THE NAVIN MURDER TRIAL.

Acquittal of the Prisoner, Eleanor Navin.

The Ernestown Authorities Censured.

NAPANEE, April 21.—The Navin murder trial began at the assizes this morning. As early as nine o'clock the court-room was well filled with spectators and auditors. Mrs. Navin, the accused, was placed in the dock. She looked calm and unconcerned at first, but a look of anxiety gathered on her face as the formality of opening the court went on. Her appearance was far different from that she presented at the time of the inquest. Instead of the grimy pallor of her sunken face bearing the traces of a recent debauch that ended in the death of her husband, her face looked plump and healthy, and in the place of the slatternly garments which hung on her gaunt figure, she wore a neat black dress, covered by a plain woollen shawl.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON, for the Crown, placed the case before the jury. He said that murder, the most serious crime known to the law, was much more painful when a husband was a victim at the hands of his wife. He pointed out how the husband was found dead in his house and that Mrs. Navin related varying stories of the cause to different neighbours.

EVIDENCE FOR THE CROWN.

The first witness called was

THOMAS WHISKIN, who described the premises where the tragedy took place, and testified as to his knowledge of the Navin family, and the industrious, hard-working habits of Navin. He saw the deceased the day of his death in the afternoon going towards home with two or three paper parcels. He was apparently sober, and appeared to be in his usual health. This was the last time he saw him alive. The prisoner came to his house at one o'clock in the morning. She knocked at the door and said, "Good Lord, Ed's dead." As she turned to speak to witness, she fell down, and her little boy Alexander helped her up. When he asked her how the death took place she said she did not know.

To counsel for the defence witness said the ceiling of the hut was so low that an axe used by the deceased might strike the ceiling.

JAMES GALT had known the prisoner and her family ten months. The prisoner came to his barn at 7 a.m. alone, and told him that he was dead, that he had fallen on the axe and killed himself. Witness was the first stranger that entered the house. There was only one door to the room that formed the house. The body of Navin lay on the back, with the head towards the door, and one foot under the damper of the stove. He saw blood on the floor near the body. There were marks of considerable blood that had been cleaned up.

ALLEN OMEY knew the prisoner and her late husband by sight. He went to the house on the Saturday morning and found the prisoner on the floor on his back dead with his head towards the door and his feet towards the stove. He saw a cut on the side of his head. The prisoner was making a great fuss. She said that she had cleaned up some of the blood.

MARY HAM knew the prisoner, who lived on a place owned by her and her brother. She was often at the house, where they had things stored in a loft that had no communication with the lower part of the hut. While there she had heard the prisoner swear at the children. She had seen the prisoner when she thought she was drunk. On the Saturday morning the prisoner went to witness' house and said that Ed was dead; that he had fallen on the stove in one of his drunken frolics, and she had dragged him off, and that he had fallen on the axe. Witness was sure that that was what the prisoner said.

GEORGE DALY gave merely corroborative evidence, with the addition that Mrs. Navin pointed out the whiskey bottle as an unlucky one for them.

ALEXANDER NAVIN, aged about 11 years, son of the prisoner, and who appeared to be an intelligent lad, was next called, but the Judge examined him and decided that he was not a competent witness.

Dr. BRISTOL made a *post-mortem* examination at Navin's hut. He described three wounds, one of which was caused by a blunt instrument. In his opinion this was the cause of the deceased's death, and could not have been produced by an axe in his own hands. It required a strong blow to fracture the skull where Navin's was broken.

Dr. KENNEDY stated that he had examined the body superficially, and found a fracture. He did not think the fracture on Navin's skull could be produced by an axe. He thought the blow was more likely to have been produced by a fall. He might have got several bruises in falling at the same time. Navin's skull was produced to show its frangible nature.

WALTER CLARK swore that the prisoner once told him of a quarrel with her husband, and that if she had had a knife she would have stabbed him, and would like to poison him.

JAMES ALLEN testified that the prisoner told him that her husband had been struck by the axe. She produced an old axe, and after another axe was spoken of she produced it. He thought she had been drinking, and did not attach so much importance to what she said as if she had been sober.

W. C. SCOTT said the prisoner had told him that her husband had fallen on the axe and killed himself. He saw no marks on the low ceiling of the hut on the Saturday, but found a mark as though made with the head of an axe. She told him she had gone out to get some wood, and on her return she found her husband dead.

R. S. HENRY swore that prisoner told him Navin fell on the axe and killed himself. He thought from her story that the axe had hit the ceiling and glanced on to his head, but the witness on an examination saw no marks. This was on the Saturday.

Cross-examined—A slight thing will change the direction of an axe, as witness knew from experience.

