

Weekly True Sun, 1 April 1843

Assize Intelligence.

NORFOLK CIRCUIT.

CROWN COURT.

(Before Mr. Justice Coleridge.)

**THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF THE REV. E.
MORTLOCK.**

John Frederick Mortlock was indicted for shooting at and wounding Edmond Mortlock, with intent to murder him; a second count charged with intent to do the prosecutor some grievous bodily harm.

Mr. Sergeant Byles and Mr. O'Malley appeared for the prosecution; the prisoner conducted his own defence.

The prosecutor is a fellow of Christ's College in this (Cambridge) University, residing in rooms within the college walls. He is the uncle of the prisoner, who stood charged with an attempt upon his life. The prisoner is the eldest son of an elder brother of the prosecutor, who died some years since in a foreign land. At various periods since his father's-death the prisoner has made pecuniary claims upon his uncles, alleging that they had possessed themselves of property to which he was entitled. It need not be said that this notion was utterly unfounded; those who know the character of his uncles, and their conduct towards him, are well aware that they have behaved with the utmost liberality. The notion that he had been wronged had, however, taken firm possession of his mind, and led to the terrible outrage for which he was to-day called on to account. It appeared that on Monday, the 14th of November, the prisoner arrived at Cambridge from

London, and took up his quarters at the Eagle, which is kept by Mr. Mitchell. He remained at that hotel until the following Friday, when the landlord suggested that he should seek for other lodgings; which, after some conversation, he agreed to do. Mitchell, after this, called on the prosecutor at Christ's; and whilst they were engaged in conversation, the prisoner suddenly burst into the room. The prisoner then fired a pistol at his uncle, which wounded him severely. The evidence, which ran to some length, fully established these facts.

The prisoner then addressed the jury, and was deeply affected at the commencement of his speech. He soon regained his self-possession, and entered into a detail of what he conceived to be his grievances, which it would be improper in this place to repeat.

The learned Judge summed up the evidence.

The jury in a short time found him *Guilty*, and he was sentenced to be transported beyond the seas for the term of 15 years.

The prisoner throughout the trial maintained a composure which was most remarkable, except only in the commencement of his defence, when his voice faltered for a few minutes, and he appeared to be impressed with the awful situation in which he then stood. He was tried four or five years ago upon a charge of setting fire to the house of another of his uncles, but acquitted.