

A full, complete, and correct account of the horrid murder of the poor Italian boy Carlo Ferriar, as detailed in the examinations at Bow-Street police office, the coroner's inquest, and at the trial of Bishop, May, and Williams, on Friday, Dec. 2, 1831 : Including, every circumstance connected with this horrible burking transaction, the conviction of the murderers, their behaviour during the trial and sentence; the conduct of the prisoners, and confession and execution of Bishop and Williams.

Contributors

Bishop, John, -1831
May, James
Williams, Thomas, -1831
Great Britain. Central Criminal Court.
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Publication/Creation

London : Published by Dean and Munday, [1831?]

Persistent URL

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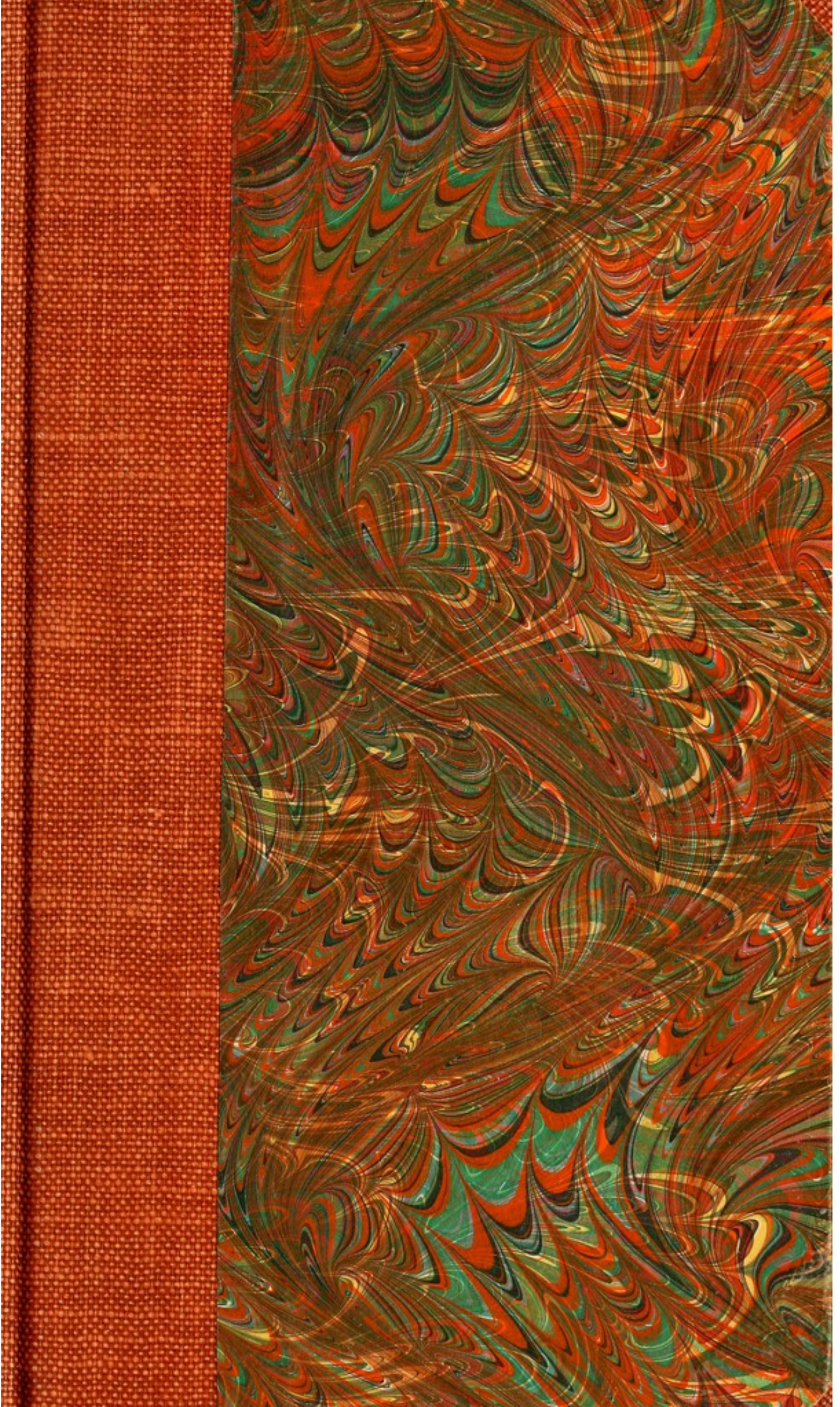
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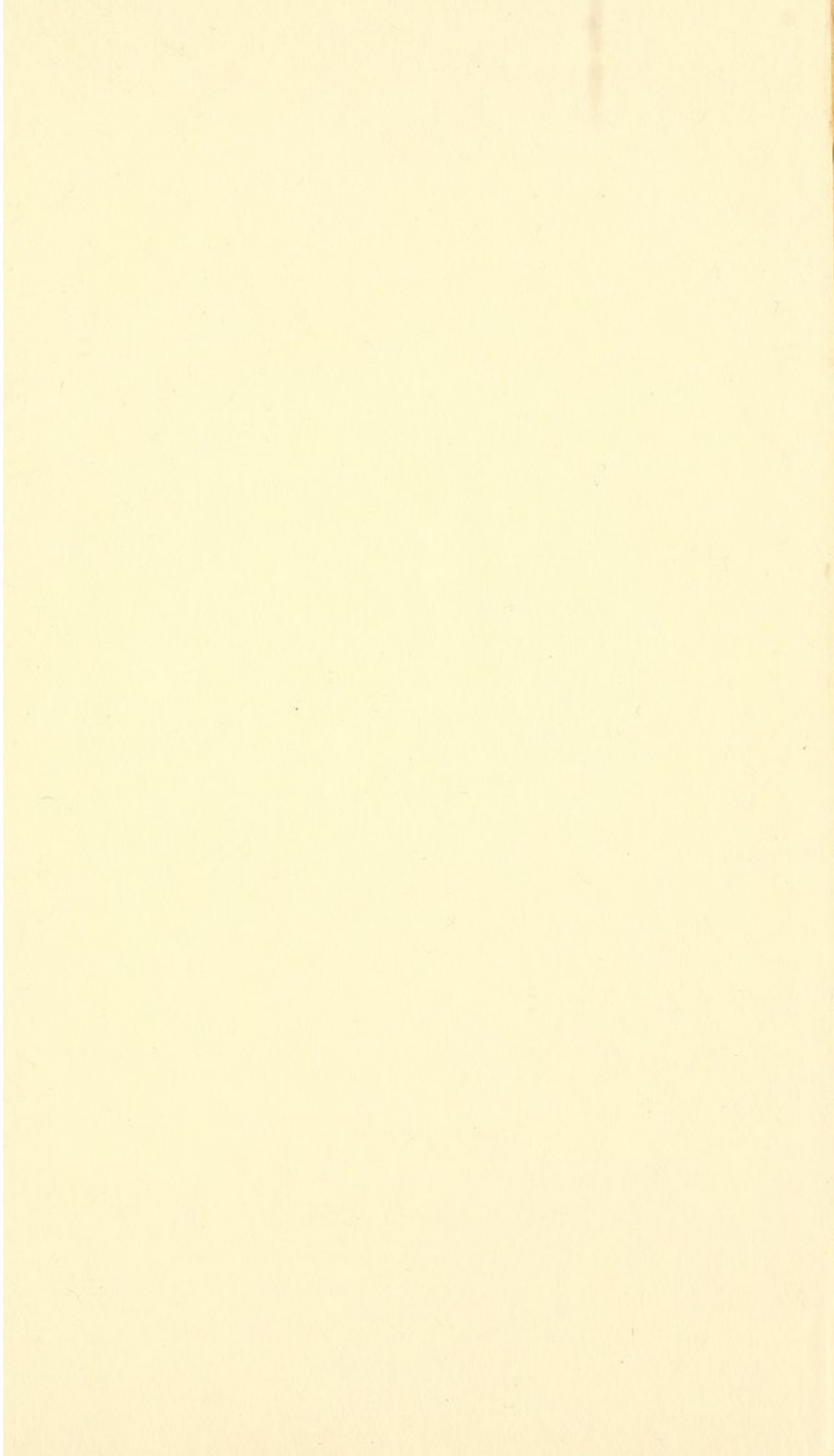
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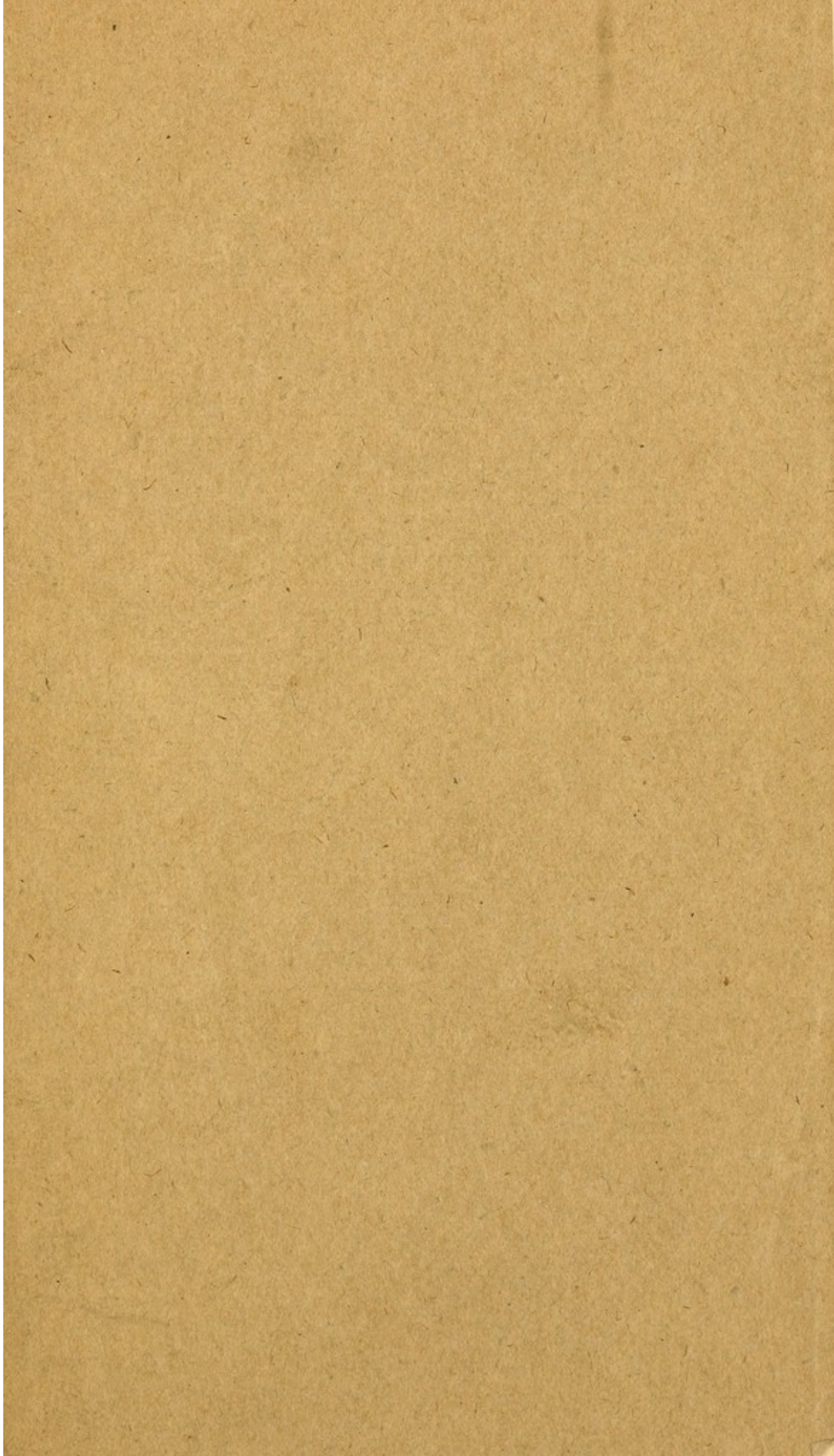


