on board the steamer Eclipse in the month of June, 1858; my position there was that of a pilot; I recollect the occurrence in the last month; I was on board the boat on the trip from Gloucester Point to South street; the boat left at seven o'clock in the evening, which was the last trip; I was in the pilot-house at the time the fight occurred; we were detained at Red Bank; I heard the cry when I heard the sound of fighting; I saw a rush of the passengers, and I left the wheel in the charge of an assistant and then went towards the fight to see what was the matter; I was coming down from the hurricane deck to the cry before I was at the place of the fight; when I got on a little line, about six inches higher than the rest, and looking over the crowd, I saw the fight; the fight had continued for about 5 or 10 minutes when I went into the pilot-house and turned the boat around towards the Gloucester slip to make a rest; on arriving at the time I passed the crowd; heard a report that a person say a man was stabbed on the lower deck; I made my way down to the lower deck as quickly as possible, and went through their way aft; when I got aft, middle of the deck, I followed these so far as midships of the boat and looked for a minute or two and then went to the pilot-house; Murphy jumped overboard; I did not see him when he jumped; I saw him after he was overboard; I did not see from the boat what became of him; I noticed the officers when I arrived at Gloucester; I arrived at Gloucester at the time the boat started; I saw Murphy in the water; I saw the boat when I became of him; the cry about some one being stabbed came to me the lower deck; I should think; after I got upon the upper deck I saw Victoria Neal; this was after he was stabbed; I saw him in the water; I saw him for a very short time after I got upon the deck, that I saw Neal; I should suppose it was about a minute; when I saw Neal he was sitting on a bench, and I could see the blood coming through his shirt; this was on the upper deck; I did not see Murphy at this time; I saw Neal after he was overboard; I did not see him when he was stabbed; I saw Neal when he jumped; I did not see him after he was overboard; I did not see from the boat what became of him; I noticed the officers when I arrived at Gloucester; I arrived at Gloucester at the time the boat started; I saw Murphy in the water; I saw the boat when I became of him; the cry about some one being stabbed came to me the lower deck; I should think; after I got upon the upper deck I saw Victoria Neal; this was after he was stabbed; I saw him in the water; I saw him for a very short time after I got upon the deck, that I saw Neal; I should suppose it was about a minute; when I saw him he was sitting on a bench, and I could see the blood coming through his shirt; this was on the upper deck; I did not see Murphy at this time; I saw