

JAMES KANE HANGED!

His Expiation of His Horrible Crime!

BRAVE TO THE LAST!

The Murderer's Death Struggle was Evidently a Painful One!

HE ACKNOWLEDGES THE JUSTICE OF HIS SENTENCE!

Particulars of the Crime—The Murderer's Last Night—Former Executions—Full Details.

For the fifth time in the history of this County, and for the second time within 12 months, the penalty of death by hanging has been carried into effect. At a few minutes after 8 o'clock this morning, James Kane was executed for the murder of his wife, Elizabeth Kane, on the evening of March 23rd last. The details of this and former executions are given below.

Former Executions.
The first execution which took place here was that of Thomas Barnhardt, who was hanged in the summer of 1854. He came to this County from Cornwall when there were but comparatively few settlers in the County, and secured upon a piece of land in the Township of Tyendinaga, which he partially cleared and then claimed as his own. A gentleman named Dufou, father of Daniel McCarthy Dufou, Esq., now of Toronto, purchased the piece of land in question, and, with the Sheriff, proceeded to erect Barnhardt's house and to remove the same. The latter exhibited a revengeful spirit, and threatened to shoot Mr. Dufou if he attempted to take possession of the land. When Mr. Dufou and the Sheriff proceeded towards Barnhardt's cabin, he stepped to the door with his rifle in hand, and ordered them off, threatening that he would shoot them if they did not go. A second attempt was made, and the result had been, Mr. Dufou was shot dead, the bullet penetrating his heart. The murderer was arrested, tried, and convicted. Mr. G. E. Henderson, Q.C., the present County Attorney, defending the accused—the defence upon being insanity. Judge Gwynne (who is now Judge of the Supreme Court) was the Crown prosecutor. Judge McLeod presided, and when he pronounced the sentence of death upon the prisoner he was deeply moved, as Barnhardt had previously been a trusted servant in his family.



James Kane's History.

The murderer is 52 years of age, having been born in the year 1839 in Dublin, Ireland. Whilst in the old country he served in the regular army and has seen active service. He has been in this country for a number of years, the greater portion of which he has resided in this city. Some 6 years ago he was married to Mrs. Skinner, his second wife, but the union was not a happy one, owing to Kane's love of the cup that merriteth. No children were born to them, but Mrs. Kane had a large family by his first wife. In appearance Kane was not a man whom one would think would perpetrate such a deed, having a rather pleasant face. He was about 5 feet 6 inches in height, of medium built, partly bald, with grey mustache and short beard, the pleasure appearing in his face being a good likeness of him at the time he was put under arrest. Since being placed in jail he has not been seen since.

History of the Crime.
For a week prior to the murder James Kane and his wife had not been living together, she residing with her sons, Alfred and James Skinner, (children by his first husband). On the afternoon of Monday, March 23rd last, shortly before 5 o'clock Kane went to the shop of James Skinner and asked his step on where his mother was. He was told that she was assisting Alfred Skinner, who was moving from a house on Church street. Kane immediately went to the house in question and was met near the door by Mrs. Alfred Skinner, who was leaving the place. He entered the kitchen door and was alone with the woman whom he should have protected. What passed between them is not known, but Mrs. Skinner hearing screams called to her husband, who was approaching the house, and told him that Mr. Kane was in the house with his (Skinner's) mother and he was afraid he was killing her. This proposition proved to be but too true. Skinner rushed into the house, and, seeing Kane near Mrs. Kane, struck him a blow with his fist and knocked him to the floor. Mrs. Skinner also entered at the same time and Mrs. Kane staggered towards her, but fell immediately to the floor, and in a few moments her spirit had taken its flight. In Kane's possession was a large butcher's knife, which was covered with blood, and with which he had stabbed his wife near the heart, causing her immediate death. The murderer, Mrs. Kane never spoke a word. When informed that he had killed his wife, Kane said that he was proud of what he had done, and he also expressed the wish that he had killed some of her boys, claiming that it was through them that he had committed the deed. While being conveyed to the police station by Sergeant McCudden the murderer expressed the satisfaction he felt at the deed which he had committed. The instrument used—a butcher-knife sharpened to a point, is here illustrated—

