

“ASSASSINATION.”—The Secret Circular.—We have given this document *in extenso*, because we believe no worse punishment could be awarded to its authors than publicity. It is evidently adopted for the bigger-mugger of privacy. We can fancy how the concoctors would lift up their eyes when inspiring a pious horror into the breasts of their old lady correspondents, and how astonished they have been at their sentiments being fairly exposed to the public gaze. It is rarely that any complete exposure of such bigotry gets into print. We do not find its exemplars in platform speeches and leading articles. Over all these—even the most virulent—there is a shade of reserve. Being public, and liable to be met or confuted, there is a certain amount of caution in the utterance. The full fling is only taken in private, when the villanies of Papists, of Popish priests and Romanist plots can be fully and unreservedly discussed. In private the unfounded insinuation is powerful; in private the ear, well prepared by a hot feeling of sectarian prejudice, is filled with the monstrosities attributed to Catholics. Of this practice of poisoning the bigoted mind we have a fair specimen in the circular. The catchword is well adopted—“Assassination,” “Self-preservation.” An appeal to hatred and to selfishness—an awakening of sensation, and a recommendation to take care of yourself—is a sure card amongst the melodramatic efforts of the missionary societies. Then the thing commends itself, too, by its hearty and scarce disguised cruelty. The idea of turning a batch of servants out of one’s employment is really a sort of martyrdom for the Protestant faith. To be sure, it is the servant endures it, but we know martyrdom is by no means the more disagreeable because it is borne by others. Indeed, there are people who earn the reputation of philosophers merely by the calmness with which they bear the misfortunes of their friends. Why should not martyrdom be equally admirable, even when vicariously suffered? The appeal to landlords to get rid of their Catholic tenants is only asking a large number of persons to do exactly what they would most dearly wish. We know that it is not very long since a gentleman who had extensive glens well adapted for shooting, but impeded by a dense population, found an assassination convenient to his hand, which afforded him sufficient pretext for desolating the country side. There are, in truth, a very large number of country gentlemen who would be glad to follow his example, and would find the “instinct of self-preservation” a welcome enough excuse, if there were not other reasons to counterbalance, amongst which is the fact—or at least what we believe to be the fact—that landlords generally don’t find eviction to pay. Cattle feeding may be a pretty good thing to make money, but on the whole there are no animals found to pay so well as the wretches who toil for the landlord night and day, and whom he is under no necessity of feeding. In this case expediency gets the better of intolerance; so will it in the other cases where the good nature of the “Employment Society” would busy itself in flinging Papists out of bread. Fortunately, too, there is another security amongst the better part of the Protestant population, in the growing disgust which such societies, and the bigotry by which they are kept alive, have inspired. The circular we have quoted is unquestionably conceived in a spirit of the most malignant bigotry, but we can hardly believe—especially now that it has been made public—that its practical effects will be other than contemptible.—*Cork Examiner.*

The Protestant population of Armagh were considerably disturbed and excited during Aug. 15 by rumors which reached town that it was the intention of the Ribbon party of the rural districts to march through Armagh during the night. This feat they accomplished some time ago; but, as might be expected, a strong section of the Protestants became aroused by the report of a second visit, and made preparations to meet, and, if necessary, drive back their “hereditary foes.” The rumor turned out to be correct, for at nine o’clock on Saturday night, August 15, a large party, believed to be of the Ribbon party, armed, and accompanied by music, marched into Irish street, but did not venture further, and thereby a collision between the two parties was avoided.—*Cur. of Irish Times.*

