

studied in Toronto, and claim to know that the "Windmill Line" was almost a myth. It existed theoretically, but practically I believe that no Surveyor could define it.

It was a line to be drawn from the old French Fort on a course "N.65°E." to an old stone building called "*Gooderham's Windmill*." One would think the old French Fort was a mere point, having neither length nor breadth, and from it you were to draw a line N.65°E. The plans of the Fort were long since carried back to France. Its actual site is, I believe, entirely obliterated by the encroachment of the lake. The old windmill which stood at the east end of the city, 30ft. or 40ft., or perhaps more, in diameter, was torn down about forty years ago. What, then, is there remaining by which a Surveyor can define this line, so as to be able to say that any particular wharf has been built beyond its limits? Nothing but the empty bearing of "N.65°E." Supposing it were possible to make an approximation by evidence as to the site of the old windmill, then comes the difficulty about the bearing. Was the N.65°E., as recorded in those early days, magnetic or astronomical? I cannot believe that it was astronomical, any more than I can believe that the course of King Street as "N.74°E." was astronomical, and yet a court of law would not allow it to be assumed that it was magnetic, for courts have decided that "N.65°E.," or some other similar bearing is an astronomical course. No Surveyor in Toronto will believe otherwise than that "N.16°W." and "N.74°E." are and were original magnetic bearings. If so, it is also most likely that the bearing of the "Windmill Line" was magnetic. If that be granted, then in order to renew the "Windmill Line" I should require that same compass from which was observed that bearing, and require it to be in the same state of magnetic intensity as it was at that date, and so range the line from the site of the old windmill. Any other compass would not do. Take several of such instruments, and set them up on the same straight line and they will give different bearings. Take the same instrument and it will itself give different bearings to the same line on different days, and project a straight line from the open field and glare and heat of a summer sun into the shade of a dense wood and the bearing at each end of the line will be different. Who, then, was right—the Chief Justice or the Surveyor—respecting the existence of the "Windmill Line"? "As true as the needle to the pole," is all very nice in poetry, but it will not do for practical surveying.

In a certain criminal case which occurred in the year 1818 the question arose in the court as to what was the meaning of the expression "northward," for on it depended whether or not the crime of murder was committed within the boundaries of Canada or in the United States; and it may not be uninteresting to submit the discussion on that word at the present time:—

*Mr. Sax*, a witness for the Crown, is being examined, and says: A line, supposing it ran due north, from the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers would leave the River Winnipeg five degrees out of the Province of Upper Canada; not a northward line, but, a due north line.