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 EDITORIAL.
 

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The Wise Men from the East have come, have seen, have gone, and murderer Paul Brown has conquered. His scientific cunning has won the day. Shortly after the last interview he had with the learned Psychologists, he remarked to one official, "some want to hang me, to get me out of the way, but the fees paid to those two fools they brought up would keep me good for the next ten years." This recalls to the mind of the writer a somewhat similar circumstance that occurred on the other side of the Atlantic. A man was placed on trial, but during his incarceration in gaol, he had managed to impress everyone he came in contact with that he was insane, and they all testified as to his insanity. The last witness was the physician to a large asylum, and also to the gaol, who gave evidence so strongly as to the prisoner's insanity that the Judge directed the verdict. No sooner was this recorded than the prisoner turned to a warden and in audible tones remarked, "that Dr. is a fool anyway." We all recognise the difficulty of proving sanity and insanity in many cases, and it is only accomplished by long and patient investigation. Most assuredly the investigation made by Drs. Burgess and Letts, as to the sanity of the convict, Paul Brown, under sentence of death, was most perfunctory, incomplete, and unsatisfactory. Commissioners have the privilege of calling any witnesses they choose. And in every instance we have hitherto known, no possible evidence, by which the truth could be arrived at, was passed over, but the extraordinary conduction of this inquiry, was somewhat staggering. The only possible solution is, that these physicians came to Winnipeg predetermined to pronounce Brown insane, and therefore carefully excluded all and every evidence which would prove the contrary, and enable the Minister

of Justice to form a correct opinion. The only medical men examined were the two physicians retained for the defence, who stated at the trial they would neither pronounce him sane or insane. The Eastern Psychologists contented themselves with this medical evidence, ignored the four medical men who were called on behalf of the Crown, one of them the gaol physician, another of them the examiner in lunacy for the Provincial Government, besides, they thought it unnecessary to examine the chief of police, who saw him immediately after the occurrence, the members of the force who had opportunities of observing him from within half an hour after the commission of the crime to the time of his removal to the provincial gaol, and several other parties whose evidence one would have thought they would gladly have availed themselves of. This mode of conducting a solemn inquiry unquestionably is open to grave comment. Great stress has been laid both at the trial and at this commission on the fact that the prisoner preferred to be hung than confined in a lunatic asylum. We believe with many others that Brown, a lazy, idle, worthless specimen of humanity made himself thoroughly acquainted with the treatment of criminals confined in asylums in Canada, where they are fed, clothed, and housed without effort on their part, a lotus-eating life so captivating to the negro imagination, and hence his scientific personation of a mad man, well thought out, well carried out and eminently successful. With the sentence of death passed on him, and the noose before his minds' eye, if he desired to be hung, by keeping his mouth closed he would long since have solved the problem, but, no sooner was he sentenced than he states a history of his former life leading up to the idea of insanity, which a daily paper philanthropically investigated and gave in sensational form to its readers. But on many points grave omissions occurred in this