

# PROGRESS.

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## THE CRIME OF PERJURY

SHALL THE RECENT OFFENCES GO UNREBUKED.

The Sullivan Trial a Notable one in More Respects Than one—The Large Amount of Evidence Taken—Little Maggie Dutcher's Future Welfare.

Now that the celebrated Sullivan murder trial is over, and the newsboys no longer rend the ear with their shouts of—"All about the try-ull" morning and evening; people are beginning to concern themselves with some of the chief actors in that truly remarkable trial, and to ask whether it is possible that the unblushing perjury of the witnesses for the defence, will be allowed to go unpunished. The crime of perjury is especially mentioned in the statute book; and a heavy punishment is supposed to await those who are guilty of it. It is scarcely likely such a law would have been framed if it was not intended to be enforced, and the law-abiding people of Westmorland County no doubt feel that if such shameless false swearing is allowed to pass unnoticed, the effect on the community at large will be immeasurably injurious. There are certain classes of people in this world who are only deterred from evil doing by the fear of punishment, and once such people get an idea that the law is powerless, they are not slow to take advantage of it. Hitherto even the lowest classes have had a certain respect for their oath because they felt sure that swift retribution in the shape of imprisonment, would follow their detection in any attempt at defeating the ends of justice by false swearing. But if the witnesses who openly committed perjury at the Sullivan trial are allowed to escape, what assurance is there that their example will not be followed at the next important trial which may take place in New Brunswick, or elsewhere, and in the course of time perjury may become so common that an oath will have no sacredness left, and false swearing become a common practice amongst the classes mentioned.

John Sullivan has been found guilty by a jury of his countrymen who decided upon their verdict after a careful consideration of the evidence, and who were not only free from prejudice, but so impressed with the solemnity of their position, and the responsibility resting on their shoulders that strong men as they were, it was impossible for some of them to restrain their tears when the dreaded moment for announcing their verdict arrived.

The trial was a notable one in the annals of New Brunswick courts, not only for the admirable manner in which it was conducted, and the remarkable absence of the legal squabbles, bickering between opposing counsel so common in criminal cases, but also for the immense amount of testimony taken, and the short time occupied in disposing of the case. The prisoner had the advantage of singularly able counsel, and he was accorded the privilege of testifying in his own behalf. Even his most ardent sympathizers must admit that he was given a fair trial and every possible opportunity of proving his innocence. But the defence failed utterly, through their determination to prove an alibi by hook or crook, and the shameful perjury of their witnesses who hid that end in view, and who seemed perjured to swear to anything and everything in order to attain their object.

But in spite of the desperate efforts which are being made by Mr. R. B. Smith, who has so ably defended the prisoner, to obtain a new trial, it is more than likely that Sullivan will in due time pay the penalty of his crime, and it seems the refinement of cruelty to buoy the condemned man up with hopes of escaping his doom, instead of allowing him to prepare for the worst, and compose his mind to meet the end which is so rapidly approaching. As far as he is concerned the demands of justice have been satisfied, and sorrow for the sad fate he has brought upon himself, is the only sentiment concerning him remaining in the minds of humane people. But with the perjured witnesses it is different; their offence demands that an example should be made in order to intimidate others who might otherwise find false swearing a convenient and lucrative way of evading a difficulty, and doing a friend a service at the same time.

Another point which suggests itself to the practical mind is the position in which the crown witnesses are placed! What assurance have these people, that they will be safe from the misguided vengeance of those who were proved to have threatened them before the trial?

It is not a pleasant question to ask but it is an eminently practical one, and will suggest itself to the crown witnesses themselves. It may be doing an injustice to the Sullivan sympathizers, but it seems reasonable that if they would threaten at one time, they might be capable of trying to avenge themselves at another.

Since the excitement of the trial has abated the public interest seems to centre upon Maggie Dutcher, and many speculation are indulged in as to what will become of the orphan child. As far as Maggie Dutcher's welfare is concerned it would almost seem as if the tragedy which has had such an effect upon her life was one of the most fortunate things that ever happened her. It has removed her from surroundings which could never have been other than to her disadvantage and it is likely to result in obtaining her a much better education, and a higher social position than she would have been likely to attain had the tragedy never taken place.

In the first place her identification of John Sullivan as the man who struck her mother and brother, has secured the three hundred dollars reward offered by government for the discovery of the murderer, and this alone will be quite a comfortable little nest egg towards her education. It has been reported that she is to be a sort of government ward, and be educated at government expense; but this sounds very improbable, as the child can have no possible claim on the government beyond the mere fact of having been a valuable witness for the crown. But it is certain that the little girl has made many influential friends, and very probable that her future is assured. Solicitor General White is deeply interested in her, and will doubtless prove a valuable friend, and Mr. F. H. Risteen, court stenographer has expressed a wish to adopt her. But the brothers are not willing to part from their little sister, nor are they willing to have her brought up in any religion but their own, the roman catholic. So it is probable that Maggie will be placed in the convent of the Sacred Heart at Memramcook, to be educated by the sisters. But first she is to be taken to Boston, where she will undergo the operation of trephining, in order that the bruised and broken bone which is in danger of decaying, may be removed from her skull and a silver plate substituted.

