

A MURDER MOST FOUL.

A FULL REPORT OF THE AWFUL FAIRVILLE CRIME.

Which was Perpetrated Last Monday Morning—Jealousy of a Good Wife the Cause—How Gullford Crawford Knocked in the Head of a Sleeping Man with an Axe.

(Daily Record, Oct. 1.)

Fairville had its first murder sensation this morning. Gullford Crawford killed John Branton under most horrible circumstances. He struck him with the back of an axe while he was lying asleep in bed. The deed was perpetrated in cold blood and unless the murderer was insane his crime was most atrocious.

Gullford Crawford lived with his family in what is commonly known as Paddy's Flat in Fairville.

The house is a little brown house on the edge of Mooney's brick yard. Here he lived with his wife, his son and his daughter, as well as the murdered man, John Henry Branton, who boarded with him.

Crawford has acted strangely of late. He seemed to suspect Branton of being too intimate with his wife and he sometimes quarrelled with her on that account. He has even gone so far as to threaten the whole household with a club. His actions give some ground for believing him insane. This is, however, uncertain. He may or may not be insane, but it is at least certain that jealousy prompted the deed.

In the matter of ground for his crime there is also uncertainty. His son and daughter say there was none and this seems to be the prevailing opinion. The father, however, have none of them been residing long in Fairville and are not very well known. Both Crawford and Branton came there about five months ago to work in Mooney's brick yard.

Crawford belongs in Keirstead mountain, some miles from Sussex, and came to Fairville to live in April last. He is a man of about forty-five years of age, and his previous life would not lead one to think that he would be the author of the crime for which he is now under arrest. He was not a drinking man and until lately seemed moderate in disposition.

Branton is a young Englishman of about twenty-three. He is rather a fine looking man, with more delicacy showing in his features than belongs to the average working man. He came here from Pennsylvania about four months ago and went to work with Mooney. It is stated that he has a brother in Pennsylvania but little is known of his past life or of his relations.

Ever since he came here young Branton has been boarding with Crawford. He slept in a small bedroom on the ground floor. The murderer's son shared his bed with him and the room adjoined the living room of the house. Mr. Crawford and his wife slept upstairs.

This morning Crawford rose between four and five and went down stairs. It was an unusual hour for him to arise so early, but he had terrible work ahead. He went into the bedroom where his son and boarder slept. Branton lay in the inside next the wall. The man swung the axe in the air and it dropped over the body of his son and the back of it struck Branton over the eye. He may have then struck him once or twice more. He was badly bruised about the eye and jaw though his face was not mangled badly.

While one of the blows was falling young Crawford awoke and saw his father in the midst of his dreadful work. He arose and alarmed the neighborhood and meanwhile his father went back upstairs.

Officer Hennessy and Dr. Grey were summoned and each proceeded to perform his duty. Dr. Grey dressed his wounds but could not save his life. He died in a couple of hours. The officers arrested Crawford and took him to the Fairville lockup and from there will be removed to jail.

Coroner Robinson was also summoned and held an inquest. After the jury had viewed the remains the body was prepared for burial. All the man had was a watch and it is probable that unless some one provides the means he will have to be given a pauper's interment.

While the man was dying in the little bedroom of the house a disgraceful scene was being enacted in the living room. After Dr. Grey had dressed the wounds he started to leave the house. Officer Hennessy asked him if that was all he was going to do, if he was going to leave the man to die.

Dr. Gray bridled up at this and said that he did not want to be interfered with. Both men were now enraged and the officer was about to strike the physician when young Crawford interfered and prevented violence.

It seems that the two have not been on very good terms and the doctor during the argument accused the officer of doing all he could for the last couple of years to hurt him in his practice.

It is probable that trouble will arise out of this as Dr. Gray entertains the idea of charging officer Hennessy with assault.

It was about ten o'clock when the inquest upon the body was commenced by Coroner Robinson. The jury men summoned were Harry Allingham, foreman; John Morris, Chas. Doherty, John

O'Neill, Cephas Durdan, John Gregg and John McKinnon.

Hartley Crawford.

The son of the prisoner, gave his testimony. He said that he slept in the adjoining room with the deceased. His father slept upstairs, at about half past four o'clock he came down and entered the bedroom. He lit the lamp and witness asked him what he was about getting up that early in the morning. His father replied that it wasn't early, it was five o'clock. He then proceeded to light a fire in the kitchen and witness went to sleep.

