

THE LUCAN TRAGEDY

Interring the Remains of the Five Victims.

A SOLEMN AND IMPRESSIVE SCENE.

A SERMON BROKEN WITH SOBS AND WILD LAMENTATIONS.

More Evidence Brought Out—The Bloody Blanket Found in Kennedy's—Two More Arrests.

LUCAN, Feb. 6, 10 a. m.—The arrest of a number of prominent farmers, members of the Vigilance Committee, has caused renewed excitement throughout the district, and more extraordinary developments are expected hourly, as the detectives are working hard.

During last night the skull of James Donnelly, which was fractured, was stolen from the ruins of the building. The portions of the skull of Mrs. Donnelly and her niece, which remained intact, were also stolen from the ruins.

Underneath the charred remains of James Donnelly was a pocket knife, which was usually carried by him. The ruins have been visited by hundreds of people, and many carried away mementos of their visit in the shape of teeth or bones of the deceased.

A heart-rending scene was witnessed when the only daughter of the family arrived. Upon being shown the bodies she went into violent hysterics, which continued nearly all night. She is the youngest of the family, being twenty two years of age. She is married and has three children. Her residence is at St. Thomas.

During the day several letters of a threatening character were received by Chief Williams. He was advised to go home and attend to his business, or it would be the worse for him.

A reporter had an interview with Rev. Father Connolly, the parish priest, who is much respected in the neighborhood. He said he approved of the appointment of the Vigilance Committee for the purpose of ferreting out the wrong doers in the neighborhood, many bad crimes having been committed. The Committee, however, had kept their actions secret from him. In further conversation, Father Connolly said: It is not true that I have excommunicated or placed the Donnellys under the ban of the Church. Some time ago I received a letter from William which contained some very impertinent remarks, and I then said I should have nothing more to do with them. I also referred to the burning of Patrick Ryder's barns on Sunday week. I told my people from the pulpit of the occurrence, and pointed out to them the terrible work which had been done by some persons, but did not in any way mention the Donnellys. On Christmas eve the elder Donnelly and Mrs. Donnelly both came and confessed to me. A few days after, Thomas was arrested for robbing Ryan. John Donnelly came to me to confession. I refused to confess him, and told him I thought he intended to confess to an untruth in order to free his brother and implicate others. He then went away. So far as I am concerned, I am perfectly innocent of any connection with, or knowledge of, the movements of the second Vigilance Committee. I expect to be arrested, as I know that from the bitter hatred which William Donnelly bears me he will do all in his power to have me arrested.

Accompanying the detectives who made the arrests was a miscellaneous collection of spades, shovels, picks, etc., which were found near the ruins of the house, and which it is supposed will lead to something. It is thought one of those arrested will "split" from remarks he made. One man implicated is reported to have despaired. Warrants are out for ten more suspected parties, and it is not expected that any trouble will be experienced in making the arrests.

The murdered girl had only come from Ireland a short time ago, and was about 23 years of age. She was employed earning her living in her uncle's house, and was as free from guilt or any knowledge of the existing imbroglio between the belligerent parties, as an infant child. Nevertheless, the morning light found her a shapeless mass, in "one red burial blend," no doubt through fear of her recognition of some of the murderous party.

By this time the priest had fully recovered himself, and uttered the last sentence with marked emphasis. He continued in the same tone—"When I came here and heard accounts of the deprecations that had been committed by the Donnellys I could hardly believe them. I did not think that any one could bring such disgrace on his religion. But there were others in the back scene, and they are the ones who committed this murder, for which they will have to answer before their God. My beloved brethren, there are two things that must be observed in every society,

RELIGION AND HUMAN LAWS. Of the manner of observing the first there are, and ever shall be, differences of opinion; but as regards the laws of the land there can be no second opinion as to their observance. In the interest of society and God these laws should be respected. This has not been done in Biddulph; hence all those lawless proceedings there. I feel sorry for this awful occurrence, particularly for the family before us. It might be thought that I was not in friendship with the family. But I can say truly that I have no enmity against them. With the old people I always agreed, particularly with the old woman. She came frequently to confession, and it was only on last Christmas Eve that she told me of ALL THE SOBBINGS AND TROUBLES OF HER LIFE."

