

accused before the fire he came to my house at Wotton, on Sunday, in the forenoon. He went away on the Thursday following, which was in the week of the fire. I left my house in the morning to go to the *triduum*, on the last day, Thursday, about seven or eight o'clock the morning; at the time the accused had not left our house. I returned home about noon. The accused had gone away in the meantime. From Sunday till Thursday the accused stayed at my house. During that time, that is to say, from Sunday till Thursday, my father-in-law, Narcisse Le Blanc was at my house with his family. One of his daughters, my sister-in-law, is called Marie Leblanc; she is now married to one Prosper Beauchêne, of Wotton. She lived at the house of the accused a little more than a month before the fire. I went to the house of the accused on the Thursday night before the fire, where I remained until Saturday morning, except that I went to fetch a load at Narcisse Leblanc's, two miles and a half or three miles away. On the Friday morning there was a wrangle. The accused said that he wished to go and look at lands at Wotton, and his wife, the deceased, wished to go with him. The accused said to her that he was afraid that she would do as on the first occasion, not go and see the lands, and she replied that she did not like the place. The accused said to her that he preferred buying at Wotton. The wife of the accused replied to him that if he went and bought at Wotton she would not go and live there. The girl Leblanc said that if Mr. Guillemette was going to Wotton, she would go too. The accused, his wife, Marie Leblanc and I were present at this conversation, which took place at the house of the accused, which consisted of but a single apartment. When Marie Leblanc said that she would go to Wotton with the accused, the wife of the latter said that she had as much business as her to go to Wotton. She said that she had more business than Marie Leblanc to go to Wotton to see the lands, since she was to reside there. Thereupon Marie Leblanc answered that she had as much business as she, (Madame Guillemette,) to go to Wotton. Thereupon the deceased, Madame Guillemette said to me: "See, Mr. Richard, she says she has as much business to go to Wotton as I." I observed that Marie Leblanc wished to go and see the place, as her sister was married. Madame Guillemette answered me, "Ah! that is not it, Mr. Richard, be sure if you knew as much about it as I, you would not tell me that; they go into the field, they talk of me and they make a jest of me." She, (Madame Guillemette) spoke of the accused and of Marie Leblanc. During the time when I was at the house of the accused, in the week before the fire, his wife said to me that Marie Leblanc was a little slut, that she was too fond of other women's husbands, that she went out with the accused to spend the evening until nine or ten o'clock at night. While I was at the house of the accused, on the occasion in question, the accused appeared to agree pretty well with his wife, but she wrangled all the time. During those days, Madame Guillemette several times told Marie Leblanc to go away, because she brought trouble into the household. The accused replied, "Here is a business, you are hired, you will remain and finish your time." On the Friday evening about dusk, Marie Leblanc was resting her elbow on the knee of the accused, and was wrangling with Madame Guillemette. It was who should say most. Marie Leblanc called Madame Guillemette jealous. Madame Guillemette answered that she was not jealous, but that she saw clearly that they wanted to trick her, and she (*told*) Marie Leblanc to go away, and called her a little slut and a little whore. I thought that Madame Guillemette was jealous, and fancied things that did not exist. I understood that Madame Guillemette wished to say that the accused and Marie Leblanc had gone to bed together. I arrived at Wotton on the Saturday before the fire, about nine or ten o'clock in the evening. Marie Leblanc had got to our house before my arrival. The accused arrived at my house on the Sunday morning. From the Sunday till the Thursday of the week of the fire, the accused remained at my house as well as Marie Leblanc. The accused appeared to be fond of her. I found that he had somewhat the way of a lover. On the Wednesday evening, during the retreat, the accused, while unhitching his vehicle, told me that he thought he should become my brother-in-law within a fortnight. In the morning, the accused had taken mamma, my wife, and Marie Leblanc to the village of Wotton, and then went to see the lands, according to what he told me. Returning immediately, without unharnessing, he brought Marie Leblanc with him. He told me on the same occasion that he did not think his wife had more than a fortnight to live. I asked him why. He