

# THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME IV.]

*Nec araneorum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

[NUMBER 5.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 9, 1832.

## THE GLEANER.

### COLONIAL.

FROM THE ST. JOHN COURIER.

On the 6th ult. at the Circuit Court held at Westmorland, Rufus Fawcett, a young man about 18 years of age, was arraigned and tried, before the Hon. Judge Bliss, for the alleged murder of Mr. William Fawcett, his father. The circumstances which caused suspicion to fall upon the son, chiefly transpired at the Coroner's Inquest, and were shortly after related to us, by a person who was present on that occasion; but as the trial was then pending we abstained from laying them before the public. The trial being now over, we give them in substance as follows:—Mr. William Fawcett, the deceased, was a substantial farmer, near Sackville, a man of unblemished character and universally esteemed. He had but two children, one a daughter, who was married, the other a son, Rufus, who was residing at home with his father. On some occasion, the deceased had intimated an intention, at his death, to divide his property equally between his son and daughter—this was understood to have given offence to the son. Rufus was paying attention to a young woman in the neighbourhood, which did not meet the full approbation of his father, and in reference to this circumstance, the father had said, that he had not pledged himself as to the manner in which he would finally dispose of his property. The latter circumstances were known to have produced farther dissatisfaction in the mind of his son. Rufus had said to some of his neighbours, that in a few months there would be a great overturn in the house of his father. This was understood by the neighbours to imply that Rufus intended to marry, and take his wife home to his father's, and that the young people would take the management of affairs. In this manner matters stood, previous to the evening of the melancholy catastrophe.

About 10 o'clock, on the evening of the day when it happened, after having had family prayer, the son being absent, the father continued sitting at the table, reading in a book of Sermons, when the shot which terminated his existence was fired in at the window. He instantly expired without saying one word, but continued upright in his chair, except that his head drooped. An alarm was immediately given, and after a number of the neighbours had collected together, who were all deeply affected, Rufus entered.—Without apparent emotion, he asked what was the matter, and upon being told that his father had been shot, he asked,—"have the Indians killed my father." The apparent absence of every degree of that concern and anxiety which might naturally be expected in an affectionate son, towards his deceased and respected father, especially under such circumstances, together with an indescribable something in his whole manner, not otherwise to be accountable for, made an impression on the minds of one or more of the persons present. This impression was communicated to others and finally to himself, and to which he replied with an air of strong indifference, "I do not care what any person thinks." He was then interrogated, as to where he was when the deed was done, but he could not give any satisfactory account of himself. He had left home on horseback, before dusk, for the purpose he said of going to the marsh, distant some miles, to see if any cattle or pigs were in it, and to drive them away. He was seen passing towards the marsh; but he was also seen returning, sooner than it was possible for him to have done had he gone to the marsh. Upon searching, the gun with which the deed was done was found thrown over the fence into the garden, and was identified by the neighbours as belonging to the Fawcett family. At first he denied all knowledge of the gun. Afterwards

he admitted that it belonged to the house, but he had not had it in his hands for a long time previous; whereas some of the persons present had seen it in his hands about a fortnight before. In the wound or about the person of the deceased was found one or more slugs. Rufus was asked if he had any such slugs in his possession, and he said he had not. He was then asked for the key of his chest, and when that was opened, a number of slugs similar to that in the wound was found in his chest.

The ground was examined from the road to the window, in which the shot was fired, and the tract of a person was distinctly visible, approaching to the window backwards, and receding and then approaching a second time. Rufus' boot was then applied to the track, and was found to correspond exactly with it. In the track was visible a peculiar stamp, and the same peculiar stamp was found upon the sole of his boot. The shoemaker who made the boot was present, and he certified, that he had put that peculiar stamp upon Rufus' boots, but he had never put the stamp on any other boot or shoe, which had gone out of his shop.

During the investigation by the Coroner's Jury, every person except Rufus was deeply affected at the melancholy fate of the deceased. Rufus, alone did not manifest any emotion or concern upon the occasion; and it was only when finally he was taken into custody to be removed to the Gaol that he was seen to shed a few tears.

At the trial a great concourse of people were assembled from all parts of the surrounding country. To the Judge and to all present it was a solemn and affecting scene—indeed the very thought of a young man 18 years of age, being even suspected of the murder of his father, (a man so universally esteemed that it was thought he had not one enemy in the world) but much more to see him standing at the bar of his country to take his trial upon such a charge must have been completely overwhelming.—But Rufus, the person implicated, and who in every point of view was most deeply of all concerned, continued to manifest the same insensibility and indifference. At the awful moment,—that moment when the Jury returned into Court, and when the hearts of so numerous an assemblage of people were palpitating in breathless anxiety to hear the verdict which in all probability would seal his doom,—even at that moment when the unhappy young man was suspended—hanging over the pit of death, he remained as unconcerned as ever.

