

[TRANSLATION.]

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }  
DISTRICT OF ARTHABASKA. }

## COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

*Criminal Term.*THE QUEEN *v.s.* ELZEAR GUILLEMETTE.

## INDICTMENT FOR MURDER.

FEBRUARY 21st, 1870.

A Jury composed of 12 persons, 6 speaking the French language and 6 speaking the English language, was sworn in. The indictment was read. Mr. Hamilton addressed the Jury in English on behalf of the Crown; Mr. Felton addressed the jury in French on behalf of the Crown.

*Evidence for the Prosecution.*

1. *Urgel Médric Poisson*, Physician and Coroner for the district of Arthabaska. I am Coroner for this district: I held an inquest on the dead body of the prisoner's wife. What I am now shown is the report of the inquest and the verdict of the jury (It is proposed to have the report of the inquest read to the jury. Objected to by Mr. O'Farrell. Objection dismissed and report read to the jury). The prisoner was examined before the jury. His signature is at the foot of the deposition and mine also. (The deposition of the prisoner is then read to the jury). I found the body of the wife of the prisoner on the south-west side of the house, and in the front part of the house within. (Witness shows a plan which he has just made showing the positions of the bodies, the stove, and the door). I also mark the position of the bed which I had seen sometime before. The house was about 18 x 20, built of logs. When I saw it at the inquest only ashes remained. The child nearest the mother was from 3 to 4 feet distant, and the other child 2 or 3 feet farther off. The body of the woman was about 5 or 6 feet from the window. The body of an animal was also found, said to be a dog. It lay between the bodies of the two children on the floor of the house. The prisoner was present at the inquest. I think he was dressed in gray cloth. He shed tears all the time the inquest was being held.

*No Cross-examination.*

Motion on behalf of prisoner that the Crown shall state what they propose to prove was the cause of the woman's death, supported by Mr. O'Farrell. Motion opposed by Mr. Hamilton, and dismissed.

2. *Edouard Molestte Poisson, Esq.*: I am a Physician and I know the prisoner. I was required to be present at an inquest held at his house (a plan is shown to the witness). This plan is correct and is that of the prisoner's house. The stove was placed opposite the door. I knew the house before it was burnt. I had been called ten or twelve months before to attend the wife of the prisoner in her confinement. The inquest of the coroner was held on the 25th September, 1868. There were three dead bodies on the floor of the burnt house. The dead body of the woman was 5 or 6 feet from the front of the house inside, between the door and the window, at about one-third of the length of the south-west gable of the house, 5 or 6 feet from it. The youngest of the children was in the south-west corner about 10 feet from its mother, and the eldest was about