

Murder at Sea.

BALTIMORE, Friday, July 27.

The bark Lapwing arrived here this morning with dates from Rio Janeiro to June 21.

Capt. Kelly reports the particulars of a brutal murder committed on board the ship Sea Witch, Capt. Frazier, bound to China from New York. The Sea Witch arrived at Rio on the 16th of June, and on being boarded by the officers of the Customs it was discovered that the captain had been murdered. The officers immediately sent for a guard, which took charge of the ship. The American Consul, accompanied by Capt. Rowan of the United States brig Bainbridge, repaired on board, and the men were all put in irons.

An examination was instituted, and from the evidence adduced, it appears that on the night of the 5th of June, between 12 and 4 o'clock, the first mate, who had charge of the deck, went to the room occupied by the ship's surgeon, Dr. Brolasky, and hurriedly requested him to get up, saying he believed the captain was murdered. The doctor entered the captain's apartment and found him bathed in blood. He immediately gave the alarm, when the watch came down and assisted him to raise the captain. On the examination of the captain's wounds, it was discovered that his skull had been fractured by three distinct blows, and the skull was absolutely driven in on the brain. The captain died the next, and his body was placed in a hogshhead of spirits to be preserved.

The doctor then insisted on going into Rio, the ship being then 900 miles distant, and it being the nearest port. The mate wished to keep off, but the doctor told him that he suspected him as being the murderer, and if he manifested the slightest symptom of treachery, he would shoot him. The conduct of the Doctor overawed the mate, and he put into Rio. On examining the apartments of the mate a marline-spike was found corresponding with the wounds given. A deep indentation in the wood of the cabin, just above the captain's head, was also discovered, to which the marline-spike also corresponded. On the examination being concluded, the Consul ordered the first mate, Sylvanus W. Spencer, to be arrested and placed in irons. Previous to being taken ashore he requested leave to dress himself, when he drew a knife and stabbed himself in the left breast, but the wound he inflicted upon himself was very slight. All the men arrested were liberated except three.

Messrs. Maxwell, Wright & Co., agents of Messrs. Aspinwall & Co., have charge of the ship. The Consul appointed Captain Long to command the ship. The body of Captain Frazier was to be sent to New York by the ship Union, about to sail.