CORNWALL ASSIZES.

Trial of John Smith for the Murder of His Wife at Wales.

CORNWALL, Nov. 13, 1877.

This morning John Smith, a carpenter residing near the village of Wales, in Gamebrock, was arraigned for the wilful murder of his wife, Maria Smith, on the morning of the 23rd August last. The details of the case are simple enough, but the evidence is wholly circumstantial. It is contended by the Crown that the prisoner shot his wife with a revolver as she lay in bed with her baby in her arms at about two o'clock in the morning; that the motive was jealousy; that the shot was fired from a revolver found lying on a dresser in the bedroom at the time the alarm was given; that the sling taken from the woman's body is identical with those contained in the chambers of that revolver, and is a cylindrical box found at the same time, and that neither the woman nor her husband had any known enemies with a motive for the perpetration of such a crime.

The court room was crammed to suffocation, a large number of persons being unable to get standing room. The Crown prosecutor, Mr. J. K. Kerr, after opening the case at considerable length, called the first witness.

ALEXANDER STUART, a carpenter residing in Gamebrock, testified as follows:—I know the prisoner, who served his time with me; knew his deceased wife, who, before her marriage, lived with me as an adopted child. They have been married about two or three years. The prisoner lived in a house built by prisoner on land I gave him, twenty or thirty rods distant from my own, on the road running north towards Wales Station. Eaman and his brother William are my nearest neighbors, nearer than the prisoner. On the morning of the 23rd August, prisoner came to my house between three and four o'clock and said Maria was shot. I jumped out of bed, told him to go and rouse Mathew Smith, which I would get up Eaman. I roused Eaman and he shouted to Mathew Smith, whose place was between and I had hitched my horse to a buggy so that prisoner could go for the doctor. Smith came down in the buggy alone down the road. He did not stop at his wife's on the way. To the best of my belief the moon was going down and there was not much light. I went then to Smith's; found William Smith, his wife, and a little boy there; went in and looked at deceased; she was lying in the centre of the bed. (William Smith produced a rough sketch of the ground floor of the house.) There was only one window in the room. In the corner near the door was a dresser or cupboard with a ledge and shelves on top. Did not stop anything in the bedroom; stood close to the cupboard. Mrs. Eaman who had come in with me saw something on the ledge and asked what it was. I said it was a revolver. She told me to lay it away and I put it on top of the dresser. I then went outside. Did not see whether the window was up or down; did not see the wound on deceased's body; she was then lying on her left side quietly and not apparently suffering; saw no blood. Prisoner and I went together; then went home. Neither deceased nor her husband had any enemies that I know of; was not aware of any. Image or suspicious characters about; made no search for any such; was always on friendly terms with prisoner, who worked a good deal with me and got his dinner and supper at my house.

Wm. Stewart and Wm. Eamen gave corroboratory evidence.

Capt. J. J. ADAMS examined—Was at prisoner's house on the morning of the 23rd August; went to take deceased's deposition; asked her if she could tell me how it happened; she said "my husband was in the back part of the bed, her husband outside, and child in the middle. She suffered instantly and died seven hours after. Under the circumstances I did not ask her the deposition. Asked the prisoner if he had revolver; having heard about it. He looked for it on the cupboard and asked where it was. Somebody got it. He flushed up and said it was loaded; the chambers were all full. I kept it until the coroner's inquest commenced.

Mrs. EAMEN examined—Lib the lamp on being aroused on morning 23rd August; went down to Smith's house as quick as I could. My husband was at the gate when I got there with Alex. Stewart. I went in first; found Mrs. Stewart with the baby in the kitchen; went into the bedroom; there was Mrs. Stewart, and deceased was lying on the bed. Stewart was fanning her. The buggy had passed before this. The buggy did not stop, but drove past. I saw a revolver when I went into the room like the one produced. I did not see it in Alex. Stewart's hand. Stewart said it was a revolver. I said I wonder if it is loaded; I put it up on the top of the dresser. I was a few minutes in getting over to Smith's after the first alarm. I was not brought; having a little child. It was two or three minutes. I saw Alex. Stewart and Mrs. Smith hitching up the horses as I passed. Have known prisoner since he was child. Have been Alex. Stewart's frequently; have visited Smith's house. Bella and Maggie, and a lad. Prisoner was generally there when working with Stewart. Have seen Smith's daughter frequently with Stewart's daughter, only when the wife was present. Saw Smith's daughter frequently last summer. I remained at Smith's house till the doctor came. I raised the window and put it on a hook. There was something under it before, but the hook raised it more. I cannot say in reply to any questions, said she had been shot, I asked her if she thought John had done it. She said she did not know.

