

The Phoenix Park tragedy was a crime, the magnitude and infamy of which are not to be judged so much by the atrocity and foulness of the assassination itself as by its dire consequences to the country in which it was committed. The crime of a few wretches was unjustly made the crime of a whole people, who not only deplored but abhorred it, and who protested in the press, on the platform and in Parliament against being charged with or held responsible for the murder. The deed not only deprived Cavendish and Burke of their lives, but it deprived Ireland of the little liberty that was left her; it crushed her hopes, intensified the hatred of the English Government against her people, and drew the chain of oppression and slavery tighter around their necks. Two unoffending officials were foolishly launched into eternity, and, in consequence, an innocent people was cruelly thrown back to a period when the will of vindictive authorities was too easily and indiscriminately backed by the scaffold and the prison. It is therefore, not only in the interests of justice that the perpetrators of this terrible crime should meet with a condign punishment; but the honor and revenge of the nation demand that these men be made to suffer the death penalty for having furnished the British Government with a pretext for unjustifiable persecution. Carey, the informer, has proved to be a most willing witness in the hands of the Crown prosecution. He was not only ready to swear to the existence of a conspiracy for the general and indiscriminate assassination of obnoxious officials, to identify each and every one of the twenty-two prisoners charged with the murder of Cavendish and Burke, and to detail in the minutest manner the part taken by each in the commission of the crime, but he displayed the utmost anxiety and eagerness to implicate the Land League, the Fenian Brotherhood, the Parliamentary Party and the National Press, and to fasten the odium and responsibility of the foul crime upon them. Carey has evidently testified too much, and the command of the Castle has become patent in the extended revelations of its spy. The prosecution have by their detective dexterity and wrangling of Carey made him overstep the mark. If he had confined himself to swearing away the lives of his dupes who were charged with the murder, there would have been limit to the horror and execration of the civilised world, but when this villainous assassin attempted to make the national bodies and institutions of Ireland father the abominable crime, he invoked the wrath and curse of the Irish race upon his head. The Crown counsel asked Carey what determined him and his gang of cut-throats to murder the dead officials. Carey, who had rehearsed his answer to this question with the Crown counsel in private, said, as he produced a copy of the *Freeman's Journal*, that an article in that paper spoke of the desirability of a thorough change in the officials at the Castle, which was an Augean stable, and that it was after reading this article that he and his fellow-conspirators decided to murder Burke. This is as clear a piece of perjury as his foul mouth could utter. Carey had sworn a few minutes before that the object of the Society was the extirpation and murder of all Castle officials. Now this article of the *Freeman* was written a long time after Carey and his confederate had already sworn to kill all obnoxious persons, Burke included. Carey, however, is not so much to blame for this perjured testimony as the prosecution who would exact and liberally reward such evidence from the most unscrupulous wretch. The Government ought to be heartily ashamed of itself in thus attempting by the most putrid channel to hold the National Press and the utterances of the representatives of the people morally and directly accountable to these results of conspiracy and violence. Is it because Parnell and his party have used plain and strong language, have called things by their right names and have endeavored to arouse their country united action in a constitutional agitation, and to awaken England herself to a sense of justice that they are to be made chargeable, on the perjured testimony of a vile informer, spy and assassin, with the atrocious massacre at Phoenix Park? If Parnell terms alien landlordism a curse to Ireland, is it to be alleged that he incites his auditors to shoot the landlords; if Davitt or the *Freeman's Journal* characterize the whole system of the British Government as an "Augean stable," are they to be set down as prompting the assassination of Cavendish and Burke? Such a contention would be simply preposterous and unjust. If it were not, one-half of the world would have to indict the other half, for under constitutional regime is the party in opposition deprived of the right of calling the party in power names of the vilest description, and of imputing to it most unworthy motives. It would be as fair and just to impute Guiteau's assassination of Garfield on the sinking of the *N. Y. Sun* as to attribute responsibility for Burke's murder to Davitt and the Dublin *Freeman*. If facts of perjury and maladministration are not to be discounted, lest in some indirect way the imputations should render themselves reputable for deeds of violence, how is the world to be enlightened and reforms to be attained, if reformers are to be prevented from giving a clear, full and telling statement of the grievances to be redressed. They next endeavored to bring disgrace upon the Land League by saying "he understood" that the Land League had supplied money to the assassins, but the counsel for defence tripped him up on the point and told him "not to mind his understanding," to make a straight perjured statement, Carey, however, did not dare to go any further.