

COUNCIL, &c.

Two persons charged with drunkenness were fined in the new heavy penalties which the magistrates have agreed to impose in all such cases.

DEPLORABLE ACT OF SUICIDE.

This City was thrown into some excitement this morning on it being rumoured that a shocking act of suicide had been committed by a foreign Captain; and which subsequently turned out to be too true. It appears that about a fortnight since a Dutch schooner arrived in this port with a cargo of bark consigned to Mr. O'Callaghan, the High Sheriff, the vessel being placed under the charge of the firm of Ryan Brother's & Co. The name of the schooner is *De Voorzorg Winscoten*, commanded by Captain Klass Heinrich Huisman, and after she arrived the crew were discharged and paid off. It appears that the commander had been drinking both day and night ever since he came to this port, and between two and three o'clock this morning, while labouring under excitement from drink, he set fire to his bed, and cut his throat in his berth.

On this afternoon an inquest was held by John Gleeson, Esq., coroner, on board the deceased's ship. Sub-Inspector Channer was in attendance, as were also Mr. Ryan, J.P., the Dutch Consul; and Mr. Doyle, solicitor, attended also, having been retained by the Consul to watch the proceedings on behalf of the next of kin of deceased, and the owners of the schooner. A respectable jury having been sworn, they examined the body, after which the following evidence was taken by the coroner:—

Patrick Quinlan, the watchman, was the first witness examined. He stated that he had been employed as watchman on board the vessel for the last 14 nights, and knew the deceased; I was in very good friends with him, and did everything in my power to please him; he told me that he was about 54 or 55 years of age; he said he was married those eight years but had no children; when I came on board at six o'clock to go on watch the deceased was on board, but afterwards left the vessel about seven o'clock having walked about the deck till that hour; he asked me what a clock it was when I told him the hour; and he then said he wanted to go to the Consul's office for two letters that were there belonging to him; I told him I would go for them, and let him remain on board; he replied he would go himself that he wanted to see the man upstairs; he then left the vessel and returned a little after eight o'clock, when he came on board and went down to the cabin; about five or six minutes afterwards he came on deck bareheaded and barefooted, when he told me that he got no letters; he began to talk to himself in his own language, walking up and down the deck; after that he said to me, "there is no one to send me letters, my wife has sent me nothing, my own have sent me nothing, no one give me any news, but every one spake bad of me." Then he went down to the cabin to write having told me so, and he returned on deck in about five or six minutes, and told me he couldn't write; I told him that if he went down and took a sleep that he would be able to write after the sleep, and he replied that that was very good; he then went down to the cabin, but returned on deck in about ten minutes, when he began to question me as to where were his two boats; I told that they were all right and that he would have them alongside of the ship in the morning; he went down again to the cabin where he remained for a few minutes, and returned, when he commenced to walk the deck, I walking it along with him, and keeping him in talk for nearly half an hour; he never went ashore after that but continued walking up and down the deck up to about twelve o'clock, when he went up on the poop, witness watching him all the time, he being still bareheaded and barefooted; it was his habit to run up bareheaded; he looked into the quarter inside and outside, I keeping an eye on him all the time, for fear he would throw himself overboard; I apprehended that from the foolish talk I heard from him during the whole time every night, he talking about his wife, and having laid out £100 on the vessel he could get no account of; he brought on board pieces of old newspapers, which he thought contained matter concerning himself; he made me read one piece of a newspaper to him, which contained an account of the Castleconnell Petty Sessions; I read out the magistrates' names, and when I came to the word Bell, he said that was the woman who wrote the bad letters about him to his wife; I said that was the name of a man, when he replied there was no man of the name, it was a woman; about 2 o'clock we sat down to the gally fire, where he told me he brought £100 with him which he laid out on sails, robes, bread, coffee, beef, paid pilots, &c., and made no entry of the payments on his roll, and that he would not get one shilling from his owner, and asked if that was not too bad; he then returned down to write, and came up, stating he could neither write nor sleep; walked the deck for a few moments till past two o'clock when he went down to the cabin and shortly after he put his head out of the companion, and called me when I answered him; he gave me a piece of pickled salmon

to boil for him, and asked if I had any potatoes when I replied no; he asked me if had any coffee when I said I had a little; he then replied have them ready (the salmon and coffee) at six o'clock this morning; he added that he would take a little of them at six o'clock and go to the consul's; he said he would lay down, and take a little sleep, and I replied, "Well, do, sir, and you will be all right in the morning;" that was the last conversation which I had with him; the next thing I noticed, a few minutes after three o'clock, was a little smoke coming up the companion, when I put over my head and sung out as loud as I could, "There's something wrong, Captain Huisman," and the reply I heard was a groan; I jumped down, and pushed in the cabin door, and went to his sleeping apartment, where I found him in a sitting posture in his bed; I seized him by the head and under the chin, and pulled him out of his berth; there was no light, but having rags about him a considerable amount of smoke, and an awful stench; the hand I put on his throat I felt covered with blood that was quite warm; I turned round again, ran up the companion, and ran on shore, and proceeded to the toll house, where I acquainted the toll man of what occurred, and I went to William-street police barrack to acquaint the police; I told the policeman to bring a candle, which he did, and after we came the police went on board while I went to draw buckets of water out of the river to quench the burning rags in the cabin, the police being unable to withstand the smoke. We hauled up the body with a rope out of the cabin, the deceased being dead, when we returned, and we laid the body on deck. We afterwards quenched the fire. There was not a soul on board the vessel these fourteen nights but the deceased and myself.

Coroner.—Was the Captain under the influence of drink?

Witness.—I know he was never a night sober since he came to the port, and he used to bring the whisky in a bottle in his pocket, which he used to pour into a cup which he drank, and he would not give a sup to anyone else. The vessel would have been destroyed were it not that the police and I put out the fire, for the deceased lay on a cotton bed that would ignite like a match-box. The police who accompanied me were Constable M'Garry, and Sub-Constable Curran.

The evidence of the policeman was next taken who corroborated the watchman, one of whom found

the deceased's throat cut, and a razor covered with blood in his berth.

The jury, without any hesitation, found that the deceased destroyed himself while labouring under *delirium tremens*.

Mr. Ryan received a telegram from deceased's wife stating that she would leave Dublin by the evening train, and hoping that her husband would meet her.