JAMES CAREY.

Lithographed by James Akin
Philadelphia.

FACTS

connected with the Life of

James Carey,

whose eccentrick habits

caused a post mortem examination, by

Gentlemen of the Faculty;

to determine whether he was

Hermaphroditic:

with Lithographed Drawings,

made at their request.

By

James Akin,

Philadelphia.

1839

Entered according to the act of Congress, in the Year 1839, by James Akin, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

FACTS

CONNECTED WITH THE LIFE OF

JAMES CAREY,

A REPUTED HERMAPHRODITE.

Facts reveal'd by Goddard's knife,
Sheds light upon the M. D. strife;
For centuries contended.
That nature steady in her plan,
Confus'd not sexual forms in man,
Her systems pure intended.

But Carey's life, outré and strange!
Illustrates nature's freaks in change;
Virility affected,———
Devoid of ducts, of glands, and muscle,
Physiologists stare! their wits bepuzzle,
At wond'rous Facts detected!

The following details comprise the most interesting particulars of James Carey, a reputed Hermaphrodite, born in Ireland, who in early minority came to America, under the guidance of an uncle, to establish his health, which was delicate. They remained but a short time together—Carey adventuring alone to buffet with adversity and seek his fortunes.

The annexed drawings are accompanied with this brief memoir, for gratifying those who may feel desirous to know something of his history. I have spared no pains in making most diligent researches, amongst persons of great respectability, whose verity can be implicitly relied upon, and to whom he was best known, with a view to found the narration upon established facts. The sketches were made at a *post mortem* examination, before a coroner's inquest, and certified to be correct representations by the subjoined signatures of the physicians, to whose critique they were submitted. The anatomical illustrations receives their approval also.

It may, perhaps, be useful to elucidate if not confirm the hypothesis, that hermaphroditic characters exist, notwithstanding the belief has been enveloped in mystery, and long considered extremely problematical.

His person was rather over middle stature—supposed to be from twenty-five to thirty years of age—stooped as if hunchbacked, exhibiting features of a grotesque melancholy aspect—countenance pale and sullen—heavy dull eyes and down look—high prominent cheek bones—broad flat nose—

protuberant mouth and chin, not unlike the lesser Ouran Outang or Pongo Ape of Buffon.—Of coarse, uncouth, and abrupt manners, engendered probably from a severe morose disposition, and continued irrascibility of temper, often breaking out in peevish paroxysms of passion, betraying great mental disquietude, especially when preternatural discharges from his nasal vessels offensively flowed, yielding a horribly fœtid stench, which if suddenly checked, would occasion excessive nausea and vomiting. This hæmorrage extremely profuse whenever it occurred, only affected him a few years previous to his decease. It was supposed to arise from sympathetic affections, connected with the very strange and unnatural conformation of his genital organs. Sorely provoked at these aggravating occurrencies, he never failed to show the galling tortures of perpetual self-reproach, in ebullitions of savage resentment venting most vile and impious imprecations, full of profanation and blasphemy, offensively disgusting to a chaste ear, and outraging all decency.

His unsocial cast rarely suffered convivial intercourse with society of any kind, for he perseveringly preserved a most inflexible reservedness, and at all times maintained a strong predilection for seclusion, shutting out solacing indulgencies even of the sparkling glass in company. Necessity alone, in obedience to the stern mandates of business, always compelled his commerce with others. Solitude was his delight, for he would remain recluse, a silent mute for hours together, seated upon a wheelbarrow in some sequestered corner, amongst hogs, dogs or horses, tenants of the stable in which he was employed, enjoying apparent mental ease, until a strange approach aroused him from his reverie, when he would turn away in sullen scorn, giving equivocal and gruff replies, if accosted jocularly. Unwearied drudgery afforded him relief, especially when a constant parsimonious zeal was gratified, to hoard up his hard earned wages, amidst wretched indications of desponding misanthropic gloom, assuaged only by beastly inebriate indulgencies, at distant periods, to console the inquietude oppressing his disturbed imagination. Even the soft blandishments of women proved incompetent to arouse and animate his stupor, in creating those sensations so exquisitely gratifying and enjoyed by others, or to captivate and subdue his obdurate pertinacious and determined perseverance in showing an incorrigible aversion towards them, when even domestic occasions required their presence before him, and then never to yield in bestowing the least notice unless extorted from him by some pressing and important act demanding his attention.

