

# THE TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE TRIAL AND EXECUTION

OF

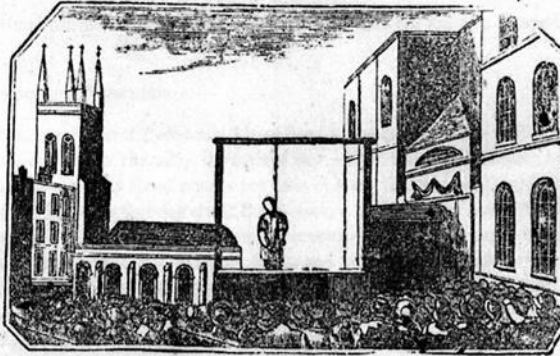
## SAMUEL QUENNELL,

WHO WAS EXECUTED

This Morning, January 5th, 1846, in front of Horsemonger Lane Gaol,  
FOR THE MURDER OF DANIEL FITZGERALD.

At an early hour this morning, the Rev. Chaplin visited the wretched man, and remained with him until the last moments of his earthly career. Precisely at 10 minutes before 10 o'clock the prison bell commenced to toll. At that time the whole of the vacant ground in the front of the gaol and near to it was literally studded with human beings, many of whom had been waiting many hours to witness the awful scene

January 5. 1846



About 10 o'clock the mournful procession reached the top of the gallows, led by the Chaplin, who read in a most impressive manner the burial service, the wretched man Quennell followed, with his eyes turned heavenwards, but we were unable to hear whether or not he responded to the prayers. In the course of a few minutes all the preliminaries being finished the fatal bolt was drawn asunder, and the wretched man was sent hence into eternity. The body having hung the usual time was cut down and taken inside the gaol.

### Trial and Execution of SAMUEL QUENNELL.

At the central Criminal Court, on Tuesday, Samuel Quennell was indicted for the murder of Daniel Fitzgerald, by shooting him.

It will be recollected that Quennell and the deceased were fellow workmen, in the employ of Mr. William Quennell, a master builder in Lambeth, and half brother to the prisoner. In November last the prisoner was discharged by his brother from his service, and was at the same time accused by Mrs W. Quennell of having threatened to knock his brother's brains out. He was informed that Fitzgerald had stated that he (prisoner) had used the expression, and remarked that it was Fitzgerald's fault. Up to that time he and deceased were upon the best and most intimate terms; but on the 27th of November, a day or two after he was discharged, he (prisoner) armed himself with a pistol, and waited in Peacock-street, where deceased lived, until he was returning from work, and when within a few yards of his own house shot him through the heart. The prisoner ran off, but was secured in a few minutes by a gentleman who was passing at the time.

Mrs. Julia Quennell, examined by Mr. Clark, corroborated the evidence of her husband, and, in her cross-examination by Mr. Clarkson, stated that for three weeks previous to this affair she was unable to get a proper answer from the prisoner. He was very dejected and melancholy without any cause; and though she endeavoured to cheer him, he seemed to be lost to himself. His temper was

sullied and morose, and at other times he was cheerful.

James Sparkes, examined by Mr. Bodkin, said that he was present at the shop of Mrs. Tubbs, a general dealer, in the New Cut, Lambeth, on Saturday evening, the 22nd of November, when the prisoner came in and purchased a pistol, very similar to the one now produced, for 5s. 6d., and that he took it away with him.

William Welling, an oilman, residing at No. 1, Amelia Place, Walworth, proved that about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, 26th of November, the prisoner who was a customer, came in his shop, and purchased a pennyworth of the best gunpowder.

John Marns, a gunmaker, at No 31 Walworth Road, said on the 26th of November, he sold to a man a quarter of pound of bullets suitable for the pistol now produced; but he could not identify the prisoner as being the man, though he strongly resembled him.

Mr. Clarkson then proceeded to address the Jury on behalf of the prisoner. He said, of course it would be idle for him to attempt to deny that the deceased had come by his death by the pistol shot wound inflicted upon him by the hand of the prisoner, but he had to submit to the Jury that the only question for them was, whether or not at the time of committing the act, the prisoner was in such a state of mind as to be capable of distinguishing between right and wrong. If not, he was clearly entitled to an acquittal on the ground of insanity.

Lord Chief Justice Tindal summed up the whole evidence to the Jury, who, after turning round for a minute in their box, expressed a wish to retire.

An officer was sworn, and they were escorted out of Court, and after an absence of twenty minutes came again into Court, and delivered a verdict of Guilty.

On being called upon to state what he had to say why he should not receive judgement

to die according to law, the prisoner was silent, but exhibited the greatest firmness and self-possession.

Lord Chief Justice Tindal (his Lordship and Mr. Justice Patteson having assumed their black caps), addressing the prisoner, said,— 'Samuel Quennell, you have been found guilty by the verdict of a Jury of your countrymen of the crime of wilful murder,— a crime which, beyond all others, except that of high treason, is reckoned of the deepest die by the law of England, which still affixes to it the punishment of death. It is my duty to state that I think the Jury have come to a proper conclusion upon the question submitted to their consideration, and I must add that I think there are circumstances in this case of grave and peculiar aggravation. Your crime was not committed under palliation of either sudden anger or casual provocation; but, under some grudge or jealousy created in your mind against the unfortunate victim of your crime, you reserved to yourself time to procure and prepare with great deliberation those instruments of death which you afterwards used against one who believed himself to be your friend. Under these circumstances it is my duty to impress upon your mind that the sentence which I must pronounce upon you will most assuredly be carried into effect, I would entreat you to employ the little time that remains for you to pass in this world in preparing, by earnest repentance and fervent prayer which so soon awaits you.' The learned Judge then pronounced the sentence of death upon the prisoner in the usual form and words, and after a pause added, that it was the order of the Court that prisoner stand committed to the custody of the Sheriff of Surrey, in execution of the judgement pronounced.

The prisoner leisurely withdrew from the bar, with an apparently firm and unembarrassed step.

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