

into the house?"

"Our Jane was in the bedroom at that time."

"Was there any other conversation between your husband and Penn?"

"My husband asked him what boat he was off, and he said he was off the Teviot, and that he wanted the butter for the Tairua yacht."

"Did anyone else come that morning?"

"When my husband was going out to get the butter John Caffrey jumped in."

"Did Caffrey say anything?"

"When he came in he said, 'Put up your hands; put up your hands, Taylor,' repeating the words three times in a very rough voice. Then my husband says, 'Oh, Johnny, Johnny, don't shoot me.' Caffrey had two revolvers in his hands, one in each hand."

"Did he do anything with the revolvers?"

"He said, 'Put them up, put them up,' pointing them at my husband. He fired three shots, one after the other. (Witness showed the interval between the shots by tapping on the desk.) I did not notice just then if any of the shots had taken effect. Penn said nothing during this scene, even when Caffrey fired. He was only a few yards off."

"What did your son Lincoln do when the three shots were fired?"

"He said, 'Oh, Johnny, Johnny, don't shoot father,' then he ran out and escaped through the window. My husband followed my son and slammed the door behind him. John Caffrey burst the door open, and Penn followed after them, while I ran screaming about the place like one distracted. I went into No. 1 bedroom and saw my husband in No. 2 bedroom, with Henry Penn with his arm round my husband's neck, and Penn pointed a revolver at him with his right hand. My husband was standing straight up. I then ran back into the kitchen. I saw a pool of blood on the floor of No. 1 bedroom, just between the kitchen door and the bedroom door. I heard an other pistol shot just then, and ran away along the beach towards Sandy Bay, that is, away from our place. Henry Penn followed me. He said, 'You stop; don't go any further; if you do I will blow your brains out.' He had a revolver in his hand. He pointed it at me, and I asked for mercy, saying, 'Lord have mercy upon me; don't shoot a poor old woman like me.'"

(Mrs Taylor appeared affected by her recollection of the scene.) Penn then said, "Where are the girls?" and I answered, "I don't know anything about the girls." He says, "Don't you tell me any stories; you have them planted underneath the bed." I says, "Well, if you can't believe me, you had better go and see them." He was reloading the revolver all the time he was bailing me up. Then I saw John Caffrey coming towards us from the house. I called him to see if he would help me. I said, "Johnny, what does this man want to shoot me for?" Caffrey had a revolver and some line rope. He had blood on his hat. He said, "Don't harm the old woman."

Then I says, "Oh! Johnny, Johnny! What have you done?" And he replied, "I have done it! I have done it!"

I then said, "You have murdered an innocent old man."

He said he had not done yet, and was going to finish the lot up at Harataunga, where Mr Seymour and others lived. During this time Penn never said a word. The two then ran along the beach over the point quickly. They went over towards Sandy Bay, where the boat was. I went home, and found my husband in No. 2 bedroom. He was sitting up next the big box, his head was on his breast, and his arms stretched out. He was dead. I spoke to him to see if I could get any answer out of him, but could not. There was a little blood about the right cheek. I thought if he lay that way we would have a job to get him in the coffin. So I got the pillow and placed it under his head. No one was in the house at the time except the baby, which was quietly asleep on the bed through it all. First came back Lincoln. I went outside, and he came running over the hill. I went and got the baby, and we ran to the beach. When I got to the beach I saw my daughters. We got into a fat-bot-

tomed punt and rowed across the bay. Jane and Lincoln were dressed, but Mrs Seymour was in her nightdreas.

In answer to a juror Mrs Taylor said: "After Caffrey had fired the three shots I saw my husband staggering."

Mrs Taylor was cross-examined by all the counsel, but nothing further was elicited.

Mrs Seymour was the next witness. She admitted having been once engaged to Caffrey three years before. Her evidence was merely corroborative of that of her mother. She heard what was going on, and when she recognised Caffrey's voice guessed what he had come to do, and escaped through the window in her night clothes. She hid in the scrub near the house, and lay there in an agony of fear, seeing the murderers threaten her mother, and hunting everywhere for her. As we know, she joined her mother and the others on the beach. While crossing the bay the Sovereign of the Seas was seen putting out to sea. Naturally the news of the awful occurrence created much alarm amongst other settlers. The postman, Mr Blair, despatched the cutter Tairua for assistance to Coronandel, but she was chased by the Sovereign of the Seas and put back to Tryphena. Next day, however, the Sovereign of the Seas being nowhere in sight, another attempt was made to get to the mainland, and after a terrible trip this was accomplished.