MURDOCH STEWART—Am a son of the first witness. Knew deceased. Heard the prisoner's revolver once about a fortnight or three weeks before deceased was shot. I fired it off twice, to see if it was a seven barrelled revolver. All barrels were loaded before I fired off two. Handed it back with two barrels fired. I did not take the revolver again after that. Did not notice it at the house. It might have been two and a half, or three months before this happened, that prisoner purchased the revolver at a hardware store at Cornwall. I don't know whether it was Pitt's store. It came to my house with Smith; was with him all day; came in by train and left by train. Had an hour between the trains. He said he was going to Cornwall; gave no reason; did no other business. Did not see him reload the barrels. Never saw him carrying the revolver. Once he said he was going away, and did not like to leave his wife behind him, and would leave it with me till he came back. I had it on Sunday and Monday. He gave no reason for leaving the revolver. MARY JANE STEWART—Am the wife of Wm. Stewart. Remember the morning of 23rd August. Smith roused us and said some one had freedmin his bedroom window. I said, "John, is there anybody shot?" He said Maria is shot. I remained at the window. He ran across the road in the direction of Mr. Wm. Stewart's, saying to somebody we must hitch up and go for the doctor. This was on the north and south road. The ground plan produced and handed to witness. There was not time for him to go to his own house in the interval. Could not tell whether he was in his shirt sleeves or had a coat on. He had time to go to the fence and retrace his steps, or to the travelled road. Have known prisoner about six years; his wife ten or about twelve years. They have one child about ten months old; deceased was at supper with us on the Saturday evening previous. She came to the gate. While I was standing there she went in; she seemed in good spirits. Was alone (her husband). She saw John at Mr. Alex. Stewart's; she said to him that he was always there; she said he would soon be working at his father's, and then she hoped she'd be away for a while. I saw deceased on Sunday afternoon crossing the field in front of the place going north-west towards the corner of the field. I saw prisoner and Murdoch Stewart going in another direction. She was going to intercept them. I heard nothing said at that time. This was two hours after she crossed the field. I joined her there. She came first; she said that he might have come over the front door and not come creaking out of the back door. She referred to Stewart's house. He said she was a pretty show of herself. She said yes, and she'd make mofo. She left and went home. Prisoner remained. He said the devil was in the woman. He proposed to be quite solemn and sulky. He said he could not live with her, nor he would not. I said he ought to take it into consideration, that she ought not to be always left alone. He said that was not what was the matter, but he being alone; that I knew what was the matter. I said that I heard something about it. I told him that I'd give him a piece of my mind if I would not offend him I would give him some. I told him when he had leisure hours he should spend them with me. He made no reply, but went away. I did not see them after until the shooting occurred. When I was down with deceased she seemed in great pain. Have seen prisoner going into Alex. Stewart's very often. Don't remember advising him against going to the Stewart's. Deceased spoke to me about prisoner being at Stewart's so much and leaving her alone.

ONTARIO E. SNOW, sworn—Live in Mattilda, forty miles from Wales; know the prisoner; remember his wife being shot; saw him the day before at Morgan's building. I was a mason, he a carpenter. He said he would give $500 to be a single man. This was at Wales' station a week preceding the shooting. Had no other conversation.

ISAAC MANKELL, sworn—Know the prisoner; knew deceased; remember them both being at my place five or six weeks before she was killed; she came from Thomas George Smith, Isabella Stewart, and Maggie Stewart were there. They were at my place only for a few minutes as my wife was not at home. Deceased did not come out of the buggy. John Smith and deceased went with me to Simon Stewart's, my father-in-law. Prisoner went to his brother's. I can't be positive whether deceased went to the table with Bella Stewart; did not see whether she was in a huff that day or not. Prisoner returned next evening along. We all went next day to my father-in-law's except deceased, who remained till Monday morning. There was nothing between deceased and prisoner which looked suspicious of jealousy.