Whilst he was upwards of two years an inmate in the family of Thomas Quintin Esq. he looked upon them as his friends, and studied to avoid giving trouble as a boarder, always peaceably demeaning himself under every vicissitude. He showed a seeming fondness at times for the children, to one a partiality, and never failed in his carriage towards Mrs. Quintin to observe *beinseance*, not in effect of gallantry, but because he deemed it a tribute justly due to the mistress of the household wherever he made a home, notwithstanding he was in general conduct sour, silent, distant and reserved. In his illness Mrs. Quintin did not forget him, but reciprocated in visits of condolement.

One feeling of peculiar pride he possessed in an eminent degree, and vaunted with supercilious haughtaire and triumph whenever he expressed it. That his chastity was above all men's, having never demitted his noble person with debasing earthly drudgery in commerce with the sex, during the whole course of his life, confirming the strong belief that every fibre of his frame was closely interwoven with abstinence and rigid economy, under whose influence he lived and breathed, an obedient satellite to planetary revolves. Nor did he suffer any thing to divert his attention from that wonted thirst to hoard up treasure, which is corroborated by his having *two hundred and forty-eight dollars* stored in his trunk at the time he sickened. Whatever he owed was punctually paid, and he carefully avoided the expenditure of a cent beyond indispensable disbursements, not even to gratify a taste for spiritous liquors, which he would quaff at other's expense. But at the period of his revel routs, his very nature seemed to undergo a total change in extravagant frantic excitement. He would plunge into excesses, inveterately thoughtless of consequences, inviting others to join in carousal, acting the braggart with noisy garrulity, which the exhilirating draughts he continued to swallow by no means tended to diminish. Yet so far from any imputation being thrown out against his conduct for such a want of prudence, his various employers showed him a preference, and it is to his credit that he was not insensible of their regard, for he acted honestly and faithful, scorning any act that might shake the confidence which entrusted to his care a commission of public duty, or private obligation requiring his vigilance. Fully appreciating its importance, he would preserve the most inviolable abstemiousness for the time being, and with matchless perseverance and industry was ever known to execute the charge without suffering his habits to seduce him from the punctual performance of a duty he deemed indispensable. He was full made and bony, without bulkiness, having smooth polished and remarkably long limbs, of effeminate appearance, without muscular display, encased in a skin of delicate whiteness, evincing a capability to undergo much exertion. His voice partook of a faint boyish squeak; but his action betokened a firm and manly deportment, appertaining to *hard duties and business.* Conscious that busy intermeddlers might surprise him sleeping, and when in a state of nudity, discover his stange malconformation, he continually girded his pantaloons securely about his loins, and when thus shielded, he would confidently retire to rest, conceiving the vestment a fortress of impregnable strength to protect him against all infractions during repose, which, when indulged, or changing his apparel, he would resort to every preventative for guarding against sudden obtrusion, determined to punish with promptitude infringements of the curious, who should violate his sanctuary. If approached, all self command seemed to forsake him; he would storm in phrenzied gusts of furious and ungovernable rage, venting blasphemous execrations, and manifesting such violent resentment, that his warmest friends thought it unsafe to be near his person, whilst thus exasperated. Neither had the couch of death sufficient terrors to deter him from conduct so horrible and revolting—for in the latest moments of de-

clining life, when it seemed as if the tortures of extreme agony could be no longer borne, and he was fast sinking under exhaustion from pain and fatigue, the effects of excessive fainting and convulsions, he roused himself with one mighty effort, and burst like a lion the toils, astonishing the bystanders of his chamber, who stood transfixed with amazement, to observe him drive away every attendant from his bedside, whilst his enfeebled frame retained sufficient strength to enable his enforcement of so capricious but inviolable a mandate. And when dire necessity at last required positive aid to relieve his sufferings, astounding as it may appear, he nevertheless essayed in struggling efforts to battle with those who kindly tendered him assistance, cursing in bitterness, and blaspheming with strange inarticulate oaths even until the exacerbations of disease had overwhelmed his vital functions. Such was his horrible dread of being handled or rendered a spectacle subservient to the gaze of others.

