

Trial and Sentence OF FRANZ MULLER,

For the Murder of Mr. BRIGGS, on the North London Railway.



TRIAL AT THE OLD BAILEY.

This day having been appointed for the trial of Franz Muller for the murder of Mr. Briggs on the North London Railway, the Court was densely crowded, several members of the upper classes amongst those present we could recognise.

On the part of the Crown the following prosecuted, namely:—Solicitor-General, Serjeant Ballantine, Mr. Hannen, Mr. Giffard, and Mr. Beasley.

The counsel for the defence were Mr. Serjeant Parry, Mr. Metcalfe, and Mr. Besley.

The following evidence was then adduced in support of the charge:—

Mr Francis Toulmin F.R.S., deposed that Mr. Thomas Briggs, jun., had called on him early on Sunday morning to go with him to Bow, and he there found the deceased lying groaning but perfectly unconscious. Recommended his removal to his own house, where he died on Sunday evening. Made a post-mortem examination of the body thirty-eight hours' after death, of which the following are the

(Portrait of Franz Muller.)



particulars:—The lungs, heart, and other viscera were fairly healthy, having regard to the age of the deceased. There was no puncture of the brain except from the bruise and the depression. The fracture near the ear I ascribe to a blow from a blunt instrument, as also the other wounds on the vertex which fractured the skull. The cause of death was the fracture of the skull and depression of the brain. The wounds on the hands, knuckles, and arm might have been received in trying to defend himself. The wound near the ear was sufficient to cause death.

Mr. Jones, clerk to Messrs. Roberts and Co., saw the deceased last at a quarter to three p.m., on Saturday, the 9th of July, and witness and another clerk went on the river, and were returning home about ten o'clock at the Hackney station to proceed home to Highbury. On entering a first class carriage at Hackney station, saw a black bag on the left hand seat near the door. Found there was nothing in it and threw it on the opposite seat. On removing to the further end of the carriage I put my hand on it to put down a bunch of flowers, and found it wet with blood. Called the attention of the guard to the circumstance, and got into another carriage.

Thomas Fishbourne, ticket collector at Fenchurch Street station, deposed that the deceased whom he knew left by the quarter to 10 p.m. train. Deceased spoke to witness as he passed, bidding good evening.

A. Dakin, an engine driver on the Stratford branch of the North London, proved the finding of the deceased on the six-foot way, while returning with a train of empty carriages and detailed the particulars as already given: Deceased was lying on his back, his left leg drawn up, and the other out straight. His eyes were half open and he was breathing. He never spoke. Saw no one on the line.

Jonathan Matthews, cabman, stated that on Sunday, was the first time he saw the placard having reference to the murder. He communicated certain information to a waterman named Amos as follows:—That he knew Franz Muller. About 7 months ago he kept company with my sister and used to come to my house. He admired the hat I wore, and I got him one like it. The hat now produced I swear to be the same. He called one day and saw my wife when he gave my child the jewel box now produced.

Mr. Death having sworn to the prisoner with whom he had exchanged the chain and ring, swore to the box as the one he placed the chain in:

Serjeant Clark deposed that he boarded the ship Victoria, in company of the American officers. After arresting Muller his trunk was then searched and the watch said to be taken from the person of Briggs, together with a hat supposed to have been worn by him (Briggs) at the time, was found in it.

Several more witnesses were then called, but the principal evidence we have given in the above report. The counsel for the defence having addressed the jury, the Lord Chief Baron then summed up the case very minutely and left it to the jury to decide, who, after consulting a length of time returned a verdict of GUILTY.

The Judge then put on the black cap, and passed sentence of death.



POETRY.

Oh, what excitement has been caused
The nation all around,
Of the dreadful murder which occurred,
Not far from London town,
Upon the Ninth of last July,
Eighteen hundred and sixty-four,
When Thomas Briggs was on the railway four
Westering in his gore.

There is no doubt that Muller,
Poor Thomas Briggs did kill,
And in a railway carriage,
That night his blood did spill.
Suspicion fell on Muller,
Justice did him pursue,
And caught him in America,
Where he so swiftly flew.

Our officers were after him,
And renounced New York all right,
And soon the ship Victoria,
So nobly heaved in sight,
Without delay they went on board,
So clever were their plans,
They seized the wretched murderer,
And conveyed him safe to land.

In New York he was examined,
And to England sent straightway,
On board the steam ship Etna,
He sailed without delay,
And he arrived in London,
With justice as we read,
Where he will have to answer,
For that most atrocious deed.

Inspector Tanner and Serjeant Clarke,
So well did him entrap,
They found on him poor Briggs's watch,
And also Briggs's hat.
Sufficient proof to show that he,
Before he crossed the main,
Was the murderer of poor Thomas Briggs,
Upon the railway train.

Thousands from every quarter,
Did anxious flock to see,
The author of this murder,
The railway tragedy,
He now saw his trial,
He was caused such grief and pain,
The man who killed poor Thomas Briggs,
All in the railway train.