

THE TRIAL.¹

*In the Circuit Court of Franklin County, Union, Missouri,
January, 1857.*

HON. JOHN H. STONE,² Judge.

Edward D. Worrell had at the May Term, 1856, of the Circuit Court of Warren County been indicted jointly with *William H. Bruff* for the murder of Basil H. Gordon.³ On

¹ *Bibliography.* "The Law of Circumstantial Evidence and of Insanity. A Report in full of the trial of Edward D. Worrell, indicted for the murder of Basil H. Gordon, held at the court house in Union, Franklin County, Missouri, January 19, 1857. Reported by John Delafeld, Esq., St. Louis, Mo. M. Niedner, Publisher. St. Louis, Mo., 1857."

² STONE, JOHN H. A native of Tennessee, but was educated near Georgetown, Ky., to which place his parents had removed; was not a college graduate, but read Latin with facility and had a knowledge of Greek. Was a student at the Law School at Lexington; came to Missouri in 1836 and settled at Fulton, Callaway Co., where he practiced law until appointed Judge of the 9th Judicial Circuit in 1843, residing at Potosi. "He remained on the bench until some time in the early part of the war when he fell a victim to that turbulent spirit which reigned throughout the State. . . . He was arrested upon a charge of disloyalty and thrown into the Gratiot St. prison, at St. Louis. The real motive was to prevent him holding court in one or two counties in which large amounts of property were advertised to be sold under execution. . . . His friends obtained his release; he went back to Callaway County and finally settled at St. Charles. . . . The effect of the war and the personal ill treatment to which he was subjected hurried him rapidly to the grave. He must have died shortly after the close of the war. A more upright, conscientious and honest man never lived." Bay (W. V. N.), "Bench and Bar of Mo.," p. 373.

³ The Grand Jurors for the State of Missouri empanelled, sworn, and charged to enquire in, and for the body of the County of Warren, on their oaths present that Edward D. Worrell and William H. Bruff, on the twenty-fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, at the County of Warren, aforesaid, with force and arms in and upon one Basil H. Gordon, then and there feloniously, wilfully, deliberately, premeditatedly and of their malice aforethought, did make an assault, and that the said Edward D. Worrell, a certain pistol there and then charged with gunpowder and a leaden bullet, which said pistol he, the said Edward D. Worrell, in his right hand then and there