

LONDON, DECEMBER 11.

### THE MURDERS IN RATCLIFFE-HIGHWAY.

The sensation excited by these most ferocious murders has become so general, and the curiosity to see the place where they were committed so intense, that Ratcliffe-highway was rendered almost impassible by the throng of spectators, before ten o'clock yesterday morning. The crowd continued to thicken until about two o'clock in the afternoon, when Mr. URWIN, the Coroner, arrived at the Jolly Sailor public-house, to preside at the Inquest over the dead bodies. The witnesses were immediately called, and gave their depositions as follows:—

**WILLIAM SALTER.**—“I am a Surgeon, and live in the parish of St. George. I viewed the bodies of the deceased by desire of the Coroner—found them in the following state:

“Timothy Marr, the younger. The left external carotid artery divided, the left side of the mouth laid open, with a wound three inches in length, with several marks of violence on the left side of the face.

“Cecilia Marr. The left side of the cranium fractured, the temporal bone totally destroyed, with a wound just above the articulation of the jaw two inches in length, then winding into the left ear, and a wound at the back of the ear.

“Timothy Marr, the elder. The nose broken, the off occipital bone fractured, and a violent blow on the right eye.

“James Goen. Several contusions on the head and nose, with the occipital bones dreadfully shattered, and the brains protruding. No other marks were found. I saw sufficient cause to occasion death in each of the parties.”

**MARGARET JEWELL.**—“I lived servant with Mr. Marr; I went to the counter to my master who was behind it; he gave me a pound note; it wanted a few minutes to twelve; I left him busy behind the counter; I went out of the door, and turned to the left to Taylor's; they were shut up, and I returned again past the window, and still saw him behind the counter; I went to St. John's-hill, to pay the baker; they were shut up likewise; I went with the intent to get some oysters, but found the shops were shut up; I returned again to the door of my master's house, I found it closely shut up, and no light to be seen; I think I was out about twenty minutes; I rang at the bell, and no one answered; I rang repeatedly; whilst I was at the door, the watchman went by on the other side of the way, with a person in charge; I certainly heard some one coming down stairs, which I thought was my master coming to let me in; I am certain I heard the child cry very low; I rang again, and knocked at the door with my foot repeatedly, when a man came up to the door and insulted me; I thought I would wait till the watchman came, which he shortly did, and called the hour of one, at the same time desired me to move on, not knowing who I was; I said I belonged to the house, and thought it very strange I should be locked out; he then observed they had not fastened the pin of the window; the watchman then knocked, rang at the bell, and called Mr. Marr through the key-hole; Mr. Murray, the next door neighbour, then came out and asked what was the matter? The watchman then told him that I was locked out; I continued at the door with the watchman till Mr. Murray came out again, and said there was a strong light backwards; Mr. Murray went backwards, while another watchman, who had joined the first, made an alarm; Mr. Murray got into the house backwards and opened the street-door, when the watchman and myself entered.”—[Here the poor girl, struck with the remembrance of her mistress's mangled and bleeding body which presented itself on the opening of the door, was so overpowered, that she fainted on the spot, and was carried out in a state of insensibility.]

**JOHN MURRAY.**—“I am a pawnbroker, residing at No. 30, Ratcliffe-Highway, next to the house of the deceased, Mr. Marr. About ten minutes after twelve o'clock on Sunday morning last, I was sitting at supper with my family, and heard a noise in Mr. Marr's house, which appeared to be on the shop floor, and resembled the pulling of a chair, and the sound of a voice, as if proceeding from the fear of correction, like a boy's or a woman's. This all occurred in about a minute's space, a little before one as far as I can recollect; I heard a ringing at Mr. Marr's bell, which continued at intervals till a quarter past one; we were then about to go to bed; I heard a bell ring with additional violence, and went to the door to know what was the matter? I was then informed by the watchman that the shutters were not fast by the omission of a pin; that the girl was shut out;—that she had rung at the door, and no one came to answer; I told the watchman to pull hard at the bell, and that I would go at the other side of the house, and endeavour to wake them, or make them come to the door; the watchman did pull the bell very hard, and I went to the back of the house, and called out Mr. Marr! three or four different times; no answer was made, and I came again to the front of the house; I saw a light at the back of the one pair; I told the watchman to ring louder, and that I would endeavour to get into the house by the back door; I went to the back of the house, and threw myself over the fence, and finding the yard door open, immediately proceeded to the landing place of the first floor, where I found a candle burning; seeing the two doors open where Mr. Marr used to sleep, I called out “Marr! Marr! your window shutters are not fastened,” but nobody answered me, and on account of its being the bed-room I did not go in; with the candle I went through the shop to the front door, to let the watchman in; when I got to the door, at the foot of the stairs which leads into the shop, I saw the boy, James Goen, lying dead on the floor, just within that