The child will remain under the care of Mr. Croasdale until the spring, when she will probably be transferred to the convent, if no change takes place in the plans of her guardians.

### HE HAD CHANGED HIS OPINION.

And Felt That the Country was Safe Even Under Grit Rule.

Many interesting stories have been told of the experience of those who have been recently enquiring into charges of official partisanship which have been preferred against government servants in several portions of the province. In nearly all the cases the charges were based upon incidents of the most trivial nature but, which were deemed sufficient evidence for office seekers to commence operations on. The work of the commissioners was not confined to any particular section of the province; no office holder knew when he would be placed on the rack, so to speak and for a time considerable anxiety was felt among government employees.

A large number of them evidently scented danger ahead however for after the election they became very careful in their behaviour; a remarkable change was also noticed in their political views as well, for those who had been loudest in their denunciations of the liberal party before election were numbered among its most ardent supporters after that party assumed the reins of power. There were things however that could not be undone. Several holders of government situations had spoken or written their opinions on political matters before election which could not be recalled, and this matter was gathered up and made use of by the commissioners whenever practicable. A certain station agent on the I. C. R. was among the most pronounced in his belief that should the liberals get into power Canada would have a very gloomy outlook and he even went so far as to write to a friend, that should "Laurier and his colleagues get the upper hand, the country would go to the d—l."

In some unaccountable manner the latter fell into the hands of Hon. A. G. Blair, minister of railways and canals and a few weeks ago the station agent was surprised

by a visit from that august personage. Mr. Blair as is well known is not given to extreme verbosity and after a few general remarks plunged at once into the subject of his visit. He produced the letter and after reading it asked the writer if before election he had entertained the idea that a change of government would be disastrous.

The station agent with more honesty than is usually found in government officials replied that he did. "And do you still think so?" said Mr. Blair. This time however the station master was prepared and with every appearance of good faith and sincerity he replied, "Oh, no sir I have completely changed my opinion." At this a grim smile gradually became visible on the minister's countenance and



THE POSTAL CAR WRECK, IN WHICH MR. ARTHUR EDGEcombe WAS KILLED.

a few minutes after the interview terminated. The station agent still holds his position however and Mr. Blair tells the story with a great relish.

### WITH MURDEROUS INTENT.

A Halifax Man Makes an Attempt to Kill a Fellow Citizen.

HALIFAX, Feb. 4.—The murderous assault of "Joe" Handley on Edgar Kaulback, a teacher in Whiston & Fragee's commercial college, when the teacher was brained by an axe in the hands of the son of the janitor, is the sensation of the week. The desperado who came within an ace of killing his man is putting in the plea of insanity, but such excuses as that are too thin in the case of a cunning and ferocious devil like Handley. The lash, or life imprisonment or the rope, is the kind of medicine to bring such people to their senses. After splitting Mr. Kaulback's head open with

## IT WAS A BIG FAILURE

POOR ABSALOM GOUGH FINDS HE HAS BEEN CHEATED.

He Thought His Gay Bride Would not Live Long but She is Lively as Ever and Now Absalom Wants Some Reparation for the Way He Has Been Treated.

It is a question with Absalom Gough whether he is going to win or lose by his marriage. He makes no bones of telling those he meets that his wedded life is the result of a direct bargain.

Thursday he was to see a lawyer, who has an office on Princes street, and wanted to know if a certain will could be so changed that he would not have to wait till his wife's death to secure the money.

His story as he tells it is about as follows:

He worked on the farm for Mrs. Jim Barker, till Barker died and then the woman desired him to stay on and look after it.—"Gough is 28 and Mrs. Barker 63.

After a year Gough decided he would leave the place, and then, so he says, Mrs. Barker who was suffering from tumor told him it he would stay, she had not long to live, and she would at her death leave him the place and what little money there was.

"She looked so much like dying," he said, "that I made up my mind it was a good speculation so I decided to stay on. But her brothers were always poking around and I concluded if I was to stand a chance I would have to have some stronger claims on her. I was going to get a written contract when someone said it would be cheaper and safer to marry her, and marry her I did.

"I sent for Jim, that's my brother, and

she had undergone an operation, the tumor was removed and she looks good enough now to last twenty years."

"Well, what are you going to do about it," asked the lawyer.

"What I want," said Gough is to get the will changed so I can handle the property and the money. I've been overreached; for when I married her I was sure the tumor would kill her."