Dr. A. D. WAGNER sworn—Have practised five and a half years at Wales; remember the night of 22nd and 23rd August; was called to see deceased. Prisoner came to me at about a quarter to four a.m. Drove back to his place; saw his wife lying in the bed-room on the left side in the centre of the bed, facing the window. I examined the wound to find its situation. I found a small shot wound in the upper part, seven inches on the left, above the navel. Examined the back and found no wound of exit. She was suffering from the shock. There was little external bleeding. Administered stimulants with opium. Endeavoured to the office, driven by Alex. Stewart, and procured instruments. In my absence she had vomited. I then injected morphine and whiskey under the skin. Remained till about eight or nine o'clock. It is half a mile back from Wales. She was suffering a good deal from the shock. She had an her sight-gown and chemise made of the ordinary cotton. Saw stains upon it. (Pieces of the garments were produced.) Identify these as shot marks. The powder mark is not quite so distinct as at the time. The small black specks have faded since. The Coroner cut the pieces from the garments. There was some blood in the shape of a stain. I was back and forward several times during the day. She died at four in the afternoon. I attended the inquest, and made a post mortem with Dr. Mattice, of Moulinette, and Coroner Aich. We found her a healthy but spare woman of medium size. Eighteen inches after death discoloration of the skin took took place. All the organs were healthy with the exception of the injury done to the abdomen by the wound. I found the shot, which I gave to the Coroner. The shot produced is like it; found it imbedded in the bowels veritate on that left side of the spine. In order to get the line of the window it would require that she should be lying over two-thirds on her side. There was no obstruction to divert the course of the shot from the window and made a measurement. The bed was in 11 feet 6 or 7 inches by 8 feet 4 inches. The bed was 4 feet 2 inches wide, length 5 feet. The window nearly opposite the foot of the bed. The distance from the nearest corner of the window sill to the body was 4 feet 7 inches. I extracted the slug extracted with the cartridge found in the box. Took the ball out of one and found it identical in weight. It was not identical in size, except through being flattened with foreign matter. Tested firing for powder stains, and the pistol must have been fired from, my own, on the road running north towards Wales Station. An certain on this point. Could not say whether the calico appears to be charred by the closeness at which the shot had been fired. At that distance the powder mark might not be burnt. At a distance of four feet it would be impossible to burn, as we found. Any one leaning over from the window would have to rest on the bed to fire at the deceased. Stewart, while in the buggy, if he would lie on the window sill balanced on the bed. Am five feet nine and a half inches in height. Could not spring back after firing the shot from the window resting on the bed. A man could not get away if anyone in the room awoke when the shot was fired. She would be quite to be lying on one side if the shot had been fired from the window. Major Reeder and Dr. Mattice were present when I made the experiments. It was not possible that the shot was fired outside. I am satisfied it must have been fired by some person in the room.

The court here adjourned.

CORNWALL, Nov. 13.—The Court opened at half-past nine.

The first witness called to-day was

Dr. ROBT. J. MATTICE, a medical practitioner at Moulinette, who deposed that he was Coroner's officer at the inquest. He confirmed Dr. Wagner's testimony, but on cross-examination he would not swear that it was not possible for deceased to have lain on two-thirds on her right side.

Dr. AUIE, of Aultville, confirmed Dr. Wagner's testimony. On cross-examination he admitted that it was possible that deceased might, when shot, have been lying two-thirds on her side.

Major HENRY BEEDER, of Farran's Point, testified that he was acquainted with firearms, having been for some years connected with the volunteer force. He had made experiments with Drs. Wagner and Mattice in shooting through the window at Smith's house. He was at Smith's on the 23rd inst. to be a hard shot from outside the window. He had made the test of firing at a sheet representing the body, and could not hit it without climbing in at the window and standing on the sill. He suffered instead of the pistol within eighteen inches of the body. The witness produced several sheets of cloth showing the shot marks at different angles and distances. On cross-examination nothing important for the defence was elicited.

Dr. WAGNER recalled—At the time I made the experiments I forgot to have blood stains on the pieces of cloth produced. There the bullet marks are visible. I cannot swear that blood has not been introduced since. The pieces may have been tampered with since.

The prisoner's statement at the inquest said that he was asleep when he heard the purport was that he had, after waking up the Smarts, returned to his house, left his revolver on the cupboard, and then went to cost and started for the doctor.

