

## DIABOLICAL MURDER and ROBBERY.

On Thursday se'night, one of the most horrid murders ever perpetrated was committed, on Mr. John Thomas Taylor, a young gentleman about 20 years of age, a surgeon by profession, of a very respectable family, who left his home, No. 74, Goswell-street, to see some friends at Southgate. In consequence of his not returning home at night, according to his usual custom, his friends were very uneasy, and sat up till late on Friday morning. On his still failing to return, his friends became very much distressed. They waited in anxious suspense during the whole of Friday, and their fears increased. Early on Saturday morning several of the deceased's friends set off to Southgate; on their arrival there they learned that the deceased had been there at the house of an acquaintance named Pearce, and left about 7 o'clock on Thursday night; he travelled on foot through Hornsey-wood; before he left Southgate, he informed Mrs. Pearce that he had to meet a particular friend at the Jolly Butchers, at Wood-green, in the parish of Tottenham, which house was on his way home; his friends hastened to that place, and upon inquiry, found that the deceased was there on Thursday night; he sat in the bar with Mrs. Wilson, the landlady, and took tea with her, and expressed his disappointment at his friend not coming according to his promise. He left the Jolly Butchers a little after ten at night. His friends made inquiries at every house on the road, but could learn no tidings of the deceased. On their arrival upon the Iron Bridge of the New River, they observed the marks of some footsteps which were very deeply impressed in the ground, and there were appearances of persons having struggled near the edge of the river. Upon further inquiry, they learned that the house of a gentleman near the wood was attacked by three men on the Thursday night, but the family fortunately being up, they foiled them in their attempts and pursued them; it is supposed the robbers took refuge in the wood. On Thursday night, a short time after the deceased left the Jolly Butchers, a person who resides in the neighbourhood heard cries of murder, the sound of which appeared to proceed from near the Iron Bridge over the New River. Inquiries were made at the Queen's Head and the Half-moon public-houses in the neighbourhood, but nothing could be learned of him there. Drags were procured and the river drawn, and after some time the body was discovered on Sunday morning in such a situation as left no doubt upon the minds of every one present that he had been robbed and strangled, and then thrown into the river. He had been robbed of his watch and money. The position of his body was such, that it was evident he had made great resistance; he had grasped at the grass on the riverside; it was evident, his hands being clenched, and grass inside of them. The body was removed to the Wood-house, at Hornsey. Upon further examination it appeared that his small-cloths were torn, and an umbrella, which the deceased had on Thursday night, was found near the iron bridge; it had been recently torn. Information of this horrid act was given at the different Police Offices, and to the Coroner for Middlesex, who immediately issued his precepts for holding an Inquisition on the deceased.

It is supposed that the villains who committed this sanguinary deed were the gang who attacked the house of the gentleman near Hornsey, as before stated, they having retreated into the wood at Hornsey, through which the deceased passed a short time afterwards. The atrocious monsters who perpetrated this horrid crime we are in hopes will be brought to justice immediately, their faces having been seen sufficiently to be identified by the servants of the gentleman whose house they attempted to rob. A more daring attack was scarcely ever made than by these wretches upon the property of this gentleman; they first tried both of the back windows of the lower part of the house; they then got upon the house, and endeavoured to enter through the attic windows; they were discovered by the servants, who made an alarm; through their cries, the villains were afraid to persevere, and ran off into Hornsey-wood.

The deceased was a gentleman highly respected; he was about to be admitted a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

An Inquisition was taken on Tuesday last, before Thomas Stirling, Esq., Coroner, at the Hornsey Wood-house, on the body of John Thomas Taylor, a medical gentleman, who was stopped on Thursday se'night, on the iron bridge of the New-River, by some villains, and basely robbed, murdered, and thrown into the river.

The Jury being empanelled and sworn, took a view of the body of the deceased; there appeared violent marks of strangulation about his neck; a knife was in his waistcoat pocket, and a gold ring upon his finger, which the diabolical villains who murdered him, in their hurry, did not take from him. The following evidence was afterwards taken:—

Mr. Thomas Thorpe, of Red Lion-street, Clerkewell, deposed as follows:—I was a particular friend of the deceased; he was at my house on Tuesday last; he was then in good health and spirits. On the following Thursday I was at his house, and he was then from home; his brother called on the following morning (Friday) upon me, and inquired if I had seen, or had any knowledge of where his brother (the deceased) might be found, as he had not been home since the preceding morning. I informed him that I had not seen him since he called upon me on Tuesday. The deceased's brother went from my house to Mr. Norcutt, of Gray's-inn, and there learned nothing at all satisfactory as to his brother's absence; he afterwards went, with Mr. Norcutt, to Guy's and St.