He died at the house of Mr. Paxson, and enjoyed to the last moment the sweetest consolation that the heart can experience in the tenderest sympathy and attentions from all the family. The amiable mistress of the house watched over him with the most anxious solicitude, through the whole of his wretched sufferings, convincing him of their friendship, for which he acknowledged filial obligations, and she perseveringly exhorted him to prepare for the awful change that was fast approaching, and had the happiness to observe signs of contrition and repentance to her monitory recommendations, seemingly impressed with a due sense of his condition. Through the unceasing exertions of this charitable lady, who acted the good Samaritan, ministering relief to one destitute of a home and sick. He at her earnest solicitation even permitted two reverend divines to attend him and afford the balm of spiritual comfort, which his sinking soul so much needed, notwithstanding he was at first adverse to the proposal, and even attempted to abuse their sacred function. But his warm and constant friend who presided, a guardian angel over his miseries, prevailed with soft persuasion, and the gentle remonstrances of the reverend clergy, over-awed him into submission, and he yielded in loud sobs and tears, to effect a reformation before he was cut off from repentance.

Earlier statements than I have obtained, proved somewhat difficult to trace of a character hidden in the recesses of obscurity, and only attracting notice from the few whose intercourse with him drew observations upon his strange and mysterious deportment. One relation by himself is, that he wandered some distance soon after separation from his uncle, became bewildered, and got into an Indian settlement, and remained there until one day perceiving a squaw whetting a huge knife and muttering to herself some threats, which he feared might affect him, he thought best to decamp, and departed on the instant. This circumstance without data as to time or place, coming from a person so exceedingly illiterate as he was, seems fraught with enigma, and therefore may be unauthentic.

He possessed a fickle, roving disposition, as appears from the fluctuating changes he made. A manufacturing establishment at the town of Patterson, in New Jersey, gave him early employment. We next hear of

him in a foundery; then at New Hope, working alternately at Vanhorn's farm, and subsequently in Maris's factory, filling the station (in cant phrase) of a "boss," which was soon abandoned, under a pretext of it's disagreement with his health, being at the time, as he states, rosy and full. But the primary cause most probably was, to avoid that influx of company to which he was subjected, and constantly annoying to him. From 1831 to 1835, he was employed by various owners to drive the stage coaches running in the neighborhood of New Hope, Rocky Hill, in New Jersey; Newtown, Doylestown, and Bristol, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. In the latter place he lowered down to an ostler, and at Morrisville, opposite Trenton, attended in drudgery on cars for the Philadelphia and Trenton Rail Road Company, who afterwards sent him to drive a coach which received from the cars the passengers on their arrival. In this station he exhibited strong characteristics, for unremitting patience and perseverance, stimulated by pecuniary expectancy, for in anxious solicitude would he nightly await the arrival of the cars, during dreary seasons, amidst wintry blasts, encountering untold hardships in excessive watching and fatigue throughout the greatest part of the year, often in bleak exposures of inclement storms, from falling snows, sleet, hail, rain, &c. &c. whence after the establishment was sold, he was transferred to an Omnibus line, plying between Kensiugton and the Navy Yard, in Philadelphia, employed by Mrs. Deschamps, not however the less exposed throughout the varied seasons, which terminated his wretched existence. His exposures brought on inflamation from cold, and eventuating in hærmorrage from the lungs, caused his death.

