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LITERATURE,
CURRENT NOTES and SOCIAL
GOSSIP.**

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FREDERICTON, FEBRUARY, 1897.

THE MEADOW BROOK TRAGEDY.

which has resulted in the death
of Mrs. Dutcher and her boy,
which came so near to ending the
existence of little Maggie Dutcher,
and for which the sentence of death,
by hanging, in the Westmoreland
County jail, on Friday, March 12th,
now hangs over the head of John
Sullivan as the perpetrator of the
crime, (having been found guilty by
a judge and twelve jury-men,) is a
crime that shocks the sensibilities
of the civilized world. We doubt
if a more heinous offence could be
committed than the striking down, in
cold blood, of a defenceless woman
and her children, and the burning
of the house to hide the traces of
the dastardly crime, and that for a
few paltry dollars.

Though the circumstantial evi-
dence points strongly against the
condemned man, we are not of
those who consider the fiat of a
judge and jury infallible and ir-
revocable despite the possibility of
new developments, and who will
not acknowledge the weak and
sometimes criminal methods adopted
by the Government to secure the
conviction and compass the death
of one whom they consider a crim-
inal, so much so that they feel in-
jured beyond expression should

circumstances so turn as to disprove
their pet theories, and snatch their
prey out of their hands.

Without being a particle favor-
ably disposed toward the prisoner,
in the absence of what we consider
proof positive, we must reserve
judgment in the case. For after
all, what is the verdict of a jury
but their OWN OPINIONS, gathered
from the testimony of the wit-
nesses and influenced by their own
individual bias and that of the
judge in his charge. There are no
judges or juries without individual
bias, and a strong-minded judge
will impress his mind, so upon a
wavering jury in his charge, for or
against the prisoner, so that they
really have no necessity of going to
their room, and the foreman can
truthfully say: "Judge he's guilty
you've condemned him." While a
strong-minded jury will often go so
far as to bring in "a recommen-
dation to mercy," which is not
worth the breath that is expended
in expressing it, it is very rare that
a jury acts independently of the
court, and solely from their own
unbiased judgement.

While there is no reason to charge
that Sullivan did not get a fair trial,
or that he was the victim of a con-
spiracy on the part of the Govern-
ment agents, as was poor Buck, it
is quite evident that the evidence
that brings him to the gallows, that
of the child Maggie Dutcher, is the
weakest, considering the fact that
she is but a small child, who cannot
be supposed to know the nature of
an oath, and whose adolescent
mind, even uninjured by the ter-
rible ordeal through which it has
come, would be scarcely able to re-
cognize, among such a crowd, the
true criminal, were he there. How-
ever it is, Sullivan, upon his own
testimony, is a dissipated and dis-
olute man, and certain ones, who
have been proved to have perjured
themselves in his behalf, little bet-
ter. It is to be hoped that the
mystery will be unravelled before
the fatal 12th of March, and the
criminal, be he John Sullivan or
whoever he may be, set the public
mind at rest, by a full confession.

"AM I MY BROTHERS KEEPER?"

Ever since man first warred
against his fellow-man, or the virgin
earth was made red with the stain
of innocent blood:—ever since the
twin evil spirits of selfishness and
envy prompted Cain to slay his
brother, this cry has gone up from
the selfish and sordid, when taxed
with neglect and contumely toward
their fellow-men: AM I MY BRO-
THER'S KEEPER?"

A man was recently hanged in
Nova Scotia, for the taking of the life
of an innocent girl, for the gratifi-
cation of his devilish lust. An-
other man is under sentence of
death, in this Province, for taking
the lives of a mother and son, for
the gratification of his accursed
avarice and greed for the few dol-
lars that she had laid away; and
lately the news comes that a man
was found dead at Spring Hill
Station, N. S., from cold and ex-
posure, the result of having to lie
out of doors of a January night—
MURDERED by that community
whose accursed spirit of selfishness
and pride prompted them all to re-
fuse his piteous appeal for food and
shelter. But the people say in ex-
tenuation:—"He was a negro, and
we have been terribly troubled
with tramps"—and yet good people
of Spring Hill Station you call
yourselves Christians, you are
equally as guilty, before God, of
murder as was Wheeler, and per-
haps more so than is Sullivan.
"INASMUCH AS YE DID IT NOT
UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE, YE DID
IT NOT UNTO ME." We cast no slur
on Christianity, nor do we class
the true, humble, charitable and
self-sacrificing Christian, (and many
of these we have found in our
travels) with the proud, avaricious,
self-righteous and hypocritical
"professor" and class leader, who
we are sorry to say, we have found
to constitute a large majority of
the followers of the meek and lowly
Saviour.

From an experience of about
twenty years travel through the
country, we claim to be in a position
to accurately gauge the character-
istics of the country districts, and,
while we have never travelled
without some little means, we can
venture to say that on the whole
we have been the recipients of as
much, if not more, true, free-hearted
and unassumed hospitality, as any-
one who has travelled through New
Brunswick. Yet it has been far
from being all sunshine with us,
and we have met with those who
would not furnish us with a meal
for fifty times its worth; who
would not allow us a shelter for
the night, were they sure that we
would be found frozen stiff in the
morning, and sad to relate, the very
religious communities and the
ridgely righteous class, who would
consider it an unpardonable sin to
touch a card or smoke a pipe, or
even cough, unless in a religious
key, of a Sunday, have proved by
far the hardest. We have heard
men pray in open meeting for the

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HOLLOWAY'S**RED****BLOOD****SYRUP.****The Best Blood****Purifier.****Builds Up The System.****Purifies The Blood.****Gives New Strength
and Life.****CHASE & CO.**

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they have taken over the Meat
Market on York Street, formerly
run by Mr. Stanley A. Chase,
and with increased facilities and
a large stock of all

**Meats Poultry,
Sausages,
Vegetables, &c.**

Invite the kind inspection and
cordial patronage of a discrim-
inating public.

Courteous attention and Low
Prices and Best Quality
of Goods.

YORK STREET,

Fredericton, N. B.