

**VOLUNTARY CONFESSION OF JAMES McDERMOTT,  
TO MR. GEORGE WALTON,  
IN THE GAOL OF THE HOME DISTRICT,**

**AT FOUR O'CLOCK ON MONDAY, THE TWENTIETH OF NOVEMBER, 1843.**

I am twenty years and four months old, and was born in Ireland, and am a Catholic. I have been six years in Canada, and was, previous to 1840, waiter on board the steamers plying between Quebec and Montreal. I enlisted into the 1st Provincial Regiment of the Province of Lower Canada, in the year 1840. Colonel Dyer was the Colonel; the Regiment was disbanded in 1842; and I then enlisted as a private in the Glengarry Light Infantry Company, and we were stationed at Coteau du Lac; the Company consisted of seventy-five men. I did not serve as a private in the Regiment, but was servant with the Captain Alexander Macdonald; the Company was disbanded 1st May this year. I had been in the Company just twelve months; after being discharged, I came up to Toronto seeking employ; I lived in the City for some time at various places, upon the money I had saved during the time I was in the Regiment, and I then determined to go into the country; I thought I would go in the direction of Newmarket; I set out about the latter end of June, and on my way I was informed Mr. Kinnear wanted a servant; I went to the house and saw the housekeeper, Nancy Montgomery; she hired me subject to the approval of Mr. Kinnear, when he should return home; Mr. Kinnear, when he came home, approved of what the housekeeper had done as to hiring me. Grace Marks was hired as a servant a week afterwards.

She and the Housekeeper used often to quarrel, and she told me she was determined if I would assist her, she would poison both the Housekeeper and Mr. Kinnear by mixing poison with the porridge, I told her I would not consent to any thing of the kind. The Housekeeper Nancy, after I had been at the house a short time was overbearing towards me, and I told Mr. Kinnear I was ready and willing to do any work, and did not like that Nancy should scold me so often, he said she was the mistress of the house. I then told him I would not stop with them longer than the month. Grace Marks told me a few days before Mr. Kinnear went to town, that the Housekeeper had given her warning to leave and she told me, now McDermott, I am not going to leave in this way; let us poison Mr. Kinnear and Nancy, I know how to do it; I'll put some poison in the porridge, by that means we can get rid of them; we can then plunder the house, pack the silver plate and other valuables in some boxes, and go over to the States. I said no Grace, I will not do so. When Mr. Kinnear went to the city on Thursday, she commenced packing up some of the things, and told me I was a coward for not assisting her; she said she had been warned to leave, and she supposed she should not get her wages, and she was determined to pay herself after Mr. Kinnear was gone to the city; she said now