At this point the speaker again showed signs of breaking down, and tears gathered in his eyes, but he brushed them away and managed to suppress his emotion sufficiently to be able to proceed with his address. "On that night," he continued, "the old woman told me she was trying to get her boys to come to confession. But they did not come, and here is the consequence. O, God of Heaven, forgive them!" Here again the rev. gentleman succumbed with the exclamation "I can't say any more," and bowed his head in tears on the altar, while at the same time sobbing was renewed in several of the pews. Then followed

ANOTHER REMARKABLE SCENE. Patrick Donnelly rose from his seat and exclaimed in a clear voice "Father Connolly, I wish you would give a detailed account." The priest, who evidently was considerably astonished at this request, hesitated for a moment and then said: "Perhaps it would be just as well that I should tell something of my trouble with the boys. The greatest fault I found with them was that they had

not sufficient respect for their own character; hence they did not care for what they did. I first spoke to them concerning a horse that had been stolen from Mr. Kelly. The boys seemed to think I had no business talking to them, and William wrote me a letter.

A CUTTING, SHARP AND INCISIVE LETTER. It was a good letter to send to a politician, but it should not have been sent to a priest. However, I did not think much of it, as I considered that it came from a man who was too smart. Another time, at Whalen's threshing, I had a conversation with the boys on several matters. Afterwards I found they had deceived me, and I felt aggravated with them; but with regard to the old people I cannot say a word against them. As to

THE FORMATION OF THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE I had not much to do. I was not present at any of its meetings, but I had unbounded confidence in the men that belonged to it, and believe that they are incapable of committing such a terrible murder as this one. It was outside of them, and my suspicion rests on others. I can't understand how it took place. The butchery is a terrible disgrace to Biddulph and the province at large, but all that remains now to be done is to pray for those that are gone. Let us try in our hearts to pray for them, for no matter how we die, whether by the hand of God or the hand of wicked men, we have to stand before the Great Jehovah and account for all our earthly actions. How will those guilty people appear before their God with a cry for vengeance coming up from the earth? Ah! it will be a terrible day for them." Referring again to the lawless acts of the Donnelly boys, the reverend gentleman thought if Patrick had been living at home this tragedy would not have taken place. He characterized Patrick as being law-abiding, conciliatory and charitable, and if his advice had been followed the family would have escaped many of the troubles they got into. The speaker then proceeded to refer to

THE HORRIBLE NATURE OF THE CRIME and the suddenness with which the victims had been removed, without warning, and unprepared to meet their God. "This phase of the affair," he said, "had such an effect upon me that I would willingly have laid down my life to save them." This announcement created a sensation among the congregation. Continuing, the speaker admonished his hearers to be prepared for death. He closed with an earnest exhortation for the people to exercise charity in their dealings with their fellow men, and counselled them to observe the law and keep the peace. At the close of the address Father Connolly stepped down from the altar and pronounced

THE BLESSING OVER THE COFFINS, after which they were consigned to earth and the assemblage dispersed. The Donnellys went into the priest's house, where they had dinner. William became reconciled with the rev. gentleman and he and Patrick wish it to be distinctly understood that they have not

THE EIGHTHET ILL-FEELING AGAINST HIM. Mr. E. Meredith, of London, has been retained by William and Patrick Donnelly to work up the case for them. He was out here yesterday afternoon and held a long consultation with both brothers, but what passed between them was not divulged. The Donnellys and the constables seem to be confident that some of the parties under arrest

WILL TURN QUEEN'S EVIDENCE. Michael Carroll is considered weak, and it is understood that he acquiesced Chief Williams with some information that will lead to the detection of the murderers. On arriving here yesterday afternoon the Chief and his men immediately set to work.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY. Mr. Wm. Stanley, Reeve of the village, was fearless in stating that two years ago the Donnellys were the terror of the township. On being questioned as to Father Connolly's accusation that the magistrates neglected their duty, he said that although the boys were often arrested on various charges it was very difficult to secure a conviction. In fact, it was impossible to get evidence, as the people seemed to fear that if they swore against the Donnellys their barns would be burned down, or they would be made to suffer by other deprecations. This fear at last reached some of the magistrates, and they declined to receive information against any member of the family. Hence it was, Mr. Stanley says, that

JUSTICE COULD NOT BE ADMINISTERED. Towards evening the excitement in the village began to rise, in anticipation of fresh arrests being made. Detective Murphy came back about seven o'clock.

