

woman, "I have got pneumonia. If I have I shall die, and if I am going to die you must die with me." Shortly afterwards he committed the acts for which he was indicted.

Dr. Annger said that when the prisoner was admitted into the Royal Infirmary (apparently on June 10th, immediately after the crime) he was in a dazed condition, and did not realise where he was or anything that had happened. In this condition he remained for the next twenty-four hours.

Dr. Price, of Walton Gaol, said that prisoner had been under his observation since June 20th. During that time he had been perfectly sane, but confessed to an utter want of knowledge as to what had passed during the period from 10 p.m. on June 9th to 8.30 on Sunday the 12th.

Dr. Wigglesworth had visited prisoner on July 23rd, and found that he was quite sane. Witness considered that prisoner was not capable at the time of the tragedy of understanding the nature and quality of the act he had committed.

His Lordship told the jury that the prisoner appeared to have been for a time not a human being at all. No conduct such as was ordinarily associated with humanity offered a parallel to what occurred on June 10th. It appeared that from the time he awoke on that morning until he came to consciousness again he acted like a wild beast rather than a man, and as if he was not in possession of his faculties. If the jury considered that this was so, it was their duty to find that the prisoner was not responsible for his actions. Guilty, but insane.—*Liverpool Assizes*, August 1st, 1898 (Mr. Justice Ridley).—*Liverpool Daily Post*, August 2nd.

A good instance of the complete freedom which a large-minded judge assumes when the facts are strongly in favour of the insanity of the accused. It does not appear from the report that the judge considered himself bound in any way to refer to the rule of law. He allowed a wide latitude to the medical witnesses, and charged the jury in terms which left that rule on one side.

*Reg. v. Norris.*

Prisoner, a solicitor æt. 35, had lived happily with his wife for nine years. On the early morning of February 13th he shot her with a revolver while she was asleep in bed. He then cut his throat in four places. Indicted for shooting with intent, &c. It was proved that prisoner had always been on affectionate terms with his wife, and that they had never had a quarrel; that he had been much overworked for a long time, that he had complained lately of sleeping badly, of bad dreams, and that "he could not distinguish between his dreams and his thoughts when awake." He had always been a strict teetotaler.

The judge told the jury that there was only one verdict that they ought to find, and that was that owing to overwork and not having sufficient change the defendant's mind became unhinged, and that he did what he did in a fit of temporary insanity, and did not know what he was doing, and that he was not responsible for his actions at the time. It was only a passing fit of brain exhaustion, and he hoped that with change the defendant would soon recover, and that he would go back to his business as good a man as ever. "Guilty, but insane,"—*Central Criminal Court*, March 11th, 1898 (Mr. Justice Grantham).—*Times*, March 12th.

Another instance of the freedom assumed by a judge who forms a strong opinion on the depositions.

*Reg. v. Woolford.*

The prisoner, æt. 29, of no occupation, was seen kneeling outside the church door at Heckfield, dressed in a torn shirt only, and praying aloud. Some neighbours saw him and tried to induce him to come home; but he became very excited and violent, and seizing a ladder, tried to batter down the church door. He fought and shouted, got away, ran along the Reading road, assaulting a bicyclist in his way, ran on to a farmhouse, jumped the hedge, and seeing a child in the garden, knocked her down and knelt on her, beating her about the head and face with his fists, and so injured her that her life was for some time in danger. It was proved that the prisoner was subject to epileptic fits, and the medical evidence was that he