

A Canine Controversy.

Cooperstown, it is well known, lacks none of the features that would indicate a populous, bustling place, therefore it is not strange that she has had a hotly contested dog case. There is something connected with dog cases that has given them the reputation of being particularly unsavory and this is no exception. On Sunday last S. E. Mills' dog came to his house with a charge of shot in his body, and after a little detective work Dave Wilcox, James Hills and Perry Griffith were arrested for shooting the canine. Judge Mills of Valley City prosecuted the case against Mr. Wilcox on Tuesday, while Messrs. Holmes and Bartlett defended him. There was considerable warmth and interest in fair; especially was there much comment on Justice Glass' rulings. It seems seven young men on a frolic bent, passed near Mills' shanty Sunday and that Wilcox fired a gun twice, and it was charged he injured the dog. However the seven men swore positively that the dog was out of gun shot when Wilcox was shooting, while two men swore that they knew he did not injure the dog, while no evidence was offered that he did, other than circumstantial.

The queerest part of the case was Cadi Glass' decision, which was stated substantially to the effect that he believed by facts shown that the dog was out of gunshot when Wilcox was firing; that were he a final magistrate he would not find evidence to convict the prisoner, but as it was he felt it his duty to bind him over to the district court. If to pronounce a man innocent in one breath and deal with him as guilty in the next is justice, we wish to be delivered from it. We do not sympathize with the prisoners in this case, but we do dislike to see unnecessary cost made the county, and that, too, when the examining justice is fully satisfied that a defendant is innocent, according to evidence adduced. There has been much talk over this case and excitement still runs quite high. That some one shot the dog is evident, and the Courier trusts that the guilt may be fastened upon the right party, and he made to feel the rigor of the law.