



While he stood at the door, he saw a pistol fired. They said it was Jacky Blacker. There was a great crowd. He followed them, and saw Blacker loading his pistol from a round paper. Blacker said to people, "Go on, my lads."

Blacker. How many were with me? Witness. Five or six opposite to Jackson's. Blacker. He is right, my Lord, but as to the words, I did not speak any thing.

George Hamilton, a printer, heard loud shouting at a quarter before nine. He saw Blacker with a cartridge in his hand, and pulling the top off to load his pistol. One division marched on; a few stood with Blacker at Jackson's window. In Blacker's division, after a pistol was fired, there was a cry of "Hunt and liberty!" There was a great deal of alarm. When they had formed into a compact body, there might be 200 or 300.

Matthew Hall, apprentice to a scissor-maker, saw a great crowd coming up by the road from the market-place to the barracks. He heard shouting, and saw Blacker loading a pistol. They said they were going to the barracks.

Thomas Johnson, draper, went to the barracks to communicate the proceedings to Colonel Ogilvie, the commanding officer. The barracks were a mile from the town. On returning he saw, about half-way, upwards of 300 persons. He heard, "Be firm, my lads! all in a mind to the barracks." As he passed them, he heard that expression frequently repeated.

Blacker, being asked if he had any questions, said he had only to say that Johnson had prejudiced himself when he had been tried before, and that he now said a word of truth.

Mr. Justice Park made some remarks on charges against witnesses and depositions, and concluded with saying, "Many take oaths when they ought not."

Blacker. Yes, my Lord, or I should not have had two years in this prison before.

William Fox, constable, heard the shouting and the cry of "Hunt and liberty!" He heard them proping the West Bar as the garrison door to the barracks. He heard them say, when dispersing, "Remember the 11th."

John Waterfall, constable, was sent off by Mr. Waterley from Pomfret on the morning of the 12th. He went with several other constables to Blacker's. Blacker was on his board (sailor's). Witness seized a pistol which was placed over Blacker's head; it was loaded with slugs, primed and cocked. A bayonet was found close behind Blacker. A long pole too was found, the end of which was exactly fitted for the bayonet. (All these instruments were produced.)

George Mapples, constable, had found the long pole under the board, and, on searching Prisoner's box, found four cartridges containing slugs.

Thomas Smith, constable, drew the pistol, and took powder and slugs out of it. The Prisoner said it had been loaded with the same sort of stuff the day before.

Joshua Johnson said the Prisoner had expressed himself dissatisfied that the meeting was put off, and said he would have nothing more to do with them. On another occasion he said that he would not scruple to shoot any Magistrate, even Mr. Parker, that attempted to apprehend him.

The Prisoner said nothing for himself, and called no witness. Guilty.

Mr. Raine said, he should not have done his duty if he did not more than the Prisoner's recognizances should be extracted, for he had found sureties for 5 years.

Mr. Justice Park.—Let them be extracted. His Lordship then described the riot proved against the Prisoner as the most dangerous he had ever become acquainted with, either judicially or professionally. The prosecution had been most mild and merciful, for the circumstances might have warranted a different charge. "You appear, Sir, to be a person of the blackest possible heart and disposition. Your sentence is imprisonment for 30 months, and recognizances, yourself in £10, and two sureties in £20 each, for 5 years longer. I hope you will never again set yourself up to be a leader, for which, if it were virtuous, you are not fit."

Messrs. Raine and Littledale were Counsel, and the Crown Solicitor Attorney, for the prosecution.

FRIDAY, JULY 21.

MURDER.

Wm. Oldfield, aged 55, of Bradford, inkkeeper, was charged by the Grand Jury and the Coroner's Inquest with the wilful murder of Mary Oldfield, his wife, on the 27th of June.

Mr. Jones made his election to proceed to trial without State-by's evidence, and opened the case thus to the Jury: The charge, Gentlemen, is wilful murder, and of the wife of the person alleged to have committed the murder. In the outset I implore of you, for the Prisoner, that if any rumors or preliminary inquiries have reached you, to remove their impression, and to try the Prisoner without prejudice or prepossession, but by the evidence, and the evidence alone. The prosecution is by the town of Bradford, and the only object is, that justice should be done.