At the time he sickened, he was boarding at a tavern, in Kensington, filled with promiscuous company and sojourners, who rafted timber down the river Delaware. Here he complained of disturbance from continued bustling and uninterrupted noise, ill adapted to a situation of suffering, requiring retirement and ease—and aware of becoming enfeebled and helpless, he abhorred being sent to the Hospital or the Alms House; although there existed no disposition to place him there. Yet he thought proper to apply to Mr. Samuel W. Paxson, to be received into his house. This proposal being readily granted, he was the next day, Wednesday, May 16th, 1838, removed thither, borne in a chair by two persons, to whom he expressed great satisfaction in being ridden of the confusion and noise, that had so much discomfitted him. He soon found himself relieved by benevolence, under a hospitable roof. A circumstance however occurred at the time of his death, painfully to be regretted, from some ambiguous expressions inadvertently made in gossip tattle.

The person employed to lay out his corpse, marvelled at the novel and singular spectacle she beheld, which heretofore had remained inviolably secret, and giving out that "all was not right," the unfortunate intimation created doubts, inferrible that his end was premature, and rumour with her "hundred tongues," rapidly circulated frightful reports. It was then deemed indispensably important that legal interferance should dispel the gloom, and shield his valued friends from the stigma of foul reproach, and the coroner was immediately summoned to impannel an

inquest for a *post mortem* examination. The body was exhumed on Tuesday, 5th of June, four days after it had been buried, and underwent a strict scrutiny by the faculty in attendance, when the annexed very extraordinary developements were made.

On dissection, by Dr. Goddard, of the University of Pennsylvania, there was discoverable no matrix. The urinary bladder found of the ordinary size, discharged its contents as in other animals, through the urethra, situated naturally, and passing to the bladder with scarce any curvature. A straight probe pierced it with perfect freedom. There was no prostrate gland.

The penis externally, exhibited the size and shrivelled appearance of an infant's three or four months old; the præpuce completely enveloping the gland, as seen in children. The scrotum bearing no resemblance to sacculi, was flat and ruguous, having no receptacle for the testes, which were with difficulty traced within the abdominal canal, about the bigness of a split pea, one higher and considerably smaller than the other, presenting mere traces of glandular structure, being much compressed, and without the seminal ducts descending from them. The spermatic chord was small.

Down the perinæum a most singular appearance met the eye, having so close a resemblance to the female vulva, that it might easily have been mistaken for that organ, had it not been depilous. Upon the pubes only were distinguishable a few thinly scattered hairs, none on the areola, the chin entirely devoid of beard, and no indications of mammary glands.

Kensington, Nov. 23d, 1838.

James Carey, the person described in the foregoing memoir, came into my famly sick, and at his own solicitation was received into my house.—In his trunk was *two hundred and forty-eight dollars*, viz:—two hundred and fifteen dollars in notes and thirty-three dollars in silver, rolled up in fragments of rags, which was delivered up by his consent to a person known to the deceased, for safe keeping.

S. W. PAXSON.

The foregoing narration as regards my knowledge, appears to be exceedingly correct. I knew James Carey when employed by the Rail Road Company, and my acquaintance continued from various intercourse with him. His singular habits was the topic of much conversation, and often caused speculative opinions.

ISAAC WILSON,
Agent for the Omnibus Line.

Kensington, Nov. 24th, 1838.

James Carey lived with me at Newtown, when he drove a stage coach to Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The foregoing statements were furnished as far as my knowledge extended, and appear to be accurate delineations of the information I gave.

JACOB SUNDERLAND.

Kensington, December 4th, 1838.

