

**AURICULAR CONFESSION.**—A meeting of the inhabitants of the county of Devon was held on Friday, at Exeter, for the purpose of petitioning the Queen to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into the alleged practice of auricular confession in the diocese of Exeter. The meeting was most fully and respectfully attended. Persons holding different opinions in religion, as well as politics, were present, including Sir John Yarde Buller, the senior M.P. for South Devon. The meeting was addressed by several gentlemen of high standing in the county, and the following petition was unanimously adopted:—"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, inhabitants of the county of Devon, members of the United Church of England and Ireland, beg humbly to approach your Majesty with every assurance of attachment to your Majesty's person and family, and of submission to your Majesty's authority, as appointed by God the Supreme Governor in these realms, over all persons, in all causes, as well ecclesiastical as temporal."—"Your petitioners, deeply attached to those pure doctrines of the Church to uphold which your Majesty's family were called to the throne, have viewed with alarm the introduction of many innovations into her services, tending, in the opinion of your petitioners, to a return to Roman doctrines and practices. Among these, your petitioners especially complain of the encouragement given to auricular confession, accompanied in some instances by the imposition of penance. Your petitioners do not deny that cases arise in which a wounded conscience may find relief in the disclosure of its griefs and difficulties to some minister of the Gospel, qualified to give instruction and consolation. But, distinct from this, your petitioners have reason to believe there exists in some parishes a systematic and almost compulsory training to the constant practice of confession; and that in some instances after confession penances have been imposed, for neither of which, it is contended, can any warranty be found either in the doctrine or discipline of the Church. Your petitioners consider that the natural tendency of such acts is to set forth the clergy so acting, not in their true Protestant character as servants of the Church, ministering in the godly edification of the people, but rather as lords over God's heritage, acquiring and exercising undue power over the consciences of men, through the knowledge of their secret sins and infirmities thus obtained. Your petitioners understand that the practices complained of have from time to time been brought before the notice of the bishops of some of the dioceses of England, but that they, nevertheless, do still prevail and are increasing, whether from the absence of sufficient power in the ecclesiastical authorities, or an unwillingness to exert that power, we carefully abstain from giving any opinion. Your petitioners look with confidence to your Majesty, as supreme ruler, both in Church and State, and humbly pray that, in conformity with the custom of your Royal predecessors, your Majesty's authority may be exercised herein, and that your Majesty will see fit to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into these practices, in order that an effectual stop may be put to them for ever within the pale of the United Church."

The *Dublin Evening Mail* says—"A society consisting of a large number of influential clergymen and laymen, has been formed for the purpose of effecting a thoroughly conservative reform in the government of the Church of England. The principal points sought to be accomplished are as follow:—That no clergyman shall hold more than one living, and that he shall be resident thereon; that every attempt to sell a presentation to a living shall be punished by confiscation of the said patronage to the parish, and every attempt to purchase a nomination shall be visited on the clerical delinquent by a deprivation of holy orders; that no clergyman shall fill the office of a civil magistrate; that all canonries, deaneries, and prebendal stalls, shall be abolished, and their revenue applied to the general purposes of the church; that the property of the church shall be administered by a board of commissioners composed exclusively of lay churchmen appointed by government, and subject on all points to the investigation of parliament. The patrons shall submit the names of six persons to the congregation, that one may be chosen therefrom as the incumbent, each of the six so nominated to perform duty one whole Sunday before the election; that all living now in the gift of the crown, bishops, and other church dignitaries, shall be withdrawn from the same, and the future occupants of the said livings be chosen by the communicant members of the congregation; that there shall be one hundred dioceses, the same to be divided passible into four districts, each district to be presided over by an archdeacon and an assistant bishop; that an annual meeting shall take place of the clergy and churchwardens in each diocese in the proportion of one-half of each, presided over by the bishop, to take into consideration the spiritual state of the diocese; a report of the same to be submitted to a general council of the church, meeting in June every year, and consisting of archbishops, bishops, and lay delegates from each diocesan synod, who shall decide on all matters of doctrine and discipline. It is also proposed that curates shall be paid £150 a year, country incumbents, £250 a year, town incumbents £350 a year, archdeacons £750 a year, bishops £2,000 a year, the Archbishop of York £4,000 a year, and the Archbishop of Canterbury £5,000 a year; that church rates, marriages, and baptismal fees, and Easter offerings, be abolished; and that the bishops shall cease their attendance in the House of Lords. The new society is to bear the name of the Ecclesiastical Reform League."

