

CLEANINGS FROM EXCHANGES.

FOUR YOUNG MEN were hanged in Baltimore, Md., on the 8th day of April—namely, Peter Corrie, Marion Cropps, Henry Gambrill, and Cyphus.

Previous to their execution they were visited by the Sisters of Charity and priests of different denominations, through whose administrations the guilty men were led to "penitence and contrition" and even to "rejoicing in hope"—one of them, Cyphus, alias Stephens, having devoted the entire morning previous to the day of his execution, to signing and prayer. The families and relatives of the condemned paid their last visit to the cells on the night of the 7th, where the scenes enacted are said to have been truly heart-rending.

A final effort was made on the 7th, by the friends of Corrie and Gambrill, who repaired to the capital, Annapolis, to obtain a commutation of the sentence. "Mrs. Corrie, the mother of Peter," says the Baltimore Patriot, "accompanied by her sister and daughter, draped in the deepest mourning, called upon his Excellency and, with tears and entreaties, which only a mother and sister are prepared to shed, and with all the eloquence of maternal heart-gushings, asked him if there was no possibility of having the sentence commuted."

The Governor was moved to tears and stated that he had always the feelings of humanity and that, with a heart full of sympathy, he could feel for human woe; but, with marked firmness said that the law, having been most grossly violated, its mandates must be observed. To the friends of Gambrill his Excellency replied that he could not "interpose the Executive clemency."

About 11 o'clock, a.m., of the 8th, the prisoners were led to the scaffold. After they had taken their positions, Gambrill stepped forward and, in a clear and firm voice, stated that he was an innocent man; that he did not in any way or manner advise, neither had he any complicity in the murder of police officer Benton. Cyphus also addressed the multitude, declaring his innocence and stating that he was tried under a name that he had never borne. They all joined in singing a hymn, after which, the ropes were adjusted, the black caps drawn over their eyes—the drop fell—and the four young men were strangled to death—a most brutal and revolting mode of non-executing the divine law. "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

The funeral of Gambrill took place from his father's residence, on the 10th, at which there was "an immense turn out of his friends and associates, including many notorious characters."

If their "penitence and contrition" leads wicked men to deny their guilt to the last moment of their lives, it is a hypocritical farce and subtle delusion of priestcraft too glaring to go undisguised; but, if they were truly innocent, great responsibility rests somewhere.

GOVERNOR MORGAN of New York, April 7, refused to commute the sentence of Mrs. Hartung. He designates the crime of poisoning as the worst sort of murder and the most difficult of detecting. He requested her counsel to urge Mrs. Hartung to cease to hope for Executive clemency. On the 9th an effort was made in the Assembly to introduce a resolution "exhorting the Governor to review his decision and commute the sentence, or, at least, delay the execution one year," which was objected to and failed.

Mrs. Hartung, says the Journal of Commerce, "is an intelligent German woman of prepossessing appearance and considerable education," and, as appeared from the evidence given in the trial, it was clearly proved that she had been "carrying on a criminal liaison with another man and that, for the purpose of getting rid of her husband, she coolly, deliberately and maliciously poisoned him." She was "defended by able and indefatigable counsel, and every possible indulgence was afforded her on the trial, but the jury found her guilty, and the judge, in pronouncing the sentence, intimated his conviction that the verdict was righteous."

A strong appeal for her pardon was made to the Governor, who, after long deliberation and careful examination, decided that he could not conscientiously interfere.

April 11, Mr. C. S. Spencer, from the majority of the Assembly Judiciary committee, reported in favor of a bill commuting Mrs. Hartung's punishment to ten years imprisonment. He said that the committee "believe neither the protection of the public nor the efficacy of the laws require this poor woman's life, who

so earnestly, from the valley of death, protests her innocence."

In the Senate, on the 12th, on motion of Mr. Johnson, the resolutions "earnestly entreating the Governor to commute the sentence of Mary Hartung, or at least respite her until after the trial of Rheinman, her seducer," were adopted by a vote of 17 to 7.

A minority report, adverse to the bill to commute the sentence, was presented by Mr. Morris, in the Assembly, on the 12th.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Law was opposed to the passage of the bill. He regarded it as the most important bill ever passed since the adoption of the Constitution; reviewed the circumstances of the murder, enlarging upon the most startling features of the tragedy. He protested against the constitutional power of the Legislature to pass such a law.

The House finally refused to strike out the enacting clause by a vote of 26 to 47, which was equivalent to its passage.

Relative to the passage of such a bill, the Journal of Commerce says, "The only ground upon which so serious and radical a change in the criminal administration can be excused, is, that the offender in this case, is a woman; but, if that be the theory, the manly and honest course would be to abolish the execution of women; that the proposed bill of commutation is 'as contrary to the spirit of the Constitution as it is to the immemorial usages of the State and common law."

The Constitution confers upon the Governor the power of pardon and commutation, except in case of treason and, if the proposed bill should become a law, in direct opposition to the deliberate decision of the Governor, it will be an assumption of legislative power unparalleled in the history of the country.