OSCAR WINTERS examined—Am constable at Moulinette; brought prisoner down from Wales to Cornwall gaol; before leaving the prisoner asked if he could carry part of his to "U," which he said was like one his brother had found in the door yard of his (prisoner's) premises; said he had brought having a child. It was two or three minutes. I saw Alex. Stewart and Smith hitching up the horses as I passed. Have known prisoner since he was child. Have been Alex. Stewart's frequently; have visited Smith's house. Bella and Maggie, and a lad. Prisoner was generally there when working with Stewart. Have seen Smith's daughter frequently with Stewart's daughter, only when the wife was present. Saw Smith's daughter frequently last summer. I remained at Smith's house till the doctor came. I raised the window and put it on a hook. There was something under it before, but the hook raised it more. I cannot say in reply to any questions, said she had been shot. I asked her if she thought John had done it. She said she did not know.

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ALEX. SMITH, brother of the prisoner, gave important evidence, stating that he had found a "U" cartridge outside the window on the morning of the funeral of the deceased, which he produced. He had lost it since and now shown him. It appeared to be the same cartridge as the one found between and half foot from the house. The grass was trampled down.

Mr. Cooper, watchman of the Grand Trunk at Wales, testified to searching for tracks in the field opposite on the morning of the 23rd August, in company with Thompson; found no tracks visible.

FOR THE DEFENCE.

MRS. ALEX. STEWART testified that on the morning of the murder the prisoner returned to his house after giving the alarm, left his revolver on the cupboard, then went to cost and started for the doctor's.

On cross-examination she said the prisoner was frequently at her place and was familiar with all the family. Her statement regarding the return of the prisoner to his house for his coat conflicted with the evidence given by her at the inquest. She said at the inquest that he had returned to his house and put the revolver on the cupboard before he went to the doctor. She said she was in a doze when the prisoner first accosted them. This also conflicted with her testimony at the inquest when she said she was wide awake when the prisoner first accosted them. This also conflicted with her testimony at the inquest when she said she was wide awake when the prisoner first accosted them, though she gave testimony to the contrary at the inquest, and was present in Court since the trial commenced. Her boy called her attention to the fact that the prisoner had come to their house for a coat after the deceased was shot.

The evidence of this witness was given with apparent reluctance.

SARAH DEVLAN, a maid about six or seven years of age, confirmed his mother's statement about the cost and revolver on the cupboard. Witness admitted that his mother had told him to be particular to tell in his examination that John had asked for his coat and left his revolver on the cupboard.

Dr. T. F. CHAMBERLAIN, of Morrisburgh, examined—Was taken to the house of the murder three weeks ago at the solicitation of Alex. Stewart, of Cornwall. He met there Mr. Brown, Provincial Land Surveyor; took measurements and made shooting experiments. The house was a long time on the stand, and the result of his examination was to the effect that it was possible that the shot could have been fired from outside the window. His testimony was corroborative of that of Drs. Wagner and Mattice, and Major Reeder. He was subjected to a rigid cross-examination, but his testimony was not shaken up to the time of adjournment. He will be re-examined to-morrow when the case is expected to close.

CORNWALL, Nov. 14.—At the opening of the Court this morning Isabella Stewart, the first witness sworn, testified that she was nineteen years old; had known deceased a long time; was intimate with her; was awakened on the morning of the shooting by a knocking at deceased's house at about seven o'clock and went over to see what was the matter; was between prisoner and her. She had always been on good terms with the deceased since her marriage.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kerr—Don't know that prisoner and deceased disagreed; don't know that prisoner remained at home of evenings away from his wife; never heard that prisoner had a shot gun; remembered the day before the shooting deceased said she was frightened; had not seen Smith; had made 3 qs. Prisoner and deceased were together at Smith's house; deceased said to prisoner, "I wonder if you will be always after me and his wife (deceased) had had a few words; I'm afraid he will be after me." Re-examined—Had made experiments as Smith's house at Wales; could reach inside the window sill two feet six inches by standing on his tiptoe; had applied to the Crown Attorney for "U" cartridge, but was refused; could put the same in Crown's office; I had found the shot. Had not the slightest doubts that the woman could have been shot from outside the window.

A cross-examination witness said he was a member of the legal firm employed for the defence. The County Attorney was the proper custodian of the pistol and cartridges and had rights in the matter of them.

HAYES R. SNOWDEN—Is a Provincial Land Surveyor. He took the measurements to prove the correctness of the plans of the house and the locality of the murder. He confirmed previous evidence of experiments, and said he had seen him that morning run a distance about equal to that from A. Stewart's to Smith's in something like two minutes.

