

IT WAS NOT MURDER.

Coroner Langsdale Says the Bodies Found in the River Had Been in the Hands of Medical Students.

With the exception of their identity the mystery of the two bodies found in a barrel floating in the Missouri river at the foot of Gillis street, Wednesday evening, was solved yesterday. The two missing heads and one of the legs were found in the barrel from which the trunks were taken, and it was evident that the persons who discovered the remains Wednesday night were too much excited to thoroughly examine the contents of the barrel.

Coroner Langsdale changed his mind on closer examination of the remains, and is now satisfied that the work was done by medical students. Both he and Police Surgeon Inen carefully examined the remains at Carlat's morgue yesterday and found no marks which would support the theory that the men had come to their deaths by violence, but on the contrary there were indisputable signs which showed the use of a scalpel and saw in the hands of an anatomist.

It is supposed that the bodies were those of paupers which were turned over to some medical institution for experiment by its students, and that after all use for the subjects had been exhausted they had been packed in the barrel and thrown in the river as the easiest way to dispose of them. It is impossible to determine how long the men have been dead, for if they were medical college subjects they had probably been kept in pickle, and in that condition would be preserved for a long time.

The heads discovered yesterday have all the features intact, so that they could be recognized by friends or relatives. One is that of a man about 40 years of age, baldheaded in life, and wearing a light moustache.

The other is evidently the head of a man at least 55 years of age, with dark curly hair and full beard. The nasal bone of the older man has been sawed off neatly and also the bones in his forearm. The work on the limbs showed that some one was practicing amputation.

It is a matter of conjecture whether the barrel was thrown in the river at Wyandotte, St. Joseph or Omaha. In their condition the bodies were ~~and to be used as skeletons~~ and it was only a question with the student, or students, how to get rid of them. It is possible that persons were hired to bury the bodies, but chose as an easier task to cast them in the river.

Coroner Langsdale will hold no inquest, under the circumstances, as he deems it unnecessary, and the remains will be buried to-day in the potter's field.