THE PEACH CROP, in the vicinity of New York city, has again been winter killed. The culture of peaches, we learn from the Journal of Commerce, is also declining in the northern portion of Delaware, where large quantities have been grown hitherto.

At the far south the peach is being more extensively and successfully cultivated. The high grounds of Aiken, S. C., and of Macon, Ga., are covered with peach orchards of from 500 to 15,000 trees each.

In the southern localities above mentioned, peach orchards seem to be in the prime when the trees are twelve years old—producing abundant crops each year; while in New Jersey and Delaware, when the peach culture was at its height, three good crops were considered satisfactory yield from one set of trees.

It is said that the prospect of a large crop of peaches at the South was never more promising than at present.

The New York market was largely supplied last year from the South—as high as six thousand bushels having been received per one steamer. Prices ranged from 50 cents to \$1 per bushel.

The peach markets of the east are soon to be chiefly supplied from the South, and every facility is to be afforded for the rapid and careful transportation of the fruit.

JOHN MITCHELL, convicted of the murder of his wife in Hamilton, Canada, January last, was sentenced, April 7, to be hanged on the 7th of June.

A WOMAN in St. Paul, Minnesota, attempted self-destruction by drinking boiling water from a tea-kettle. She was a victim of religious enthusiasm.

O'BRIEN, convicted of the murder of his wife at Cohoes, N. Y., has been sentenced to be hanged in June.

MARSHALL POTTER who murdered his mother, two brothers and nephew, at Lee, Maine, has confessed his guilt—saying that he was led to the horrid deed on account of a threat to turn him out of doors.

DR. KING, found guilty, in Coburg, Canada West, of poisoning his wife, was sentenced to be hanged, June 19.

ANOTHER WIFE was murdered recently at Detroit, by her husband, an American mechanic, who, in a moment of drunken passion, mortally stabbed her.

MARY HOLT, of San Francisco, was lately arraigned before the police court, on the charge of being a "common drunkard." Woman, "How art thou fallen!"

FIFTEEN hundred skeletons were found in underground rooms in the prison, at Nicholas Mole, a small town on the north west coast of Hayti. They are supposed to be the remains of persons deliberately murdered by Souloque, the late emperor.

THE SICKLES trial seems to create a deeper and more intense interest in Washington, as it progresses. It is the sole topic of conversation among both men and women.

George Sickles, father of the prisoner, was visited at his hotel by some twenty ladies, who came in a body to express their sympathy for his son. The deputation was headed by a venerable woman of some threescore years, who was the spokesman. "We demand his discharge," she said, "on behalf of our sex. Let him be convicted, and the libertine obtains new license. Let him be vindicated, and virtue acquires new guarantee." The women expressed to the father their willingness, if it would give any comfort to his son, to daily present themselves, with many more, at the court house. The old gentleman made a feeling acknowledgement, says the Washington correspondent, to this "novel but touching display of good and virtuous sentiment by ladies in this community." He would "make known to his unfortunate son the spontaneous act of sympathy by a band of noble women, and he was sure it would be most grateful to his feelings."

The N. Y. Herald says that the prosecution was prepared, if Mrs. Sickles' confession had been received as evidence, to have proved, on the other hand, that, in January last, Mr. Sickles and a lady not his wife, remained during a night in Barnum's Hotel at Baltimore. This shows that, if the judge had admitted the confession, a vast quantity of scandal on both sides would have been introduced, involving persons not connected in the case.

The tenth day of trial, April 14, was occupied in hearing the evidence of George B. Wooldridge, a clerk under the clerk of the House of Representatives, who was at the residence of Sickles about the time of the tragedy. To prove the frenzy or insanity of Sickles previous to the homicide, was the main point aimed at in the examination of this witness. The Herald's special report says that "The rulings of the court and the animosity of the prosecution against the prisoner, forced his counsel to display unusual vigor." The prosecution compared the counsel of the prisoner to a troupe of actors; to which Mr. Stanton, for the defense, replied; causing a burst of applause that the judge was scarcely able to suppress.

After the bitterness of invective and the most scorching sarcasm, from both sides alternately, had spent their force, in arguments on the admissibility of the indirect testimony of Wooldridge to prove insanity, the judge decided adversely, saying that he did not think the communications of A. B. to the prisoner, or any giving number of persons, offered in regard to insanity, should go to the jury.

Mr. Wooldridge was set aside for future cross-examination.

John Cuyler was examined. He testified to having frequently seen Key in the vicinity of Sickles' house. Had observed him waving his handkerchief in front of said house.

Jeremiah Boyd swore that, on the Sunday of the tragedy, about 11 o'clock, he saw Key standing on the edge of the pavement, looking towards Sickles' house.

A. Young gave evidence on the same point.

Charles G. Bacon testified to having frequently seen Key waving his handkerchief opposite Sickles' house and had seen him walking with Mrs. Sickles.

S. S. Parker also testified to Key's frequenting the vicinity of Sickles' residence and to the waving of the handkerchief.

