

SHOCKING MURDER

EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR NEAR LIMERICK.

A MYSTERIOUS VISITOR.

TWO MEN'S THROAT'S CUT.

DEATH OF ONE OF THE VICTIMS.

Considerable sensation was aroused in the city yesterday morning, consequent on the report that an extraordinary tragedy had taken place at Kilbane, Newcastle, near the city, during Tuesday night. A very mysterious occurrence it certainly is, but whatever be the origin or cause of it, the sad fact stands out prominently that two men had their throats gashed in a shocking manner, and one of them, apparently soon after, succumbed to the injuries received. The circumstances so far as they can be ascertained are these. Two young men named Michael Clifford, aged about 24, and John O'Sullivan, who seems two years younger, had been engaged as farm servants by Mr. James Nolan, of Kilbane, a well known and extensive agriculturist. They bore the character of highly respectable, sober, and industrious men, and have been for four or five years in his employment. On Tuesday evening, after their day's work, they proceeded into the city and after being absent for an hour and a half returned home in their usual health and spirits. Clifford was a teetotaler, while his comrade is a very temperate man, and they had always been on the most intimate and friendly terms with each other, and both evinced rather a retiring disposition. They came from the same locality, Scartagin, near Castleisland, County Kerry, and they occupied the same room, which is situated over a stable at an angle of out-floors, but is approached by a few stone steps from a passage near the haggart. The door is simply fastened by a bolt which could be undone from the inside or the outside, and this fact must be borne in mind in view of the circumstances which will be later on detailed. They had supper as usual on Tuesday night and then retired to rest, occupying as seemed to be their wont, the one bed, though there are two in the room. They were—the only occupants of the apartment, and during the night nothing was heard by Mr. Nolan or his family who live in the dwelling-house (a little further back at the opposite side) to indicate that anything unusual had occurred. But nevertheless in the darkness of the night or the few hours of the morning, a tragic event happened. The men did not bestir themselves for their day's work at the usual hour, and accordingly a servant girl named Maggie O'Sullivan, who is not a relative of the man of that name, was sent to arouse them. Having got no answer, she reported the matter to her master, Mr. Nolan, who thereupon went up and opened the door, and was horrified to find blood-stains about the bed-clothes. He put certain questions but obtained no answers, and then he went to the police barrack at Kilmurry, and reported the matter to Sergeant Rogan, who with a few constables lost no time in proceeding to the place. They found the men lying on their backs in bed. Poor Clifford, a young man of fine physique, was dead—how long we were unable to ascertain, and Sullivan, though conscious, was very prostrate from loss of blood, which saturated the pillows on which the two men lay. Sullivan recovered consciousness about ten o'clock, and the sergeant asked him what had occurred. He replied that a man had cut his throat, that it was dark at the time, but that he was awakened, no doubt by the pain, and saw the man run out the door. He (Sullivan) said that he knew nothing about Clifford except that he thought he had done something.

morning it was found he had passed away. There seemed to be another man in bed with him the night before and they both slept together. The second man was at present in Barrington's Hospital with his throat cut, and the jury had seen the dead man, and it would be deposed to there that his throat was cut too. How both their throats were cut was a mystery, and they had only to concern themselves at present with the man whose body they had viewed, and to find out how his death was caused. Of course in the evidence, he supposed, the wound sustained by the other man would crop up, and as a matter of collateral evidence they had simply to look into it.

Mr. Hetred said that he would not detain them very long, because he proposed simply to give evidence as to the cause of death and identification of the body. His investigation under the circumstances of the case was necessarily very incomplete at this stage, and he did not think that on the evidence he would be able to produce to them, the jury would be able to come, at any rate to-day, to more than an open verdict that the man's throat was cut by some person unknown, and who that person was he (Mr. Hetred) had not been able to form a satisfactory conclusion up to the present. Of course, where there was an incomplete police investigation it was not for a coroner's jury to speculate who the guilty party might be. Evidence was then gone into.

Mr. James Nolan deposed—I live at Kilbane. I employed the deceased about four or five years ago. He came from the county Kerry, near Castleisland. He was very quiet and unobtrusive; very steady. I never saw the sign of drink on him. He was a man of excellent character. He was a farm labourer. He milked cows morning and evening, and delivered milk. On the 11th they were all making hay, and at 4 o'clock he came to milk his cows, as also did John Sullivan. They went into town about 6.30 with the milk. They returned back about nine, which was an hour later than usual. They came into the kitchen—I heard them coming in. I saw them a few minutes later having their supper; they left the house about a quarter past nine. They were both seemingly sober, and as far as I knew they went out to go to bed to the loft, where they sleep. I did not see them afterwards that night. They were good friends as far as I saw. It was usual for Maggie Sullivan to call them about 5 a.m. I was informed that she went to call them, and I got up some time afterwards—about 5.30—and my sister informed me that they had not got up. I told her to call them again, and my sister told me they did not answer them, and I went to the end steps to call them and got no answer, I then went to the room to the bedside. The place was a bit dark, and I could not distinguish whether they were dead or alive—it did not occur to me. I shook Sullivan, who was on the outside, and got no reply, and I saw Clifford on the inside with no covering on him. Sullivan shook his hand and I said, "what has occurred?" and he said his throat was cut. I asked him who did it or how did it occur, and he said, "A man cut my throat; I saw him going out of the door." I asked him what time it happened, and he said, "I don't know." I asked him what occurred to Clifford, and he said, "I suppose he (meaning the man) cut his throat, too." I threw a quilt on Clifford and I went for the police. I sent for the priest and doctor. I believe that Clifford was dead at the time that I saw him.

