

or the promise of any favour, and properly admitted in evidence, coupled with the other facts brought out in the case, place the matter beyond doubt. She prepares the poisoned apples; sends them unasked, with special and peculiar instructions for the use of the victim of the plot; she conceals the suspicious box and prevaricates about it repeatedly, marries the suspected murderer, and when the affair explodes, and a Warrant issues for her apprehension, she is found hidden in a heap of hay in a neighbour's barn, and confesses her crime. With such damning evidence, it would be a waste of time,—an unwarrantable reproach to the Judge and Jury, and an insult to common sense, to impugn the correctness of the verdict.

Then as to the male prisoner:—The evidence in cases of murder by poisoning must ever be eminently of a circumstantial nature. Homicides by the discharge of fire arms, or the wound from a deadly weapon and the like, where death supervenes instantaneously, can be fully proved by an eye witness. The crime is begun and consummated, and the whole tragic scene passes *à vue d'œil*. In such cases the fate of the slayer depends solely upon the credibility of the witness. Not so in cases of poisoning. The diabolical design is conceived and matured in secret. The deadly drug is generally administered by some supposed friendly hand. It is not the result of an act of violence, the commission or the consequences of which may transpire by accident. The death by poisoning constitutes the final and fatal accomplishment of a multiplicity of designs and little acts, formed and executed in the dark, and which might pass unobserved, were it not for the appalling *dénouement* which crowns them. To expect that the conduct of the poisoner is to be marked in traces of blood, as in a case of murder by violence, established by circumstantial evidence, is to look for that which never can be had. The more difficult the nature of the proof, the more closely is every act and expression of the accused to be scanned. Even the most