

## Colonial Times 14 April 1827

*To the Public. -Upon the 4th of April 1826, Dr. Crowther came to my house, at about half-past 8 o'clock at night; I was sitting with Mr. Newby, when a knock came at the parlour door; I charged my servant, John Stanning, not to let any one in until he knew who they were; I told him to put the chain across the door which he did, and then opened the door to the length of the chain, and asked who was there? The voice outside said Mr. Crowther. I immediately gave orders to let him in. Dr. Crowther as soon as he came in took me by the hand, and said, Mr. Abel I am glad to see you so well guarded against the bush-rangers; he then called for supper, and all that he had with his supper to drink was one glass of beer. He said he had rode a number of miles that day, and said he was rather chilly, and requested to withdraw into another room, where there was a fire. I accompanied him, as soon as we entered that room, Mr. Crowther being a strange Gentleman to Mr. Newby, Mr. Newby said, Mr. Abel, I will retire. I then took a candle and shewed him to his bed, and returned to Mr. Crowther. The family were all in bed, as also my servants, except John Stanning, the waiter. Mr. Crowther said, Mr. Abel, I think we can take half-a-pint of brandy before we retire. We sat talking until nearly a quarter past 10, when a knock came at the dark passage door. I never rose from my seat until my servant, John Stanning, called out here they are! Here they are! Mr. Crowther rose from his seat immediately, and entered into the passage; I rose at the same time and went into the parlour, took up my fowling piece, and went to the assistance of Dr. Crowther. When I came to the parlour door, being the length of a room from the passage, I saw Dr. Crowther laying on the floor, as I thought a corpse. I immediately, with my piece upon a charge, drawing round the end of the table, knew I had left nobody in the room but Dr. Crowther and John Stanning, who were both dressed in dark clothes, saw the shadow of a man in white, in the dark part of the passage. I immediately fired, threw down my piece, and went for my second. Mrs. Abel being in bed, I had to go into the bed-room for it, and on my return, cocking my pistol as I came, I was surprised by my son George, (just as I was upon the act of firing at a man outside, dressed in white), by saying, "Oh! father, you have shot my brother Henry!" I never entered the passage but went into the bedroom, woke Mrs. Abel, who never heard the piece go off. I said, "Oh! Mrs. Abel, I have shot my son Henry." I then proceeded to the passage, could not believe it was my son, thinking he was in bed. I soon found out my mistake, found it to be my son, and found he was dead. I asked John Stanning which way he made his entrance, as I saw the bar upon the door; he said through the opening for the fan-light. I said "Oh! you scoundrel, you knew him to be my son." He said he did not. I asked him also the next day if he ever knew my son to come through the opening of that fan-light before, and he said no. (Signed) William Abel, Sen. New Norfolk, April 9, 1826.*

*Verdict returned by the Coroner's Inquest*

*-Excusable Homicide.*