

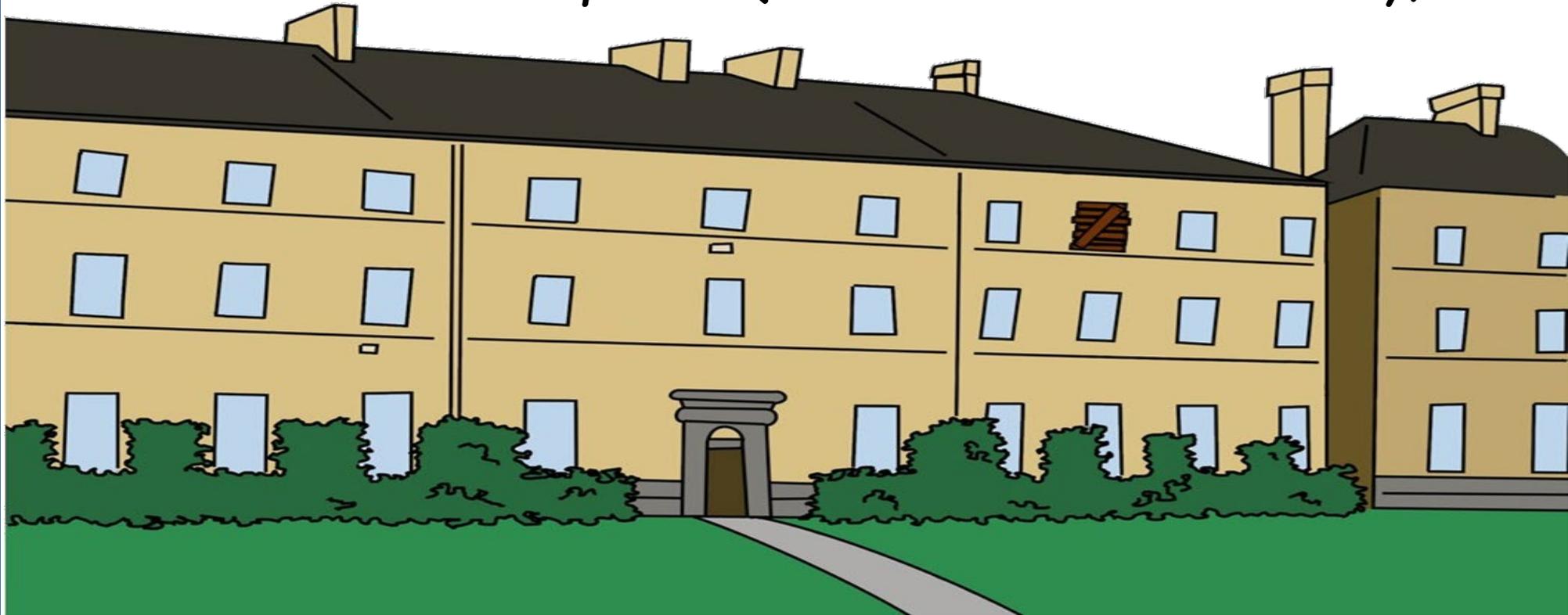
Baker Street Elementary
& The Victorian Web

Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street Elementary
& *The Victorian Web*

The Life and Times in Victorian London
30 - Attempts on Queen Victoria's Life - January, 2022



*Welcome to topic # 030... today
Gregson and I will be looking at the
attempts on Queen Victoria's life
between 1840 and 1882.*