door, and within six feet of the foot of the stairs; his head was bleeding, and his brains were visible; going on further towards the shop-door, I saw Mrs. Marr lying dead close to the street-door, with her face down-wards, and her feet against the door, and her head bleeding very much. I immediately opened the door, and let the watchman and several others in. I then began to look for Mr. Marr, whom I found lying dead behind the counter, with his head very near the window; his face was downwards, and he was bleeding very much about the head. While I was standing by the body of Mr. Marr, the servant and others came out of the kitchen, and said the child in the cradle was dead. Soon after I went down into the kitchen, and saw the child in the cradle dead, bleeding about the mouth and throat. Soon after which, one of the police officers shewed me a large maul bloody. Mr. Marr came into the house the latter end of April.—Mr. Marr seemed to be about the age of 24; Mrs. Marr about the same age, and the child about 14 weeks. The whole family consisted of the four who were murdered, besides the servant girl.”

**GEORGE OLLEY,** the watchman, corroborated the testimony of Mr. Murray, and stated, that Mr. Murray said, “For God's sake come in, and see what dreadful murder is here!” Witness first saw Mrs. Marr lying on her face, with all her clothes covered with blood, and her feet towards the door, which at first prevented its being opened. She was not cold, but dead. Her brains seemed to be hanging out on one side of her head, and he saw a great deal of blood about. Witness then described the situation of the other bodies, which has been already sufficiently stated. He said, the last time he saw Mr. Marr was when he was calling the hour of twelve, at which time he was putting up the shutters. He was present in one of the back rooms when the Police Officers found the maul, the head of it was upon the ground, and the handle leaning against a chair, it was covered with blood, and some hairs were found upon it; which left no doubt that this was the instrument with which the horrid facts were perpetrated. He also saw the chisel which was afterwards found, but upon which there was no blood. This was all the evidence adduced before the Jury.

The CORONER, after the examination closed, stated to the Jury, that having now before them the melancholy statement of the facts, unassisted by a particle of testimony calculated to point out the perpetrators of the atrocious and wicked act of murder, to which their attention had been so painfully directed, their verdict, unfortunately, must be given generally on the imperfect evidence brought forward. He trusted, therefore, that they would not suffer their verdict to be influenced by the passing reports, originating from the laudable anxiety of every one to trace out and detect the wretches, whose future existence must be marked with remorse, from conscious guilt; and who, perhaps in a little time, by the hand of Providence, the prayers of humanity, and the exertions of the Police, would be brought to detection and punishment.

The Jury retired for a short time, and brought in their verdict of—“*Wilful Murder, against some person or persons unknown,*” on each of the bodies.

The Officers had not last night been able to trace out the servant girl, mentioned in our yesterday's Paper, and only one man, a bricklayer, had been brought before the Magistrates at Shadwell Office, on suspicion, but he was immediately discharged.

Three men were seen near the shop of Mr. Marr, for about half an hour on Saturday evening, and one of them, during that time, looked in at Mr. Marr's shop window. The description of two of these persons was given to the Magistrates; of the third no information could be obtained. One of them, as appears from the description given, was dressed in a light coloured sort of Flushing coat, and was a tall lusty man; the other was dressed in a blue jacket, the sleeves of which were much torn; and under which he appeared to have flannel sleeves, with a small brimmed hat on his head.

The Magistrates of Thames Police Office have offered an additional reward of £20, above £50 already advertised by St. George's parish, for the discovery of either of the above described persons.

The current report of Mr. Marr being a witness on the recent trial of a Portuguese sailor at the Old Bailey, charged with the murder of Douglas, a seaman, is incorrect. Mr. Marr having been in business only seven months, he was never engaged in any parish duties, whereby he could have provoked the revenge of any individual in his private or public character.

The mother of Mrs. Marr, and two of her sisters, came from the country, intending to dine with her on Sunday, and did not hear of the dreadful destruction of their relatives till they reached the house. The effect which the intelligence had on them it would be in vain to describe.

DECEMBER 25.

### IMPORTANT EXAMINATION

BEFORE MR. MARKLAND, MR. CAPPER, AND MR. KINNAIRD, AT THE SHADWELL POLICE OFFICE.

The examination of *John Williams* took place at this Office late last night, when the facts and circumstances disclosed were found to be of a very extraordinary nature.

On Sunday last, from private information obtained by Hewitt and Hope, two of the Police Officers at Shadwell, they went in search of Williams, and apprehended him in Wapping. On his person were found a duplicate for two pair of shoes, pledged for 8s. and £1:14 in silver, with a £1 note. On Monday the Prisoner was first examined, and the fact of his having little money in his pocket on the night of the fatal massacre of Mr. Williamson's family had been proved, from his borrowing sixpence of the landlady of the Pear-tree public-house; strong suspicions, however,

arose yesterday morning, in consequence of the Magistrate having received a communication from an unfortunate person confined in Newgate for debt. Immediately Mr. Capper proceeded to the prison, and held an official examination, when it appeared that he was the landlord of the Pear-tree public-house, Wapping, and that the prisoner in custody was his lodger, and that he had a maul in his house, answering the description in every respect of that found in the late Mr. Marr's house. Every vigilance was immediately adopted, on receiving this account, to obtain the attendance of persons likely to bring the mysterious business to an issue. About seven o'clock yesterday evening the Prisoner was brought into the Police Office, which was completely crowded.