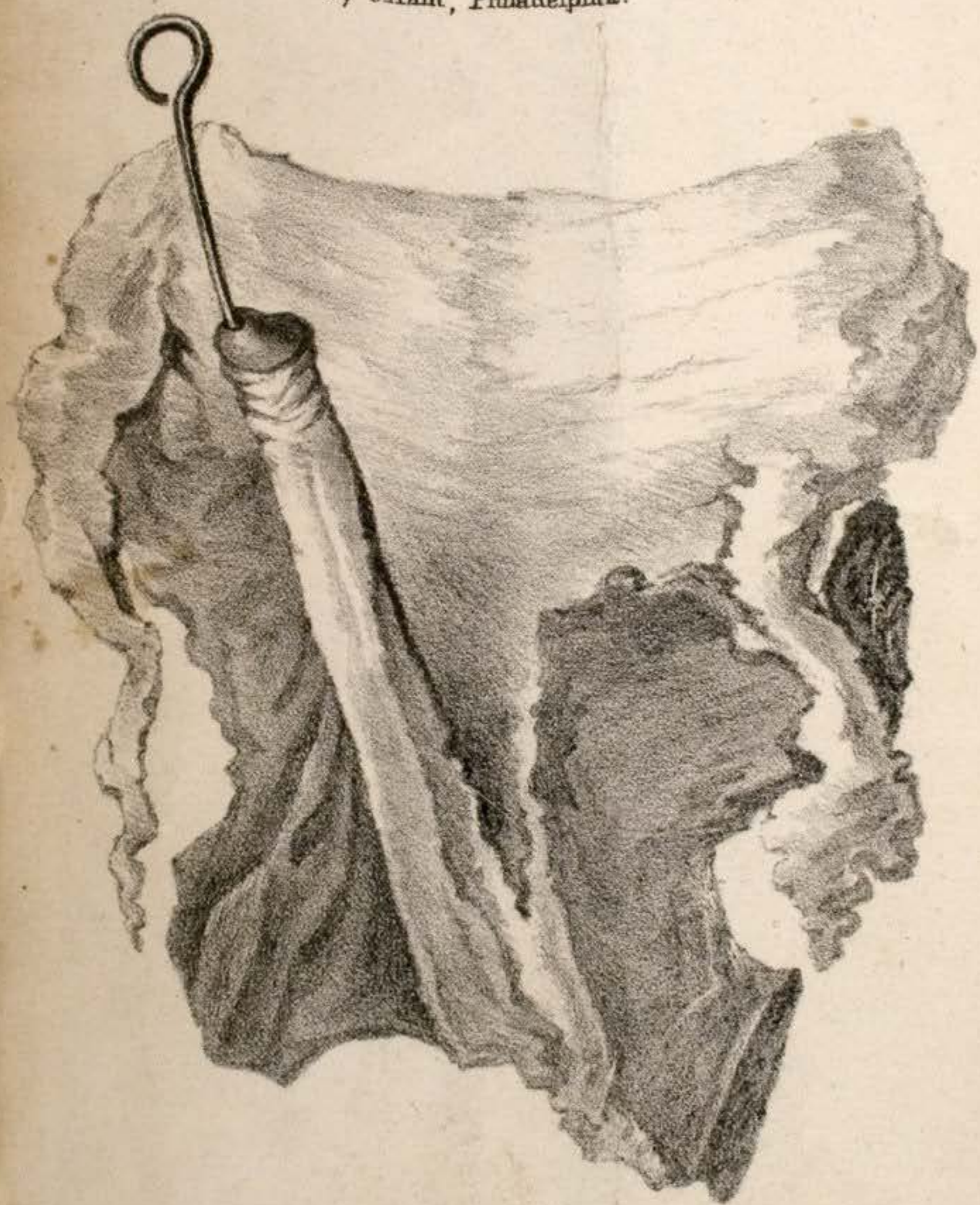
Certificate of the Faculty.

The above Drawings are faithful, and accurate reprsentations, of the GENERATIVE ORGANS of a reputed HERMAPHRODITE, obtained at a post mortem examination before a Coroners inquest, held June 5th 1838, at PHILADELPHIA.

