



Attempted Murder by a Lunatic at Trowbridge

Charles Bailey was on Tuesday last committed for trial, by Mr. J. H. Webb, for attempting to murder William Gregory, a journeyman shoemaker. The first witness was Elizabeth Bailey, who deposed: I am a widow, and keep a lodging-house at Trowbridge. The prisoner is my son. About two o'clock on Saturday morning last, I was in bed; the prisoner was in a room over mine, and slept in the same bed with William Gregory. Prisoner came into my room and said, "Bill (meaning William Gregory) has put something into my mouth to kill me". I persuaded him to go to bed. He said, "He's been and tried to kill me, and now I'll go and kill him". He then left my room.

William Gregory, the prosecutor, whose face and head were covered in bandages, said: I sleep in the same bed with the prisoner. I got home on Friday night about 12 o'clock, and found the prisoner in bed. Prisoner said, "You've put something in my mouth to poison me". I said, "I've done no such thing: thee know, Charlie, that you and I have always been the best of friends." Prisoner then began tusselling with me, and I held him in defence. He got me down on the bed, got on top of me, seized my nose between his teeth, and nearly bit the top of it off, and I laid down on the bed to let it bleed. We were both undressed. In about a minute afterwards he came to me and knelt upon the bed and stabbed me under the left ear. I tried to get the knife away from him, but as fast as I caught hold of one arm, he changed the knife into the other. He continued to stab me about the face and head, and, finding I was getting exhausted, I jerked myself off the bed on to the floor and rolled under the bed, and there I lay and bled. Prisoner then ran away.

Edward Perrott, an errand boy:- For some weeks past I have slept in the same room with Gregory and Bailey. They slept in one bed. I was in bed on Friday night about 10 o'clock. Prisoner came to bed at 12 and lay down. Sometime afterwards I was awake by hearing Prisoner saying, "Well, Greg., you have given me something to kill me; I'm dying fast." Prisoner then came back. He went up to Wm. Gregory and tried to choke him. I another person who slept in the same room tried to pull prisoner away. He caught hold of Gregory by the nose with his mouth. Gregory cried "Murder!" and lay down on the bed. Prisoner said, "Where's my knife, I'll kill you." He then took his knife out of his trousers pocket, and got upon the bed and hit the knife into Gregory. They were both undressed. I ran and got a candle, and when I returned prisoner was on the top of Gregory on the bed, and the two others were trying to pull him off. Prisoner kept hitting the knife into Gregory, who then rolled off the bed. I then gave information to the police, and fetched Dr. Stapleton.

Police-Sergeant Millard:- About two o'clock on Saturday morning I proceeded to the yard near the house where the prisoner lives. I found him in the water-closet. He was coming out and I pushed him back. He said, "He tried to kill me and I tried to kill he!" I took him into custody on the charge of stabbing William Gregory. I handed him over to another constable, and I went to the room where the struggle took place. I there saw the wounded man covered with blood, and found the knife I now produce in the room covered with blood. Prisoner did not appear excited when I took him, and I had no reason to think he was wrong in the head.

John Hutton Stapleton, surgeon - About 2 O'clock on Saturday morning I was called to attend William Gregory. I found him lying on the floor in a bedroom, covered with blood, and with

only his shirt on. He was in a state of exhaustion. I discovered that the tip of his nose was nearly bitten off. The left nostril was cut open. There were several incised wounds about the left cheek, one of which penetrated into his mouth. There was a large wound behind the larger vessels under the left ear. I could put my finger half an inch into this wound. There was another wound on the right temple, very near to a large artery. There was a superficial incised wound on the left side of the chest, four inches in length. The right hand is severely cut. The wound under the left ear would have proved fatal if it had been one inch in front of where it was inflicted, as the carotid artery here ascends. The prisoner for the last nine months has been receiving relief from the parish, and has been under my care as a harmless lunatic. He is subject to delirium, but from my acquaintance with him I have found him generally capable of giving intelligible answers to my questions.

Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette, 20 August 1863