

“MURDER OF A HATHERN GENTLEMAN IN ARGENTINA”. Report in the Nottingham Evening Post Feb 17th 1894.

During the week Mr. Geo. Hodson, of Loughborough, received a Buenos Ayres newspaper from Mr. Lutton, who is practising as a civil engineer in the Argentine Republic, which contains the following account of the murder of Mr. Smythies, who according to advices received, was a son of the late Rector of Hathern. The report was as follows :—

" Rosario, January 6th. English colony of Santa Fe has not only to deplore the loss of many of its members by illness, but also by the knife of the assassin. Mr. J. Palmer Smythies has fallen a victim to the petty revenge of a dismissed capataz, who assaulted him as he was driving from his estancia to the town Las Rosas, stabbing him to death at the gate property. The man had signed a monthly contract with Mr. Smythies, but had failed to turn up to work for several days. For this Mr. Smythies deducted a certain portion of his wages, the Juez de Paz of the district confirming his action upon being appealed by the peon. The latter then muttered some threat of vengeance, which passed unheeded. The murder took place some few days afterwards. The assassin was in ambush at the gate accompanied by friend, and as soon as Mr. Smythies dashed out of the volante, he made a rush at him giving him a mortal stab. Mr. Smythies fell but managed to regain a sitting posture, when the brute gave him the coup de grace, breaking his dagger in so doing, but, blinded by fury he hacked away at the poor gentleman's throat with the broken blade until he was dragged off by his companion. The latter, and the groom accompanying Mr. Smythies, who is the brother of the murderer have been arrested but the criminal is still at large. Mr. Smythies had been long in this country, had amassed fortune, and although a civil engineer by profession had of late years devoted great part of his time to estancia work."