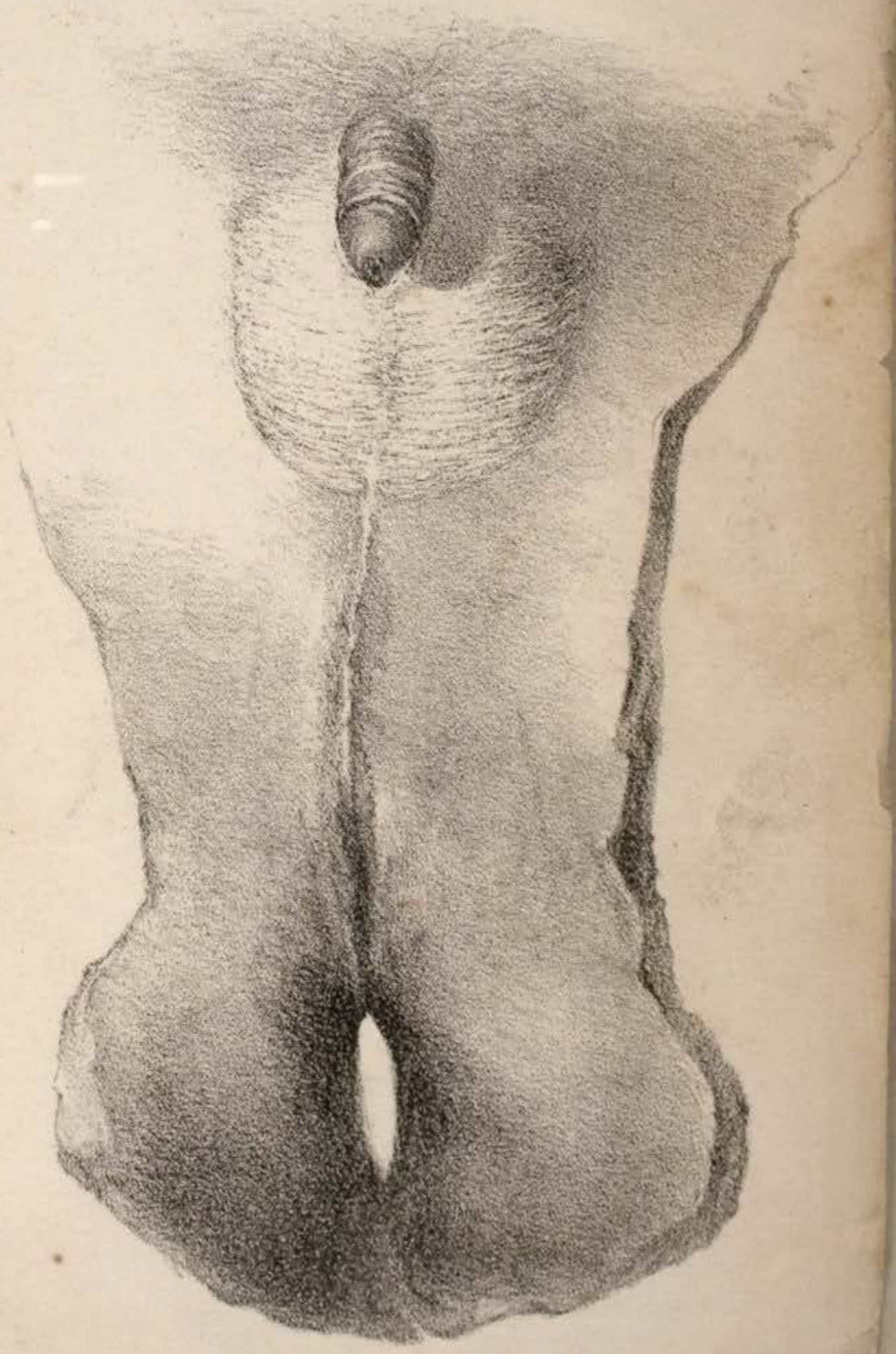
Jesse M. Griffiths. M.D
Paul. B. Goddard M.D
Hom. Helffenstein M.D
Jos. B. Pfeiffer M.D
John Uhler. M.D
R. W. Griffiths. M.D
Ch. Griffiths M.D.
John D. Thomas M.D
Geo. H. Thom. M.D.
Geo: A. Wenzel. M.D
Abram Buck M.D
John A. McClintock M.D.
John P. Bethell M.D

From the Preparation in the University of Pennsylvania. Lithographed the size of nature,

by J Akin, Philadelphia.



From the Preparation, in the University of Pennsylvania.
Natural appearance and Size of Life.
Lithographed by J. Akin.



Kensington, Philadelphia, Dec. 4th, 1838.

