

The Trial of Dr. J. W. Webster.
For the Murder of Dr. George W. Parkman, before the Supreme Judicial Court.

Boston, March 16, 10 A. M.
The prisoner, Dr. John A. Webster, was brought in precisely at 9 o'clock.

He wore a composed and had a somewhat melancholy appearance, but in other respects was much as usual.

A few moments after, chief justice Shaw took his seat on the bench, accompanied by Assistant Justices Wilde, Dewey and Metcalf. Some time was occupied in calling the roll and examing Jurors.

The small gallery was densely crowded with spectators, but other parts of the courtroom were not crowded, spectators having been admitted by ticket. The gentlemen of the bar were present in full force. To prevent a crowd the sheriff had taken the precaution to barricade the corridors and station officers at the outside doors.

The counsel for the government is J. H. Clifford, Esq., Attorney General, assisted by George Bennis, Esq. For the defence, Hon. Pliay Merrick and E. D. Sohler.

Fourteen jurymen have been examined and there remain forty-two present.

At ten minutes before 10 o'clock, Mr. Clifford moved the court to empanel a jury in the case.

Thomas Barry is the only jurymen yet obtained.

The jury were finally empanelled, after fourteen peremptory challenges, ten of whom were set aside.

Mr. Robert J. Bryan is the foreman of the jury.

The court refused to excuse Mr. Benjamin H. Green who held a decided opinion adverse to capital punishments, but not such as would prevent him from finding a verdict according to law.

Mr. Clifford, the Attorney General confined himself to two propositions in this indictment. First—That Dr. Parkman was murdered. Second—That Dr. Webster committed the deed.

He dwelt at great length upon these points, contending that numerous circumstances would be found irreconcilable with the supposition of Prof. Webster's innocence.

On motion of the prosecuting attorney, all the medical witnesses then retired.

The first witness called for the government was Mr. Charles M. Kingsley, who testified that he had known Dr. Parkman since 1836; that he traced Dr. Parkman to the Medical College. The witness then detailed the account of the searches through the college with Mr. Littlefield, the particulars of which have already been published.

Patrik McGowan was then called, but his evidence was unimportant.

Robert G. Shaw, brother-in-law of Dr. Parkman, testified that he believed that the hair found belonged to Dr. Parkman, although he would not have recognized the body, if he had not known him to be missing.

The court adjourned, leaving Mr. Shaw on the stand.—*Daily News*, of March 20th.

Second Day's Proceedings.—Agreeable to the instructions of the court, the jury proceeded to-day, in charge of three constables, specially sworn in for the occasion, to view the Medical College, in North Grove street.

His Honor, Chief Justice Shaw, instructed the officers to exhibit to them the rooms occupied by Prof. W. as laboratory, &c., together with the privy, and the perforation of the central wall made by Littlefield, before his discovery of the remains in the privy vault. His Honor charged the officers and the counsel to tell the jury merely what apartments they were shown without comment.

The jury were further instructed to proceed to the Medical College at half past 7 o'clock, A. M., and return in time to attend court by 9 o'clock, when the trial was resumed.

The jury by the direction of the court, this morning examined the medical college, in connexion with the counsel for the commonwealth and the prisoner, who were forbidden to enter into any argument, but were permitted thoroughly to show and explain the localities. They returned to the court room at about 10 o'clock.

Marsh! Tukey was called and sworn.—In the meantime the counsel for commonwealth produced and exhibited full plans of the various floors of the medical college, and a wooden model of the whole building, about three feet long, capable of being dissected so as to expose all the floors and partitions.

Mr. Tukey, a city marshal, was informed of the disappearance of Dr. Parkman on the forenoon of Saturday, November 24th—commenced search immediately at the west end, and at 2 o'clock, P. M. the same day directed the entire police of the city to search.

Witness was requested to state in general terms about what search was made.—Answer.—It was as general and thorough as the means at the disposal of the city would allow.

Men were sent in all directions for 50 or 60 miles—on all the railroads, to all the towns on the coast, including those on the sides of the cape.

Searches were made over land and water, and in all directions.

