

Crawfordsville Journal

THURSDAY, : AUG. 4, 1859.

OUR CHICAGO AGENTS.—Messrs. Rivers & Langdon, of Chicago, are unauthorized Agents, for that city. They are authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions, and receipt for the same.

ALL special notices—of any laudable business, &c.—whether written by the editor, from solicitation, or by those wishing such notices inserted, are charged ten cents per line.

Notice to Advertisers.

Hereafter all Legal Advertising will be charged as transient advertising—one dollar a square, (of ten lines,) for the first insertion; and twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion. C. H. BOWEN, JERE. KEDNEY.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.

We are pained this morning at being compelled to chronicle the sudden and unexpected death of two of our citizens—NATHANIEL HAMILTON and JAMES BIRCHFIELD. Mr. Birchfield had been engaged in digging or cleansing and putting in a new wall in the well upon the premises of Mr. Hamilton, for some three or four days, which was more or less troubled with what is called damps; and from which, previous to yesterday at 3 P. M., they had received no serious injury. At this time, immediately after the first rain, they went out to work, Hamilton at the windlass and Birchfield descended the well. He had gone down probably 25 feet, when he was heard to moan, then fall. Upon Mr. Hamilton hearing or seeing the fall, he became terribly excited or agitated, and in opposition to every entreaty from wife and children, caught the rope attached to the windlass in his hands and thus descended, with a determination to rescue his friend. His feet were heard to strike the bucket, which was probably at half the depth of the well, then the cry to his sons at the windlass, to "save him," or "draw," then tottering, he fell some twenty-four feet to the bottom, a lifeless corpse. Thus hurriedly, unexpectedly, without a moment's warning, were the souls of these two men launched into endless eternity. Hundreds of our citizens upon hearing of the accident, immediately repaired to the spot, and after diligently laboring and devising for three hours, for extinguishing, or driving out the poison, succeeded in rescuing their lifeless bodies from their awful situation.

THE OWEN TRIAL.

The trial of Jonathan S. Owen for the murder of his wife, closed on Saturday last, at 11 o'clock, P. M. The Jury was out only about three hours, and returned with a verdict of acquittal; and the prisoner set at liberty. The testimony is concluded in to-day's issue. On the first count the Jury stood, seven for conviction, and five for acquittal. We have been favored with a lengthy review of this trial, containing many facts, to the point, which will probably find place in our columns next week.

JUDGE LYNCH.

There was a formidable demonstration against Owen at Crawfordsville, on Sunday morning. A large crowd assembled at the house where he was staying, with the avowed intention of taking him out and hanging him to the first tree. Messrs. Vorhees and McDonald addressed the excited multitude and finally succeeded in dispersing them.—*La Follette Courier*.

—You are laboring under a most wonderful mistake, Mr. Courier. The speech made by these gentlemen, to disperse a mob in Crawfordsville, had they been reported for your columns, would not have occupied half the space your notice did. No, no, its all stuff. Owen was upon our streets on Sunday forenoon, and we understand, when he got ready to return to the house where he had been staying, that a few boys of our town—who are in favor of every man having justice—accompanied him—that's all. You were right, however, in saying that the lawyers had administered on Owen's estate. All they need now, to clean the thing up, is a foreclosure of mortgage. They always arrange matters so they can save themselves, if they lose their *innocent* clients.

THE RAIN.—We were blest with a heavy rain on yesterday afternoon and last night. The first rain we have had sufficiently heavy to reach the roots of vegetation for two months; and which we trust will in a great measure revive the drooping, failing crops of our county. The corn, in many fields, we understand, is too far gone to ever be redeemed; or made to yield more than a half crop.

CRAWFORDSVILLE SEMINARY.—The special attention of the reader is directed to the advertisement of this Seminary, to be found in another column of to-day's paper.

WAVELAND ACADEMY.—Read the advertisement of this popular male and female Academy. This is one of the oldest and most prominent institutions in our county; and is located in a section of country unsurpassed in the State for health and morality.

FARM FOR SALE.—A valuable farm is offered for sale through the columns of the Journal this week by James Heaton, Esq., Real Estate Agent. Read advertisement.

Central Committee.

The Republican Central Committee are requested to meet in Crawfordsville, on Saturday, the 13th inst. All the members of said Committee are requested to be present, as business of importance is to be transacted.

E. H. FLY, Chairman.

MONTGOMERY CIRCUIT COURT.

TRIAL OF JONATHAN S. OWEN FOR MURDER.

[CONCLUDED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

their sister do it, and she would drive them from home; this is my opinion, I saw it.

Q.—Where was her husband when these things took place?

A.—He was at home on the farm.

Q.—What did he say and do when she acted so?

A.—I never heard him open his mouth, I give it as my opinion that he took it rather than have any difficulty with his wife.

Q.—What lead you to ask Mrs. Owen when she was afraid her head would kill her?

A.—Because it looked badly.

Q.—How long was this after she was hurt, and where was she at the time?

A.—Four or five weeks afterwards, and she was here at the time.

Q.—Was she ever confined to her bed with the wound on her head?

A.—She was confined for two or three days at first.

Q.—Did her husband bring a physician to wait on her?

A.—Yes, sir, the next day after she was hurt, her husband came here and got Dr. English to go and treat her.

Q.—Do you know what time in the night she died?

A.—I do not.

Q.—What relation are you to Mrs. Huffman that you say was about the house of Jonathan S. Owen?

A.—I am a sister of hers.

