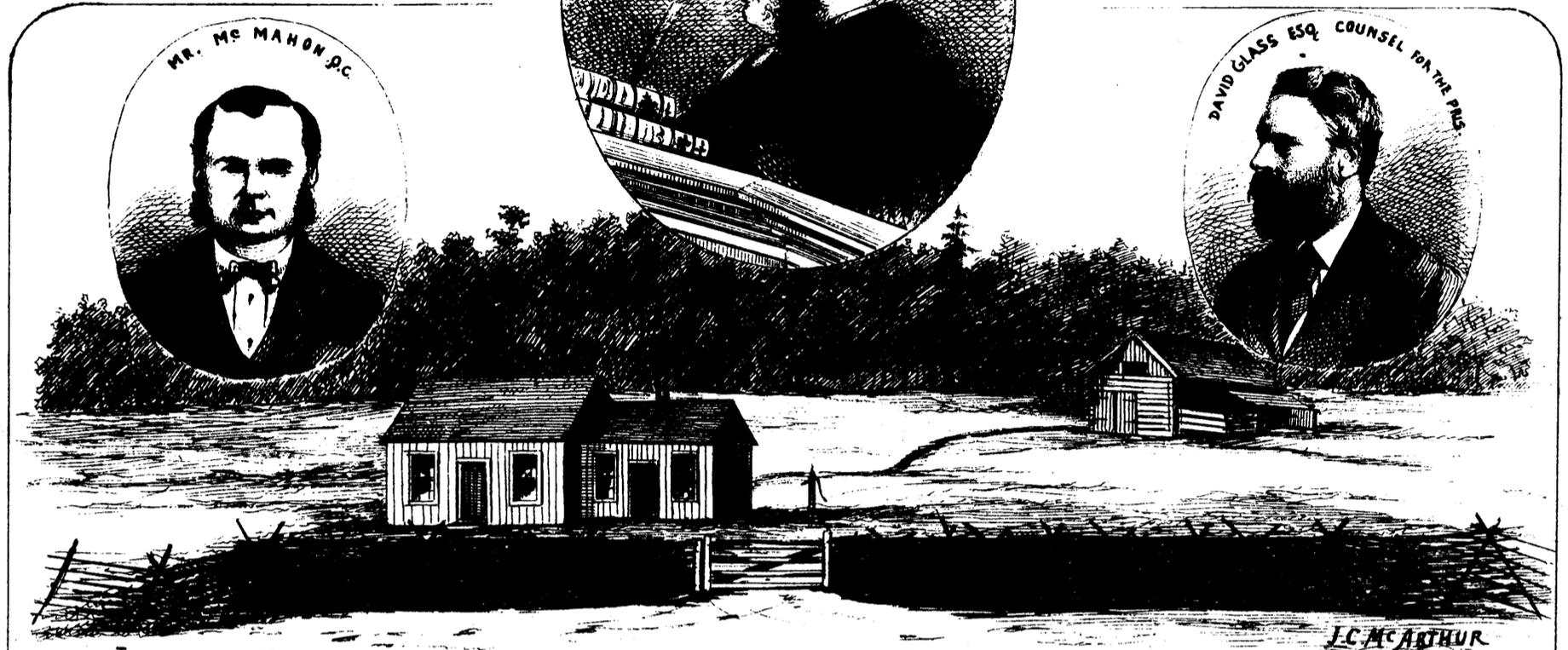


THE SOMBRA MURDER.

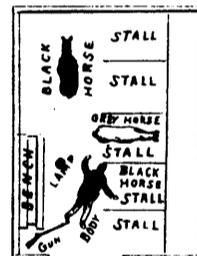
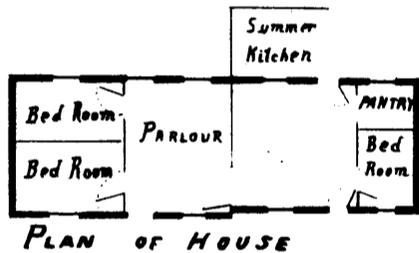
This case which has created the most intense excitement in Western Ontario is fully illustrated in the present issue. William Henry Smith was arraigned for the murder of Ralph Spence Finlay, on the 21st May last. The murderer was a servant or hired man on Finlay's farm. On the night in question he went to the stable; climbing on the shed and walking to the north end where the window was lower, he knocked out the mortar between the logs (named chinks) and inserting his hands in this way got in the window. He then released the horse from his stall

THE MYSTERIES OF THE FAN.