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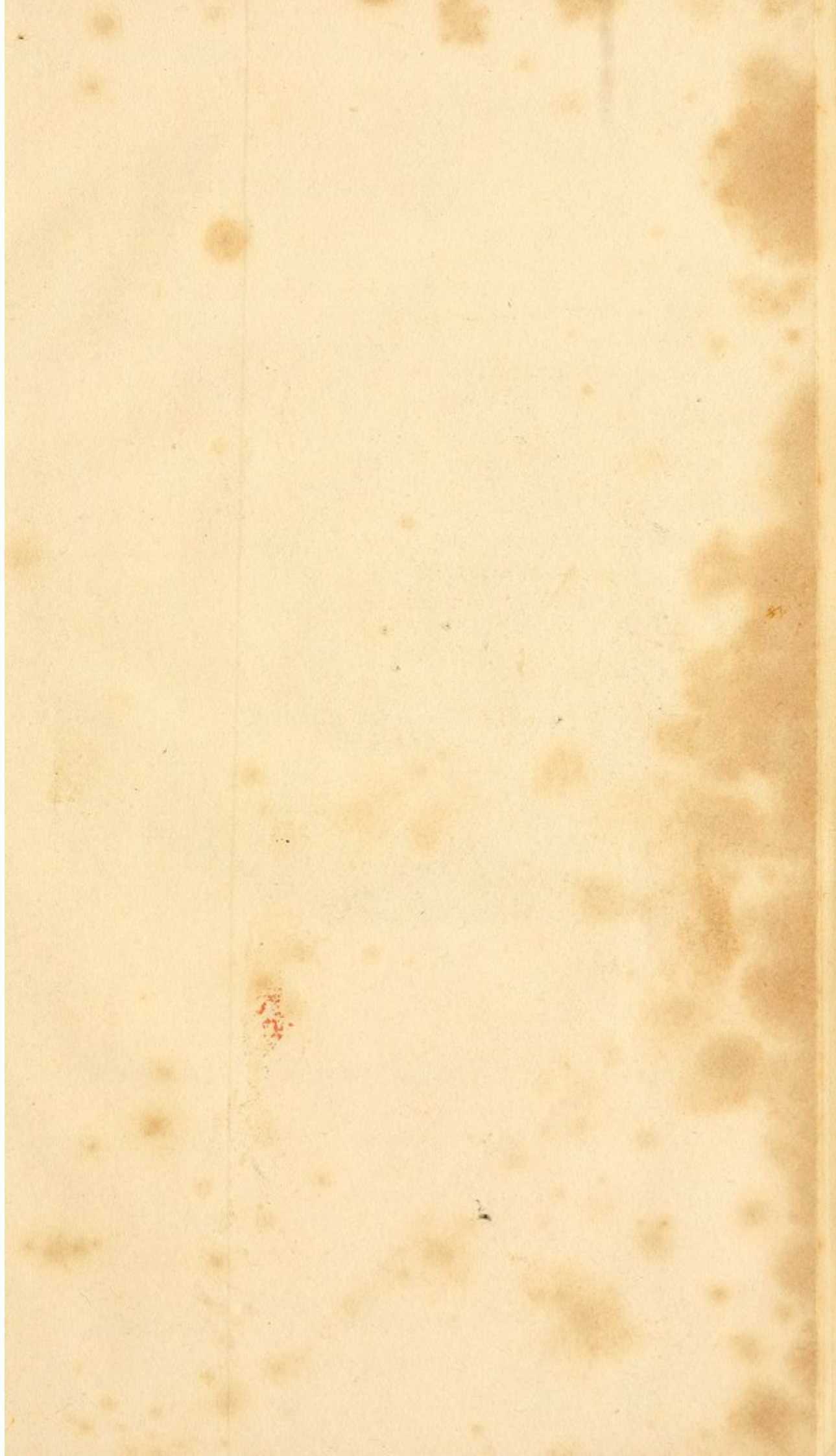


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HOUSE and GARDEN of BISHOP and WILLIAMS
RESURRECTIONISTS. Nova-Scotia Gardens Hackney Road.

