

## THE EUDORA TRAGEDY.

**The Captain's Body discovered and Identified by his relatives—Its removal to Connecticut for Interment—Coroner's Inquest and Verdict of the Jury.**

The tragedy of the schooner *Eudora Imogene*, and the mystery connected therewith, will be fresh in the recollection of our readers. For a long time no event that has occurred in the vicinity of the City, has created more excitement. The long suspense, heightened by the discovery, from time to time, of mutilated bodies which were conjectured to be those either of the missing captain or mate, until their relatives arrived from Connecticut, and pronounced them to be the remains of other persons, also mysteriously disposed of, has quickened the interest of the public in everything connected with the vessel. The schooner was scuttled in Long Island Sound, between City Island and Hart Island, as long ago as Nov. 23, 1855, and for weeks afterwards the newspapers contained particulars of the efforts which were being made to raise her, of the finding, on board, of bedclothes and numerous articles of wearing apparel saturated with blood, a piece of human flesh, together with many other suspicious circumstances pointing to the negro WILSON as the murderer. Then came the account of the negro's imprisonment in the jail at White Plains, of his remarkable astuteness, and of his levying a fee of one shilling upon each of the numerous visitors whose curiosity led them to his cell for an inspection of his repulsive features. The next scene in the tragedy was his removal to the Tombs, in this City, where he tried to practice the same mode of raising money, for the purpose, as he said, of accumulating funds to pay a lawyer for defending him. But the authorities at the Tombs refused to sanction such a disgraceful proceeding, and the fellow added nothing to his horde during his detention at the Halls of Justice. Then came his examination in the United States Circuit Court, on the charge of scuttling the vessel on the high seas,—an offence punishable with death; but the lawyer whom he had retained managed to get him clear of that charge, as the statute applied only to vessels scuttled on the high seas, and by no construction could it refer to a schooner scuttled in a river, lake, bay, or other water, within the territorial jurisdiction of any State or county.

The negro was accordingly returned to his old dungeon at White Plains, from which, a week or two afterwards, he was released on a writ of *habeas corpus*, by the exertions of the same lawyer, and actually set at liberty. The feelings of the Westchester people towards him being well known, he was not allowed to leave the jail as another discharged prisoner would have been, but was brought to this City, under protection, and preparations were made for getting him a situation on board some ship that would speedily go to sea. But WILSON had the boldness to visit the U. S. Marshal's Office, and demand the restitution of some wearing apparel which had been taken from him when first committed to prison. To his astonishment he was instantly arrested in the office, on a new charge, that of creating a revolt on board the *Eudora*. He was sent to the Tombs, and from week to week his examination was held before Mr. Commissioner MORTON, who decided to remand him for trial, notwithstanding the earnest efforts of his lawyer aforesaid to procure his discharge a second time. He was again removed to White Plains.

In the meantime, as we have said, the public appetite was whetted by the unaccountable turning up of mangled bodies—one of them half burnt—in bags and barrels, which were conjectured to be those of the murdered man. Capt. ARNOLD, the brother-in-law of the Captain of the *Eudora*, was telegraphed for, on each occasion, and on his arrival disappointed the expectations of those who were anxious to award to the negro the punishment, which nearly everybody felt to be rightly his due. It was feared that all likelihood of finding the bodies of the Captain and mate was at an end, and that the negro could only be convicted for creating a revolt, the punishment for which offence could not exceed ten years in the State Prison, when the body of the Captain was really discovered, and the evidence of a most revolting murder fully brought to light.

ALEXANDER FLANDREAU, residing near New-Rochelle, while walking on Sunday afternoon last along the beach at Hunter's Island, about a mile above City Island, discovered the body of a man, entirely naked and in a partial state of decomposition. From its appearance he believed it to be the body of Captain PALMER, of the *Eudora*; so he sent tidings of the discovery to the City Islanders, who saw the schooner sink and afterwards captured the negro, Captain LEVINAS and Messrs. McCLENNAN and PENDLETON soon repaired to the spot, took charge of the body and conveyed it to City Island, where it was packed in ice.

