

BLACKBURN TRAGEDY.



List to the awful and heart-rending tale,
 'Tis enough for to turn your blood cold,
 To stroll tears of pity I'm sure you can't fail,
 When these horrid disclosures are told.
 A dear little girl Emily Holland by name,
 Who was only seven years of age,
 'Tis evident and clear the poor little dear,
 Was murdered and cruelly outraged.

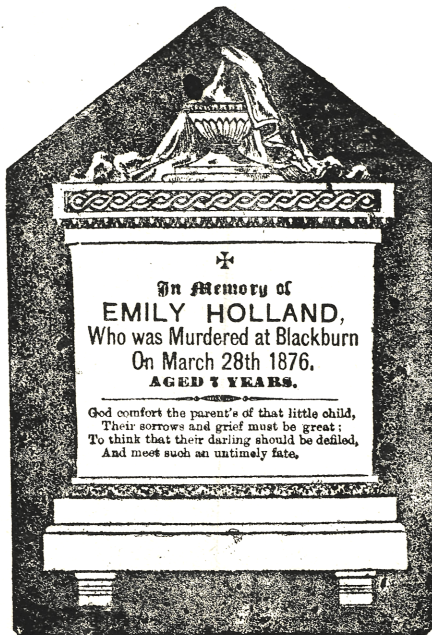
CHORUS.

May dear little Emily shine,
 With heavenly angels an high;
 Her murderer's confes'd and can never find
 rest,
 For her blood now for vengeance does cry.

Poor Emily Holland was last seen alive,
 On Tuesday March 28th day;
 Returning from school, when Fish did en-
 treave,
 The poor innocent girl to betray.

He first violated his victim we read,
 And afterwards, being afraid
 And thinking to hide his unlawful deed,
 He murdered the dear little maid.

Fear Emily was misad and her parents so
 dear,
 Where running about nearly wild,
 Enquiring and searching about far and near
 on milly, their lost little child.



But the dear little creature was not to be
 found,
 She'd been cruelly murdered that night,
 But by a bloodhound her murderer is found
 And her missing remains brought to light.

Poor Emily was missing 2 nights and a day
 But not far from her parents abode;
 Her body at last was discovered they say
 In a field off the Whalley New Road.
 The head, legs, and arms, from the body it
 seems,
 Had been severed how sad far to say,
 They searched all around and her legs they
 found,
 In a drain nearly two miles away.

Ever since the child's fate, suspicion was
 great,
 'Gainst a barber in Moss street we read;
 They searched thro' his place but nothing
 could trace
 To connect him with this horrid deed.
 But chief constable Potts, arrangements did
 make
 And by the aid of a bloodhound,
 They searched again when the skull of the
 child,
 And some bones in the chimney was found
 Composed by John White, Liverpool

The annals of Blackburn show at no period so horrible an act of inhuman butchery as one which came to light on Thursday March 30th, and which roused the indignation of the community intensely. Scarcely had the excitement created by the Minnights subsided, than a case more fiendish in atrocity is discovered in our own midst. About noon on the above date a rumour was set on wing that the body of a girl had been discovered mangled and hacked to pieces. The rumour circulated with the speed of electricity through every part of the town, and the horror and anger of the inhabitants was provoked at the revolting discovery.

In the forenoon of the day mentioned, Mrs. White the wife of John White, of Bastwell-terrace, noticed a dog to be constantly running to and from a paper parcel in the field at the rear of her residence and close by a wall Mrs. White, attracted by the strange proceedings of the dog, was induced to go to the bundle for to ascertain what it was. Noticing what she considered to be a portion of the body of a child through some breakage in the wrapper, she became alarmed, and on meeting Richard Dewhurst, clogger, of 66, Whalley-road, acquainted him of her suspicions. The parcel on being examined were found to contain the trunk of the body of a girl apparently of about seven or eight years of age, mutilated in a most horrible manner. The head, legs, and arms were missing. These had been cut off evidently with a strong knife in a rude fashion. The body presented a most sickening aspect, and appeared to have been subjected to the most barbarous treatment. The arms had been removed close to the shoulders, and the thighs. From the appearance of the body it is evident that the ruffian who perpetrated the dastardly crime had outraged the poor girl in a most shameful manner. The neck had been severed from the body close to the shoulders, and appearances indicate that the work had been clumsily done. There is no doubt also that the murder was committed elsewhere, and that the parcel was thrown over the wall by the perpetrator of the villainy.