FULL, COMPLETE, AND CORRECT ACCOUNT
OF THE
HORRID MURDER

OF THE
POOR ITALIAN BOY
CARLO FERRIAR,

AS DETAILED IN THE
EXAMINATIONS AT BOW-STREET POLICE OFFICE,
THE CORONER'S INQUEST,

AND AT

THE TRIAL

OF

BISHOP, MAY, & WILLIAMS,
ON FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 1831.

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CONDUCT OF THE PRISONERS, AND
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OF
BISHOP AND WILLIAMS.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY DEAN AND MUNDAY, THREADNEEDLE-STREET.

Price Sixpence.

NARRATIVE OF THE MURDER

OF THE

ITALIAN BOY, CARLO FERRAIR

THE horrible crime of "*Burking*," or, in plainer language, of murdering the unprotected and the unwary, with the intention of selling their bodies at a high price to the anatomical schools, for the purpose of dissection, has, unfortunately, obtained a notoriety which will not be soon or easily forgotten. It took its horrifying appellation from the circumstances which were disclosed on the trial of the inhuman wretch, Burke, who, it will be remembered, was executed in Scotland, some few years since, for having wilfully and deliberately murdered several persons, for the sole purpose of profiting by the sale of their dead bodies.

Human nature shudders at the bare possibility of such a revolting crime; but when recent public disclosures prove not only the probability of its continuance, but even its actual perpetration, our very feelings are harrowed, and the bitterest execrations give but a faint expression of our detestation of the cold-blooded and deliberate assassin.

The month of November, 1831, will be recorded in the annals of crimes and cruelties, as particularly pre-eminent—for it will prove to posterity that other wretches could be found base enough to follow the horrid example of Burke and his accomplice Hare, and entice the unprotected friendless foreigner, who sought in hospitable England a home and an asylum, to the den of death, for sordid gain.

It is too much to be feared, that many who are en-

gaged in anatomical researches, from the learned professor to the humble door porter, pay too little attention to what may have probably been the *cause* of death in the *subject* surrendered to the anatomical knife; and that thereby a fearful facility is given for murder, accompanied in its results by a certain prevention of detection, in the impossibility of identifying the body after dissection.—There are, however, some individuals of the profession, to whom so sweeping a charge does not apply—who have proved that science and humanity are compatible with each other—and that although the weal of the living cause them to operate on the unconscious dead, they cannot, nor will not lend themselves, even in the remotest degree, to the dark deeds of assassination and murder.

The horrible event which forms the subject of the following pages, would, like too many other similar cases, have been for ever hidden from the world, had not the most humane and praiseworthy feelings actuated the parties to whom the body was offered for sale, and whose suspicions being awakened, first led to an enquiry, which, perfected by the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Corder, vestry clerk of St. Paul's, Covent-Garden, and of Mr. Thomas, the vigilant police superintendant, ultimately led to the detection of a foul, cold-blooded, and deliberate murder. The circumstances of this atrocious assassination will be best gathered from the following details:

On Tuesday, November 8th, four persons, viz. J. May, M. Shield, T. Williams, and I. Bishop, were examined at the bar of Bow-street, police office, on the charge of being concerned in the wilful murder of a poor unknown Italian boy. They had been charged with the murder by Mr. Thomas, the police superintendant, on the previous Saturday, and had been remanded to give time for the collection of further evidence, as well as to await the decision of the coroner's inquest on the body.

From the evidence which was now adduced it appeared that J. May, alias Jack Stirabout, a known resurrection-man, and I. Bishop, a body-snatcher, came to the gate of King's College on Saturday morning, the 5th, and offered for sale a subject, for which they demanded twelve guineas. The porter called Mr. Partridge, demonstrator of anatomy, who, although not in absolute want of a subject, offered nine guineas for the one they described. In the afternoon the two fellows, accompanied by Mike

Shield, a gravedigger, and J. Williams, a porter, brought the body in a hamper to the King's College. Mr. Hill, the porter, struck with the freshness of the subject, called Mr. Partridge. They noticed a wound on the head; the breast bone was injured, and all the teeth extracted, but the body appeared to have been in good health at the moment of death. Mr. Partridge, with great presence of mind and most praiseworthy promptitude, summoned about thirty gentlemen of his class, and sent a messenger to Covent-Garden station-house. In the mean while he occupied the men by questions on the state of the body. They did not know nor care how it died, they said; they had it from Guy's Hospital, and boasted of its freshness. The body was that of a boy of twelve years of age, and was afterwards identified as that of an Italian who had gained a living by colouring images occasionally, and at other times by exhibiting a small tortoise and a white mouse. The boy was exceedingly well known. He was a Genoese, and of remarkable light hair and complexion.

After Mr. Partridge had in vain sought to discover what they knew of the body, and found it difficult to spin out the time by further questions, the police constable, 47, F., called Broderick, appeared. The fellows resolutely seized the constable, and would have thrown him into the boiling copper in the dissecting room, had not the students shown their determination to support the officer. The fellows were then taken into custody. Application was made at Guy's Hospital, and it was clearly proved that no such body had come from thence. A person (Shield) had brought such a body there, and being told that it could not be purchased, left it there a few hours, and afterwards took it away.

Information was sent to all the modellers, &c., who employ such boys, and many who saw the body identified it; but the name was not known, and the boy's master, it appeared, had gone abroad, and he had been for some time destitute. Dr. Douchez examined the body in the presence of several surgeons, who came to the conclusion that the appearance of the lips and eyes, and the wound on the head, proved that the boy came to his death by violence, first by being stunned by a blow at the back of the neck, and then in the manner in which fowls are killed—by twisting the neck round. Williams said he

knew nothing about the business; May said he went with the others to obtain money due to him; and Bishop declared that he got the body from Guy's Hospital, and employed Shield as his porter. The prisoners werethen remanded, strongly guarded, and ordered to be confined in different prisons.

An inquest was held the same day, at which no new fact was elicited. Mr. Thomas said, since the deceased was brought to the station-house, he had no less than eight applications to see the body, by parents who had, within a short space of time, lost their sons, who were generally described as boys about the age of thirteen or fourteen. The parents could in no way account for their absence, and they all appeared in the greatest distress of mind. One of the boys, so lost, was deaf and dumb. The inquest was adjourned till Thursday, when the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown; that the evidence produced before them excited very strong suspicions in their minds against the prisoners Bishop and Williams.

At the inquest, Mr. Thomas also deposed, that in consequence of a communication which he received on Saturday afternoon, from the King's College, he sent officers to that place, to take the four men into custody, which was done after a desperate resistance had been made by the prisoners. Witness sent for the body, and asked Bishop what he was. He replied, "A b——y body-snatcher." He had seen the four prisoners within the last fifteen minutes, and asked them if they had any wish to see the jury. May replied, "Not I; I have nothing to say about it." Bishop said, "The body is mine, and if you want to know how I got it, you may find it out if you can." Shield's answer was, that he was employed by Bishop to carry the body from Guy's Hospital to the King's College. The prisoner Williams said he knew nothing at all about the matter, and that he merely went with the prisoners to see the King's College. Mr. Thomas added, that he received a letter that afternoon, stating that a tortoise similar to the one which it is supposed the deceased was in the habit of carrying about, was exhibited for sale in a shop in Middle-row, Holborn. He immediately went to the shop and took possession of the tortoise now produced. He asked the woman of the shop how she became possessed of it, and she answered that

her husband had purchased it in Leadenhall-market, of a person whom she did not know, adding, that such things were usually bought and sold there.

On Friday, Nov. 18th, and on the following Monday, the four prisoners were again examined. The evidence of these two days are so very connected, that we shall not break the chain, by dividing each day's proceedings.

