

GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?

A few weeks since two men were on their trial for murder at the assizes in one of our principal cities, and great was the interest felt in the case. The various forms and examinations had lasted all day. Towards evening the case was concluded, the Judge summed up the evidence on both sides, and the Jury, upon whose verdict of *Guilty* or *Not Guilty* depended the lives of these men at the bar, were locked up in a room to deliberate. While the twelve jurors are thus engaged, let us briefly explain the origin of this trial.

The cause is easily found. It was the violation of God's law in breaking His Sabbath. Some thirty miles behind the city where the trial took place is a wild township, in which there are but few who reverence the Bible, or endeavour to follow its teachings. The usual Sabbath occupation of many there appeared to be assembling themselves, not to worship God in his house of prayer, but for the purpose of drinking in the taverns which disgrace the locality. As may be imagined quarrels are frequent, horrid oaths profane the Sabbath day, and no restraint is placed upon the angry passions of the men who thus congregate.

In one of these taverns a number of men were carousing on a Sabbath evening in February, and among them a young man named Lee. A knock is heard at the door. It is Lee's father who had also been drinking, and between whom and the landlord Stone an angry quarrel existed, but who is now come to seek his son. In the house was a poor half-witted man, named David, a servant, and who scarcely knew right from wrong, God having deprived him of his reason. At his master's order David lets loose some savage dogs upon Lee who seeks refuge in flight, but in vain, for at a short distance from the house he is pulled down by the animals. While struggling with the dogs, David with an iron poker, and another man with a club, beat Lee about the head until he falls senseless on the snow, his skull frightfully crushed, and in a dying state. Thus was a poor sinner hurried into the presence of his Maker without a moment's preparation, after a life of sin and wickedness. What a lesson here to our young reader to reverence the Sabbath, and prize highly their advantages. We do not fear that they will frequent such scenes, but we warn them against the slightest violation of the Sabbath day, not knowing to what awful consequences it may lead.