

earned a wide reputation as a skillful physician, and had accumulated a large fortune.

Second. The crime, a parricide, is one of the deepest dyed known to the annals of history. The doctor was also killed in his own home, at an early hour of a bright moonlight night, in a thickly settled portion of country, while surrounded by members of his own family.

Third. The defendants were convicted upon admissions and statements by them made, perhaps inadvertently, at different times to different parties, and a concatenation of criminating circumstances, all of which was verified and strengthened by the testimony of an accomplice in the crime.

Fourth. Henry Wyatt, while jointly indicted with the defendants for the murder of the doctor, but had been granted a severance in the trial, was introduced by the state and gave the principal testimony, detailing all the plots and plans preceding the murder.

Fifth. An uncle of the boys by marriage, though at the time of the homicide residing in Kansas, lent his aid to the state in ferreting out the case.

Sixth. There has never been a case in Missouri where so much influence was brought to bear upon the governor to exercise his prerogatives in commuting the sentence pronounced by the court. Leading citizens from various portions of the state, and a humanitarian society from a neighboring state, all brought influence to bear upon the governor to exercise executive clemency, without avail.

Seventh. Another feature of this case is the rapidity with which the law was enforced. Perhaps history contains few precedents of cases of this magnitude where a crime has been committed, the perpetrator of the deed arrested, arraigned, tried, the verdict confirmed, and the culprits executed within ten months of the commission of the deed.

In passing this celebrated case into history, an invisible pen seems to write on every door post, "In family government it is dangerous to leave out the moral element."