Clapp was one; entered the cellar by trap-door; saw a fresh hole cut in the wall. Looking through a hole, saw what seemed to be pieces of flesh, scattered by the water from a sink; being in a rising spot, directed Littlefield and an officer to enter and pass them out. There were five pieces—questioned Littlefield whether they were parts of a dissected subject? No! Were they in a place where such dissected remains should be? No!

Was there any other access to that vault than by the hole in the privy, and the one just made in the wall? There was not. While they were there, they heard footsteps in the laboratory above, and he sent up to ascertain, but he was not there. On entering the laboratory, boxes, &c., was immediately discovered in the furnace. Witness immediately dispatched officers to arrest Prof. Webster, at Cambridge, was not present when Prof. Webster was brought down to the Medical College.

Calvin G. Moore, sworn.—Saw Dr. Parkman in Paul Holland's store, corner of Vine and Blossom street, on Friday, November 23, about ten or twenty minutes before two; saw him purchase sugar. Dr. Parkman went out immediately after his purchase by the Blossom street door.—Fixed the time in his mind the day after when search was to be made.

Mrs. Moore, wife of the former witness, testified that on Friday, November 23d, she called to her son George, who was in the street, about ten minutes to two, to go to school.

George Moore being called and sworn, testified that when his mother called him, he had just seen Dr. Parkman go down Grove street, toward the Medical College. Dwight Prouty (another boy who was with the former) testified to the same thing.

Elias Fuller, sworn, clerk of the West Boston Iron Foundry, saw Dr. Parkman coming up Fruit street.

Testimony only to this point.

The Court room is densely crowded, chiefly with members of the bar and distinguished strangers. There is universal complaint among the reporters and quite justly, that they find it almost impossible to hear.

Dr. Francis Parkman, brother to the deceased, is in attendance and seemed much affected as the bones found in the furnace were produced.

Elias Fuller, Albert Fuller, and Leonard Fuller, proprietors of the West Boston Iron Foundry, opposite the Medical College, were sworn, and testified to seeing Parkman enter the college at the hour specified by former witnesses or within a few minutes of that time. Two of them sent to Mr. Littlefield the tools with which he dug through the wall on Friday, Nov. 30th.

Albert Fuller testified that he saw Dr. W. come into their room to sign a check for Mr. Cummings, a blacksmith, on the Tuesday after the disappearance of Dr. Parkman.

Paul Holland, grocer, testified that he saw Dr. Parkman in his store on the 23d of November, between one and two in the afternoon.

Jabez Pratt, coroner, testified that he called on Dr. Webster at Leverett street jail, in company with Dr. Gay and others. Prof. Webster, whom he found apparently in great distress; he was much agitated and trembled all over, exclaiming, "what will become of my poor family?" Prof. Webster accompanied them to the college where they broke into various back rooms and the privy. Bones and pieces of metal were found in the furnace of Webster's lower laboratory. He was much excited when these discoveries were made.

Dr. Woodbury Strong, sworn—I knew Dr. Parkman well; was his physician for some years; saw him on the 23d of Nov. I went to the college on the next day; went again on Tuesday, when I saw the parts of a human body lying on a board. The body had been opened as no one would be likely to do it who had seen a post mortem examination. He (the witness) had heard it said that there was a perforation made by a knife, and he resolved to examine for himself; this he did, and found corresponding to the direction of the cut what seemed to be the mark of a very sharp knife indeed to make such a cut upon a dead body, because the flesh would have lost its elasticity, and would yield to mark; when there is life the flesh rather hugs the knife and permits it to cut, there was a peculiarity of the body; it was narrower across the shoulders than across the hips; the body was very straight up and down; I have noticed the very same in the body of Dr. Parkman; I always take notice of defects in form, and can judge of the general form, though not so easy as the naked form; Dr. Parkman was peculiarly formed, and therefore I noticed him the more.

