

A JURY CHANGE THEIR VERDICT.

An extraordinary case came before Mr. Justice Stephen at Chester assizes yesterday. A coal agent, named Angus Gordon McLean, had been put upon trial charged with embezzling sums of money belonging to the Lancashire coal company. Mr. Marshall made a forcible defense for the prisoner, representing that the accounts had only been muddled. The whole deficiencies discovered amounted to £230.

The jury found McLean guilty, and the judge commenced to pass sentence, when the prisoner appealed to his lordship to allow him to make a statement. His explanation was that the deficiency was quite accounted for by the fact that three hundred customers had left Birkenhead owing to bad trade who had not paid him. Several witnesses were recalled, and the judge said, whether the proceeding was regular or not, he would undertake the responsibility of asking the jury whether, after the prisoner's statement, they wished to hear him (the judge) with reference thereto, and to reconsider their verdict.

Having decided in the affirmative, his lordship again addressed them, and the jury reconsidered their verdict, with the result that they now found the accused not guilty, and he was discharged.—*London Telegraph*.
