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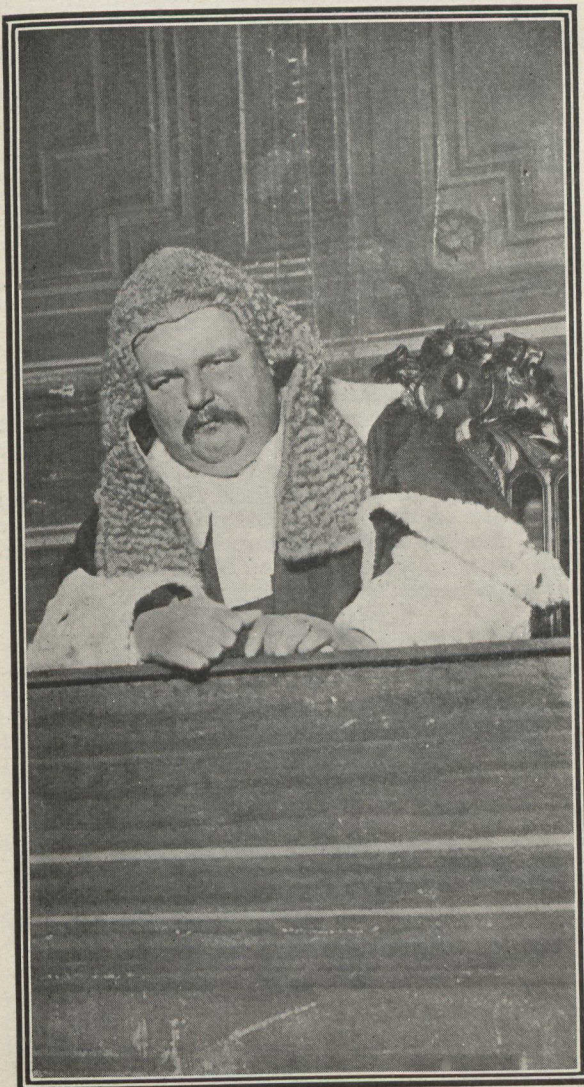
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No. 95

WHO KILLED EDWIN DROOD?



This Jury of Famous Authors Brought in a Verdict of "Manslaughter" at the Trial of John Jasper for the Murder of Edwin Drood, at an Entertainment Recently Held by the Dickens Fellowship Guild, in London. From Left to Right: Top Row—Messrs. Coulson Kernahan, Ridgwell Cullum, William de Morgan, Justin H. McCarthy, Wm. Archer and Thomas Seccombe. Bottom Row—Sir E. Russell, Messrs. W. W. Jacobs, Pett Ridge, Arthur Morrison, Francesco Berger, Tom Gallon and George Bernard Shaw, Foreman of the Jury.



Mr. G. K. Chesterton Took the Part of the Judge.

A Famous Mystery Recalled

By MONA H. COXWELL

EVIDENCE in connection with a murder that has remained an unsolved mystery since the year 1870, was heard before a court of justice in England the other day. The case was a remarkable one. In the first place, the murdered man never existed; in the second, the judge who tried the case was not really a judge at all, but merely the author of a score of books, the jury was but a mock jury, and the murderer, while accused of the crime, was sentenced to no punishment.

When Charles Dickens wrote his last and unfinished book, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," he left no shadow of a clue as to the solution of the crime that had been committed therein. For years students of Dickens have been endeavouring to solve the riddle that he left; thousands of theories have been brought forward, fresh arguments are constantly coming to light, many articles and several books have been written on the subject, but never with thoroughly satisfying results. Indeed, in the minds of many who have given deep thought to the question, it is doubtful whether Dickens himself knew how the story was to end. To Gillan Vase, in a volume published in 1878, under the title of "A Great Mystery Solved," goes the credit of having made the most successful attempt at a continuation and conclusion. Prefacing this book is a summary of the story of Edwin Drood to the point where the great author halted and laid aside his pen for the last time. As it seems to be the least familiar of all his stories, a resume of the completed chapters may not be out of place.

The story is laid in Cloisterham, an English cathedral town, and the first characters we meet are the Dean, and Mr. Sapsea, mayor and auctioneer of the city, and Miss Rosa Bud, living at the educational establishment of Miss Twinkleton, preparatory to her approaching marriage to Edwin



Witnesses at the Trial: Mr. C. Sheridan Jones as "Buzzard," and Miss J. K. Protherce as the Old Opium Woman.

Drood, to whom she had been betrothed almost since childhood. Edwin is a supercilious young gentleman, not overcome by happiness at the pros-