

A complete history and development of all the extraordinary circumstances and events connected with the murder of Mr. Weare : together with the trial at large, including speeches of counsel, examination of evidence, defence, &c.; &c.; : a faithful picture of all the fashionable "modern hells" and "black-legs" of the metropolis with sketches of the principal individuals who frequent them, whether in the character of "Greeks" or "pigeons" : an exposition of the frauds practised, the immense sums won and lost, and the calamitous events to which this system of nefarious villany has in many instances led : comprising most curious and highly interesting details, furnished from original and authentic sources, with a view to deter the young and unwary novice from this vortex of vice and misery : the whole forming a genuine series of gambling biography.

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1824

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Interior of the Crown Court of Hereford, at the Moment the Prisoners were brought up to plead.



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Probart's Statement.

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from so doing.—Probart: I am ready to make a statement of what I know of the transaction.—Coroner; You do it at your own responsibility.—Probart: I shall speak the truth. The handcuffs were then taken off him.

PROBART'S STATEMENT.

"On Friday afternoon I dined at Mr. Tetsall's, the Coach and Horses, Conduit-Street, with the two Thurtells, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Noyes, and one or two more gentleman, whose names I do not recollect, were present. Mr. J. Thurtell asked me to lend him 5 or £6.; I borrowed £5. of Mr. Tetsell, and Mr. Tetsell gave the £5. to Mr. John Thurtell; I also gave Mr. Hunt £1. for Mr. J. Thurtell, which made £6. I think about six o'clock I left to come down to Aldenham to my home, Thurtell asked me if I would drive Mr. Hunt to my house; if not, he said, he would hire a horse for him; I said that as I was going home, I would drive him. J. Thurtell said, I am coming to spend the day with you, and shall bring a friend with me; I said, 'Very well; and I should be happy to see them;' he said, 'My brother and family have been down so much with you, I don't like to trouble you.' I then left Mr. Tetsell's, and came with Hunt to the Bald-faced Stag, in the Edgware-road; Mr. Hunt said, 'I must not go in there, as I have not returned the two horse cloths I borrowed.' He walked on to Mr. Clarke's, the tavern-keeper, which is near the Edgware Turnpike, where I stopped and took him up, and drove him very near to Mr. Phillimore's Lodge, and Hunt then said I must wait here till Thurtell joins me, according to appointment.—Coroner: Did you not call on the way at this house?—Probart: I beg pardon; yes, I drove Hunt to this house, and we drank several glasses of brandy and water, and remained here about an hour; we left this house about nine o'clock; I went from here to Mr. Phillimore's Lodge, and Hunt got out and said, "I must wait here for John Thurtell, and you may go on." I went on till I was within one hundred yards of my house, and then I met Thurtell. He said, "Where is Hunt?" I said I had left him on the road waiting for you. He said, "You must turn back then, and fetch him, for I have killed my friend, and I don't want him." I said, Good God! I hope you have not killed any person;" he replied, "I have, and now I am happy, for he has robbed me of several hundreds. I then returned with Hunt, and at my gates Hunt said to J. Thurtell, "Where could you pass me?" J. Thurtell replied, "It don't matter where I passed you, for I have done the trick." I said, "For God's sake who is the man

 Probart's Statement.

you have killed?" Thurtell said, "It don't matter to you, you don't know his name and never saw him, and if you ever say a single word about it, by G—d you shall share the same fate, for Joe and I (meanng Hunt and Thurtell) meant to have had your brother-in-law that is to be (Mr. Woods), the other day, only that he ran so fast when he saw the house, and escaped;" he also said, "I have more to kill, and you will be one of them, if you don't do what is right." We then went into my parlour, and had something to eat and drink; afterwards Thurtell pulled a purse out of his pocket and said, "This is all I have got for what I have done." How much was in the purse I do not know. A gun and a watch he also produced, and several papers. Thurtell and Hunt examined the papers, and handed them from one to the other, and afterwards threw them into the fire. I had occasion to go up stairs to Mrs. Probart, and I did not see any thing more of the papers. Thurtell said, "Now we must go and fetch the body, and throw it into your pond." I said, "That you never shall do." He said, "You must do as I tell you, and I will come and fetch it away to-morrow. Thurtell and Hunt then went and fetched the body, and threw it into my pond. I saw them throw it in. Thurtell after that, produced a note case made of silk or stuff, and took out of it three £5. notes, and said to me "Here is the £6. I borrowed of you yesterday," and he gave me a £5. note and a sovereign. I am positive he said on giving me the money, "Here is the £6. I borrowed of you yesterday," for which you are answerable to Mr. Tetsell."—Coroner: Is Mr. Tetsell in the room? Yes, he is.—Magistrate: He ought to withdraw.—Coroner: It is now unnecessary.

Probart continued—That is all the money I saw, though there were some sovereigns in the purse. I believe in the course of half an hour I went to bed; I left both Hunt and Thurtell in the parlour, with a bottle of brandy on the table. Mrs. Probart and Miss Noyes had then gone to bed an hour and a half. Mrs. Probart pressed Hunt and Thurtell to go to bed half an hour before she went to bed, and she said Miss Noyes would sleep with Thomas Thurtell's two children. One of them replied, "We have got a good deal of night work to do, and want to use ourselves to it." When I went to bed, I thought my wife had been in bed at least an hour and a half: as I entered the room she was not undressed; she was crying, and she said, "For God's sake, what is it that Mr. Hunt and Mr. Thurtell and you are doing up?—if I knew I would inform against you." This was about one o'clock in the morning. I said, "My dear, I am doing nothing that will hurt me; I am

 Probart's Statement.

not guilty of any thing." We both then went to bed, and I think I lay till past nine on the Saturday morning, but not an hour did I sleep the whole of the night, nor did Mrs. Probart, for she was fretting all night. I did not tell Mrs. Probart any thing about the murder; I said to her, that I had done nothing that would injure me. When I came down to breakfast I found Hunt and Thurtell standing up in my parlour, and the cloth laid for breakfast. About ten o'clock my boy put my horse to the chaise, and they left my house about half-past ten. The boy put the gun in the chaise, and one or two bundles of clothes tied up in handkerchiefs, and a striped carpet bag with a padlock; I can't say if it was locked up; I can't say who these things belonged to; I suspected they belonged to the deceased, but was not certain. As they went out of the yard, they said, "We shall come down and dine with you to-morrow, and bring Thomas Thurtell and Noyes, most likely." They all four, J. and T. Thurtell, Mr. Hunt, and Mr. Noyes, came down next day as we were sitting down to dinner. J. Thurtell and Mr. Hunt both observed that I did not eat two mouthfuls. J. Thurtell said you will never do for a Turpin." This was said before the females, Mrs. Probart and Miss Noyes, who did not know what it meant. Coroner: They must have known what was meant; Turpin was a notorious highway-man and murderer, and what Thurtell meant was obvious.—Mr. Noel, the solicitor for the prosecution, cautioned the prisoner not to say that which would further commit himself; which the Coroner also urged, and requested him to say nothing about his wife, or any thing to convict himself.—Probart continued; After dinner we walked in the garden; Thurtell, pointing to Hunt, said, "See how my Joseph is dressed up to-day, don't he cut a good figure?"—Coroner: What did he mean by this?—Probart: He meant that Hunt was dressed up in very good clothes.—Coroner: Give me a description of Hunt's dress at that time.—Probart: He had on a buff waistcoat, and black handkerchief; they were the deceased's clothes I was told; I said to Hunt, "If they are the deceased's clothes, good God! how can you wear them!" Hunt said, "What is that to you, whose clothes they are? they are not yours." This was on the Sunday after the murder.—The Coroner and Mr. Noel again and repeatedly warned the prisoner not to say what might be injurious to him on his trial.—Probart: If I do, I hope you will stop me, I only speak the truth. We retired into my house, and a Mr. Heward called upon me then, about six o'clock.—Coroner: I again advise you, though I am not bound to sit here to give advice, that you should say no more,

