

mother's room she found her lying on the floor, supported by her father. She saw blood on the floor where her mother was lying, and she also saw "something else" (a piece of intestine), which she put in a chamber-utensil, and which was afterwards given to the doctor. The medical evidence went to show that the deceased woman had a clean cut wound in the vagina (the exact anatomical seat of which is not given in the report), through which a portion of the intestines, with clean cut ends, protruded. Seven feet seven inches of intestine had been cut off in three pieces, and the evidence went to show that these pieces were all clean cut, and not ragged, at the extremities, and that the intestine had been carefully separated from the mesentery. The woman survived these frightful injuries a whole week, and did not succumb till January 9th, the cause of death being loss of blood and peritonitis.

The difficult question for the Court to determine was, the one of suicide, homicide, or accident. The medical evidence was in favour of homicide, because of the concealed position of the wound, and the deliberation which had been manifested in cutting off the intestine. It was admitted that the injury was *possibly* suicidal, though not *probably*. In favour of suicide, we have the fact that the woman's hands were covered with blood, but the man's were not. Against the theory of murder, too, was placed the man's previous excellent character, and his attachment to his wife. In favour of accident we have the fact that no weapon was discovered with which the injury could have been inflicted. Two pocket-knives, one of which had been recently sharpened, were found in the trousers of the accused, but no sign of blood was found upon either of them, and it was not considered probable that the wound had been produced by either of these weapons. The deceased woman also made a dying declaration on the 5th of January—which was obviously false—to the effect that the injury was caused by her falling on a chair; that no person injured her; and that she and her husband had always lived on friendly terms. The case is certainly a puzzling one, and the utter absence of direct or even circumstantial evidence is very remarkable. The jury returned a verdict of "Not proven," after ten minutes deliberation.

The case is not the least remarkable on account of the long period which the woman survived, such injuries generally proving fatal in a short time from excessive hæmorrhage. Taylor mentions two cases of women who were murdered in Edinburgh some years since by wounds inflicted with razors on the vagina, and he further says that: "this crime appears at one time to have been common in Scotland." This medical jurist holds very decided views as to the nature of such wounds. He says: "When deeply incised