

LOCAL MATTERS.

SUPREME COURT.

TRIAL OF PROF. JOHN W. WEBSTER.

On the charge of the murder of Dr. George Parkman, at the Medical College, on the 23d of November last.

Present—Chief Justice SHAW; Associate Judges WILDE, DEWEY, and METCALF.
 Counsel for Government—Attorney General J. H. CLIFFORD, and GEORGE BEMIS, Esq.
 For the Defence—Hon. PLINY MERRICK, and E. D. SOHIER, Esq.

The important criminal trial of Prof. Webster was concluded on Saturday night. We last week, presented some of the most material testimony on the part of the government. The case was opened by the Council for the prisoner on Wednesday of last week, and the testimony for the defence was presented. We have not space for it. It was directed first, to the previous character of the prisoner; secondly, to showing that it was not unusual for Prof. Webster to have his doors bolted more or less; thirdly, to his conduct; and where he was in the interval between the disappearance of Dr. Parkman, and the finding of his remains in the Medical College; and fourthly, to showing that Dr. Parkman was seen on Friday, the 23d, the day of his disappearance, at periods after 2 o'clock P. M., in different parts of this city. Some five or six witnesses testified to their having seen him between 2 and 5 o'clock on the afternoon of that day. But the Jury must, of course, have concluded that these witnesses were mistaken, or they could not have returned the verdict they did.

The Council on both sides managed the case with great fidelity and great ability. The case was given to the Jury by the Court on Saturday, between 8 and 9 P. M. The Jury returned their verdict about 11 o'clock. We give the charge of the Court, as well as the solemn sentence in full, together with the remarks of the prisoner before the case was committed to the Jury by the Chief Justice.

DR. WEBSTER'S REMARKS TO THE COURT.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHAW, with emotion which almost choked his utterance, then addressed the prisoner, informing him that, if he had anything to say, in addition to what had been said by his counsel, that might tend to explain or mitigate the evidence given against him, he was at liberty to do so; but at the same time he must inform him that he was at liberty to speak or not, as he might think proper.

Dr. Webster rose, under considerable agitation, and said he was obliged for the opportunity to make a statement. He could not, he said, enter into an explanation of the complicated net work of circumstances that had been thrown around him. It would require many hours to do so, but if liberty were given him, he could account for nine out of ten of the circumstances.

He had put himself into the hands of his counsel, and, under their instruction, he had heretofore sealed his lips. He had put into the hands of his counsel a great deal of evidence, which they had not seen fit to bring forward.

There was one subject that touched him tenderly, and that was his letter to his daughter. He believed that it was not true as had been stated, that that was the first letter he had written to his family after his

arrest. He had previously written them a long letter. And in regard to the passage in that, directing the attention of his wife to a bundle, his explanation was this: Having seen it stated in the papers that he had bought a parcel of oxalic acid, probably for the purpose of removing stains of blood, it immediately occurred to him that his wife had requested him to purchase some oxalic acid—that she had rallied him upon his forgetfulness, and that he had purchased and carried home some of it; and that was the parcel that he had requested his wife to keep unopened. No reference whatever, he said, was made to the notes.

As to the papers, they had been overlooked by the officers in a previous search. Afterwards, they were discovered by Mr. Starkweather, in the same trunk, which they had examined before. They were in no parcel.

As to the conversation with Rev. Francis Parkman, he thought that gentleman had done him injustice in some respects. He (Dr. F. Parkman) had admitted the possibility of an aberration of mind having overtaken his brother; and many other points in the conversation favorable to him, (Dr. W.) the Dr. had left unexplained.

In regard to the nitrate of copper found on the stairs—the fact was, at the lecture before his last he had a duty imposed upon him of showing the nature of acids, and their action on colors. For this he had prepared nitrous oxide gas. In order to do that, small pieces of copper were put into a jar, nitric acid poured upon them, and the fumes conveyed to a receptacle. Blood was changed by it, from a dark green to a bright color.

In regard to his alleged calmness—of which he was not aware,—his counsel had advised him to be calm—he had trusted in his God. But his calmness had been brought against him as evidence of his guilt.

In regard to his being shut up in his laboratory, he had used to allow students access to his laboratory; but they injured his apparatus, and so many accidents occurred that he had been obliged to shut up his laboratory.

On Wednesday, he was at home all the afternoon, and consequently could not have been at the College; and he was not seen by Sanderson on that night, leaving the omnibus.

When he left the College on Friday, he went to Mr. Brigham's and took a chop, and, after remaining there for a time, took the omnibus and went home to Cambridge. On Wednesday he purchased a book, as a present to a young lady of his acquaintance, after which he went to Brigham's to get a cup of tea; and, on leaving there, forgot to take with him the book and a note which he had laid down. They had, subsequently to his arrest, been found at Brigham's by his counsel—but this fact, as well as others, his counsel had not thought proper to bring forward in evidence upon his trial.

[Dr. Webster here sat down, but suddenly rose again, and made another remark.]

He had one more word to say. He had been more distressed by the anonymous letters which had been produced and sworn against him, than by anything else that had occurred. He called his God to witness his solemn declaration that he never wrote either of those letters.

He said that his counsel had received a communication from the author of the letter signed "Civis," avowing the authorship of that letter; and he called on that man, if he was present, and had a spark of humanity in him, to come forward and avow his authorship of the letter. [From the Traveller.]

I was with the call