Mr. Akin,

Dear Sir,—Although entirely ignorant of James Carey, until his last sickness, yet at your request, I most cheerfully communicate the very little I then learned. I observe however, that I never calculated to be called upon to say anything in reference to this individual, and therefore did not particularly charge my memory with the little I heard of him when on the bed of sickness.

Sometime in May last, one of the members of my Church requested me to call and see James Carey, at the house of Mr. Paxson, in Allen street, stating he was very sick, in a dangerous condition, and also very ignorant on the subject of religion. In a day or so I called, and found James very ill. The moment I put my eyes on him I recognised him as an omnibus driver, that I had remarked as having a very singular countenance. He seemed little disposed to communicate anything respecting his origin or habits. I however exhibited as simply as I was able, the plan of salvation revealed in the gospel, to which he seemed attentive.—I also offered up prayer in his behalf, in which he seemed to unite.

If I mistake not, he was anxious that I should call again, and I intended so to do. I however never did see him more, yet a brother of the Methodist Church, Rev. Mr. King, I believe saw him repeatedly.

On the 2d of June last, I was requested by Thomas Quintin, Esq. to attend his funeral. Although there was no relative to soothe his passage to the grave, or follow his mortal remains to the narrow house, yet I have reason to think that everything that humanity and religion dictate while living and when no more, were performed by the family and the friends in immediate attendance in behalf of the singular James Carey.

GEORGE CHANDLER,
Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Kensington, Philada.

To Mr. Akin,

Dear Sir,—In compliance with your request, I communicate to you what little I know of Mr. James Carey, whose remarkably singular appearance arrested my attention when I first saw him.

I was pressed to visit him by a Miss Burtt, who saw his perilous condition, believing as she did that he was dangerously ill, and not only thoughtless about a future state, but profane. I called and was received by him very coolly. He spoke little and showed no signs (as far as I could judge,) of repentance. The second visit was received with more kindness. He spoke with less reserve—yet I cannot say he was a penitent. The last time I saw him, he received me with some degree of warmth, and there appeared signs of repentance. He was very ill. I conversed freely with him on the subject of death, reminding him that his dissolution was near, and exhorted him to prepare to meet his God. He seemed thoughtful, and requested me to call and see him again; but I saw him no more.

His skin was smooth and sallow, and his chin destitute of beard: in a word, he neither resembled the masculine nor feminine gender—was abrupt in his manner—rather surly and eccentric.

Your's truly,

HENRY G. KING,
Pastor of the Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church.

Kensington, December 12th, 1838.

James Carey boarded at my tavern, and at the time he sickened, was taken to Mr. Samuel W. Paxson's, my family being prevented affording him those attentions I could have wished, from the great influx of company who frequented my house, constantly requiring my presence. The foregoing statements appear to me accurate details of the strange eccentricities he displayed.

JOHN J. HICKMAN.

Kensington, Dec. 26th, 1838.

James Carey, a man of singular appearance and extreme eccentric habits, drove a coach in my line of omibusses for three years. He was gruff and sullen in his manners; but faithful, honest, and punctual to his duties, observing the greatest abstemiousness whenever business of importance was intrusted to him. He demeaned himself decently in my employ.

The likeness given in this work, appears to me to resemble his countenance and mode of carrying himself.

MARY GLENAT,
Late Mary Deschamps.

Philadelphia, December 28th, 1838.

James Carey was well known to me, and I cheerfully subscribe to the foregoing statements, being accurate delineations of his countenance and character, as drawn by Mr. Akin.

