

MURDER AT RICHMOND.

A Man found in a Burning Shanty Horribly Burned and Mutilated.— Arrest of the supposed Murderers.

A most atrocious murder was perpetrated near Richmond, in Allegan county, last Tuesday night. We are indebted to Mr. N. Hill, of Sherman's Mills, for the following particulars:

A man who has been for some time past engaged as a laborer on the Chicago and Michigan Lake Shore Railroad, and who also kept at Sherman's Mills, (a point on the above named railroad, in Clyde township, Allegan county, eight miles north of the junction of the railroad with the Kalamazoo and South Haven R. R.) a boarding house for the gang of men employed on that section, by the name of O'Brien, is doubtless the person who was killed.

It seems that the contractors, whose headquarters for the present is at Holland, owed O'Brien some \$200 for labor and board of men, and O'Brien had gone to draw his pay. The money was paid to him and he was on his way home on foot through the woods when he arrived at at night-fall, at Richmond, a little village about 10 miles this side of the mouth of the Kalamazoo river, and a station on the C. & L. M. R. R. Here he determined to stay until the next morning, and to this end he ordered supper and lodging. Just as he was about to retire for the night, two men, strangers in the place, called at the tavern where O'Brien was and asked to see him. With these men O'Brien subsequently went out, and that is the last that is known about him. The next morning an old shanty near Richmond was seen to be smoking and almost burned up.

Looking closer the remains of a human being was discovered in the midst of the heap of smouldering embers, but so charred, dismembered and disfigured as scarcely to be recognized for what it really was. The news soon spread

through the little village, and means were at once taken to rescue the body from its fiery bed. A messenger was sent to a Deputy Sheriff, and subsequently two men by the names of Hogle and Hayward, (one formerly a boarder of O'Brien's,) were arrested upon suspicion of being concerned in the burning of the body.

The arms and the legs of the unfortunate man were burned off, his features destroyed, and nothing left of him that could lead to his recognition. Under one of his arms a little bit of his shirt was found, and near by a piece of a woolen comforter that had belonged to him, also, his knife. The remains were taken to Sherman's Mills, where his family are, and the knife and woolen comforter were recognized; the knife by a peculiar break in the point of the blade which had often been noticed by the members of his family.

It is not known how the murdered man came to his death—whether he was beguiled to a lonely spot and dispatched with few or many blows, and then the body conveyed to the hovel we have spoken of; or whether he was murdered therein, and the fire lighted in the hope that all traces of the foul deed, as well as the mortal remains of their victim, would be consumed, and forever lost. It seems a very bold thing to have fired the shanty, as the murderers must have felt how many chances there were against them, of so unusual an occurrence in the woods at such a time. But evidently they had followed their victim and seen this was the time to strike, and they seem to have been very desperate in all they did.

O'Brien was a man of excellent habits, industrious, sober, and peaceable. He leaves a wife and three children, penniless and without any support whatever. Application was made yesterday morning to the Supervisor of Clyde for help for them.