

not to shudder at the bare idea of perpetrating so much deliberate wickedness!

By our law, perjury was anciently punished with death; at a subsequent period the cutting out of the tongue, as the offending member, was sometimes inflicted; but in later times, following the principle of the Roman Law of the Twelve Tables, "perjuri pena divina, exitium; humana dedecus," a conviction for this odious imprecation of God's vengeance, subjects the offender to corporal and pecuniary punishments, exile and perpetual infamy, and deprives him of many of the most valued rights of a British subject; inflicting upon him a sort of moral leprosy which renders him loathsome, and causes him to be shunned by all classes of mankind. Nor can we wonder at the detestation in which the crime is universally held when we consider how it taints with its foul breath every avenue intended for the discovery of the truth, and shakes our confidence in decisions founded upon oral testimony. It is by a due regard to the sanctity of oaths administered in public Courts of Justice, that character, property, and even life itself, are primarily protected; for it is to little purpose that good laws are enacted, or honestly expounded, if all these great interests of man in civilized society be open to the attacks of false witnesses, men "speaking lies with hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

How painful must be the situation of a Jury when witnesses are called before them of doubtful demeanour, shewing by the carelessness with which they give their evidence how evanescent has been the impression, if any at all were made by the solemn character of the oath so recently taken, to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

This is a subject which interests all classes of society; high and low, rich and poor, are all liable to have their dearest rights set at naught, and their honest endeavours to establish them, frustrated by the subtle poison distilled from the bosom of a perjured witness.

Should the labourer seek to recover his hire, or establish his innocence when unjustly accused of crime, the testimony necessary to prove either, can alone be received under the sanction of an oath; and should his witness be a person known to be regardless of its sanctity, he may not be believed, although perchance he should for once speak the truth; and thus an honest demand may be lost, or an offence never committed, be established against an innocent person, because the only witness perhaps who could explain an important fact in a train of suspicious circumstances, is unworthy of credit.

It is, moreover, a dangerous experiment for an ignorant man to attempt the relation of a fictitious narrative, or even to state a simple falsehood, as the chances of being detected are much against him, should he be cross-examined with any skill. There is something so natural and artless in truth, that it obtains credit for its own sake; while the wavering, conscious falsehood is sure to betray itself even by the laboured exertions it makes to avert discovery.

Having thus briefly stated what I believe to be the general feeling of mankind as to the character of Perjury, and pointed out its deleterious effects upon our intercourse with one another: I shall now call your attention to those legal considerations which should govern you in dealing with the case in question, when a Bill shall be laid before you by the Crown Officer.

Perjury, by our law, is a wilful false oath taken by a person of sound mind, who having been sworn before a competent authority deposes to that which he knows to be false, or which he does not know to be true, and which is material to the matter in question; from whence it will appear that the deponent must be a person of sufficient intelligence fully to comprehend what he is doing, which every person must be to be capable of a criminal act. He must be sworn before a person or tribunal having competent authority to administer an oath upon the occasion when the perjury is charged to have been committed, so that voluntary false oaths taken before Magistrates or other persons not having jurisdiction over the matter, respecting which they are taken, although highly immoral and often punishable as a misdemeanour, will not amount to perjury.

With regard to the falsity alleged, it is not material that it should in fact be untrue, it is sufficient that the deponent does not know it to be true; and therefore if a person not knowing whether the circumstance to which he is interrogated, be true or false, he will be guilty of perjury, because he does not know that to be true which he takes on him to assert. Neither is it material, as some vainly imagine, that the false statement should be made in positive and direct terms, and therefore the too frequent practice of swearing to best of deponent's knowledge or belief, with a view of saving his conscience, will not excuse him, either in the sight of God or man, if it be shewn from circumstances that he must have known the contrary. It is not, therefore, material in what language the idea intended to be conveyed is clothed, but whether the idea con-

veyed be false and intended to deceive. The intention is everything; and therefore a misstatement made through inadvertence, from want of comprehension, or any other of the various causes which may be assigned to take away the deliberate character of the offence, will not subject the party to a charge of perjury.

The falsity must also be material to the point in question, and intended to influence the decision of the matter under consideration; so that perjury cannot be assigned upon unimportant and insignificant collateral statements.

In applying these principles to the facts which may be laid before you, you will bear in mind that in this as in all other cases, you are not a Jury for trial, but simply of Inquiry, and therefore should you find the substance of the charge proved, it will be your duty to put the party upon his trial, when he will have an opportunity of shewing in his defence whatever circumstances may tend to prove his innocence.

You will doubtless take an opportunity of visiting the Gaol during the term, and should you perceive anything worthy of observation either in the state and condition of the prison or its inmates, this Court will bestow their best consideration upon any presentment you may think proper to make upon the subject.

