

plaint, said that he had lent his dear lord, King Henry, the works of St. Gregory, who had never restored them to him, their rightful owner.

DREADFUL TRAGEDY.

The Murder of Dr. Parkman, and Arrest of Professor Webster as the supposed murderer, in Boston.

We publish a lengthy account in this number, respecting the dreadful tragedy enacted in Boston—a notice of which appeared in our last—because we conceive the subject to be of deep moment, as well as thrilling interest. Dr. Webster was Professor of Chemistry in Harvard University. He owed Dr. Parkman the sum of four hundred and seventy dollars. Dr. P. had pressed him for the amount. The Professor became irritated at his repeated calls. He finally told the Doctor to call at the college at a particular hour on a certain day for his money. The Doctor was seen going into the college at the time specified, but was never seen to come out. He was missing by his friends for some eight or ten days. Suspicion was directed towards the University, which was frequently searched. The extract goes on to say:—

“During this time, as early last week as Tuesday, Professor Webster’s apartments in the college were searched by the police in his presence, and nothing was then found furnishing any clue to the Doctor’s sudden disappearance. The suspicions, however, seemed still to increase, that Dr. Parkman had never quitted the college building, and as there was one part of it which had not been searched, which was the vault directly underneath Professor Webster’s laboratory, the only access to which was through a water closet in the laboratory, and as Doctor Henry J. Bigelow, Professor of Surgery at Harvard University, was desirous that all suspicion should be cleared up, as far as was in the power of those having direction in the building, he directed Mr. Ephraim Littlefield, the person who has charge of, and whose family resides in a part of the building, to effect an entrance into the vault without forcing the lock of the closet door.

To explain how the entrance was effected to this vault, we will state that the college is built upon walls which rest upon piles, and that the tide ebbs and flows through the apertures underneath the basement floor, between the compartments formed by the walls. One of these compartments forms what is termed the vault underneath Professor Webster’s laboratory. There is a trap door to the compartment next to that used by Professor Webster, situated some forty feet from the water closet. Littlefield descended through the trap door on Friday, with a crow bar, and knocked an aperture in the wall near the water closet, and discovered, about four o’clock that afternoon, portions of a human body which had been washed by the sea. These portions were the pelvis, the right thigh and the right leg. Littlefield immediately proceeded to Dr. Bigelow’s office, and acquainted him with the fact, as we understand, in the most excited manner, saying—‘I have found it,’ and repeating these words so often that Dr. Bigelow took hold of him and told him to be quiet—that he acted like a crazy man.

Dr. Bigelow went to the City Marshal’s Office that afternoon, and informed Mr. Tukey of the discovery which had been made, who immediately, with some officers proceeded to the college, and found it was so. Mr. Tukey then gave directions for the arrest of Professor Webster, and officers Clapp, Starkweather and Spurr proceeded to his residence in Cambridge, in a carriage, for that purpose. Upon alighting from the carriage, a short distance from Professor Webster’s residence, the officers found at the gateway a gentleman opening the gate to leave, and Professor Webster standing in the doorway of his house. The officers and the Professor went into his study, and Col. Clapp informed him that the relatives were desirous that further and more thorough examination should be made of the college, and wished to have him present at the time. Professor Webster put on his boots, coat and hat, and accompanied the officers out of the house without seeing his wife, and took a seat in the carriage with them. A general conversation took place between the parties, in which the subject of Dr. Parkman’s disappearance was but lightly touched upon, and Professor Webster said the family must be much pained. In answer to a question whether he had a receipt for the money, he said that he trusted to Dr. Parkman’s honor to have the mortgage cancelled. He wished to have the carriage stop at the house of the toll gatherer, who saw Dr. Parkman pass over the bridge on Friday afternoon, which wish was not granted. The carriage was driven to Leverett street jail, through east Cambridge, over Craig’s bridge, and arrived there about half past 7 o’clock. When Professor Webster got into the office he asked, ‘What does this mean? what am I here for?’ Col. Clapp replied that he was arrested on the charge of having murdered Doctor George Parkman, at the medical college in North Grove Street, on Friday. All the reply he made was, ‘Why is this? what is it for?’ He asked to have his friends, Messrs. Dexter and Prescott sent for, so that his family should be informed where he was.

