

2 feet from its mother, between her body and the stove, on the north-side of the mother. I also saw the body of a dog pretty thoroughly burnt, as were the bodies of the mother and children. It lay between the mother and youngest child. I examined the body of the woman and was able to discover the sex, and that it was a woman. It rained on that day. The inquest was held at the house of David Guillemette, brother of the prisoner. I do not think the body of the woman was at the place at which the bed had been. The door of the house was on the south side. I know that there were three windows, one to the north, one to the north-east, and the other to the south. I do not know whether there was a window on the south-west side.

*Cross-examined* (the witness explains the plan to the jury): The smoke acting on the lungs produces oppression and at last suffocation. It also acts on the brain. When the lungs are so acted upon by the smoke the brain is also affected by it, and disorder of the brain produced; smoke when it is thick produces insensibility. It is so long since I studied these matters that I am not prepared to give an opinion. When a body is burnt there is a tendency to crack and to part asunder. I was examined at the coroner's inquest. The position of the bodies did not cause me to suspect that a crime had been committed.

*Re-examined*.—I have not practised much as a physician for a number of years. I am not prepared to give an opinion on what is asked of me.

3. *James Goodhue, Esq.*: I am a merchant in the village of St. Christophe (he is shown the report of the coroner's inquest). I recognize my signature at the end of that report. I was foreman of the jury. I know the prisoner. I saw him at the inquest. During the time the jury were occupied in a room, the prisoner was in an adjoining room. He was concealed from the jury at the time. We frequently heard him lamenting, crying as if he was deeply affected. When his name was called by the jury, he came forward and answered his name. He gave his evidence before the jury. He seemed to labour under some excitement at the time. He trembled a good deal.

*Cross-examined*: From what I saw I formed no opinion as to the prisoner's innocence or guilt.

Court adjourned until next day at 9.30 a.m.

February 22nd, 1870.

9.30 a.m. Proceedings continued.

4. *Charles James Powell*: I know the prisoner. I am Deputy-Sheriff of the district of Arthabaska. I know the prisoner's house. I live about 2½ arpents from it. I was living there in Sept. 1868. I was thoroughly acquainted with the house. I prepared the plan which is now shewn me, and to the best of my knowledge it is correct. It was a log house, about 18 × 20 or 20 feet square. I well remember the night on which the prisoner's house was burnt. About 10 or 10.30 p.m. of the night on which the house was destroyed, I went out. The night was very dark, and the weather calm. I then went to bed. I was aroused at about 3 or 3.30 a.m., by distant cries which I heard. I got up and observed a brilliant light, and drawing aside the curtain of my window, I saw the prisoner's house in flames. I dressed with all haste, and started to render assistance.

The wife of Celestin Blais knocked at my door and told us that the wife and children of the prisoner were in the burning house. I went at once to render aid. Arrived at the house, I approached the door which was open, and saw the inside of the house all blazing like a furnace. The stove which was visible was red hot, and the pieces of it put out of shape by the heat. Only flames could be seen inside the house, and no smoke. I saw two windows which appeared to be open, one on the same side as the door, and the other facing the road. The door was wide open. The windows I believe, opened from within. The heat of the fire prevented me from going near, and I could not observe whether the windows had been forced in. I went there with my brother. I observed the prisoner about 40 feet from the house motionless, and leaning against the garden fence. I do not think more than 10 minutes elapsed from the time I heard the alarm, before I reached the