 Probart's Examination.

for what you say of occurrences after this can only injure you.—Probart: I thank you, Sir; I will only say that I am not the murderer, and I declare solemnly before my God and Saviour that I never knew the man, or saw him, nor even knew the name of the man, or that he was coming down from London; God Almighty knows I am not guilty of this horrid murder. I knew of John Thurtell coming down from London; God Almighty knows I am not guilty of this horrid murder. I knew of John Thurtell coming down, and as he said to me, with a gentleman, but I did not know who the person was; he said they should shoot on Lord Essex's estate.

Mr. Noel: On the part of the prosecution, I advise you to say no more. Coroner: I have one question or two to ask Mr. Probart. Probart: I will answer.—Did you take part of the deceased's money? No, I did not.—Did you see the deceased's clothes taken out of your house? No, my boy put the gun into the chaise.—Did Hunt come down to sing professionally? No.—Did he sing on the Friday night after you had been informed of the murder, in your parlour? I rather think he did sing one song, but I cannot swear.—Did Hunt receive any money from John Thurtell on that night? I think he did, but I am not positive.—Did you order John Thurtell to bring you a new spade down from London? Never.—Did you ever see a spade that he brought down? Yes, I found one on my grounds after the murder. By a Juror.—You called at this house on the Friday night with Hunt, about the time of the murder? Yes, I did.—You said to the landlord that Hunt was a good singer? Yes, I did.—Were you both inebriated? A little. He then withdrew.

Mr. Noel said, that the confession of Hunt was disproved in many important parts; that he had grossly prevaricated; and though he had been admitted a witness for the Crown by the Magistrates, yet the Court of King's Bench had the power by law, upon proof of such confession being false, to reject it, and put the man upon his trial. This question was, however, quite distinct from the present inquiry.

The Coroner asked if a gentleman named Woods, from London, was in the room? The Coroner was informed, that he had waited for some hours to give evidence; but supposing, from the length of time occupied in taking Hunt's evidence, that the inquiry would not terminate that night, he had returned in a chaise to London. One of the Magistrates regretted the circumstance, as his evidence would have developed a most atrocious system, which had been planned in London, for a series of murders. FOREMAN: It would be a pity if this cold-

 The Coroner's summing up.

blooded villain should escape justice, for in my mind he is the most guilty of all: he evidently assisted in planning the murder; he bought the sack in which the victim was to be deposited after his murder, and also the spade to dig his grave, and the cord to tie up the sack, and assisted in buying the pistols. I consider Mr. Probart an innocent person, in comparison with Hunt. The manner in which he made his statement to the Jury, proves him to be the most unfeeling, cold-hearted wretch alive; he showed no signs of compunction for the horrid deed—no regret that he had assisted in the murder of a fellow-creature.

CORONER: Gentlemen of the Jury, such a body of evidence, affecting the persons who are in custody, charged with the crime which you have, with such extraordinary patience, been employed for the last two days in investigating, has been laid before you, that it will be quite unnecessary, in my opinion, to detain you long in commenting upon the facts which have been detailed; for a more horrid, more cruel, more premeditated case of assassination and robbery, I think, never took place in this or any other country. Your first inquiry is this—Are you of opinion that John Thurtell is the person who committed the murder? Of this fact, I think, there can be but one opinion. The second inquiry is—Were Probart and Hunt accessaries *before* the fact? Gentlemen, I will offer a very few words upon the law of murder, as laid down by the most eminent authorities; I shall take the opportunity of stating, that a Coroner's Jury cannot take cognizance of a party accused who are accessaries *after* the fact; you must come to the conclusion, that Hunt and Probart were accessaries *before* the fact, before you can return a verdict of Murder against them; and I think that you, wishing, as you evidently must do, to put these parties on their several trials, will not be long in coming to that conclusion. It is not necessary, to make them accessaries before the fact, that they should be on the spot, or near the place where the murder was committed, at the time of its perpetration; it is enough if they have in any way aided or countenanced the commission of the crime. That Hunt premeditated and concerted the assassination and robbery with John Thurtell, cannot be doubted by any rational and thinking person. What could have been his object in purchasing the pistols, sack, cord, and spade, on the day of murder; and why should Hunt have been set down by Probart, from his chaise, near Phillimore Lodge, but for the purpose of joining John Thurtell to aid him in murdering Mr. Weare? That such was their object, Gentlemen—that such was the previous agreement between Hunt and John Thurtell, I think is evident, from the language used by Hunt and John

The Coroner's summing up

Thurtell, at Probart's gate, directly after the murder was committed; and also from Hunt stating to Probart, "that he had to wait for John Thurtell by appointment." The language used at Probart's cottage gate is this:—"Hunt said to John Thurtell, "Where could you pass me?" Thurtell replied, "It don't matter where I passed you, I have done the trick." What was meant by the trick is evident enough; it could mean nothing else but the murder and robbery previously planned. Now, Gentlemen, what are the facts that inculcate Probart in this foul proceeding? These, Gentlemen, are in my opinion the main facts, besides many circumstances of less prominence in the plot of this singular drama. First, his dining with the party in their lodgings in London, on the afternoon, and only a few hours before they left London with their victim. In the next place, Probart says, in his statement to you, "that he agreed with John Thurtell to bring Hunt down to his cottage;" but, instead of bringing him down to the cottage, he puts him down from the chaise at some distance from it, with the avowed purpose of waiting for John Thurtell. Why should he wait for John Thurtell? Was it possible that Probart could be ignorant of the intention of the party? Did he not know that the intention of Hunt was to assist in despatching Weare? Is it possible he could be ignorant of it? I think not; and I think I am justified in that opinion by an admission of Probart's, which I have a right to take advantage of, as he made it after repeated warnings, given by me and Mr. Noel, viz. that Thurtell said to him, "This is all I got by the job;" after which he received part of the money. Hunt also stated in his confession, that on Probart receiving the £6. John Thurtell said, "This is your share of the money found." Found where, Gentlemen? found on the man for whom he had "just done the job," as he had previously asserted to Probart. Gentlemen, the actual spot where the murder was committed, I think, is clearly identified. The place was in Gill's Hill Lane, by the side of the hedge which was broken, and where the blood was found in streams; in the ditch adjacent to which, the pistol and knife were found: and I think it very likely, that, after the deceased was murdered, he was dragged by his murderers through the hedge into the ploughed field, where the body lay till Hunt, Probart, and John Thurtell, left the cottage, while supper was being prepared (as is sworn to by Probart's cook and his boy, Haddis) with a lanthorn, when they no doubt removed it to Probart's pond. In fact, Gentlemen, Probart admits that he saw it put into his pond, and this in less than an hour after the man was murdered. Another fact I will just advert to, affecting

Verdict of the Coroner's Inquest.

