

ANOTHER HORRID MURDER.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

Held at Parcelstown, Parish of Templeoran, and County of Westmeath, on the body of Patrick M'Cormick; by Hugh Dickson, Esq. Coroner, the 14th and 15th days of November 1826.

Mary M'Cormick sworn, saith she is mother of deceased, he was 28 years of age, lived at Liscormick, county of Longford, saw him last on Sunday morning previous to his going to the fair of Mullingar, saith that about March last, that a threatening notice was left with Mrs. Crofton, with whom deceased lived, desiring her to turn him away, deceased did not leave his employment, but continued to live with Mrs. Crofton, with whom he has lived more than 4 years as a labourer, deceased was selling a horse at the fair of Mullingar, for Mrs. Crofton's son.

James Reilly, of Templeoran, sworn, saith he heard his mother say, that he is about eight years of age, saw deceased yesterday evening running on the road and two men wheeling him with two sticks, they knocked him down and beat him when down; the fellow that had the new coat desired the other man to come on, and they went towards Mullingar, first passing out at the back of his father's garden, into Mr. Hams's land; after beating deceased, they said two men were going to whale two other men, one of whom was on horseback, but galloped off, don't know the men that beat deceased, but would know them if he saw them, they were young men, one wore a new frieze coat, and the other an old coat, and they did not wear big coats; they each had a large stick with knobs on them, the man that had the new coat had also a new corduroy breeches, but does not know what kind the other had on. Witness's mother was the first he told of what he saw. His mother, Essey Gormley, Edward Rielly his brother, with witness, went to where deceased was lying and found him on his belly, and bleeding very much out of the back of his head, deceased was not then dead, but died at supper time last night, deceased gave only one moan when turned on his back, saith that the two men ran away after beating deceased.

Fanny Rielly sworn, saith she is mother of last witness, corroborates him so far as he made mention of her name, says that it was about three o'clock in the evening when her son informed her of the murder.

John Fagan of Empor sworn, saith he was at the fair of Mullingar on his master's business, and was returning about half an hour before sun set at Parcelstown, about four miles from Mullingar, saw two men walking about four yards behind deceased, witness was on horseback and passed them, when about 5 or 6 paces before them he heard strokes given behind him and looking back saw two men striking deceased with sticks; witness rode off and was pursued by the said two men who overtook him and asked him who he was; one of them struck witness's horse and desired him to begone—he rode off and did not look back; one of the men had a frieze body coat, and the other he believes had a big coat on, but was so terrified, that he thought the sight left his eyes, and does not know either of the two men.

Roger Cotter, Esq., M. D. sworn, saith he examined the body of deceased, and found a wound across the top of the head, which beat in and crushed the two bones which are called the *Parietal*, and was sufficient to have caused immediate death, and which appeared to have been inflicted by some blunt instrument, the bones of the head were literally mashed almost from one ear to the other.

George Abbot of Empor, sworn, saith that on returning from the fair, in company with two others, he found the deceased lying on the road, (as described already), witness examined the pockets of the deceased, and found in them £9 10s 0d in British notes, one pound Irish note, and £1 3s. 2d. in silver and copper.

Mary Eivers sworn, saith she is servant maid to Mr. Richard Ham, saw two men walking fast on Monday evening last before sun set, going towards Coolnaha, one of them wore a new frieze jacket, the other man's clothes were reduced looking, they had two sticks, did not know them, the man that wore the new jacket had also a light looking small-clothes, dark stockings worn over the knees of his small-clothes—they were young men.

VERDICT.

We find that the deceased Patrick M'Cormick, late of Liscormick, county of Longford, came by his death by being murdered by two men as yet unknown, with bludgeons or sticks, at Parcelstown, county of Westmeath, on Monday the 13th November instant.

(Signed.)

There are several circumstances connected with the above atrocious murder, which as public Journalists, we feel ourselves imperiously called on to notice. It was committed in open day—on a public road, where numbers of people were travelling to and from the fair of this town—the murderers were seen—they were allowed to escape—no exertion of any kind was made by the people to apprehend them—no hue and cry raised.

At the inquest, an attempt was made by several of the Jury, to prevent the most important witness from giving his testimony, on the pretence of his being too young; his very mother alleged, that he knew nothing of God, or of the nature of an oath, and that he ought not to be allowed to give evidence. One of the Jury, a schoolmaster, even declared, that it was contrary to their religion to swear so young a boy! and all of them put out their hands to prevent him from taking the book to be sworn, and all this with the complete knowledge (as was afterwards fully proved) that he was the only witness who could give a clue to the development of the horrid transaction, and whose testimony tended to the production of other material witnesses; nor was it until Mr. Dickson, the Coroner, by a well conceived and appropriate examination of the boy, fully ascertained his competency, and also by a serious and energetic address to the Jury, that the investigation could be proceeded in. He was even under the necessity of repeatedly threatening to exercise the powers vested in him by the law, before the Jury could be reduced to order! What times we live in! Is their a lit-

man being who can contemplate such a state of things without emotion? Is law, religion, conscience—every thing to be sacrificed to a system of Vandalism! Verily, were it not for the exertions of Protestant religious societies, this country would quickly revert to barbarism. Things cannot long remain as they are. The vigour of the Government must be immediately directed to destroy the germ of the evil.

We understand that it is the intention of the Coroner, to whom every praise is due, for his conduct throughout the whole of this investigation, to immerse the townland on which the murder was committed, in the severest penalty the law admits of, in consequence of the above circumstances.