

HOMICIDE ON BOARD THE STEAMER NEW WORLD— CORONER'S INQUEST.

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We noted briefly, in yesterday's issue that a passenger on the New World was killed; either accidentally or otherwise, near Benicia, on the upward trip of the steamer on Monday night. The lateness of the hour at which the intelligence reached us; prevented our ascertaining and publishing the particulars. Dr. Bell, County Coroner, held an inquest on the body yesterday morning, at the Station House, at which it appeared that the deceased, being intoxicated at the time, was killed by being pushed down a stairway on the steamer, by the Clerk of the boat, John D. Watson. The deceased was an Irishman, named **Patrick Gardner**, about 48 years of age — a blacksmith in the employ of the General Government at Benicia — married, and the father of a numerous family. A detail of the circumstances will be found in the evidence elicited by the Coroner, as follows: J. Fattier, sworn I reside at Iowa Hill, Placer county; recognize the body before the jury as that of a man I saw on the steamer New World, on her upward trip last night ; about sun down, I was standing in the front gangway, and near the engine; deceased came up the stairs, and I saw a young man who appeared to belong on the boat, aiming to prevent him from coming up ; he was holding him back and telling him to stay down until the tickets were collected ; the Clerk then came around collecting tickets, and asked deceased for his ticket ; at this time deceased had got to the upper portion of the stairway : deceased told the Clerk he had not given him any ticket ; the Clerk said, "Do you pretend to say "that I did not give you any ticket?" Deceased" replied, "You gave me no ticket;" at this time the Clerk took hold of deceased and gave him a shove, and deceased fell head foremost down the stairs; I then stepped to the head of the stairs, and looked down and saw deceased lying on his back at the foot of the stairs. The Clerk followed down immediately after him,' and came up stairs again; I then went with a policeman to the Clerk office, and recognized the Clerk as the one who pushed deceased down stairs, and the policeman arrested him; deceased appeared to be intoxicated the Clerk appeared to be much excited when he took hold of deceased; I did not see or hear any thing that I thought could justify the Clerk in throwing him down stairs. E. D. Knight, sworn— I reside in San Francisco; came up as a passenger on the New World last night; I recognize the body before the jury as that of a man I saw in the ladies' saloon soon after leaving San Francisco ; he appeared very much intoxicated: I saw him frequently afterwards ; about an hour before arriving at Benicia, I saw him on the forward deck ; he was then almost helplessly drunk; when I first saw him there was a lady with him, said to be his wife; after leaving Benicia I was on the boiler deck; saw Mr. Watson and Mr. Miller collecting tickets Mr. Watson was acting in the capacity of Clerk ; I saw some persons collected at the head of the stairs, and looked down and saw deceased lying on his back ; I thought he was dead. Dr. Bates, sworn— I reside in Sacramento ; was on the steamer New World last night on her upward trip ; recognize the body before the jury as that of a man I saw on the steamer as a passenger from San Francisco ; I noticed him before the boat left San Francisco; he was intoxicated; I again saw him after the boat left San Francisco ; he and his wife came down below to get off; they went up the forward gangway, and us I went up I met them coming down ; he was SO much intoxicated that he could scarcely walk ; I did not see him again alive; at about seven o'clock I was called to see deceased ; he was then dead ; he was lying on the lower deck forward ; I examined him and found he was dead did not make a close examination, but thought his neck was broken or injured, which I believed to be the cause of death. Philip Ifenrich, — Just arrived from Germany ; was on the steamer New World as a passenger on her trip last night; recognize the body as that of a man I saw on the steamer; he was coming up stairs ; a young man who was sitting there prevented him from coming up, and asked for a ticket, and pushed him back ; he fell partly down stairs, and came up again, and he again pushed him — a push and a kick — and he fell down to the foot of the stairs upon his head ; he caught hold of deceased, and turned him around, and pushed him down face foremost, and at the same time kicked him ; I saw deceased lying below, but did not go down to him. A. Barbier, sworn — in San Francisco; was on the New World on her upward trip last night ; was opposite the stairway, and deceased was coming up stairs ; he had got to the top, when the Clerk asked him for his ticket; deceased said, "I have no ticket ;" the Clerk was impatient, and to I clear the way pushed him down stairs, and he fell about half way down, and came up again. The Clerk then pushed him with his foot, and he fell down stairs and fell upon his head, his legs resting on the stairs ; I remarked, " The man is killed ;" I recognize this body as the same ; there was some blood come from his head at the time ; the man who pushed him down stairs was acting as Clerk. Charles Berlin, sworn — Resides in San Francisco ; recognize the body as that of a man I saw on the steamer New World last night ; he was dead when I saw him ; knows nothing of his own knowledge relative to the matter. Capt. Samuel Sripnotir, sworn— Captain of the steamer New World ; recognizes body as that of a man who came as passenger last night from San

