

charging the debt, and that he took possession of the notes which were the proof of the debt.

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There are two important features apparent in the case. The first is the fallibility of testimony, even that given in good faith and by disinterested persons. It is perfectly certain that Dr. Parkman never left the medical school building alive after his visit on the 23rd November, 1849. Webster's confession, as well as the finding of various parts of the body on the premises, left no doubt on this point. Yet no less than six witnesses testified that they saw Dr. Parkman in different parts of Boston at sundry times between 2.15 and 5 p.m.,—the murder having occurred at 1.30 p.m. Two of these witnesses fixed the date and time when they saw him by particular circumstances as to which they were corroborated by other persons with whom they had business on the day in question. Such an array of evidence might well have created doubt in the minds of the jury, and it shows how easily a person may be mistaken, after a very brief interval, as to the day or hour when he met or saw another.

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Another notable feature of the case was Webster's perfect coolness immediately after the murder, and while engaged in destroying the various parts of the body, which he had cut into many pieces. The very evening following the murder he made a social visit to a friend, accompanied by his wife, and his demeanor and conversation were easy and natural, and without the slightest trace of perturbation. On the following day he lectured as usual, and until the discovery of portions of Dr. Parkman's body in a vault in the medical school, Webster conversed freely with various persons about the mysterious disappearance of his victim.

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The early closing by-law which the City Council of Montreal is asked to adopt, whatever may be its merits,