It was taken from the Queen's Hotel.
The Victim.
Mrs. Elizabeth Kane was a mild mannered, rather good-looking little woman of very dark complexion, warthy as a Spaniard, who looked at one with a pair of black eyes as if she had seen much sorrow. With her first husband, Skinner, she and her numerous family arrived here from England about sixteen years ago. The man had worked in the old lead at a trade which is not established here, but he turned his hand to odd jobs and to peddling ice cream in the summer about the streets in a hand-cart. On Christmas day, 1878, he went to the river fronting his house, just above Blucher's dam, for a pail of water and, venturing out to the edge of the ice, it gave way beneath him and he was swept to death over the dam. Some two years subsequently the poor woman was married to Kane. She was 43 years of age. The woman who met her death in the tragic manner above recorded, was at all times an industrious person, who did her share towards maintaining the household, and never a stain of reproach rested upon her character as a woman, a wife or a mother.

The Coroner's Inquest.
The coroner's inquest took place at 8 o'clock on the night of the murder, before Coroner Mr. Farley, but not being completed, was adjourned until Thursday evening, the 26th of March. After the evidence had been submitted, the jury were not long in returning a verdict of wilful murder against the accused. He was also brought before the Police Magistrate and committed for trial.

The Trial.
On Thursday, April 10th, the trial commenced before Justice (Kane), and continued all day, a number of witnesses being called both for the prosecution and the defence. As might well be anticipated the majority were for the defence. The defence was a serious one, and Kane was the victim of the prosecution. He was recovered, and it is said was never unkind towards Mrs. Kane. Although he had never been heard to threaten on any occasion, he threatened to burn her house down and to peddle her in a different country. After the evidence had been concluded on all respects, Justice had addressed the jury. His evidence recapitulated and reviewed the facts in an impartial manner. The prosecution returned only an hour's evidence, and Kane was acquitted and returned to the streets. The jury returned a verdict of acquittal, but it did not condemn him. When asked by His Majesty what he had anything to say by way of defence, he replied, "Nothing, Your Majesty." He was immediately sent walking out of the court to the prison below.

Messrs C. E. Lyons and W. Y. Mikal defended the prisoner. Mr. W. R. Reddell, LL.B., of Cobourg, conducted the case for the Crown.

Since his Sentence.
Since the sentence of death has been pronounced upon him, Kane did not to outward appearance evince a keen realization of the awful position into which he had placed himself, and he, indeed, accepted the situation with the utmost indifference. His Royal Majesty (O'Brien), spent much time with him in conversation, and he apparently derived comfort from his ministrations. He acted as if he should suffer death for the crime which he committed. Prison life did not seem to distress him. He ate heartily, slept well, and to all outward appearance was in good health. Every attention was paid to his wants by the gaol officials, who state that he did not give them the slightest trouble. He never, during his incarceration uttered a word of complaint.

THE EXECUTION.
The last scene in the Kane tragedy was enacted this morning, when at eight o'clock James Kane paid the penalty of the law, by forfeiting his life upon the gallows.

At an early hour, a large number of persons congregated about the gaol premises and on the streets adjacent, whilst boys lined the fences and even ascended to the rooftops for the purpose of witnessing, if possible, the execution. In this the greater number were disappointed, as where the scaffold was placed, only those who were admitted to the yard could

GAZE UPON THE AWFUL SCENE.
At a few minutes after 8 o'clock those who were privileged to witness the scene were allowed to enter the courtyard. It was necessary to go through the main corridor of the gaol into the large enclosure, and thence through adroft to the small enclosure, between the male and the female yards. Against the north-east corner of the wall stood the gallows,

an unobtrusive instrument, which did duty less than a year ago. It bore a repulsive appearance. The hangman himself was present, being dressed in a corduroy vest and coat, grey tweed pants and a soft white hat. To all appearance he was the most unconcerned person in or about the place. He was assisted by some of the prisoners of the gaol in hoisting

which was at the eastern side of the scaffold. From the centre base of the scaffold within about four feet of the ground hung a brown looking hemp rope, and at the end of that rope was

THE FATAL NOOSE.
Those who were present gathered around the dread instrument, watching anxiously every movement of the hangman. At 8:15 the executioner entered the corridor of the prison and exchanged his corduroy coat for a black Prince Albert. He then went to the cell of the doomed man and for the first time greeted him. He slipped the straps over Kane's arms and drew the elbows well together.