Henry Lock, waiter at the Fortune of War public house, Giltspur-street, Smithfield, stated, that the prisoners were at his master's house, on Friday, the 4th inst. about eight o'clock in the evening, with another man, who appeared to be a hackney coachman. They all came to the bar together, and the prisoner May pulled out a handkerchief, in which something was wrapped. May poured some water on the handkerchief, and rubbed it, and then witness saw that it contained human teeth. They then left the house together. The next morning, about eight o'clock, Bishop, May, and Williams, came to the house again, and Bishop asked Shields to get a hamper from the hospital, and Shields said he would not. Bishop then went and fetched one himself, and they then left the house together.

George Gessing, a boy about 14 years of age, the son of a publican residing in Birdcage-walk, Bethnal-Green, deposed that on Friday evening, between six and seven o'clock, as he was standing at his father's door, he saw a yellow-bodied chariot stop at the corner of Nova Scotia-Gardens. Three men jumped out of it; these were the prisoners. Bishop and May went up Nova Scotia-gardens. They returned in a short time, carrying something heavy. May had the sack on his back, and Bishop was holding it up behind. The sack was placed in the chariot, and the prisoners getting in, it drove off through Crab Tree-row, in the direction of Shoreditch-church.

John Davis stated, that he was a porter at Guy's Hospital. May and Bishop came there on the evening of Friday 4th inst., bringing with them a sack, containing a dead body, which they offered to sell him, but he declined buying it, and told them it was not wanted. One of them then asked if they might leave it there till the next morning, to which witness consented. The next morning he saw May and Bishop, about the Hospital, and on going where the body had been left, found it had been taken away. He saw a leg, which he believed to

be that of a young boy or female, protruding through a hole in the sack. There were other men with Bishop and May, when they called the next morning. W. Hill, the porter at the dissecting room, at the King's College, Strand, proved the fact of the body having been brought there on the Saturday in the manner he had described in his evidence before the Coroner.

Mr. Beaman, surgeon, deposed, that on Saturday, the 5th inst. he was desired to inspect the body. He had not in his opinion died a natural death. His death had been caused by violence.

Mr. Mills, dentist, deposed, that he resided at Newington. On Saturday morning, the 5th inst, May called at his house, and offered to sell him a set of teeth for a guinea, remarking that one of the teeth was chipped. Witness said, that it did not belong to the set. May replied—"upon my soul to God they all belonged to one head not long since, and the body from which they had been taken had not been buried at the time." Witness gave twelve-shillings for them. The teeth had portions of the gums, and pieces of the sockets of the jaw-bones, adhering to them.

Margaret King, and her son, an intelligent boy of No. 3, Crabtree-row, deposed to seeing, on Thursday, the 2nd inst. an Italian boy, standing at the corner of Nova Scotia Gardens, within thirty yards of the house of Bishop; they had not seen him since.—John Kirkman, a policeman, stated that when the prisoners were brought to the Police-station, Bishop read a hand-bill, offering a reward for the apprehension of the murderers of the Italian boy, and Bishop said, "IT IS THE BLOOD THAT SOLD US!"

Higgins, a police serjeant, repeated his evidence as to the chisel, brad-awl, and other articles he had found in Bishop's house, and added that he and a man named Waddy re-examined it and dug up the garden on last Saturday. On throwing up the soil of the garden, they discovered a small blue jacket, a pair of trousers with suspenders attached, and a boy's shirt, which was torn, and had the button holes bursted. Having made this discovery, he continued his search, and, on proceeding about a yard from where these things were found, they discovered a small, or boy's blue jacket, a pair of gray trousers, a buff dark-striped toilenette waistcoat, and a

boy's shirt, also torn down the centre. There were stains of blood on the back and shoulder of the waistcoat. In the last bundle were found a pair of braces, and a piece of an old fine-toothed comb. The things were all found in the same state as they were now exhibited. They then had much more the appearance of blood than now, for the blood was moister, fresher, and deeper in colour, when taken from the ground. Waddy deposed, that attention was drawn to a particular spot in the garden, where those things were found, by its being covered with ashes, and appearing as if the ground had been recently moved. Mr. Thomas produced a cap which he had found in a room in Bishop's house, and which accurately corresponded with the cap believed to have been worn by the Italian boy. The witness, Margaret King, swore to its resemblance. Two old Italians were next examined, in whose service the Italian boy had lived. One of them recognized the cap, and the other could speak with some degree of confidence as to the identity of the body, although it was so green and decayed that he could not be very positive. It was now suggested by Mr. Corder that the prisoners should be remanded, when Mr. Thomas requested the magistrate to detain Bishop and Williams, as he had a charge to prefer against them. May and Shields were then taken away by the gaoler. Williams seemed taken by surprise by this very unexpected proceeding; and it was evident that he turned dreadfully pale, and trembled slightly. Bishop awaited the disclosure in gloomy sullen silence. Mr. Thomas deposed that he felt it as his duty, to make a charge against the prisoners Bishop and Williams, of having been concerned in the murder of a second boy. "I have evidence in my possession, and I expect on a future day to produce that, together with other proof." Mr. Minshull, as soon as Mr. Thomas's evidence had been taken down, asked the prisoners if they wished to say any thing. The prisoners replied they had nothing to say. Mr. Minshull then ordered them to be remanded. The prisoners were then removed; and when placed the van were hooted by the crowd which had collected, or rather which had occupied Bow-street the whole of the day.

In the course of the strict search which Mr. Thomas had caused to be made at Bishop's house, many fragments of human flesh, and the scalp of a woman's head

were found concealed in a revolting situation in the garden. It was at first supposed that these were merely portions of a subject snatched from the churchyard; but subsequent events had given occasion to the suspicion that more murders than one had been committed in the den of the wretch Bishop. Acting on this impression, Mr. Thomas went again on Wednesday to the house, and in the course of the afternoon of that day appeared before Mr. Halls, at Bow-street, to communicate the result of his inquiries. He was accompanied by two females, mother and daughter, who live in the neighbourhood where these atrocities were discovered. The mother had stated to Mr. Thomas, about three weeks ago, that one of her daughters had disappeared under circumstances of the most mysterious description. On the evening of her disappearance, after having taken tea with her, she went out to execute some trifling errand. Her return was momentarily expected, but from that time to the present she has not been heard of. There were no grounds to suppose that she absented herself from any family pique or disagreement; and from all the appearances of the case, her relatives came to the conclusion that she must have been murdered. This dreadful fear was confirmed on the sight of the hair discovered by the activity of Mr. Thomas. The mother and sister of the young woman declared that it was similar to that of their unfortunate relative. On calling the mother forward, Mr. Thomas observed, that the description she gave of her daughter's hair proved that it must have closely resembled her own, and on a comparison between her own hair and that which was produced before the magistrate, it was evident that they bore a remarkable similitude. Mr. Thomas observed that he was able to prove that about the time when the young woman was missed, Bishop had sold two subjects to Guy's Hospital, one of which was a female; but having been much engaged at the time in the case of the Italian boy, he did not prosecute any enquiries on the subject. He would now, however, pursue that matter as far as his evidence would carry him.

Mr. Halls observed that the circumstance stated by Mr. Thomas had certainly a very suspicious appearance, and he told both mother and daughter that they might rest assured that every means would be taken by Mr.

Thomas to sift the matter to the utmost. The inquiry could not be in better hands.

Mr. Thomas then observed, that he had that morning deemed it expedient to examine the house immediately adjoining to that in which Bishop had lived, which had been empty for a considerable time, and until a week of Bishop's apprehension. The result was, that a woman's gown, shawl, pair of stays, chemese, and pair of stockings were discovered in the same place where the hair was found.

Mr. Halls then asked a question as to the situation of Bishop's house, observing, that he understood it lay in a very lonely situation.

Mr. Thomas replied, that Bishop's house formed one of what he might almost call a colony of cottages, but although placed in the immediate neighbourhood of each other, they were each divided by a low wooden paling, enclosing a small span of garden ground attached to the separate dwellings. Bishop and Williams resided together in the same house for the last eighteen months, and as the house contained but three rooms altogether, and those were very small, he was convinced that all the inmates of the house must have been aware of what was going forward in every part of it. Bishop and Williams had the use of the adjoining cottage, and, as the discovery he had made that morning proved, they had taken advantage of the circumstance in order more effectually to carry on their abominable trade. There was no doubt of their having chosen this situation expressly for the purpose.