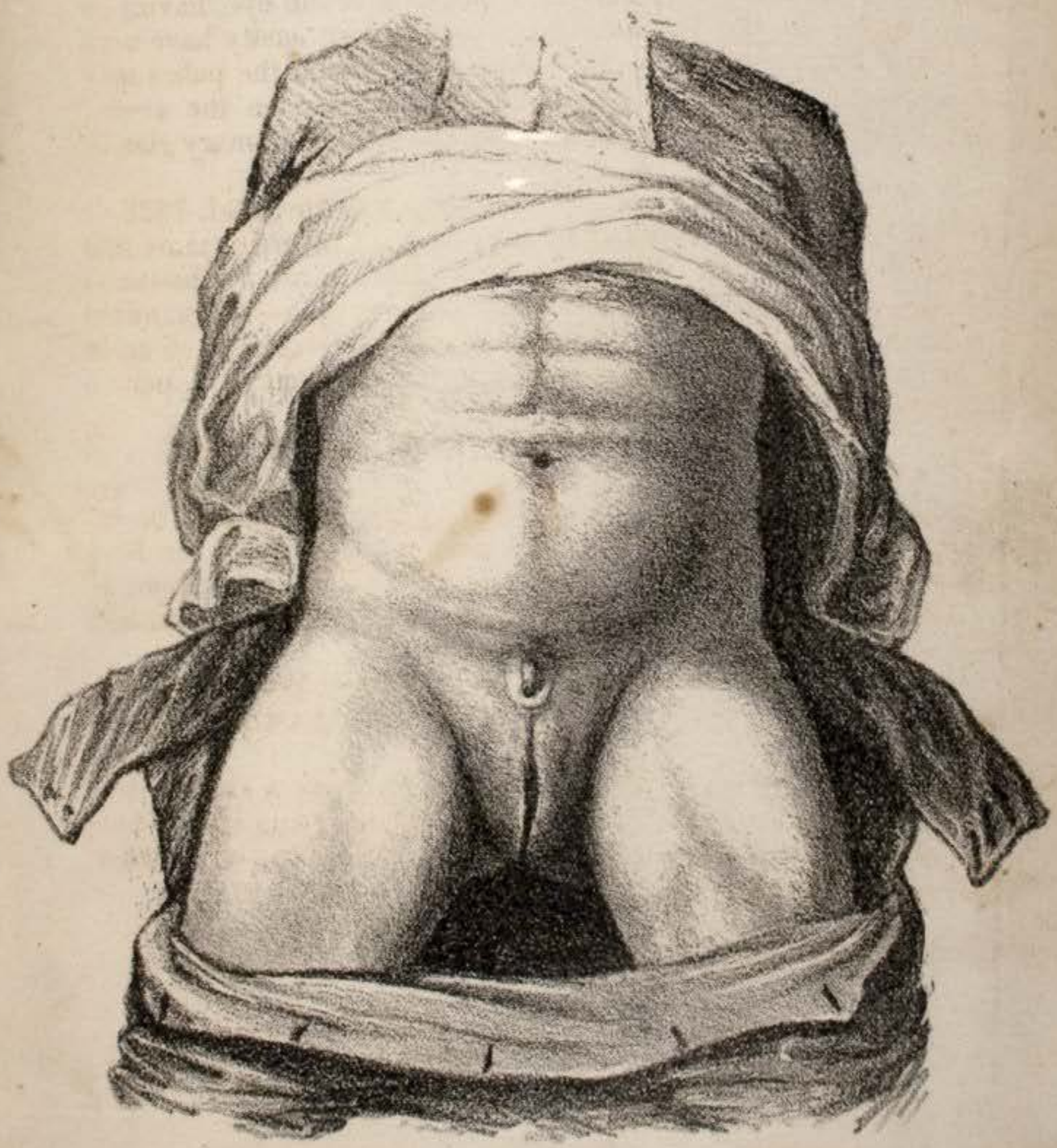
JOSEPH GLENAT.

The portrait and description of James Carey, (who was known to me,) are accurately drawn by Mr. Akin.

EDWARD DESCHAMPS,
W. W. FRALEY,
Son-in-law to Mary Glenat.

I furnished Mr. Akin such information as came within my recollection of James Carey, who was nearly three years an inmate in my family.—The foregoing statements are accurately reported, and the likeness appears good in the countenance and manner of his sitting when driving an omnibus. He died at Mr. Samuel W. Paxson's.

THOMAS QUINTIN,
Superintendent for the Philadelphia and Trenton Rail Road Co.

Philadelphia, January 1st, 1839.

Lithograph by J Akin from
James Carey.
post mortem examination.