Probart. It is this:—The men who saw John Thurtell and Hunt in the lane, looking about the spot where the pistol and knife were found, stated, that they saw a tall man come down the lane after Hunt and John Thurtell, with a large dog; and Probart's servants stated that Probart was in the habit of going out with his dog; and I draw this inference from that fact, that Probart's object in going down the lane at that time in the morning was the same as that of Hunt and Thurtell, viz. to recover possession of the lost pistol and knife left there by the murderers. That it was Hunt who accompanied John Thurtell early in the morning down the lane, is proved by the witnesses stating that he had large black mustachios and whiskers, which he wore at that time, and has admitted he since shaved them off. And I must remark that Hunt went too far when he stated, "that the clothes were cut off the dead body," for that proves that he participated in its removal, which is further confirmed by the fact of his discovering the pond, or pit, to which he states that John Thurtell removed the body, and in which the police officers, by him directed, found it.

In addition to these strong circumstances, all tending to shew that Hunt, John Thurtell, and Probart were participators in the murder, we have another fact of very considerable importance—I mean the fact of the bloody shirt and handkerchief, cut off the deceased's body, in Probart's yard, after the body was taken out of the pond, being found under a heap of dung in Probart's stable. From the whole of these facts, developing an act of more than fiend-like barbarity, you can come but to one conclusion, in my mind, that John Thurtell is a principal in the murder, and that Hunt and Probart are accessaries before the fact. If such be your opinion, you will say so, and if you cannot at present arrive at that conclusion, it will be necessary for me to read through the whole of the body of evidence, with such comments thereon as the case may require.

Juror: If we should be of opinion that Probart was only an accessary after the fact, or in other words, that he did not know of the murderous intention of Hunt and John Thurtell, till after the deed was done, have you no power to send him for trial?

—Coroner: I cannot commit him under the Coroner's Inquest without you find that he was an accessary before the fact, though, of course, the Magistrates have the power to commit him for trial.

The Jury consulted for a few minutes, and returned a verdict of WILFUL MURDER against JOHN THURTELL as a Principal, and against HUNT and PROBART as accessaries before the fact.

Examination of Thomas Thurtell by the Magistrates.

The verdict being recorded, and the presentment signed by the Jury, warrants were issued by the Coroner to commit the parties to take their trials at the next Assizes for the county of Hertford, and they were conveyed the same night to Hertford Gaol. Charles Forster, of Berkhamstead, was the person who apprehended Thomas Thurtell and Probart, and not Ruthven, as stated.

After the verdict was returned, the Coroner and Magistrates assembled gave orders for Thomas Thurtell to be brought from the apartment where he was confined before them. He was brought into the Jury-room handcuffed. They were ordered to be taken off. The Coroner congratulated him that he was not inculpated in the dreadful transaction that had alarmed the whole county. Thomas Thurtell, who has an impediment in his speech, endeavoured to reply, but, for some time, such was his agitation, that he could not give utterance to a syllable. At last he said, "It was a horrible transaction; but I thank God I had not the remotest idea of the dreadful intentions of my brother, or that the murder was committed, till it was communicated to me after my apprehension." The county Magistrates then informed him, that they were about to commit him to the county goal, upon a warrant brought from London, on a charge of conspiring to set fire to some premises in Watling-street. He declared, that however guilty his brother might be, and he had led a life the most wicked and dissolute for several years, yet he was himself innocent of the charge upon which he was about to be committed. He stated that his brother forged his acceptance to bills to the amount of £600. only eight months ago, and he was compelled to pay the money to save his life. The Magistrate lamented that a person who was related to one of the most respectable families in Norwich should have been implicated in such a dreadful transaction. Thomas Thurtell burst into tears and said, "Good God! what misery must my poor father and mother endure on hearing of the situation of their children; my brother's fate, I suppose, is sealed; pray God support my father and mother!"

Before the Magistrates separated from the Inquest room on Saturday night, they had a private examination, and we understand they discussed a question as to the propriety of issuing warrants against persons accused of another foul transaction, a clue to which was furnished by a gentleman named Woods, and further developed by a written statement of Thomas Thurtell's. The Reporters were excluded from the room at the time, and therefore we are compelled to give this statement without further explanation. After which the Reporters were re-ad-

Thomas Thurtell's Statement.

mitted, and requested to insert, that the Coroner, Jury, and Magistrates were fully satisfied of Thomas Thurtell's innocence of the charge of murder; to which all the Reporters, save one, acceded; but this individual said, "that he would give no pledge," and he was desired to withdraw instantly.

ADDITIONAL CONFESSION OF JOSEPH HUNT.

The following facts were detailed to Mr. Noel by Hunt after he had been before the Magistrates.—He sent for Mr. Noel and said, "I forgot to tell you something," and then resumed his confession. He said—"On the return of Thurtell, after the body was removed from the lane, and sunk in Probart's pond, Thurtell produced the *reader* (flash for note case,) out of which he took three £5. notes, and also a purse, from which he took four sovereigns. He gave Probart and myself £6. each, as our share of the property found; he then burnt the note case and the purse; he also burnt a betting book, which was a red one. At the request of John Thurtell, I purchased in Hind-street, Bloomsbury, a sack and some cord, which went down in Thurtell's chaise. Further, John Thurtell told me, when describing the manner in which he had tackled with Mr. Weare, that at one time he had nearly mastered him, and got above him, upon which he took out his knife and cut his throat. *The blood of Mr. Weare in consequence came on his face and into his mouth in such quantities, that he was nearly choked.* It was in consequence of this that he was seized with sickness at supper, and could not eat any pork. After he had cut Mr. Weare's throat, the unfortunate gentleman's strength failed, and he threw him off. He then took his own shawl, and wrapped it round the neck of the corpse, to prevent the effusion of blood. (This shawl was found round the neck of the deceased, when he was taken out of the pond. The wounds were described by the surgeon.

Hunt desired that these facts might be added to his confession, and Mr. Noel accordingly communicated them to the Magistrates.

THOMAS THURTELL'S STATEMENT.