Q.—Examined by defendant's counsel.

Q.—What was Mrs. Huffman's occupation?

A.—She was a seamstress; she did all of Owen's sewing; was there two months and a half, off and on; she and her husband was parted; he was a drunkard and drove her from home last December one year ago. She sewed for several of the neighbors.

Q.—What account did Mrs. Owen (deceased) give of how she got the hurt on her head?

(Question objected to.)

A.—She said that she went out with her husband to eat wood, that her attention was called to her child, and as she turned to address it she received a lict on the head, that the axe either slipped from her husband's hands or flew off the handle; she never intimated to me that the lict was made on purpose; said she did not know anything until after she was taken in the house.

MATILDA X OWEN
mark.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 20th day of July, 1859.

ALFRED ROSE, J. P.

The certificate of the Justice is hereby waived. The deposition was by consent written by M. D. White, Esq., and to be read in evidence. All informality in the caption is waived. S. C. WILLSON.

Attorney for Defendant.

M. D. WHITE,
Attorney for Plaintiff.

BENJAMIN CLARK called.—I reside in the south east part of Montgomery county—have lived there about seven years—I am acquainted with the general reputation of Wm. Harris for morals—it is bad—I know his general reputation, for truth and veracity; he has always been known him seven years—he has always appeared to me to treat his wife kindly.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—All my knowledge of his treatment is what I obtained by occasional visits—then I thought he was kinder than any man ever saw, or unusually kind—he is kind to his neighbors.

EDWARD CLARK called.—I am 26 years old, living when I lived on his farm last winter.

WILLIAM YOUNG called.—I live in Clark township, Montgomery county—have lived there four or five years—have been there about five years—am acquainted with his general moral character; it is bad; I know his general reputation for truth and veracity, it is bad; I never saw defendant treat his wife; have been at his house often.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—Defendant's wife was not living when I lived on his farm last winter.

WILLIAM YOUNG called.—I live in Clark township, Montgomery county—have lived there four or five years—have been there about five years—am acquainted with his general moral character; it is bad; I know his general reputation for truth and veracity, it is bad; I never saw defendant treat his wife; have been at his house often.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—I know defendant's wife was not living when I lived at defendant's at two different times; I know Wm. Harris before he went to Iowa and after he came back.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—There was no difficulty between defendant and his wife while I was there; was there any little difficulty between Mrs. Owen and Jonathan S. Owen? I know he was a doctor two years ago that I lived at defendant's at two different times; I did not see Maudie Karpel at defendant's while I lived there; The difficulty was that we started out to work one morning, she told Jonathan to go, he said he would go when he got ready; she began on with a broom and then told me she did not know whether he took her or not; John E. Clark.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—I reside in Clark township, Montgomery county, live there nine years; know Wm. Harris, an acquaintance with his general moral character, it is bad—he is the only man who gives him a very good name for truth and veracity.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—I have never heard any one in particular speak against his truth and veracity; I cannot mention any person in particular as speaking against his moral character.

H. W. HAWLEY called.—Reside at North Salem, have lived there 12 years; am a blacksmith and a little acquainted with John Craig, know him 14 years; his general moral character is a little below par; I am only partially acquainted with his reputation for truth and veracity; it is bad; his reputation for truth and veracity is bad.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—I have no knowledge of his treatment of his wife except what I got from occasional visits or meeting him and his wife in company.

ISAAC CARMAN called.—I reside in Clark township, Montgomery county—lived there since the fall of 1854—I practice medicine occasionally—I have known Wm. Harris since infancy; except I have not seen him since he was born; his general moral character is bad; his general reputation for truth and veracity is bad.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—I have no knowledge of his treatment of his wife except what I got from occasional visits or meeting him and his wife in company.

JAMES MCFARLEY called.—I am 50 years old, live in Clark township, Montgomery county, live there 24 years—I know Wm. Harris—acquired him with his general moral character, it is tolerable but not good; he has been a drunkard; he has been a defendant for near 24 years, have been a defendant for near 24 years, have been a defendant frequently, have only been there on public days, log-rolling, house-raisings, &c. I never saw any mistreatment of his wife by defendant—I have seen him and his wife out a visiting.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—All my knowledge of his treatment of his wife was obtained by seeing them together, in public days and visiting among the neighbors.

JAMES CARMAN called.—Live in Clark township, Montgomery county—lived there twenty years—know Wm. Harris, his moral character is not very good—the neighbors think he is pretty full of wind or rather windy. I know defendant, lives within three quarters of a mile, a frequent visitor there—know him well—had him at my house—I never saw him and his wife out a visiting.

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CROSS-EXAMINED.—In one case at Wesley Chapel, a defendant was trying to get to Mrs. Huffman that she might marry him. He asked her when I did not think him in any way called upon to do so—this was some time before the death of defendant's wife—I don't know how long—I think they went from church towards Mrs. Clark's—*I think he was on horseback*.

JACOB PROKLETT called.—Reside in Clark township, Montgomery county. I know Wm. Harris—his general moral character is not very good—his general reputation for truth and veracity is not good. Have known defendant 3 or 4 years—never saw him mistreat his wife—they have been at our house and I and my wife have been at his house.

CROSS-EXAMINED.—I never heard him open his mouth, I give it as my opinion that he took it rather than have any difficulty with his wife.

WILLIAM K. MORRIS called.—Reside in Montgomery county. I know Wm. Harris—his moral character is bad—his general reputation for truth and veracity is not good.

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