

Msy. March 25

7.

One word more. May I take the liberty of calling your attention to a circumstance which you have, no doubt, considered abundantly, and I did not, therefore, speak of it among the suggestions which I presumed to offer on the 23^d inst. But, it presses so heavily upon my mind, I have concluded to be officiously anxious about it. It relates to the key of the prison, which illustrates Webster's innocence and the Janitor's guilt. Webster, in the honesty of his heart, answered, "there it hangs upon the nail." But the wily Janitor had substituted another for it, both for the purpose of embarrassing his wit, and, especially, to make it appear that there was no key by which he could enter the prison. Why should we have hung a false key there?

Another word. The Janitor, to have exhibited the consistency of innocence, should have opened all Webster's apartments with a skeleton key, & have searched them thoroughly, before he proceeded to the tedious work of repairing the wall, blistering his hands, &c. ~~He should~~

How simple, natural, and affecting was Webster's exclamation on arriving at the jail, - "What will become of my poor wife & children", and, "you tore me from them without giving me a chance of saying good by." It was the impulsive language of the domestic heart, and not of the cold-blooded villain.

We did not charge the Janitor with murder, but simply expressed a most natural suspicion "that the Janitor had placed some remains there to obtain the reward." How natural, I say, for an innocent man entangled as he was.

If the Janitor be guilty, he probably used that hammer for the purpose, as people of his mind and habits are very apt to apply their own acts to the suit as they make the substitutes

Aggravated

Dr. Wm. (Hudson)

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