The Learned Gentleman then proceeded to detail the circumstances of the commission of the crime as borne out by the following evidence:—

William Wheatley. I know the Prisoner. He keeps the Horse and Groom at Bradford. I know Mary Oldfield to be his wife. I, my wife, and children, lodged there. The Prisoner had two

children at home—Richard, 9 years of age, and Anne, 6 years. Robert Graham, a painter, was in the house, and Benjamin, the Prisoner's eldest son, 17 years of age. One staircase rose out of the passage, leading to the bedroom of the Prisoner and his wife, and two other rooms. The other staircase rose out of the kitchen, and by it I went to my bedroom. You can't go to my room from the Prisoner's bedroom without going down the first stairs. I went to bed at half-past nine on the 27th June. The Prisoner was not at home. I left his wife up. Her health was good. Graham went to bed at the same time. He went up the same staircase I slept. A man of the name of Thomas Wheatley came into my room by mistake, wanting some more ale. I afterwards heard the clock strike 2. About twenty minutes before, I heard a faint cry of "murder!" twice. I believe it proceeded from the Prisoner's bedroom. I believe it was Mary Oldfield's voice. I had slept after Wheatley came up, before I heard the cry of murder. He came up about 12. After the cry I heard 2 strike before I slept. I got up at 5 in the morning. The rooms were so near that I could hear a faint cry from one to the other. The reason I took no notice was, that I had seen the Prisoner use his wife ill before. I saw a large quantity of blood at the foot of the kitchen staircase. I looked, and saw Mary Oldfield lying on the kitchen-side of the stair, about two yards from it. The staircase heads; you turn short to the left to go up. The left side of her head lay on the bar of a seat—a chair. I shook her and found her dead. I raised the left hand; it was cold, and fell down stiff. I called my family up, and the painter in the next room. I then went to Oldfield's room; the door was locked; I laid hold of the handle, and said, "For God's sake, Mr. Oldfield, get up, for your wife is lying dead in her blood." He said, "How can I help that, a—d—d infernal bitch!" He did not open the door. I went to Benjamin's room and alarmed him. It appeared to me as if the Prisoner had spoken in bed. I traced blood from the Prisoner's bedroom door down to the kitchen. I traced the foot-mark of blood in Benjamin's room—the impression of a heel and toe. It was a foot going into the room. It was about a yard into the room. It might be a yard from Benjamin's bed, near enough to put any thing into the bed while standing there. The child, Ann, was found in Richard's bed, which was in that room, as well as Benjamin's. The step of blood was near enough to throw the child into the bed. All the doors of the house were fast. The Prisoner came down in five minutes, dressed all but his coat. He came to the body, his hands clasped behind him, and looked at it for a moment. He then walked up and down the kitchen as if nothing was the matter. He ordered two tables to have the body laid on.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hardy. I left the wife at the fire-side. She was rather fresh, but not past her guard. I slept there only the night before. I knew her for five or six years. She was in the habit of taking liquor. I never heard her cry murder before. There was blood near the kitchen staircase than her body. I turned the Prisoner's back, and he answered me immediately. It was after I called him I traced the blood; they were drops; I believe they fell from one walking.

Re-examined by Mr. Jones. She was not past her guard. The Prisoner came down fully dressed but his coat. I found Benjamin, Richard, and the child, all asleep.

John Stidworthy was called on his recognizances (£45), and not appearing, his recognizances were extracted.

John Gibson. I am deputy-constable of Bradford. I was called on between five and six in the morning of the 28th. I found the body of the deceased with her head to the chair. She had been lifted up. There was a considerable quantity of blood. The Prisoner was walking about. He told me that he had been at Halifax fair, and came back about one o'clock in the morning; when he came into the house, he got some beef and beer; he then went up stairs. I went up with him to the bedroom. He said he found his wife on the bed with her clothes on. I had traced drops of blood from the foot of the stair-case to the chamber. At the bed-foot there was blood, and in another part of the chamber. At the bed-foot it appeared mopped up. He told me that when he had got into the room his wife was lying upon her back with her clothes on, with the young child beside her; her eyes were open; he began to shake her to get up; she rose herself up, got to the bed-foot, and then tumbled down on the floor. She then threw to get up again, but could not. He then took her by the shoulder, to assist her; she fell again, either against the wall or the drawers (I don't know which he said); she sweat down stairs, and he saw no more of her.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hardy. He did not say she was drunk; I believe he led me to think she had been in liquor. The blood seemed wiped up with some cloth. Her clothes might have done it, but I can't say.

