

Court of Queen's Bench,

Crown Side, Ottawa.

MR. JUSTICE WÜRTELE'S Charge to the Grand Jury,

Saturday, 10th December, 1887.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRAND JURY :

The time having arrived for the winter term of the court for the trial of indictable offences committed in this district, you have been summoned and impanelled to form the Grand Jury.

It is one of the duties of the government, or to use the accepted term, of the crown, to see that the laws are respected and that those who commit offences are prosecuted and punished; and all necessary power has been given to the law officers of the Crown and their substitutes for that purpose. But as this power, if exercised without control, might be abused and become dangerous, it has been contrived, and it is a fundamental rule of our law, that no man can be called to answer to the Crown for any crime or serious offence unless upon the preparatory accusation of twelve at least of his fellow-subjects, and that the truth of every such accusation should afterwards be confirmed by the unanimous verdict of twelve other inhabitants of the district, indifferently chosen and free from all suspicion.

The Crown therefore submits all accusations to the grand jury, who inquire in each case whether there is sufficient ground to put the accused on his trial; and when the grand jury find that there is a sufficient case, the Crown next places the accused on his trial before a petit jury, who, after every opportunity for a full defence and after