We have alluded to a written statement made by Thomas Thurtell to the Magistrates, on the Saturday, implicating another person. We give the substance of this statement, but of course omit matter which might tend to frustrate further operations which are in contemplation. It commences by stating, that on the Friday of the murder, he met his brother and Hunt

 Thomas Thurtell's Statement.

at the Coach and Horses. In the evening Hunt came up to the door in a gig, drawn by a grey horse, into which John Thurtell, his brother, got, and drove away; Hunt went away with Probart. He saw two pistols with his brother John, and asked him what he wanted with them? Hunt made use of a dreadful expression, and asked him what was that to him? and then, turning to Probart, said, "Bill, will you be in it?" Before they went away Probart smiled. Hunt had previously brought a sack and some cord, which he put into John Thurtell's gig, and then said, "Jack, it's all right, drive away like —." Hunt said before they left the house in the evening, addressing himself to John Thurtell, "Jack, our friends had better be civil, or they will get served out;" following this threat up with the most horrid oaths. Both John Thurtell and Hunt were constantly talking of ripping people up, and shooting them; but he (Thomas Thurtell) thought it was only their idle bravado. He (T.T.) was engaged, the whole of Friday night, which has been confirmed by credible witnesses. On Saturday morning he went to the Coach and Horses, and remained there all day; John came about three o'clock, and was in excellent spirits; he (Thomas Thurtell) remarked, that his hands were much scratched, and asked him how it happened? John said, he, Probart, and Hunt had been netting partridges, and that his knuckles were scratched by the brambles: he observed a gold watch in John's hand, and asked him where he got it? John told him to ask no questions, as it was no business of his; Hunt came in shortly after with a bundle, containing a blue coat, a buff waistcoat, and a pair of leather breeches which he had taken out of pawn for J. Thurtell. On putting down the bundle, he pulled out of his pocket three sovereigns, some silver, and a £5. note, and said to Mr. Noyes, who was present, "Now you—, do any of you want change for a £50. note, for if you do, I'm your man; we are Turpin-like lads, and have done the trick," and then he laughed heartily, and winked to John; after Noyes went out, he (Thomas) feeling surprised at such declarations, said to his brother, "What have you been doing?" when Hunt exclaimed, "Why committing b——y murder to be sure." These being words of ordinary use in Hunt's mouth, he did not believe him, and took no further notice; Hunt then went on to say, "We have been shooting game, and Probart has been holding the bag; he (Thomas) did not for a moment believe they had been committing murder. In the evening he (Thomas) went again to the Coach and Horses, and saw Hunt and his brother at supper; they were eating oysters; Hunt repeated that they had been Turpin-like

 Mr. Tetsell's Statement.

lads, and addressing John, said, "we must have a bottle of wine—nothing else will do now," and then laughed. He said, in continuation, "that the old woman (meaning his wife) was in a precious rage with him for stopping out all night, but when he pulled out the money she was satisfied. He gave her a sovereign, and told her to get a pair of fowls and a piece of pickled pork." The statement then went on to detail the circumstance of Thomas Thurtell walking down to Probart's on Sunday morning; he was overtaken on the road by his brother and Hunt, who took him up; on their reaching Edgware they met Noyes, and John alighted and joined him. He went on with Hunt to Probart's, and he observed a new spade in the gig; Hunt threw the spade over the hedge, saying, "Probart did not wish his wife to know he was extravagant." They all dined together that day, Probart, Mrs. Probart, her sister Miss Noyes, Mr. Noyes, John Thurtell, and Hunt. Nothing particular occurred. He remembered somebody calling on Probart and accompanying him on business to Mr. Nicholl's. When Probart returned he appeared extremely agitated. He, T. Thurtell, went to bed with his children early, and neither heard or saw more."

Such is the substance of this man's statement. We have purposely omitted a fact, on which new discoveries hang. It appeared that he was in the habit of going down to Probart's every Sunday to see his children.

STATEMENT OF MR TETSELL.

Mr. Tetsell, the landlord of the Coach and Horses, in Conduit-street, attended the Coroner's Jury, at Elstree, on Saturday, with a number of other persons, to give evidence; that Thomas Thurtell could not by possibility be actually concerned in the murder; but as there was no evidence brought forward to involve Thomas Thurtell in the affair; and as the rest of Mr. Tetsell's evidence affected the other persons accused, it was thought proper by the Magistrates to reserve his evidence (sufficient having been adduced before the Coroner's Jury) till the trial of the parties at the Assizes. The following is the statement of Mr. Tetsell, of his knowledge of John Thurtell and his coadjutors:—

"On last Tuesday week was the first day the Thurtells came to my house. Probart, whom I had known before, introduced them. A true bill of indictment had then been found against them, for setting fire to their house, and Probart urged me to become one of their bail; but I declined. They stopped for

Mr. Tetsell's Statement.

some hours drinking, and having paid for the reckoning went away. On Wednesday they came again to my house; Probart and T. Thurtell then had some tea. On Wednesday night J. Thurtell came and slept at my house. I knew that they wished to be as private as possible, because they had not been able to get bail, and were keeping out of the way. On Wednesday night Probart said to me, you have a private room which we should be glad to have the use of, to transact business which requires privacy. I told him they might have it, and it being prepared, they retired to it; and persons frequently visited them whom I did not know. On Thursday they dined at my house; T. Thurtell paid for the dinner. Probart, who had exerted himself to get bail for the Thurtells, again urged me to come forward; but I told him it was very troublesome, and refused. On Friday morning (on which night the murder was committed), T. Thurtell, J. Thurtell, Hunt, Mr. Noyes, and Probart breakfasted at my house, in the private room, and paid seven shillings and sixpence, and on the same evening, between 5 and 6 o'clock, they all left my house, and I understood that they hired one gig at Probett's, the Golden Cross, Charing Cross; I do not know where the other gig was procured, but I understood it was Probart's. On Friday evening T. Thurtell was at my house, and slept there the same night. On Saturday T. Thurtell and Noyes dined at my house, and after dinner Hunt arrived, and partook of what they had left; he arrived about three o'clock. On Saturday night both J. and T. Thurtell slept at my house, and on Sunday morning, when J. Thurtell came down stairs, he was dressed in a pair of new leather small-clothes, new gaiters, and waistcoat with a double row of buttons on it; he then had no coat on; his shirt was open at the front, and thrust under his waistcoat collar, so that his neck was bare; he looked extremely wild; I thought he appeared like a madman; in this state he went out of my house, and crossed the street to Collis's the hair-dresser, to get shaved. On his return he finished dressing; he put on a new blue coat, and new hat, and appeared very elegantly dressed. Thomas Thurtell was in my house at the time John was dressed, and he remarked to me, "How fine my brother is to-day!" Both John and Thomas Thurtell ordered breakfast that morning; they drank only one cup of tea each; they ate nothing at all, but each of them took a glass of brandy. They had a piece of roasting beef at my house, which they said they were to take with them in the chaise that morning down to Probart's, where they were to dine. Noyes was also present at my house, and was to accompany John and Thomas Thurtell. Noyes said,

 Funeral of Mr. Weare.

"Mind the beef is taken, or we shall get no dinner when we get there." About half-past ten o'clock on Sunday morning, Hunt and John Thurtell left my house in a chaise. Hunt brought the chaise to the door. Noyes walked on two hours before, and J. Thurtell said, "We shall overtake him on the road." Hunt and John Thurtell put the beef and some clean linen in the chaise, and I remarked that a new spade or shovel was in the chaise at the time. I observed to a Mr. Price, who was in my house when they drove off, "What the d—l can they want with a shovel on a Sunday, when they are going out in a chaise on pleasure?" I also remarked, on the Sunday morning, the contrast between Hunt's apparel and John Thurtell's. I also observed that Hunt's coat was dirty and torn under one arm, and that his small-clothes were torn by the side, from the pocket. I thought from the appearance of the back of Hunt's coat, that the wheel of the chaise had been against it; and, as he was not shaved, and his clothes shabby, I said, "If I were Thurtell, I would not ride with him in that condition." At that time (Sunday morning), Hunt had not shaved off his whiskers, and he returned with Probart's boy, Jem, on Tuesday, to my house, and then his whiskers were on. He left the boy, and when I saw him the same morning, he was well dressed, and his whiskers were shaved off close. John Thurtell slept at my house, and also Hunt and another man on Tuesday night. The last person was a man about 50 years of age, pock-frecken. On Wednesday morning an officer of police arrived, and took Thurtell and Hunt; and the third person, who slept in the same room with Thurtell, whose name I do not know, hastily dressed himself, and left the house."