That Ireland abounds in mineral deposits, as widely diffused and just as rich as those of England, we very few at this stage of the world doubt. But to raise the mineral from the earth in which it lies concealed from mortal sight, and reduce it to a form in which it may be applied to industrial purposes, requires a combination of circumstances which may be summed up in one word—Repeat of the Union. We want capital, industrial enterprise, knowledge, and a few other ingredients which a Legislature takes great pains to keep at a distance from us, as a commercial nation that same Legislature admits of no competitor for England, at home or abroad, where force, fraud, or chicane may prevail. With abundance of the finest iron stone, fully equal to the celebrated black bank of Glasgow, we are compelled to import iron from England, because owing to the Union, we are not in a condition to try our strength with her in this branch of industry. The lead and copper mines of Ireland have long been a source of employment to the people and of profit to the managed interests. Of copper we have an unlimited supply in the range of mountain coast stretching from Bangor to Teamore, in far-famed County Wicklow, not to speak of the abundance in the South-Western portions of Cork and Kerry. What impedes our progress in the extraction of these precious minerals? The blighting Union. The total quantity of Irish copper ore sold for smelting in Swansea, some thirty years ago, amounted to 21,819 tons. At present the quantity raised does not exceed that amount by more than five or six tons. Why? We have already given the answer. Lead is more extensively diffused throughout Ireland than copper. We have noble veins in Wicklow, Clon, Wexford, and County Down, many of which have been partially worked with profit to the parties by whom they were opened. Certain it is, therefore, that to render the rich mineral stores of Ireland available, nothing is required but capital, combined with energy and prudent management; and it is equally clear that while a foreign Legislature manages our affairs, the means alluded to cannot be expected.—*Mayo Telegraph.*

ST. PATRICK AND VENOMOUS CREATURES IN IRELAND.—This subject has been so fully discussed in “N and Q,” 1st S., that the question may well be considered to be set at rest. Canon Dalton has, however, two queries on the subject: first, as to the fact of so venomous reptiles existing now in Ireland; and secondly, as to the real derivation of the popular tradition. As to the first, he answers himself, by assuring us that all the people, he says, declare that none are venomous. By serpents I presume he means snakes, which are certainly there. As to frogs and toads, there are not venomous, though a foolish prejudice attributes venom to the latter. I have kept several toads, and made many experiments upon them, and my firm conviction is that they are perfectly harmless. Eirionnach (1st S. 11. 409) gives instances of an unsuccessful importation of frogs into Ireland, but also mentions snakes as flourishing in the county of Down. Another correspondent, Mr. W. Pinkerton (1st S. 17. 122), maintains that though the snake is not indigenous to Ireland, there is nothing in either the soil or climate to prevent its naturalization. He also mentions that the species of toad called water-jack is found about Killarney. In a second communication (1st S. 17. 422), Eirionnach considers the true origin of the introduction of frogs into Ireland to have been the importation of spawn from England, about the beginning of the last century, by Dr. Gwyther. It seems, then, certain that frogs, toads, and snakes are found in Ireland; but we have no evidence that adds, otherwise called vipers, are there except from Canon Dalton’s own information. But, secondly, as the popular tradition, that St. Patrick, by his benediction, exempted Ireland from venomous reptiles. This is satisfactorily

disposed of by the testimony of a writer long before St. Patrick’s time, Julius Solinus who writes thus in his *Polyhistoria*, c. xxii., towards the close of the first century—“*Illic (Hibernia) nullus anguis, aris raris, genus inhospita et bellicosus.*” This is quoted by C. H. in “N and Q,” 1st S. vi. 590. There appears, therefore, no solid foundation for applying the legend of St. Patrick to reptiles of any kind; and the preferable conclusion seems to be, that his having driven out the ‘old serpent’ by his preaching and labours, was in course of time taken in a literal sense. It is well known to archaeologists, that to other saints is attributed the expulsion of serpents, merely from their spiritual triumphs, or the success of their apostolic labours. I may instance St. Guth-lake, Didymus, Hilary of Arles, Hilary of Poitiers, and Pirmianus. The legend of St. George and the Dragon is traced to a similar origin; and the tradition of the preservation of Malta from venomous reptiles arose very naturally from the account of what befel St. Paul in that island. A remark of Eirionnach, however, in his first communication deserves attention. The symbol, he remarks, may have had a deeper meaning, if, as many think, serpent worship existed in early times in Ireland.—“P. O. H., in *Notes and Queries.*”

SHOOTING OCCURRENCE NEAR BAGINASTOWN.—A frightful occurrence took place on Wednesday last at Sigguff, near Baginastown, resulting in the death of a young child. It appears the Eliza Kelly, the child’s mother, was proceeding along the railway with the infant in her arms, when she met a man named Patrick Borris. Immediately on perceiving him she cried “here is your child,” and at the same moment fell it lying across the rails. Borris, not wishing to be taunted in such a manner, and at the same time fearing lest the child should be injured, ran to the police barrack, to make information about the occurrence, thinking also that by going away the young woman would be induced to take away the child from its perilous situation. She however, followed him to the barracks, leaving the child where she had placed it; and in the absence of both parties, the train from Borris, due in Carlow at halfpast seven, came up, and, running over the body, cut it right in two. The next day the coroner held an inquest on the body, and on his warrant both parties were lodged in the county jail, as both were accessory to the death of the child. We believe they will stand their trial at the next assizes.

APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF FRANCIS BRADLEY.—An application was made on Monday to Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, sitting in chamber, to admit to bail Francis Bradley, who was tried at the last Donegal assizes for the murder of Adam Grierson, when the jury were discharged without a verdict. Mr. Macdonogh, Q. C., in support of the application, read an affidavit made by the prisoner, in which he swore that at the time of the murder he was three miles away from the scene of the crime; that his identification by the deceased was the result of mistake; that Miss Campbell, one of the witnesses for the crown, had an interest in procuring his conviction, and her evidence was therefore unworthy of credit; and that if he had had any desire to injure the deceased he could have frequently done so with impunity, as he recklessly and intemperately habits of the latter left him continually open to attack. He further stated that, a short time previous to the murder he resided at Grierson, when dead drunk, from a position of great danger, and that several most respectable persons were willing to put in bail to any amount for him. Sergeant Sullivan for the Crown, resisted the application, on the ground that there was sufficient evidence against the prisoner to justify his being again brought to trial, and that if he were set at liberty no amount of bail would insure his appearance. Judge Fitzgerald, without pronouncing any opinion as to the prisoner’s guilt or innocence, said he would make no rule on the motion, leaving him, if so advised, to renew the application to the full Court next term. The prisoner, though a very poor man, was defended on his trial by special counsel and a numerous bar. Such legal assistance could not be obtained without great expense, which he inferred was defrayed by subscription. It was therefore very probable that the prisoner would make his escape, confidently trusting that the same means would be adopted to reimburse his sureties.—*Times.*

THE FLOUNDER.—This vessel appears to have left the Irish coast, most probably for one of the French dockyards, where she will be repaired and her bottom cleaned.

The *Coleraine Chronicle* gives an account of the capture of a large snake, about five feet in length, in Ballyreath Bay lately by two parties who were bathing.

DUBLIN, Thursday Morning.—Dr. Whately, Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, lies dangerously ill. His Grace has got gangrene in one of his feet, and his condition is very precarious. Should the attack prove fatal, another rich living drops into the gift of the Government, following quickly on the vacancies in the See of Cork, Killaloe, Kilmora, and Armagh. From Dr. Whately’s advanced age, now in his seventy-seventh year, but still more from the declining state of his health for the past ten years, there is little prospect of his recovery. His Grace was appointed by Earl Grey to the See of Dublin in 1831, and in 1847, on the death of Dr. Lindley, succeeded to the additional See of Killaloe. He is Archbishop and Primate of the Southern half of Ireland, enjoys immense ecclesiastical patronage, and his net income is set down at £7,636. More than doubts exist as to his Protestant orthodoxy, especially as to the doctrine of the Trinity, eternity of punishment, marriage, the mission of a Church, and other grave questions, and his low opinions of the authority of the authorized version of the Scriptures further tend to estrange many Protestants from him. In private life he is liberal and benevolent, but for the last fifteen years or so he closely allied himself with some of the worst sections of the proslavery party. He was one of the first members of the National Board of Education, and on the retirement of the Duke of Leinster therefrom, he was Chairman, or President of the Commission up to 1855, when he retired from the Board, or, as he himself preferred declaring it, was “dismissed.” His Grace, aided by the Rev. Dr. Canalis, a Scotch Presbyterian minister, who, for the last seven years, held a place on the Board, and by the late Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, brought out four parts or volumes of a new translation of the Scriptures; two volumes being from the Old and Two from the New Testament; intending to follow up the work until it would embrace nearly the whole Bible; which volumes, under the name of “Scripture Extracts,” were extensively circulated and largely used in the National Schools, those under Catholic as well as those under Protestant. Dr. Whately also wrote two little volumes, entitled “The Evidences of Christianity,” and which formed part of the religious cyclopaedia of the National Schools. Manuals on “Money Matters,” and “On Reasoning,” were drawn up by him; and of the whole series of eight Class or Reading books, six were either written or edited by his Grace or members of his family. The very head-lines or copy books used in the schools are taken from a collection of Proverbs by him; and at the head of every school hangs a large sheet, called the “General Lessons,” being a brief sermon, or exhortation, drawn up by his Grace, for recitation upon the minds of all the pupils. Singular position to occupy, in relation to the education of the Catholics of Ireland! He presided over the Board that framed the Rules and administered the System; he wrote most of the manuals of a religious or of a moral character, and he influenced the appointment of more of the inspectors, professors, and higher officers, than any other member of the Commission. In fact, Dr. Whately, from 1831 up to 1853, was himself the National System. In 1853, he happened to visit OConnell Model School, when he found that the Head Inspector of that establishment had not introduced the use of the “Scripture Lessons,” or of his Grace’s

