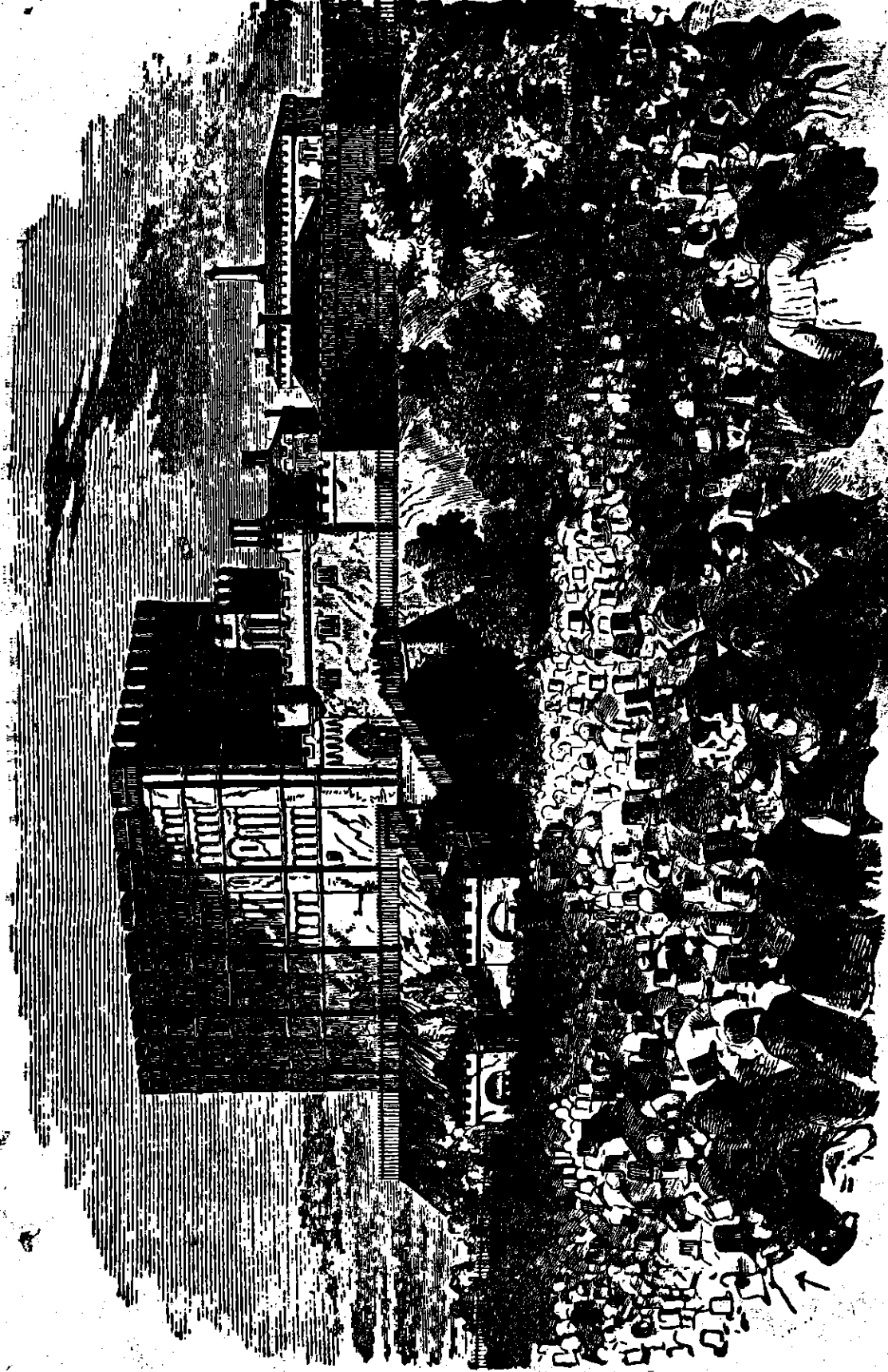


The Execution of James Blomfield Rush on the Norwich Castle Gallows

Saturday, 21st April, 1849



In 1848 James Blomfield Rush was living at Potash Farm, near Stanfield Hall, Wymondham. To buy the farm Rush had . . .

