



The Queen vs. Joseph Chasson.

This case was tried at Bathurst, before the Chief Justice, at the adjourned Gloucester Circuit, for 1875, beginning in October and lasting upwards of forty days, upon an indictment against the prisoner Chasson and eight others, as principals in the first degree for the murder of one John Gifford, at Caraquet, on the 27th of January, 1875, the trial being of Chasson alone.

Numerous objections, to the number of 48, were made and reserved at the trial (two others being added at Term) by the prisoner's counsel, the whole of which were decided by the Chief Justice in favor of the Crown. Various of the objections arose on the impanneling of the jury, which occupied nearly seven days, in challenges to the jurors, demurrers to challenges, and to the triers of the examination and cross-examination of jurors, as to opinions which they had formed, etc., a course allowed by His Honor, but strongly objected to, throughout by the Crown counsel, as contrary to the right, the dignity and utility of a juror, and finally adjudged in favor of the jurors right, as maintained by the Crown counsel, in the following judgments of the Supreme Court. Many of the objections, were to the reception and rejection of evidence on the trial, upon several of which the majority of the Court determined for quashing the conviction, Mr. Justice WELDON differing upon additional objections of quashing, all of which, form the subject of this review. A verdict of guilty of murder, was found by the jury, with a recommendation to mercy, and at the termination of the case, it was consented that six of the other prisoners might withdraw their pleas and plead guilty of manslaughter, subject to the above objections, the other two being discharged by an entry of *nolle prosequi*.

A lengthy special case, enumerating all the objections, was submitted by the Chief Justice, to the Supreme Court, the matters were fully argued in Easter Term last and the judgment delivered in Trinity Term last. The case and the objections so far as they are