

great change has evidently been wrought in her, and now that her days are surely numbered, and that the false hopes which well-meaning but misguided people had raised in her breast have fallen to the ground, it is not at all improbable that her heart will yield to the smitings of conscience and her soul acknowledge the irresistible power of truth.

To-day the condemned is in good spirits. She seems to be nervyng herself for the last act of the terrible tragedy. She, however, slept but little last night, and ate little to-day.

It may perhaps be of interest to know that in the history of our State is already recorded the execution of two women, both for murder. MARY TWIGGS was hung at Danville, Montour County, on the 22d day of October, 1858, for poisoning her husband. CHARLOTTE JONES, who was convicted of murdering her uncle and aunt, assisted by a man named FIFE, was hung, as was also FIFE, on the 1st of February, 1858, in this city. The murder took place at the house of the assassins, who, it seems, lived together. CHARLOTTE was about thirty-five years of age. No other woman has, I believe, suffered the extreme penalty of the law in Pennsylvania.

THE AMERICAN BORGIA.

EXECUTION OF MARTHA GRINDER.

She Confesses to Having Poisoned Two Women, Mary C. Caruthers and Jane R. Buchanan—Brief Sketch of the Case—Test of Her Sanity.

PITTSBURGH, Friday, Jan. 19.

MARTHA GRINDER, the poisoner, was executed to-day. She made a confession admitting the murder of MARY C. CARUTHERS and JANE C. BUCHANAN, but denied the other charges of poisoning brought against her. Contrary to general expectation, her deportment on the scaffold was calm and collected.

Special Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.

PITTSBURGH, Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1866.

To-morrow, Mrs. MARTHA GRINDER, the Pittsburgh poisoner, will expiate her transgression of the laws of God and man upon the gallows. For the proper understanding of the case, it will be necessary to make a short resumé of the crime for which she is to suffer:

The murder on which she was arraigned was committed in Alleghany during the latter part of July and the first of August, 1865. The administration of the poison to the victim extended through a period of several weeks, during which time the accused was unremitting in her attentions to the sufferer, and exhibited so much apparent kindness and sympathy as to completely disarm suspicion.

After the death of the person whom she with her own hands destroyed, none were more careful in the preparation for the funeral than the murderess herself. Mrs. GRINDER, during the progress of her trial, evinced the greatest coolness, giving the appearance rather of a spectator than that of the felon. When the jurors were called, she instructed her lawyers as to which of them should be challenged, and frequently suggested to her counsel questions to be asked the witnesses.

The most important witness was the husband of the deceased, JAMES S. CARUTHERS. He testified that his wife, MARY CAROLINE CARUTHERS, died on the 1st of August, 1865. The body was buried, but was exhumed on the 30th of August. His wife took sick on the evening of the 27th of June last. She was affected by vomiting, purging, affection in her throat, burning sensation in the stomach, pain in the breast and dizziness, nausea, &c. Mrs. GRINDER, who lived next door, on Gray's-alley, in Alleghany City, was among the foremost in her attentions to the dying woman. The evidence of Mr. CARUTHERS showed that immediately after partaking of the food sent by Mrs. GRINDER, himself, and whoever else partook, were affected in the same manner as his wife at the time of her first taking sick. The poisoning continuing, the physician became alarmed, and therefore advised Mr. and Mrs. CARUTHERS to leave, for a time, their residence, and go to the country. They did so, and while away both rapidly recovered, their health remaining good during the whole time they were absent. Upon their return home, however, the attentions of Mrs. GRINDER recommenced, and again the strange sickness manifested itself. The mother of the deceased was sent for, as even at this time it was thought her daughter could not recover. She arrived on the 28th of July, and, partaking of the food sent by Mrs. GRINDER, was taken sick, the same symptoms manifesting themselves as in the case of her daughter and son-in-law. The evidence of Mr. CARUTHERS was supported by that of other witnesses. There was also evidence showing that Mrs. GRINDER had poisoned the family of Mrs. MARGUERITE SMITH, who lived next door to Mrs. CARUTHERS, by a bowl of soup. The family was composed of the mother and six children, all of whom but one eat of the soup, and here, as before, all who eat were immediately taken sick—one, a child, dying. When the doctor stated to Mrs. SMITH that the sickness was the effect of poison, and Mrs. SMITH, repeating the assertion to Mrs. GRINDER, our modern Borgia quickly replied, "That man is a fool." The body of Mrs. CARUTHERS being exhumed, a chemical examination of the stomach was made by eminent chemists, and arsenic and antimony were discovered in large quantities. Articles of clothing belonging to the deceased were found in the possession of Mrs. GRINDER. The officer who arrested the condemned testified that although the wretched woman made no statement in regard to the charges against her, she said that she had had the matter fixed, and she supposed she would have to go to jail.