When he next awoke he saw his father standing near the bed. He was in the act of swinging the axe. Before he could even utter a syllable the weapon had struck the deceased. He saw him strike only once. The deceased never moved or spoke and he thought he was dead. He jumped out of bed and put on his clothes. His father immediately on doing the deed went out to the door and threw the axe out in front of the house. He then went up stairs again. Witness here identified the axe.

He then ran in next door to Mr. Haines and told them of the crime. When he came back Mr. Doyle and another man were there. Mr. Shannon also came in and said he would notify Dr. Grey and Officer Hennessy. Dr. Grey arrived first and viewed the body. Then the officer arrived and went up stairs when he arrested his father.

He explained that deceased slept next to the wall in the bed and the murderer would have to strike over him to reach deceased.

To Foreman Allingham.—He believed that the reason why his father killed the deceased was because he was jealous of him and his mother that they were too intimate.

To Coroner.—He was led to believe this from what his father had sometimes said. His father was a laboring man. He had not been working since last Monday on account of sickness. He never had reason to think that he was dangerous to be at large, except that one night he had a bad spell while upstairs and said that he would beat the first one of them that came up. That remark was made on last Sunday. Dr. Grey was called to him at that time and has been attending him since.

To a juror.—He did not believe his mother had any regard for this man, more than as a friend.

The deceased had been boarding at the house then about three months.

Dr. James Grey.

said that he was notified at an early hour this morning. At about six o'clock he arrived and examined the deceased. He had a bruise on his left cheek and a cut under the left eye as though made by some blunt instrument and also a cut over the eye and another in the temple. He was bleeding profusely from the nose. The injuries were sufficient to cause death. He was alive when he first saw him and was able to speak quite distinctly. He said that Crawford did the deed wilfully.

To the foremen of the jury.—He had strong reason to doubt the prisoner's insanity. He had been called to visit him three times. The first time was some months ago. He was then trying to run up the walls, they said, but when he arrived he seemed rational. On Friday one week ago he was again called to the house and Crawford was standing at the head of the stairs with a big club threatening them all. Witness carried a revolver with him nights and on taking this out the prisoner gave up his club and became tractable and rational.

From conversation he had with others of the family, however, he thought that perhaps he might have been shamming. He could not assert whether he was insane or shamming insanity. He had known the prisoner since he was a boy and he was always of a quiet disposition. He did not know that he took any intoxicating liquors. He never spoke to witness of being jealous of his wife. He did not think he had any chronic complaint.

Dr. Doherty said that he was called to the house at about seven o'clock this morning. He came out on the road, was told that the man was dead, on arriving he entered the bedroom but saw that the man was dead. His head was banded but he made no examination as to cause of death.

The Coroner here asked the witness to make an examination to see if the wounds were of a mortal nature or were only bruises. After having made this examination he said that there were three wounds at the outer corner of the left eye. There is a fracture of the upper jaw bone. In probing one of the wounds he discovered that it was an inch and a quarter deep. He believed that from the three wounds as they presented themselves to him they were inflicted by three blows. The injuries are of such a nature that they could have produced death.

To the foreman of the jury: The wounds could be caused by the corner of the blunt end of an axe.

Thomas Doyle.

Said that at half past four this morning he heard cries of murder outside his house which is near the one where the

murder was committed. He partly dressed and came down to the house. He did not go in, as he was told that the man was dead but returned home,

Robert Creely.

said that he had known the deceased four months. This morning the prisoner's son came after him and told him of the crime. He had just gotten up and he came at once to the house. He went into the bedroom and the murdered man spoke to him. He wanted to know what was wrong. Witness told him he had been struck and he said it was to bad. He remained with him until he died, about an hour. He did not suffer much agony. He told witness he was going to die, that he could not breathe easy.

To a Juror.—He always believed the two men to be on good terms. He did not know of any reason for the murder.

Sarah Crawford.

Said that Branton had been boarding there about three months. Her mother called her about four or half past this morning to go to her work up at Fairville. She went to sleep again and awoke hearing her brother calling murder. She went down stairs and saw Branton lying in bed bleeding badly. Her father was walking up and down in the kitchen and she asked him how he could have the heart to kill him. She saw the axe lying out in front of the house and fearing that her father might kill her brother she got it and threw it upon the wood pile.

To Foreman Allingham.—She could only account for the crime by believing that her father was jealous of her mother. From remarks which he has dropped she thought that he seemed to think that the deceased and her mother were on too intimate terms. Her father had never done anything to lead her to believe that he was out of his mind. Sometimes her father and mother had trouble and the former became very angry at the latter.