Mr. Halls asked, if the garden of the adjoining house had been dug up?

Mr. Thomas replied, that he had left some of his men engaged in turning up the ground, but Bishop and Williams might have had access to nearly fifty enclosed gardens besides that, as they had only to step across some low palings to get from one to the other.

On Friday the 21st, the prisoners were re-examined. Crowds assembled round the office, and assailed the prisoners with every expression of indignant abhorrence.—The bench was very full, and the office crowded. Sarah, the wife of John Truby, proprietor of the cottages in Nova Scotia-gardens, swore to Bishop's occupancy of the premises, No. 3, for the last five months, and to

that of Williams (alias Head), of No. 2, for two months, but which he gave up two months ago. Williams resided since with Bishop, and Mrs. Williams was there. A tailor proved that Williams resided with Bishop; and Woodcock, a brass-founder, who had succeeded him in No. 2, heard him in Bishop's house on the fatal night of Thursday, Nov. 3. He was awakened in the night by a fearful scuffling. He heard the noise of at least three men's feet scuffling, and the voices of two men were distinctly heard. He heard no female voice, but two men ran away, and the heavy tread of a third was heard in the interval. The voice of one of the men was that of Williams. Williams said that on the night sworn to, Bishop did "kick up a row," and broke his furniture. A boy of twelve years of age, proved that on the same day he saw Williams sitting in Bishop's garden smoking his pipe. He knew they lived together.

Thomas Higley, a porter, was in the tap-room of the Fortune of War public-house, when Bishop and May entered on the night of the 4th instant. He heard Bishop say to May, "What do you think of our new one? Didn't he go up to him like a staunch one? He's nothing but a good one." Williams entered, and it appeared that he was "the new one." May had a wet handkerchief with something in it. The evidence of the prisoners already taken was then read over. Mr. Thomas, the police superintendant, and Mr. Hill, of King's college, proved that the body there presented for sale, was that on which the inquest sat (a point not proved before.) It was then stated, that no evidence would be offered against Shield, and that the evidence against Bishop, Williams, and May, was completed. Shield was then discharged, and sworn as a witness against the prisoners; he could prove only that Bishop engaged him to carry the body from Guy's hospital to King's college. He did not know the contents of the hamper, but carried it merely as a job, and on the promise of half-a-crown which had not yet been paid him. He was never employed for Bishop or May before. The witness knowing less than, or speaking differently from, what was expected of him, was removed in custody, the discharge being revoked. Bishop and May refused to say any thing in their defence; but May, in reply to a question, said, "I have nothing more to say, sir, than what I said already at the coroner's inquest.

This man, Bishop, can clear me of every thing, if he likes to speak the truth. He knows I am innocent of the charge. The man says he got the body from the ground, but that he don't like to say where, because he is loth to injure the two watchmen left to guard it. Things, however, have come to such a crisis now, that he ought to speak the truth, and I wish him to speak the truth." He added, looking full in Bishop's face, "for I defy him to say anything to implicate me. I knew nothing of the body until I went to take it from Bishop's house." Bishop, in a low tone, said, "I have said nothing against you. It is true what you say—you knew nothing of it till then." Mr. Minshull then addressed the unhappy men thus:—"Prisoners, you will all be committed to Newgate, to take your trial at the ensuing sessions, Old Bailey, commencing on the 1st of December next, for the wilful murder of Carlo Ferriar, and there will be another count in the indictment, charging you with the wilful murder of a person unknown. You are now committed accordingly." The wives of Bishop and Williams were then called in and discharged. The hootings and yellings of the mob on the appearance of the prisoners, were frightful, and the van was followed by thousands, groaning, hissing, and shouting. Several horses were frightened by these unearthly yellings, and some accidents occurred. Shields and the women were removed at nightfal, lest they should fall victims to the popular fury: till this moment they had been kept in custody.

We have not interrupted the regular chain of evidence, to detail several important circumstances which appeared in the public papers in the course of the several examinations of these atrocious miscreants.

The wives of the two principals, Bishop and Williams, were apprehended soon after their husbands were charged with the murder.—On Bishop's wife being brought before the magistrate, she stated that she had left three young children unprotected at home, and requested that they might be taken care of by the parochial authorities. This request was readily granted, and an order at once made out, to put them in the parish workhouse of St. Mathew Bethnal-Green. They were accordingly taken thither, and at the same time the police took possession of the prisoners' house and premises for the purpose of diligently searching the same.

The eldest of Bishop's children having in conversation with some boy in the neighbourhood, said that he had some nice little white mice at home, and that his father had broken up the cage to light the fire with,—and this circumstance having been named by one of the evidence, it was considered necessary by the magistrates to have the child before him. For this purpose, the boy in question, as well as one of his brothers, was brought from the workhouse to Covent-garden station-house. But when the magistrates observed their infantile appearance, they forbore, on account of their extreme youth, to examine them, and they were accordingly taken back again to the workhouse.

The clothes, belonging as it was conjectured to some female in advanced life, and stated to be discovered in the last examination of the prisoners' premises, have been since proved to have belonged to a Mrs. Ann Pigburne, an elderly poor woman, who it is too much reason to suppose also fell a victim to the fate of the poor Italian boy.—The proof the clothes will, it is probable, lead to still further discoveries.

THE TRIAL.

Friday, December 2nd, having been fixed for the trial of the prisoners charged with the murder of the Italian boy, the Court was crowded to excess so early as 8 o'clock in the morning.

At 9 o'clock the Deputy Recorder, Mr. Serjeant Arabin, came into court; when the prisoners, John Bishop, Thomas Williams, and James May, were placed at the bar, and the indictment having been read over, charging them in one count with the wilful murder of Carlo Ferrari, otherwise Charles Ferriar, and in another with the wilful murder of a male person, whose name was unknown, they severally pleaded "not guilty."

The jury were then sworn, and at 10 o'clock, Chief Justice Tindal, Mr. Baron Vaughan, and Mr. Justice Littledale, entered the court, with the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs.

The bench was crowded with persons of rank, amongst whom we perceived the Duke of Sussex.

The prisoners seemed but little moved by the awful situation in which they were at that moment placed, and they encountered the inquisitive glances of the assembled crowd with a careless air. Their appearance rather indicated low cunning than hardened ferocity.

Mr. Bodkin having opened the case,

Mr. Adolphus proceeded to state to the jury the leading facts, as they were afterwards stated in the evidence subsequently produced. He dwelt in terms of well-deserved eulogy on the meritorious exertions of Mr. Thomas, the superintendent of Police, and of Mr. Corder, the vestry-clerk of Covent-garden, in prosecuting the inquiry which had led to the trial. He acknowledged that the case depended upon circumstantial evidence, but contended that it was impossible that the jury, after putting all the circumstances of the case together, and weighing them seriously and deliberately, could be mistaken in their judgment. It was for them to say, after doing so, whether the prisoners at the bar were, or were not, guilty of the crime with which they stood charged.