“Evidences of Christianity.” Of this omission Dr. Whately complained in a letter to the Board, and from which a protracted correspondence arose between the Board, himself, and the Catholic Head Inspector. Dr. Whately’s books were struck off the list, and this step led to his resignation in 1853, Baron Greene and Chancellor Blackburn retiring with him from the Commission. An angry warfare continued till 1854, when Dr. Whately’s friends brought the matter before the House of Lords, on which a select committee was appointed to inquire into the working of the National System, but Dr. Whately’s party was worsted in the evidence so far as those transactions were concerned.—*Cur. of Weekly Register.*

THE IRISH LANGUAGE IN DUBLIN.—We extract the following advertisement from the *Galway Express* in order to show the estimation in which our native tongue is held by certain members of the higher classes in Dublin. “Irish children’s maid.”—Wanted by a family resident in Dublin, a respectable girl of clean and industrious habits to take charge of three children, she will be required occasionally to assist the household. A thorough knowledge of the Irish Language will be indispensable, as she will have to teach the children their prayers and to speak to them only in her native tongue. Apply personally at the Railway Hotel, Galway, on Tuesday, August 5th—expenses paid to Dublin.” The inserter of the above advertisement is evidently anxious that his children should obtain a knowledge of their country’s language, a thing not easily to be acquired in Dublin where it is almost a foreign tongue. He accordingly takes the surest means for accomplishing his purpose, which is plain he considers of importance; nor is he afraid of his children’s English accent being spoiled. Are there not many who speak three or four languages, each with its own peculiar accent? But it happens from the unfortunate circumstances in which our country has been and is still placed, that it is mostly the uneducated who speak Irish, and then in speaking English pronouncing words with what is known as the ‘the Brogue,’ a popular fallacy has arisen, viz. the acquiring of the Celtic accent tends to injure that of a person speaking English. Experience has proved to us that such an opinion is erroneous, as in the highlands of Scotland better English is spoken than in the lowlands; it is with the Irish speaking people of Ireland that is those who are educated and having mixed in respectable society, there is less ‘Brogue’ in their English than in the majority of the people of Leinster or Tipperary. We beg to assure our readers that in making these observations relative to the Irish language we are not actuated by any blind prejudice in its favor, but it is our duty as a public journalist to endeavor to remove a false impression injurious to the Irish language, which has been sought to be made by those who are anxious to extirpate every trace of nationality from our land. There is no reason why an Irishman should not learn to speak, read, and write his native language as well as a Dutchman or a Hindoo. Again why should a man not know two languages equally well, or three, or even four? Such is the case in countries where the inhabitants are not more intelligent than they are in Ireland. It will not prevent an Irishman from acquiring a good knowledge of English to speak Irish, but will rather tend to perfect him in it, just as a knowledge of Latin facilitates the study of Greek.—*Connaught Patriot.*

A NOTED LUNATIC.—On Saturday morning a man was observed on the railway bridge, Khyber Pass, Dalkey, apparently in a dying state, from weakness and exhaustion. His breathing was very short, and he seemed scarcely able to answer any question. His apparently desperate condition attracted the attention of several persons. A physician was sent for, and in a short time a sum of £500 was collected for him. The receipt of the money seemed to produce a magical effect, and, gradually recovering the use of his limbs, the man pocketed the money and walked leisurely to the station, paid for a ticket, and was speedily on his way to Dublin before his benefactors became fully aware how completely they had been duped and defrauded. It appears that the same individual had been brought up several times before magistrates for similar impositions, and was punished by fourteen days’ imprisonment on each occasion. He is stated by a publican in the neighborhood to be one of his best customers, his daily consumption being four or five pints of porter.

