

THE SUMNER TRAGEDY IN BOSTON.

Death of Wm. Sumner—Arrest of Coburn and Dalton on a Charge of Murder.

The Boston papers, of yesterday, contain full details of the SUMNER affair, which has excited a high degree of interest. The circumstances of the case have been stated, but it is proper to recapitulate the leading facts, and for this purpose we copy the account given by the *Boston Advertiser* of yesterday:

Two daughters of Mr. JOHN GOVE are married to young men named EDWARD O. COBURN and FRANK DALTON. These ladies contracted an intimacy, unknown to their husbands, with two young men named JOSHUA PORTER and WILLIAM SUMNER. The acquaintance began in a confectionery saloon, and was cherished by appointments at similar places, walks upon the street, and other simple amusements. Some letters passed between the parties; but it does not appear that any criminal action took place. The acquaintance, however, came to the knowledge of the husbands, who were at once inflamed with jealousy.

On the 17th ult., young PORTER received a note from Mrs. COBURN, begging him to call upon her at No. 84 Shawmut-avenue (her own house, where he had never been); adding, that her husband was absent. The request was urgent and Mr. PORTER complied. On entering the house he was instantly seized by COBURN and his brother-in-law DALTON, who proceeded to assault him violently. On this occasion however, PORTER escaped.

On the same day, about two hours later, as Mr. SUMNER, in entire ignorance of the attack upon Mr. PORTER, was discussing a cup of tea at a refreshment room before proceeding to take the cars for his residence in Milton, he was waited upon by COBURN and DALTON, both of whom were strangers to him, who informed him that Mrs. DALTON desired particularly to see him immediately at No. 84 Shawmut-avenue. Mr. SUMNER replied that his acquaintance with Mrs. DALTON was very slight, but was persuaded to go with the parties to the house. Upon reaching the premises, SUMNER was dragged into the cellar by the two husbands, and after being most unmercifully pounded was thrown out at the back door, whence he effected his escape over a fence, his assailants continuing their blows until the last moment, and finally made shift to reach his home in Milton. On Tuesday he died.

The Coroner's Jury returned a verdict of murder, as follows:

"That the first cause of the death of Wm. SUMNER was occasioned by blows and other injuries received from the hands of FRANCIS DALTON and EDWARD O. COBURN, in the house No. 84 Shawmut-avenue, in the city of Boston, on the 17th day of November last."

After the verdict of the Jury had been rendered, Deputy-Chief HAM returned to the Chief's Office, in Boston, where DALTON and COBURN were awaiting his return, and announced to them the verdict. Both of them received the news very coolly, and showed no signs of fear or remorse. They were then committed to the Cambridge-street jail.

WILLIAM SUMNER, the deceased, is a son of RUFUS W. SUMNER, a native of Milton, where he now resides. He was born Sept. 25, 1835, and was in his 21st year at the time of his death. He was considered, in all respects, a promising young man. After the assault, he appeared much depressed in mind, but avoided, as much as possible, any mention of the affair. At times he complained of pains in his head and chest, but endeavored to conceal his feelings as much as possible. His mental distress and physical weakness were observed by the family, and every effort used to alleviate both. On Thanksgiving Day, he attempted to play at foot-ball, and was seized with a choking in the throat, and obliged to desist. He then complained of a severe pain in his chest. A week ago last Saturday, his left eye, which then bore the marks of the blows given him by DALTON and COBURN, began to swell, and continued to grow worse. On the Tuesday following he began to complain of a soreness in the throat, and the family physician was called.

On Monday Dr. MILLER, of Dorchester, was called in as a consulting physician, and after a careful examination of the patient it was thought that his condition was most dangerous, and every effort was made to save him, but it was too late. The delirium increased in its intensity until late Monday night, when the application of ice to the head caused it to subside, and the deceased sunk into a slumber, the first for nearly thirty-six hours, and never awoke again. His death was so calm and quiet that those who were watching at his bedside were hardly conscious of it; the event took place at 5½ o'clock Tuesday morning.

In view of the public excitement connected with the deceased, it was deemed advisable to have a *post mortem* examination of the body. This was made by Drs. J. B. JACKSON and AINSWORTH, of Boston; Drs. HOLMES and WARE, of Milton; and Drs. MILLER and SPOONER of Dorchester.

A report of the examination says: The mark under the eye could not have been produced by exposure to the cold; it might have been caused by coming in contact with some hard substance. I saw to-day, in the *post mortem* examination of the body, a bruise on the top of the head, under the scalp; it looked like an old bruise; I saw no marks on the exterior of the neck. During my attendance upon him, I had some conversation with him, and remember that he told me that "while they were pulling me into the cellar, I saw two men standing in the entry, and that took all the courage from me." He did not mention the place meant by the cellar, as he knew that I was aware of the matter which had transpired. In my opinion, the inflammation and the fever, working upon a mind very much wrought up, produced delirium, which, acting upon a weakened system, led to his death. I do not think that the deceased would have had any inflammation of the eye, unless the eye had been struck previously; from my knowledge of the blow given, I have no doubt that it was the predisposing cause of the inflammation in the throat.