"I cannot do anything about it unless she comes here and deeds the property over to you, that is the only way I see out of the difficulty, said the limb of the law.

"I'll bring her," said Gough, "I'll bring her; I'm not going to be cheated out of my rights that way. She just about told me she was dying before I married her and now she goes and tries to cheat me. I never knew anyone to come out of an operation as easily as she did and I won't stand it. I'll go and get her, and we'll fix this, thing up in some other way," and he bolted out of the office.

"That's one of the most peculiar cases I ever saw," said the lawyer, I never knew a man so badly sold as he is and if she don't die soon and leave him the property I think he will be a subject for some public institution.

### TRIED TO EVADE HIS HOTEL BILL.

A Pretentious Guest Runs up a Good Sum and Attempts to Shirk It.

A short time ago a gentleman arrived in the city from the States and registered at a King street hotel as "B. B. Cameron Syracuse, N. Y." He was of good appearance and as he wore good clothes and several diamonds he was treated with all possible courtesy by the attaches of the house.

He remained in the hotel about ten days and during that time did not enquire as to the amount of his board bill. The best in the house was none too good for him and he managed to obtain many little extras. His bill was rendered after a week's time but he took no notice of it and as he had every appearance of a prosperous business man the hotel proprietor did not broach the subject of settlement.

After he had enjoyed the hospitality of the house for a time he decided to return to the States but did not acquaint the clerk with this intention, as he proposed leaving an unpaid hotel bill behind.

The clerk who is a particularly sharp business man and who is thoroughly alive to his employer's business got a hint of the guests idea on the evening before his intended flight and also learned the particular way in which he was to travel.

Next morning "Mr. Cameron" was up betimes and wended his way to the wharf of the Yarmouth S. S. Co. without formally taking leave of the hotel man or his shrewd clerk.

An unpleasant surprise was in store for him however for on arriving at the steamer's wharf he found the wary clerk waiting for time accompanied by a constable. The clerk at once greeted him with a pleasant "Hullo, up early this morning."

"Yes" was the reply "I came down to see some friends off."

"Is it necessary to bring your baggage with you when you wish to say goodbye to some friends." At this the fleeing boarder was completely nonplussed and stammered out some sort of excuse. The clerk followed up his advantage however and turned Mr. Cameron over to the tender mercies of the constable.

As he had no money with which to pay up, the clerk took his gold watch, a diamond ring and two shirt studs as security informing Mr. Cameron as he did so that he would return them when the bill was paid. Then he left the wharf and Mr. Cameron proceeded to Yarmouth. A few days ago the clerk received the necessary amount to square the bill and the watch and jewelry were at once returned.

### Promotion of Mr. Robert Ross.

The promotion of Mr. Robert Ross to be depot master at St. John will give much satisfaction to his friends and the public generally. The duties of station master and freight agent have been too much for Mr. W. G. Robertson and the minister of railways has relieved him to a great extent by promoting Mr. Ross who will now assume the work of Mr. Robertson in the station house. The freight department will gain by this for it will claim Mr. Robertson's entire attention and he will be in a position to give the business public that consideration that the importance of the department calls for. Mr. Ross has been a long time in the station house and the public long ago appreciated his unflinching courtesy. His promotion comes as the reward of hard work and unwearied attention to the duties of his office and the wants of the public.

THE TRAIN AS IT APPEARED AFTER THE ACCIDENT AT PALMER'S POND.

an axe the fellow took to the roof of the college building and kept the police and public at bay with two revolvers, at least the police and some others say he had revolvers. Some of the spectators say they saw no pistols in Handley's hands, but that it was his fists which kept the blue-coats at a distance. Then when the officers draw off for a consultation the would-be murderer got off the roof and back into the house where he changed his clothing and so disguised himself that he was able to come out at the front door and mingle with the crowd. Some sharp-eyed citizen saw him though, and raised the hue and cry, so that Sergeant Lehan pounced upon him and grasped him like a vice round the arms. The desperado was then securely locked up. It was at first believed that Kaulback would die, but the skillful treatment of Dr. McKay and the promptness of Dr. Gow will probably save the young man's life.

this fall early we brought her down the Kenebecasis. She had all her wedding clothes in a travelling bag and we went to a minister's house on Carleton street and got married.

"A few weeks after we got her home the tumor got very painful and we decided she would have to undergo an operation. Her folks urged her not to make a will but I was bound she wouldn't undergo any operation till the will was signed in my favor, so when she was able to move we came here to town, got the will written and sealed, and I felt pretty safe then. Honestly I didn't think she would live a week.

"After the will was made I took her to the hospital, up there on the hill and left her. I expected every day to get word of her death but none came.

"I visited the post office each day but there was no word and I didn't know what to make of it till one day who should come over the field to the house but my wife.