Cross-examined—In the experiment Leitch ran pretty fast, as fast as his legs would take him. Thought a fleet-footed man would have lain on the scene of the murder at night than on the side-walk by day. Prisoner would have run 220 rods. There might be slight inequalities in the road which would impede a runner.

CAZWELL SMITH—An father of the prisoner. Lived in Gamebrock; came from the United States; had lived in Gamebrock since he came to Canada in 1821. Prisoner and other children were born in Gamebrock. Prisoner and shown him a revolver before the murder, and drew a cartridge from it to satisfy witness curiosity. Was at the house pretty early on the morning of the murder; spoke to deceased; prisoner stood by and seemed to be very bad. Did not see Cooper examine the ball opposite; it was a stubble field.

Cross-examined—Paid little attention to the field; there might have been cattle or horses in it, and heavy dew on the ground; knew of no difficulty between prisoner and his wife. They visited his house frequently; didn't know any cause of any dispute between them.

MARY CAMERON testified that she lived near the Smiths; was at prisoner's house on the morning of the murder; spoke to deceased; about o'clock; prisoner, Murdoch Stewart, Alex. Stewart, Cursie, officiating; deceased was in a doze.

Cross-examined—Mr. Joseph Eamen, prisoner's brother, deceased, and witness attending the Sacrament; don't know who suggested taking the Sacrament. Prisoner had received it at the clergyman.

The defence here closed, and the Court adjourned and reassembled at half past one.

ALEX. STEWART, recalled, said he had been taken off the field opposite, used as pasturage; intercepted prisoner in the field on the morning of the murder.

The afternoon pleadings were taken up in the addresses of Messrs. Bethune and Kerr and Mr. Judge's charge.

Counsel for the defence laid great stress on the fact that prisoner, after taking the Sacrament with his wife, returned home and left his revolver on the cupboard. He pointed out the evidence was strong against prisoner, that had deceased suspected prisoner of the murder she would have refused to take the sacrament with him, and that the fact of his prisoner's was strong against prisoner. The Crown had utterly failed to show a motive for the crime. Counsel then made a powerful appeal to the jury not to send the young man to the gallows without more direct proof.

Mr. Bethune's address occupied two hours and twenty minutes in delivery.

Mr. Kerr followed in an extensive analysis of the evidence for the Crown, saying that, after all, the chain was not complete. That it was incumbent on them to show that the prisoner was the man who had committed the murder. He contended that the motive for the crime had been fully proved, but that it was unnecessary to prove a motive when the evidence of the commission of the crime was so strong as in this case. With regard to prisoner taking the Sacrament with deceased, there was no proof that she had responded him to join in the service, or that he had volunteered to do so. The probability was that all present, including prisoner, had been invited by the clergyman to participate, and if prisoner were guilty of a crime so foul as that had to his charge, a most deliberate, cool-blooded and atrocious murder, he was sufficiently sunk in infamy to add this to the catalogue of his crimes. Counsel said that the pistol was purchased in Cornwall for the murder of deceased, premeditated, and the wound up by a forcible appeal to the jury, pointing out the responsibility that lay upon them as protectors of society, and claiming that he had discharged his duty, and hoping they would discharge theirs. Mr. Kerr's address occupied one hour and three-quarters in delivery.

The Judge charged briefly but strongly in prisoner's favour.

The jury retired at half-past six, and shortly before eight they returned into court with a verdict of "not guilty," and prisoner was discharged.

The greatest excitement prevails, and general dissatisfaction is expressed at the result of the inquiry.

SCHOOL INVESTIGATION.

Charges Against the Central Committee.

On Monday morning, in the theatre of the Normal School, Mr. Justice Patterson, under authority of the Lieut.-Governor, commenced the investigation into the charges which had been formulated against members of the Central Committee of School Examiners, and which appeared in The Mail. The charges were as follows:—

1. That there was within the Central Committee a "ring," the members of which had dishonorable relations with the publishers of certain School Books, to the prejudice, and

2. That in the preparation of examination papers in connection with the public and High Schools these had been collusion between members of the Central Committee, and other parties interested in the work or results of the examinations.

