

THE VERDICT.

We copy the following account of the proceedings upon the rendering of the verdict, from the Atlas of Monday:—

The Jury came in at ten minutes to 11, and the Court immediately followed.

The Attorney General and Mr. Bemis, his associate, and Judge Merrick and Mr. Sobier, counsel for the prisoner, were in their places at their respective tables.

A breathless silence reigned throughout the Court room, which, after a brief space, was broken by Mr. GEORGE C. WILDE, the Clerk of the Court, who, with evident indications of feeling, arose and said:—

"Gentlemen of the Jury, have you agreed upon your verdict?"

The response was generally given by the Jurymen, "We have."

The Clerk then said—"Who shall speak for you, gentlemen?"

The unanimous response of the Jury was—"The Foreman."

The Clerk next called on John W. Webster, the prisoner at the bar, to stand up, and hold up his right hand, which he did—at the same time showing much physical and mental agitation.

The Clerk then said,—*"Foreman, look upon the Prisoner. Prisoner, look upon the Jury."*

Clerk—"What say you, Mr. Foreman, is John W. Webster, the prisoner at the bar, guilty or not guilty?"

A moment of the most awful suspense ensued. The audience with "bated breath," concentrated their gaze on the foreman, who, firmly but solemnly, announced the fatal word—"GUILTY!"—and a sigh of painful relief burst from the heart of every one present.

The prisoner, as the dreadful announcement met his ear, shivered from head to foot. He shut his eyes, and his head sank nervously on his breast. His hands fell with convulsive clutch upon the front of the bar, and he slowly sank back into the chair placed for him—in a condition which, being indescribable, we will not attempt to describe.

The pallor which spread itself over the countenances of the spectators, showed the depth of the sympathy they felt for the unfortunate man. For a few moments nothing occurred to remove the fixed gaze which connected the sufferings that convulsed the prisoner with the sympathies of the beholders. At last, Judge Shaw dismissed the jury, and ordered an adjournment of the Court until Monday at 9 o'clock, when the gallery was ordered to be cleared, and the audience in the area also withdrew.

Judge Merrick then went up to the convicted man, who had remained in a fainting condition, and whispered something in his ear. Whether the words were those of hope or not, the victim of legal retribution became more calm; and when the learned counsel took his passive hand and shook it, as he left the dock, a few tears were seen to trickle down the unfortunate man's cheek, after which he seemed to be more collected.

He took out his handkerchief, and putting it to his eyes, he sat in this manner until Sheriff Eveleth gave the order for his removal.

Among those in Court who seemed more affected by the scene than others, was Littlefield. We noticed him in tears, and remarked that the scene which had just passed was an awful one. He coincided; and added—"If I was conscious of having uttered one single word that I had any doubt about, I would never forgive myself."

At 10 minutes past 11 the Court was cleared, and the crowd around the doors had dispersed to retail the above result of one of the most remarkable trials that ever took place in this or any other country.

We learn that upon Dr. Webster's arrival in the Jail office, from the Court House, his first inquiry was—"Have my things been sent?" (meaning a change of under clothing); to which Mr. Andrews, the Jailer, replied in the affirmative. He was accompanied to his cell by Mr. Andrews, and when within it said—"Well, Mr. Andrews, they have found me guilty, and I must put my trust in God. By the way, am I to have my meals from Parker's, as usual?" Mr. Andrews replied affirmatively. His razors were taken from the cell, and thereupon he said—"There is no need of taking them away. I am too much of a Christian to do that."

His language during the time on Saturday night Mr. Andrews was with him, was very incoherent. He appeared yesterday in much the same condition as he had been for some days previous, and partook of the food prepared for him.

The scene in the jury room is thus described (probably by a member of the Jury,) in the Courier:

The jury, after retiring, passed some forty minutes in breathless silence, scarcely exchanging glances of the eye. The strong, unbroken chain of evidence, together with the powerful argument of the Attorney General, had so fastened the marks of guilt upon the prisoner, that almost the only question for the jury to act upon, was one of formality—to vote upon their verdict.

At half past nine o'clock, the foreman, Mr. Byram, addressed his associates upon their duty, which he stated to be to render a verdict in accordance with law and evidence. There were three questions to be settled, in order to justify the jurors in the rendition of a verdict of guilty, and these were—Was it proved that the fragments of a human body found on Dr. Webster's premises at the Medical College, were the remains of the late Dr. George Parkman? Was it proved that Professor Webster, and he alone, murdered Dr. Parkman? And was the murder the result of deliberation and malice aforethought? On each of these questions, the jury voted by holding up their right hands as follows:—

First question. Has the identity of Dr. Parkman's body been satisfactorily proved? *Yes*—each juror holding up his right hand.

Second question. Did Prof. John White Webster and no one else, murder Dr. George Parkman? *Yes*—each juror again holding his right hand.

Third Question. Was the murder the result of previous preparation, and was it "malice aforethought?" On this interrogatory the jury stood *eleven to one.*

After this vote the jury rose from their table—some walked the room, others looked fixedly upon different objects, and all were in tears and a terrible state of anguish. The dissenting juror was allowed to remain unquestioned for some thirty minutes, while he collected his thoughts and cast the evidence over again in his mind. Finally, he called upon his associates to vote again upon the question, when he held up his hand with the other eleven, and then a unanimous verdict was declared. There was very little discussion in the jury room, and the testimony of those witnesses who swore to having seen the deceased after the time that the murder was stated to have been committed, was well and fully considered, but the jury could not bring themselves to a belief that the witnesses could have been correct.

SENTENCE OF DEATH UPON PROF. WEBSTER.

The Court Room was crowded at an early hour Monday morning, to witness the last act of the Court,