As soon as the discovery was made, Richard Dewhurst, proceeded to the police-station to acquaint the officials of the crime. Chief-constable Potts and Supt. Eastwood at once proceeded to the scene of the discovery, and on arriving there met P.C. Rostron leaving the field with the bo-

dy in his possession, and which he conveyed to the police-station.

The police were soon satisfied that the victim was Emily Holland, daughter of James Holland, of 110, Moss street, Blackburn, who had been missing from the previous Tuesday afternoon.

It was reported and strongly suspected that a tramp had committed the crime, and a tramp named Taylor, was apprehended at Ashbourne near Derby, on suspicion. Taylor was identified by some of Emily's schoolmates as the man they had seen with Emily. Taylor was remanded, the police being of opinion that they could make out a clear case against him.

On Sunday, the 16th April, there was a search party out on the Bastwell fields of an extraordinary character. The inhabitants had well nigh tired themselves out, or had given up in despair their efforts to find any further remains of the child. During that morning, however, their work was taken up by Peter Taylor, of Nelson Street, Preston, who volunteered the services of two dogs to the Chief-constable, and had them promptly and happily accepted. One can well understand that the police must have been nigh at their wit's end which way next to turn for evidence, for although they had an accused one in custody, the evidence was, to say the least, doubtful against him. Yet people have been hanged for less, and Robert Taylor probably escaped a similar doom by the narrowest chances.

The detectives, with Taylor and his dogs, scoured the neighbourhoods where the trunk and legs were found, but without result. They afterwards visited two barbers' shops. In the first house, Denis White-head's, the dogs did not scent anything, but on entering Fish's shop the dogs immediately began to scent the corners and crevices in the place. The dog jumped upon the slopstone, and appeared to scent something there. Detective Holden opened the door leading to the bed rooms, and proceeded up stairs, and the dog immediately followed him and after scenting all round the rooms, stopped in front of the fireplace. Mr. Taylor observing the manner of the dog, and once went into the chimney, and there found a part of a human skull and calcined bones, bits of burnt clothing, and locks of hair tangled and matted with blood.

Fish and his wife were present when the discovery was made. Fish, stood pale and silent, and was at once taken into custody by Chief-

constable Potts on the charge of being the murderer. In reply to the charge he said:—"I know nothing about it."

Fish was brought before the magistrates the next day, and when asked if he had anything to say why he should not be remanded, he replied; "I am as innocent as a child." Fish was then remanded to Thursday, when he was committed for trial.

Shortly after being removed to his cell, he told P. C. Parkinson, who was in the cell with him, that he had burnt part of the murdered girl's clothes, and that another part was under the coals in the shop. This intelligence was communicated to Chief Constable Potts, who sent for the prisoner; and Fish, who appeared as if likely to give way under unbearable anguish, made the following confession, which was written down at the time, and signed by the prisoner in the presence of the persons whose names are attached to it:—

I told Constable William Parkinson that I had burnt part of the clothes, and put the other part under the coals in my shop; and I now wish to say that I am guilty of the murder. I further wish to say that I do not want the innocent to suffer. At a few minutes after five o'clock in the evening I was standing at my shop door, in Moss-street, when the deceased child came past. She was going up Moss street. I asked her to bring me one half-ounce of tobacco from Cox's shop. She did. I asked her to go up stairs, and she did. I went up with her. I tried to abuse her, and she was nearly dead. I then cut her throat with a razor. This was in the front room, near the fire. I then carried the body downstairs into the shop; cut off her head, arms, and legs; wrapped up the body in newspapers, on the floor; wrapped the legs also in newspapers, and put those parcels into a box in the back kitchen. The arms and head I put in the fire. On the Wednesday afternoon I took the parcel containing the legs to Lower Cunniffe; and at nine o'clock that night, I took the parcel containing the body to a field at Bat-twood, and threw it over the wall. On Friday afternoon, I burnt part of the clothing.

On the Wednesday morning, I took a part of the head which was burnt, and put it up the chimney, in the front bedroom.

I further wish to say that I did all myself; no other person had anything to do with it.

The foregoing statement has been read over to me, and is correct. It is my voluntary statement, and before I made it, I was told that it would be taken down in writing, and given in evidence against me.

(Signed) WILLIAM FISH.

Fish was visited by his wife, who had with her their eldest child. Directly he beheld her he burst into tears, and seizing the child excitedly, repeatedly kissed it.

White, Printer, Rose-place Liverpool