William Shannon.

said that he lived close by. Between five and six o'clock he was waked by cries of murder. He arose and looked out of the window. He heard some one cry "Father" and some one hollered, "you've murdered him." He put on his clothes and came down to the house. He met Hartley in the door and he asked witness to go up after officer Hennessy and Dr. Grey. He said that his father had killed John Branton. He notified them and returned. He was not dead then and was not when he went to his work at seven. He spoke to the deceased but the latter made no answer. He was unable to do so.

Ardelia Crawford.

wife of the prisoner, was the next witness. She had gone to the house of Charles Arbo at the upper part of Fairville, where she was prostrated by the excitement due to the deed. The coroner and jury men therefore adjourned to that place to take her evidence. She seemed almost crazed and was scarcely able to speak.

She related the circumstances of the murder. She got up early and went out for a pail of water, while out she heard Branton holler murder. She ran to the house and met Hartley who told her that father had killed poor Jack. She went into the bedroom and asked him where he was hurt. He put his hand up to his head as he was choking so that he could not speak.

To Foreman.—He did not hear her husband ever make any threats to the deceased.

This concluded the taking of evidence. The coroner submitted the testimony to the jury who took only five minutes to find their verdict. They found that "John Henry Branton came to his death by the blows of an axe in the hands of one Gullford Crawford."

The murderer was committed for trial.

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A Spirit of Accommodation.

A baggage smasher had dropped the trunk from the car and knocked one end of it out. "What in thunder did you let the trunk drop that way for?" exclaimed the irate owner, as he rushed to the rescue of his property. "I beg your pardon," responded the baggage smasher innocently. "I could have dropped it on the other end just as well if I had known you wanted it that way."

ROWING IN OLD TIMES.

GOOD OLD DAYS OF THE FAMOUS PARIS CREW

Of which Elijah Ross and the Late Samuel Hutton were Members.—The Other Crews of these Provinces and the Regattas in Which They Took Part.

Considerable interest has been created in professional rowing circles by the statement that an English crew is anxious to come and row for the international championship. It is so long since an event of the kind took place that the time should be about ripe for a revival. The proposal comes from our Saxon cousins, but it appears their available cash is not equal to their ambition, and that the deficiency must be supplied either by their admirers at home or some enterprising backers of the sport here. The latter are invited to make an offer, and, if the terms be favorable, we may look for some sensational racing next season.

The English combination is a particularly strong one. Each member of the crew is an accomplished waterman of well established reputation, Bubar, Wingate, Haines, and Barry make up the four, as they have asserted their superiority over all rivals for the past three years. Whether any special crew would be picked to oppose them is an open question. It is more probable that a race regatta would be promoted with a race for international fours the special feature. This arrangement would leave a wider margin for entries and every crew that fancied its chances might have a go.

Still another alternative is suggested by sportsmen who have been discussing the race. Their proposal is that a national regatta be first held for the purpose of discovering the really best crew in the country. The winners could then be pitted against the English visitors for the international title. There are as many professional oarsmen scattered about the country whose claims are entitled to recognition in making a choice that a trial race would really be the easiest way to solve the difficulty. The three-mile race for professionals at the Boston regatta on July 4 was won by George Hosmer, J. Gaudaur, Peter Conley and John Breen, but the beaten crews included such masters of the art as Ten Eyck and Fred Plaisted. Teemer and McKay would also have to be reckoned in trying to pick a representative four on past form. However, all these details will probably adjust themselves satisfactorily should the occasion arise.

Veteran followers of the sport still recall with enthusiasm the grand series of races which took place in the decade extending from the Paris Exposition of 1876 to the Philadelphia Centennial Regatta of 1876. A crew from St. John, N. B., took the initiative by counting international honors at the French capital. The four were G. Price, S. Hutton, E. Ross, and R. Fulton. To the surprise of European experts they elected to row without a coxswain, a method previously untried in the old world. The Canadians competed as amateurs and won two races with ease. The professional four-oar championship was taken by a crew from Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, consisting of J. Taylor, M. Scott, A. Thompson, R. Chambers of Wallsend, and T. French, coxswain. The same crew also captured the English championship at the Thames National regattas of 1888 and 70.

