

## BOTH GUILTY.

Hendershott and Welter.

On Friday last 12 good men and true, unimpeachable, decided that W. D. Welter and John A. Hendershott were "guilty" of the murder of W. H. Hendershott, and were sentenced by Chief Justice Meredith to be hanged on Tuesday, June 18th next.

Crown Prosecutor Oaler made a terrible arraignment of the prisoners. He pointed out that the man who contemplated a crime always does it "skillfully to make sure of his gain," so "always look for an appearance of innocence." The evidence is always circumstantial in a dangerous crime—that is, the crime of deliberate killing. The dangerous criminal is "the sneaking one who never, if possible, lets his hand be seen." Circumstantial evidence, he said, is the only thing that brings the crime home to him. "When you brought home it is a safer class of testimony than that of the direct witness, who may be mistaken or forewarned. It is said by some, 'Never convict upon circumstantial evidence.' If that were acted up on the scheming murderer, the designing murderer, would always escape."

He disproved the accident theory. He showed that the efforts of the defence to prove that the wounds in the head of the dead man were caused by a falling tree were futile because of its inability to corroborate its theory, in the mind, of the jury.

Adverting to the presence of blood, Mr. Oaler said that Delano had proven that the blood was not that of a human being and that it was not that of a horse. Yet the only suggestion is that the blood is that of a dead horse. The blood was fresh and of the same age, whence did it come from? Whence blood was it? It tells its own tale, pool by pool, drop by drop. Is it the blood of the dead man, rising up as witness? Whence came the bloody finger marks on the sapling and on the crook all of the same age, all fresh?

If the theory of the defence is right, said Mr. Oaler, there should not be one drop of blood where it was found, but it should be found leading from the spot where the branch struck him to where he died. There is no blood on the knell, no blood at the place where it is suggested the branch struck him, and he swept him away.

It was not for the crown to prove that the blood was not his. No one saw it. It may be that the blow was hit first at the fourth point, and ran to the second, where he was again struck, and then the third and finally to the largest pool, where he was left until Welter went forward to see where he could best put him under the tree. He takes care to avoid blood marks, for but little blood is shed and it all comes from the head. He knows that he has got to take care; he does so, and the tell-tale blood is only found on his face and on his leaves in the woods.

Mr. Oaler laid great stress on the presence of Hendershott's ax hidden away out of sight in the woods, so completely that when curious people searched high and low for some nine days they never came across it. Then it was found concealed with marks on it which when analyzed bore all the characteristics of human blood. That ax was an awful witness.

The fact that Welter was wearing the dead man's watch was a damning piece of evidence. The Crown's theory was that Welter took it from the clothes of his victim when he lay on the ground. Mr. Oaler then showed Welter to be very much the man who was educated by his severe, censorious father.

Next he referred to the fact that twelve intelligent doctors had sworn that an axe and not a branch caused the wounds. On the other side six admit that an axe could. He regretted that he did not bring the head of the victim into court and the axe at the same time.

Coming to the insurance branch of the case—the motive of the crime—Mr. Oaler showed that John Hendershott had taken the initiative in all his affairs. He accompanied the young man to the doctors and to the insurance agents who persuaded the dead man to take out the insurance. The sum paid, \$100, was heavy for a man in the condition to earn. Hendershott had told two women unwilling witnesses that he was going to insure some one and then get him out of the way.

To show that a conspiracy existed between Welter and John Hendershott he cited the fact that both told the story of the deceased running after his watch, although the men were eight miles distant. In a brilliant peroration Mr. Oaler told the jurors to do their duty courageously, fearing neither the criticism of men nor the tears of women.

It took nearly two hours for Chief Justice Meredith to "deliver" his charge. He summed up the evidence carefully bringing out all the strong points for the defence, as well as for the Crown. He instructed the jurors to start on with the presumption of the innocence of the prisoner and then to return a verdict of guilty to the evidence.

The jury went out at 5.30, and a short while afterwards announced that they were prepared to bring in a verdict. An expectant hush fell over the court-room, as His Lordship took his seat on the bench, and the jury filed into the room. Immediately the clerk arose and asked the formal question:

"Gentlemen of the jury, have you agreed upon a verdict? Are the prisoners at the bar guilty or not guilty?"

Every ear was strained to catch the answer.

"Guilty!" replied the foreman in a tremulous voice and then women shrieked, and cried, and sobbed bitterly. The older prisoner let his head drop on his breast and did not raise it until sentence was imposed upon him. Welter sat as stolid as a rock. He never showed the least sign of fear.

In sentencing with the black cap he asked the prisoners if they had anything to say.

"Nothing," answered both.

He then sentenced them to death on Tuesday, June 18th. The prisoners were immediately removed to the jail and the death watch put on them.

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### BALLANTRAE.

Miss Annie Stewart, of the 10th line, is visiting her sister, Mrs. John Gray.

Miss Latham, of Toronto, is visiting her sister, Mrs. G. H. Gray.

Although still confined to his bed, W. H. Clark is steadily recovering, and we hope he shall soon be able to be about again.

I fully endorse the conclusion arrived at by Mr. Jenkins, of Coshell, who in his able and logical arraignment of tobacco in last week's Tribune, smote the giant, "rip" and "thighs." Judged by the Bible standard, he proved that tobacco is an element of evil which continually assails all true Christians to believe the Bible to be the supreme law, to which all human laws are subordinate; hence they must accept what has clearly proved that tobacco is man's enemy, physically, mentally and morally, and that Christians are under obligation to abstain from its use. Tobacco not only impairs the function of each and every bodily organ, but also affects every power of the mind. It dulls the intellect, deadens the sensibility, feelings, and weakens the will. Many tobacco users say they cannot abandon the habit. They should be honest and say truthfully they have no will to abandon

it. If they sincerely and determinedly place their will on the total abstinence side of the question, there must be no compromise, for they will soon find the strong chains that bind them fall away, leaving them free from the needless, filthy, injurious habits I know, whereof I affirm, for I was for years such a slave to the habit, that I would rather go without dinner than be deprived of the weed. I kept the mill grinding pretty constantly during the day, and to show that I had no ill-feeling against tobacco, I smoked a pipe or two before retiring for the night. I have now no appetite for the narcotic. Many poor nervous dyspeptic people who expend their money for doctor bills and powder could find a speedy cure in total abstinence from the narcotic poison of tobacco.

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