PATRIOT ACCIDENT.—SACRIFICIUM OF A DOG.—An inquest held on Tuesday at Graigue Upper, near Danesfort, on the body of a girl, aged 13, named Alice Morrison, who met her death in a very shocking manner. Her father, a laborer, named James Morrison, had been at work in roofing stones out of the quarry bank at Ballydy, and his wife and another child named Mary, besides the deceased, were engaged under a bank seven feet in height picking the stones raised by the man. The latter was in the act of lighting his pipe, standing close to the bank, when the earth gave way, catching him only by the legs and one arm, but completely burying his wife and children. He extricated himself speedily, and gave an alarm, and fortunately his wife and daughter Mary were extricated shortly, the former receiving some contusions, but the latter escaping without injury. The body of the deceased was not come out for half an hour, and when taken out of the *body*, it was found to be extinct. It was stated by a witness that a dog had kept rooting immediately over the head of the girl Mary, and that, on the face being exposed, he scraped with his paw the clay out of her mouth, before she had recovered her senses.—*Kilkenny Moderator.*

THE GALWAY LINE AND THE NORTH.—More than ordinary interest is felt, we understand, amongst the merchants and manufacturers of this town and district in the resuscitation of the Galway Company. Since the suspension of the company’s operations by the government cancelling the contract, a new route has been opened from the North of Ireland to Galway, Goods and passengers will no longer go via Dublin, but will take the direct line of the Ulster Railway through Armagh, Monaghan, Clones, and Cavan, joining the midland Great Western Railway at Mullingar, and proceeding thence to Galway. As the steamers will usually sail on Tuesdays, it is intended we believe to run a goods train from Belfast to Galway by this route on Sundays, and on Mondays an express train, carrying passengers, will make the distance in about five hours. In all likelihood, therefore, a considerable trade will be done in passengers and goods from this district, the connexion between the North and the West being now so much improved. It is probable, also, that shippers in Scotland and the northern counties of England will use this route. To show its advantages in this respect, we may mention that passengers may start from Glasgow at seven o’clock in the evening, reach Belfast at three on the following morning, leave Belfast at eight, and arrive in Galway at one o’clock in the afternoon in time for the packet. So far, then, as the north of Ireland, Scotland, and the north of England are concerned, the Galway Company commences operations under much more favorable auspices than before; and we have no doubt that Messrs Charley and Malcom, the agents of the company for this town and locality, will do their utmost to meet the public requirements. The train from this to Galway on Monday is likely, we understand, to carry a large number of passengers, who are anxious to see for themselves something of the company’s arrangements. We are informed also that the chairman and vice-chairman of the company will arrive in Belfast on Sunday, and proceed in the experimental train on Monday, they being desirous of aiding in the full development of the resources of this district and the new route to which we have referred.—*Northern Whig.*

We are sorry to learn that the O’Connell statue for Ennis has not yet been given up to Mr. Considine, the artist now claiming more than the £100 which Mr. Considine undertook to pay.

GREAT BRITAIN.
CATHOLICISM IN LONDON.—Nothing can be more gratifying than to witness the steady revival in the metropolis of those Catholic foundations which the wants of an ever-increasing population require. In spite of penal laws and of bigotry and intolerance in their most obnoxious form, the Catholics of England are making extraordinary exertions to build churches and religious houses—not so gorgeous, indeed, as those which once dotted the landscape when England was indeed the ‘Land of Saints,’ but numerous enough and imposing enough to show that the old faith of Christendom still animates a considerable section of the people. But a few months since a fine church was erected in Hatten Garden, for the especial benefit of the Italian community. A less aspiring building has since been raised in Marylebone, and in a few weeks a magnificent church will be consecrated in a place of historic interest. On the North side of Great Ormond-street, to Queen-square, stands the Hospital of Saint Elizabeth, the only Catholic institution of the kind in London, and beside it has been reared a Catholic church, which, when completed, will be one of the handsomest in the metropolis.—*Freeman.*