The following is a correct statement of the Vessels that cleared for the Seal Fishery at the Custom-House, at Port-de-Grave, the present Spring:-

Vessels.	Masters.	Tons.	Men.
Inthe, Wells		126	35
Meg Merrilies, Antle		69	18
Earl Grey, Bryan		59	21
Elizabeth & Maria, L. Droe		87	24
Narrod, Cole		88	27
Water Witch, Witlocks		92	29
Five Brothers, Antle		93	27
Jane, Percy		141	34
Comet, Cole		126	31
True Blue, Whelan		169	39
Nymph, Norman		88	27
Friends, Saunders		63	19
St. John's, Percy		149	31
Terra Nova, Percy		119	31
Jubilee, Percy		90	22
John Alexander, Bartlett		96	25
Arabian, Percy		104	26
Dolphin, Whelan		57	13
John, Bartlett		85	25
Jane Elizabeth, Munden		153	35
Emily, Walsh		112	33
Margaret, Burke		90	23
Hebe, Rabbits		106	28
Dandy, Spracklin		70	19
Naomi & Susanna, Munden		117	30
Highlander, Munden		126	31
Four Brothers, Munden		101	25
Hit or Miss, Roberts		93	25
Alexander, Norman		90	28
Joseph, Mead		32	13
Ann, Roberts		99	25
Bikley, Norman		94	24
Nimrod, Smith		95	25
Orion, Shepherd		99	24
Ringwood, Taylor		113	33
Montezuma, Russell		91	25
Samuel, Giles		110	32
Ann, Davis		94	28
Nonpareil, Davis		124	33
William, Snow		72	24
Dolphin, Davis		86	32
Newfoundlander, Mercer		94	26
Despatch, Goosney		130	27
Lady Ann, Mercer		115	28
Isaac & Elizabeth, Richards		103	27
Henrietta, Williams		75	22
Active, Norman		58	19
Glenfaloch, Daw		101	24
Favourite, Richards		69	23
Agencia, Delaney		82	25
Elizabeth Ann, Andrews		87	27
Squirrel, Le Droe		63	11
Nelson, Peyton		69	22
Justin, Witlocks		66	20
Isabella, Whelan		95	25
Venus, Le Droe		71	18
Mary, Andrews		87	25
Margaret Ellen, Norman		98	25
Success, Sheean		50	19
Active, Curlew		62	16
Ranger, Mugford		88	23
Indian Lass, Etchingam		44	12
Mary, Well		101	18
John & Maria, Burke		74	18
Caroline, Mercer		70	26
Nightingale, Delaney		91	27
Dove, Sheppard		70	18
Betsy, Sheppard		49	16
Henry, King		48	16
John & William, French		71	29
Young Harp, Corban		80	20
Swift, Batten		94	24
Margaret, Cave		104	25
Liberty, Butler		63	19
Three Brothers, Burke		81	21
Tyre, Cole		73	20
Sir Ties, Cochran, Spracklin		52	21
Sally, Sullivan		81	29
Good Direct, Dawe		66	20
Maria, Andrews		91	25
L'Avengneur, Gushue		82	19
Success, Le Droe		55	14
Rover, Spracklin		57	14

Total—83 Vessels, 7245 Tons, 1973 Men.
The increase of outfit from the whole Bay the present Spring, compared with that of the preceding season, is

Vessels. Tons. Men.
192
We have not been able to ascertain correctly the increase in tonnage, in consequence of the admeasurement of some of the vessels being given to us agreeable to the new, and others according to the old regulations—*Mercury*, April 14.

SHIP NEWS

Port of Harbor Grace.
ENTERED:
April 15.—Schr. Surprise, Harvey, Liverpool, 143 bls. flour, 40 bls. pork, 50 firkins butter, 95 bags bread, 20 tons coal, 2 crates earthenware, 94 tons salt.

Port of Carbonear.
ENTERED:
April 6.—Brig Hazard, Churchward, Liverpool, 10 tons coal, 60 tons salt, 101 bls. flour, 190 bags bread.
Brig Mary-Ann & Martha, Major, Lisbon, 80 tons salt, 5 cwt. corkwood, 10 quarter casks wine, 30 boxes oranges, 3 boxes lemons.

15th.—Schooner Julia, Smith, Liverpool and Cork, 22 tons potatoes, 3 boxes leatherware, 10 barrels flour, 10 bags bread, 45 tons coals.
Brig Eggardon Castle, Warland, Lisbon, 250 tons salt, 7 doz. mats, 4 qr. casks wine, 4 cwt. raisins, 20 firkins figs.
Brig Hope, Shaddock, Hamburg, 200 brls. pork, 600 brls. flour, 143 firkins butter, 712 bags bread.

CLEARED:
April 13.—Brig Mary Ann & Martha, Major, Waterford, 1800 qts. fish.

KILLIGREWS PACKET.

JAMES HODGE,
Of Killigrews,

BEGS most respectfully to inform his friends and the public, that he has a most safe and commodious FOUR-SAIL BOAT, capable of conveying a number of PASSENGERS, and which he intends running the WINTER as long as the weather will permit, between Killigrews, and Brigus, and Port-de-Grave.—The owner of the Packet will call every TUESDAY morning at the Houses of Mr. John Cruise and Mr. Patrick Killy, for Letters, Packages, &c., and then proceed across the Bay, as soon as the wind and weather will allow; and in case of there being no possibility of proceeding by water, the Letters will be forwarded by land, by a careful person, and the utmost punctuality observed.