Thomas's Hospitals, to make inquiries there after the deceased, and was informed that he had not been there since he was at the lectures on Wednesday. The witness then related his calling on Mrs. Pearce, and on the landlady of The Jolly Butchers, who gave him such information as induced him to pursue his inquiries towards Hornsey. He then proceeded:—

The first information we gained was, that cries of murder had been heard near West-green on Thursday night, and we were told if we would go to the Black Boy we might obtain more particulars upon the subject. We proceeded there, and found that there had been an alarm in consequence of the cries of murder about ten o'clock on Thursday evening; and that three men had entered into a house, with intention to rob it, but the family not being in bed, gave an alarm, and the robbers decamped. We then returned towards the Tile-kilns in the Green-lanes, crossed a field, and made for the wood; we traced some footsteps at the foot of the bridge, for an hundred yards, which the brother of the deceased said were much like his brother's whom we were in search of; at the centre of the bridge we lost the trace of the footsteps, and we suspected that he had been murdered there, and thrown into the river. Mr. Taylor's suspicions were considerably excited by the marks of the boots being straight, and not right and left, as are more usually worn, because his unfortunate brother had on when he left his home, boots of that description. We then inquired at the Hornsey-wood-house, and at the Sluice-house, if they had any drags, or if they had dragged the river recently. They informed us they had no drags, nor had the river been dragged for a considerable time. We made several inquiries, and were informed that a hat had been found at the Sluice. And my friends requested it might be shown to us; and the man asked us what was the name of the maker? We replied, "Wilson and Waugh." He answered, that is the name in the hat, and he immediately produced it, and we found it to be the hat of the deceased, Mr. John T. Taylor. We immediately sent to the Half Moon for the drags, and employed persons to drag the river. They continued dragging from Saturday until Sunday morning. I went on Sunday morning with my friends again to the New River; six of my men were dragging, and an alarm was made that the body was found. I alighted from my chaise and saw the body brought up; it was perfectly dead, and appeared to have been in the water several days. The flap of the small-clothes was unbuttoned; the watch which the deceased always carried about him was not in his fob; and there was no money about the person of the deceased, and he never went out without taking money with him; his pockets were turned out; and there were every appearance of strangulation; and a black mark on the side of the neck. I know the deceased had a watch with gold chain and seals when he left home; he was a very high spirited young man, and from what I know of him, he would not tamely submit to be robbed; he had a practice of twisting his watch pocket after he put his watch in it, and I have frequently heard him say, that he would defy any thief to rob him, for if they took his watch, they must also take his pocket. I am of opinion that the villains who murdered the deceased, unbuttoned the flap of his small-clothes for the purpose of untwisting the fob pocket and taking the watch. In his pockets remained the following trifles:—A watch-key, Akenside's poetical works, pair of gloves, silk handkerchief, penknife, a stick of black sealing-wax. The body was carried to Hornsey-wood House. An umbrella which the deceased had with him on Thursday night was found on the iron bridge, which was torn recently, from its appearance. From the deep marks on the bank where the body was found, I am convinced that he made great resistance; some of the heel-marks are several inches in depth in the ground.

Mr. Norcutt, of Gray's-inn, being sworn.—I lent the deceased an umbrella when he was at my house, and the one found upon the iron bridge of the New River is the same I lent him; it was not torn when I lent it to him; the rent in it appears to have been newly made, and in my opinion was done in the struggle with the persons who attacked him. The hat produced I am sure is the deceased's, and must have floated down the river to the grate at the Sluice-house. I made particular inquiries at West-green, at the Black-Boy, and learned that a gentleman's house was robbed on Thursday night about the time the deceased left the Jolly Butchers; and I have no doubt, from the direction which the thieves took, and the road the deceased went, that the thieves went across the fields, and met with the deceased on the bridge opposite the tile-kilns.

Mrs. Sarah Wilson sworn.—I keep the Jolly Butchers, at Wood-green, Tottenham-parish. I knew the deceased before he came to my house on last Thursday evening; it was between six and seven o'clock when he entered my house; I invited him into the bar, as he was acquainted with my son, when he went to school. I asked him to tea, and he consented, and sat in the bar until between 10 and 11 o'clock at night; he had three small glasses of brandy and water; he did not drink half the liquor himself, I and my son drank with him; there were no strangers in the house all the evening. The deceased had a watch in his pocket and some money; he paid me 1s. for the liquor and tea &c.; it was a hunting watch with yellow chain and seals, which I supposed to be gold; and I advised him to hide them under his clothes, as they might attract the attention of ill-disposed persons whom he might meet, and he would be robbed, and I saw him put them under the bottom of his waistcoat. When the deceased first came into the bar he inquired if a gentleman had been there waiting for him; when he set off from our house it was a fine moonlight night. The bridge near which the deceased

was found was the near est way I know; he bade me good night, and was in excellent spirits when he parted.