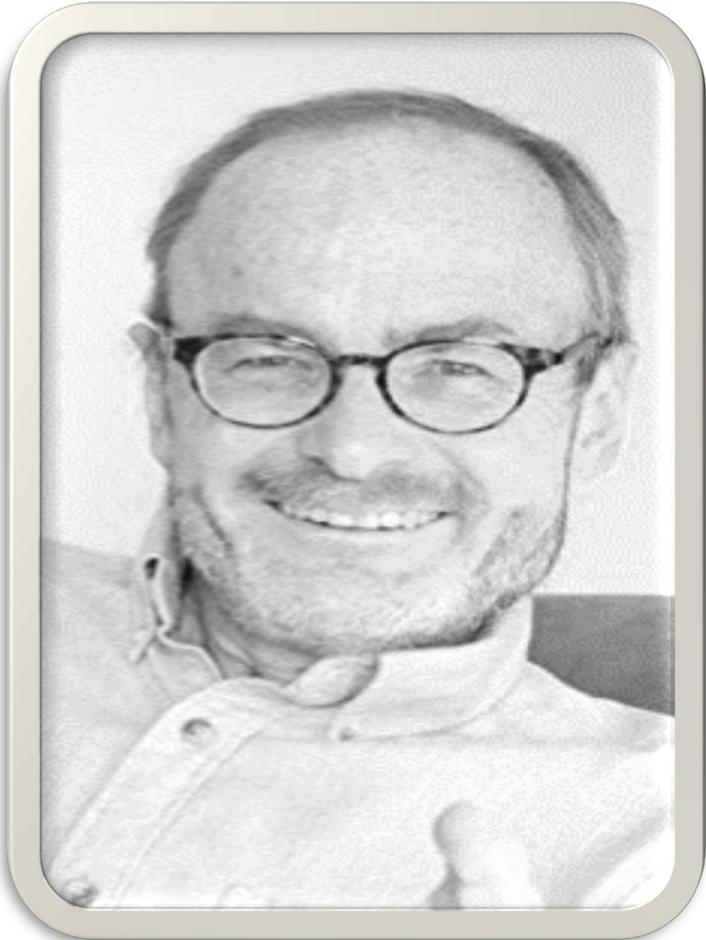
The seven attempts were generally regarded performed by those who were mentally unstable.



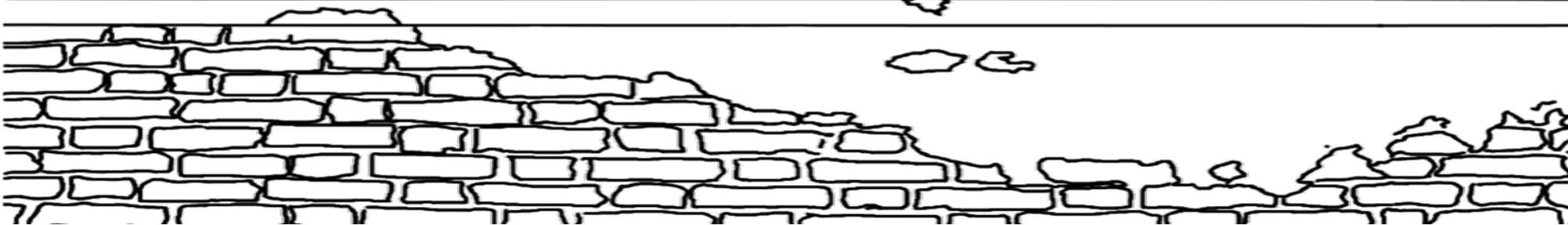
Serious historians do not see them as major events in her reign, and therefore tend to pass quickly over them.



*According to Paul Thomas Murphy,
however, Victoria herself saw
them in a positive light, believing
they made her more popular.*



