

list. On the forenoon of the tenth day judgments in cases standing over were rendered, and the court adjourned two days before the regular closing day. The list was cleared of about forty cases in all, including those settled and discontinued. Unless unusual activity is shown in the institution of appeals during the next six weeks, the March list will not much exceed 70 cases, which will nearly all be disposed of before the long vacation, leaving the September list entirely unincumbered by appeals of the year 1893.

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The trial of Hooper for murder ended, as was generally anticipated, in a verdict of "not guilty." No trace of poison was detected by the expert intrusted with the analysis of the contents of the stomach of the supposed victim, and, owing to some unfortunate blundering in the *post mortem* examination, the actual cause of death was left in doubt; for it was admitted by the Crown that the symptoms, while agreeing with those of poisoning by prussic acid, were not inconsistent with the theory of death from fatty degeneration of the heart, and the *post mortem* examination was not minute enough to negative this hypothesis. The jury, therefore, could not do otherwise than render a verdict of acquittal. It is evident that greater care must be taken in the future in the examination of bodies, where foul play is suspected. It is possible, as far as can be judged at present, that a proper *post mortem* examination in this case might have saved the Crown the necessity of a costly investigation and useless trial.

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In *Molson & Barnard*, Montreal, January 25th, 1894, the Court of Appeal maintained the doctrine of the immunity of a witness, for statements made under examination, unless gross malice has been apparent in the witness' deposition. This goes somewhat further than the recent