

A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

One or two things, it is universally conceded, the people of St. Thomas greatly need. A public Park is a thing of which it is daily felt by the majority of citizens throughout the summer months, while as winter, with its long evenings, approaches the need of some public recreation is realized by a very great many. A reading room is also a thing of which the people of St. Thomas greatly need. The excellent reading room of the Mechanics' Institute is a public library. The reading room of the Mechanics' Institute is a public library. The reading room of the Mechanics' Institute is a public library.

THE BIDDULPH TRIAL.

The first trial in connection with the Biddulph tragedy occurred last week, the only result arrived at, after a week's examination of witnesses, being a disagreement of the jury on Saturday night, the majority being in favour of an acquittal of the prisoner, James Carroll. The unparalleled story of the deed—unprecedented in the criminal annals of our country—has attracted the rivet public attention upon all the proceedings connected with it. The reports of the trial have no doubt been scanned with interest by many thousands, anxious to see whether so wholesale a slaughter could take place in a thickly settled part of this Province without the perpetration of some heinous crime. It is indeed a most extraordinary matter that, where so many were evidently engaged in the perpetration of the terrible deed, no fresh evidence has been discovered in the preliminary examinations. If, as the learned Judge seemed to think, the whole Vigilance Committee had knowledge of the deed, even before it took place, they have certainly preserved the secret wonderfully well. There was no theory advanced as to the motive of the deed, and no attempt was made to show that the outrage was perpetrated by any other than the residents of the immediate neighbourhood. One witness, it is to be sure, spoke of having picked up a couple of armed men some miles distant, some hours after the tragedy occurred; but the circumstances were so obscurely related, bearing on the matter, or the witness without evidence, as his evidence does not appear to have been again referred to. That among the members of the Vigilance Committee the murders were to be found, even setting aside the fact of the evidence, is a conclusion arrived at by the learned Judge. The defence was confined to breaking down the boy's evidence and endeavouring to prove an alibi to each of the persons he swore to as being present, and whom he said he recognized. As to the prisoner Carroll, his boy's evidence was very positive, and viewed in the light cast upon it by Judge Armour, extremely positive. He says he saw Carroll before he saw any of the others, and that he saw him carrying a lighted candle in his hand, appearing in high-spirited costume and chat, appearing in a constable costume to the Biddulphs, father and son. The alibi in this case does not seem to have been clearly proved, as to have destroyed the boy's evidence in reference to him, though as regards the others, who were only sworn to by him as having been seen in the house and room of the tragedy which followed, his evidence seems to have been weakened by the testimony of the other witnesses. Seven of the jury, however, considered the story unworthy of credence altogether, though one strong circumstance in favour of its acceptance was strongly pressed by the Judge upon the minds of the jury, namely, that on the boy's arrival at Whateles', immediately after the tragedy had taken place and when he could have had no motive and no time for inventing a story, he informed the Whateles', who, judging by their actions, were not sympathizers with the murdered family—of Carroll's presence on the scene.

Current Events.

The population of Ottawa has increased by ten persons within the last twelve months. The State Elections in Ohio and Indiana on Tuesday show such Republican gains as to show a decided desire to dislodge the Democrats. The election of Garfield is looked upon as a certainty. DUNBAR'S SCHEMERS.—London, Oct. 11.—Late arrivals from Constantinople announce that the Sultan, to give credence to the legends of the situation, and surrounded by a large number of his courtiers, was seen at once in the city. ATTEMPT TO KILL REPORTERS.—Dublin, Oct. 12.—During the meeting held yesterday at the Crystal Palace, the London League of the Deaf and Dumb, who were present, were seen at once in the city. ATTEMPT TO KILL REPORTERS.—Dublin, Oct. 12.—During the meeting held yesterday at the Crystal Palace, the London League of the Deaf and Dumb, who were present, were seen at once in the city.

FATAL RAILWAY DISASTER.

23 Persons Killed and Many more Injured. Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 10.—The frightful collision which occurred last night at midnight on the Pennsylvania Railway, near the Twenty-eighth street crossing, was more disastrous than at first reported. Ninety persons were killed outright, many more have since died, making up, all up to nine o'clock, a total of 123 persons. The bodies of the deceased were lying on the ground, and many of them were so badly injured that they were unable to get up. The first section of the train, consisting of the engine and the first two cars, was derailed, and the engine and the first two cars were derailed, and the engine and the first two cars were derailed.

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