William Hill, the first witness called, was then examined by Mr. Clarkson. The witness stated that on Saturday, 5th November, the bell of the dissecting-room having been rung, he opened the door, and found the two prisoners at the bar, Bishop and May, there. May asked him if he wanted any thing, and he said, "Not particularly." Witness asked what he had got. He said a male subject: a boy about 14, and demanded 12 guineas. Witness said that they could not give that price, for they did not particularly want it; but if he would wait, he would acquaint Mr. Partridge, the demonstrator of anatomy, with the matter. He accordingly went to Mr. Partridge, who said he would see them. Mr. Partridge said that he would not give 12 guineas for the subject; he then left them, and went into the dissecting-room. Witness then followed Mr. Partridge, and in consequence of what Mr. Partridge said to him, returned to the prisoners and told them that Mr. Partridge would only give 9 guineas for the subject. May said that he would be d--d if it should come in for less than 10 guineas. May was tipsy at the time. On his going out to the door. Bishop taking witness aside said to him, "Never mind May, he is drunk. It shall

come in for the 9 guineas in the course of half an hour." They then went away. About a quarter past 2 o'clock on the same afternoon, they returned in company with the other prisoner, Williams, and a man named Shields. They had a hamper with them: Shields appeared to be employed as the porter. On opening the hamper, a sack containing the body was found in it. May and Bishop remarked that it was a "good one," to which observation the witness assented. May, being tipsy, then turned the body very carelessly out of the sack. The witness perceiving the body was particularly fresh, asked the prisoners what the subject had died of. They said that they did not know, and that that was no business either of his or theirs. The appearances with regard to the body with which he was particularly struck were these:—It appeared different from a body that had been laid in a coffin. The left arm was turned up towards the head, and the fingers of the hand were firmly clinched. In consequence of the opinion he formed, he went to Mr. Partridge, and detailed to him what he had seen. Mr. Partridge accordingly returned to the room where the body was lying, to see it. The prisoners had been removed from that room to the room into which they were originally introduced, and where the other two men were also. Mr. Partridge, without seeing them, after seeing the body, went to the secretary's office. In the mean time several of the gentlemen connected with the College saw the body, and their suspicions were also excited. Mr. Partridge having returned to the place where the prisoners were, showed them a £50 note, and told them that he must get that changed, and that then he would pay them. In about a quarter of an hour Mr. Mayo, the Professor of Anatomy at the College, came down with Mr. Rogers, the police inspector, and a body of police, and the prisoners were all taken into custody. The body was then delivered by the witness to the police, together with the hamper and sack, and having accompanied them to the police station in Covent-garden, he saw them delivered into the hands of Mr. Thomas, the superintendant of police. Judging by his experience with regard to dead bodies, it was his opinion that this body had not been buried, or laid in a coffin.

Mr. Richard Partridge, demonstrator of anatomy at the King's College.—Was there on Saturday, 5th Nov. a body was brought there, which externally exhibited some

suspicious appearance, and it was those appearances that induced him to go for the police. The suspicious appearances were, a swollen state of the face, bloodshot eyes, freshness of the body, and rigidity of the limbs. There was likewise a cut over the left temple. The lips were also swollen. On his return, he proposed to the prisoners, that change should be got for the £50. note, with a view to detain them until the police had arrived. On the following day he made a more particular examination of the body at the police station in Covent-Garden, where it lay. There were several medical men present at the examination. Mr. Beaman was one. Externally the body presented the following appearance:—The muscles were not so rigid as they had been on the preceding day. On opening the body, the whole contents of the chest and of the abdomen were found to be in a perfectly healthy condition. The brain, and its continuation, the spinal cord or marrow, were likewise examined, and were found to be perfectly healthy. In cutting down through the skin, and muscles at the back of the neck, a quantity of coagulated blood was found in the interstices of the muscles, and on removing the back part of the bony canal, some blood was found upon the membrane which envelopes the spinal cord. There was coagulated blood opposite to the muscles, where a blow might have been struck on the back of the neck. It was his opinion that the marks of internal violence which he had stated, were sufficient to produce death.

Mr. George Beaman, surgeon, examined—I am surgeon to the parish of St. Paul, Covent-Garden. On Saturday night, 5th Nov. I first saw the body of the deceased. I examined it with other surgeons. The body appeared to have died very recently; I should judge that it had died within 36 hours. The face appeared swollen, the tongue swollen, the eyes prominent and blood-shot, and the tongue was protruding between the lips. The teeth had been all extracted, the gums bruised, and portions of the jaw-bone had been broken and removed with the teeth. There was also the appearance of blood having issued from the gums. Judging from all those circumstances, I would say that the teeth must have been taken from the gums within two or three hours after death. I again examined the body on the following day (Sunday) about two o'clock in the afternoon. The limbs, which

were decidedly stiff on Saturday night, were not so much so on Sunday. The appearances of the body were such, in my opinion, as to leave no doubt that it had not been regularly laid out. About eight o'clock on the Sunday evening I examined the body, assisted by Mr. Partridge, and others. I washed the neck and throat with a sponge and water carefully; but I found no scratch or mark of violence there. On removing the scalp on the top of the skull, I detected some blood—about the size of a crown. Such an appearance as that, must have been produced by a blow given during life. The brain was also examined, and its appearances were precisely such as Mr. Partridge described. On removing a portion of the spine, for the purpose of examining the spinal marrow, a quantity of coagulated blood was found lying in the spinal canal, which by causing a pressure on the spinal marrow, must have produced sudden, or very speedy, death. From the whole of my observations on the body, I ascribe the death to a blow given on the back of the neck. This observation I have seen verified from experiments which I have witnessed in animals, where the same appearances have followed that species of injury.

Mr. Frederick Tyrrell examined,—I am one of the surgeons of St. Thomas's Hospital. I have heard the evidence of Mr. Beaman with regard to what he found, and the conclusions that he came to; and in all material points I agree with him.

Joseph Sadler Thomas examined,—I am superintendent of the division of police, letter F. On the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 5th, from certain information which I received, I despatched two police-men to the King's College. They returned with May and Williams. Before them Bishop and Shields were brought to the station-house. Rogers also brought the body, sack, and hamper. The body was placed in the back room, in the station-house, with the hamper. The body was taken out of the hamper in my presence, and placed on the table; it struck me as the body of a person that had recently died. I perceived that the teeth had been extracted from it. In consequence of information, I went on the following Tuesday to Mr. Thomas Mills, Newington-causeway, and received twelve teeth, which I now produce. I also went, previous to going to Mr. Mills, to No. 3, Nova Scotia-gardens; and in the back room ground-floor, found a

trunk, now produced. On the 20th of Nov. I went to the same cottage, and making a further search, I found a hairy cap in the front parlour, amongst some dirty linen. I now produce it. I also found a tin can there. Mr. Thomas also produced the sack and hamper in which the body had been brought to the station-house in Covent-garden.

[We would here state, that other witnesses were occasionally examined, besides those whose examinations are here detailed. As, however, their evidence differed but little from what had been given before, we have not considered it necessary to repeat it.]

George Gissing, a boy, examined.—I am 12 years old. I go to school and to church. My father keeps the Bird-cage public-house, Crabtree-road, near Nova-Scotia-gardens. On the evening of the fourth of November, about half past 6 o'clock, I saw a yellow hackney-chariot draw up opposite my father's house. I did not see who got out of the chariot. I afterwards saw the prisoner Williams standing on the fore-wheel of the chariot, talking to the driver. The chariot waited ten or fifteen minutes. The door was open all the time. Williams went down Nova-Scotia-gardens, and in ten or fifteen minutes he returned and got into the chariot. Then I saw a strange man carrying a sack in his arms, and Bishop holding up one end of it. They put it in the chariot. Williams put out his hand to help it in. The sack appeared to be heavy, as if something heavy was in it. Bishop and the other man got into the chariot with Williams, and they drove up Crabtree-road and towards Shoreditch Church, on the road to the city.

Mr. Thomas Mills examined.—I live at No. 39, Bridge-house-place, Newington-causeway, and am a dentist. On the 4th of November, between 9 and 10 o'clock in the morning, May called and offered a set of teeth for sale; they were twelve human teeth, six for each jaw.—I observed that one of the front teeth was chipped. He offered the set for a guinea. It was then that I observed that one of them was chipped, as that lessened their value. I gave him 12s. for them. Those are the teeth now produced, which I delivered to Mr. Thomas.

Augustine Bruin (examined through an interpreter) deposed, that he was acquainted with the Italian Boy, Carlo Ferrari. Witness brought him to this country about

two years ago. Carlo stayed with him but about six weeks. Has not seen him since the 28th of July, 1830. Was shown the body of a boy at Covent-garden station-house on the 19th of November. Recognized it to be the body of the boy Carlo—that is, to the best of his belief.

