

equally so to the community, and no sympathy for the prisoner should be allowed to interfere with the administration of justice. It is important that it should be distinctly understood that the laws are to be executed with strictness, for if the notion goes abroad that the murderer may escape by a want of firmness on the part of jurors, the assassin who was halting in his purpose, is encouraged, and the jury that hesitated to return a verdict against the criminal, becomes responsible for two deaths instead of one. It is the duty of the jury to judge merely of the fact, without regard to consequences, and in forming their judgment they must act faithfully and truly according to the light they possess—they must form their opinion from such evidence as the criminal leaves them which in most cases is wholly circumstantial. The fact that the innocent have been sometimes condemned on circumstantial evidence, should have no weight on their minds for the same objection might be urged against all testimony. A man may swear falsely, as well as a train of circumstances deceive and in some cases, indirect evidence may be even more satisfactory than the assertions of an eye-witness. Collusion of witnesses upon a story that will completely convince the minds of the jury is easy, but when different individuals testify to a variety of incidents without being aware of their mutual connection, if these incidents all tend to a single point, the weight of evidence may be overwhelming.

The prisoner's counsel have insisted that De Wolf had no time to kill Stiles—if the evidence proves this, does it not also prove that there was no time in which Stiles could have died? The witnesses testify about how long they were in the stable, and their testimony is not sufficiently exact to warrant the conclusion drawn in his defense. The death of Stiles is admitted, and even if death were caused by suicide, De Wolf was present, and must have known the fact. What other than a sinister motive, could De Wolf have had, in carrying Stiles to the stable against his expressed desire, instead of taking him home?

The debt to Stiles, for which De Wolf had been once im-