Foreman—Had you ever known the men to quarrel?

Witness—No. Clifford's age was 21. I asked Sullivan did they bolt the door last night; he said "yes." I asked how it was open, and he said they did not put the clasp into the staple. The door was not open when I found it; it was half opened.

Coroner—But Maggie Sullivan was there before that?

Witness—No; she said she called them from underneath. The door was about a foot opened when I went up.

Jeremiah Clifford deposed—I live at Carker, near Castleisland. I identify the body as that of my brother, Michael Clifford. His age would be something over 20 years, and he was unmarried. The last time I saw him was on St. Patrick's Day.

The Coroner announced that the post-mortem examination had been held by Dr. McGrath, assisted by Mr. Enright, of Castleconnell. He regretted the absence of Dr. Ryan, of Castle-

CORPORATION

The usual w... Committees w... presiding. The Alderman J... cillors T. Do... Slatery, W. V... Patrick Herle... Mr. DeCour... and Mr. P. ac... Sanitary Offic...

Mr. Whelan at Back-lane, had been rece... remarked the... from Irish ma...

Mr. DeCour... both from Du... the quotation... in price.

Mr. Whelan lings we shou... Mr. D-Cour... 29s per dozen... Mr. Whelan...

solution to ac... and he did no...

The Mayor... could name a... had departed...

Alderman J... Whelan in... difference of... the offer from...

The Mayor... difference bet... commodities... business at th...

It was deci... for acceptance...

Arising out... the Sanitary... Mr. P. acce... Medical Offic...

the ground s... Messrs. Hoof... Mulcahy stat... but in wet w...

surface, cau... surface water... line of pip-g... Mr. O'Brien...

considerable... The Mayor... currying the... Alderman J... about that...

Mr. Donnell... first. No action... SE... The follow...

"J. J. Peac... "Dear Sir... with you end... strongly obj... Borough Cou... northern por... ground that... the place in... which we tal... to such an e... be unfit for... and would ha... I trust, ther... some other c... We labour o... rick, and the... the situation... of suitable w...

Mr. Donnell... tillery p-ople... should not c... Mr. Whelan... tion that th... in the city...

hout their Jerry. Flesh and and the sight of the Law and unconcernedly in the persons and Mr Hussey, D.I., while ence, was in durance vile.

C. men were looking the other into the magistrates' room, magistrate, whose clerk he slightly t, when he was ignominiously powerful arm of the Inspector. red to realise what he had done, ts of two big policemen were power him. Overpowered he another magistrate, and ordered another month, which, how- lf the period to which he might ed. The moral to all men who grievance, but haven't patience gated properly without losing their heads, is—Don't.

of Dr O'Neill the cases of typhoid occurred in the District Lunatic to bad sewerage. There have and off" since last June. One ; a shoemaker living near the contracted the disease, and has y. It appears necessary, there- verage should be seen to without pecially when the ravages caused disease—typhoid—in Dublin rebered. The 599 inmates are not er jeopardised, as the Committee now that they know the cause, on to supply the remedy.

Mr. Lynch which appeared in sday is one that ought to receive sideration of those interested in nderland landmarks of the country ies which abound on every hand. Surveyors, especially might read, id inwardly digest Mr. Lynch's t is evident that the assertion that s of Lough Gur have only been e is true, and that mistakes have t ought, now there is an oppor- tified.

dent, occurred on the Ballinacurra esday morning. A lady was out rite dog an airing, and leading the wore a collar, by a cord. The ldenly taken ill, and lay down on ently paralysed. A neighbouring ndly thoughts intent, dashed a r'over it, but the remedy was un- in a few minutes the animal was his the owner removed the collar walked away, leaving the faithful an lying on the roadside. At noon use was still there, poisoning the hose duty it is to see that it is ed is not open to question; but it hat a faithful friend like the dog is its erstwhile owner. "To die the "receives a new signification after his sort.

tic little note from General Baden- ad at the Annual Conference of ondon. Answering an invitation 'owell says:—"I am unable to say I may be otherwise engaged with Mr. Kruger would only accept our come and stay with us for a bit, the e more easily decided." As we all e these things in a "if"