We are not aware of the nature of the evidence adduced on the trial, but we understand that when the Jurors pronounced their verdict "NOT GUILTY," it created very general surprise.

We are further informed, that the first act of this young man after being discharged from the custody of the court, was to go into a public house near by, and call for a pint of brandy to treat his companions, and that the same evening he treated the Jurors to a supper.

An Act passed by the Legislature of this Province on the 31st March, 1831, for the division of the County of York into two Counties, and another Act levying a duty upon Passengers arriving in this Province from the United Kingdom, passed on the 27th February, 1832; which were reserved until his Majesty's pleasure thereon should be known; having received the Royal assent on the 30th May last, were returned by the last English Mail, and published in the *Royal Gazette* of Wednesday.—We have inserted these documents for the information of those interested; and cannot avoid expressing our astonishment that so much delay should have taken place in the Colonial department at home. The latter Act, must, for the present year at least, be a mere nullity; while, had due dispatch been observed, in the proper quarter, very considerable sums that have gone to enrich passenger

brokers in the Mother Country, (who almost invariably collect the tax, under the plea that the Law was in force in all the Province,) might have enabled the authorities here to aid many destitute families in settling in the interior, who must now become a charge upon the public at the ports where they are landed.

COAL.—The Sidney (Cape Breton) Herald, remarks that "nearly double the quantity of Coals has been shipped this spring from the Sidney Mines, compared to what was shipped up to the same date last year. We look forward to the period when the intended rail road to North Sidney is completed, to see fully the labour of a week performed in one day. By this improvement the shipment of coal from this Island will be immense."

### EUROPE.

The following are extracts from Mr. O'Connell's late Speech in Parliament, upon the Tithes in Ireland:

"Nine millions sterling were to be accumulated from the land for the Protestant Church of Ireland, and who could dream of the tranquility of that country when such a plan was proposed, and when such a spirit of disturbance was in active operation against that very system which the resolutions were intended to support? That, however, was not all. This sum of £9,000,000 was to be at the disposal of a CORPORATION—a name, which in Ireland implied almost every thing bad, and which was regarded by the people with disgust. Should there be bad crops, or should the poor tenants be subjected to some unforeseen calamity, the clergyman would feel for the people, but a corporation it was well known, had no feeling. A clergyman would be humane, but there was nothing to be expected from the griping hand of a corporation—(hear); and that was the system which the Right Hon. Gentleman recommended for the adoption of those who were candidates for seats in a new Parliament—that was the way in which he would attempt to conciliate Ireland. The course pursued by Government had been unjust from the very beginning of this affair. A Committee was appointed on the principle that Catholics should be excluded. Now what occasion was there for this exclusion? There was the Right Hon. Member for Tamworth—there were the two Members for the Universities, and others equally anxious to support the Protestant Church, and surely a few Catholics could not have overpowered their votes. Had he (Mr. O'Connell) been on the Committee, he would have made inquiries in order to ascertain the proportion of the two classes—the Catholics and the Protestants—in each parish, in order to see what the Clergyman did for his tithe. That report, and in saying so he meant no disrespect to the members of it, he treated it as it was treated in Ireland—he looked upon with ineffable contempt. Speaking of the proportion of Catholics and Protestants, he would take the opportunity of stating to the House some of the results which he had drawn from returns lately made. The Hon. and Learned Gentleman then mentioned eight parishes, in which there were from 1,500 to 2,000 Catholics, and not one Protestant; and six other parishes with a similar number of Catholics, and only one Protestant in each. These parishes had altogether 34,600 Catholics, and but six Protestants. He then enumerated a few more parishes, which, united, contained 75,576 Catholics, and only 76 Protestants. These parishes, 24 in all, contributed to the Protestant clergy £12,000 a-year. That was at the rate of £157 a-year for each Protestant; so that the religious education of each Protestant in them, of 50 years of age, cost £7,850—(a laugh). In 85 parishes there were 130,000 Catholics, and only 300 Protestants; and in some other districts the proportion of Protestants was not even so great. The system was utterly absurd, yet it found a supporter in the Right Hon. Gentleman,