THE MARCH TO THE SCAFFOLD.
The march was now commenced, the funeral procession being as follows:

Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff.
Rev. Fathers Connelly and O'Brien.
The Hangman.
The Prisoner.

As the party moved slowly down the steps leading to the yard, the burial service of the Roman Catholic Church was being read by Father Connelly, and responded to by Father O'Brien, and Kane also responded.

KANE'S APPEARANCE.
The prisoner walked between the two priests without any assistance, and never faltered once. He was apparently in a state of meditation, and listening attentively to what was said by his spiritual advisers.

HE WALKED UPON.
And as he approached the scaffold he still maintained his composure, his eyes being fixed upon that structure. His face was calm and composed, the same firm look on it that he wore during the trial and since his conviction. His fortitude seemed even to nerve the crowd, and remarks were passed from one spectator to another commenting upon the NERVE OF THE UNFORTUNATE MAN.

He looked fresh, as if he had been sound asleep and had breakfasted well, whilst, as a matter of fact, he had not slept more than 4 hours. He wore a black tweed coat, a silk vest, and a pair of brown striped pants, a white shirt, but no collar. When the scaffold was reached, the hangman took Kane by the arm and they walked together

UNDER THE DANGLING ROPE.
The murderer wheeled around and faced the crowd like a soldier on parade, rather than a man who in a few minutes would be launched into eternity. It took but a short time to adjust the rope about the neck of the condemned. Kane was then asked by Father Connelly if he had anything to say. He then addressed those present as follows:

"I am thankful to the gaol officials for the many acts of kindness shown to me since I have been in prison, especially to Mr. Appleby. I hope all present will pray for me for the crime I have committed, and hope to be forgiven." The hangman shook hands with Kane, and as the black cap was being pulled down over his face Father Connelly

PRESSED A CRUCIFIX TO THE LIPS
of Kane, and he kissed it fervently. As the cap was being drawn down upon his face, Kane glanced upwards upon his face in a low voice: "There will have mercy upon my soul!" These were the last words uttered upon earth. The knot was drawn taut, and Rev. Father Connelly commenced the recital of the Lord's prayer. The words "deliver us from evil" had scarcely been uttered when the rev. gentleman's lips, which the hangman pulled the cord which held the weight in position, and at 8:19 THE MAN WAS DASHED INTO THE AIR

SOME SIX FEET.

The body rebounded with a lurch and turned round and reached the body. At 8:18 it was thought that the neck had been broken, but this was not so. In a

minute a glimmer passed through the frame. The victim gave a convulsive gasp, whilst the muscles of his arms and legs were drawn to their fullest extent. Gurgling sounds came from the throat, which could be heard for some distance away. These gurgles were of some time, causing many of the spectators to shudder and even turn pale. Once or twice he raised his legs up, but they soon fell back again. He was

RELINQUISHING TO DEATH,
but was not suffering great agony. The whirling continued about 2 minutes. After the body had hung for 34 minutes, Mr. Chamberlain, Inspector of Prisons, felt the pulse, and again after 15 minutes of hanging. He stated that when he felt the vital last time there was but a little pulse to be felt. In six minutes after the drop a physician pronounced that life was extinct.