DAVID FRANKLIN had known Mrs. Navin from a girl. On one occasion he had heard prisoner call Navin a liar, whereupon he got up and struck her. She picked up a bar, used to fasten the door, and struck him across the head with it. Then they shook hands and made friends. Both had been drinking.

THE DEFENCE.

JOHN GRAHAM had been employed to search the grave in which Navin was laid. He found some clothing, and no body, but the top part of the skull. He had it with him. The coffin was made of old fence boards with advertisements on them.

ALFRED GRANGE, a medical student, deposed that there was a body in Queen's College said to be Navin's. The upper part of the head was wanting.

Dr. SULLIVAN, Professor of Surgery in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston, had seen the body said to be Navin's. He noticed that the skull was very thin and unusually brittle. He had never seen so thin a skull. Such a wound as was found on the skull would be made by the back of an axe.

Dr. McGUEN endorsed the evidence of Dr. Sullivan as to the abnormal thinness and brittleness of Navin's skull.

Dr. RUTTAN said that the skull was as thin as that of a girl 16 years old. The corner of a stove would produce the fracture in Navin's skull.

Dr. COWAN said the skull was uncommonly thin, and that a blow struck by an axe in the hands of another party would make a larger fracture than the one disclosed.

Dr. LEONARD had seen the skull since it was fractured. He thought it uncommonly thin. A blow with an axe would have made a larger fracture.

Dr. WARD had examined the skull. It was very thin. The fracture might have been made by falling. A blow meant to kill would cause a larger fracture. He thought the kind of wound described in Dr. Bristol's evidence would be produced by a direct blow.

This closed the evidence for the defence, and Mr. Deroche, of Deroche & Maddan, who both had kindly volunteered to defend the prisoner, in an able and eloquent speech of about forty-five minutes, addressed the jury on behalf of the unfortunate woman. He was followed by Mr. Britton, who clearly set forth the facts on behalf of the Crown.

His LORDSHIP reviewed the evidence with great impartiality. His Lordship, Mr. Britton, and Mr. Deroche, in the course of their remarks, said they had never heard of so much inhumanity as was shown by the neighbours of Navin in all the circumstances connected with the case.

At 6.10 the case was given to the jury, who retired, but came in in about 15 minutes with the verdict of "not guilty."

His LORDSHIP intimated to the jury that he approved of the verdict they had arrived at. In discharging the prisoner he strongly cautioned her, and urged her to forsake the drinking habits that had brought her into such peril, and had indirectly made her a widow.

Mrs. Navin was at once set at liberty, and she struck out in the direction of her old home, and when last seen was ascending Roblin's-hill, south of the town, on the York road.

A HULL TRAGEDY.

Three Children Shut up in a Burning House.

TWO DEAD AND THE OTHER DYING.

OTTAWA, April 22.—Hull has added another tragedy to its list of fatal disasters by fire. In a small frame house on Wright street, at the corner of Lake street, owned by Louis Girard, live the families of Archire Proulx and Joseph Latour. The men are mill hands in the employ of Mr. E. B. Eddy. There were four rooms in the building, two down stairs and two up stairs, with a small kitchen attached. The rooms were about 12 by 15 feet in size, and two were occupied by each family. Last evening the children had been put to bed, and the two women, Mrs. Proulx and Mrs. Latour, *alias* Leduc, were out attending an auction sale. Little Amelia Proulx, aged 9 months, and Rosina Proulx, aged 3 years, were asleep up stairs, one in each room; while down stairs Adelaide Latour, aged 12 months, was asleep in the cradle. A coal oil lamp had been left on the stairs about half way up. Through some cause or other the lamp exploded and set fire to the stairway and floor below. Some neighbours were startled by the noise, and in attempting to enter the house were blinded by the smoke and retreated screaming. Two men, named Brisbois and Nadard, passing at the time rushed in, and with great difficulty and much danger got the children out, but not before all of them were badly burned and injured by the smoke. The firemen were quickly on hand and at work, and in a short time had the fire put out, but not before the contents of the building were burned and the walls of the interior charred by the flames. Dr. Beaubien was summoned to attend the children, who were placed in a neighbour's house, but notwithstanding what was done for the sufferers the Proulx child and the little Latour boy died within a couple of hours after the accident occurred. Rosina Latour, the three-year-old girl, who was badly burned about the head and body, was living this evening, but no hopes are entertained of her recovery. The parents are naturally much stricken by grief at the severe affliction which has befallen them. The poor people lost all their household effects, and are not, it is said, in a very good position financially. A young man named Alfonse Dumont, boarding with the Proulx family, lost a trunk full of clothes. The total loss by the fire is placed at $400; no insurance. The building was a small one and not very valuable. The conduct of Brisbois and Nadard was most courageous and deserves recognition.

