

## PREFACE.

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As Special Reporter for the "Acadian Recorder" and St. John "Daily Telegraph," I attended the trial of Peter Mailman, charged with the murder of his wife, at Lunenburg, N. S. The trial referred to began on Friday, the 17th day of October, 1873, and created intense interest, not only in Lunenburg, but throughout all Nova Scotia. Happily, murders are rare in this Dominion; we are blessed with a state of Society which renders crime of this revolting character almost impossible. The circumstances connected with the Bridgewater tragedy were so horrible in their nature, and the crime fixed itself so irresistibly on the prisoner, that every body was eager for the results of the legal investigation of his guilt.

It was the first time I was ever brought face to face with a murderer, and I confess to having acquired an exceedingly deep interest in the man, and the whole case. And, while at Lunenburg, many persons expressed a wish that full reports of the whole case should be gathered together in pamphlet form, and preserved as a painfully interesting local record. Acting on this suggestion I have devoted what few spare hours I had to this task, and this work appears simultaneously with the unfortunate man's execution.

In my record of the evidence and scenes of the trial, I am dependent chiefly on notes taken at the trial, which appeared at that time in successive numbers of the *Acadian Recorder*. The social history of Nova Scotia has few sadder records than the one which this little pamphlet embodies.

Though I shall forward a copy of this to our various newspapers, I may say that this little pamphlet is not intended as a literary effort—nor for criticism.

*Halifax, December 31st, 1873.*