On Monday, Coroner MORRELL, of Portchester, impaneled a Jury at McClellan's Hotel at City Island, and proceeded to take testimony. Dr. BAYLES, of New-Rochelle, deposed that he had examined the body, and that the deceased had evidently come to his death by violence; the skull on the left side was extensively fractured by a blow dealt by some heavy instrument, such as the head of an axe; the blow was struck just behind the ear, and the skull was split; another violent blow had broken the left cheek-bone, and crushed it in; either blow was sufficient to cause death; the little finger of the left hand was missing; from the breast a large portion of the skin had been cut away with a knife, as if to remove some mark that might lead to identification; a portion of the flesh of the left arm, between the elbow and the wrist, had also been removed; the top of the skull is bare of flesh, and the bones of the limbs are in some places exposed, from the length of time it has been in the water; the left leg had been tied near the ankle by a rope, to which a weight seemed to have been attached; the rope had chafed the flesh almost entirely away, but portions of the yarn still remained.

A telegraphic message was forwarded to Captain ARNOLD at Deep River, Connecticut, and the inquest was adjourned to yesterday, when the first witness examined was the Captain, who arrived by the morning boat. He said:

My name is JESSE ARNOLD; I reside at Deep River, Connecticut; I am the brother-in-law of Captain PALMER of the schooner *Eudora*; I was well acquainted with him; he was 33 years old; I saw him alive last in November; he was five feet eleven inches in height; he had the figure of a female and an anchor worked on his left arm in India ink; that part of the left arm is cut away from the body now present; the initials of his name were on the back of his wrist, and on the calf of his left leg; the mark from the wrist is cut away on this body; that on the calf of the leg is only partially cut away; there was a peculiar mark on the small finger of the right hand, which I recognize on the same finger of the body now lying here; I recognize the body lying here as that of Captain PALMER; I find the mark in the finger, and also the appearance of the jaw and chin to correspond with Captain PALMER exactly; I discover a portion of the mark in India ink on his left leg, where he had his initials; I can make out the letter "P;" I am positive this is the body of Captain Palmer.

Capt. LEVINAS then testified to the sinking of the vessel, and the other circumstances connected with the arrest of the negro, which have already been published.

After a consultation of about ten minutes the Jury returned the following verdict:

"The Jury find that the body of WILLIAM PALMER was found lying dead near high water mark on the beach of Hunter's Island, in the town of Pelham, Westchester County, on the 11th day of May inst., and that said body, when so found, appeared to have been in the water about five months; that he had his skull broken in by a blow on the left side of his head, and that his jaw was fractured. And they further find that one GEORGE WILSON, a man of color, on and about the 23d of November, 1855, on board of the schooner *Eudora Imogene*, in said County of Westchester, feloniously made an assault upon the body of WILLIAM PALMER, then and there present, and that the aforesaid GEORGE WILSON, with a certain hatchet, violently inflicted a mortal wound upon the left side of the head of WILLIAM PALMER, which wound caused his death. The Jury therefore say that GEORGE WILSON did feloniously kill and murder the said WILLIAM PALMER, in the manner and form aforesaid, against the peace of the people of the State of New-York, and their dignity.

(Signed) JOSHUA LEVINAS, Foreman.  
CHARLES McCLENNAN, WILLIAM PRICE,  
WILLIAM SCOFFIELD, THOMAS JENNINGS,  
ALEXANDER ROLEFF, DUDLEY R. WELLS.  
JOHN PRICE,

After the rendition of the verdict, Coroner MORRELL issued a warrant, and placed it in the hands of the Sheriff, for WILSON's arrest. WILSON is confined in the jail at Whitplains, and, of course, his arrest is merely a matter of formality.

The body of Captain PALMER was delivered up to his relation, Captain ARNOLD, who took it in charge,

and sent a message to the captain of the *City of Hartford* steamer, which was to leave New-York for that city, requesting him to stop his steamer at City Island, and receive on board the body of the murdered man. The body was inclosed in a box and tightly packed in ice, and when our reporter left City Island, Captain ARNOLD and his friends were awaiting the arrival of the steamer. The funeral will probably take place at Deep River to-day.

The negro was informed yesterday that the body of the Captain had been discovered. He replied, "So I heard three times before. Glad to hear it. Has the Captain got four bodies, I wonder?" When the marks on the body, the nature of the wounds by which death was effected, and the subsequent mutilation of the remains were described to him, he instantly lost his firmness and gave evidence of the most abject fright.

The excitement of the people at City Island, New-Rochelle, White Plains and the neighboring places at the discovery of the body, is very great.