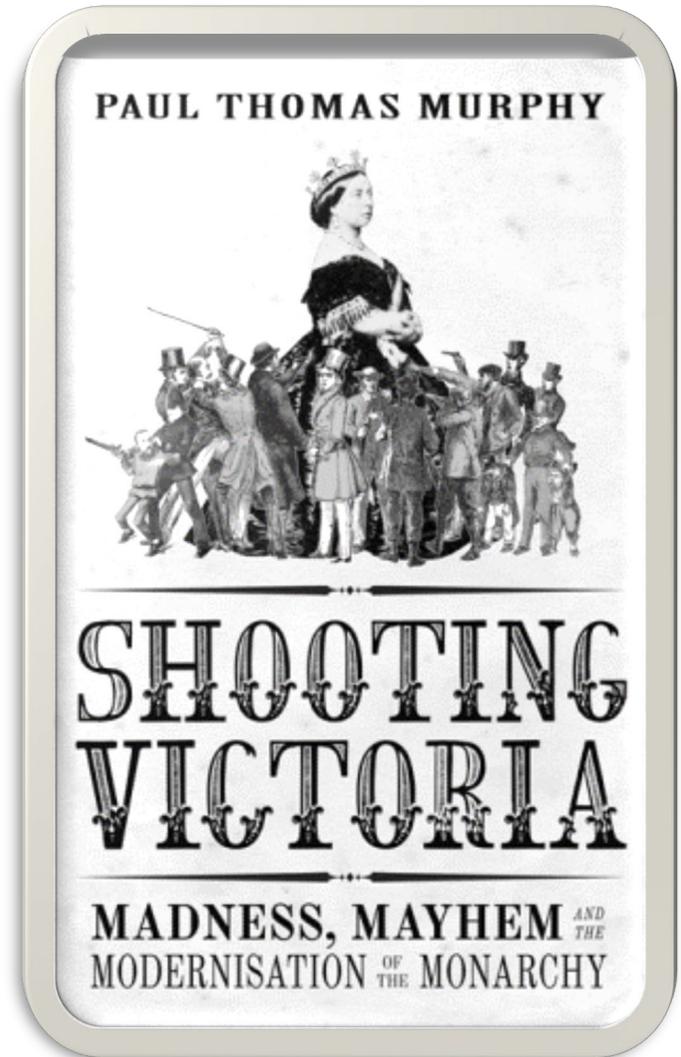
Lestrade, after the last such attempt on her life, she wrote to her daughter Vicky that she was moved by...



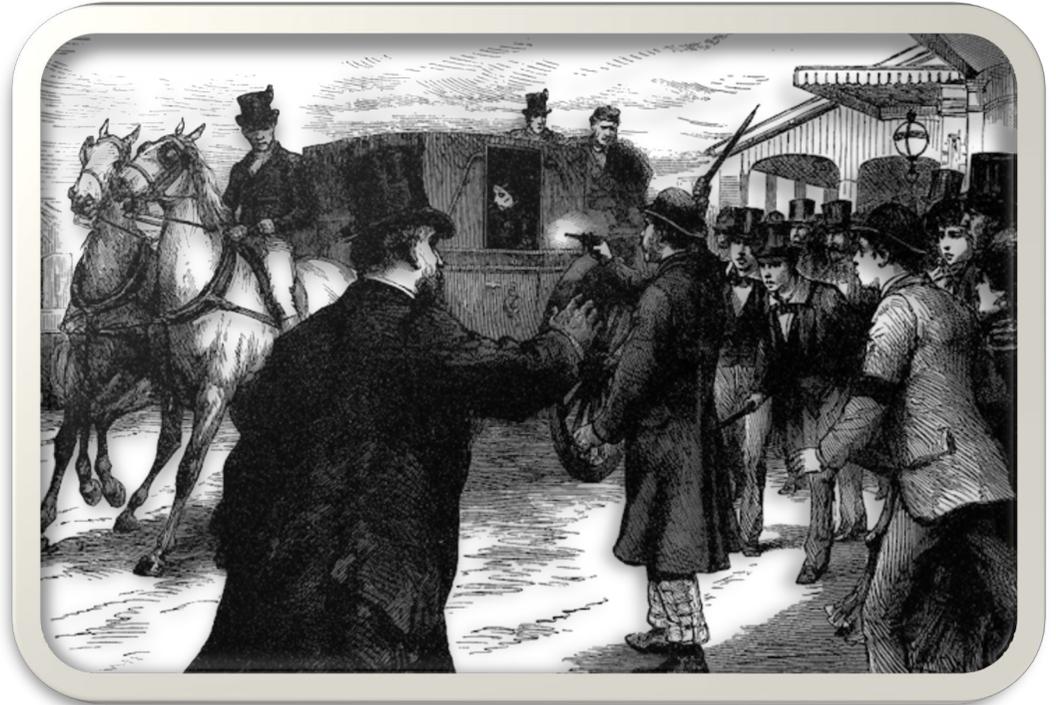
... "enthusiasm, loyalty, sympathy and affection" shown by her subjects, and added: "It is worth being shot at to see how much one is loved"



Murphy's book, Shooting Victoria, suggests the attempts at her life made both the Queen and the English monarchy more popular.



