

There is the feeling abroad that a man if insane and irresponsible is always so, whereas the most insane people often are collected enough during the greater part of their lives. The poor man Gouldstone is, to my mind, a typical case of insanity associated with insane parentage. He had done his work, which was purely mechanical, well, but he had no power to resist, and the act he perpetrated depended on an insane feeling of misery. I have no doubt he would have sooner or later developed delusions.

The medical officer to the House of Detention told me he considered him to be suffering from melancholia.

I trust this prisoner will not be allowed to be hanged. I may say that I am not one who is in the habit of defending criminals on the plea of insanity.

I am, yours truly,

GEO. H. SAVAGE, M.D.,  
Physician Bethlem Hospital.

September 15, 1883.

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TO THE EDITOR OF *The Daily Telegraph*.

Sept. 18, 1883.

SIR,—I feel bound to take notice of the letters written to you by "One of the Jury" in this case, as there seems to be great danger that the prisoner will suffer through misunderstanding of my opinion. The skilful cross-examination of Mr. Poland gave me no opportunity of representing my own opinion on the man's sanity. I was forced to own that in a short interview, from the facts seen by myself, I could not have signed a certificate of insanity. I doubt not but that if I had expressed a willingness to sign one that the haste of the proceeding would have been used as an argument against its value.

I did say, however, that, taking my examination with the history of the man and the crime, I had no doubt that he was of unsound mind. The Judge opposed strongly attempts to get my opinion, believing the common sense of a jury to be the best judge of sanity. This is all very well if the facts are explained by one understanding their value, and not otherwise. That the patient knew he had killed his children, and that he knew he might be hanged, I could not deny, but knowledge of this kind does not exclude insanity.

I have patients of the most insanely dangerous class here who have said the same things which Gouldstone said, and who know as much as he does. Yet they are mad. William Gouldstone ought not to suffer without a careful independent investigation of his history and the history of his crime, one not confined to an examination of twenty minutes or half an hour.

I am, yours truly,

GEO. H. SAVAGE.

Bethlem Hospital, Sept. 17.

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LETTER FROM GOULDSTONE'S WIFE.

(*Standard*, Sept. 20.)

"During our five years' married life I frequently noticed that my husband was absent-minded and given to brooding. If he were asked a question he would not, no matter how simple it was, or however easy to answer, reply at once. He would think over it, and sometimes say something not concerning the question. We commenced housekeeping on 21s. a-week, and latterly he had 25s. It was sometimes difficult to make ends meet when the children came so rapidly, and this weighed on his mind, I fear, although he never spoke of it to me—except in the way of saying how sorry he was that my hands were so full, and that we could not go out together as we used to do. That was the only way in which he ever spoke of the burden of the family. Before we had