

Lyneham



Murder

June 30th 1840 saw a brutal murder committed at what is known as the Dog Kennels by one James Taylor, the victim being his wife, who was much younger than himself, and of whom he was intensely jealous. The poor woman, totally unconscious of the danger that was menacing her, was busily preparing food for the evening meal, when her husband crept stealthily up from behind and shot her dead. There can be little doubt, from the conduct both before and at the time of his execution, that the man was mad. When on the scaffold he sang part of a song which was then very popular, laying particular stress on the words:

‘Turn about and wheel about and do just so,
And everytime I turn about I jump Jim Crow.’

His last words were “I like this sort of fun!”