

By authority of the Wyandott Nation.

For the information of all present, the Wyandott Council direct that the following proclamation be made setting forth in extents the causes which have led to the sanguinary execution about to ~~be executed~~ take place in your presence. By the evidence on the trial it appears that the prisoner in company with Curtis Lanch, the murdered youth, came across the Wyandott Ferry together on the evening of the 10th of December, and instead of going to their respective homes, proceeded to the House of John B. Curleyhead, he being absent that evening, and none but his children being then at home. Immediately after entering the House a quarrel was raised on account of some past differences. It appeared in evidence that the deceased was much intoxicated while the prisoner was but little under the influence of liquor. A scuffle ensued, when the prisoner seized a heavy iron rod or poker about three feet in length and struck deceased three or four times while yet laying upon the floor, over the head, especially over the forehead, sometimes wielding the poker with both hands and employing all his strength in the use of the weapon. The children becoming alarmed, Curleyhead's little boy ran out intending to go to the nearest neighbor to get assistance in putting a stop to the fight. While on his way he met with Martin Big Arms and called upon him to go to the House and stop the affray. Martin went; but on reaching the House he was found to be so much intoxicated as to be unable to render any aid. On his arrival at the House, the prisoner, not satisfied with the mortal wounds already inflicted, fell upon him again, while still laying prostrate and unable to rise or defend himself, beating him with his fist and kicking and stamping him in the side and breast; Martin either being physically unable or disinclined to interfere stood as an idle spectator on this scene of blood. At this stage of the affray Curleyhead returned and on entering inquired who the individual was laying on the floor. Martin replied as well as his drunken and muddled condition would admit of, that the prisoner had just given him (Curtis) a whipping—he had whipped him a little. Martin then said to the prisoner, "Come let's go home." As they proceeded to the door, the prisoner stooped and remarked, "I do not think it necessary to do any thing more to him, as I think I have put him beyond the possibility of a recovery." It was now late bed time. Between that hour and the dawn of day he died of his wounds on the head, his skull being severely fractured. He was arrested on Saturday the 11th and duly committed for trial before the High Criminal Court.

On Friday the 14th of December he was arraigned and had his trial before a jury of his peers consisting of twenty one lay auditors. The evidence being gone through with, and ^{readily} defended, the Case was submitted to the jury which brot in a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. A petition was drawn up and numerously and respectably signed for a commutation of the ~~death~~ punishment from death to banishment or imprisonment; but the cries of sympathy, mercy and humanity, could not in this case be entertained without being chargeable with dereliction of duty in the faithful execution of the Laws. Crimes of this character have of late become so alarmingly common as to call loudly upon the Authorities of the nation to enforce the criminal Law with the utmost rigor and make a public example of the first aggravated Case that may be convicted of such crimes. Sentence was pronounced that ^{at} on Tuesday the 18th day of January ⁽¹⁸²³⁾ between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock P.M. the prisoner ^{shall} be taken from prison to the place of execution and there and there shot with fire arms till he is dead, and may a merciful God have mercy upon his soul.

* And the public prosecutor ⁱⁿ d of the case and and and explained the Case.

* By John Armstrong, a member of the nation