

## POISONING A WHOLE FAMILY!!

At Hatton Garden, Elizabeth Fenning, a young woman, cook in the family of Mr. Turner, law stationer, in Chancery-lane, was examined on Thursday, on suspicion of poisoning the whole family. It appears, that a paper of arsenic, intended to be used in destroying rats, had been taken from Mr. T.'s desk, where, to prevent accidents, it was labelled "arsenic, deadly poison," and mixed with flour used in making yeast dumplings. All the family partook of the food, and were, for some days, in extreme danger. Mrs. Turner was not far distant from the period of her delivery.

Oriabar Turner, of Chancery-lane, stationer, deposed, that on Tuesday the 21st inst. on returning to town from his house at Lambeth, he was induced to dine at his house in Chancery lane, with his son and daughter-in-law; they had for dinner some yeast dumplings, with rump-steaks and potatoes. They had nearly dined, when Mrs. Charlotte Turner finding herself extremely unwell, retired to her room above stairs, and upon inquiry they found her complaining of violent sickness. Robert Turner and himself were soon afterwards taken very ill, and counted dreadfully. The apprentice, Roger Gadsden, went into the kitchen, and seeing the remnant of the dumplings, was desirous of eating a part of them; but the prisoner, Eliza Fenning, endeavoured to dissuade him from it, by saying they were cold and heavy, and would do him no good: he, however, did eat a small portion of them, and was afterwards seized with violent vomitings also. The prisoner made no inquiry, nor did she do any thing to assist, but partook afterwards of the same dumplings, although she had had her dinner before, and was in consequence seized with similar vomiting. Having suspicion, he endeavoured to find arsenic in the house, but failed in so doing. A quantity of arsenic had, for many months, been deposited in a drawer in the office, tied up in wrappers, and written on "arsenic, deadly poison," which has been missed about three weeks. This was kept to be occasionally used to destroy mice, in the office drawers, where parchments and papers of consequence were deposited.

Mr. Marshall, a surgeon, of Half-moon-street, Piccadilly, deposed that on visiting the family of Mr. T. he found Eliza Fenning, lying on the stairs, in great agony, and was informed she had vomited much. All the family had been poisoned. He examined a dish shewn him by Mr. O. Turner, and found a quantity of arsenic at the bottom of it. He separated it from the dough by the usual method, dissolving the dough in warm water, by which the arsenic fell to the bottom.

Charlotte Turner, the wife of Robert Turner, deposed, that the prisoner lived with her about six weeks as cook. About three weeks ago witness had some dispute with the prisoner, on account of some indelicacy in her conduct, and gave her warning to quit, but afterwards took compassion on her, and changed her mind. The prisoner had frequently within this last fortnight, teased her to let her make some dumplings for dinner, adding "you cannot believe how well I can make them." Monday the 20th, she told witness that the brewer had brought some yeast, which she ordered, without witness's desiring her; witness, in consequence ordered her to make the dumplings she had been so long talking of for next day's dinner. Tuesday the 21st the prisoner went to Brooks-market for some beef steaks for dinner. She made a beef-steak pye for dinner, for herself and Sally, her fellow servant, and the two apprentices. They had their dinner at two o'clock, and she made the dumplings for the family dinner. Witness saw the dough after she mixed it up, and firmly believed the deleterious ingredients were then mixed in it, its appearance being flat, black, and heavy.

Mary Per Turner, wife of Mr. Oriabar Turner, deposed, that she was sent for in great haste from Lambeth, and supposed that her daughter-in-law was in labour. Witness arrived in Chancery-lane about eight o'clock, and found the family as already described. Witness seeing the prisoner, at the stair-foot, she said to her, "O Eliza! this devilish dumpling has done for them." The prisoner answered, "not the dumpling, but the milk, madam." "What milk?" "The milk that Sally fetched, and of which Mrs. Robert has made the sauce." "It cannot be the sauce, Sally." "O yes, Madam; for Gadsden (the apprentice) eat no more than the size of a nut of it; but he took some bread and dipped in the sauce. My poor mistress, I am glad you are come."

Mr. Rob. Gregson Turner corroborated his father's evidence, with the addition that he was worse than any of them from eating the dumpling, he not having tasted any of the sauce. Sarah Pearse, the housemaid, had lived eleven months in the family: heard the prisoner say, after her mistress gave her warning, that she should never like them any more. Witness, by desire of the prisoner, brought her a halfpenny worth of milk to make the sauce, as she said she had not enough.

Wm. Thistleton, the officer, searched the prisoner, and also her box, but found nothing of a suspicious nature. She told him in the office that she believed the poison to be in the yeast, as she perceived a white sediment at the bottom, or that the other girl, who was very sly and crafty, might put it in the milk. She asserted her own innocence, observing, that she had partook of the poison, and was then labouring under its effects. She was fully committed for trial.

At the Salop Assizes, Thos. Jessen, a tailor, aged 25, was indicted for the murder of his wife's child, Mary Birch, at Hales Owen, on the 20th Jan. From the testimony of several witnesses, it appeared, that the child was illegitimate, and born before his marriage with its mother; he was to have 14l. from one Whitehouse, the reputed father, to take care of it wholly. On the night in question, he took the child out of bed, and holding it by the thigh, dashed it against the brick flooring until it expired. The pressure of his fingers on the body was very visible, and the blood was sprinkled on the floor. The prisoner alleged in defence, that he was seized with an epileptic fit, and that he committed the deed not knowing what he did: he fell on the floor in a fit across the child. Mr. Joseph Moss, surgeon, said, that the child might have been struck against the wall by the holder of it falling into an epileptic fit. Verdict, **GUILTY: Death.** The prisoner appeared insensible during the trial; but when the verdict and sentence were pronounced, he threw himself on the floor in despair.