Dr. Frederick Ainsworth, sworn—I am a demonstrator of Anatomy in the Medical College. All subjects must come through my hands; I keep a record of all anatomical materials; my attention was called to the records at the time of finding these remains; I discovered that all the subjects and materials I ought to have accounted for; I then examined the remains themselves and was satisfied that they were never sent to me or the college for dissection. All subjects for dissection are injected with fluid in order to keep them in a state of preservation, for which purpose a solution of arsenical acid or chloride of zinc, with a saturated solution of alum and salt-peter is used. Dr. Webster has no connection with the anatomical department. My impression is that the person who cut up these remains had anatomical knowledge. The person might have seen a body cut and doubt whether he ever saw the proceedings.

citement growing out of this extraordinary trial appears to go on increasing as the proceedings progress. It is the exclusive topic of conversation everywhere. The evidence I have sent you so far, will enable you to form some idea of that portion of the evidence against the accused, which was suppressed, before the Coroner's Inquest.

The anxiety to get standing room in court you can hardly imagine. Tickets are issued to certain privileged parties, privileged by profession, and having business to be there—the same as to places of public amusement.

All day yesterday the hall was so crowded that the atmosphere inside was absolutely sickening. It is the same this morning.

Occasionally the movement of the crowd towards the doors is so irrepressible, that the police are overcome. Much confusion and noise is the consequence. Personal collisions are also occurring, now & then.

Instances have come to my knowledge of high prices being offered for a transfer of tickets of admission.

Public opinion is already dividing as to the guilt or innocence of Webster.

The conflicting testimony of the medical witnesses is looked upon as a favorable omen of acquittal.

This morning Prof. Webster wears a more dejected appearance, I think, than he has yet exhibited. He talks but little to the persons around him, but seems to keep his attention fixed upon the witnesses.

The trial, I think, will last till Tuesday or Wednesday next.

Dr. Charles T. Jackson sworn. Chemist by profession; one of those who examined the remains; was called Saturday P. M., Dec. 1st; met Dr. Gay and Dr. Lewis at the Medical College; made the preliminary arrangements for examination. Dr. Gay and myself undertook the chemical part; some bones and the contents of a small assay furnace were submitted to us; saw the remains; did not think they had been used for anatomical purposes; tho't that the dissection showed some anatomical skill because the flesh had been boldly dissected away from the ribs down to the cartilage.

The clerical had been disarticulated nearly; there was no hacking about the thigh; I gave the post mortem report of Drs. Lewis, Gay and Stone, and do not disagree with it; knew Dr. Parkman well.

He was then literally a dry muscular subject; a strong solution of potash had been applied to the remains. The deposition in the hands of the counsel is mine; all in my handwriting, except the title.

The deposition was received by Mr. Bemis; it related to the action of potash in the remains, and to the remains found on the staircase; and detailed minutely the purposes of the chemical examination into which the Dr. entered by direction of the police. I took the blood vessels I had delivered to Dr. Gay.

They were in the identical papers in which I gave them to Mr. Richard Crosby, a skillful chemist who works in my laboratory; he had made a previous examination; I gave the papers to him & complete his researches; he repeated their results; the effects of potash is to dissolve the flesh after a while, it is done quicker with heat. Question—How long would it take to dispose of a body in potash. Answer—It would depend upon circumstances. If the body were cut up into small pieces, it would be done quicker; it would be done by boiling, precisely like making soap.

Q. How much potash would it take to dissolve such a body? A. It would probably have weighed one hundred and forty pounds, and about half that amount of potash would be required to dissolve it; less could destroy the identity. The largest vessel I saw in the laboratory was a tin boiler with a copper bottom, similar to those used for washing.

There were dark stains on the stairs down to the laboratory, and on the side wall there was a greenish fluid which seemed to have been spattered there by being spilled on the stairs. It was most abundant opposite the stairs where the stairs were the darkest, and towards the bottom of the stairs.

The fluid was examined and proved to be nitrate of copper, this is a deliquescent salt, attracts moisture and remains fluid for a long time. It might have been this fluid for several days; it did continue fluid for several days after we took some of it.

I delivered that part of the examination to Dr. Jeffrey Wyman as more proper for microscopic observation; saw pantaloon and slippers with blood on them; left Dr. Wyman to examine them, blood being an organism the microscope is the only proper test fit; the microscope is also an essential instrument with which to watch the progress of chemical action on it.