Another witness testified that on the morning of the arrest Mrs. GRINDER was making preparations to leave the city. The case went to the jury on Friday, Oct. 27. They agreed on Saturday, the day following. Their verdict was guilty of murder in the first degree. The prisoner was sentenced to be hung on Friday, Jan. 19, 1866, between the hours of 10 and 2.

During the reading of the verdict the prisoner maintained the same composure exhibited by her during the trial, and left the court-room with a firm, elastic step. She protests her innocence, and says she is the victim of a conspiracy.

Since her imprisonment Mrs. GRINDER has been visited almost daily by her husband, and on some occasions the interviews have been very affecting.

Until the last week she showed great courage and fortitude in bearing up against the horrors of her situation; but latterly her strong will seems to have given way, and she is sinking rapidly, both in health and spirits.

An opinion was for a time quite rife that Mrs. GRINDER is a homicidal monomaniac, that she committed the murder without criminal intent. This theory, however pretty it may be, has, as your telegraph report has by this time informed you, been unceremoniously dashed to the ground. The medical committee, composed of Dr. JOHN CURWIN, of the State Lunatic Asylum of Harrisburgh; Dr. J. R. REED, of the Dixmont Hospital for the Insane, and Dr. J. KING, of this city, late Surgeon-General of the State. It was 5 o'clock on Tuesday before Dr. CURWIN reached the city, and shortly after the members of the commission, accompanied by the District Attorney, called at the jail, and announced to the Warden the object of their visit. Mr. WHITE immediately informed Mrs. GRINDER that three gentlemen had called at the office for the purpose of looking at the jail, and, as they were desirous of seeing her, he would, if she had no objection, introduce them. She made no objection, and the gentlemen forming the commission, the District Attorney, and one or two others were admitted to her cell, where a rufing conversation ensued, which the culprit maintained with spirit for a period of nearly two hours. Dr. REED did the chief part of the talking on the part of the commission, with a word put in occasionally by Dr. KING, and semi-occasionally by Dr. CURWIN. The other spectators were mere "lookers-on," and took no part in the conversation.

Dr. REED opened the conversation by inquiries concerning her health, &c., put in that mild, insinuating manner characteristic of the man. All his questions were answered without hesitation and with remarkable spirit and intelligence. After dwelling on this subject for some time, the doctor next adverted to her age, her married life, her girlhood, &c., and to all his questions he received prompt and straightforward replies. She stated, among other things, that she was born in 1833, and was twice married, the first time in Harrodsburgh, Ind., at the early age of fourteen; that she had two children by her first husband and none by her second; that her general health had been good, and that she never used morphia, or anything of the kind, though she knew the effects of such stimulants.

The Doctor next questioned her as regarded the crime with which she stood charged, and whether she regarded the taking of human life by poison as sinful, &c. She replied that she knew murder was wrong, and that it was a sin to take life. On this head her answers were exceedingly direct and intelligent. The case of Mrs. CARUTHERS, of whose murder she stands convicted, was then brought up by Dr. REED, remarking that he had glanced over the evidence, and inquiring upon what theory she could account for her death, if not upon the hypothesis that she had been poisoned. To this she answered that she did not know what caused her death, and that she had no theory about it. With a view, then, of testing her memory, the doctor referred to the case of a Mrs. HURCHINSON, who fell on Hand-street in a sort of fit, and was removed to Mrs. GRINDER's house, from which she was afterward sent to the asylum, crazy, it was said, from morphine administered her while there. She went over the whole affair as it occurred, detailing every incident connected with it, of which she was cognizant, in a clear and straightforward manner.

Some ordinary topics were next discussed, after which the matter of her trial was referred to, and a question put to her by Dr. CURWIN as to how long it lasted, &c. She answered that it had continued some seven days, and then, as if not quite certain, asked the warden if it was not so. But I will not pursue the conversation further. Suffice it to say that the commission interrogated her upon everything likely to develop systems of insanity, if any existed, and the nature of her answers may be inferred from what I have written above.

The unhappy woman was purposely kept in ignorance of the object for which the commission visited her until yesterday, when they informed her who they were, the purpose of their visit, and the conclusion that they had arrived at in her case, namely, that she was perfectly sane, adding that there was now no hope for her, and urging her to make proper preparations for the awful future before her. She was much affected by the announcement, and wept bitterly, but she soon grew calmer, and requested Rev. Mr. DERMOTT, her former pastor, to visit her in the afternoon, which he did, praying and conversing with her at some length. She was deeply moved by the interview, and begged him to call and see her again. He promised to do so, and will visit her this morning. In reply to an earnest appeal from him as to whether she had stated and told all she intended, she replied, with considerable hesitation, "Yes, pretty much."

While this interview was in progress, her regular spiritual adviser called upon her, and talked and prayed with her at great length. She seemed deeply affected, and her improvement was more than at any time since her imprisonment.