HAVING IN CHARGE MICHAEL HEENAN, a son of Anthony Heenan, a well-to-do farmer, living about three and a half miles from the Donnelly farm. The prisoner appeared to be about twenty-six years of age and is unmarried. He was found at the house of John Kennedy, who was one of the parties arrested Thursday. Murphy went to Kennedy's house in search of some articles of clothing that had been observed there by the police previously. The clothing consisted of a pair of pants, a blanket, and one or two smaller articles. He found them upstairs and brought them into the village. There is

A PECULIAR STORY TOLD ABOUT THE BLANKET. When the detective picked it up Mr. Kennedy, who was standing by, pointed to a stain on the blanket and said, "That's not blood; I had it examined by a doctor and he said the stain had not been caused by blood." Murphy thought the remark a strange one, and on making enquiries learned that Mrs. Kennedy had driven to Granton, a neighboring village, with the blanket for the purpose of having it examined, and the result being to the effect stated above. It is supposed that those articles were worn by one of the men who formed the murdering gang on Tuesday night.

KENNEDY'S FAMILY. While speaking of Kennedy, something may be said of his family. His father lives in the township and is a highly respectable farmer. He is not on good terms with his son, and made a startling statement about him to Bill Donnelly, to the effect that he was the leader of the men that committed the murder. When a father speaks thus of his son there must be something wrong. When Murphy was bringing Heenan to the village the latter

BEGAN TALKING OF LYCHING, and said that if it was permitted in the Western States he could see no reason why it should not be allowed here. Another arrest

was also made yesterday afternoon, the name of the prisoner being John Partell, who is a young man raised by the Ryans, and who works through the township. The prisoners were taken to London last night.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—10 a. m.—When the detectives brought in Michael Heenan and John Partell last night, there was a big crush at the G. W. R. station. Heenan did not seem disconcerted, but Partell was in an agony of fear as he walked up street, followed and surrounded by a crowd that he felt sure was determined to lynch him. He clung to the detective and Constable Pope, and beseeched them to protect him. His knees seemed to fail him, and he was half carried at times, so overcome was he by the idea that he would be summarily disposed of. It was an immense relief to him when he got inside the cells. Heenan was quite talkative, and spoke of his experience in the Far West and the way lynchings were managed there, as if he felt a great interest in that branch of science.

FATHER CONNOLLY'S STATEMENT. From the statement of Father Connolly it would appear that in June last, in consequence of the great number of deprecations which had been committed, his people, upon his advice, signed an agreement in a book which he produced. The form of the agreement was very simple, and purported to be made between the Roman Catholics of the parish of Biddulph, resolving themselves into a body "for their own mutual protection and assistance in bringing to justice the perpetrators of the deeds which were being perpetrated by unparalled brutality."

It is learned from a reliable authority, whose veracity cannot be doubted, that when the terror stricken women who were being so brutally beaten to death, found that no mercy could be expected from the adamant hearts of their assassins, Mrs. Donnelly fell upon her knees at the feet of the ringleader and implored, with mingled tears and blood pouring down her fading cheek, for one minute to pray for the salvation of her soul. With a savage laugh and a blood curdling curse the fiend replied, "Pray, you—you have prayed too long already," and with a heavy instrument the poor woman was felled senseless at his feet, and half a dozen of the assassins outrivalled each other in finishing her. Another fact which lets consider-able light upon the subject was also elicited by our reporter, and that is, that when the body of Thomas Donnelly was dragged into the house the hands were manacled after throwing him roughly to the ground. One of the murderers stooped over him and, taking off the manacles, put them into his pocket. The blade of a knife was also found imbedded in the body of James Donnelly, sen. It is a significant fact not a single straw in the barn and stables, situated close by, were touched, and the horses remained undisturbed. From this fact, it is assumed that the murder had been in contemplation for days, weeks, and even months past, and the plans of the murderers had been carefully considered and every possibility of identification was intended to be destroyed. The evident intention was to burn the house and every trace of

THE HORRIBLE SLAUGHTER. The idea, as the house was alone, was to lead the world to believe that the building had, from some cause, caught fire and burned the Donnelly's as they slept. This would have been the general verdict had not the boy escaped and the blood been found outside. Had the stables been fired, suspicions of foul play would have been immediately aroused, hence the reason for their exemption.

