Pittsburgh Gazette.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 22, 1861.

CITY AFFAIRS.

METEOROLOGICAL Observations for the Week, by H. K. Shaw, Optician, 55 Fifth St.—corrected daily:

o'clock, A. M.	BAROM.	THERMOM.
9	00	25
12	00	26
3	00	29
Average	29.12	26

Horrible Murder in the County Gaol.—A Prisoner Murdered by Another—Coroner's Inquest.

We are called upon to record a horrible case of homicide which occurred in the county prison at an early hour yesterday morning. The murderer and the murdered were brother prisoners on common charges, occupying the same cell, No. 12, and side on the lower tier.

It appears that about seven o'clock in the morning, as the officers of the jail were going the rounds of the cells, a prisoner named John Lewis, who had been committed the previous evening for vagrancy, by Esquire Janney, of Lawrenceville, was found in a dying state from injuries received on various parts of his body. In the cell with him was a prisoner named Andrew McMullin, committed for disorderly conduct, on Saturday last, and it is supposed that the man's death resulted from a quarrel between the two.

Coroner Bonwick was called and held an inquest on the body. The following testimony bearing on the case was produced, which explains the affair as fully as can be ascertained at present:

Wm. Sawyer, inside turnkey, testified that the deceased was placed in prison about Wednesday evening; he didn't appear to be drunk; he was placed in cell No. 12, as I supposed in the cell for the deceased. Mr. Coroner—Andrew McMullin was in the cell also; asked the latter if he would like to have a partner, and he would if he was a good fellow; deceased sat down beside McMullin on the bed; this was the last I saw of them until next morning about 7 o'clock; upon the door of the cells every morning, when I opened this cell found deceased lying on the bed to his left side; he didn't speak, but he was not yet dead; he looked bloody and his face was mutilated; asked McMullin what he had been doing; he answered, "I did it because he would'nt talk German;" there was no other person in the cell besides them two; McMullin was put in last Saturday; name of deceased John Lewis, 13 to 15 yrs. he didn't speak any body that I heard; McMullin appeared excited when he was committed; he was peaceable; didn't appear to have the worst of it; as to save and much injury; when put in; talked to him on Wednesday and he appeared quite rational; think deceased is about 25 years of age; he was committed by Esquire Janney on a charge of vagrancy, on affidavit of Jacob Wyeller, of Lawrenceville, workman at the jail; testified that while on duty during the night he heard noises in the cell occupied by deceased, about four o'clock, heard two voices; heard only one voice; then the noise with the finest voice appeared to have hold of the other; they soon appeared to be fighting; the man with the fine voice (McMullin,) talked nearly all night on Tuesday night; thought it was a case of mania potu; called to the parties while quarrelling, and asked what they were doing; received no answer; have frequently heard similar noises before.

Dr. Z. C. Walter testified that he made a post mortem examination of the body of deceased; found the corpse a strong, muscular man; he was covered with bloody his forearms were bruised and blue, as though they had been used to ward off blows at his head; there were several slight bruises on his breast, but none on his back; his face was greatly swollen and his eyelids closed from effusion of blood; his nose was fractured, bruised and a triangular cut on the bridge nearly an inch in extent; the greatest marks of violence were found on the head; there were about six inch over the left temple, frontal and parietal bone, some nearly two inches in extent, through the whole thickness of the scalp, laying bare the cranium; they were evidently made by some blunt instrument; the wounds showed more marks of bruise than cut; there were three large cuts on the top of the head, one more than two inches in extent, laying bare the skull; two cuts over the right temple and one large one across the right eyebrow; there was great effusion of blood under the scalp, more especially on the back of the head; the blood flowed readily when the scalp was detached; there was no fracture of the skull, which was of unusual thickness; the wounds were quite sufficient to produce death; a great quantity of blood was found resting on the membranes of the brain under the skull; the effect of recent injury; the membranes were gorged with blood, as well as the blood vessels of the brain itself; some blood was found collected under the membranes of the brain, the effusion of blood extending even down to the spinal channel at the back; the immediate cause of the death was the effusion of blood between the skull and the membranes of the brain, producing compression. The effusion was doubtless the result of the violence which the skull had received; the cervical; the skull exhibited ten sufficient to produce the wounds.

The jury found a verdict—that the deceased came to his death from injury inflicted on him by a cell mate, on the night of the 21st of March, 1861, at the hands of Andrew McMullin.

The deceased, as may be imagined, presented a horrible and sickening appearance, and the bedstead in the cell where the affair occurred was covered with blood; also the unfortunate man's head appeared to have been jammed against the iron work. McMullin professed to be out of his head when the jury stood him. A commitment was made out by Mr. Coroner against him. The body will be buried by W. H. Devore, undertaker.

Arrest of Burglars on Allegheny.

On Wednesday night, about eleven o'clock, as officers Kane and McChesney were making their accustomed rounds, they discovered a couple of suspicious looking negroes in the vicinity of the Island street hill-dozer, they followed them up Sandusky street, but Wednesday night, they lost sight of them. They were closely watched, and followed from place to place, until they finally disappeared in a building occupied by Mr. James Jones, rag dealer, corner of Isabella and Sandusky streets. The officers quietly awaited the re-appearance of the suspected thieves, and it was not long until they emerged from the premises, each one bearing a pack of rags upon his back. They were halted on same, and taken to the lock-up. Their names are Isaac Smith and Joseph Jones. They were confined to answer for the larceny of the rags, and Mayor Drum, committed the negroes upon a charge of vagrancy. They are evidently not expert thieves, but many are certainly capable of doing much mischief, and should not be suffered to escape punishment.

Two Vigilant Steamers.—It is about three weeks the new steamer fire engines ordered by the Vigilant fire company will reach the city, and by that time the house will be ready for its reception. The engines are the two-wheeled kind, and are capable of throwing water to the top of the highest house in the city. They are manufactured by Messrs. Hunt & Mason, of Boston, Mass., and are of the same pattern as those recently purchased by the Allegheny Vigilants. The Pittsburgh Vigilants have always been considered the crack company of the city, and by their untiring energy and perseverance, have succeeded in obtaining the finest engine house in the city, and the best steamer in the city. The Allegheny Vigilants have also been very successful in obtaining the finest steamer in their city, and by the time the Pittsburgh Vigilants get their new steamer, the Allegheny Vigilants will have their new house completed, and the two companies will be ready to compete for the championship of the two cities.

Fire.—About 12 o'clock on Thursday, the dwelling house of Mr. Thomas Hamilton, on Penn street, between Highland and Negley avenues, in the East Liberty district, was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was given, and the fire department responded promptly, but the building was entirely consumed. The loss is estimated at $1,000, which is covered by insurance in the Western Pennsylvania Company.

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Confirmation.—The Select Council of the city met in regular session last evening, and confirmed the following appointments, which were made by the Mayor on Tuesday last:

Assistant Engineer—Thomas Hamilton.

Assistant Surveyor—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Lumber—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Coal—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Salt—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Flour—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Grain—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Hay—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Boilers—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Gunpowder—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Brick—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Lime—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Shingles—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Pickets—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Staves—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Hoops—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Timber—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Boards—Wm. Wilson.

Inspector of Scantling