A large Turkish knife, with silver handle and sheath, was shown to witness.—He recognized it as the property of the prisoner; which he had seen in the laboratory in Mason street, when the medical college was there; it had in it a little whiting and oil, as if fresh cleaned; knew Dr. Parkman; his height was about the same as his own, which was five feet eleven inches. The draft of the furnace in which the bones were found was sufficient to have carried off the odor of burning flesh.

Dr. N. C. Keep.—Have practiced dentistry nearly thirty years; am a neighbor of Dr. Lewis; have known Dr. George Parkman since 1822; acquaintance began when I was a student of Dr. John Randall; have been his family dentist since 1825; I had a block of teeth shown me. I did recognize them as a set of teeth that I had made for Dr. Parkman in 1846—the teeth were handed to the witness—these are the same block which were shown to me, and I recognized.

State how Dr. Parkman's mouth was, in relation to the proceedings.

nected with these two models were somewhat peculiar. The first question asked me by Dr. Parkman, when the teeth were about to be ordered, was how long will it take then, and the reason why he asked, he said he was at the Medical college going to be opened on a certain day, when he should want new teeth, and he did not want to order them unless he could have them by that day. That time was rather short. The peculiarities of the mouth made it a difficult case, requiring as much skill as could be made.

I began as soon as possible, and paid a large part of my attention to it from day to day; I saw him frequently while it was in progress, and in consequence of the shortness of the time and the close attention to it; I remember that more distinctly than in ordinary cases.

I proceeded to take the ordinary impressions; the first step was to get a fine similo of each jaw, or an impression, which is the same thing; here he went into a regular lecture on practical dentistry in general, as well as in this case, which would not be understood without the patterns he illustrated it, the great irregularity of the left side of the lower jaw of Dr. P., occasioned much trouble in fitting. Both blocks were back teeth, three blocks of teeth were attached to one gold plate; which completed the upper set; there were spiral springs which enabled the wearer to open and close his mouth with less danger of the teeth being displaced than without them.

The teeth were fastened to the plate by platinum pins and not gold ones; mentions that merely as a fact, as he remembered. Witness showed the model of the upper surfaces of the teeth showing their length.

Owing to an accident which happened to one of the teeth it was necessary to have another made, which made it necessary for the witness and his assistant to work all night; before the medical college opened we finished the teeth in season, and had just thirty minutes to spare.

The court here took a recess.

THE DOLLAR.

Clearfield, Pa., March 25, 1850.

We are under renewed obligations to Hon. A. GILMORE, of the National House of Representatives, for various public documents.

The Magazines for April, are before us as usual.

Godey's Lady's Book, and *Sartain's Magazine*, are running a sort of opposition line, the result of which is that their subscribers are decidedly benefited. In trying to excel each other, they only excel themselves.

OUR POSITION.

We insert a communication in another column, from a subscriber, who calls us to account for what he conceives to be our erroneous views on the slavery question. We do not object to this. If we are right, we may thus be the instrument of correcting the errors of others. And if we are wrong, we want to be right.

Had we the time, and the room, we have the vanity to believe, that we could not only sustain all we have said on this subject, whether regarded as the editors of a neutral paper, or as a paper published in a free State, but that we could correct many of the errors of our amiable friend, if not convert him in toto from the errors of his ways.

Without, however, attempting to enter into an extended argument to sustain the correctness of our own position, and thus prove the unsoundness of the position of our correspondent, we will briefly point out a few of his errors.

In the first place, then, we will declare that we are not the apologists of slavery, neither politically, or morally; that if it was a question now to be decided, whether the people of any of the States of this Union were to have authority under the Constitution to hold slaves, nothing could induce us to favor the proposition. But the question is an entirely different one. We find slavery existing in half the States—existing at the time the Union was formed—and the institution recognized and its rights guaranteed by the constitution that binds the whole together. Slavery under such circumstances can be defended for various good and wholesome reasons.

Our correspondent asks "what are the rights of the people of the Slaveholding States?" We explained this in point, as we thought, sufficiently clear at the time. Every southern man feels that he has just as perfect a right, under the Constitution, to take his slave and carry him into any of the territories south of 36 deg. 30 min., as any northern man has to go there with his horse. And when men thus feel and thus believe, would they not look upon that power as despotic, which would say to them "you shall not go there because you hold slaves, although the question was settled by our forefathers, and the Constitution which protects us both, gives you equal rights with us, yet it does not suit our notions of morality to allow you to extend the area of slavery?"

