

But sane—he is able to look after his business? Yes.

Is there anything wrong about his mind? No; he is irritable and a bit eccentric.

Continuing, witness said that he asked Halpin if Bridgeman was much hurt, and he replied that his eyes were broken.

Counsel—Did you ask him how it was done? No; I then said it is a terrible business, and he ought go to Newmarket; I told him I would go for the doctor and report it to the police.

Cross-examined by Mr. Fitzgerald Mr. Hewitt said he did not know the members of the accused's family, but was aware he had a brother who was confined for a week; and when he met him the accused was on his way for the police.

His Lordship—Are you raising the defence of insanity?

Mr. Fitzgerald—In the sense that he was of weak mind.

His Lordship—You must make it or not make it.

Major Rodwel, Divisional Staff Officer for Musketry, Aldershot, formerly District-Inspector R.I.C. at Sixmilebridge, Clare, said that he saw the accused in bed suffering from these terrible injuries; the eyes were closed up and there were wounds on his head; when arrested Halpin said "I met him on the road and he said to me you are a born lad; I said you are a born b——; he then struck me with a stick, and I went for a stone; I threw it at him and got him down, and I did my best"; the accused took off his hat and pointed to his head, where he said he had been struck; witness did not see any marks, but the accused's fingers were covered with blood and his nails were horribly long.

Mr. M'Elligott—You have seen the accused in Court? Yes; he is a very truculent man, but not eccentric.

His Lordship—He is not insane? No.

He knows what he is doing? Yes; he does; I believe him to be a very good business man and quite sane.

Dr. Edmund Frost, Newmarket, County Clare, said that when he saw Bridgeman his eyelids were closed; the right eye-ball was burst and the left was so injured as to be practically useless; there was a wound over the left eye and some superficial wounds on the head, and those would be caused as described—that over the eye with a stone, and those on the head with a stick.

Sergeant Peters, examined by Mr. Fitzgerald, said that the prisoner arrived at Quinn Barracks at a quarter to three on the day in question; witness asked him what was up now, and he said he had a row with Bridgeman over trespass; the prisoner then showed him his head on which there was a blue weal; his left arm was scratched, and his fingers were swollen; the accused added: "I left him by the boathouse; Mr. Tom Hewitt has gone for the doctor and I came to you;" witness knew the prisoner's family, but could not say if one of them—a brother—was confined in a lunatic

asylum; the man was sane, but irritable and eccentric.

His Lordship—Do you believe he is eccentric? I do; he is a bachelor and living alone.

His Lordship—He is eccentric, irritable, but quite sane? Yes, my lord.

Mr. Fitzgerald, addressing the jury on the defence, said had the Crown sooner adopted the course which was now taken of indicting the prisoner on the minor charge, a different course might be taken by the defence. The prisoner was first charged with felonious wounding, which implied that the defendant had full control of his feelings and actions when he committed the offence. The evidence went to show that the defendant was a man of eccentric nature with a strain of insanity in his family, and at the time of the offence he had no proper conception of the nature and consequences of his act, and was not responsible for his actions.

His Lordship, in charging the jury, said it was one of the most horrible cases which ever came before him. The facts of the case were as clear as noonday, and he did not think it necessary to address the jury at any length, except to remind them of the evidence of Bridgeman, substantially all of which was admitted in the statement made by the prisoner himself.

The jury found the prisoner guilty.

Mr. Fitzgerald said there was nothing ever before against the defendant.

Mr. M'Elligott said the defendant had put it out of the injured man's power to recover any compensation, as he had sold his farm.

His Lordship said the prisoner had been found guilty of a crime which he thought was impossible in Ireland. He would adopt a course which he never before had done and sentence the prisoner to the maximum punishment which the law allowed, namely, five years' penal servitude.

DEATH OF MR. LOUIS De R. FITZGERALD

BROTHER OF KNIGHT OF GLIN

Our Glin correspondent writes:—The sad news has just reached Glin Castle of the death of Mr. Louis De R. Fitzgerald on board the steamer, "Durham Castle," bound from South Africa. Deceased, who was the youngest son of the late Knight of Glin and brother of the present holder of that ancient Irish title, spent many years in South Africa and became possessed of valuable mining interests there.

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