By the Court. I saw no blood near the wall or the drawers. The second blood was near the bottom at the side of the bed.

Mr. W. Sharp.—I am a surgeon at Bradford. I was called in by the Coroner, to examine the body of Mary Oldfield, on the 29th of June. She was lying on two tables in the back parlour. On the body I observed a variety of bruises; one on the outside of the right thigh; one on the left breast, small; one on the left cheek; one on the left arm, small, below the elbow; one external and one internal wound on another part.

By Mr. Jones. The wound of which he had spoken had broken the skin; it had not been made by a sharp instrument. None of these could have accounted for death. Considerable quantities of blood had escaped from the wound. All the bruises, save that on the right side, might have been occasioned by falls. The wound could not have been occasioned without falling on a stick or post. The same fall could not have occasioned the wound on the left side; a small bruise on the front, but no wound. On the right side, lying immediately on the brain, I found a large quantity of extravasated blood, scraped from the vessels, and pressing on the brain. In my opinion it occasioned death; I have no doubt at all of it. The bruise had been on the opposite side; it might have occasioned the extravasation. The skull was not fractured. I believe a person after that extravasation could not have moved from the bed-room to the kitchen. It must have been a very hard substance, indeed, that could have produced the injury; the first I should think could not do it. There must have been a considerable impetus either of the body to a hard substance, or of a hard substance to the body.

Cross-examined by Mr. Williams. The traces of blood had exactly the appearance of falling from one walking; they might have fallen from the particular wound mentioned. The cause of death undoubtedly was apoplexy, to which persons addicted to liquor are more disposed than others. The bruise on the left, and extravasation on the right, might have been occasioned by a chair, or a fall on a chair after the extravasation might have occasioned the bruise. The bruises did not appear to be all of the same date.

Re-examined by Mr. Jones. It was not so likely to have happened by a fall. The extravasation was confined to one spot. Apoplexy without an external wound would probably show a fullness of all the vessels. In this case there was so much blood extravasated that the vessels must have been emptied.

By the Court. I mean by the drops coming from one walking, that the body was in an upright position. Force of any kind might have occasioned the injuries.

Wheatley was re-called, and stated that the head had been on the frame of the chair, the temple on the frame. It was lying rather to the left side, with the knees bending up. There was nothing on the floor to cause a tumble; it was a level flag floor; there were no holes and no carpet. She could not have fallen as I found her, for her head could not have fallen into the frame, to my thinking.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hardy. I think the head would have been on the seat of the chair if she had fallen. There was blood between the body and the door of the kitchen.

By the Court. The bar was in front of the chair; I think the bar was too near the seat for the head to have fallen as it lay. She was fully dressed, excepting her shoes and cap. I did not see the cap at all.

Mr. Sharp was again examined by Mr. Williams. The position, if I understood Wheatley correctly, was such as it would have been if she had been thrown violently against the chair. The mark on the head was in the form of a star, not longitudinally.

By Mr. Jones. If it had been a fall, she must have been running violently.

By the Court. There were many bloody foot-marks in the kitchen; according to appearances, they were a woman's.

The Prisoner, who was decently dressed in black, said he had found the back-door of his house open when he came home. I found her lying on the bed, with her clothes on and her face covered. I saw the sort of state she was in, and took her by the shoulders to make her rise; she fell between the drawers and the wall, neck foremost. She did not offer to rise. I lifted her up, and then she made another tumble with her head against the wall; she got up, and went down stairs. I took my coat off and made the bed. I went to bed, and put the door to, expecting that she would come back. I slept, and knew nothing more.

John Ingram. I am a bailiff. I was at the Horse and Groom on the evening of the 27th of June. Mrs. Oldfield was very much intoxicated.

By Mr. Jones. She seized in the house all the time.

Alice Broughton. I was in the habit of waiting on and nursing Mrs. Oldfield. On the 28th I saw her foot-marks in the kitchen. Her stockings were bloody inside.