Mr. Edgar appeared for the Ontario Government. Mr. N. F. Davin watched the case on behalf of The Mail, which had been instrumental in bringing about the investigation. Mr. Bethune appeared were the members of the Central Committee, including Prof. McLellan, Prof. Young, Mr. James Hughes, Mr. Bashaw, and Mr. W. Houston. Hon. Adam Crooks, Mr. Charles Belford, and Mr. A. Marling, were also in attendance. The Court opened at eleven o'clock, when

The Commissioner announced that he was ready to proceed.

Mr. Edgar proposed that Hon. Mr. Crooks, Minister of Education, be called first.

Mr. Davin consented, and

Hon. Mr. Crooks was called and made a statement in narrative form, as to the relations of the Department to the bookselling, and then as to the functions of the Central Committee. At the time he took charge of the Department, in 1876, Prof. Young and the three High School Inspectors, Messrs. McLellan, Marling, and Buchan were members. He subsequently added Messrs. McGillivray and Tilley. In 1876, in accordance with the desire of a deputation that waited on him, Mr. G. W. Ross, Mr. James Hughes, Public School Inspectors, were added. Regarding the relations between booksellers and publishers to the Department, he saw that under the Act of 1874 liberty was given to booksellers and publishers, for the high time, to deal direct with the Depository Branch of the Department. In the supply of books for library and prize purposes, trustees of schools being entitled as before to the discount of one hundred per cent. as formerly allowed by the Department on books bought from the Depository. Trustees were required to make the purchase of books permitted to be used and mentioned on the catalogue after having reference to the text-books prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction. The functions of the Central Committee in reference to this question were to report on such books. Each member of the Central Committee was constituted a committee to examine books, but his report had to be adopted by the Committee as a whole, and then by the Minister himself. The question he had to touch upon was with reference to the text-books in Grammar, and this question would be from documentary evidence. The question had been one of great difficulty. The Council had recommended the Council of Public Instruction, the great question being as to whether the copyright of authorized text-books should be secured for the Province, or whether it was possible to adopt a system to secure the advantageous of quality and ability combined with the copyright in the hands of the Committee, and a memorandum on the subject. I think I had no other report from the written memorandum of the Council. I have no recollection of any member of the Committee speaking to me about it. I know nothing of any member of the Central Committee being related to any member of the publishing firm. With reference to the *Canada School Journal*, I never heard of it before I came into my secretary's desk. In making that arrangement with Adam Miller & Co. I did not think there could be any question forward as to offer the Department in publishing the work, giving certain guarantees. He began to consider the subject of text-books on 4th March, 1876, and the regulations now in force, as recommended by him, were issued in July, 1877. He then gave from his letters an account of the proceedings he had taken from time to time to meet the difficulties arising in the schools. In several instances there was great difficulties in the way of securing the copyrights; but greater difficulties even than that was the compensation of those who had been employed in preparing a work or in making it suitable for use in the Province of Ontario, and the prevention of unequal and unfair competition as far as was possible book. Before coming to any conclusion on the matter the subject was discussed at some length, and he heard the views of some Canadian booksellers, after which he gave his instructions to the Central Committee as follows:—

TEXT BOOKS FOR PUBLIC AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

Considerations which are material with respect to the text books for Public Schools may be stated as follows, viz.:—1. Their adaptation to the Ontario Course of Study.

2. As to the Text Books for use in the Public Schools—

(1.) The copyright should be held in all cases by the Department, and the maximum retail price fixed as a condition for liberty to publish.

(2.) The introduction of new books should be revised, so that the best books possible for the use of the pupils in relation to the subjects of the course of study may be secured.

(3.) Where there are two books on any subject which does not satisfy the above should be discarded after a fixed period, within which a new work can be prepared.

(4.) When books whose copyright has not been secured and now authorized are to be retained, it is proper to require the copyright to be transferred on fair conditions.

(5.) When the books on any subject are found to be once-easy, then authors will be invited to prepare such Works for the Department, receiving as remuneration a fixed royalty, commencing on a large sum payable to the author, publisher for a defined period of say seven years.

3. As to the Text Books for use in the High Schools—

(1.) The Department should be authorized by the Minister and the Central Committee from being in any way concerned in the preparation of any books, otherwise than in works which may be retained.

(2.) The Central Committee is required to consider and report upon a list of works with maximum retail price to carry out the above suggestions. I have not as yet seen any history or geography of Canada, which meets the wants of the Public Schools in this respect. Clearness and conciseness with proper order and arrangement are requisite. The present works are overloaded with minute and unimportant detail.

