

a most respectable family, his father an old army officer, and himself with hosts of friends, in Elizabethtown passed off on a shopkeeper, Mr. Jones, a Bill which was soon found to be forged. He claimed to have received it as genuine, and as one of the Army Bills taken by the American army at York; he had received it at Ogdensburg and claimed that it was genuine.

He was placed on trial at Brockville at the Fall Assizes, 1814, before Mr. Justice Campbell. The trial judge charged the jury that to convict they must find that the prisoner when he uttered the forged Bill knew it to be forged. The jury convicted and Campbell was sentenced to death. The judge respited the sentence to allow of a petition for clemency, but refused to recommend commutation. The jury and the Grand Jury both petitioned on his behalf, and petitions of many pages running into the hundreds of names poured in; the prisoner also petitioned, vehemently asserting his innocence—it seems quite clear that neither the convict nor the jury knew that the offence was capital, for the statute was not printed or published in the District till months after his arrest.

The Attorney-General, John Beverley Robinson, being asked by the Lieutenant-Governor for his opinion, said that he was certain that the young man had not known that the crime was capital, and recommended that as it was a first offence, and the prisoner came of a loyal and respectable people, he should be pardoned. Campbell did not wait for the pardon; he apparently did not know that a pardon was in prospect—he broke gaol¹² and left his country for his country's good.

WILLIAM RENWICK RIDDELL.

Osgoode Hall, February 7, 1920.

¹² It is impossible not to suspect connivance at this escape; the whole district petitioned for Campbell's pardon, horrified at the death penalty for such an act—but gaol-breaking was notoriously common at that time, it is not unknown even now. All the facts of this case are to be found in the Canadian Archives at Ottawa in documents which I have read and copied.