Joseph Paragalli, an Italian, obtained his livelihood by playing a street organ, and the pandean pipes. Knew the boy Carlo for the last two years; saw him last alive in the Regent's Quadrant, on the Saturday four weeks before he saw him dead at the station-house. Carlo had then a cage with two white mice about his neck; was sure that the boy whom he saw dead was the same. (The cap was here put in the witness's hands.) Would swear that to the best of his belief it belonged to the boy Carlo.

Mary Paragalli (wife of the last witness) also knew the boy Carlo Ferrari. Saw him last on the 1st of November, in Oxford-street, he had a cage (like a squirrel-cage) with two white mice in it. Did not speak to him; he wore a cap. Was shown a dead body at Covent-garden station-house on the 6th of November. Was positive that it was that of the boy Carlo.

John King, aged 10 years next Christmas. Lived near Nova-Scotia-gardens. On the Thursday before Guy Fawkes's day saw a boy standing at the corner of the gardens. The boy had a cage suspended by a string round his neck. Had a brown hairy cap. (A cap was put into witness's hands.) Believes the cap to be that worn by the boy. Knew it by the green facing.

Martha King, aged 11 years (sister of the last witness), gave evidence to precisely the same effect.

William Woodcock went to reside at No. 2, Nova Scotia-gardens, next door to the prisoner Bishop's, on the 17th of October last; lived there till the prisoners were apprehended, but not since; had reason to believe that the prisoner Williams lived along with the prisoner Bishop. On the Thursday night previous to Guy Fawkes-day went to bed about half-past 9. Had been asleep about four hours, when he awoke, and heard a noise in the adjoining (Bishop's) cottage. He then roused himself, and distinctly heard the sound of three persons' footsteps. He did not rise, because the noise was not in his own house. He heard a scuffle, which lasted for a couple of minutes, when all became silent. Before he went to sleep again, he heard the side-entrance door to No. 3 open, and dis-

tinctly heard the steps of two persons running by his (the witness's) window. He also heard the footsteps of one person in No. 3, before the other two returned. There elapsed but about one minute between their going out and return. He then recognized the voice of the prisoner Williams.

The clothes dug up were then shown to the jury. The trousers and coat sworn to by the preceding witnesses as like to those worn by the Italian boy, were part of them.

Edward Ward, a child aged six years and a half old, was next called. He was previously to being sworn examined as to nature of an oath. The child, with infantile simplicity, said that he knew it to be a very bad thing to tell a lie; that it was a great sin; and that he who would swear falsely would go to h—l, to be burnt with brimstone and sulphur. He was then sworn. He stated that he lived with his father near to the Nova Scotia cottages. That a few days before Guy Fawkes'-day his mother having given him a half holiday, he went to Bishop's cottage to play with Bishop's children, three in number, a boy older than himself, a little girl, and a boy about his own age. As a toy, Bishop's children produced a cage, which went round, and which contained two white mice. He never before saw either a cage or mice with Bishop's children. On his return home, he told his brother, who is much older than himself, all the circumstances.

John Ward, brother of the last witness, deposed to the fact of his young brother having told him that had been playing at Bishop's cottage with Bishop's children, and that their toy was a cage containing two white mice, which went round and round.

The case for the prosecution having now closed, the prisoners were called upon for their defence.

The Court then informed the prisoners, that if they wished to address any observations to the jury on the evidence just given against them, that that was the time.

Three written defences were then read by the officer of the court.

The prisoner Bishop, in his defence, stated that he was thirty-three years of age, and had followed the occupation of carrier till the last five years, during which he had occasionally obtained a livelihood by supplying surgeons with subjects. He most solemnly declared that he had never disposed of any body that had not

died a natural death. The statement then went on to describe the localities of the prisoner's residence, in order to show that they admitted of great facilities of ingress and egress, to all persons resident in the neighbourhood. His garden and premises were open to them, and theirs to him. With respect to the clothes found in his garden, he knew nothing. As to the cap, he should be able to prove that it was bought by his wife from a woman named Dodswell, who resided in Old Hoxton-town. The green cape he sewed on himself. In conclusion, the prisoner declared that neither Williams nor May knew how he procured the body.

Williams's defence briefly stated, that he had never been engaged in the calling of resurrectionist; and had only, by accident, accompanied Bishop on the sale of the Italian boy's body.

May, in his defence, admitted that, for the last six years, he had followed the occupation of supplying the medical schools with anatomical subjects; but disclaimed ever having had any thing to do with the sale of bodies which had not died a natural death. The remainder of his defence was to the effect that he had accidentally met with Bishop at the Fortune of War public-house, on the Friday on which the body was taken for sale to Guy's Hospital.

Mrs. Mary Dodswell lived at 26, Hoxton Old town; kept a second-hand clothes and sale shop; knew the prisoner Bishop's wife; sold a cap to her about two years ago; the cap was a cloth one, with a black leather cape. [The cap found at Bishop's, and alleged to have been that worn by the Italian boy, was a brown hair one, with green leather front,]

The Chief Justice then proceeded to re-capitulate the evidence to the jury.—They would first direct their attention to the determining the fact whether the body which the prisoners had proffered for sale had come by a natural death or not; and next, whether, if they were of opinion that he had not, the prisoners were the murderers, and to what degree they were implicated. With respect to the first point, he thought they would experience but little trouble after the explicit evidence of the medical gentlemen who had been that day examined, and whose conduct it was but justice to say was an honourable rebuke to any calumnious imputations on the medical pro-

fession to which the present case may have given birth. The learned Judge then went through the evidence with the most pains-taking minuteness. Their verdict would be according to the opinion of the evidence, rendering it incumbent on them to cautiously weigh those parts which bore particularly on Bishop and Williams, and on the other prisoner. He left it to their unbiassed judgment to find according to the evidence which had been submitted to them.

At eight o'clock the Jury retired to consider their verdict, and the prisoners were removed from the bar, and taken out of court. The interval between that and the return of the Jury was a period of intense anxiety to every one in court.

The conjectures and speculations were put an end to by the return of the Jury at half-past eight o'clock.

The most death-like silence now prevailed through the court, interrupted only by a slight buzz on the re-introduction of the prisoners.

Every eye was now fixed upon them; but they scarcely raised their eyes as they entered beyond a glance or two at the Jury-box.

Bishop advanced to the bar with a heavy step, and with rather a slight bend of the body; his arms hung closely down, and it seemed a kind of relief to him when he took his place, to rest his hand on the board before him, His appearance when he got in front, was that of a man who had been for some time labouring under the most intense mental agony, which had brought on a kind of lethargic stupor. After a few efforts, he became apparently calm, and frequently glanced his eye towards the bench and the jury box; but this was done without once raising his head. Williams came forward with a short quick step; his face had undergone very little change, but in his eye and his manner there was a feverish anxiety which we did not observe during the trial. Once or twice he gave a glance round the bench and the bar, but after that he seldom took his eye from the jury-box. May came forward with a more firm step than either of his fellow-prisoners, but his look was that of a man who thought that all chance of life was lost.

When the three prisoners were placed at the bar, the jury returned as their verdict, that John Bishop, Thomas Williams, and James May, were guilty of murder.

The verdict was received in court with becoming silence, but in a moment it was conveyed to the immense multitude assembled outside, who evinced their satisfaction at the result by loud and continued cheering and clapping of hands. To such an extent was this expression of the popular feeling carried, that the windows of the court were obliged to be closed, in order that the voice of the Recorder might be heard in passing sentence.

The Recorder then proceeded to pass the awful sentence of death upon them; but was for some moments again interrupted by the renewed shouts of the populace from without. Silence having been restored, the learned Judge proceeded. He fully concurred in the verdict the jury had pronounced, which was supported by the most conclusive evidence. Then addressing himself to the prisoners, observed, that he would not encroach by any lengthened remarks on the very short time that was to intervene between their sentence and their appearance in the presence of their Creator: But, he earnestly adjured them, by their hopes of mercy, to lose not an instant of the few hours which yet remained to them, in constant prayer to Almighty God for pardon through the merits of their Redeemer. After pointing out to them the spiritual assistance which would be afforded to them in prison, the learned Judge concluded by passing upon each of them the sentence of the law, which was, that each of them be hanged on Monday morning, and their bodies be delivered over for dissection and anatomization.

