

THE EVENING GAZETTE, SAINT JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1890.

## THE EVENING GAZETTE

is published every evening (Sunday excepted) at

No. 2 Canterbury street.

JOHN A. BOWES, Editor and Publisher

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The Subscription to THE GAZETTE is payable ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1890.

For the Latest Telegraphic News look on the First Page.

THE SENTENCE OF WATT.

It is not too much to say that the public concern of St. John, during the severe sickness year, was the trial of James Watt, the slayer of Torry, who had escaped with a sentence of one month's imprisonment in the common jail. This was the first time that Watt, the British government, had been found guilty of what people refused to believe such a man could have done. It was an offence by a New Brunswick judge, but the news proved to be only too true and now it stands on record that in a case where a man tried to save his life, he was condemned to death.

Chief Justice Allen is a man of such thorough knowledge of law and justice that he has privately assured us that any newspaper must feel pained to be compelled to criticize his conduct. Yet in a number of this kind, where the public interest of the community is involved, plain speaking is necessary, and it can only be said that the Chief Justice's unusual severity had utterly failed to him in this instance.

What is the theory upon which this absurdly inadequate sentence is based? The theory is that Watt, in his conduct, has been guilty of malice aforethought, and that he had the knife in his hand, and that when he struck Torry he forgot that the knife was in his hand, the fatal result being that it was likely to happen. That there is nothing more repugnant to common sense. If a man had an open knife in his hand, with which he had intended to stab, he would be against the law five times, and if he struck a blow with the blade in this position he would cut his own hand and not the breast of his victim. He struck, and not the hand of Torry, and so far as I am concerned, the knife would require the be reversed and held dagger fashion in the hand with the blade pointing downwards. What is the theory upon which the blow must have to be downward one?

Let any one who desires to test the theory on which Watt was condemned open his hand and let it hang by any object so as he which aims an ordinary blow will touch it. He will find that it must have been an intention to stab and for that purpose the knife must have been held in a peculiar position, and that he must have known that he had the knife in his hand, and if he struck a blow with the blade in this position he would cut his own hand and not the breast of his victim.

The Frederickton Inquirer states that the reason one paper is attacking the University is that its editor thinks that Watt was not guilty of malice aforethought, and that he had the knife in his hand, and when he struck Torry he forgot that the knife was in his hand, the fatal result being that it was likely to happen. That there is nothing more repugnant to common sense. If a man had an open knife in his hand, with which he had intended to stab, he would be against the law five times, and if he struck a blow with the blade in this position he would cut his own hand and not the breast of his victim.

That is well known, but the same paper is well known to have been marked after hearing this extraordinary sentence. "To make the facts complete, the judge should have told Watt to go and apologize to him for his conduct, because he had been put to his discretion."

THE VISIT OF MR. ELLIS TO WASHINGTON.

We are already beginning to hear the echoes of the visit of Mr. Ellis to Washington, where it appears to have gone for the purpose of giving aid and comfort to the families of Canadian soldiers.

Mr. Ellis and others of the same stripe Canada is already of the same opinion as the mother country. Let the reader who doubts this give his attention to the following extract from a speech which took place in the United States Senate, on Tuesday, over the appropriation of \$400,000 for mortars for naval defense. We quote:

"It is well known, upon a mark that a rebellion of even a fourth class power could levy on Canada on the part of the United States, we would be compelled to levy a war contribution of even a million dollars, and that would be followed by an invasion of Great Britain, and a confederation of every part of the provinces of Canada, offering no more than a bare minimum of resistance. The question is, if the United States, which took place in the United States Senate, on Tuesday, over the appropriation of \$400,000 for mortars for naval defense. We quote:

The Minister's Shake.

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