

Like any other young girl of her age, she received the attentions of a young man, whom she could suppose to be no better nor worse than any other young man of her acquaintance.

It is perfectly natural that when her suitor asked her hand in marriage, Miss Rosa may have allowed him to indulge the hope of becoming her husband, without engaging herself positively. Tom seemed very much struck; in fact was head over ears in love. Although the young lady lived very nearly five miles from his house, he went to see her almost every day, in spite of the bad state of the road.

But Tom Nulty, the ignorant and headstrong being now known to the reader, had no idea of social duties, and moreover, was unable to seize the delicate shades of a non-committed answer. Miss Rosa not having positively said no, he concluded that she had said yes, and he acted accordingly.

Who knows what would have happened, if the young girl had positively refused the brute!

Now it is easily understood how the motive of the crime was easily discovered.

As soon as the bodies were discovered, suspicions were directed towards a mysterious tramp who had been seen in the neighborhood. But the able Detective McCaskill, seconded intelligently by Coroner Lafontaine, did not long hesitate to suspect Tom Nulty.

From that moment, the detective watched Tom like a cat watches a mouse. He studied his actions, his going and coming, his words, the look of his face, and did not need many hours to be convinced that he was the guilty man.

On Saturday, the sixth of November, Tom assisted at the funeral service of the four victims in the modest little church at Rawdon. The Chief Constable Levesque, a deep observer, remarked that Tom was showing unmistakable signs of uneasiness. This sign, added to the suspicions already entertained, confirmed Detective McCaskill in his previous opinion.

Tom was invited to come to Mr. Morin's Hotel as soon as the service was concluded.

Tom accepted the invitation without any hesitation.

Of course, he was being watched, and any attempted flight would have been followed by an arrest.

It was about noon when Tom appeared before the clever detective.

Point-blank, the latter asked, "Tom, how did you employ your time on Thursday last?"

The murderer remained silent, and the detective went on:

"You have a right not to answer. Moreover, I must tell you beforehand, that all you may say can be used against you in case I think fit to arrest you.

"This being understood, I ask you again, How did you employ your time Thursday last?"