

should be willing—perhaps anxious—to have relegated to oblivion the history of a case that, through no fault of theirs, not only threatened their honor but placed their very lives in jeopardy. Why then should anyone, it may be asked, rake up the smouldering embers of their light, save only to disclose a crime anew? On the part of those with whom we are most concerned, the natives of the place where the “Acteon” was stranded, there was no crime.

That a misdemeanor was committed cannot be denied, but they were misled; and the man—if the title is not a travesty—who so imposed on innocence and made a few guileless persons the instruments of his own nefarious deed could alone be equitably held responsible.

Those persons were tried,—and without favor in the face of justice stern and cold—acquitted. What further proof of innocence is needed. And the reader will see, after an impartial perusal and consideration of the evidence, that dark as this deed of the prisoner Burns was made appear, his act of beaching the vessel was what the Captain himself intended doing; “all I can do is to run her on shore” said Captain Routledge. But when the deed was done by another, then “the devil a saint would be” and with Pharisean devotion he proceeded to prosecute a member of his crew for the very deed that he himself intended to perpetrate.

To gratify a curiosity with which the writer himself is not altogether unacquainted, trusting the personal pronoun may be excused, I will give a short sketch of my search for this locally interesting piece of history—at the risk though of kindling the editorial ire, if not the much more unsparing *fire*.

Not satisfied with the accounts of this episode given by those who might be supposed by their age to have reliable information concerning it, the writer set to work to find an account said to have appeared in an Island publication at the time of the trial.

A search for the desired newspaper in the Legislative Library, despite the care of the efficient librarian, failed; the paper was not there. A search in the Recording Office,