The officers however persuaded him that it would be better to have the intelligence communicated in the morning. He was then committed to jail by constable Clapp, and of sea. Spurr proceeded to the residence of S.

D. Parker, Esq., the county attorney, and informed him of what had been done, and also notified Coroner Pratt of the discovery made at the College. About ten o’clock Coroner Pratt, Dr. Martin Gay, and Mr. Kingsley, visited the jail office. Professor Webster was sent for by Mr. Parker, and he returned answer that he was unable to come. He was, however, brought up into the office, and appearing faint, some water was offered to him, but he refused to drink. Mr. Parker addressed Professor Webster, stating under what circumstances he had been arrested, and what had been found, and expressed the hope that he would be able to explain the matter, and prayed to God that he might be able to exculpate himself. Mr. Parker said they were going to pursue the examination at the college, and asked him to accompany them, and he did so. The officers of Professor Webster, and the above named persons then proceeded to the college building, where they arrived about half past ten o’clock.—The pieces of the body found in the vault in the afternoon, were then brought up into the laboratory, and exposed to view in Professor Webster’s presence. A jaw bone, some artificial teeth, particles of gold, silver, and some buttons, found by the officers in the furnace used in the laboratory, were shown at the same time. A number of other persons were present. Professor Webster said nothing, and nothing was said to him. He was then conducted to the room adjoining the lecture room, used solely by him for preparing mixtures to be used in making experiments at his lectures. The room is connected with the laboratory by a staircase. Upon his entrance into the room he said, ‘This is where I make examinations.’ This is all the remark he made while in the College. The examination having been concluded, he was conducted back to his cell in the Jail.

The police were put in possession of the portion of the college building occupied by professor Webster, on Friday afternoon, after the discovery had been made, and they were engaged in searching the premises that evening, Saturday, and yesterday. On Saturday afternoon, officer Fuller discovered a tea chest stowed away in a nook in the laboratory, under some shelves, which was found to contain a portion of a human body, comprising the back and ribs, and in between the ribs was a left thigh. These were covered over first with tan, and over that was a layer of mineral substances. In the chest was also found a large hunting knife. Saturday morning the officers discovered traces of what they considered blood from the counter in the lecture room, upon the brick floor of the room adjoining, upon several of the stairs leading from this room to the laboratory, and upon the floor of the laboratory to the water closet, down which it is believed the portions of the the human body found were thrown.

About four o’clock on Saturday afternoon, Coroner Pratt, in company with several gentlemen summoned as jurors, visited the college, and several reporters of the press were also admitted. The Coroner proceeded to the laboratory, where upon some pieces of boards the parts of the body which had been discovered, were placed, and they formed, in appearance the whole of a human frame, with the exception of the head, left leg and feet.

The portions of the body were then viewed by the jury, and the substance from the furnace examined, and then passed over to Drs. Winslow, Lewis and Martin Gay, surgeons, and Dr. Charles Jackson, chemist, for microscopical and chemical examinations. Three towels and a roller, having spots of blood upon them, which were found in the vault, were exhibited the jury.—The jury after which made an examination of the laboratory, the room and closet in the rear of the lecture room, and the lecture room, being the apartments used exclusively by Professor Webster. In the examining room, as Professor Webster termed it, were found some cod-fish hooks, arranged with pieces of lead, in the shape of grappling irons, and a large Turkish knife in a silver scabbard, which had been found in a drawer of a small table. The examination of the premises having been concluded, the jury adjourned to meet on Wednesday next, at ten o’clock, for the purpose of hearing evidence.

It may be well to state here, that the dissecting room attached to the college, is in a small building built against the west end of the main building, and it is wholly distinct from Professor Webster’s apartments, a wide entry-way being between them.

Yesterday, the officers, in continuing their search, found a pair of black ribbed pantaloons with the name of Professor Webster written upon the lining, a pair of slippers used by him and a saw belonging to him, upon which there are marks of what is believed to be blood.—The bottom of the slippers bore the appearance of having been used in treading down tan.—Dr. Jackson, it is reported, has tested the spots found upon the stairs, and pronounced the stains to have been caused by blood.