The culprits too had their reward, in they gained some much sought-after notoriety.



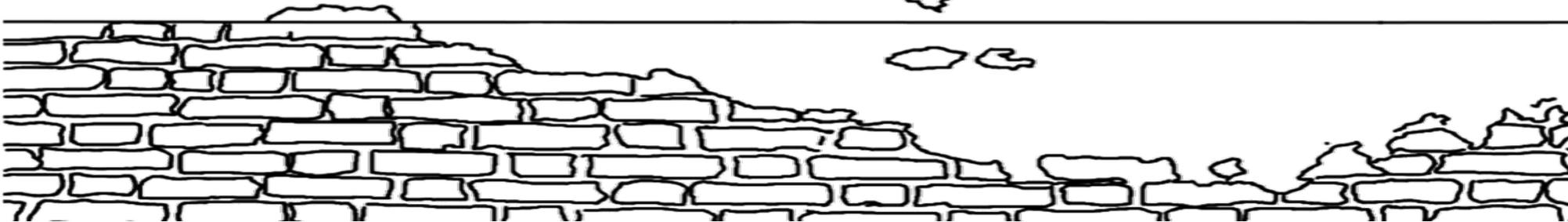


They were either confined at "Her Majesty's pleasure" and given food and shelter, or, more often, ended up making new lives for themselves in Australia.





*The first such attempt
was by Edward Oxford,
who fired on Victoria and
Albert in 1840.*



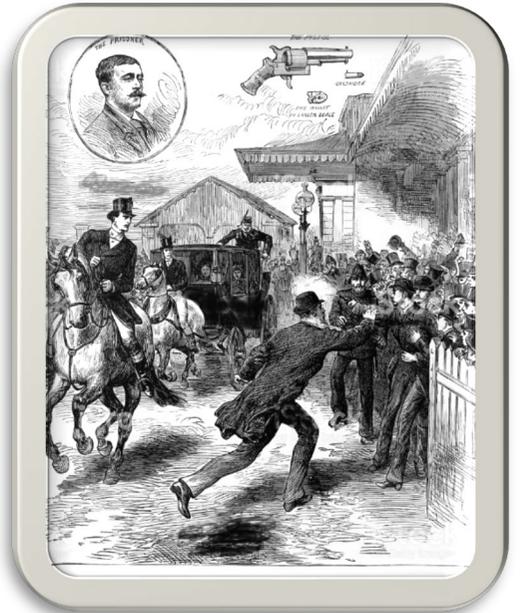
He fired a shot while the couple was out for their regular airing, but missed both of them.



He was tried in court, and found guilty – but at the time, insane. He was sent to the hospital for the insane at Bethlem.



