

THE PARKMAN MURDER—CORRECTION OF MISTATEMENTS, &c.

[From the Boston Herald.]

It will be remembered that during the excitement attended upon the arrest of Professor Webster, and the subsequent examination of his private desks at his residence in Cambridge, it was stated that two notes in Dr. Parkman's handwriting had been discovered: One of these notes was for \$2,400, and it is said bore on its back endorsements sufficient to cover its face. The other was a note for \$487, which the Professor alleged to have paid the Doctor, and took the note itself instead of a written receipt in acknowledgement that the obligation was cancelled.

When the discovery of these notes was first made public, it was thought by some that they formed another link in the fearful chain of evidence which encompassed the Professor. But upon calm consideration this supposition was repudiated by many, ourselves among the number, and the whole transaction finally resulted in the conviction that these notes, instead of tending further to criminate the Professor, would naturally serve to exonerate him in a measure from the charge of having committed the deed, if he did at all, from pecuniary considerations. The notes had evidently been cancelled, and who was the rightful possessor of them except Mr. Webster?

We have just learned from a source on which we place implicit credence, that all the circumstances attending the discovery of these notes have not yet been made public; and that their true history involves the whole dreadful affair in a deeper shade of mystery. It seems that when the officers visited the house of Prof. Webster for the purpose of examining his papers, a certain desk was thoroughly overhauled—every paper was spread open, and minutely scrutinized by a gentleman perfectly familiar with Dr. Parkman's handwriting; yet not a word was discovered that bore any resemblance to the Doctor's manuscript. They then relinquished the search, and came to the conclusion that if Prof. Webster had any papers in the handwriting of Dr. Parkman, they were certainly not in that desk. They then left the house, entirely satisfied that it was useless to prosecute their investigation for that species of evidence against the Professor, any further in that direction.

The next day they again visited the house on a similar errand, and after examining other receptacles for papers and letters, without any successful result, the gentleman who was expected to recognize the handwriting of the Doctor, suggested the propriety of again examining the desk which had been inspected the day previously. Although considered by the others a futile undertaking, yet they consented—the desk was reopened, and there conspicuous among all the other papers, were the two notes above mentioned, in the unmistakable handwriting of Dr. Parkman! How they came there, no one has explained; and the more we reflect on the subject, the less can we repress the most painful surmises. They must have been placed there by some person who presumed that that desk, having been once so completely examined, would not be looked into again.

If these notes did not come rightfully into the possession of Prof. Webster, it seems wonderful that he did not destroy them, and thus have obliterated forever a very important description of evidence against him. But in this, as well as in many other remarkable circumstances attending the entire affair, the imagination is at fault in attempting to account for its occurrence. When the veil shall be lifted, the developments must be stunning and overwhelming.

A statement has been made in some of the public prints, to the effect that Mrs. Parkman the wife of the lamented Doctor, had occasionally visited the family of the Professor since his incarceration; and that that unfortunate lady was still on friendly and intimate terms with Mr. Webster. How far the existence of friendly feelings may be concerned, we know not; but we have authority for stating positively that Mrs. Parkman has not visited Professor Webster's family since the dreadful event, but has kept herself confined

to her own residence, and has not even visited the members of her own stricken family.

Mrs. Parkman, we also learn, will not be called upon to testify in the case. The evidence relative to the private marks about the person of the Doctor, by which his body was identified in its mangled state, can be satisfactorily given by the physician of the family, and thus Mrs. P. will be freed from the agonizing position to which she would be subject, if she gave her evidence before the gaze of the public.

From the Manchester Messenger.

LETTER FROM PROF. WEBSTER'S DAUGHTER.

The following communication from a daughter of Prof. Webster, in reply to a letter addressed her, has been handed us by the gentleman to whom it was directed with a request for its publication. Without comment we lay it before our readers.

Cambridge, April 8th, 1850.

Daniel Marsh, Esq.—Sir:—I this morning received the very kind letter you addressed to me, and which I hasten to answer to thank you in the name of my mother, my sisters, and myself, for the true sentiments you entertain respecting my beloved father. You believe him innocent, and you believe what is true; he is the victim of circumstances, a deeply injured man—that he is innocent, we his family know, and nothing on earth will ever take from us this conviction. We have never, from the moment he was snatched from his home, had a shadow of a doubt on our minds, and whatever the world may say or do, we shall ever have that feeling to support us. The knowledge of his innocence supported my father during the hours of suffering in the court room; that it is that gives him and us calmness now, amidst the many sources of sorrow that have overwhelmed us.

Far different from what we anticipated, was the result of the trial, for we had been assured throughout the winter that our father could not but be restored to us, and that at the trial, he must receive justice for the many wrongs that had been heaped upon him. But justice fled from the court room, and prejudice took her place.

Yet hope still lingers with us, for we trust that the public voice will be raised against the gross injustice that has been committed, and will not allow our country to bear such a stigma on her name, such an everlasting stain, as will be that of the sacrifice of one so truly innocent as my father. And if one word from us, sir, can add a feather's weight to the efforts that are being made, oh, may we give you the deep assurance of our hearts, that we feel grateful for the interest that you express and feel, and for what you are doing in our behalf. May God in his infinite mercy, look down upon you, and bless the efforts that are being made, and if it is not his will to bring the truth to light, and to allow this awful mystery to be explained, may he enlighten the minds of those into whose hands the case will pass.

I must again thank you, sir, for the kind feeling you express towards my dear father. Nothing that the world can do now, gives us greater consolation, than the knowledge that others believe him innocent. Sympathy has flowed abundantly from many hearts towards us, his family, but how much more prized by us is that sympathy, when expressed for him. That our beloved father may be restored to us, is the fervent prayer of our hearts, and we wait tremblingly in the hope, that those who are now to decide in this case may see the terrible injustice that has been committed, and has inflicted so much suffering on so many.

Believe me, sir,

Gratefully yours,

HARRIET W. WEBSTER.

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