The above are all the facts we have been able to obtain in relation to this great mystery.

Prof. Webster it is stated, has been in his apartments at the College during the past week, and while in there, has bolted the doors on the inside; also that he has had fires in places where he had not been in the habit of having them. It is known that he has been home to his family every evening, and during the week just past, paid a visit to Rev. Dr. Francis Parkman, a brother of Dr. George Parkman, and had a long conversation in relation to his sudden disappearance. On Friday, the morning before the evening on which he was arrested, he came over to the city in company with a friend, with whom he conversed as

freely and as cheerful as ever he did. The night he was placed in prison he was in quite an excited state of mind and raved somewhat; he however cooled down in the morning. He was seen by Dr. Clark, the city physician, on Saturday afternoon, whom he requested to see the faculty in relation to the regular lecture on Tuesday, which he should be unable to deliver in consequence of his arrest. Yesterday he was quite calm, but says nothing.

His house was searched yesterday, but nothing found implicating him in this affair. Mr. Webster, about a week ago ordered at Nathaniel Waterman’s store, 83 and 85 Corahill, a box, to be made of stout tin soldered tight, with the exception of the cover, and that to be so made that it could be easily soldered on its proper place. This box was to be about three feet in length, by one foot and a half in depth and width, and was directed to be sent to Professor Webster.

Editor’s Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1849.

¶ The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing in future, must be accompanied with the CASH otherwise they will not meet with attention,

JAMES A. PIERCE.

A STIR AMONG THE MEDICAL FACULTY.—Last week we announced that a Dr. Waddle, of Nova Scotia, had been appointed by the Executive, Physician to the Lunatic Asylum of this Province. This, as it might have been expected, has raised the indignation of the medical faculty, and they convened a meeting in the Mechanics’ Institute, in Saint John, on the 6th instant. Dr. Bayard was called to the chair. The following resolutions were adopted:—

Moved by Dr. W. S. Harding—seconded by Dr. Wetmore,

Resolved, That there are many medical gentlemen practising in various parts of the Province of New Brunswick, who, after regular courses of study, have obtained satisfactory testimonials of professional acquirements and qualifications from established schools of Medicine and Surgery.

Moved by Dr. Ruddock—seconded by Dr. Livingstone,

Resolved, That the Lunatic Asylum of this Province was built and is sustained by funds obtained from the public revenues, towards which every practitioner of Medicine in New Brunswick, as a tax payer, has paid his proportion, and is therefore entitled to fair consideration in the disposal of public offices connected with their profession.

Moved by Dr. Travers—seconded by Dr. Miller,

Resolved, That the medical gentlemen throughout New Brunswick have been subjected to unmerited reflection by the recent proceedings of the commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, in their appointment of a gentleman from another Province, as Physician to that Establishment, and they thus publicly record their protest, and just indignation.

Moved by Dr. S. Bayard—seconded by Dr. Wetmore,

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum as at present constituted—four of the gentlemen being members of the Legal Profession, and the others gentlemen of different pursuits without any member of the medical faculty associated with them are thereby unqualified to superintend the affairs of a Medical Institution, and that the commission is therefore viewed by this meeting as an indignity offered to the physicians and surgeons of this Province possessing the confidence of the public.

Moved by Dr. Livingstone—seconded by Dr. H. Peters,

Resolved, That the conduct of the Commissioners throughout the whole proceeding of the appointment, manifests an undue Executive influence in the exercise of patronage.

Moved by Dr. Fitch—seconded by Dr Sharp,

Resolved, That a committee consisting of Dr. Livingstone and Dr. Bayard be appointed and requested to proceed immediately to Fredericton, to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and present the foregoing resolutions; and to draft and present an address to His Excellency, praying him to issue a new commission framed more in accordance with the equal rights of all departments of Society, and thereby better calculated to ensure the success and extended usefulness of the Institution.

Moved by Dr. Miller—seconded by Dr. Lester,

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing Resolutions signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the meeting be published.