But how will our correspondent account for the measure of prosperity that has marked the history of our country, if during all this time she has been "groaning

under the curse" of slavery? Who ever complained of the slowness of our progress? No one. We know that the slave states do not progress in the same ratio with the free states, thus proving itself to be a political evil, without, however, giving any evidence of its being a moral evil, although innumerable sins grow out of slavery, but few of which, however, could be prevented by emancipation. But that slavery has been a curse to the United States, we in vain seek for the evidence. Or that it is "a sin against God," also needs some sustaining proofs. Slavery has existed in all ages of the world, as well among the Jews as the Gentile world. It has been practiced by some of the most revered Christians of ancient and modern times, and it existed on the earth at the time of the Mission of our Saviour, and it is no where written as one of the sins he came to banish from the world. But "a friend to humanity" points to the divine injunction "do as you would that others should do unto you," and can only apply it to the case of the slave. Why not apply it to the master? He tells you he is not responsible for slavery. He found himself the possessor of slaves, and without making bad worse, he cannot escape from the position of master; then why taunt him with the sin of slavery? Is this "doing as you would be done by?" Is this the conduct of a brother christian? But how is it with the poor African? It is well known that in their native country they exist in tribes like our wild Indians, and are practicing a system of slavery to each other much more cruel and degrading than any that ever existed in this country—where they are literally the "servants of servants"—and who knows but that we may be "doing as (under similar circumstances) we would have others do unto us" in thus all vitiating their condition!

But we cannot now follow our correspondent any further. It is an absorbing question, and cannot be argued in a single page or two. The day, however, is past by, for northern sentiment to become poisoned against the south. Our statesmen no longer suffer their views to be misunderstood. Very recently DANIEL WEBSTER, whose declarations more than any other man, have been quoted by the Abolitionists, has come out in a most manly and patriotic denunciation of the Abolitionists and their measures, and justly charges them with ricting and binding tighter the chains of the slave. And not only this, but he charges in the clearest and most emphatic language, that the North, has wantonly infringed upon the rights of the South, grossly disregarding and purposely evading the plainest constitutional injunctions, in their acts of aggression.

In conclusion, however, we must remind our correspondent that he is grossly mistaken if he thinks that the South will not be driven from the Union for fear of the consequences to herself—that she could not subsist without the aid and protection of the northern States, &c. We fear a "friend to humanity" has studied the statistics of his country to but little advantage. Of cotton alone we annually export about sixty millions of dollars' worth—entirely the production of the South— whilst the aggregate value of all other exports, some of which are also the productions of slaveholding states, do not average half that sum. Suppose, then, instead of living under one and the same government, we had a Northern and a Southern Confederacy, what would be the consequence? Why, instead of having our northern cotton factories supplied free of duty, as now, they would have to bid against England, and perhaps under the disadvantage of such embittered feelings as a separation of this Union would be likely to engender. Could our manufacturers stand this? But this is not all! The South now consumes a very large proportion of these fabrics of northern manufacture; but would she continue to do so if separated? or would she not be most likely to buy from England, who would be thus enabled to give a higher price for her raw material? This, however, is a mere speculation, and one in which it is painful to indulge. The storm that a few weeks ago threatened to burst upon our heads has now we trust, well-nigh past over us without doing any other harm than preparing the political graves of those agitators of the country, who are most at ease when the country is most in danger.

A Mystery Revealed.—The papers of Rochester (N. Y.) have been much occupied lately in discussing the cause of certain "mysterious knockings," which are alleged to have been heard at various times by different persons in that city.—A "Hunker," in the Rochester American, solves the mystery by stating that it has been ascertained that these "knockings" are caused by the departed spirits of the Free Soilers rapping on the "Buffalo Platform."

There was a mad dog killed on Monday.

Grassman Hills, N. Y., 15, 1850.

