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 EDITORIAL.
 

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The late trial for murder held in this city presents many points of interest. It is the third death sentence pronounced in Winnipeg and it is to be hoped will have a deterrent effect in keeping from our prairie province an influx of the vicious and depraved characters of other nationalities. The murderer discharged his pistol so close to the head of his victim as to drive some grains of unexploded powder into the flesh. It might reasonably be supposed that the ball, a 16calibre would crash through the brain and possibly find a point of exit at the opposite side, but the proverbial thickness of the negro skull had no doubt much to do with the deflecting from what would be its natural course under similar circumstances in a white man. Dr. Todd who performed the post mortem examination gave the following evidence:

"Bullet entered right side of head about an inch and a half behind angle of eye, crossed to sphenoid bone, entering left temporal sphenoidal lobe, crossed through and lodged on the opposite side in contact with the bone."

The convict is evidently a low type of humanity but nevertheless was very far from betraying any symptoms which in medical or legal considerations could be pronounced as insanity. His ostentatious objections to be not considered insane would seem to have been used by him with a view to the enquiry as to his sanity leading up to that conclusion, recognizing that this plea would alone save him from the gallows, trusting to the doctrine of chances in the future. But he did not consistently play up to the role, and so often gave evidence of considerable acumen that any close observer could read beneath the surface, and no one present at the trial could come to any other con-

clusion than that, which the jury arrived at. The case was ably conducted both by the Crown, and the Counsel "Mr. Bonnar" employed by the Crown for his defence. The Deputy Attorney General who conducted the prosecution, while placing before the jury in the plainest manner, all the facts of the case, with the legal construction to be placed upon them, never unduly pressed his evidence, but conducted the prosecution throughout in that spirit of justice and fair play which distinguishes the pleader in the courts of Great Britain, and we can justly say with great ability. Mr. Bonnar entered upon an up-hill undertaking, as he no doubt recognized himself, almost a hopeless one, but he nevertheless handled his case in the most masterly manner, leaving no point untied which could be used in the prisoner's behalf. His address to the jury was looked forward to with much interest by many people, but in this they were disappointed, as this duty was undertaken by the gentleman associated with him in the defence, Mr. Leach, whose line of argument was not specially calculated to influence a jury of twelve sane men. He was dissatisfied with the Judge, who ruled on a point of law, he accused the Crown, who was paying him and the witnesses for the defence, of keeping back some prisoners in the Penitentiary, who could have given evidence in the accused's favor. It was however shown by the Crown that he might have had any number he asked for brought in in the course of two or three hours; but probably his remarks to the jury as to the injustice, unfairness, and cruelty of British law were never paralleled by a British lawyer, addressing a British jury in one of Her Majesty's Courts of Justice. But, as that age and experience which he now affects to sneer at, comes to this young advocate, he may yet blossom into a Denman, a Brougham, a Campbell or a Stephens.