**THE ELECTION AT ETON.**—A HEAVY BLOW TO PURITANISM.—The election which has taken place of a Head Master at Eton is a much more important event than may at first sight appear. The Rev. E. Coleridge was the Lower Master, or next in order to the Head Master. He was besides an able and most successful master in ordinary school business. His scholars, generally speaking, are remarkable for their proficiency. Hence his election as Head Master was regarded by all as a matter of certainty. Yet the college has passed Mr. Coleridge over, and appointed the Third Assistant Master to be Head Master. The reason is simply this, that the Rev. gentleman being a decided Puritan, so many of his pupils had turned Catholics that his election to the Head Mastership would have nearly ruined the school in public opinion. This is a great blow to Tractarianism in Eton.—*Morning Advertiser*.

**BRUTAL CHILD MURDER IN LONDON.**—On Thursday Eliza Lawson, residing at 1, Oxford-row, Agar-town, discovered in the garden opposite her house the lifeless body of a full-grown female infant, savagely mutilated, and wrapped up in a bedgown and a piece of black cloth. It was instantly removed to the dead-

house, and, upon examination by the surgeon, it appeared that deceased's sides had been compressed together by a heavy weight, and that the bones of the skull had been flattened by the same means. In fact, the whole body was crushed like a mummy, while, as it is supposed, the body was warm, and before life was destroyed. The opinion is, that this compression of the whole body was effected by its being placed between two boards, and heavy weights put upon the upper board.—*Times*.

**THE CASE OF CRUELTY IN THE GREENWICH UNION.**—A woman named Oldham, a nurse at the Greenwich Union, was sentenced at the last session of the Central Criminal Court to fourteen days' imprisonment, for burning the hand of one of the children by closing it forcibly over a red-hot coal. The child has since died from the injuries. The woman on leaving Newgate afterwards presented herself at the union for readmission, in a state of intoxication. Yesterday afternoon Mr. C. J. Cartlar, the coroner for Kent, concluded an inquiry at the board-room of the Greenwich Union, relative to the death of the child. The proceedings created considerable interest, and the chairman and many of the board of guardians were present, as also many of the most influential of the inhabitants. After nearly an hour's absence, the jury returned into court, and the foreman announced as their verdict that the deceased had died from water on the brain, accelerated by the injury inflicted by the nurse Mary Ann Oldham. Coroner—That, gentlemen, amounts to a verdict of "Manslaughter." Is that your verdict? Foreman—It is. The coroner then issued his warrant for the committal of the woman Oldham to Newgate, and bound over the witnesses to appear at the trial.

**MURDER BY STABBING.**—The use of the knife by men when quarrelling has been so frequently in the north of England lately, that public attention has been much directed to this cowardly mode of assault. A man named Joseph Quinn, a steam loom weaver at Manchester, was thus assaulted on Friday evening last, and died on Monday morning. The offence was committed in the open street, and publicly, but under very cowardly circumstances; and, evidence of premeditation having been shown before a jury, they found a verdict of "Murder."

**SHOCKING MURDER IN CUPAR.**—It is our painful duty to record an instance of this awful crime, which has occurred in our community. The victim in this case is a boy of five or six years of age, and the perpetrator of the horrid deed is his own mother. It appears that Janet Keddle or Johnstone had been drinking hard for some days previously, and on Tuesday evening, in a drunken frenzy (irritated, it is supposed, by the refusal of the child to go for more whisky), she seized and maltreated him till the poor child died under her treatment, as he was found in bed strangled.—*Fife Herald*.

**REVOLTING ATROCITY.**—Some time late on Saturday night last, an unfortunate young woman took refuge in a common stair in Wallace Court, off Bell Street, while in an intoxicated state; and a little after twelve o'clock on Sunday morning the neighborhood was alarmed by her violent screams. The police officers and the dwellers in the house instantly proceeded to the spot, and found the clothes of the unhappy creature all in a blaze. That this was the work of some most heartless wretch is scarcely to be doubted; for in ordinary course there could be no fire near the spot where the woman lay, and, in the next place, the half-burned and crumpled remains of a large sheet of paper were found close at hand, which may be easily connected with the case as the instrument of ignition. The woman lies in the Infirmary in a hopeless state. Three persons are in custody on the charge of being concerned in this revolting atrocity.—*Glasgow Herald*.