FUNERAL OF MR. WEARE.—About ten o'clock on Saturday night, just before the Inquest terminated, arrangements having been previously made, the coffin was screwed up, and carried down stairs for interment at that hour, in Elstree church-yard. By the inscription on the coffin plate, it appears the unfortunate man was 43 years of age. The corpse was brought out in front of the Inn, and four men carried it on their shoulders, over which a pall was thrown. The brother of the deceased followed next to the coffin, as chief mourner, and after him came the Jurymen in succession. The police officers headed the funeral, and on its arrival at the church-yard the scene was most affecting and impressive. The Clergyman, at this dead hour of the night, performed the solemn obsequies over the corpse, while the bell tolled, announcing the interment of the murdered man. The town was in a state of peculiar

 Funeral of Mr. Weare.

excitement, and most of the inhabitants were assembled to witness the funeral.

Mr. Weare being in possession of a small property, was living upon the town without any particular occupation. He was passionately fond of sporting, and would go any distance for a day's shooting. He had some good dogs, which he occasionally kept in Lyon's Inn, where he was often seen airing them. He was inoffensive in his manners, and correct in all his dealings; he had been about three years in Lyon's Inn, and was much respected. Billiards was a favourite game with him, and he played well. He had a great distrust of Banks, and kept his money about his person—a circumstance which perhaps led to the attempt on his life. Some time ago Mr. Noel, his solicitor, induced him to open an account at Morland's, and he lodged £500. He could not be satisfied, however, and drew the whole out to keep it in his own possession. He was paying his addresses to a young lady living at Bayswater, who had three hundred pounds a year in her own right, and there was every probability of a union. It was in consequence of his having agreed to make a call on this lady on the Friday evening, that he appointed to meet John Thurtell at Tyburn Turnpike. He was always remarkably neat in his dress. His elder brother is a highly respectable seedsman at Coventry, and he has another brother a tailor in the Borough. It is believed, from the offer of Hunt to change a £50. at the Coach and Horses, that the booty was more than has been admitted. Indeed, it will be recollected that Hunt actually produced upwards of £8. having previously given money to his wife. Mr. Weare was reputed to be worth about £2000. He was a prudent man, and rather more covetous than extravagant. There is no foundation for the story, that he had won £1700. from one of the Thurtells. His chambers in Lyons's Inn have not yet been examined; they are padlocked, and the examination is not to take place till the arrival of his elder brother in town. It is suspected, however, that they were visited by Hunt on the Saturday after the murder. He left the servant-boy of Probart waiting for him behind St. Clement's church while he went on some errand. The key of the chambers, and the key of the escrutoire within them, were always kept by Mr. Weare, attached to the purse which fell into the hands of the murderers, so that means were afforded of rifling the rooms of their valuable contents, if the parties in question were so disposed. He evidently resisted the attack of Thurtell with great energy; and had he been apprised of the treacherous attack, would no doubt have mastered his antagonist; but Thurtell is celebrated

 Conduct of the Accused Parties.

at gymnastic games, and overcame him by superior presence of mind and determined villany. It is manifest that Hunt assisted in removing and stripping the body, and therefore got the larger share of the booty—we allude particularly to the clothes. The body was, no doubt, removed to the pond while the supper was dressing.

He was a little man with high cheek bones, his face narrowing to the chin, sallow complexion, and having very much the appearance of a Jew. He was formerly a waiter, but latterly engaged in gaming concerns; he frequented races with an E. O. table, and was well known in gaming circles. He was extremely penurious, and generally carried from £1000. to £2000. about his person. This was always contained in an old pocket book, and placed next his skin, beneath his shirt. This was known to all who were in the habit of being in his company. None of his property has been found, except the contents of the bag.

We cannot conclude our account without stating that the greatest credit is due to the Magistrates, the Coroner, and Mr. Noel, the solicitor for the prosecution, for the indefatigable manner in which they have devoted themselves to unravel this most diabolical transaction, which, for cruelty and premeditated villany, has not been exceeded in the annals of the crimes of this country.

 CONDUCT OF THE ACCUSED PARTIES PREVIOUS
AND SUBSEQUENT TO THE MURDER.

The two Thurtells it has been stated, are the sons of Alderman Thurtell, of Norwich, one of the most worthy and respectable men in the County of Norfolk. They were brought up as Wholesale Warehousemen, and about two years and a half ago, John Thurtell was in business at that place as a Bombazine Manufacturer; but such was his conduct that he was held in general disrepute. He came to London and received fifteen hundred and fifty pounds for goods which he had sold to a house in London Wall, and which money, on his return, he was to pay to his creditors. Instead of doing so, he appropriated the money to his own use, and propagated a story that he had been robbed of it by footpads.

The following is an extract from the examination of John Thurtell before the Commissioners of Bankruptcy, in March

1820.—Nobody believed the tale, and *the identical notes were afterwards traced to his gambling connexions, to whom he had subsequently staked them.* Weare, it is said, was one of those persons; he won three hundred pounds of Thurtell at *Blind Hookey*.

“Where did you change the note for five hundred pounds which you received at Barclay and Co.’s, and for what species of notes did you so change the same? At the gambling-house, No. 10, King-street, St. James’s-square, about half-past one at noon on Thursday, the 18th of January last; to the best of my belief for four one hundred pound Bank of England notes, and ten ten pound notes of the same Bank. Where did you change the note for £300. which you received at Barclay & Co.’s and for what species of notes did you so change the same? Either at the gambling-house, No. 28, Bury-street, or at the gambling-house, 32, Pall-mall, but for what species of notes I cannot recollect. Where did you change the three £200. notes which you so received at Barclay and Co.’s, and for what species of notes did you so change the notes? At some of the said gambling houses, or at some other gambling house, but I cannot say at what particular house, nor for what species of notes I so changed the same. Did you endorse your name John Thurtell on all the notes you received in change for the notes you received at Barclay and Co.’s; and if not on the whole, on how many, and what was the value of each of those notes so endorsed by you? On Sunday evening, the 21st of January last, I endorsed my name John Thurtell on thirteen one hundred pound notes of the Bank of England, and on no others, and those notes I brought to Norwich on the following day; I endorsed them at the Golden Cross, Charing-cross, but whether a waiter at that Inn saw me endorse them or not I cannot say.

