

TRIAL OF EDWARD AND MARGARET JORDAN 11

This Court sits here both as Jurors and Judges, to try the Fact, and to administer the Law, and if your Excellency and Honours shall be satisfied, by the evidence, which will be produced, of the guilt of the Prisoners, it will only remain for you to sentence them to receive that Punishment, which the Statute has directed to be inflicted on persons convicted of the atrocious crimes, wherewith those Prisoners now stand charged.

MR. SOLICITOR GENERAL.

May it please your Excellency and honours.

It is my province, upon this solemn occasion, as Solicitor General of His Majesty, to state at large the Evidence, upon which the articles of allegation against the prisoners at the bar have been founded. I can have little to say upon the subject of the Law, under the authority of which this Honourable Court is now sitting, as my learned friend, upon opening the allegation, has, with his usual precision and ability, given it the fullest explanation. My sole duty will therefore be, to give to your Excellency and Honours, a detail of the awful case, as it stands upon facts which the testimony, in support of the Prosecution, will disclose, and upon that Testimony to urge for the conviction of the prisoners. This duty it is painful to me upon all occasions to perform but, in the present instance, I can do it with far less difficulty and reluctance than usual, as I am fortified by every species of Evidence required in the investigation of truth.

In the course of my long practice at this Bar, I have never met with a criminal case, in which the finger of divine providence has, throughout every turn and course of the evidence, so conspicuously pointed to the conviction of Guilt.—In addition to the force of direct positive Evidence, I shall produce to the Court a chain of the most providential presumptive Proof, that ever appeared upon a Trial of this solemn nature; and I feel a perfect confidence in the result of it, as it respects the fate of the wretched man at the Bar, whatever doubts may exist, even in my own mind, as to the conviction of the unhappy woman.

Your Excellency and Honours compose a high and respectable Court, convened under a Statute framed by the wisdom of our Ancestors, than whom there cannot have been greater or wiser men upon earth, and under that Statute and the oath prescribed by it, you are called upon to pronounce the Guilt or Innocence of the Prisoners at the Bar, upon the Evidence which, on behalf of the Crown and of the Prisoners, will be produced to you.—I shall now proceed to a recital of the Case, keeping as near to the Evidence as my memory will allow me, and although a shocking Tale of Blood and Murder, I must call to it the steady attention of this Honourable Court. (Here the Solicitor General minutely detailed the whole of the Evidence on the part of the King and, during the detail and at the conclusion of it, made the following and other observations.)