

der  
sta-  
nge  
ned  
  
in  
  
Sir  
ain  
ra-  
the  
ged  
  
of  
Sir  
ise  
and  
as  
he-  
ght  
cen  
cal  
ing  
lds  
lea-  
ous  
  
led  
at  
ge-  
m-  
hid  
on  
  
the  
ses  
ed  
ble  
ler  
om  
es-  
an  
lis-  
he  
he  
id-  
ry  
he  
ar  
as  
ar-  
  
In-  
  
he

# AWFUL EVIDENCE OF CRIME.

## TWO HEADLESS BODIES FOUND FLOATING IN A BARREL.

**The Frightful Find Made Near the Foot of Holmes Street by a Boy Who Flies a Skiff on the River—Two Strangers Called on the Coroner Yesterday Morning and Asked If a Body Had Been Found in the River—A Remarkable Coincidence.**

Yesterday forenoon two men called on Coroner Langsdale at his office in the Rialto building. Both were strangers. Informed that he was the official sought, one of the callers asked if the body of a man had been found in the river at the foot of Gillis street.

"There has not," answered Dr. Langsdale. "No body has been found today. Why do you ask?"

The spokesman explained that he came at the request of a friend, a married woman whose husband disappeared some days ago.

"She heard this morning that a body had been found in the river at the foot of Gillis street," he said, "and asked us to call and see if it was not that of her husband, possibly."

"Well, she may rest easy," said the coroner. "No body has been found there."

"You are positive of it," persisted the larger of the two men, who both seemed to feel certain that

time, were dropped from Dr. Langsdale's memory.

By a startling coincidence about 7:30 last evening the mutilated trunks of the bodies of two men were taken from the river at the foot of Gillis street, where the coroner's unknown visitors of the morning had felt so certain that one body had been found.

Last evening at about 7:30 o'clock, Harry May saw a barrel floating down the river. Harry is a youth who lives with his parents in a small shanty on the river bank near the foot of Holmes street. He works at odd jobs, and the greater part of his living is gained with a skiff on the river. The barrel drifting by with the current was to him a source of profit and he rowed off to secure it. It was an iron-bound oil barrel, and nearly filled with what he supposed to be hams. He thought that it had tumbled into the river from a wharf or steamboat. He towed it to the shore and went for his friend, Jimmy Burns, whose father keeps a couple of hogs. Young May offered Burns the "barrel of hams," as he thought it was, for hog feed. The two boys went to the beach, where the barrel was tied, and began to empty it. Burns reached in and was nearly frightened to death when he pulled out the leg of a man that had been chopped off at the knee.

The news of the ghastly find soon spread, and the coroner was notified. In company with Undertaker Carlat and a TIMES reporter, he picked his way down across a half mile of muddy flats to where the barrel was moored to the shore. Beside it, half buried in the mud, where the boys had dropped it in their fright, lay the naked foot and calf of a human leg. The lantern's light was flashed into the barrel and there, tightly jammed into it, and covered with the slime and ooze of the river, were the mangled and disfigured trunks of two human bodies. Nothing but the trunks were there. When these were pulled out upon the beach they disclosed what the coroner thinks evidence of a terrible crime. The bodies were those of two full-grown white men. The heads of both had been chopped off close to the trunk. The bloody work had been done with a blunt axe, for on the shoulders and chest were deep gashes made by blows that had missed the neck. The arms had been severed close to the shoulders. The legs of one had been hacked off at the knees; the other close up to the body, where the flesh and skin hung in shreds. The breast and abdomen of one of the trunk had been pounded in and the ribs were broken. With the exception of the one leg found, all the members of both bodies were missing.

The coroner, after a close examination, declared positively that the bodies had never come from the dissecting table of a medical college—that they are the evidences of a foul murder. Not a shred of clothing was found by which to prove identification. In the coroner's opinion, the bodies had been dead not longer than a week. The flesh was firm and hard and decomposition had only just set in. They were taken to Carlat's morgue and a closer examination will be made today.