The Castilian and Peruvian ladies vie in expertness in the use of the fan, and a writer obliges us with the laws relative to the use of this article in the "highest circles" imitated in Paris:—"To cover the breast with the fan open signifies 'Be discreet.' The fan held closed and upright means 'You may act in all security; no obstacle stands in our way.' The fan presented to the interlocutor by the small end signifies indifference, estrangement, or aversion. Presented horizontally by the large end it authorises compliments. Three com-



FINLAYS HOUSE & SCENE OF THE MURDER OF MR. JOHN FINLAY, SOMBRA.



which ran about and kicked so much as to attract the attention of the deceased. He then crouched behind the door, near the bench, and when deceased entered with the lamp to discover the cause of the noise, he shot and killed him, the body falling forward. The trial was conducted before Judge Moss. On being brought up to receive his sentence, Smith, in answer to the usual question as to whether he had anything to say why the sentence of the Court should not be pronounced against him, for the felony of which he had been convicted, replied that he was not guilty. His Lordship said that the prisoner had enjoyed the advantage of a fair and impartial trial; that the Jury had exercised great care, and listened to the evidence attentively; that his counsel had defended him with great zeal, skill, and assiduity; that the Crown had lent him every assistance in its power, and that under all these circumstances he had been found guilty. The law had fixed the penalty in these cases; he (the Judge) had no discretion in the matter; and he had therefore nothing further to do, but to order that he (Smith) be hung by the neck till dead, on Thursday, the 23rd of December next; and to pray that God might have mercy on his soul. The prisoner broke down under the awful sentence; and had to be supported by the officers when being removed from the dock.

EMERSON ON HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

A Boston correspondent writes to the Concord (N. H.) Monitor of a talk with Ralph Waldo Emerson, saying: Emerson was very fond of Oliver Wendell Holmes and James Russell Lowell. He said with some appearance of pleasure, if not pride, "We are all sons of ministers." "James,"



as he called him, "has been of late writing such good poetry that his long silence can be excused." From Mr. Emerson I learned something in reference to the mental habits of some of the poets. Holmes is so full that he can write at any time. Lowell broods over his subject for a time and then composes with great swiftness. He does not like to write to order, though desirous of employing the stimulus of great occasions. We asked him to read a poem at Concord on the one hundredth anniversary of the fight, but he said he could not. His wife a day or two before wrote to me, saying, "I cannot speak for James, yet I think you may expect a poem from him on the 19th. He has been in that peculiar way which is promise of something"—and on the 19th Lowell was on the ground with his poem—and a grand one it was. Longfellow prepares his poems to be read on

great occasions, as a minister who lives near Boston prepares the sermons, nearly a year ahead. He wrote the poem read at Bowdoin College last summer early in the fall of the preceding year, and well it was that he did so, for the months intervening have been fruitless as far as literary labor is concerned, owing to physical prostration. He is, happily, better now. Mr. Emerson informed me that a new book of his would probably be issued by Osgood & Co. this month. This information will account for Emerson's frequent and long visits at the libraries during the last year. He has many essays and lectures and a few poems in manuscript, which may see the light some day. But Emerson is getting old and cannot work much more, and possibly the "labor of preparing my manuscripts for the press," as he said, "may be delegated to some one younger than myself."

partments of ribs of the fan open means 'I love you.' It is a confession. Two open indicates an excessive sympathy; one only open, chaste friendship. The closed fan plays a grand role. The extremity posed upon the forehead translated is 'My protector is coming.' If posed upon the left arm the protector is 'My brother'; if upon the belt, 'My mother.' The end of the fan placed upon the lips imposes immediate silence. The woman who fans herself from 'down to up' is a little aristocratic, a tyrant to be distrusted; for this movement says, 'You submit yourself in advance to my caprices and wishes.' When a lady fans herself in a reverse fashion it means that she is a 'miss,' an unmarried woman; if the fan is placed on the breast by the left hand she is married woman; if, on the contrary, the fan affects to wander towards the throat, she is a widow. If it touches the breast immediately below the throat and lightly strikes it, it invites a flirtation. In Peru more than elsewhere the ladies make practical use of their fans. There the grandes dames of respectability use fans of seven ribs, corresponding to the seven days of the week. Three discreetly given taps by the finger nails on the fourth rib of the fan means 'Thursday, at three o'clock.'

A Japanese journal warns its countrymen against giving too great latitude to women, as is the practice among Europeans and Americans. It observes "In going through a door the wife passes first, the husband following her; the wife takes the best seat, and the husband the next best. In visiting, the wife is first saluted and first mentioned. Moreover, men are expected to be particular in their conversation while in company of ladies, and are not permitted to smoke without their permission. It is well to take these things into consideration, or the power of the sex will be beyond man's control."