

## No. 5.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, }  
DISTRICT OF ARTHABASKA. }

The examination of Henriette St. Pierre, George Powell, Hégésippe Lemay Poudrier, Hypolyte Bourassa, Célestin Blais, and Pierre Célestin Blais, all six of the Parish of St. Christophe d'Arthabaska, taken under oath, this Eleventh day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty eight, at Arthabaskaville, in the district aforesaid, before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the said District, in presence of Elzéar Guillemette, formerly a Farmer of the said Parish, accused this day before me, of having, he the said Elzéar Guillemette; on the twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty eight, in the said Parish of St. Christophe d'Arthabaska, in the district aforesaid, feloniously killed and murdered one Henriette Gendreau his wife, and two of the children of the said Elzéar Guillemette and of the said Henriette Gendreau.

Deponent Pierre Célestin Blais maketh oath and saith as follows :

I am aged thirteen years, and the son of Célestin Blais, Farmer of St. Christophe d'Arthabaska, where I reside. I know the accused, whose house was burnt this fall. I went to the house of the accused on the afternoon preceding the burning of his house with my three little brothers. The accused arrived from Wotton, at half-past three in the afternoon. I do not know what day of the week it was, but he had been five days gone and he went on Sunday in the morning. The wife of the accused was baking three loaves for us, and I went with my little brothers to furnish her with wood. She had no wood for the wants of the house but three or four sticks. The accused had not arrived when we went to his house about half-past one. On arriving, the accused, after having entered, asked his wife if she had become worse. Thereupon she said nothing. She had had a toothache. Thereupon he went to unharness, and found his colt shrunk in the flanks (clanche). After that he came to the house and began to wrangle, and after he went up to the garret, he saw that a little flour had been thrown into some bran. It was the wife of the accused and myself who had thrown the flour in the bran. In coming down he said, "When I am not here everything is wasted." After that he changed his clothes. He took off a pair of pants and a vest of homespun and a frock and a coat of black cloth; he also stripped his feet, taking off a pair of gaiters and a pair of white woollen socks, and he put on his feet slippers which he had dyed with copperas. They were boots which he had made himself and of which he had cut the legs. The boots I speak of were like these I wear, made of red leather and blackened with copperas. They were not store boots. When the accused took off his gaiters, he put them at the end of a chest which was placed against the wall near a bed, and he placed the clothes he took off on the bed near the trunk. He put on other clothes that were in the house. He had left outside, in his vehicle, a jacket and pants of grey homespun. After having wrangled with his wife, the accused said to her, "One or other of us must take to the woods." After that he went to the fields. He went all alone. I saw the cloth coat which Guillemette the accused left on the bed, on his back on the Sunday after the interment of the wife of the accused. It is not the coat now shown me. It was a coat of cloth. There Hearsay evidence was before the fire a girl of the name of Marie Leblanc at the house of the objected to. accused who did not agree with the wife of the accused. During the wrangling which took place on the eve of the fire, the woman Guillemette said to her husband before me that he was very fond of the Leblanc girl. The accused began to laugh, and made no other answer. Madame Guillemette said to him that he was happy only with the little Leblanc. My mother came about dusk to the house of the accused the evening before the fire, and the wife of Guillemette said many things to her about her husband and the little Leblanc. During the conversation I amused myself with my little brothers on the other side of the stove. I did not take notice of what was said. I understood that Madame Guillemette said that the girl Leblanc had taken an English thistle and had whipped the accused with it under the blankets, that Guillemette having sworn an oath at her, she went and threw it out. My little brothers and I had cut wood for the night. There was part of it at the door and the rest in the wood. Witness