Meanwhile another Tyne crew destined to even more fame sprung into prominence. Its members were J. Taylor, T. Winship, J. Martin, J. Renforth, and T. Wilson, coxswain. They furnished the sensation of 1869 by defeating the crack Thames crew, J. Sadler, H. Kelly, W. Messenger, G. Hammerton, and R. Hammerton, coxswain, from Putney to Mortlake. The rivals rowed a return race on the Tyne two weeks later, Kelly this time stroking the London four. The result was an other decisive victory for the Tynesiders, who soon after aspired to wider fame and decided to seek it on this side of the Atlantic.

The invading party included two fours between which no love appears to have been lost. The first international race took place at Lachine, Canada, in 1870. J. Taylor, T. Winship, J. Martin, and J. Renforth represented England, while the natives pinned their faith to the St. John four, which had come to be known as the "Paris crew" since its success in France. Its members were G. Price, S. Hutton, E. Ross, and R. Fulton. The course was six miles with a turn, and the Englishmen won somewhat easily in 40 minutes 59½ seconds. Although the sliding seat had not then been adopted by either four, it was noticed that Renforth's men slid back and forth on the fixed seats whenever a spurt was called for. How the slide came into general use will appear later.

The year 1871 was memorable among professional oarsmen. An international race was arranged for Aug. 23 between the Renforth and Paris fours. The event took place over a six-mile course with turn on the Kennebecas River, near St. John, N. B. The St. John crew was made up as before, but the English combination had undergone a change, the thwarts being occupied by J. Percy, R. Chambers of Wallsend, H. Kelley and J. Renforth. The stake at issue was \$5,000, each crew putting up half. The

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Tysenders led for a quarter of a mile when it became evident that something ailed Renforth. He swayed from side to side, and was apparently in great distress. He struggled on a little further but the effort was his last. The oar of the great stroke dropped from his grasp and he fell back into the arms of Kelley.

The other two rowed the boat ashore as fast as they could ply the oars, but poor Renforth was beyond all help and he died within an hour. The Paris crew finished alone in 36 minutes 20½ seconds.

The International regatta at Halifax N.S., which took place on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, was robbed of its most interesting feature by the withdrawal of the Paris four. They were entered; but refused to compete against the two English crews. The acceptance, however, was a good one, six representative crews electing to start for the substantial purse of \$3,000. The death of Renforth so soon after this race gave the crew little time or effective reorganization. Chambers was removed down to stroke, and his place at No. 2 was taken by John Bright. The course was 6 miles 1,408 yards, with return. After an exciting race first honors were secured by the second English four in 44 minutes 28 seconds. The Pryor crew of Halifax finished second, the United States crew third, the Chambers crew fourth, the Bartow crew of Tangier, N.S., fifth, while the Roche crew of Halifax was beaten off.

A big surprise awaited the Britishers at Saratoga, where the next regatta took place on Sept. 11. The chief feature of the programme was an international race for honors. John Morrissey donated the prizes on a lavish scale, offering \$2,000 for first, \$1,250 for second, and \$750 for third. The course selected was four miles with a turn. Besides the two English crews and the Biglin-Coulter four, which had already met at Halifax, the entries included the Poughkeepsie, N. Y. crew; the McKee Barge Club crew of Pittsburgh, Pa., and the Ward brothers crew of Cornwall, N. Y.

The last named combination rowed a great race and won cleverly in 24 minutes 40 seconds, with the Chambers-Kelly crew second. The Biglin-Coulter crew was placed third, but that position was claimed by the Taylor-Winship four. To prevent any controversy Mr. Morrissey gave the Englishmen \$750, the equivalent of the third purse. The Poughkeepsie four crossed the line fifth and the Pittsburgh crew last. The second third, and fourth crews were made up as at Halifax. The winning combination consisted of Ellis Ward, bow; Gil Ward 2; Joshua Ward, 3; and Henry Ward, stroke.

J. H. Sadler of England, a member of the Taylor-Winship four, won the single sculls, both at Halifax and Saratoga, his purses aggregating \$1,500. Harry Kelly of the Chambers crew also took a turn at sculling: He had to rest content with the barren honors of third position at Halifax, the second purse going to George Brown, the local sculler. Kelly fared somewhat better at Saratoga where he rowed second to Sadler and earned a purse of \$500.

