

must doubt, if your verdict would give him any property at all; for I regret to say, that such is the state of the law, that many a tedious and wearisome step the child would have to take in the Courts, before he could even then recover what his parent left him. And upon what grounds would you inflict ruin and disgrace on this young man, and not on he alone, but on others also? Is it upon the uncorroborated evidence of that witness whose testimony my learned friend himself admitted should be received with caution? Is it upon the testimony of that man, of one of the greatest villains I ever saw produced in this or any other court. I confess I cannot find words to express the detestation, the horror I feel at the prevarications, the falsehoods, the infamous conduct exhibited here this day by that perjured villain. Your Lordship must not judge of the moral character of this County by what you have heard the last two days, for it is far from being a fair sample of its character if you were to judge of it by the persons who have come from Mount Nebo. I was at one time at Mount Nebo myself, and I have to this hour a lively sense of the great kindness and attention I there met with from Mr. Gowan. My learned friend has truly stated that Mr. Gowan was a very active character. He was, as he stated to you, bold, active, intelligent, fond of field sports, and of the society of his neighbours. He had all the virtues of country gentlemen, and he had also many vices mingled with them. He had sixteen children. Some time after he became a widower, he took into his house a woman of bad character, and it is in consequence of this unfortunate connection that all those evils have followed.—He had sixteen children, thirteen by his wife, and three by this woman. I will admit that the conduct of the Defendant Wm. Gowan and his brother, Ogle Gowan, was, in many respects, not to be justified! I will admit that there was hypocrisy and craftiness, and what was sufficient to disgust any one of right feeling in their conduct!! but you are to consider that they were bred of that parent; that their father also was cunning and artful, for though he had some virtues, he had many and great vices. I regret that I should be obliged to speak in this way of John Hunter Gowan, who is now in his grave; but I cannot forget that he taught his children a lesson by his example, and that every one of them practised it. But compare their conduct with that of the legitimate children. William Gowan always behaved well, and did every thing to assist his father; but Thomas Gowan was a young man of strong passions, and he and the other children exerted themselves only to oppose their

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