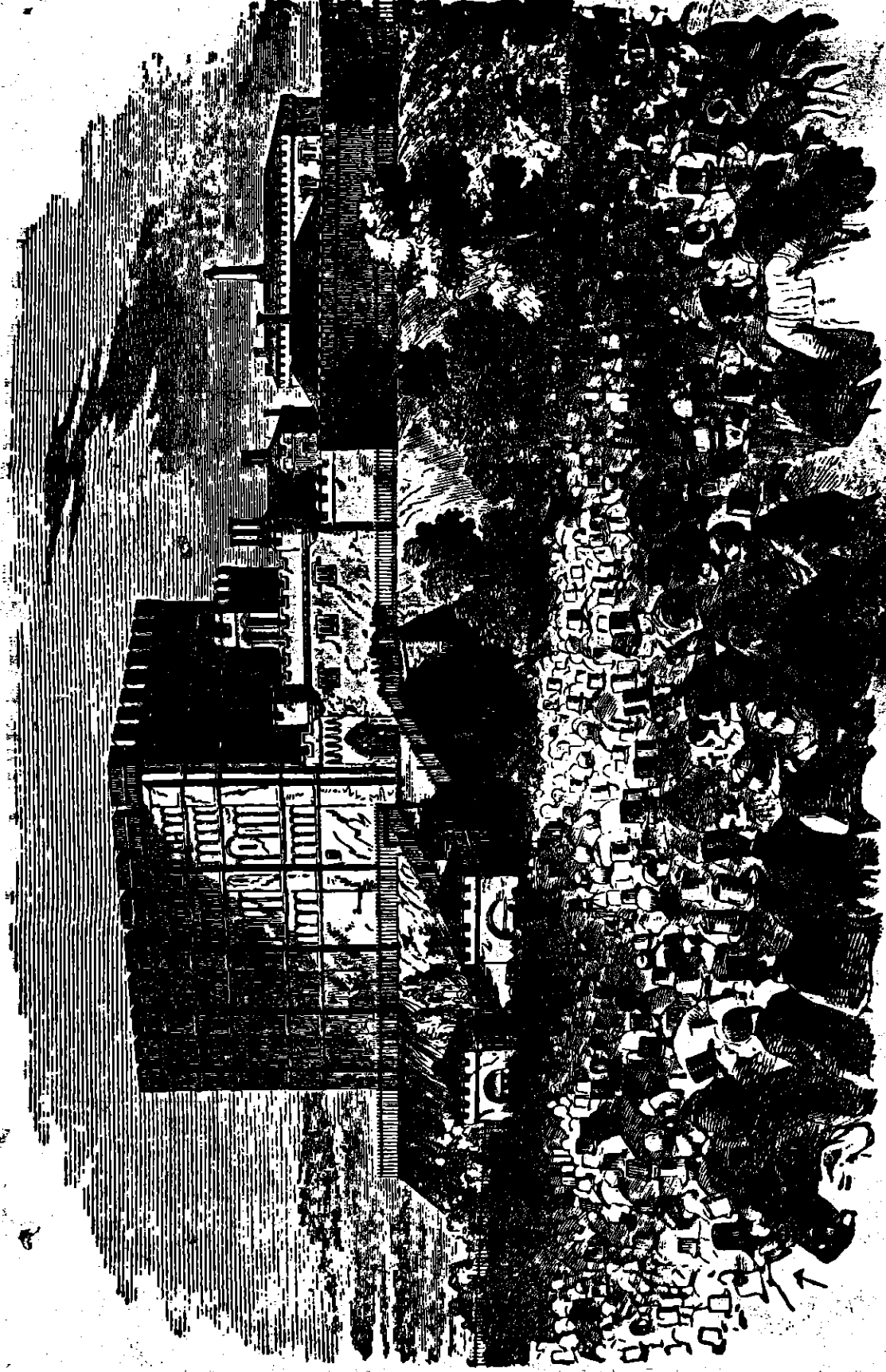
borrowed money from Isaac Jermy, the Recorder of Norwich, who lived at the Hall. When repayment became due Rush found himself in financial difficulties and asked Jermy to extend the term of the loan, but there was much ill feeling between the two men and Jermy refused. On November 28th, 1848, two days before the mortgage expired, Jermy and his son were murdered at the Hall by an intruder. The crimes were committed at about half past eight that evening when Mr Jermy was shot dead in the front porch of the Hall. His son was killed when he went to investigate the shot. Mrs Jermy alarmed at the noise, ran out from the drawing room into the passage and met the maid Eliza Chastney. They both hurried to the hall where they saw the intruder coming out of the dining room. He levelled a gun at them and fired twice, shooting Mrs Jermy in the arm, and Eliza in the thigh. He

then escaped by the back door.

Rush was suspected of the crime and was duly brought to trial. He pleaded innocence but to no avail. His mistress, Emily Sandford, provided the most damning evidence, testifying to his absence from Potash Farm at the time of the murder. Thus he was condemned to die on the Norwich Castle Gallows. Saturday, April 21st, 1849 was the date set for the execution, and from early in the morning a great crowd gathered in front of the Castle to witness the event. St. Peter Mancroft church bell heralded the procession to the gallows. Mr Pimson the Gaoler and his turnkeys shook hands with Rush and after a short prayer Calcraft, the executioner adjusted the rope, the cap was pulled over his face, and a moment later "the unhappy man was launched into eternity".

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