The news created an immense sensation in town, despite the fact that the Rotorua eruption was still the absorbing subject of the hour. It was perhaps owing to the fact that the Government had their hands full with Rotorua affairs that a lamentable waste of time took place with regard to dispatching a steamer in chase of the criminals. Had this been done at once there can be little doubt that owing to the fearful weather raging at the time, the cutter must have been caught up with and the criminals captured. The boat sent in chase was not dispatched till after the inquest, and the expedition was in every way farcical. The terror aroused amongst the scattered residents of the Barrier seemed shared by the police, who were armed to the teeth for the chase of the murderers. One cutter was pursued for several miles amid much excitement on the police boat, which was of such an out-of-date character that she could scarcely steam as fast as the average Auckland cutters could sail. The imbecility of sending such a boat on such a quest met with much ridicule and indignation at the time.

So far as the public were concerned all sight was now lost of the murderers for a considerable time, and our story of their doings after the murder must be taken from their own confessions and the evidence of the woman. It must have been a dreadful moment for the murderers when they found all their crime had been in vain, and that Mrs Seymour and her sister had escaped. Directly the bloody deed was done the two guilty men met in the kitchen, and Caffrey in his confession gives the following account of what took place: "I rushed into No. 1 bedroom, and Penn followed me. I said:

"Here is a fix. See what's done, and she has got away after all; let's hurry as quick as possible and prevent her getting away altogether." We both left the kitchen together, and I stood outside for a few moments without doing anything. I remember I felt like shooting myself for a moment or two."

Caffrey then describes seeing Mrs Taylor bailed up by Penn, and letting her go free. He proceeds:—"Going towards the dinghy Penn held up his hands, and said, 'See here; look at our hands; let us wash them.' Then I noticed we had both blood upon our hands. Penn said, 'We must not let Grace see this,' and I replied, 'All right.'" They then washed their hands, and Penn waded out to get the dinghy; the tide had, however, risen, and this was afloat, so Penn had to go up to his middle to get her. This, as will be noticed afterwards, may account for his being more free of blood when he came on board than Caffrey, though, of course, it was only the girl herself who declared this to be the case. We must of necessity take her version of what occurred when the two men returned to the cutter. She stated in Court:—"Caffrey and Penn

returned while I was in the cabin still asleep. It was about 8 o'clock, and it was the noise of their coming on deck woke me. I saw Caffrey first. He had fresh blood on both hands, the right sleeve of his coat and the front of his trousers, as well as on his hat. He had a revolver in his hand. The cutter took a board across the bay, and during that time we saw the Taylors crossing the bay in a punt. The cutter held on her way, and called in at Sandford Bay, where Penn and I got wood and water. While on shore Penn told me Taylor had been killed. He did not say he had had nothing to do with it. We then stood away for sea. During our voyage Penn and I on one occasion had a quarrel about something I said, and Penn struck me. Caffrey was listening, and told Penn not to trust me. He said, 'You can't trust Grace; she is sure to split on you.' I had said something about Taylor, but I cannot remember now what it was. Penn made no reply. On one occasion I asked Caffrey if Taylor were really dead, and he replied, 'I would not like to be as stiff as he is.' He used to jump about and say, 'Old 'Pussy was pretty stiff by this time.' This is all I remember being said. Harry was jolly all the time they were on board, but Caffrey used to fret sometimes; in fact, he always seemed miserable. While at sea they painted the vessel black, and her name on the bow was painted out, while only the last five letters of the word Sovereign were left on the stern—thus, 'Reign,' the rest being painted out."

(To be continued.)

At the general council meeting of the Auckland Society of Musicians on Wednesday, the following officers were elected:—Patrons, the Right Rev. Bishop Leifhan, Sir John L. Campbell, Hon. J. Tole, Ven. Archdeacon Calder, Rev. Dr. Egan, Rev. Father Patterson, Sir G. M. O'Rourke, Rev. Canon Nelson, Dr. H. C. Bennett, Dr. R. W. Beattie, and Messrs. W. J. Napier, M.H.R., Geo. Fowlds, M.H.R., Alfred Kidd, Adolph Kohn and M. Davis. Mr. A. Hanna was appointed hon. solicitor, and Dr. H. Walker hon. surgeon. The Council elected Miss M. Allen and Mr. H. Rowe as members of the society. It was decided that on and after the 5th inst all candidates for admission as professional members must be nominated by a councillor. As the society has already given notice of its intention to conduct examinations in music the syllabus for said examinations were approved of by the Council, also the dates and fees. For theory the date of entry is fixed for March 1, and the examination to take place early in May. For practical examinations the entry to be on June 1, and the examination to be held early in September. The syllabus will be based on that of the Trinity College. No teacher will be permitted to examine his own pupils, and the teacher's name is not to be known to the examiners, and there will at all times be two or more examiners appointed by the Board.

Joseph Temperley, who attempted to kill his wife and commit suicide, was taken to Wanganui Hospital. He is now in an improved condition. Mrs. Temperley is recovering satisfactorily. Her trouble has not yet been located, but is believed to be at the back of the skull. His injury does not give cause for anxiety.

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