The assignees refusing to grant their certificate to Thurtell, he left Norwich, and set off for London in company with a very pretty girl (Miss D——) whom he kept till recently. He took the Black Boy in Long Acre, in the name of a younger brother, Henry Thurtell, whom he accused of robbing him, and who subsequently went for a soldier; he then employed a Mr. Cowdry, as his *locum tenens* in that house. This person in the trial with the Fire Office, deposed to Thurtell’s having proposed to him to take a certain house, which he named, offering to furnish it, insure it, remove the goods, set fire to the place, and get a thousand pounds from the Insurance Office. The young men refused to have any thing to do in such a transaction, and broke off all connection with him. His failure in business in Watling-street, and the charge against him of

 Anecdotes of the Thurtells.

having set fire to the premises and defrauding the Fire Office, by making a return of his loss to the amount of £2,000. when it was not more than £100. (as is supposed), are facts very generally known; and we lament that, whether the fire was accidental or otherwise, the consequence to other persons has been very calamitous. Three houses were burnt down by the conflagration; and the property of a Mr. Penny, a wine-merchant, who was not insured, was destroyed, as well as the property of another person whose premises adjoined those of the Thurtells. The discovery of the alleged crime of arson, is said to be owing to Miss D—— having *peached* to the Insurance Company, in consequence of John Thurtell's ill-treatment and desertion of her. In the Spring of last year (after the fire in Watling-street) he took the Cock, in the Haymarket, in the name of his brother Thomas; but Thomas was at that time, and for a long time afterwards, a prisoner in the King's Bench, at the suit of John, for a trifling debt; having previously, in an application for relief, under the Insolvent Debtors' Act, stated that he had no property whatever, and was supported by the assistance of friends.

The transactions which went on at this house rendered the Thurtells the terror of the neighbourhood. The house was the resort of swindlers, thieves, and prize-fighters. Goods were continually pouring in from tradesmen of all descriptions, and clandestinely removed. Thomas Thurtell was the general dealer. Elegant furniture, mirrors, clocks and watches, carriages, horses, carts, fine cutlery, wearing apparel in profusion, bundles of coral, and entire brick-kilns were liberally ordered, and chiefly paid for with the acceptances of Thomas Thurtell. No less than one hundred and sixty pounds of meat were sent in during the week before Thomas Thurtell appeared in the *Gazette*. Many complaints had been made of robberies committed in this house; and on a late occasion, when the head beadle was making his annual visit to the public-houses, he remarked at the Cock a *dice-box* going in one room, a *bagatelle-board* in full play in another, and an active row in the bar, arising out of the complaints of an itinerant jeweller, who said he had been *robbed* of a gold ring by the waiter while he was shewing his goods. The license of the house was refused on the last licensing day, and T. Thurtell was declared a bankrupt in the *Gazette* of October 18th. A man was left in possession of the house, was cautioned as to the characters he had to deal with, and accordingly armed himself, and fastened bells to all the windows and doors. About three o'clock in the morning, he found there was an attempt to open the kitchen window; he went down,

 Anecdotes of the Thurtells.

and desired the intruders, who had got into the area, to retire at their peril; a voice answered, with a suitable volley of imprecations, that it was John Thurtell and his friend, and they would come in; the promise of the contents of a brace of pistols, and an alarm of the watch, caused these persons to desist, and after a time the man lay down on his bed, but did not sleep; in about an hour, he heard the footsteps of two men stealing gently up stairs; when they had passed his door, he ventured to open it a little, and discovered John Thurtell and another man carrying a heavy bundle into a room, which the next morning he found locked; he afterwards discovered they had been let in by a man who used to serve in the bar for the Thurtells, and who had been suffered to remain on the premises. The house is now shut up.—Having a back entrance into a stable-yard, it was well adapted for the dishonest purposes to which it was applied. In a room, which was John Thurtell's bed-room, there are innumerable bullet-holes through the cupboard-door, the chimney-board, and some drawers; here he used to practise with his air-gun. This was the most formidable instrument of destruction that ever assassin bore.

It was discovered in the following manner:—

When Thurtell was apprehended, Ruthven found upon him three small bullets, or what are called buck-shot, which suited the calibre of the pistol found in his pocket; but when asked about them, he denied that they belonged to, or were intended for the pistol, and said they were cast for an air-gun, which he had had for some time. He subsequently wrote a letter, requesting that care might be taken of it, and this letter being intercepted, led to the finding of the deadly instrument. The letter was addressed to Mrs. Walker, a young woman, who had lived at the Cock, in the Haymarket, as bar-maid to T. Thurtell. She married lately a man named Walker, a tailor, and lives in a garret in Windmill-street, Haymarket. Upson, the officer, upon having this letter put into his hand, went to the Cock, where, in a room occupied occasionally by J. Thurtell, he found the air-gun in question. It is in the shape of a common walking stick. It is composed of metal cased with tin, and coloured so as to look like wood. There are knobs upon it to resemble the knots which are seen upon certain descriptions of sticks. The top part of the stick takes off, and the air-pump, which is separate from the rest, but so small as to go into the pocket, is fixed on in a moment, and the gun filled with air. The calibre is very small, it being calculated only for a species of bullet very little larger than buckshot. The gun has been tried by the officer, and found to be most perfect and effective

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in its operation. It will send a bullet through an inch-deal board at a moderate distance. It has been shown to a gun-maker, and pronounced to be one of the completest things of the kind ever manufactured. It is now at the Bow-street Office. It will discharge ten balls, each carrying death in silence, before it is re-charged. With this *stick in appearance*, he was frequently seen sauntering about the County Fire Office of an evening. He had often threatened the life of Mr. B. Beaumont, the managing director of that establishment, for the pains he took in ascertaining the secret history of the fire in Watling-street, and defeating his claim; and that gentleman was frequently warned, by the firemen and servants, of John Thurtell's apparently lying in wait for him; but their fears were laughed at. It was supposed he only meant to intimidate.

When Mr. Beaumont went to John Thurtell in Hertford gaol, at his request, to receive his confession, Thurtell then declined to give it until he had consulted Mr. C. Pearson, his attorney; Mr. Beaumont asked him if it was true that he meant to kill him as he had threatened? He replied, No, Sir. He was then asked why he had been so often about the County Fire Office of a night? He said he used to spend his evenings at Ward's, a public-house close by.—Ward denies this; and there is little doubt that the Managing Director was one of his intended victims.

Since the finding of the air-gun, Bishop, the principal officer of Bow-street, went to Mrs. Walker's, in Windmill-street, where, in a clothes-trunk belonging to John Thurtell, he found a bayonet highly sharpened, which he brought away.

On the night when John Thurtell and Hunt were taken to Watford, their conduct was marked with extreme levity. The writer of this statement was in the room with them at the Essex-Arms, before the investigation commenced, and they had scarcely seated themselves, when Hunt began to sing aloud. He sung one entire song, the burden of which was "*Farewell! Farewell!*" and he afterwards continued singing detached verses of other songs, until he was checked by the officers. Thurtell smoked his pipe, and related pugilistic anecdotes, seemingly quite at his ease. Among other anecdotes which he related of himself, were the two following:—He was in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham some time ago with a noted boxer, and some of the visitants and inhabitants made a match between two men, and considerable bets were pending. He, himself, made bets to the amount of £200. on the worst man, and he and his boxing friend—by acting, the one as second, and the other as time-keeper—contrived to make

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the worst man win the battle ; and so, as he said, the Cheltenham *yokels* were nick'd," and he carried off the £200. Another anecdote he related was this :—He was with the English at the storming of St. Sebastian, and when they entered the town, he saw a Polish officer in the French service, leaning against the wall, "seemingly done up with wounds and hard work"—"I thought by the look of him," he continued, "that he was a *nob*, and must have some *blunt* about him—so I just stuck my sword in his ribs and settled him ; and I found a hundred and forty doubloons in the—pocket!—a—good booty, wasn't it, Joe?" turning to Hunt, who assented with a loud laugh, and another fag end of a song. Thurtell was known among his flash friends by the nick-name of "Old Flare." He was always remarkably reserved and thoughtful in company. He would sit for hours and scarcely speak. When he did speak, his conversation was of the most hardened and disgusting kind, and his general conduct was such, that two of his *worthy* companions made a bet of a dozen of wine, that he would be hanged within three years.

