

STORIES OF CRIME.

Remarkable Occurrences in Court and at the Time of Execution.

Wonderful Things Which Are Said to Have Happened During the Investigation of Noted Trials.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Law reports of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries contain numerous references to supernatural occurrences in the court and on the scaffold. One of the most remarkable records of this kind is connected with a murder trial which took place in England early in the reign of the first Charles.

The murderer was tracked and caught and Rogers was the principal witness. His recital of his dream was so vivid that the prisoner at once confessed, adding that he killed his companion exactly as foretold in the dream. The weapon used was a knife, and as eight stabs were seen by Rogers in his vision, so the murderer admitted that he drove his knife up to the handle in his companion's body exactly that number of times.

A remarkable interposition of Providence is on record in Paris. In 1776 a young peasant girl went to Paris, and was hired as a domestic servant by a man whose reputation was excellent, but who was a hypocrite and a libertine. He made improper proposals to the young girl who refused to understand his meaning or give him any encouragement.

Naturally enough such remarkable evidence as this was received with some suspicion by the court, although the witness, to again quote Sir John Maynard, "was a reverend person, about 70 years of age, as could be guessed. His testimony was delivered gravely and temperately, but to the great admiration of the auditory."

Of much more recent date was the record of the "Red Barn Murder," remarkable for the fact that the murder was discovered through the means of information imparted in a dream. The victim of the murder was a rustic beauty named Maria Marten, who was a source of perpetual jealousy among the young men in a village near the English east coast.

He then disappeared, returning after a few days and explaining to the mole-catcher that the marriage had taken place and that his bride was in lodgings at Ipswich. Months passed away, the barn under which the body lay was filled with grain, yet no tidings came from Maria. Young Corden, however, explained that she had hurt her right hand, and could not write. He subsequently left the neighborhood. One night Mrs. Marten dreamed that her daughter had been murdered by Corden, and that the body was interred under the barn.

The dream was repeated so frequently that she repeated it to the mole-catcher, who, after many refusals and much ridicule, finally went to the barn, got the grain removed, and commenced to dig at the spot indicated in the dream. The body was immediately discovered and identified. Suspicion, of course, pointed to Corden, who was traced to London, where he had married a schoolmistress, and was living on her earnings. He was arrested, convicted and executed. It is remarkable proof of the truth of this story that Mrs. Marten applied to a justice of the peace for a warrant against Corden three months before she converted her skeptical husband to a belief in her dream.

In 1751 an Irish murderer was convicted largely upon dream evidence. A Waterford publican named Rogers dreamed one night that he saw a man murder another man on a green spot on the summit of an

adjoining mountain. He was able next day to describe both men with perfect accuracy, and did so to many of his friends. One of the men was exceptionally strong, the other weak and puny, but it was the latter who, in the vision, committed the murder. Rogers persuaded the parish priest to accompany him to the spot, which he found without difficulty, but where there seemed to be no traces of murder or struggle. Hence Rogers got laughed at. Next day, however, two men entered the saloon, and Mrs. Rogers at once recognized them from her husband's description as the heroes in the vision. Much alarmed, she fetched her husband, who was also certain they were the two men. When they rose to leave Rogers begged the one he expected to be murdered to remain, but without avail. He nearly fainted with fright after the men had left, and finally persuaded a neighbor to accompany him to the green spot on the hill, where, sure enough, the tragedy of the dream had taken place in reality.

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The first cut with a knife showed that the girl lived, and she was quickly restored. When she opened her eyes she imagined herself in another world, and it was some time before she could be convinced of her escape. Her description of what she saw during her apparent death was listened to with wonder and amazement by her new found friends. She told of lovely parterres, with beautiful streams flowing through and around them, of flora and fauna of dazzling gorgeousness, of perpetual sunshine and immeasurable happiness. This young girl had lived a prosaic life, was poorly educated and had no imagination at all, if the chronicler is to be credited, and her revelations are the more remarkable in consequence. The scoundrel who compassed her ruin was arrested, but acquitted on technical grounds, but the people "loaded him with well merited reproaches."

He Will Look Further.

There were four or five men in a Grand River avenue butcher shop the other day, says the Detroit Free Press, when a man came in, looked them carefully over, and inquired: "Which of you is named Polonius?" "None of us," answered one. "Sure?" "Of course we are."

"Just my luck. I wanted to lick a man named Polonius. I expected to find him here. I've been to a great deal of trouble chasing around after him, and it seems too bad to get left again."

"Yes it does," replied the biggest one in the lot in a reflective way. "Polonius hasn't any friends here, has he?" "He might have."

"Bully! In that case, one of them might want to take his place, you know?" "Yes, perhaps I might."

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