

Oct. 16.—A private of the 30th Regiment, named Swallow, committed suicide at the camp at Levis yesterday, by cutting his throat with a razor. No reason assigned for the deed." No doubt the stereotyped verdict was rendered in this case; and yet if SWALLOW had taken a fancy to cut some other person's throat instead of his own, would he not have surely suffered death as a wilful murderer?

We make these observations without the slightest disposition to impugn the fairness of the prisoner's trial, or to complain of his sentence. The forms of justice were, no doubt, carefully observed. The plea of insanity was urged by the prisoner's counsel—counsel, however, assigned to him by the Court only on the morning of the trial. The learned judge, we believe, referring to this defence, laid some stress upon the fact, as bordering on insanity, that the prisoner during the night after the murder, expressed his satisfaction at what he had done, and said there were three or four more in the Battery, that he would like to do the same to. But the judge added that this was too slender a basis for such a defence to rest upon, and that were we to enter into a fine analysis of human acts, nine-tenths of our fellow men would seem to be insane.

It must be observed, however, that the plea of insanity being an affirmative plea, the proof of which lies upon the prisoner, and the very truth of which prevents the prisoner from doing anything for himself, it is highly improbable that a reckless, unhappy man, generally without means or friends, should be successful in establishing it. His comrades would expose themselves to imputations of disaffection, and sympathy with the crime, if they displayed too lively an interest on his behalf; and however strangers may commiserate, they are generally either ignorant of how the case really stands, or satisfy themselves with the reflection that their interposition could do no good.

When the community is startled by the intelligence of a ferocious crime like that committed by MACK, the exigencies of military discipline, the laws of the state, the blood of the murdered man, cry aloud for summary vengeance upon the murderer. But no punishment will be sufficient to deter men from crimes

of this description. The murderer counts the cost, and is willing to pay the penalty. In this case, so suddenly and stealthily was the act committed, that the first impression was that Corporal SMITH had committed suicide, but MACK disabused the minds of the bystanders, and avowed himself the criminal. It is manifest that we must look for other means of prevention. Whether these can be found in rendering it possible for a soldier to exchange his regiment or company, or in facilitating the purchase of discharges, when men find themselves unhappily circumstanced, it is hardly within our province to discuss. These are suggestions for the philanthropist rather than for the lawyer.

#### THE BAR OF LOWER CANADA.

Most of our readers are probably aware that an Act amending the Act respecting the Bar of Lower Canada was passed last session, and that new By-laws in conformity therewith have been made by the General Council, and also by the Councils of Sections. One of the new regulations is that a list of the advocates entitled to practice in Lower Canada shall be made and posted up. A notice has been issued by Mr. GONZALVE DOUTRE, secretary-treasurer to the General Council, that this general list will be made and completed on the 15th December, to be homologated and posted up according to law on the 1st January, 1867. Advocates admitted since the 30th of May, 1849, whose diplomas have not been registered in the Registers of the General Council, are requested to send them to the secretary before the 15th of December for registration. It is important that this list should be as accurate and complete as possible; and we therefore trust that members of the bar will endeavor to second Mr. DOUTRE in the carrying out of his task, which, we may add, is performed without any pecuniary remuneration.

The following is a list of Diplomas registered in the Registers of the General Council, from the nomination of the members of the Council, viz., 5th October, 1866, up to the 21st November, 1866.