The following authentic anecdote would be sufficient to shew that their application of his character was perfectly correct. There had been a great deal of agitation among the gaming-house fraternity, in consequence of some Irishmen of desperate character who had lost money at their houses, having given information against them, and carried about them warrants for their apprehension. At a meeting for general safety, which these gambling gentry held, John Thurtell was present, and offered to dispatch the obnoxious persons at £50. a head, adding, "and when I have done it, if you don't come down the rag, I will blow your brains out." It was not stated whether the agreement was entered into. Thurtell was dreaded by all his intimates in consequence of his well-known ferocity and fearlessness. On one occasion he backed and seconded the Birmingham Youth, or Martin.

Thurtell, Probart, and Hunt, are still kept in separate apartments in Hertford gaol : they are heavily ironed, but not confined in cells. They have good apartments, the use of an airy space of the prison to move in, and each has two attendants, one of whom never quits him. The prisoners are neither allowed to see or communicate with each other : they have permission to write and receive letters, subject of course, to examination.

Probart heard from his wife on Monday, and expressed great satisfaction upon the occasion ; he was yesterday quite ignorant of her having been brought before the Magistrates. None of Thurtell's friends have hitherto communicated with him, directly

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or indirectly. The demeanour of these prisoners, respectively, is calculated, if not to throw a light upon their share of guilt, at least to illustrate their tempers and character. Hunt is quite elated at the idea of being safe from personal danger, in the capacity of a witness. Probart appears in the deepest and most unaffected distress at the ruin of his family, which he ascribes to his unfortunate connexion with Thurtell; but he emphatically persists in declaring his innocence of any previous knowledge or concurrence in the murder, or even the slightest acquaintance with Mr. Weare. He admits that he had invited Thurtell to his cottage, but did not expect he would have been accompanied by any other person. Hunt is equally earnest in his asseveration of innocence of the crime, and together with Probart, denies any knowledge of the dreadful occurrence until apprised of the murder by Thurtell himself, when (as has been already stated) he solicited permission to conceal the dead body in the pond of the cottage. Probart is most anxious to talk upon the subject, and repeats over and over again the statement he has already disclosed with every entreaty to receive credence for his asseveration; he admits the receipt of the £6. on the night of the murder, but declares it to be in payment of a loan to John Thurtell, £5. of which he borrowed at the time and for the purpose from the landlord of the Coach and Horses. Probart's spirits are entirely broken, and they have evidently affected his bodily health.

It is not a little singular, that on the day on which Thurtell and Hunt perpetrated the murder of the unfortunate Mr. Weare, the father of the former had been re-elected Mayor of Norwich, and the brother of the latter (who, we understand, possesses a very respectable character,) made his first appearance as *Macheath*, in Dublin, on the evening of the same day.

It is a singular fact that Mr. Graham, who was robbed by Lemm and his associates of upwards of £4000. is the nephew of Mr. Clutterbuck, the Magistrate, who is now so actively engaged in unravelling this mysterious murder.

Although humanity shudders at the fate of Weare, the mode of whose death admits of no palliation, still it appears that his character was not of the purest nature, and that in fact he has only fallen by the hands of some of the infamous association of which he was a member.

Thurtell, on the contrary, maintains in general unshaken firmness; his health and appetite continue good; his manners are decorous, and he eats, drinks, smokes his pipe, and sleeps, with the apparent enjoyment of comfort. There is nothing in him of the bravo. He talks of his situation like a man who is

perfectly sensible of the peril in which he stands ; he has only once asserted in his innocence, and that was in a conversation three days ago with the chaplain of the prison, who very properly checked him for the assertion, and entreated him to weigh well the importance of every declaration which he made in his present awful situation, and its possible effect upon his future condition. The chaplain is unwearied in his attendance upon the prisoners ; he has, we understand, furnished them with books suited to their unhappy situation, and they have expressed themselves grateful for his attention. The books which Thurtell possesses are the Bible, a Church of England Prayer-book, and "Sherlock on Death." He has expressed a wish for some law books, which he says he has in London, to prepare himself for his defence, as he is aware of his privilege to address. He reads the books that have been presented to him, to compose his mind to a sense of his awful situation, with grave and decorous attention ; but the great difference between his manner and that of the two other prisoners, is, that he evinces the utmost repugnance to converse upon the horrible nature of the crime laid to his charge. He declares that in proper time he will establish his innocence : but when the particular conversation is introduced, he becomes evidently dejected, his features assume an agitated expression, his eyes become half closed and sunk, he vainly endeavours to suppress a heaving sigh, and seizes the first instant, still without coarse abruptness, of changing the subject ; and then, as if a weight were removed from his heart, his constitutional spirits and firmness of nerve return, and he will converse fluently, and with seeming satisfaction upon any other subject to which he can recur ; he, however, talks of his trial with calmness, and when asked, whether he had not better hasten to avail himself of the assistance of counsel, his reply was—"I shall certainly do so in due time, but if I write now, they are all too busy to give speedy attention, for to-morrow will be the first day of term." He expressed a great anxiety within the last two days to refresh his memory upon the facts deposed in evidence against him, and more particularly regarding the testimony of Hunt, giving as the motive for his anxiety the very natural reason, that upon these he must ground his defence. He was yesterday so intent upon making these preliminary arrangements, that he wrote a letter to the Coroner, requesting either a copy of Hunt's deposition, or that the Coroner would do him the kindness of repairing to the prison, and reading over the notes of Hunt's examination.

Although upon the subject of his imputed guilt in the late

Behaviour of the Prisoners previous to the Trial.

horrid murder, he continues incommunicative, he is yet loquacious upon all the other events of his life, and eager to disclose the source of his misfortunes, and pernicious character of his associates. The dreadful spirit of gaming he avows, and names the associates with whom he practised it, as well as the schemes and frauds with which they conducted their machinations—always with the too common but intolerable delusion of trying to disconnect himself personally from the atrocious acts of their fellowship, willing, naturally enough, though contrary to the apparent stamp of his character, to be considered more the dupe of their practices, than the participator of their designs and profits; he is disposed to be very communicative upon such topics, and perhaps his information may not be unworthy the serious consideration of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from the singular facts or statements which he makes, always saving as it were his own distance, by imputing them to others: one of them is, that a person whose hieroglyphic is described as being X, assured him he paid £1,000. a year to certain parts of the police, for a species of general connivance, or early communication of intended attacks.