JAMES HODGE begs to state, also, he has a Horse and Sleigh, which he will have every TUESDAY morning in St. John's, for the purpose of conveying Passengers to Killigrews and from Killigrews to St. John's—he intends carrying a Saddle every trip in case the path should not be answerable for the Sleigh to return. He has also good and comfortable Lodgings, and every necessary that may be wanted, and on the most reasonable terms.

Terms of Passage, &c.—
One Person, or Three, 15s.—Passages across the Bay, above that number, 5s. each.—Passages in the Sleigh 7s. 6d. each, Saddle Horse 10s.—Luggage, &c. carried on the most reasonable terms.
Killigrews, Feb. 1, 1837.

MIDDLE BIGHT PACKET.

Robert and John Hinds
Of Middle Bight.

BEG most respectfully to inform their Friends and the Public, that they have a safe and commodious Four-sail BOAT, which they intend running the Winter, as long as the weather will permit, between MIDDLE BIGHT and BRIGUS, and PORT-DE-GRAVE.—One of the Owners, of the Packet will call every TUESDAY Morning at Messrs. Perchard & Boy's for Letters and Packages, and then proceed across the Bay as soon as wind and weather will allow; and in case of there being no possibility of proceeding by Water, the Letters will be forwarded by Land by a careful Person, and the utmost punctuality observed.

They beg to state, also, that they have good and comfortable Lodgings, and every necessary that may be wanted, and on reasonable terms.

Terms.
Passengers . . . 5s. each
Single Letters 1s.
Double do. . . . 2s.
Packages in proportion.
Not accountable for Cash or any other valuable property put on board.
Letters will be received at Messrs. Perchard & Boy's, Feb. 1, 1837.

On Sale
FOR SALE

BY PRIVATE CONTRACT.

Wholesale-Simplex
ALL that FARM and PLANTATION, situate in MUSQUITTO VALLEY, on the East side of the Road between HARBOUR GRACE and CARBONEAR, known by the name of GEDERICH DALE FARM, containing 140 Acres of LAND; together with the COTTAGE, BARN, and other improvements thereon, as they now stand; held under Grant from the Crown; and the Purchaser is to be subject to whatsoever Rents, past, present, and future, may be demanded by the Crown.

The said FARM was formerly the Property of JOSHUA PARRIS, Esq. It is conveniently situated for carting Manure to it from Musquitto Beach.

For further particulars, apply to
HENRY CORBIN WATTS,
Barrister at Law.

Carbonear,
January 18, 1837

To be LET or SOLD.

FOUR DWELLING-HOUSES, STORE and WHARF, all in good repair and situated in a central part of the Town, with a space of GROUND to the Westward of the STORE, well situated for a Dwelling-House, or other Buildings, with a large space of back GROUND, for the unexpired term of between Fifty and Sixty years. Balance of Rent £7 10s. a year.

For further particulars, apply to
THOMAS MARTIN,
Harbour Grace,
January 18, 1837

G. W. GILL

HAS JUST RECEIVED,
Per Lark from Liverpool,
PART OF HIS FULL SUPPLY OF
MANCHESTER
GOODS,

Which having been selected by himself he recommends as being of the best quality.
Carbonear.

DESERTED

FROM the service of the Subscriber on the 15th day of NOVEMBER last,

MICHAEL COADY,
an APPRENTICE (bound by the Supreme Court), about Five feet Seven inches high, black hair, full eyes and plump in the face, a Native of St. John's. This is to caution all Persons from harboring or employing the said DESERTER, as they will be Prosecuted to the utmost rigour of the Law.

JAMES COUGHLAN,
Bryant's Cove,
Feb. 22, 1837.

TO BE SOLD OR LET.

SEVENTEEN YEARS UNEXPIRED LEASEHOLD.

Of those desirable **MERCANTILE PREMISES**, situate at CARBONEAR, and lately in the occupation of MR. WILLIAM BENNETT, consisting of a DWELLING HOUSE, SHOP, COFFEE HOUSE, and Two GIL VATS sufficient to contain about 2000 Sacks.

For particulars, apply to
BULLY YJOB & Co.
John's, June 28, 1836.

LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING IN THE POST OFFICE, ST. JOHN'S

Which will not be forwarded until the POSTAGE is paid.

- HARBOUR GRACE.
Thomas Foley—care Patrick Morris, Esq., St. John's.
John Cartey—care Thos. Foley, Harbour Grace.
From John Jewell, seaman on board H.M.S. Talevara, To James Jewell at Mr Soper's Harbour Grace.
Mr Joseph Woods.
Thomas Murphy—care of Wm. Bailie.
Thos. Hyde, Bay-de-Verds—care of C. F. Bennett, St. John's.
Patrick Strapp, Harbour Main—care Pat. Welsh, St. John's.
Thos. O'Hara.
Miss Ann Maria Ford, Cubits.
CARBONEAR.
W. Bennett, junr.—care Gosse, Pack, and Fryer.
Thos. Lock—care John White, South side.
Wm. Bemister, merchant.
Joseph Peters, a paper.
S. SOLOMAN P. M.
St. John's, Nov. 23, 1836.