A CATHOLIC NOBLEMAN SUMMONED FOR CHURCH-RATES.—At Billerica Petty Sessions, on the 11th inst. (before Major Spilly and T. M. Bedford, Esq.), Lord Peter had been summoned by Mr. E. D. Mee, one of the churchwardens for the parish of Great Burstead, for the non-payment of a church-rate amounting to £1 1s. 2d. Mr. Rawlings, solicitor, of Romford, appeared for his Lordship, and objected to the validity of the rate, on the ground of the visitation fees, the expenses of the same and the expenses of signing the rate being included in the Church-rate and expressed his Lordship’s intention to dispute the validity of the rate in the Ecclesiastical Court, which at once removed the case from the jurisdiction of this bench.—*Essex Paper.*

A man named Garraty is in custody at Liverpool charged with the murder of Mr. George Bell Booth, an Irish magistrate, in 1845. The evidence against him is that of a woman who says that he confessed the crime to her.

PRISONERS MINISTERED ACT.—The first application to be appointed Catholic Prison Chaplain, under the terms of the Act past last Session, was made to the magistrates of the West Riding on Tuesday, when the Rev. J. Baron applied to be appointed chaplain in the West Riding prison department. The consideration of the application was postponed.

A circumstance has occurred this week which affords satisfactory evidence of the decline of Garibaldism in London. An Italian anarchist named Nanni thinking to drive a profitable trade upon English prejudice, opened an exhibition in St. James’s Hall, in which he professed to display the instruments of torture to which, according to Mr. Gladstone’s calumnious pamphlet, the subjects of the late King of Naples were subjected in the prisons of that country. At one period, and that a not remote one, such an exhibition would have made his fortune. But John Bull has learned wisdom from experience, and Signor Nanni’s speculation turned out a dead failure. Having no means to pay for the room, and ruin staring him in the face, the wretched creature blew his brains out at his lodgings, and by a curious coincidence the woman who co-operated with him in the vile attempt to gull the public by the exhibition of sham torture, called to see him at the moment of his suicide.—*Weekly Register.*

We presented our readers some time since with a picture of English morality as evidenced by the number of infanticides annually committed in that civilized country. We now offer them a postscript to that article in the shape of a summary of the English coroner’s returns, by which we learn that during the last year 39,561 inquests were held in England—19,198 on males and 6,923 on females. There were 221 verdicts of murder; 207 of manslaughter; 1,284 of suicide; 2,429 of found dead; 157 of death from want, cold, and exposure; 6,002 inquests were held on children under seven years of age, and of these 1,097 were on illegitimate children; 3,239 inquests were held on children not more than a year old, of whom 859 were illegitimate. Verdicts of wilful murder were returned in 124 instances, more than half of which related to children. Do the Commissioners of ‘National’ Education in Ireland deem the bitterest sarcasm when they make our Irish youths sing their thanks to Providence for having made each one of them a ‘happy English child?’—*21st Inst. News.*

THE SPIRIT OF A DEAR WIFE AND A MOTHER.—An enthusiastic believer in the efficacy of a certain spiritual performance to which he could testify, and among other things he said that on one occasion the spirit of his wife, who had been about several years, returned to him, and sitting beside him, laid his knee, put her arm round him and kissed him, much to his gratification, as she used to do when living. “You do not mean to say,” remarked the sceptic, “that the spirit of your wife truly embraced and kissed you?” “No, not exactly that,” replied the believer, “but her spirit took possession of a female medium, and through her embrace and kisses me.”

