

MURDER OF THE MAIL CARRIER.

etc., etc.

THE MURDER.—SUSPICION AND ARREST OF AN INNOCENT MAN.—HIS ACQUITTAL.—OTHER ARRESTS.

On the morning of Friday, April 15th, 1859, the town of Brantford was thrown into an unusual state of excitement, by the intelligence of the brutal murder of LANCELOT ADAMS, who was employed by MR. HALE, Mail Contractor, to carry the night mail between Paris and Brantford,—a distance of about seven miles. The news of the perpetration of this dreadful deed threw alarm and consternation into the hearts of all who heard it, and in the course of the morning hundreds of our townsmen were seen travelling to and fro between the town and the scene of the heart-rending crime. The body was found lying on the side of the road, down the declivity of the hill, and near what is known as "Good's Hollow,"—about a mile and three-fourths from the limits of the town; the horse and wagon were found standing a short distance off. Upon examination it was ascertained that the unfortunate man had been shot, the contents of the gun (large squirrel shot) having taken effect in the left side of the face and head. Mr. Hale, who was one of the first on the spot, at once instituted a search for the mail-bag, which it was found had been taken some rods off, and rifled of their valuable contents.

The body was removed to "Good's School House," where a Coroner's Jury was summoned, and a *post mortem* examination held, when the shot were found embedded in the brain, and Drs. Henwood and Bown gave it as their opinion that the unfortunate man must have died instantly.

This foul and fiendish crime caused a desire in the minds of all to search for its perpetrator. Various were the surmises, suggestions, and suspicions; each had something to offer which, in his mind, might lead to the apprehension of the guilty parties; but, among the various opinions, there was one point upon which all agreed—that the deed had been committed by some person or persons acquainted with the locality, and cognizant of the regular time for the arrival of the mail; hence the conclusion that the guilt must rest upon some person in our midst; and strict inquiry was at once instituted for the purpose of ferreting out any suspicious circumstance that might have occurred.

At length it was found that two persons, named Cheesbro' and Dove, had hired a horse and wagon from the livery stable of Mr. Shakel, between the hours of nine and ten, the evening before, for the alleged purpose of driving

Rev. by Dr. Norman S. Shaw