By Mr. Jones. I washed all the things. The doctor ordered me to hide away the stockings and other clothes as soon as possible. It was Mr. Sharp. It was on the morning of the 28th, the day before the Coroner sat. I rather think no stockings were produced before the Coroner. I was not in the bed-room till it was washed. Mr. Oldfield's boys washed the floor. I never did wash up any blood in the bedroom. I never told so to Mr. Gibson. I was not in the room before noon. My master had the key in his pocket all the time. I was not out the stair at all. I saw the apprentice boy fetch water to wash the room. It was about eleven or twelve. I washed blood off the stair with a strange man, with a wet towel.—It was about nine or ten; nobody told me to do it. Oldfield was in the bar; he could not miss seeing it. I should not know the strange man if I saw him. He scraped with a knife, and I washed. I don't see him in Court. He was about two hours there. I never saw him before or since. I saw by his apron he was comber.

By Mr. Williams. I meddled with nothing in the constables and the doctor had seen them. Many had seen her and her stockings before I came.

By the Court. The blood had come in at the top of the stockings. They were all bloody.

Mr. Sharp recalled, said, "I gave no order to hide away or wash the things."

Here the witness Broughton, faint, and was carried out of Court.

By Mr. Hardy. Mr. Sharp had not particularly noticed the stockings.

By Mr. Jones. On my oath I have no recollection of having ordered to wash the bloody clothes, or pressing on the brain. In my opinion it occasioned death; I have no doubt at all of it. The bruise had been on the opposite side; it might have occasioned the extravasation. The skull was not fractured. I believe a person after that extravasation could not have moved from the bed-room to the kitchen. It must have been a very hard substance, indeed, that could have produced the injury; the first I should think could not do it. There must have been a considerable impetus either of the body to a hard substance, or of a hard substance to the body.

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By Mr. Jones. She seized in the house all the time.

Alice Broughton. I was in the habit of waiting on and nursing Mrs. Oldfield. On the 28th I saw her foot-marks in the kitchen. Her stockings were bloody inside.

By Mr. Jones. I washed all the things. The doctor ordered me to hide away the stockings and other clothes as soon as possible. It was Mr. Sharp. It was on the morning of the 28th, the day before the Coroner sat. I rather think no stockings were produced before the Coroner. I was not in the bed-room till it was washed. Mr. Oldfield's boys washed the floor. I never did wash up any blood in the bedroom. I never told so to Mr. Gibson. I was not in the room before noon. My master had the key in his pocket all the time. I was not out the stair at all. I saw the apprentice boy fetch water to wash the room. It was about eleven or twelve. I washed blood off the stair with a strange man, with a wet towel.—It was about nine or ten; nobody told me to do it. Oldfield was in the bar; he could not miss seeing it. I should not know the strange man if I saw him. He scraped with a knife, and I washed. I don't see him in Court. He was about two hours there. I never saw him before or since. I saw by his apron he was comber.

By Mr. Williams. I meddled with nothing in the constables and the doctor had seen them. Many had seen her and her stockings before I came.

By the Court. The blood had come in at the top of the stockings. They were all bloody.

Mr. Sharp recalled, said, "I gave no order to hide away or wash the things."

Here the witness Broughton, faint, and was carried out of Court.

By Mr. Hardy. Mr. Sharp had not particularly noticed the stockings.

By Mr. Jones. On my oath I have no recollection of having ordered to wash the bloody clothes, or pressing on the brain. In my opinion it occasioned death; I have no doubt at all of it. The bruise had been on the opposite side; it might have occasioned the extravasation. The skull was not fractured. I believe a person after that extravasation could not have moved from the bed-room to the kitchen. It must have been a very hard substance, indeed, that could have produced the injury; the first I should think could not do it. There must have been a considerable impetus either of the body to a hard substance, or of a hard substance to the body.

Cross-examined by Mr. Williams. The traces of blood had exactly the appearance of falling from one walking; they might have fallen from the particular wound mentioned. The cause of death undoubtedly was apoplexy, to which persons addicted to liquor are more disposed than others. The bruise on the left, and extravasation on the right, might have been occasioned by a chair, or a fall on a chair after the extravasation might have occasioned the bruise. The bruises did not appear to be all of the same date.

Re-examined by Mr. Jones. It was not so likely to have happened by a fall. The extravasation was confined to one spot. Apoplexy without an external wound would probably show a fullness of all the vessels. In this case there was so much blood extravasated that the vessels must have been emptied.