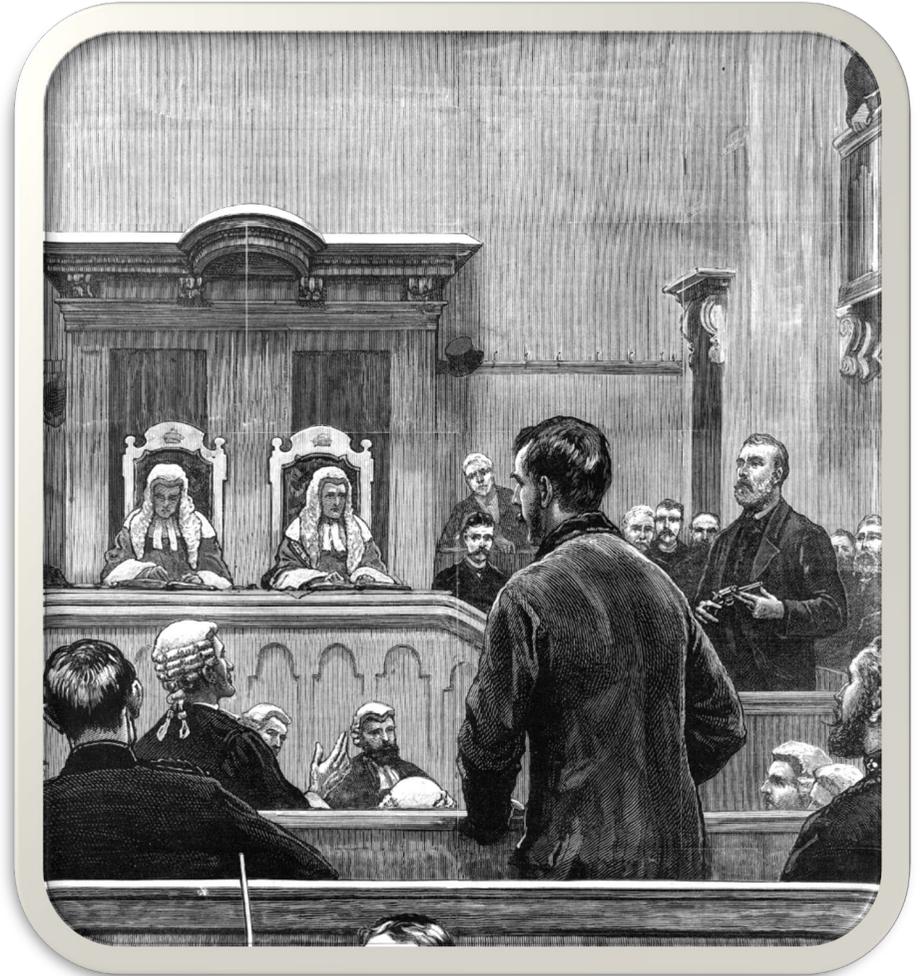
Victoria's last attempt was by Roderick Maclean, whose attempt was the only one made outside the area of Buckingham Palace.



