

was rarely if ever "stuck" by them; and as to him we may remark that he thought his writing was "copperplate." Printers, however, as we happen to know, at least stuck when his writing appeared and said life was not long enough in these strenuous days to decipher it, and they accordingly insisted that his "copy" should be typewritten.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

The weakness of circumstantial evidence, and the danger of presuming guilt upon this class of evidence alone, is well exemplified by a case referred to in the *Solicitors' Journal* as follows:—

At a recent inquest at Croyden upon the body of a young woman who appeared to have been killed by a fall from a railway train in which she was a passenger, the glass in one compartment was broken, and soldiers in the adjoining compartment had heard screams and the breaking of glass before the train arrived at its destination. Attention was naturally directed to a man named Batty, who was the only other passenger in the compartment in which the deceased travelled, and although there was not the slightest evidence that he had offered her any violence, or that she had been in any struggle between them, there are unfortunately many unthinking persons who are ready to form unfavourable suspicions without any evidence to support them. Such persons are capable of believing that the fact that Batty was the last person seen with the deceased was enough to charge him with having behaved towards her in such a manner that she was alarmed and fell from the carriage while attempting to escape from it. But the evidence of Batty, delivered in the most straightforward manner, and that of the doctor who had attended him, quickly dispelled any mystery which hung about the case. Batty suffered from epileptic fits, and his contortions during one of these fits which had attacked him while in the compartment were calculated to terrify the deceased and cause her to force the door and to endeavour to escape from the carriage. The coroner and jury were satisfied with this evidence and there was a verdict of death from an accidental fall. One is reminded that in the year 1699, Mr. Spencer Cowper, a rising barrister on the Home Circuit, who was afterwards raised to the Bench, was most unjustly put on his trial for the murder of Miss Sarah Stout without any evidence to support the charge apart from the circumstance that he was the last person in her company.