THE LAST ABOUT JESSIE M’LACHLAN.—There is such a process as moral visitation, and to that nature Jessie M’Lachlan has been handed over. She is no longer Mrs. M’Lachlan; she is simply number 386-21 in Perth Prison. The horror of her situation, the hopelessness of her existence, the recollection of a great crime—the sense, it may be, of a yet more cruel wrong—was enough to disturb the vision of a strong woman, even if no other cause of misery were added to her many sufferings. But, day by day, it seems that this creature, with a number by a name, is persecuted with attempts to wring from her some admission which may strengthen the possibility of Mr. Fleming’s innocence. Solicitors, agents, governors, chaplains, and Scripture-readers, appear to devote their minds to laying snares for her detection. With respect to the regular advisers of the Fleming family, they are of course doing their duty in looking no chance which may improve their client’s position. It may, too, for aught we know, be reckoned part of a Scotch prison official’s functions to pestle, or buffet, or frighten or his prisoners into an acknowledgment of the justice of their punishment. We know that it is so in France. Only the other day a poor French woman pleaded guilty to a murder which had never been committed, simply in order to escape the perpetration to which she was subjected in prison through her refusal to confess. In Germany every device for working upon a prisoner’s nerves is thought allowable, and any artifice is employed to entrap him into an unguarded statement. Happily, this system is not tolerated with us, and we hoped it had not been so across the Tweed. But even in a Scotch jail we can scarce believe that Scripture-readers are allowed to act as private inquisitors, and to report those investigations to the authorities of the jail. If there is one profession which ought to be pure and above reproach, it is that of a prison visitor. Our Scripture-readers should be honored and trusted as fully as the Sisters of Charity are in countries where the Catholic faith prevails. They go upon an errand of love and mercy, to heal the sorrows of the broken-hearted, and to give some glimpse of Heaven’s goodness to those who have erred and gone astray. Such, however, is not the opinion of a certain Miss Fleming, a Scripture-reader in Perth prison, under whose ministrations it has been the misfortune of Jessie M’Lachlan to fall. This lady, according to her own account, first beguiled the woman, to whose spiritual wants she went to minister, into a statement which, taken alone and without the context, might by some stretch of ingenuity be constructed into an indistinct acknowledgment of guilt; and then refused to listen to the explanation which might have rendered the chance phrase intelligible; and finally publishes the admission for the benefit of Mr. Fleming, in whose innocence Miss Bishop is a firm believer. Really

this is too bad. Let jailers, lawyers, and policemen try, if they like, to extort some statements to her own detriment from the lips of the unhappy woman who has fallen to their tender mercies; but for Heaven’s sake let us have no more of a lady Scripture-reader acting as an amateur detective. Our Law does not admit of moral torture. ‘I feel something,’ said Jessie M’Lachlan to her persecutors, ‘as if I would go through these prison walls. I often think my mind will give way.’ Surely there are other ways by which the partisans of Mr. Fleming may establish his innocence, if that be possible, than by torturing this poor creature into some garbled admission in his favor. Let them show, as they have never done yet—what his character was—what his relations were with his family, his servants, and the murdered woman—and they will do more to clear his name than by recording every doubtful expression, twisted none knows how, from a woman half crazed with misery.—*Daily Telegraph.*

UNITED STATES.
CONSCRIPT CLERGYMEN.—Since the conscription act has begun to be enforced throughout the country, there have been numberless instances of the strong attachment existing between the Catholic pastor and his flock. Without any solicitation upon the part of the conscript clergyman (which, by the way, is a strange term, scarcely to be understood in these days of boasted religious enlightenment) their congregations have nobly contributed the amount necessary for exemption, and sometimes more than the amount. Rev. P. M. Curvey of Johnstown, Cambria county, in this State, was conscripted, and was agreeably surprised to receive from his zealous parishioners, a short time after, the full sum necessary to free him from the shackles so repugnant to him as a man of peace and gentleness. We believe the Rev. Mr. O’Hara of Norristown, who was among those drafted in that thriving borough, was also the recipient of a similar flattering compliment.—*Philadelphia Catholic Herald.*

Some of the Federal Government organs assert that as soon as the present draft has been concluded another draft will be ordered. The first draft will scarcely add 50,000 effective men to the arms in the field.

The following paragraph descriptive of chained gangs of free and sovereign citizens is taken from the New York Herald:—

The Chain-gangs of Glory.—The newspapers are full of items like the following:—

“A file of conscripts and deserters was marched down the avenue to-day, chained together and handcuffed.”

