

The defending counsel, in his cross-examination, was so deferential and polite to the witness that his manner as much excited the surprise of the court as it flattered the feelings of the witness himself. He was complimented upon his intelligent and straightforward replies, and finally questioned as to the finding of the remains of the powder in the glass, a fact to which he had sworn.

"After what transpired you had no doubt that it was the arsenic which caused the illness of your master?" asked the counsel, directing a look of indignation at his own client, the prisoner in the dock. The witness assented.

"Then you know something of the properties of arsenic?" observed the other, with an approving smile. The witness hesitated, and replied in the negative.

"Then," suddenly thundered the barrister, flashing his eyes upon him, "how did you know the powder to be arsenic?"

The transition was so sudden that the man was carried out in a fit.

The defence was that the white powder was nothing more than the usual harmless sugar provided with hot punch, while the real poison had been added by another hand.

At the next assizes the prisoner and the witness had changed places, when the latter was proved the real culprit—a fact suspected and worked upon by the astute counsel from the first.

A STILL more clever ruse was that adopted by another counsel who afterwards attained to distinction, who had to examine a witness in a disputed will case. One of the witnesses to the will was the deceased man's valet, who swore that after signing his name at the bidding of his master he then, also acting under instructions, carefully sealed the document by means of the taper by the bedside. The witness was induced to describe every minute detail of the whole process, the exact time, the position of the taper, the size and quality of the sealing-wax, "which," said the counsel, glancing at the document in his hand, "was of the ordinary red description?"

"Red sealing-wax, certainly," answered the witness.

"My Lord," said the counsel, handing the paper to the judge, "you will please observe that it was fastened with a wafer."

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