

AT A MANITOULIN TRIAL.

HOW JUSTICE IS ADMINISTERED IN THE NORTH WEST.

A Wife's Charge Against Her Husband—The Squid's First Opportunity—Confession that was Overcome with Misapprehension.

THE CHIEF, BASS LAKE, Feb. 25.

DEAR WORLD—Our community has been

occasionally to its very center by the first

judicial trial. Billy Davidson, who keeps

the only hotel within 20 miles of this, lost

an ox about two months ago in a most

mysterious manner. The ox was seen with

the rest of the cattle round the straw stack

in the evening, and in the morning he was

nowhere to be found. There were many

speculations about his fate, but not one

thought had been stolen. Debra was generally

credited with his death, and the mysterious

disappearance was almost forgotten by all

except his owner, when a young, rather

good-looking woman calling herself Mrs.

Mirre made herself the other day

before Squid Terry, and demanded that her

husband had stolen the ox for Christmas

cheer, and offered to lead the squid to the

spot where the hide and horns were con-

cealed. The Mirre made her case settled

for about two years on a loose clearance

away from neighbors, and, as they did not

act in any way of the matter, and were very

distant, almost rude, to visitors at their

house, they had been left severely alone.

Nothing was known of them or their abode

outside. The case was a mystery to the

hospital, neighboring people among

whom they lived, and when it was known

through the red mouth that Tom Mirre

was accused of a felony by his wife,

expectation was on tip-toe for revelations

of a startling character.

It was the first time the squid had

been called to exercise his authority as a

magistrate, and like a sensible man he

was determined to improve the occasion.

This was no simple drunk or assault, it

was a felony—an actual felony of an aggravated

nature. The squid was a man of some

seventh heaven of delight, but he did not

show his pleasure in his features or actions.

No, he presented the judicial decorum of a

man to whom trials for felonies were

everyday occurrences, and whose legal

requirements were equal to any emergency

short of high treason. Mirre's wife

was detained at the Mirre's, and was

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hotel. Our prosecuting attorney, who

was really a sharp fellow, extorted the

admission from her that she had been a party

to the party in so far that she had

approved of his killing the ox and had

assisted in skinning and cutting it up, and

that she was tired of Mirre and wanted

to go down below and get another fellow

who had written to her.

The head and hide were next produced

and identified by Bill Davidson, who

though as he was a witness, and obliging

as there is on the island, he saw

these a most profane person and inclined

to be glib. He treated his listeners to

a minute description of the ox and his

parents, of the strength, good temper and

other excellent qualities of the ox, and

ended with the strongest expletives, and

when the squid reminded him that he was

wasting the time of the court, Billy got

cranky and wound up by saying, "It's a

queer thing that a body canna see his eye

in his own house."

Bill Davidson had meanwhile been

detached from Mirre by the black-

smith, and was next sworn. Bill had

somehow got it into his head that he

was the killer of the ox as well as

Mirre, and when the squid told him

to make his statements as briefly as possi-

ble, he was passing quickly. Bill as-

serted, "Not (his) guilty, yer honor,"

and was in the act of taking his seat, but

Squid Terry shouted, "Hold up! I'll

beave ahead and keep her close to the

wind." Bill grasped the idea that some-

thing more was required of him, and

straightened himself up again began

with drunken seriousness to sing in a very

thick voice: "Twas in (his) Trafalgar

bay."

"Silence in the court!" roared the

squid. "Take that drunken fellow out

and put him in the stocks! He is inobedi-

ent to the court!" Patsy Coyne next put on

the stand. Patsy's hair was tumbled in

every direction, and there was a very

distinct map of the thousand lakes on his

forehead, but there was a queer, defiant

look in his bright grey eye as he started

off. "You Coyne next put on the stand,

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