It is one of the lights which the manner of the respective parties has shed upon this mysterious and horrible case, that Thurtell manifests no personal anxiety about any thing in which Hunt is concerned, except his deposition before the Coroner; while, on the other hand, he speaks with feeling regard of Probart's unhappy condition, and describing him as a most good-natured and friendly fellow; but without an atom of firmness or mental character, utterly unable to meet any difficulty, and calculated to sink under the embarrassment of any violent emergency. Such, in point of fact, whether guilty or innocent, appears to be Probart's situation.

Each successive day his mind appears to lose a proportion of its ease and vigour.

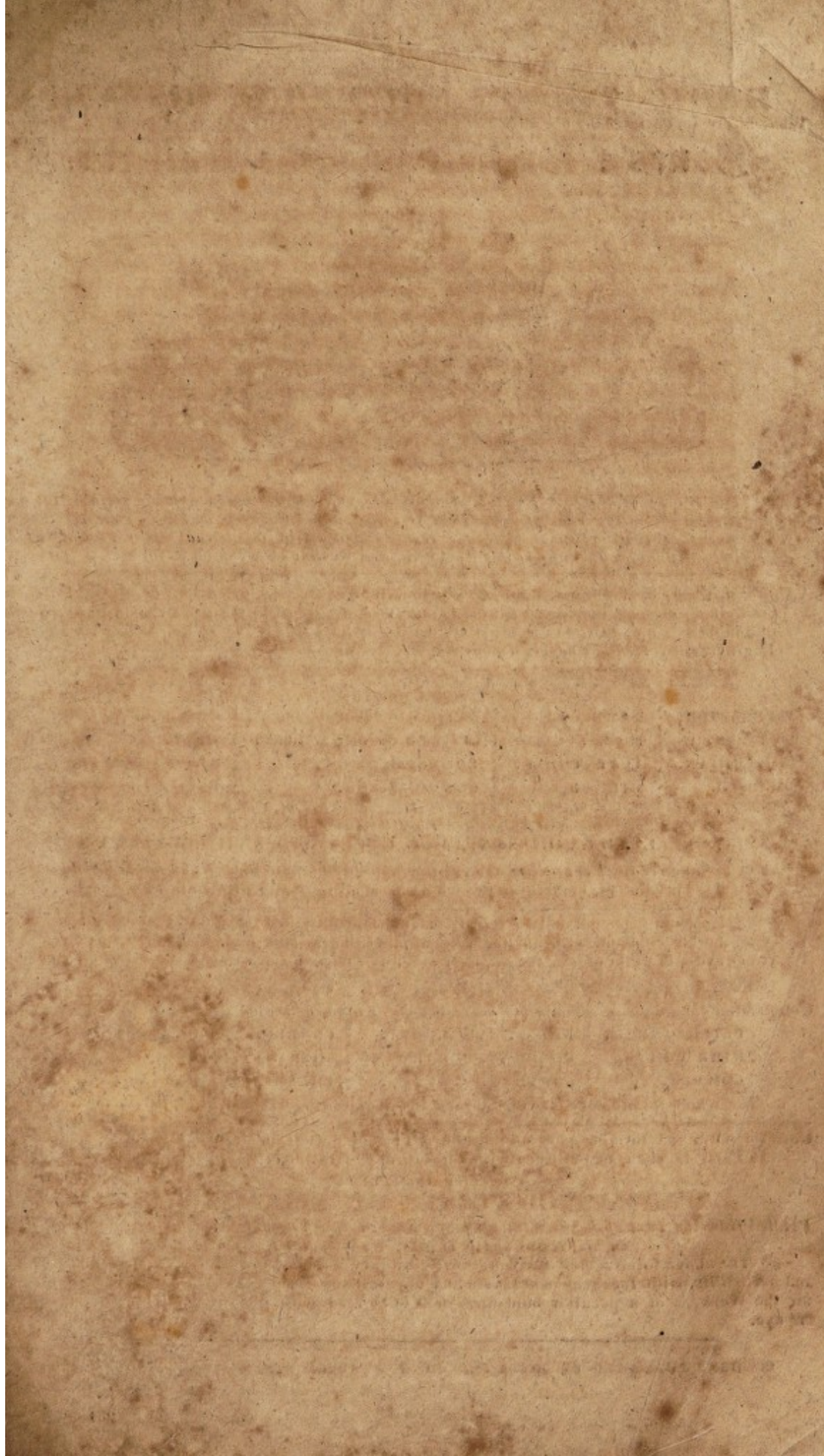
Both Probart and Thurtell express much anxiety to see the newspapers, but this is for the present denied them. The latter and Hunt have each something less than five pounds in their possession; Probart is without a shilling to buy himself a dinner; and Thurtell, learning this, on inquiry, expressed his willingness to pay his expences as long as he had money, adding, that he would not advance a farthing for Hunt, if he were starving. Hunt writes to his mother for money, and, in his letter, calls God to bear witness to his innocence. He complains much of his quondam friends, who, on being applied to for assistance since he has been in Hertford gaol, have expressed their anger at his taking so great a liberty.—Thurtell,

Occurrences previous to the Commencement of the Trial.

in his epistolatory communications, desires to see various persons, as he states, on business ; and both this prisoner and Probart uniformly caution their correspondents that all letters addressed to them will first be read by the Governor of the gaol. It is remarkable that, notwithstanding the many letters dispatched by the prisoners to various relations, not a single individual has yet made application for a personal interview with any one of them. Thurtell, after his arrival at Hertford, wrote a letter to a person with whom he had lodged, giving directions for some of his linen to be sent him, and further desiring, that particular care might be taken of his *air gun*, as he should want it *when the time comes*—One of the sisters of Hunt was married to Captain O'Reilly, of the Austrian service, who died about eight months since. At the suggestion of Mr. Wilson, the Governor of Hertford gaol, Hunt is now allowing his whiskers to grow. This may be important, as it relates to personal identity.

There are some circumstances connected with the prosecution of these prisoners which are not unworthy of notice. Thurtell manifested great satisfaction upon hearing that Mr. Noel was to conduct the case against him, too frankly giving at the same time his reasons for the preference. The Hertfordshire Magistrates have very properly, under all the circumstances which have transpired, or been insinuated, determined that Mr. Noel shall not conduct the prosecution. We hope that the sense of calm and deliberate justice, in balancing the scale between the public and the accused, which prompted such a determination, will make them pause before they *hastily* commit the conduct of such a cause to any individual, however respectable. To Mr. Noel, it has since been stated, there are decided objections. *The Times* says that he himself was last year brought up to Bow-street, with about twenty other persons, who were taken at night in a common gambling-house near Pall-Mall ; and it is not a little singular that on the examination, Weare was present, though merely as a spectator.

No unnecessary severity is practised upon the prisoners ; they are safely, but not closely confined ; they are fairly and properly allowed that self-possession, free from intrusion or affected by severity, which their own case at the present moment requires. The Magistrates occasionally visit them ; the Chaplain daily—not intruding into the judicial topics which are the peculiar province of the former, but assiduous and ready to offer the consolations of his office, whenever the parties or any of them, shall voluntarily call for their application. Some persons the other day, upon looking with a too eager inquisitiveness into



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