

SAN RAFAEL, Dec. 10th, 1866.

Last week, in this place, one of the most important and interesting murder trials ever investigated in this State was tried. The circumstances surrounding the case, together with the fact that there had been a similar murder about the same time, interested the community to a great degree. They were both cases of wife-killing, the evidence being circumstantial. The indictment in this case, charged a man by the name of Timothy Cronin with the murder of his wife, Julia Cronin. The case was prosecuted by District Attorney Bradley Hall, and J. McM. Shafter. The counsel for the defendant were Elisha Cook, Alexander Campbell and E. B Mahon. The defendant and his wife were Irish. The supposed facts in this case have been published, but I will send you a brief statement of the case as it came out on the trial. Julia Cronin was missing the 18th of July last. The defendant said, when questioned, that after dinner on that day, his brother and his children—seven children—went out a short distance from the house into the potato patch to weed, but he staid at the house a short time and then he went out also, and left his wife washing dishes at the house. That was the last time he saw her. On the 14th of August the neighbors turned out to search for her, and in the bank of a little gulch, two hundred feet from the house, her body was found. One of the party noticing that the dirt of the bank had been recently moved, took a long stick, sharpened one end, and commenced sticking it into the bank, up and down, and smelling the end of the stick. By the smell he discovered where the body was buried. In the bank of the creek, which was eight feet high, a bench had been made, and the body buried in it about two feet deep, and then the bench sloped down so as to look as it did before. The body had on the clothes with which the deceased did her work. Immediately over the body were thrown a number of gunny sacks similar to some found in the cellar of the defendant. The officer deeming these facts sufficient arrested him, the Grand Jury found a bill, and this has been the trial. The trial lasted about all the week. Notwithstanding every possible effort was made on the part of the counsel for the defendant, the jury brought in a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. Wednesday next was set as the time for pronouncing sentence.

I do not know that there is anything else of interest to communicate at this time. * *