The thanks of the Meeting were then given to the Chairman and Secretary.

Previous to the adoption of any resolution, a letter from Dr. Boyle was presented by Dr. Botsford to the meeting, expressive of his full concurrence with the object of it in ‘maintaining the dignity of the Medical Profession, and in their determination to seek redress in the highest quarter.’

They manage things strangely in St. John. It appears that an account of the proceedings of this meeting was handed into the Courier for insertion—but the editor declined complying with the request without it was paid for as an advertisement. This same paper first announced the appointment of Dr. Waddle, and furnished its readers with a long string of letters, recommendatory of that gentleman. A number of communications appear in the papers on this vexed subject. One of the writers alludes to the meeting of the gentlemen of the Bar, which was held at Fredericton, on the appointment of Mr Justice Carter, and after quoting the Resolutions passed on that occasion, remarks:—

This is the language of Messrs. Chandler, Wilnot, and others, when they protested against the infraction of their privileges. ‘These men of feeling feel but for themselves,’ and the hon. Mr. Wilnot by his selection of ‘a stranger to the Province,’ in the Bar-acceptation of the term, seems to think that Justice accomplished all that was required of her, when she restored the stimulus to an aspiring lawyer, and placed a judgeship within his reach as the reward of ‘honorable exertion.’ Secure in his own professional prospects, he unhesitatingly and causelessly violated the unprotected rights of another learned profession. The appointment of four Lawyers in a commission of nine gentlemen, to supervise a medical institution, savours amazingly and strongly of the ‘stimulus to honorable exertion’—the ‘right to look forward for promotion in the law,’ and the ‘talents and character, of Executive influence. I ask the honorable gentleman, what would he think of a commission comprising four physicians and five merchants to manage the concerns of a legal institution in Fredericton, to appoint a Lawyer in Digby to a place of profit and emolument in it? The Bar meeting furnishes an answer to the question. The presence of an ‘executive’ in the commission is objectionable—the preponderance of Lawyers is worse, and the conduct of the actors throughout the whole transaction will occasion enquiries, from which the public can draw their own conclusions, for in whatever position we place it, it presents a vulnerable front. The Commissioners who confirmed the appointment endeavour to justify the measure by a declaration of its popularity—they may say so, and they may endeavor to think so—and deduce their conclusion from a newspaper puff, but time will soon determine the public feeling upon the question—I have heard repeated expressions of opinion in all grades of society, and I unhesitatingly assert that a very large majority was decidedly adverse to the proceeding.

The gentlemen of the Bar in their protest against the appointment of a ‘stranger’ to the Bench, speak feelingly of hope destroyed—stimulus subdued—profession degraded—and the right to look forward; but I ask those who formed four-ninths of the commission, if gentlemen pursuing an honorable, expensive and most responsible profession, are not entitled to equal consideration and privileges? The resolutions of the Bar-meeting express in strong and appropriate language the sentiments and rights of the medical gentlemen, who feel as those lawyers felt, and I think it will require some sophistry to establish any distinction in these truly parallel cases.

The Deputation waited on His Excellency, who gave them a rather spicy reception. The answer we annex.

I have perused and shall attentively consider the Resolutions and Address presented by Dr. Bayard and Dr. Livingstone.

I cannot admit that the present Commission is incompetent to superintend the affairs of the Lunatic Asylum, simply because it contains no medical man among its members.—Were it expected that the Commissioners should regulate the diet and medical treatment of the patient, there would have been great force in the objection.—Had the Legislature conceived any such disqualification for one or more members of the Commission it is presumed they would have prescribed it in the Act.

With regard to the undue Executive influence which the Memorialists conceive they can trace in the proceedings of the Commission, I do not admit its existence, and I should very much deprecate anything of the sort.

Nor can I acquiesce in the view, that to select a member of the medical profession from the adjoining Province, is an insult to the medical practitioners of this Colony. A very few weeks have elapsed since a Federal Union of the British North American Colonies was publicly discussed in St. John; among its advocates was at least one member of the Profession. I cannot, under any circumstances, look upon a subject of the British Crown in Nova Scotia in the light of a foreigner. I have