Francisco ; soon after leaving San Francisco I went into the ladies' cabin and found deceased he was very much intoxicated, and I had him put out of the cabin I did not see him again until just after cabin ; I did not see him again until just after leaving Basnet*; I then noticed that he was so drunk that I was fearful he might fall overboard ; I called the mate and told him to put him into the cabin in a berth, and remarked to the wife of deceased that she had better go the ladies' cabin and lin in berth, and remarked took him and put ;ed that she had better go the ladies' cabin and t till he trot sober; the mate took him and put him in a berth ; I did not see him again alive; I called Dr. Bates; who pronounced him dead; I have always looked upon John D. Watson as a very quiet and peaceable man, and a good Clerk ; he is Clerk of the New World; it is usual when passengers do not show tickets to put them below ; the Clerk's place is in his office until he goes to collect tickets. Dr. J. M. Hatch, Jr., sworn — I am a physician ; was called on to-day by the Coroner and made a]>o*t mortem examination of the body before the jury; I found a fracture of the neck, implicating the last two cervical vertebra), and also an extensive injury about the atlas; those injuries were sufficient to produce almost instant death. w Bou. Ely, sworn— Am porter on the steamer New World ; recognize the body as that of a man I saw on the steamer last night on our upward trip from San Francisco; before we got to Benicia I noticed deceased ; he was very drunk after we passed Benicia, I went, in company with the Clerk— Jonn D, Watson— to collect the" tickets I i went to deceased to wait for the Clerk to get his [ticket; he was then on the' upper deck, leaning against a trunk; I did not speak to him; the Clerk said to him, " Give me your ticket, sir;" he [asked him three times for his' ticket ; I did not understand the reply of deceased ; the Clerk told him to go down stairs and he would get his ticket when he got through collecting the others; he did not start to go down, and the Clerk caught hold of his arm to have him go -down;! after,,, he let go of his arm to have fell go down; after he >of him, the man fell down stairs ; I suppose he lost bus : balance and fell ; I saw that the man had {alien down stairs, and . we went on collecting the tickets the Clerk did not j use sufficient violence to j throw the man down stair* i the man was so beastly drunk he could not walk straight. Edicard Ktly, sworn — Waiter on the New I World ; recognize body as that of a man I saw on thoNew World, as a passenger, last night; after we left Benjcia, I was put in the stairway, and told j o let none pass until the tickets were collected; the Purser and Cleric wsnt up stairs to collect the tickets; deceased came up the stairs ; he was very drunk I told him he could not come up ; lie asked j why ? I toid him they were collecting tickets, and ! that I had had orders to let no one pass ; he replied he did not care a — ji, for he was a cabin passenger, and had his wife in the saloon , he stepl ped on the stairs ; he was stumbling, and forced against me to get up ; I tried to get him to go be- | low ; he said he would not, until be would talk to the Clerk ; in about two minutes, tho Clerk came j along, and asked him for his ticket two or three tinges; he said he had no ticket; the Clerk said, "well, you step down stairs, and I will see that your ticket will be all right; he mad££9me reply; I "did not understand what he said, he was so drunk, and pressed against the Clerk ; the Clerk took hold of him by the coat, and pulled him around to force him to go down stairs ; the deceased gave a step backward, and fell down stairs back foremost; the Clerk went down to him to take him up he told the watchman to raise him up, and he went on to I collect the tickets. The Clerk's name is Watson. He did not use any violence. Edwin Jamtg, »worn— I am a messenger for Wells, Fargo & Co.; soon after leaving Benicia, j last night, I saw deceased on the New World; he j was so drunk I thought he would fall overboard ; | went towards him to take hold of him, and turned I and left the side of the vessel, and remarked that j he would fall overboard if some one did not take ! charge of him. In about twenty minute* after! ward some one said to me that he had fallen down the passage way, and I soon afterwards went forward and saw them examining him.' ' Manut! Peter, sworn— hand on the New World ; on . the last trip I saw deceased on the steamer ; he was very drunk, and the mate told me to put him in a bunk ; I did so and in about ten minutes I saw him dead. . \s , . . Robert ' Morrison, sworn — Mate of the New I World ; recognize body as ; that of a passenger I I saw on the boat last night ; after we had passed j Benicia he was out on "the forward deck with his ! wife ; ihe . was tumbling around on deck and Capt. Seymour told me to take him and put him to bed; I sent one of .the. men who put him in a berth in I the forward cabin; did not see him again alive.: ; Arthur Cornwall? sworn— Clerk on the i New World ; was in the office after we left; San > Francisco last night ; deceased came in and asked j the price of tickets to Benicia; the Clerk told him \$6 for liknself and wife; deceased said he only had I *5,' and the Clerk gave him two tickets for f5,

and told him that he was drunk and he did not i wish him to go into the saloon to annoy the passengers ; he said if he would give him the tickets he would behave himself, and he gave him the tickets ; I did not sec him again alive. Mary **Gardner**, sworn— I reside at Benicia ; recognize the body as that of mv husband, **Patrick Gardner** ; he and myself came as passengers on the New World last evening ; we took passage for Benicia ; I did not know that we had arrived at Benicia until they were taking in the plank ; I saw my husband at that time, and some one took him away, to put him in a safe place ; some gentleman told me to go into the saloon, which I did ; I did not see my husband again

alive ; he was aged about 47 or 47 years ; was from Ireland, recently from Philadelphia. The testimony was here closed, and the jury, after an absence of about ten minutes, returned a verdict that death resulted " from injuries received from a fall down the stairs, on board of the steamer New World ; and that the fall was caused by a push or shove, by John D. Watson, Clerk of said steamer. The jurors were— J. C. Meader, H. D. Burton, Henry Cunningham, T. F. Tindall, W. Palmer, and Wm. Hodges.