The prisoners heard the sentence as they had heard the verdict, without any visible alteration in their manner. They stood at the bar as if expecting that something more would be added. When ordered to be removed, May raised his voice, and, in a firm tone, said, "I am a murdered man, gentleman, and that man (pointing to Bishop) knows it."

The prisoner Williams said, "We are all murdered men."

Bishop made no observation, but retired from the bar even more absorbed by his awful situation than he had appeared before.

The prisoners were then removed, and in a short time after the crowd outside the court dispersed.

CONFESSION AND EXECUTION OF BISHOP AND WILLIAMS.

On Saturday morning, Williams addressed a note to Mr. Wontner, stating that he wished particularly to see him. Mr. Wontner immediately went to the prisoner, and obtained from him a long and detailed confession of his guilt, as to three murders. Mr. Wontner, in presence of the prisoner, committed the confession to writing. The Rev. Mr. Williams was at the same time engaged in taking a similar written statement from Bishop, who confessed that he had been engaged in the same three murders with Williams, and was proceeding to detail the particulars of a fourth, in which "a black man" was the victim. Bishop was about to give the names of other parties who were implicated with him in the last-mentioned murder, when he was interrupted by the entrance of Dr. Cotton, the Ordinary. Mr. Williams could not, in the course of that interview, induce the convict to resume the thread of his narrative. Both these confessions exculpated May altogether from being party in any of the murders. They stated, that after *hocussing* the boy with laudanum and rum, in a short time he became *as dead as a log*. In that state they carried him to the well in the yard, and held his head under the water till they were sure that he was completely suffocated. Previous to going into the yard for the above horrid purpose, they both took off their shoes. They added, that during the whole affair there was no person in the lower part of the house but themselves (Bishop and Williams): they had, sometime previously, sent their wives to bed. The prisoners also denied the corrections of the medical testimony given on the trial. It will be remembered that the death of the boy was described in evidence as having been occasioned by a blow inflicted during life, on the back of the neck; whereas the prisoners assert, that this appearance of a supposed deadly injury was occasioned by the twisting of the neck to force the corpse into the trunk, immediately after it was brought from the well. Having received the confessions, and heard the most solemn declarations from May of his innocence, the Rev. Mr. Williams and Mr. Wontner immediately waited upon Mr. Justice Littledale and Baron Vaughan, who had been present on the bench,

while the prisoners were tried by Lord Chief Justice Tindal, and were still engaged in trying cases at the Old Bailey, and upon communicating to him the statements, the Chief Justice said he would, as early as possible, see the Home Secretary on the subject.

On Sunday morning the Sheriffs visited all three of the prisoners in succession, and the under-Sheriffs, were engaged between three and four hours in taking down the statements of the convicts. The result of all these investigations was, that the same afternoon, at half-past four o'clock, a respite, during his Majesty's pleasure arrived at Newgate for May, and his sentence will be commuted to transportation for life.

Shortly after the arrival of the respite at Newgate, Dr. Cotton and Mr. Wontner went to the room in which the three prisoners were confined together for the day. The Rev. Gentleman opened the paper and read it aloud:—the most anxious attention was paid to its contents by all the prisoners, but the interest manifested by May, was quite painful to witness—his agitation was dreadful; but no sooner had Dr. Cotton repeated the words “that the execution of the sentence upon John May shall be respited during his Majesty's most gracious pleasure,” than the poor wretch fell to the earth as if struck by lightning. His arms worked with the most frightful contortions, and four of the officers of the prison could with difficulty hold him; his countenance assumed a livid paleness—the blood forsook his lips—his eyes appeared set, and pulsation at the heart could not be distinguished. All persons present thought that he could not possibly survive—it was believed, indeed, that the warrant of mercy had proved his death-blow. It was nearly a quarter of an hour before May was restored to the use of his faculties. At last, when recollection returned, he attempted to clasp his hands in the attitude of thanksgiving, but his limbs shook so violently that he found even that was impossible.

When restored to something like composure, May poured forth his gratitude to God, and his thanks to the humane gentleman who had interested themselves in his behalf. He then explained, that when the Rev. Ordinary read the warrant, he thought all hope at an end. Hearing his life was to be spared, he felt as if his heart had burst in his bosom. He declared most solemnly, now that he was out of jeopardy, as he had done before, that he had nothing to do with the murder for which he had been

condemned to die; but he acknowledged that he had committed many sins for which the Almighty might have justly left him to suffer on this occasion.

It will hardly be credited that Bishop and Williams beheld this awful scene with an indifference approaching to apathy. The dreadful agitation of their less guilty associate seemed to have no effect upon them, though it was remarked, that the contortions of May must have brought to their recollection the struggles of some of their murdered victims.

The prisoners, Bishop and Williams, confessed on Saturday that all the deaths of the victims whom they sacrificed, were effected by "hocussing" first, and then drowning or suffocating in a well.

During the whole of Sunday crowds of persons congregated in the Old Bailey, and the spot on which the scaffold was to be erected was covered with individuals conversing on the horrid crimes of the convicts; and in the course of the day, strong posts were erected in the Old Bailey, and at the ends of Newgate-street, Giltspur-street, and Skinner-street, for the purpose of forming barriers to break the pressure of the crowd

At half-past twelve o'clock, the gallows was brought from the yard, and drawn to its usual station opposite the Debtors' door.—The crowd, as early as one o'clock, amounted to several thousand persons, and continued rapidly increasing.

By some oversight three chains had been suspended from the fatal beam, and this led the crowd to suppose that May had not been respited. Mr. Wontner on hearing of the mistake, directed that one of the chains should be removed: the moment this was done, an exclamation of "May is respited," ran through the crowd, and, contrary to the expected tokens of indignation, distinct cheers were heard among the crowd on witnessing this token, that mercy had been extended to May.

Notwithstanding the strength of the barriers erected, it was found that they were insufficient to resist the pressure of the crowd, and one of them, placed in Newgate-street, near the end of the Old Bailey, gave way about seven o'clock, and several persons were seriously injured. The Sheriffs, with their under-sheriffs and several friends, arrived about half-past seven o'clock, and the Sheriffs immediately proceeded to the cell in which the prisoners were confined.

Directions were then given to bring the convicts into the room, and every eye was eagerly directed towards the door. Bishop was the first who entered, supported by the Rev. Dr. Cotton, and Slarke, one of the Sheriff's yeomen. His appearance was considerably altered since his conviction. He looked wildly round on his first entering the room, but did not utter a single word. He was taken to a corner and delivered over to the Sheriff's yeomen, who at once proceeded to pinion his arms and his wrists. While this dreadful preliminary ceremony was being performed, Bishop remained perfectly unmoved—After he was pinioned, he was conducted to a seat, and the Rev. Mr. Williams sat alongside of him, and they conversed together in a low tone of voice,

Williams was next introduced, and the wonderful alteration two days had effected in his appearance astonished every one who was present at the trial. All the bold confidence he exhibited then had completely forsaken him, and he looked the most miserable wretch it is possible to conceive. He entered the room with a very faltering step, and when the ceremony of pinioning him commenced, he was so weak as to be scarcely able to stand.

Every thing being ready the melancholy procession moved forward.—Bishop was then conducted to the scaffold, and the moment he made his appearance, the most dreadful yells and hootings were heard among the crowd. The executioner proceeded at once to the performance of his duty, and having put the rope round his neck and affixed it to the chain, placed him under the fatal beam. Williams was then taken out, and the groans and hisses were renewed. The dreadful preparations were soon completed, and in less than five minutes after the wretched men appeared on the scaffold, the usual signal was given, the drop fell, and they were launched into eternity. Bishop appeared to die instantaneously, but Williams struggled several minutes.

The moment the drop fell, the mob, who had continued yelling and shouting, gave several tremendous cheers; indeed, we do not recollect any occasion on which they exulted so much in the death of any persons whose crimes had brought them to a fatal end.









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