

had been made for the deceased by a dentist in Boston, in the furnace; both of which tended to identify the body and to connect the prisoner with the murder. Dr. Webster was a man of learning, a professor in a medical college, and his knowledge of chemistry placed it in his power to destroy in a few hours every vestige of the body, so that the *corpus delicti* never could have been established. Yet he neglected to do it. He also volunteered statements to the brother of the deceased and others, and addressed anonymous communications in a disguised hand to the marshal, in one of which he stated that Parkman was murdered on Brooklyn Heights; in another that he was taken forcibly on board of a ship; and in a third that the body had probably been cut up, placed in a bag and thrown over one of the bridges near Boston. In fact, nearly every step he took to draw suspicion from himself in the end furnished the prosecution with strong evidences of his guilt. There seems to be a fatality connected with murder, in which the hand of Providence is visible, and Solomon never uttered a greater truism than when he said: "The way of the transgressor is hard."

There is one fact alluded to by Major Wright which deserves a passing notice. Corporal Messick states that his company and Worrell's were stationed at the fort in the same building. One night while witness was acting as guard, prisoner came towards his post—witness hailed him by saying, "Who comes there?" Prisoner replied, "A friend." Witness commanded him to halt by saying, "Halt, friend." Prisoner advanced, gave the countersign, and said, "Good evening, sentinel." Witness let him pass.

This is thought by Major Wright to be a very hazardous undertaking for a sane man; but it is fully explained by both. Messick and Clark, who state that although the instruction to a sentinel is to fire upon any person who shall attempt without authority to pass, yet in time of peace it is scarcely ever done. Messick states that he has known others to approach a sentinel in the same way, and if the person is known to the sentinel, he is most always permitted to pass, though it be in violation of instructions. Messick knew that it was