John Wilson, a youth, about six years of age, sworn.—I am the son of last witness; I went to school with the deceased; he called at my mother's house on Tuesday evening, and said that he had been on a visit to Mr. Pearce, of Southgate, as he was going to write to a College at Cambridge to Mr. Pearce's son, and wished to know if he had any thing to communicate to him. The deceased said that he had promised to meet a gentleman at our house, on his return from Mr. Pearce's, and he expressed surprise at his not having kept his promise.

Mr. Thomas Evans, 24, Old-street, surgeon, stated.—I knew the deceased about five or six years; we were fellow pupils at the Fitzbury Dispensary; I have not seen him for near a fortnight, and then he was in good health and spirits, and I am satisfied that he was not under any kind of distress or derangement of mind; nor do I believe that he would have put an end to his existence. I heard that he was missing, and last night that his body was found. I saw the body of the deceased this day, about two o'clock, and in my opinion he was undoubtedly strangled previous to his being thrown into the water. I form that conclusion from various appearances on the body: the mark round the neck is not all I form my opinion from; the tongue is forced through the teeth, there is a mark also under the ear, and the deceased was an excellent swimmer, and had he fallen into the water by accident, he could have saved himself.—The teeth of the deceased were closed, and the tongue was forced, in my opinion, between the teeth by the violence in strangling him.

Mr. Richard Henry Major, sworn.—I never saw the deceased before his death but once, and that was a considerable time ago. I saw the body this day, and my opinion is precisely the same as Mr. Evans's; that he was strangled cannot admit of a doubt, and he must have been nearly dead before he was thrown into the water. I have seen numbers of persons who were strangled, particularly Bellingham, and other notorious murderers, and all had the same appearance of strangulation. I am sure the deceased must have lost all power of defence before he was thrown into the river; he even appears now to retain the posture of self-defence.

The Coroner summed up the evidence, and said that he had hopes, when the investigation commenced, that the death of the unfortunate young gentleman was produced by accident; but after the evidence which had been received, he was sorry to say, that there was proof adduced that the deceased came to his death by the violent hands of murderers. It was clear to him that the deceased was met in the fields by the villains who took away his life, and that he struggled with them until they arrived at the summit of the bridge, where he was robbed and thrown into the water. That his death was caused by the violence of some persons nothing can be more conclusive than the evidence of the surgeons.

The Jury instantly returned the following verdict:—*Wilful Murder* against some person or persons unknown, the deceased having been, in our opinion, strangled, robbed, and then thrown into the New River.

A large reward has been offered for the discovery of the murderers.

The deceased was the son of Mr. Taylor, the surgeon, of Goswell-street. His body was removed on Tuesday in a hearse to his father's house. The premature death of so excellent a young man has produced the greatest affliction to his most respectable relatives and friends.

BRIGHTON, Dec. 15.—The principal officers of the Royal establishment, attached to the Prince Regent, and Noblemen who are present as visitors at the Pavilion, are:—The Marquises of Hertford, Cholmondeley, and Headfort; the Marchionesses of Hertford and Cholmondeley; Earls of Arran and Yarmouth; Viscount Carleton, the Lord Bishop of Exeter, Sir Thomas Liddell, Bart., the Right Hon. Sir Benjamin and Lady Bloomfield, Lieut.-General Sir W. Keppel, Sir Edmund Nagle, Colonels Thornton and Whitley, the Rev. F. C. Blomberg, &c. &c. The Prince Regent resides in seclusion from all additional company, and no invitations have been issued for evening parties, in consequence of the mourning. With the exception of last evening, his Royal Highness dispensed with the attendance of his private band of musicians, and upon that occasion their performances were confined to a selection of sacred music, from the compositions of Haydn, &c. About six o'clock yesterday evening, a person arrived at the Pavilion, with a petition to the Prince Regent, in behalf of *Cashman* and others, who were ordered for execution this morning at the Old Bailey. He returned to town about four hours afterwards.

The new Two Pound Bank-note, which was reported to be of such beautiful engraving and fine texture as to put it out of the power of any person to imitate, has been laid before the Bank Engraver, who has taken so complete a copy, that it was found impossible to discover the difference; consequently this plan has been abandoned by the Directors.—(Sun.)

A circumstance of some interest to the Philanthropist (says a private letter from Paris, dated the 12th inst.) occurred here yesterday. An Englishman lost his pocket-book, containing more than 1,000l. in the Rue de St. Honore. It was picked up by a poor man roasting chestnuts, who took it to the address marked on the cover. The Englishman gave him only five francs; but mark the sequel—he followed the man to his home, ascertained his poverty and good character, and made him a present of 1,000 francs, on one condition—that of his keeping the name of the donor secret.