LUCAN, Feb. 7.—1 p. m.—In John Kennedy's house, not only was a blanket found saturated with blood, but a pair of pants were also found with similar spots. About 8.30 this morning Chief Williams, with his able assistants, Detective Phair and Murphy, arrived in the village from London. After taking breakfast the three officers left in a cutter driven towards the Roman line. The ostensible purpose of their visit to-day is to secure evidence, and a thorough search of a number of houses in the Sixth Concession will take place.

SECRET MEETINGS OF THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE. A statement made this morning by a party who professes to know, would fully bear out the remarks made by Father Connolly yesterday, and which appears in the morning papers, as to the doings of the Committee, to the effect that they had deviated from the simple rules laid down by him for their guidance. This authority says that the committee now numbers over one hundred members, that the old and respectable members alluded to by Father Connolly have mostly fell off and do not attend the meetings, and that those who still remain organized have bound themselves under an obligation to carry out any measures which were sanctioned by a majority at the meetings. As is usually the case when such illegal doings are being enacted some parties are generally found who do not adhere strictly to the requirements of their obligation, and through this means some of their proceedings have become known. It would appear that there were thirteen of the members selected from amongst their body whose duty it was to prepare and arrange before the meetings any questions which required to be discussed or voted upon. There was a back or ante-room adjoining the school-house, and to this room twelve of those parties would repair to consider and prepare any subject which was destined to come before the members for disposal, and by a preconcerted arrangement between the thirteen men and the twelve who retired, he harangued the parties as if by accident upon the very subject intended to be brought before them by the conclave in the ante-room, and by the time the question came up their feelings had become so excited that they were ready to vote the carrying out of any deed, no matter how much at variance with the Christian rules laid down by his reverence for their guidance. This statement of their proceedings seems reasonable when the explanations made by Father Connolly yesterday is taken into consideration.

BROKEN DOWN. The only time upon which William Donnelly showed any signs of weakness was when his father's heart was exposed to view during the post mortem examination. He exclaimed in agonizing accents: "This is more than flesh and blood can endure; my only and sincere wish now is that I was lying there along with him." The spectators led him away from the ghastly scene, administered a stimulant cordial, and

in a few minutes he regained his usual composure.

Contrary to all expectations from reports in circulation yesterday the Donnelly brothers have to day announced their intention of building up the old homestead and going to reside on the premises. This resolution was taken owing to the fact of a large acreage of fall wheat being sown thereon, which would prove a complete loss without a protection.

EXPECTED RETURN OF THE DETECTIVES. LUCAN, Feb. 7.—1.40 p. m.—The return of a portion of Chief Williams' staff from the settlement is looked for every minute.

AN EXTRAORDINARY RECORD OF CRIME. We have already reported that James Donnelly, sen., killed a man in a drunken dispute in 1871, at a hawking bee, and this was the beginning of his troubles. He was tried two years later, found guilty of murder, and sentenced to be hanged. Petitions were, however, largely circulated among his numerous friends and his sentence was commuted to penal servitude for seven years. While in prison Mrs. Donnelly battled away with brain fever, and during the course of the rolling years the unwilling abductor from the domestic throne returned, and once more assumed control. But little is to be said of the family thence on till about the year 1870. At this time the boys came into notice in the township of their birth through their connection with the "rings." They first drove a stage from London to Exeter, the owner of the line being one McField, and the line being in opposition to one operated by a man named Bryant. After a time they obtained control of the line themselves, and had a fair share of patronage. They were very kind and obliging and accommodating even to their competitors, men who ever had control of the line if a condition may be believed. It came to pass after a time, however, that they became involved in a serious controversy with the owners of the rival line, and here they, whether justly or not, obtained the reputation which has since clung to them, and the succession of small tricks followed and the battle waged. Wheels came off from stages in a most unaccountable manner, and other disagreeable episodes on both sides were not uncommon. Nearly the whole community was involved in the warfare on one side or the other. A bitter feud was kept up, and more than once resulted in the destruction of twenty four houses by fire and the death of sixteen horses by cut-throats, amputated tongues or other cruel means, within a period of less than ten years.

May 23, 1873, Mr. Field, proprietor of the line of stages the Donnellys drove, succumbed to the arms of the opposition and sold out. This enraged the Donnellys and they bought a new lot of stages, horses, etc. They obtained the contract for carrying the mail. Wm. Donnelly at this time had charge of the line.

Thursday, September 30, 1875, the barn and buildings of John Flannigan, at Sauble, one of the rival proprietors, burned; supposed to have been a result of the rivalry.