**"SHAMEFUL SCENE IN A CHURCHYARD."**—Under this heading we (*Tablet*), find the following paragraph in the *Daily News*. We read it with indignation. It is by no means the first occasion, by many, in which the Anglican heretics have presumed to read their miserable empty services over Catholic dead, where the relatives, as in workhouses and the like, were too helpless to resist the insolent and rascally profanation. However, let these poor people be consoled. The salvation of their child is not endangered, though their feelings have been cruelly wounded and the Holy Catholic Church insulted, but it behoves us to store up such cases well in our minds, when we are told that Catholics have nothing to complain of in these countries.—"On Friday (January 21st) considerable excitement prevailed in the neighborhood of Christ-church, Broadway, Westminster, in consequence of the following occurrence:—Notice having been given to the officiating Clergyman of the above church, that a child was to be buried on Friday afternoon, the Rev. gentleman attended to read the services over the dead; but when he arrived at the grave the parents and friends of the deceased, most of whom were males, refused to allow the burial service to be read, saying that they were Roman Catholics, and the child would be damned if the Church of England prayers were repeated over it. The Clergyman told them that he would not allow the child to be buried without the necessary proceedings were gone through, and pointed out to them the usual practice adopted, from which he said he could not nor would not depart. They insisted that the body should be covered over without the prayers being offered up, and said unless the Clergyman gave orders for such to be done they would fill up the grave themselves. The Rev. gentleman still maintaining that the child should not be buried, two or three of the mourners pulled off their gloves, and seizing the spades in great anger, commenced filling up the grave, and the mother of the child standing by moaning and crying in a most piteous manner. The Clergyman ordered the spades to be taken away and the earth which had already been thrown into the grave to be removed from off the coffin. This was accomplished, after some difficulty, by the sexton and some other persons, and the matter began to assume a serious aspect, hundreds of persons having assembled round the churchyard, the Irish threatening what they would do unless the child was allowed to be buried without the Protestant service. After nearly an hour's discussion the Clergyman was allowed to proceed, but the mourners said they did not believe what he was saying, and that the child would be damned.—The grave having been filled up the whole of the friends of the deceased fell on their knees on the grave, calling on the Virgin Mary to witness that they had done all in their power to prevent the prayers from being read."

It is said that, immediately after the meeting of Parliament, Lord Palmerston intends to have the militia called out for the purpose of being formed into battalions, and then brigaded with Her Majesty's regiments on home service.

## UNITED STATES.

**KOSSUTH, alias ALEXANDER SMITH.**—We learn from the New York *Truth Teller*, that the New York City Comptroller, A. C. Flagg, Esq., has peremptorily refused the debts incurred by the Corporation for the reception of that exploded humbug, Allick Smith. It is rumored that the ex-governor intends to make a second experiment on Jonathan's gullibility. We doubt it. He must know that our critics are seldom hooked twice with precisely the same bait.

The speculators in butter have had the tables turned upon them. The farmers of the West, anticipating a great rise from the sudden demand for butter last summer raised by the speculators, held on to their butter a little too tenaciously. The article is now coming into the market in quantities, which cannot fail to put down the price very materially.—*Boston Pilot*.

A bill has been introduced into the Legislature of Michigan, providing "that any qualified teacher may establish a private school, within any district, and on presenting a certificate of the number of children taught by him, may draw his proportion of the public moneys."

**MURDER AT AMSTERDAM.**—The following are the facts, as given in evidence before the Coroner's Jury, on Tuesday morning, 8th inst., two Irishmen, of the name of Patrick King and Thomas McArdle, were returning home peaceably and quietly from Port Jackson, near Amsterdam, and were brutally waylaid and assaulted, without the smallest provocation, (save their being Irish) by a young American blood, of the name of William Cline, who struck Thomas McArdle on the head with a club, or sleigh stake, being above four feet long, and felled him to the ground in a state of insensibility, in which he died on the following day. The Coroner's Jury returned as their verdict that McArdle had been killed, or murdered by Cline, who now awaits his trial in the county jail at Funda.