A J. P. CHARGED WITH FRAUD.

A Question of Pigs and Poultry—The Case Settled by the Defendant.

LONDON, April 22.—Before Squire Peters, this afternoon, John Burns, J.P. of Nissouri, was charged by a coloured man named Samuel Hurst with fraud, in having taken advantage of the latter's imprisonment by representing to him that his stock, consisting of one pig and a quantity of poultry, were starving, whereas they had been fed by the neighbours, thereby procuring said pig and poultry at a ridiculously low price. The defendant agreed to surrender the property to plaintiff and pay all costs, amounting to $8.60.

A RELIGIOUS MONOMANIAC.

London's Troublesome Church-Goer—He Forces His Way Into a Church and Gets Arrested.

LONDON, April 25.—The monomaniac James Munro, who has for some time past been annoying the members and trustees of St. Andrew's church, again caused a disturbance there on Sunday morning by obtaining by strategy an entrance to the basement of the church, where the prayer meeting was being held. Constable Templar ordered him out, but allowed him to remain for the prayer meeting. After this service was concluded, seeing the constable on one side of the church waiting for him, Munro rapidly crossed to the opposite side and ran up stairs, but was here confronted by Mr. Gus Gillean, one of the trustees, who prevented his entrance until the constable arrived and ordered him out. Munro refused to go, and he was then forcibly ejected. He again returned and dared the constable to lay hands on him, when he was arrested and taken before the Police Magistrate, who released him upon his promising to remain away from the church for that day.

FALL OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE.

An Express Train Precipitated into the River Below.

ALBANY, Ill., April 21.—This morning the trestlework over the Meredosia river, near here, gave way, and an express train was precipitated into the river. The train consisted of an engine and tender, baggage car, passenger and sleeping car. All went down except the sleeper, which hangs over the end of the bridge. Two cars floated down the stream. The passenger coach lodged against an island four rods away, and the baggage car stuck in the middle of the stream about the same distance. Engineer West and the fireman, residing at Freeport, went down in the cab, and nothing has been seen since of the locomotive or the men. The baggageman, brakesman, messenger, and conductor all escaped, but all were injured except the latter. There were eleven passengers in the forward car, including a man and a boy, residing at Pine River, Wis., who were *en route* to Omaha, a woman and two children, who got on at Savannah, Dr. Lundy, of Albany, and five others. Of these, two men jumped ashore; another man leaped, but fell back and was drowned. The woman and child and the boy were taken off the roof of the car. The other passengers were drowned. Eight lives were lost in all.

Only six passengers were in the sleeping coach, and they, together with the coloured porter, all climbed out at the rear end and escaped uninjured. The names of those who escaped in this coach are H. W. Gordon, of Rochester, N.Y.; G. W. Chapan, of Newark, N.J.; Henry Warren, of Boston, and a companion. The wounded men were made comfortable at the hotel. The lady is prostrated by the shock, and is at the house of a farmer. The river is a perfect torrent where the trestle went out. It is said a freight train passed over the bridge an hour or so ahead of the passenger. Twenty boats were at work all the forenoon in the pouring rain. The coach was explored and the cushions and baggage taken out, but no bodies were found. All were washed out. A hole was cut in the roof of the baggage car and some of the baggage taken out. A great crowd collected at the scene.

The worst Scrofulous Sores, the most indolent Tumours, and the most foul Ulcer known, may be cured by the combined use of Burdock Blood Bitters and Burdock Healing Ointment. Ask your druggist for these infallible remedies.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

CANADA.

The Quebec Legislature meets to-day.

Many children are dying at Ottawa of diphtheria.

Hull has increased the cost of tavern licenses from $150 to $250 per annum.

Mr. David Gilmour was returned as reeve at Trenton on Tuesday by a majority of 141.

The sureties of the late Brockville treasurer have paid over to the counties the sum of $1,500.

The McKenzie copper mine near Sydney, C. B., has been sold for sixty thousand dollars.

The graduating class at the Royal Military College, Kingston, this year will number fifteen.

Carroll and Purtell, of Biddulph fame, are shortly to be married. Carroll weds a London girl.

The Montreal cabbies are about to introduce the London hansom for the patronage of the public.

A gentleman who has just arrived at Ottawa from the Black river reports a foot of snow there.

The Quebec address to the Rev. Canon Wilberforce is now complete and in the course of binding.

The first Assize Court for the county of Dufferin was opened on Monday, Mr. Justice Morrison presiding.

Ottawa mill men are making active preparations to commence running. Gilmour & Co. will start next week.

Judge Ross has made a final revision of the Ottawa voters' list for 1881. Only two names required adjudication.