October 4 another rival's barn went up in smoke. December 3 one of Flannigan's boys, when coming out of the barn, was struck with a club on the head and nearly killed by parties unknown.

February 24, 1876, Fitzsimonds' hotel barn, containing stage and horse, was burned. Wm. Donnelly was arrested for the robbery of the Donnelly boys. They resisted arrest. The constables who were the attempt were John Bowden, John Reid and John Cowey. Wm. Donnelly and a man named Farrell resisted. Reid was shot twice in the body by the latter, and it is said that William Donnelly shot two of Bowley's horses and they were killed. The men escaped. One was subsequently sent to prison for two years.

On March 1 Thomas Donnelly was arrested on a charge of being concerned in the robbery of a man named Barre, and Michael on a charge of burning the Flannigan stables.

March 15 William Donnelly gave himself up at London on a charge of resisting the officers in the fracas above alluded to.

March 17, 1877, the stable of one Collins, in which the Donnellys' stages, etc., were kept, burned; supposed to have been done by the Donnellys' enemies.

April 25 James McMahon's barn burned, containing five horses. McMahon was a partner of Bryant.

May 11 there was another heavy fire in a barn in which some stages and horses were kept, burned. A majority of the people charged the Donnellys with the crime of arson.

May 12 Mr. Stanley's barn burned. Supposed incendiary.

May 23 three horses belonging to Wm. Walker were butchered. This was charged on the Donnellys.

May 24, the building containing the I. O. O. F. lodge rooms were fired. The Donnellys were said to entertain no good feelings toward the Order.

May 25 there was another fire in Fitzsimonds' stables, and Glasgow's stable was burned.

September 13, Michael Carroll's barns, etc., were burned. Carroll and Donnelly were enemies.

At this stage the feud was removed from the village of Lucan to the neighborhood of the Donnelly home, and the fight which culminated yesterday was begun. A man named Everett was employed to obtain evidence against the supposed guilty parties in connection with these numerous fires. He and the Donnellys did not agree very well and he had some arrests made by which he got into trouble with them. On the evening of March 18th he was about entering his door when a charge of back-sword was fired at him from across the street. Eleven bullets struck the door, but he was not injured. Robert Donnelly was arrested as the party who fired the shot. Several parties swore that he was in Lucan that evening. His father, mother, brother and three others swore that he was at home lying on the lounge at the time. He was convicted and sentenced to two years in prison at Kingston. He was arrested March 26 and sentenced April 6. His time only expired a short time ago. He made up his mind by "good time." Since that time Mr. Everett has made affidavit that Robert Donnelly was not the man who shot at him, and it has been ascertained that the witnesses who swore to an affidavit told the truth.

On the 22nd a man named Ryan came to Lucan, and since that time he has been in the house. Donnelly and another man were at the house. Ryan was robbed of \$60. Donnelly was charged with the robbery and the matter investigated. Nothing came of it. He was re-arrested, and nothing came of that. Ryan's case followed the matter up and brought the case before the Grand Jury. Donnelly is now under bonds to answer the charge, and his friends claim the case to be one of persecution.

About September 1, 1870, a man named Thompson missed his cow. A party of forty five men went out to the Donnelly farm and searched it. They were not found, but was subsequently discovered in a field of a man named John Donnelly brought suit for trespass in consequence of his testimony in that suit concerning the permission given to go on to the land, he was arrested on a charge of perjury. He was under bonds to answer to this charge when he was shot.

When Mr. Fowler, Colonial Secretary of the Honduras, was recently exploring the interior of the colony, he was overtaken by a drove of peccaries, and had only time to take a snap shot at the first of them and scramble up a tree, dropping his rifle in the performance, before the whole pack were round his perch, gnashing their teeth at him, gnawing and sharpening their tusks against his tree. Now the peccary is not only ferocious but patient, and rather than let an object of its anger escape will wait about for days, so that the Secretary had before him only two courses—either to remain where he was until he dropped down among the swine from sheer exhaustion and hunger, or else to commit suicide at once by coming down to be eaten there and then. While he was in this dilemma, however, a jaguar appeared. This animal has a particular fondness for wild pork and the peccaries bolted helter-skelter. The jaguar was after them with admirable promptitude, and the Secretary, finding the coast clear, made his escape. A French chemist asserts that if tea be ground like coffee, immediately before hot water is poured upon it, its exhilarating qualities will be doubled.