HOME MATTERS.

COURT NEWS.

SUPREME COURT.—Present, a full bench.

School Directors of Sugarcreek Township, vs. McBride; from Armstrong county, Judgment reversed and new trial awarded. Opinion by Lowrie J.

Kline vs. School Directors of Wayne township; from Armstrong county. Judgment reversed and new trial awarded. Opinion by Lowrie J.

Lytle vs. Morris; from Indiana county.—Judgment reversed and judgment for plaintiff below, without costs. Opinion by Lowrie J.

Appeals of Carson & M'Knight; from decree of District Court. Argument concluded by Mr. Todd for appellee.

Miller vs. Sweeny et al. Judgment of non pros.

Buffum & Co. vs. Wilkins. Judgment of non pros.

Solse vs. Hackwelder. Judgment of non pros.

Matter of Road in Indiana township. Judgment of non pros.

Taylor et al vs. Wilson & Co. Argued, and judgment affirmed.

O'Connor, Atkinson & Co. vs. Lyton. Submitted. Mr. Burk for plaintiff, and Rogers & Barton for defendant.

Speer vs. Allegheny and Manchester Plank Road Co. Argued. Mr. M'Connell for plaintiff, and Court declined hearing Mr. Campbell for defendants.

M'Shane vs. McCullough. Submitted. Mr. Barton for plaintiff and Mr. Woods for defendant.

Park vs. Matthew. Argued. Mr. M'Candless for plaintiff, and Court declined hearing Mr. M'Connell for defendant.

COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER.—Before the Hon. Judge McClure, President, and Associates Adams and Boggs.

The jury in the manslaughter case, on trial on Monday, returned a verdict of acquittal. The prisoner was discharged by proclamation.

T. F. Wright, was arraigned on a charge of forging the signature of Wm. Gaston as endorser of a note for $1850, on the 28th of February last. It was alleged in the Washington county, but the whole of the transaction was alleged to have occurred here; consequently the suit was instituted in this county.

MESSRS. PENNEY and STERRETT conducted the case for the prosecution; Col. MCCANDLESS and J. H. HOPKINS, Esq., appeared for the defence.

For the prosecution Wm. Gaston stated that he had never written his name on the back of the note. The first knowledge of the existence of the note the witness had, was through a statement of the indebtedness of Wright (who had failed for a very large amount) in which he saw mentioned a note held by MESSRS. Tiernan & Co. of this city, purporting to be endorsed by himself. He then came to this city, examined the note, and declared it to be a forgery.

He never told Col. Bupis that he wanted to get the prisoner in such a condition that his friends would be obliged to compromise.

Wm. Gist testified he was acquainted with prosecutor's hand writing; did not believe the endorsement on the note was Gaston's writing.

A witness' named J. W. Estep testified to assisting officer Snee of this city to arrest the prisoner.

The defence endeavored to show by cross-examination, strong prejudice against defendant, and an anxiety to get him in difficulties.

J. T. Estep testified to having seen Gaston's writing often; did not believe this endorsement was written by him. Lived with Gaston two years.

William M'Neary testified he had business transactions with Gaston for eight or ten years; have seen him write several times during that time; consider myself familiar with his signature; from what knowledge I have of his writing, I would not take this endorsement to be his.

Cross Examined.—Saw him write last, about six months ago, have seen him write with both a steel and quill pen; Gaston, so far as I know, is to temperate man; have seen him taking a drink; never saw him under nervous exaitement; this don't look to me like his signature.

Direct examination.—Mr. Gaston's writing was always smooth; have remarked so.

Samuel Boggs testified to having seen Gaston write a few times; have not seen his signature often; this doesn't look exactly like my idea of his signature; but wouldn't say that it was or was not.

Arthur Crouch testified he was acquainted with Gaston's signature; this don't look like Mr. Gaston's writing.

John Huston testified to an acquaintance with Gaston's hand-writing, and with his signature; had notes of his; this appears to be written rather rougher than Gaston writes; Gaston generally writes smoother; without having heard of this affair, would not have looked at the signature particularly.

William Gaston was recalled by defence—the witness was handed another note purported to be endorsed by him, and asked if it was his signature; answer—supposed it is.

A number of notes for large amounts were handed to him endorsed by him, to which he made the same answer, with one exception, one for $300, which he denied having endorsed.

H. E. Davis, clerk for Messrs. Tiarman & Co., was sworn, and identified the note as the one received by him on the 6th day of March, from the defendant, and discounted.

George Patterson was called, and denied having written his name on a note passed by defendant.

The note was then offered in evidence, but objected to on part of defence.

Objection overruled.

Evidence for the prosecution closed here.

Col. McCandless stated to the jury that his client belonged to one of the most respectable families in Washington county; that he was engaged extensively in the droving business, and that while he was prospering, everything went smoothly. Not a word was ever uttered against him. He was prepared to prove by a witness, *who saw Gaston putting his name on the paper*, that it was not a forgery. He was also prepared to prove, what he (Gaston) had attempted by Patterson, was not a forgery. The counsel proceeded at length with his remarks to the jury, at the conclusion of which, he called the following witnesses.

Edward Campbell sworn—Am Prothonotary; knew Gaston's handwriting, should'nt hesitate to say this was his writing, if he had not denied it himself; have been employed at the Exchange Bank.

Cross Examined—In a number of his signatures I have seen Gaston writing there was as much difference, in the W's, as there is between the W in this and an avowed genuine note.

Direct Examination.—Am well acquainted with Wright's handwriting, and the "Gaston" on the alleged forged note is very different from his writing.

Edward Riggs, sworn—Live near Mr. Gaston; know his handwriting; believe this to be his signature, from my knowledge of