The building operations going on at Kingston this spring are in excess of any previous spring for a number of years past.

The printers employed in the Parliamentary printing office, at Ottawa, have entered a protest against the payment of income tax.

Mr. Donald Archibald brought to Halifax yesterday a brick of gold weighing 33 oz., and valued at $600, from the Moose river mine.

The ministers of the Church at the conference gave personal guarantees for the $6,000 required to complete Alma College, at St. Thomas.

The two Feeheleys met James Carroll in Biddulph one day last week, and proceeded to abuse him. Among other hard things they called him a murderer.

WE learn by cable that the health of Sir Charles Tupper is almost entirely restored, and that he will leave Liverpool by the steamship Parisian on the 28th instant.

Mr. D. Shea, a well-known London dog fancier, is off to the New York dog show with a collection of the best dogs to be found in the city, including several former prize winners.

A good deal of illegal fishing for bass is being done in the neighbourhood of London. The inspector is on the track of a number of offenders, and the county constables are keeping a sharp look out.

One of the heaviest rainstorms ever experienced prevailed at Belleville on Tuesday for nearly an hour. The rain descended in torrents, and the streets were for the time transformed into rivers.

The reported epidemic among the Chinese on the British Columbia section of the Pacific railway is said to have been caused by coming in contact with the poisoned oak, which abounds in that section.

It is stated on the authority of a merchant of Morristown, N.Y., that over two hundred and fifty barrels of coal oil have been smuggled into Canada from the United States at Brockville during the past winter.

Two Mormon missionaries are expected in London in a few days. R. Davis and W. H. Kelly are their names. There has been for years a flourishing Mormon colony in the Forest city, having their own edifice for public worship.

The opening of St. Andrew's church, Sarnia, took place on Sunday, the services in the morning and evening being conducted by the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto, and the afternoon service by the Rev. Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford.

The Quebec *Chronicle* learns that owing to a lack of water in the various small streams of the lumbering districts, several hundred thousand logs in that province are likely to remain in the woods owing to the impossibility of driving them.

The horses attached to one of the viceregal vehicles bolted on the Chelsea road on Sunday and smashed things generally. Captain Chater, A. D. C., with his companion, had to come home on a farmer's waggon, driven by the Governor's coachman in livery.

The Newfoundland Government has signed a contract with certain New York capitalists for the construction of a line of railway from St. John's to the mining district of Notre Dame Bay. The road is to be four hundred miles long, and it is estimated it will cost six millions.

A committee of the Halifax City Council have arranged satisfactory conditions with Mr. Turner, the agent of English capitalists, for guarantees that his company will commence operations on the graving dock immediately. Mr. Turner deposits $25,000 as a guarantee.

St. George's Episcopal church at Goderich was opened on Sunday with special services. The Rev. Canon Carmichael, of Hamilton, preached in the morning and evening, and the Rev. Mr. McCosh, of Bayfield, preached in the afternoon to the members of Huron Lodge, No. 62, I.O.O.F.

THE MAIL's *exposé* of the practice of gambling in the Montreal clubs has created considerable stir in that city, and has led to the suppression of the vice in at least one hotel. It has furthermore evoked expressions of gratitude from parents whose sons have been sufferers by their devotion to the pastime.

Some Toronto capitalists were in Halifax last week inspecting sites for the erection of a summer hotel, with a view to making Halifax a summer resort. It is rumoured that a magnificent site on the North-West Arm, now used as the Theological Hall, will be purchased, and the building converted into a hotel.

The Independent Oddfellows of London and London East celebrated their sixty-second anniversary on Sunday by marching accompanied by a brass band to the Episcopal church in London South, where Rev. Elias Davis preached a sermon. The collection went to the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

It is probable that brigade camps will be formed at the following places this season, viz.:—No. 1 military district, at London; No. 2 military district, at Niagara; No. 5 district, taking in the Montreal corps, at Laprarie; and No. 6, embracing Quebec. The localities in Nos. 3 and 4 districts have not yet been selected.

The School Improvement Committee of the London Board of Education have resolved to grant $15 to the teachers and scholars of the Central school for the purpose of making flower gardens in the playground. The teachers and scholars are anxious for the flowers, and promise to keep the place in good shape.

Mrs. Steaton, of Clinton, arrived at Chatham, Ont., on Friday morning in search of her son, eleven years of age, and reported the matter to the chief of police. After a short search the boy was found with some gypsies, who, he says, had enticed him from home. The mother and son left for home in the afternoon.

The arrangements were completed at Halifax on Monday for holding the next provincial and Dominion exhibition, and committees organized. Mayor Tobin was elected president, and Prof. Lawson managing superintendent. The Governor-General and Lieutenant-Governors of the various provinces are to be asked to become patrons.