The two English crews returned home after Saratoga and the rivalry engendered between them soon culminated in a challenge. It emanated from the Taylor-Winship party, and was promptly accepted by the Chambers four. The challengers were generally thought to be the inferior crew, but they had picked up a few ideas in this country which were destined to revolutionize British rowing. It appears that the practical Taylor had noticed some peculiar contrivances in the Biglin-Coulter boat which seemed to lighten the labor considerably. A closer inspection showed the craft was fitted with sliding seats, and a duplicate set was quietly introduced into the Taylor-Winship boat. The crew kept the secret well, and managed their training spins so adroitly that their rivals were quite unprepared for any unusual development until the time of the actual race. The great match took place on Nov. 22, 1871, over the Tyne course, for £400 and the championship. Brimful of confidence, the Chambers crew tired to slip their opponents, but the American slides more than evened matters and the Taylor four hung on. The Chambers men resorted to their old-fashioned method of sliding on their fixed seats, but could not sustain the effort for any length of time owing to the exhausting strain on the lower limbs. They fought for their departing laurels gallantly, but

the Taylor-Winship crew held them safe and won in decisive style.

The secret of such a remarkable reversal of form leaked out during the winter, and the enterprising London Rowing Club lost no time in securing a set of sliding seats. They had mastered them pretty well when the Atlanta crew went over from here for the international match on the Thames course June 10, 1872. The New York boys had not investigated the Biglin-Coulter seats as carefully as the keen-eyed watermen from the Tyne had done, and they turned up for their race against the Londoners in a boat with fixed seats. The L. R. C. crew secured a rather easy victory covering the 4½ mile straightaway course in 21 minutes 16 seconds. The winners came forward afterward as such eloquent advocates of the slide that it was soon universally adopted.

The professional four-oared racing in connection with the Philadelphia centennial, September, 1876, was of a rather unsatisfactory character. In the first heat of the international race the Thomases, England, crew, W. Spencer, H. Thomas, John Higgins, and T. Green, beat the New York crew by 15½ seconds, covering the three miles with a turn, in 18 minutes 2½ seconds. The New York four led almost to the turn, and set such a pace that the half time was 8 minutes 22 seconds. In the second heat the famous old Paris crew from St. John, N. B., met a more modern combination from Halifax, N. S. The old-timers rowed with stationary seats and a quick jerky stroke, but their rivals were getting more out of their improved slides and modern stroke. Long before the turning stakes were reached it became painfully evident that the Paris crew was outclassed and the Halifax crew had only to paddle home in 17 minutes 58 seconds.

A hotly contested race was looked for when London met Halifax in the final tie after two days' rest. The Britishers caught the signal with surprising quickness and got in almost a full stroke before their rivals got in motion. For a quarter mile the Englishmen continued to show the way, rowing a dashing stroke of forty-eight a minute. The Halifax four were satisfied with a slower stroke, but they made up the deficiency in the power and after a stern chase of half a mile they gradually closed with their opponents. The two crews turned almost simultaneously, but the Englishmen got into swing faster for the return journey and drew away. The Nova Scotians were still full of racing and determination. They went to work doggedly to close the gap, but steered diagonally during the excitement and there was a tangle of oars as they drew level with the other. The Englishmen claimed a foul and then resumed rowing as fast as they could get their boat to rights. Meanwhile the Halifax men were going for all they were worth down the course. The Britishers spurred, and half way to the finish the crews were level for the third time during the race. Halifax then drew away once more and the English crew eased up. The Halifax four covered the course in 19 minutes, 5 seconds. The Thames men paddled in leisurely and then claimed the race on a foul. The Halifax men insisted they were in their own course when the collision occurred. The umpire decided in favor of the Thames crew and awarded the race to them. The ruling provoked a lot of adverse criticism and boisterous kicking, but impartial critics sustained the umpire and conceded that the official ruling was strictly in accordance with the facts.

H. Thomas and Tom Green of the English four had previously qualified for the final heat of the pair-oared race. Faulkner and Regan of Boston also qualified and when the pinch came an hour and a half after the four-oared struggle the beanaters had little difficulty in rowing their tired opponents to a standstill. The Thames pair struggled on pluckily for a mile, but then dropped to a paddle, leaving the Boston men to take the honors in leisurely fashion. The winners covered the course in 31 minutes 20 seconds.

How the Judge Managed.

A United States judge was called once to hold an inquest over a man found dead. Among the effects of the deceased was \$63 and a six shooter. As funerals were cheap at Langtry on those days and there was more than enough money on the body to bury it, the question of what disposition to make of the funds was soon solved by the justice fining the deceased for carrying concealed weapons the sum remaining after the interment had been paid for.

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