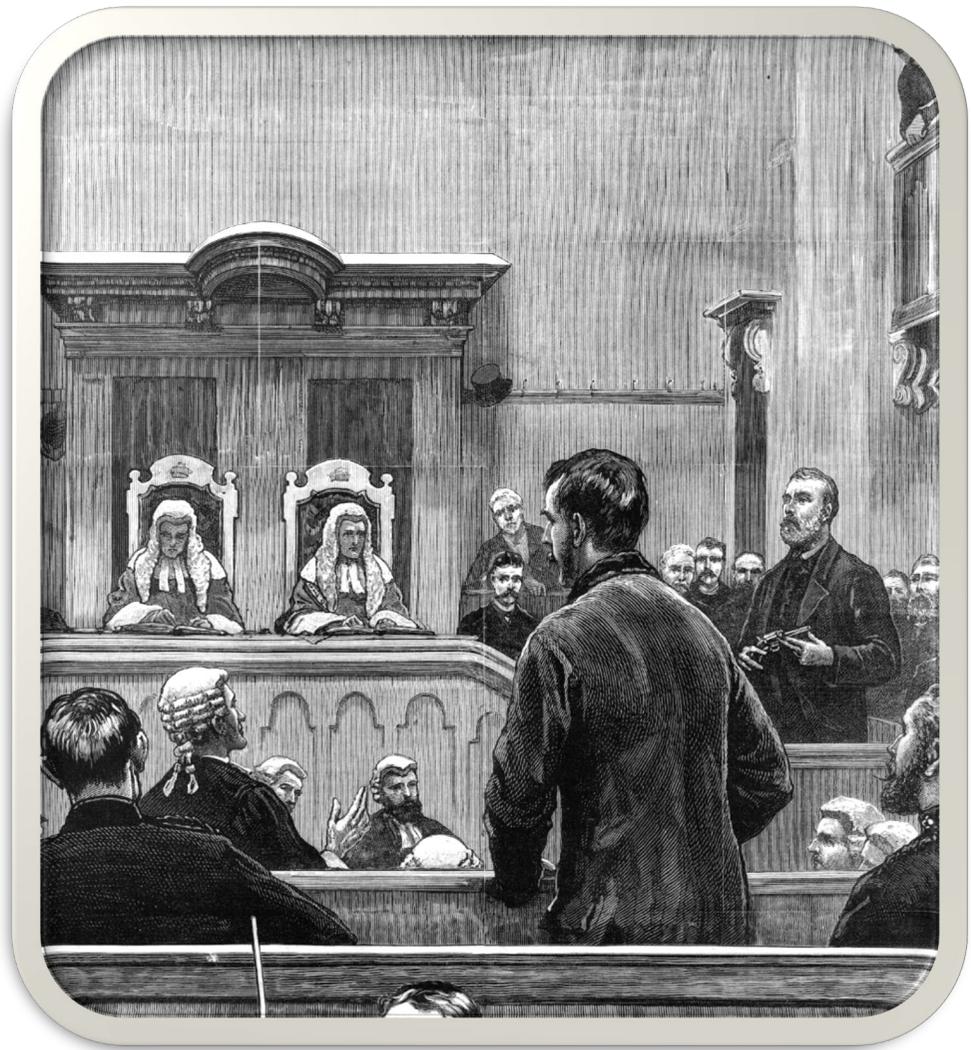
*In March, 1882, Maclean
fired on the Queen as
her carriage arrived at
Windsor Station.*



As with his predecessors, the court found Maclean a victim of insanity.

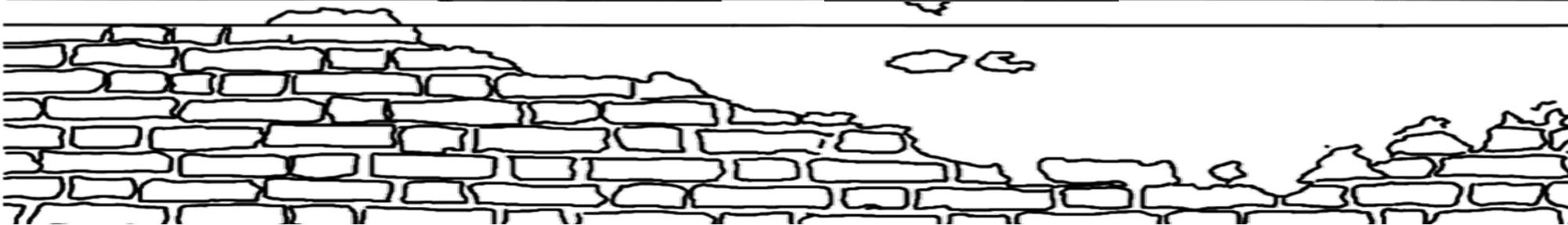


He was declared not "guilty on the grounds of insanity and was kept in custody at the Queen's pleasure."



