

THE SICKLES TRIAL.

We noticed the fact last week, that the trial of Daniel E. Sickles, for the murder of Philip Barton Key, was commenced in the Criminal Court of this city on the Monday preceding. The first three days were consumed in empanelling a jury. The regular panel, and two special panels of seventy five men each, were exhausted before the jury was completed. The Judge ruled, at the instance of the District Attorney, that none but property holders to the value of eight hundred dollars should sit on the jury. This is the letter of the law; but we understand that the practice has been to waive the question of property qualification. The exception made in this case is regarded as invidious, and has given rise to much comment. The interest felt in this case is intense. The court room is daily crowded to its utmost capacity, and hundreds, unable to get inside, hang about the doors and windows.

We present a list of the principal officers of the court, the counsel, and the jury, as follows:

His Honor Judge Crawford, on the bench: Robert M. Ould, Esq., United States District Attorney, prosecuting, assisted by J. M. Carlisle, Esq.; Messrs. Graham of New York, Brady of New York, Phillips of Alabama, Magruder of Virginia, Stanton of Pennsylvania, Radcliffe and Chilton of Washington city, appear as counsel for the prisoner.

The jury is constituted as follows:

1. Rezin Arnold, farmer.
2. James L. Davis, farmer.
3. John E. Neale, merchant.
4. William M. Hopkins, furnishing store.
5. William Bond, shoe maker.
6. James Keller, tinner.
7. William C. Harper, grocer.
8. Henry M. Knight, grocer.
9. Jesse B. Wilson, grocer.
10. John McDermott, coach maker.
11. William M. Moore, occupation unknown.
12. O. E. Wight, furniture dealer.

Thursday.—Judge Crawford took his seat at ten minutes after ten, the jury having already taken their seats in the box.

At twenty five minutes past ten, Mr. Sickles was brought in. His appearance was that of a man who had experienced much mental suffering since yesterday.

The indictment, which, in the usual form, charges Daniel E. Sickles with the murder of Philip Barton Key, being read, the District Attorney rose, and opened the prosecution by stating briefly the facts which the United States expect to establish, and the law under which a verdict of guilty would be demanded.

He then proceeded to examine the witnesses for the United States, whose evidence simply goes to proving the fact and circumstances of the homicide. The testimony in chief of the United States was closed on Friday.

Saturday the defence was opened by Mr. Graham, of New York, who spoke for several hours with marked ability, and gave way at three o'clock, without coming to a close.

Mr. Graham resumed his remarks on Monday, and spoke for three hours with great effect. The counsel for the prisoner then proceeded to offer testimony in justification of the homicide. The fact was proven that Key was on friendly and intimate terms with Sickles, and that the latter had been instrumental in securing the reappointment of Key as District Attorney. Letters from Key to Sickles, showing that the most intimate relations of friendship existed between them, were offered to be read in evidence, but they were ruled out by the court. The court adjourned at the usual hour.

On Tuesday, the examination of witnesses for the prisoner proceeded. No fact was admitted with which the public is not already acquainted. The examination of Gov. Walker produced an overpowering effect upon Mr. Sickles, as the witness described the scene at the house of Mr. S. immediately after the homicide.

The written confession of Mrs. Sickles was offered in evidence, but the District Attorney objecting to its reception, the Court took time to consider the point, and had not decided when the hour of adjournment arrived. The deepest sympathy for the prisoner prevails.