Messrs. Moore & Tenhill.—In looking over your paper of last week, I find in the editorial column an article headed "The Dissolution of the Union," in which the dangers of this fearful calamity are gloriously set forth. With the suggestion that the South will no longer submit to the encroachments of the North, should the Wilmot Proviso or any "kindred measure, restricting the rights of the people of the slaveholding States be adopted, they would look upon such an act as the worst of despotism and would withdraw from the Union.

I ask what are the encroachments which the North are inflicting upon the South? What are the rights of the people of the slaveholding States, which the "Wilmot Proviso" or any kindred measure would so restrict that they would look upon it as the worst of despotism and would withdraw from the Union? If these encroachments are that the North claims a right to declare to the world her conviction that slavery in any form, or under any circumstances is a sin against God, an outrage upon humanity, that if it is impossible for any nation to prosper by groaning under such a curse, and that it is the duty of the North and of christians everywhere to cry aloud against such "enormous evil," and not cease to cry out until the last word which would tolerate human slavery be stricken from our statute books. I say, if these are the encroachments with which the South are aggrieved, let them reflect how weak and groundless are their complaints when exposed to the light of Truth, Justice and Right. And the rights of the people, what are they? To hold their fellow-man in bondage, even to doom their own sons and daughters (as the great number of traitors to slaves abundantly prove) to that curse which is worse than death itself. Strange rights these that are restricted if the North presumes to say a word against the extension of slavery by law over our newly acquired territory. In fact it appears to be considered an infringement upon Southern rights to agitate the question at all, either in the North or South. Again, "We have seen no disposition on the part of the North to withhold their acts of interference in the question of slavery." I presume it would be vain to look for such a disposition, and why should we. If slavery is a sin, which few pretend to deny, how then is it the duty of christians to preach against every other sin but leave that untouched (for fear of a dissolution of the Union) Will God be circumvented, or are we to reverse the Constitution which was formed under very peculiar circumstances by fallible men and consequently liable to contain gross errors, more than we reverse the great Judge of heaven and earth whose law is eternal and whose judgment is just, and whose law binds us as christians to do unto others as we would have them to do unto us? Is this the rule among slaveholders who are daily exercising despotic power in order to keep their slaves in subjection, inflicting the most cruel treatment, justified by laws of their own making in which the slave had no voice, and worse than all, tearing asunder families—husbands from wives and children from parents and vice versa—thus virtually dissolving the marriage contract for filthy lucre's sake, and regardless of the ties that bind families together, doom them to a state of heart-broken misery that ends only with their lives. And are we of the North living in accordance with the Golden rule? are we doing as we would have others do for us if we were the much injured & oppressed bondmen while we not only do not raise our voices against the evil, but condemn and censure those who do, and charge with fanaticism the attempts that may be made to spread the truth. There is no fear of the South dissolving the Union because it would be certain death to their peculiar institution which they are trying to fishel with such care. It could not live without the support of the North. You ask why? Because it is in the North that the South finds a ready market for the greater part of her slave grown cotton, sugar, rice, tobacco, &c., and it is the North who are bound as long as the Union remains entire to shoulder arms in case of an insurrection among the slaves and march to defend this blessed institution—dissolve the Union and where are they? They are thrown helpless upon the mercy of the slaves whom they have wronged, and they know it. But the North should not interfere, the sin is their own and they will have it to answer for. But is not the man who stands an eye-witness to the perpetration of a crime and endeavors to conceal it, or refuses to bring it to the light, considered accessory to it and almost equal in guilt to the perpetrator himself. The question of slavery is justly becoming one of thrilling interest to the people of the United States, and when we reflect what an enormous weight of guilt is attached to it, we are not surprised that the whole Union is interested about the future disposal of it. I presume the day is approaching, and may God speed its coming when the cause of slavery under which this country has so long groaned and which has preyed on the very vitals of the Union is preyed upon the very vitals of abolition, will be quietly and peacefully abolished. Then will the South enjoy rights equal to the North and there will be no cause for encroachments. The blessings of liberty will pour in upon the South giving place to the North, and this beloved country may yet be one of the happiest and most prosperous nations on earth.

A FRIEND TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

REMARKS.—Perhaps we were departing too far from our established custom of giving place to the foregoing communication, for the reason that the author did not place us in possession of his real name. We are often thus treated, from ignorance