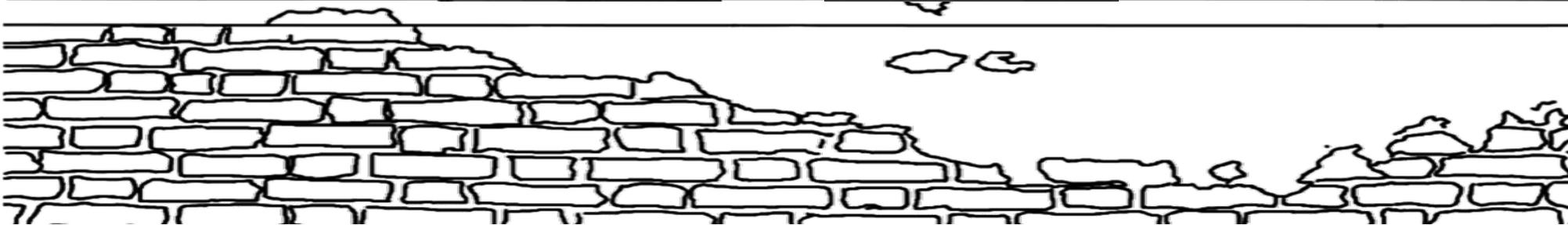


*The Queen herself
found such verdicts
unsatisfactory.*





She wanted the attempts on her life to be taken more seriously by the government, and believed the culprits should have been punished more severely.



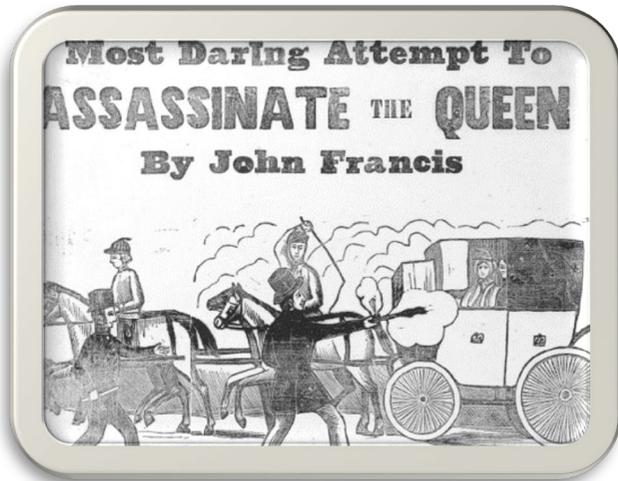
Her government passed a new law dictating the verdict "not guilty by reason of insanity" should be changed to "Guilty, but insane" for every felony.



*The consequences, of course,
would remain the same — but,
the detainment at the
Queen's pleasure was new.*



The repeated attacks on the Queen's person not only failed to remove her, but helped to win both her and the British monarchy, as an institution, greater popularity.

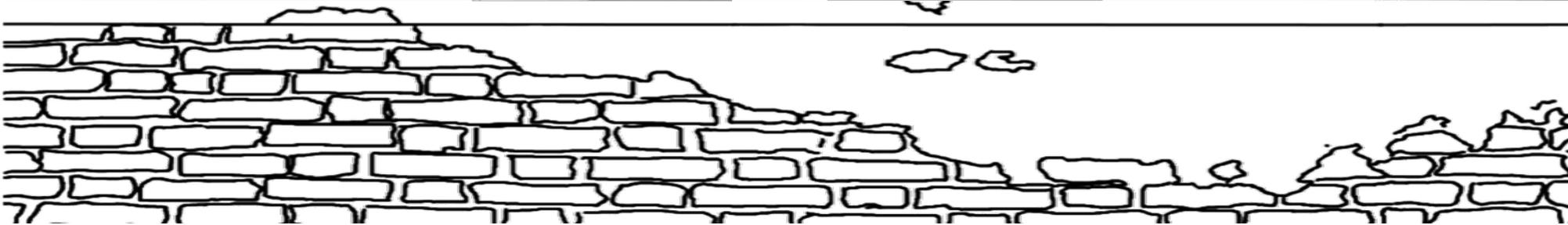


The attacks, as well as her personal losses led to the change in attitude toward the Queen.



*So we have completed
topic # 030 in our
series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back
with another topic
soon...*





The Victorian Web

literature, history, & culture in
the age of Victoria



Original Source Material for for this topic:

- 1) A. Banerjee, Emeritus Professor of English and American Literature, Kobe College, Japan, <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/victoria/murphy.html>



Baker Street Elementary

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY

LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

GEORGE P. LANDOW

RUSTY MASON &

STEVE MASON

WE ARE EXTREMELY

THANKFUL TO LIESE AND

GEORGE FOR THEIR SUPPORT

OF THIS PROJECT...