THE BODY WAS LEFT SWINGING
for some 18 minutes, when it was lowered and placed in a coffin, which had been provided. The coffin bore a plate in the form of a cross, upon which was engraved the words "James Kane." When the black flag had been removed the features of the murderer were found unchanged. The eyes were open, but the countenance presented a natural appearance. There was the same peaceful expression as before death. The neck had turned somewhat pink, and the head had been slightly bruised by the jerk. Dr. Jones and Farley examined the deceased's neck and gave as their opinion that death was caused by strangulation. After the body was placed in the coffin,

THE CORONER'S INQUEST
was held, being conducted by Dr. Youker. The following comprised the jury: E. Barnhardt, R. S. Black, C. Spence, J. E. Halliwell, W. S. Mordon, H. Hoyle, J. Poin, J. Campbell, I. R. Torrilliver, W. H. Northover, W. A. Zaick, O. Ashby, F. Howell, Dr. Jones and Dr. Coleman. The latter gentleman being selected as foreman. Gaoler Appleby testified as to the time the deceased was incarcerated, and when sentence was pronounced upon him. Mr. Farley testified that Kane came to his death by strangulation.

THE VERDICT.
The jury, after a few minutes deliberation, brought in a verdict that James Kane came to his death by strangulation, in the gaol yard.

HIS LAST NIGHT.
The prisoner's last night was passed with his usual calmness and fortitude. At midnight he retired to rest, and in a few minutes fell asleep and slept soundly until 4 a.m. Half an hour later his daughter arrived to hold her final interview with her parent, and remained with him until 7:30 a.m. At 5 o'clock, Mr. Farley and Father O'Brien were admitted to the cell, and engaged in the task of preparing their charge for the great change. The devotional exercises were continued until near 7 o'clock, when the hangman retired. At 7 o'clock the prisoner partook of breakfast, consisting of two fried eggs, a slice of toast and a cup of coffee, after which his daughter took her last leave of him. The final preparations were then entered upon, and were continued until the signal was given that all was in readiness.

THE EXECUTIONER.
The hangman, J. R. Reddick, who performed the act, is an Englishman, being a stout built man of 40 to 45 years of age, about 5 feet 8 inches in height, round face, rather blonde complexion, and is seemingly an intelligent man. He has executed some 20 persons, and will officiate at L'Orignal on the 4th of next month, when L'Orignal will be executed. The rope used on this occasion was the same that was used for Barnhardt, Lamontagne and Birchall.

THE GALLAWS.
The gallows was erected in the north-east corner of a small enclosure between the male and the female yards, and was completely shut out from outside view. It was a simple contrivance, and resembled the frame of a gateway more than anything else. It consisted of two upright pieces of timber about 10 feet high, with a crosspiece on the top of about the same length, which overhung 6 feet at the right side. The top piece contained two pulleys, one at the end overhanging, and the other in the middle between the two uprights. Through these pulleys a 2 inch hemp rope was passed, the noose and hanging loosely in the air, the other end being drawn taut. An iron weight of 350 pounds was attached to this end, and was supported by a chain, on which was a trap hook, so arranged that by a slight pull the weight was relieved from the chain and transferred to the large rope, which jerked the unhappy man into the air like a fish. As the executioner remarked, its simplicity was the cause of its effectiveness.

NOTES.
George Skinner, a son of the murdered woman, who was reported by the *Canadian* to have been trying to sell his step father's photographs to the newspapers, requests us to deny the assertion as being without foundation.

Mrs. George Grant accompanied Miss Kane to her last visit to her father.

Kane, his daughter and his son were photographed together and separately yesterday.

Amongst those who witnessed the execution were Dr. Chamberlain, Inspector of Prisons; Detective Spence, of the G.T.R.; and Deputy Sheriff Gillespie, of Picton.

Mrs. Kane's maiden name was Wiggitt. She was married to Kane at Christ Church by Rev. R. S. Fornor on January 2nd, 1860.

The black flag was not hoisted over the gaol building.

The scaffold was taken down immediately after the execution and a number of local hunters cut off small portions of the wood in answer to an inquiry as to the disposal of the body, we were informed by the Sheriff that it would be interred in the R. C. cemetery, it having been instructed by the Attorney General to that effect.

The Sheriff and gaol officials have extended every courtesy to the press. For this they have our thanks.

Representatives from the *Kingston Whig*, *Campbellton News*, *Halifax Star*, *Picton Times* and *Gazette*, *Deseronto Tribune* and even from papers published in various parts of the United States were present.