II.—As to High School Text Books:—

(1.) The Department can sufficiently control the nature, quality, and price of these books without assuming the necessity of acquiring the copyright.

(2.) The Central Committee is required to consider and report upon a complete list of books, with maximum retail price, which may serve the requirements of the High Schools in the different subjects of study for a period of six years, in order that they may be authorized by the Minister and Central Committee.

(3.) It would be well, also, that no officials in the Department of the Minister or of the Central Committee be constituted a committee to examine books, but his report had to be adopted by the Committee as a whole, and then by the Minister himself. The question he had to touch upon was with reference to the text-books in Grammar, and this question would be from documentary evidence. The question had been one of great difficulty. The Council had recommended the Council of Public Instruction, the great question being as to whether the copyright of authorized text-books should be secured for the Province, or whether it was possible to adopt a system to secure the advantageous combination of quality and ability combined with the copyright in the hands of the Committee, and a memorandum on the subject. I think I had no other report from the written memorandum of the Council. I have no recollection of any member of the Committee speaking to me about it. I know nothing of any member of the Central Committee being related to any member of the publishing firm. With reference to the *Canada School Journal*, I never heard of it before I came into my secretary's desk. In making that arrangement with Adam Miller & Co. I did not think there could be any question forward as to offer the Department in publishing the work, giving certain guarantees. He began to consider the subject of text-books on 4th March, 1876, and the regulations now in force, as recommended by him, were issued in July, 1877. He then gave from his letters an account of the proceedings he had taken from time to time to meet the difficulties arising in the schools. In several instances there was great difficulties in the way of securing the copyrights; but greater difficulties even than that was the compensation of those who had been employed in preparing a work or in making it suitable for use in the Province of Ontario, and the prevention of unequal and unfair competition as far as was possible book. Before coming to any conclusion on the matter the subject was discussed at some length, and he heard the views of some Canadian booksellers, after which he gave his instructions to the Central Committee as follows:—

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(3.) Where there are two books on any subject which does not satisfy the above should be discarded after a fixed period, within which a new work can be prepared.

(4.) When books whose copyright has not been secured and now authorized are to be retained, it is proper to require the copyright to be transferred on fair conditions.

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(2.) The Central Committee is required to consider and report upon a list of works with maximum retail price to carry out the above suggestions. I have not as yet seen any history or geography of Canada, which meets the wants of the Public Schools in this respect. Clearness and conciseness with proper order and arrangement are requisite. The present works are overloaded with minute and unimportant detail of the tissues constituting that delicate organ. Also, for all persons whose vocation requires an immediate action of the eyes, the Salve will act as a charm in restoring a uniform healthy action, where weakness, pain, and misery may have long threatened a fatal termination. It is the most simple, safe, and certain remedy ever discovered. The materials of which it is made are pure, perfect, and costly, compounded with elaborate care and exactness, and in its application, being used externally, and, of course, avoiding the pain and danger which necessarily attends the introduction of caustic minerals and eye-washes. HINSWORTH and Co. Optricians to the Queen, of Cornhill and Regent Street, London.

AMERICAN EYE-SALVE. IT IS USED SUCCESSFULLY FOR PILES. Its soothing effect is immediate, and a permanent cure requires but a few applications. The proprietors of "Dr. J. Parrr's AMERICAN EYE-SALVE," while making a new and improved machinery for making a more perfect box for the Eye-Salve, have changed the Trade Mark on the cover, so as to correspond with the Cut on the Wrapper, Circulars, Advertisements, &c. We call attention to this, as it might otherwise be regarded as counterfeiting. 12 4

PETTIT & BARKER,
Proprietors, Fredonia, N.Y.
NORTHROP & LYMAN,
Toronto, Agents for Canada.

Six Krupp guns have just been landed at Harwich for John Chinaman.

The Liverpool Town Council have passed a by-law requiring persons using bicycles in the streets of the town to attach bells to their vehicles under a penalty of $5.

Mayfair is informed that Bridgeport (Connecticut) has just manufactured 70,000,000 cartridges for Turkey, 40,000,000 for Russia, and 30,000,000 have been ordered for Italy. This looks thirsty unlike peace.

Timothy Hill, the town crier, and Thomas Parker, ex-county policeman, were summoned at the Wolverhampton Police Court for taking part in a