*John Turner*, the lodger who made his escape from Williamson's house attended. He described to the Magistrate the exact situation in which he first described the villain rifling the pockets of Mrs. Williamson. He further stated that while he was going down stairs, he was sure he heard a man slowly walking in the sitting-room, and that his shoes cracked, and that he was confident the man could not have nails in his shoes.—When he got to the door, he only saw one man in the position, and dressed in the manner described in his examination before the Coroner. The prisoner was here brought forward, and the Magistrate particularly questioned the witness, whether he thought the Prisoner at the bar was the man? The witness could not state that he was, but said he had seen him two or three times in Williamson's house. Did not know whether he was in the house on Thursday night last.

*Mary Rice* was examined. She washed for the Prisoner for more than three years. Knew his stock of linen perfectly well; but had not washed for him the last fortnight.

The Magistrate here rigidly examined the witness:—**Q.** Have you not seen blood on his shirts? **A.** Yes, I have; on one of them.—**Q.** Have you seen any blood on his shirts since last Saturday week? **A.** Yes, I have; one of his shirts was bloody about the collar, like the mark of two fingers.—**Q.** Was there no other part stained? **A.** I took no particular notice; the shirt was torn in the breast.—**Q.** Did you not take notice of the shirt being torn? **A.** Yes; but judged the prisoner had been quarrelling, he might have had the shirt torn.—**Q.** When was it you had this shirt without being torn? **A.** Last Thursday week.—**Q.** Will you swear there were no other marks of blood on the shirt? **A.** There was a little blood on the arms and several spots on other parts of the body; but, taking no particular notice at the time, I washed it, and kept the shirt, in order to mend it.—**Q.** Have you washed out all the stains? **A.** I think I must, for I boiled it well in hot water.—**Q.** What linen have you generally washed for the prisoner? **A.** Four linen shirts and some stockings; but never any white handkerchiefs; the prisoner used to wear black handkerchiefs.

[The prisoner wore a white neck handkerchief on his examination.]

*Mrs. Vermillion*, the landlady of the Pear-tree was next examined. **Q.** Is your husband in confinement? **A.** Yes, he is in prison for a debt of £20 and has been for seven weeks.—**Q.** Is there a chest of tools in your house? **A.** Yes; it belonged to a person now gone abroad. She had never looked into it; knew it contained two or three mauls; one of them her husband sometimes used, and it lay in the yard.—Did you never notice the marks on the mauls? **A.** Yes, on one or two; they were marked J. P. and belonged to one of her lodgers who had gone abroad since February last; his name was J. Paterson.—Did you never know the mauls were missing? **A.** Not till Monday, when there was inquiries made.—Could you identify the maul if you saw it? **A.** I don't know.

The Magistrate here ordered the fatal maul to be produced. The witness was extremely agitated, and burst into tears. After some pause, and a chair being handed for her accommodation, she recovered her fright.

**Q.** On your oath will you say that this is not the maul?—**A.** I don't know.—Will you swear it is the maul? **A.** I cannot say.

**MR. MARKLAND.**—Is the maul similar to the one you have seen in your house?—**A.** Yes, it is something like it. The remainder of the questions were of little import, they went merely to the fact of the prisoner's being at home on the night of the 8th of December, which the witness could not swear to; but she gave him a good character for honesty since she knew him.

The prisoner attempted to account for his shirt being torn and bloody, and said he had been in company with some men who prevailed on him to play at cards. He had played one game, and was going home, when he was seized by the collar, and had his mouth cut.—He related a conversation he had with his landlady; but she denied his telling her the story as now related, and it appeared the fracas was antecedent to Marr's murder.

*Harris and Cuthburn*, the prisoner's fellow-lodgers at the Pear-tree, stated that the prisoner came home on the morning of the murder, about one o'clock. Cuthburn was in bed, but not asleep; the watchman was going past one o'clock; he was positive that the Prisoner said, “for God's sake put out the light, or else something will happen;” but was not certain whether it was the same morning he heard of Marr's murder. Harris went to bed about twelve, and awoke when the prisoner came home; but did not take notice of the prisoner; they all slept in the same room; he had seen the chest of tools; it was left open; he never examined the whole of its contents, but had observed the maul; it was like a ship-hammer, and he believed it had a sharp point.—[The maul was again produced.]—Harris thought it was like one he had seen the children play with in the yard. The children here alluded to were the nephews of Mrs. Vermillion. The Magistrate ordered the eldest to be sent for. As soon as the boy