

June 10.

Today began the trial of Orrin De Wolf. The first count of the indictment charged the prisoner with committing a felonious assault on William Stiles, at Worcester, on the fourteenth of January last, and producing the death of said Stiles by strangling him with a silk handkerchief. The second and third counts alleged as the cause of his death, a large quantity of a noxious ingredient, called first-proof gin administered by the said De Wolf to the said Stiles.

Mr. Wilkinson,<sup>5</sup> District Attorney, said that it would be probably shown that death was occasioned by strangling, and therefore, the government would rely wholly upon the first count. The prisoner having previously pleaded not guilty, his defense was assigned by the Court to B. F. Thomas<sup>6</sup> and A. H. Bullock.<sup>7</sup>

The following composed the jury, which was sworn: Abra-

<sup>5</sup> WILKINSON, EZRA. (1805-1882.) Born, Attleboro, Mass.; received early education at Day's Academy; graduated, Brown University (A. B., A. M.), 1824; from 1824-1826, was principal of Monmouth College, Maine; studied law with Peter Pratt in Providence, R. I., and with Josiah J. Fiske, in Wrentham, Mass.; admitted to Bar Dedham, Mass., 1828; after practicing short time in Freetown, Mass., and Seekonk, Mass., removed to Dedham, where he remained until death; from 1843-1855, served as District Attorney of the Middle District; in 1843, the office of Attorney General was abolished and not renewed until 1849, during which interval Wilkinson conducted ten capital trials; member of Massachusetts House of Representatives, 1848-1849, 1851-1852, 1856-1857; member of Constitutional Convention, 1853; was one of judges appointed to the bench of the Superior Court at its establishment in 1859, continuing on the bench until his death, at Dedham, Mass.; was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. See Davis, William T., Bench and Bar of Massachusetts, 1895, Vol. 1; Historical Catalogue of Brown University (1704-1914), 1914.

<sup>6</sup> THOMAS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. (1813-1878.) Born Boston; member of Congress, 1861-1863; Justice Supreme Court of Massachusetts, 1853-1859; author of many legal treatises; died Salem, Mass.

<sup>7</sup> BULLOCK, ALEXANDER HAMILTON. (1816-1882.) Born Royalston, Mass.; member of Massachusetts Legislature and Senate for several terms; Commissioner of Insolvency, 1853; Judge of Insolvency, 1855-1858; Mayor of Worcester, 1859; Governor of Massachusetts, 1866-1870; died in Worcester.