

RESUSCITATION ATTEMPTED.

The St. Louis *Republican*, of the 25th ult., contains a startling sensational history of the execution of a murderer, under the supervision of Doctors Jackson and McDonald, which occurred on the Friday previous, at Bloomfield, Mo. The name of the culprit and subject of the experiment was John H. Skaggs, and he was hung for the murder of General Richardson. By some mismanagement the noose was not properly adjusted, and when the drop fell the rope, instead of clinching the neck of the murderer so as to cause strangulation, settled a little beneath the chin and left the back of the neck exposed. In consequence of this the poor wretch was made to endure prolonged agony and suffering, his struggles being so agonizing that women and children present sobbed and screamed while witnessing them. After he had hung nine minutes Dr. Jackson felt his wrist and declared that pulsation had ceased. In thirteen and a half minutes from the time the drop fell the body was cut down, and it was then found that his neck had not been broken. He was conveyed to an unfinished room in the court-house, and arrangements, which it was subsequently stated had been made the evening before between the culprit and one of the doctors, to attempt resuscitation were immediately commenced, under a strong protest, however, from the Sheriff, who declared that the law required the death of Skaggs, and he should be implicated if he were brought to. Dr. McDonald assured the functionary that he would assume all responsibility. An electric battery was then applied, and Dr. Jackson commenced turning the crank, an alteration continuing between the Sheriff and Dr. McDonald. The effect of the electric discharge into the body of the culprit was to cause a ghastly noise from his mouth. The Sheriff and the Rev. W. W. Norman protested against the proceedings of the doctors, and some of the witnesses of the strange scene were for taking the body back to the gallows and hanging it over again. This was repugnant to the Sheriff, and a fiercer parley of about ten minutes, about the requirements of the law in the case, and the construction that it would place upon the matter in case resuscitation was perfected, the Sheriff allowed the doctors to proceed, but in a few minutes he again protested, saying that the law required him to hang the culprit until he was dead, and if it were possible for them to resuscitate him, he could not have been dead when cut down. Dr. McDonald declared that he would swear before a thousand gods that he was; but the work was peremptorily stayed by the Sheriff. At eighteen minutes pulsation at the wrist resulting therefrom. The tongue being swelled, forceps were applied to draw it out of the mouth so that it might not prevent breathing. This operation produced a groan from the subject. During this operation the wire of the battery were stolen by some one, and operations were suspended; but finally the circuit was completed by placing steel splasers to the battery and the doctors placing their hands on the body, thus letting the electricity pass through their own bodies.

About three ounces of blood were then drawn from the patient and the wires having been restored by the Sheriff, the electrification was continued at intervals, causing the lower jaw to move violently. The body was next stripped and rubbed with flannel, and so violently that the skin was rubbed off in several places. At five minutes past three o'clock the battery was again applied which caused the right leg to move about like a clog dancer, three minutes later his left arm swung around like a pugilist throwing off a blow. His limbs move violently, and he has the appearance of a strong man, in a terrible dream, the mouth was frothy and the muscles of the face contracted. Still later the pupil of the left eye contracted when touched, and the limbs moved violently. About two hours and a half after operations commenced perspiration improved, feet not cold. The body was rubbed with whiskey, which was followed by pulsation of the carotid artery of the neck. More natural respiration and pulsation followed, but breathing was labored, and the doctor stated that chances of life were not more than one in twenty. The efforts of the physicians were continued until late in the night, with every prospect of success when, strange to say, they ceased their operations, and left the unfortunate victim of their almost savage manipulations to die a second time.

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