Deserters must of course be punished for deserting; and conscripts, who are indolent enough not to receive, as the administration organs constantly assure us, that conscripts do nothing, at being conscripted, may perhaps be handed into a happier state of mind. But it must be admitted that there is something rather grotesque in the spectacle of soldiers of the Union marching in chains to liberate the slaves of rebels.

LAURENS’ CORPUS.—The following is from an American paper. The narrative is interesting and speaks for itself. The moral is plain and worthy to be studied. Henry Laurens was President of the Continental Congress in 1779. In 1780 he was sent as Minister to Holland. On his way he was captured and imprisoned in the Tower of London for fourteen months. When Lord Shelburne became Premier, Laurens was brought up, on *habes corpus*, and released, he was treated with great kindness and respect by the British authorities. He dined with Lord Shelburne. After dinner, the conversation turned on the separation of the two countries. Lord Shelburne remarked:—“I am sorry for your people.” “Why so?” asked Laurens. “They will lose the *habes corpus*,” said Laurens. “Yes,” said Lord Shelburne. “I purchased it with centuries of wronging, many years of fighting, and had it confirmed by at least fifty Acts of Parliament. All this taught the nation its value; and it is being ingrafted into their creed, as the very foundation of their liberty; that no man or party will ever dare to trample on it. Your people will pick it up and attempt to use it; but, having cost them nothing, they will not know how to appreciate it. At the first great internal feud that you have, the majority will trample upon it, and the people will permit it to be done, and so will go your liberty.”—*Published Journal of Henry Laurens.*

CONSCRIPT CLERGYMEN.—By the action of some of our clergyman, and with the approval of our good Bishop, Catholic education this week makes another step in advance. Several good Sisters of the religious body known as the Sisters of Providence, are to arrive from Baltimore, and to locate in the house 439 Lombard street, where they will open a school for the instruction of the children of color. These Sisters are members of the only religious society of colored people in the United States. For years they have been laboring successfully in improving the moral portion of their own race by good example and by Christian teaching; and now they generously come to our own city with the double aim upon our country of being strangers, and missionaries of Catholic truth in an important sphere. They come in that spirit of faith which entrusts everything to Providence; for although a house has been secured for them, yet it is quite wanting in the comforts and even in the necessities of a home. We beg, then, that such of our readers that are able to help the sisters, will do so by contributions of furniture, bedding, and so forth. Any offering of this or of a pecuniary nature, will be thankfully received by the sisters at St. Joseph’s, Withing’s Alley, or at the house of the sisters, 439 Lombard street. The school will open on Sunday, the 21st inst.—*Philadelphia Herald and Visitor.*

Death at the Mercy Hospital, in this city, August 27, Sister Mary Cephas Leamon. The deceased was a native of Belfast, Ireland, but was for many years a member of the Community of Sisters of Mercy in this Diocese.—*Baltimore Catholic.*

What wind should a hungry sailor wish for?—One that will blow and calm about.

HOMOEOPATHY’S SWEETENED BITTERS.—*Mushroom Intimations.*—Saves in the prevalent grade of innumerable ailments. No sooner said *Hostetter’s Bitters* made their mark in the world, than upon a host of imitations, and as the name of the great restorative grew and spread, the profane crop of poisonous imitations swelled. But the true medicine has lived them down. One by one they have disappeared. When the bellows of puffery, which kept the false line of their borrowed reputation, ceased to blow, they ceased to live, and thus they came to come and go. Meanwhile, *Hostetter’s Bitters*, the great protective and remedial tonic of the age, have progressed in popularity with each success as a means of preventing and curing the diseases resulting from malaria, unwholesome water and all unhealthy climatic influences, has been boundless; and as a remedy for dyspepsia, liver complaint, fever and ague, general weakness and debility, and all complaints originating in indigestion, they are now admitted to be superior to any other preparation ever advertised or prescribed. From the home market, which a few years ago they were confined, their sale has been extended into every State in this Union, over the whole of South and Central America, Mexico, the West Indies, the Sandwich Islands, Australia, China and Japan. Home and foreign testimony continue to show that *Hostetter’s Bitters* are the most remarkable tonic and invigorant now before the world.

Agents for Montreal, Desjars & Boiton, Lamplough & Campbell, A. G. Davidson, K. Campbell & Co., J. Gardner, J. A. Harte, H. R. Gray, and Picault & Son.