**APPALLING TRAGEDY AT NEWARK, N. J.**—One of the most brutal tragedies we have ever been called upon to record, happened in Newark, on Sunday night. The *Advertiser*, of Monday, gives the following account:—A German girl, a domestic in the family of Mr. Alex. Eagles, No. 100 Orange street, left the house early last evening to visit her sister, and was found about 9 o'clock in an open lot, on the west side of High Street, near Orange, horribly beaten with sharp stones, her person violated, and nearly lifeless. An examination of the spot subsequently showed that she had been encountered by some villains, on the east side of the street, where a three sided sharp stone was found, clotted with hair and blood. A pool of blood was on the ground which also showed a depression where her head had lain, and near which her bonnet was found this morning. After the assault, she had been dragged across the street through deep mud, in which the traces were seen this morning, thence lifted over the fence, evidently showing that more than one person was concerned in the affair, and dragged still further, about 50 feet into the lot, where she lay until some neighbors, hearing groans, found her, as stated above, nearly dead. There were six cuts through the scalp, on various parts of the head, three of which were accompanied with frightful fractures, with depressions which made it necessary to remove ten or a dozen pieces of bone, varying in size from that of a sixpence to double that of a dollar.—The physicians considered the marks of violation very clear, and the fiendish manner in which her head had been battered showed a depth of depravity almost incredible in such a community as ours. The girl now lies still entirely insensible, and there is scarcely the slightest hopes of her recovery. She was hired in the family of Mr. Eagles about three months, having formerly lived in Orange, and is represented to be a girl of excellent disposition and character. She was very strong and stout, and the physicians think she was capable of resisting more than one person, unless of uncommon muscular strength. No clue has yet been found to the perpetrators of this inhuman outrage. The girl's name is Catherine Schenella, aged 24 years.—*N. Y. Sun*.

**PROTESTANTISM IN THE UNITED STATES.**—REV. THEOPHORE PARKER.—The *Advertiser* republishes from the *Traveller* an article on Parker. Speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, Parker says—"He is my best historic idea of human greatness, not without errors, not without the stain of his times; and I presume, of course, not without sins; for men without sins exist in the dreams of girls, not in real fact; you never saw such a one, nor I, and we never shall." The critic in the *Traveller* gives several specimens of Parker's atheistical language. Whereupon the *Advertiser* remarks—"We have occasionally alluded to what is called the preaching of Theodore Parker, at the weekly Sunday meetings which assemble in this city to hear him. Two of his discourses, one delivered on the occasion of taking leave of the late place of meeting of his congregation, and the other on that of taking possession of a new one, have been lately published, in which his views in relation to the Bible, and the Christian religion are explained. We publish to-day, from the *Evening Traveller*, a fuller notice of the contents of these discourses, than we have ourselves had leisure to prepare. We of course have no disposition to encourage the circulation of such publications as these. But when such doctrines as are here professed and are publicly inculcated every Sunday, from what is called the pulpit, in this city, it is proper that the people generally should know something of the character and tendency of such preaching, and the sort of instruction which is sought by those who assemble there to hear it." We think that it would be somewhat difficult for our neighbors of the *Traveller* and *Advertiser* to give a straight forward answer to the following questions. 1. By what authority do you condemn Parker? Your own? In what respect is your authority better than his? By the common sense of the community? He appeals to it, also, and certainly, his audience is as respectable, in point of number, wealth, intelligence and influence, as any audience of your own. Where are you to get a judge of the "common sense of the community?" which will be accepted as a judge by both parties? Your juries would be discharged, one after the other, and the perpetual verdict would be,—We can't agree. What is his fault? Is it not that in the investigation of the Protestant humbug, he forgets human respect, and that in the treatment of the principles which he learned from yourselves, he pursues an eternal logic? Is it a crime with you to be a hero, a worshipper,—worse, a man-worshipper,—worst, fallen man-worshipper, and to be a logical, consequential reasoner? It would seem so. Rev. Theodore Parker may not be the most lovable minister in Boston, but he is the most respectable Protestant minister we know.—*Boston Pilot*.

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Montreal, 24th February, 1853.

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(By Order)

R. P. REDMOND,  
Secretary.

Montreal, Feb. 2nd, 1853.

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July 2nd, 1852.