William Ratley and Frederick Wilson testified that, on Thursday preceding the death of Key, they had seen him walking with Mrs. Sickles and her little girl; that Key had a letter in his hand, which he was reading to Mrs. Sickles. [This proved to be the anonymous letter written to Key, warning him against persisting in his iniquitous intimacy with Mrs. Sickles.] Wilson said he had seen Key prowling about the house of Mr. Sickles nearly every day for some months past, between the hours of twelve and one; that he appeared to make a regular business of it.

Thomas J. Brown identified a lock, taken by Mr. Jacob Wagner, from the front door of 383 Fifteenth street—the house hired by Key from the negro, for the purpose of assignation. [In one of the pockets of Key, at his death, was found a key fitting this lock.]

Jacob Wagner, locksmith, confirmed the testimony of the last witness and further stated that, about a week after Key's death, he had taken off the lock, in the presence of three or four gentlemen, some of whom he had identified in court; that another lock was put on in-

stead. [The examination of this witness was to show that the lock was taken off for the purpose of destroying evidence, the locksmith being employed to do so by Mr. Pendleton, a member of Congress and brother-in-law of Key. When these facts were made evident, great sensation was produced in court and, says the Herald's special report, "The effect was indelible. So damaging was this to the prosecution, that Carlisle rose, amid profound silence, and stated that he had no knowledge of the transaction." The lock had been subsequently sold by the locksmith and was found in the attic room of some house in Washington.]

The defense have succeeded in proving that Key was in the habit of making signals to Mrs. Sickles for upwards of two months previous to his death; that he carried with him a key of the house of alleged assignation. "It remains to prove," says the Herald, "That Key and Mrs. Sickles frequented this house clandestinely, and this will be sufficient legal evidence to satisfy the jury of adultery. If the jury are convinced of this, the acquittal of Sickles is certain."

It is stated that a person who is assisting the prosecution, aided in abstracting the lock.

This was quite a "triumphant day for the defense."

ELEVENTH DAY.—The court room, as usual, is crowded to overflowing. Opened at half past ten, a.m.

Jacob Wagner gave some additional testimony relative to what took place when the lock was abstracted.

John M. Sealey and Louis Poole testified concerning taking off the lock.

Mr. Woodard, the coroner, being re-called, answered questions concerning papers, cards or memorandums found on the body of Key.

Rev. C. H. A. Bulkely, who was associated with Sickles in the N. Y. University—to prove the tendency of Sickles' mind to become disordered on being subject to great emotion—related a circumstance that occurred in New York city, in 1840, on the occasion of the death of Professor Da Ponte, who was a kind of patron or guardian of Sickles and for whom Sickles had a most tender regard. "Immediately after the body was lowered into the ground," relates the Reverend, "Mr. Sickles broke out into a spasm of passionate grief and most frantic energy; he raved, and tore up and down the graveyard shrieking, and I might even say yelling, so much so that it was impossible for us who were his friends to mollify him in any measure by words; we were obliged to take hold of him, and by friendly force restrain him, and thus ultimately we took him out of the cemetery; the demonstration that he made might be called one of frantic grief."

Jesse B. Haw saw Key in La Fayette Square, between ten and twelve o'clock, on the morning of the day he was shot.

Major Hopkins, coachman of Col. Freeman, residing between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets, saw Key on the same Sunday, walking back and forth, opposite Sickles' house. On the Monday or Wednesday previous he saw him wave his handkerchief five or six times; saw Mrs. Sickles come out of the house and join him; saw them go up Fifteenth street and lost sight of them on the steps of the house of John Gray, the negro.

Mrs. Nancy Brown, residing near the negro Gray's house, having taken the customary oath, testified that, on the Wednesday previous to Key's death, she saw him enter the house in Fifteenth street, next but one to where she lived.

At this point of the proceedings, Mr. Carlisle "desired to know and to have it determined whether his Honor meant to admit as competent evidence, facts tending to show previous adultery on the part of the deceased with the prisoners' wife."

Mr. Brady replied that:—

"He would insist that Mr. Key was killed in an act of adultery, within the meaning of the law, and that was proved within the testimony of the prosecution. He offered this evidence—first, to prove an adulterous intercourse and connection carried on between Mr. Key and Mrs. Sickles by a standing agreement between them, dating further back than the hiring of the house of Fifteenth street, and connected with the hiring and furnishing of that house; and they would claim that where an adulterer hires a house and takes to it the wife of another man, daily or weekly, or whenever he could get her to go there, that was a case of habitual adultery. In other words, they said that when a man and woman go habitually to a house for the purpose of adultery, they are living in adultery all the time; and it was not necessary for the husband to wait for the disgusting exhibition of his own dishonor to slay the forger and satiated and brutal adulterer; that was one aspect of the case. They had proved that Mr. Key was frequently seen before the house of Mr. Sickles, waving a white handkerchief, and no one could look on any part of this case without seeing this tainted banner floating in the atmosphere, which was corrupted by the presence of that brutal adulterer. They had shown that with that banner in his hand, and with the key of

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