

"Island of Monkeys." But the ancient name of the island had the penultimate short, whereas the Spanish word for monkey is long; hence it may be more fairly premised that the word came from the Greek—*monos*, a monk, as the island was well known to have been a refuge for anchorites. To account for the modern appellation two derivatives suggest themselves. First, "Man" may with great probability be considered to be a corruption of the word *mona*, *mon*, *man*, or it may be a corruption of *manning*, a little island—by which it was known to the early Britons, and which we find Latinized into *manavia* by Orosius. The absurdity of alluding to the *Mona* of Tacitus as the present Isle of Man is ridiculous; for we are told by Suetonius that his men swam out and charged the island. Now, no one can believe that he could have persuaded even "his choicest auxiliaries, even his gallant 11th" to swim the sixty miles of water which separate "Man" from the mainland. The *Mona* of Tacitus was Anglesey, sometimes known as Southern *Mona*, also a refuge for the Druids of old, a circumstance which favours the derivation of the word from the Greek rather than the Spanish source. Darwin was by no means the originator of this theory in connection with the Isle of Man, as Snorrrwyleh, an ancient bard, traces our development from the noble simiae through the quadrumana into man.

OUR friends "over the way" have been laying claim to "Mrs. Partington" as an American invention. In reality, Sydney Smith was the first to make this personage famous, and to him its creation is generally credited. In a speech delivered at Taunton, England, on Oct. 12, 1831, on the Reform question, he said:—

I do not mean to be disrespectful, but the attempt of the Lords to stop the progress of reform reminds me very forcibly of the great storm of Sidmouth and of the conduct of the excellent Mrs. Partington on that occasion. In the winter of 1824 there set in a great flood upon that town—the tide rose to an incredible height—the waves rushed in upon the houses, and everything was threatened with destruction. In the midst of this sublime and terrible storm, Dame Partington, who lived upon the beach, was seen at the door of her house with mop and patters, trundling her mop, squeezing out the sea-water, and vigorously pushing away the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic was roused. Mrs. Partington's spirit was up. But I need not tell you that the contest was unequal. The Atlantic Ocean beat Mrs. Partington. She was excellent at a slop or a puddle, but she should not have meddled with a tempest. Gentlemen, be at your ease—be quiet and steady. You will beat Mrs. Partington.

This, so far as is at present known, is the earliest mention of Mrs. Partington, but since then she has passed over to America, and is credited with all sorts of queer sayings.

A LEADER of the Irish Republican Brotherhood has written to the *Pall Mall Budget* on "The Truth about the Fenian Murders." He frankly admits that "a certain number of assassinations committed in Ireland and elsewhere have been indirectly traceable to the Fenian organization." Previous to 1863, he says, the Fenian body never admitted the theory of assassination, and its leaders spurned the stiletto of the assassin as they would the assassin himself. Before the starting of Fenianism "Ribbonism was predominant almost everywhere throughout the land," but Fenianism broke up the Ribbon lodges and made them into I. R. B. circles. As a consequence the *Budget* writer claims that agrarian crime almost disappeared from the country. In 1865 an "Inner Circle" was formed, having for its object the "doing away" with spies and informers. "It was composed of desperate men, who had taken an oath to be loyal to one another in the extreme projects they contemplated carrying out."

In February, 1866, three or four of its members were told off to slay a Fenian brother named George Clark, who was reasonably suspected of having supplied the authorities with information which led to the discovery of the Fenian armoury at Dublin, and the seizure of arms and ammunition which were kept there awaiting the insurrection. The secret emissaries met the doomed man on the banks of the Royal Canal, Dublin, late at night, and "dealt" him several revolver shots, leaving him almost lifeless on the roadside. Shortly afterwards a policeman arrived on the scene, and with the aid of a few bystanders Clark was conveyed to the Mater Misericordie Hospital, where he expired from the effects of the wounds and injuries he had received. I remember well the night in question. A few of the other leading men of the I. R. B. who had not yet been arrested were closeted with myself discussing the prospects of the coming revolution. A rumour was in circulation that Clark was to be victimized, as he was suspected of being an informer. I told the members present that such a crime, if carried out, would be as impolitic as it was odious—impolitic because it would probably bring Ireland under the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, and fill the gaols with men whose presence shortly on a battlefield was imperatively necessary, and odious because the killing of Clark meant the execution of a man whose guilt was not proven satisfactorily enough to warrant such a punishment. At that very moment, however, the deed was being done, and in a few days afterwards what I anticipated had taken place.

It is then related how other "obnoxious" men were "removed" by the conspirators, whose plans were carried out with the certainty and almost the secrecy of the carbonari. A description of the manner in which S— was murdered concludes:

Apropos of this incident an anecdote may be not inappropriately put on record to show the animus of the Irish people against the betrayers of their brethren. S—, after having acquitted himself to the best of his abilities, paid his respects to an old and patriotic lady, a friend of mine, who had a vivid recollection of the rebellion of '98, and who heartily sympathized with the efforts that we were making to revolutionize Ireland. "I have good news to tell you, madam," said S—, with a chuckle.

"What's that?" she quietly asked. "I'm after kicking an eye out of Warner," he ejaculated. "Ah!" cried the aged dame, with bitterness, "ah! the d—l was in your foot that you didn't kick the other out too."

AN English lady has what she calls a remembrance album. She requests her friends to take a sheet of ordinary sized writing paper and, on the first page, write some poetry suitable for an album. Original poetry is preferred, but a quotation from the writer's favourite poet answers. In the second page the writer's name, address and the date are to be written. On the third page artist friends draw or paint something, but those not artistically inclined fasten ferns, flowers, or leaves, with the name of the same written underneath. Care is taken in selecting thin, delicate articles, as all others prove brittle and hard to manage when pressed. The fourth and last page is fastened to the album, which is large enough to allow a broad margin after the sheet is placed thereon.

THE following extract from an account of his crime, written by a man who had just completed a term of twenty years' penal servitude, would form excellent material for a dramatic idyl:—

She was my wife. But, only think! She left me on the night of the marriage! "Let me go with you," I said; but no, she would go by herself. I didn't know where she went for a long time after. She came back next day, and we lived for some days together. Then she went away and never came back; and I flew to drink. Soon after I saw her in the theatre with a man. They say I took out a knife and made for him; but I don't remember it; I was mad with rage and drink. Well, I shot her through the head, and that's a fact.

### THE TRUE SOLUTION OF THE SILVER PROBLEM.

A FEW months ago financial circles in England were somewhat stirred by the publication of two or three papers by Mr. Goschen, M.P., on the appreciation of gold. In these papers he endeavoured to show, first—that during a number of years past prices of staple commodities generally had been falling; and, next—that scarcity of gold was the bottom cause of the apparent decline in commodities. It was not so much that articles of merchandise were getting cheaper, as that gold, relatively to all other things, was getting scarcer and dearer. The demonetization of silver in Germany, and the establishment of a gold standard there, had been a most pronounced and particular factor in aggravating an evil which had been developing elsewhere and from other causes. Silver had been discredited as money, at the same time that the production of gold had fallen off not only relatively but absolutely. There had been an actual shrinkage in the amount of standard coin available for the world's exchanges, alongside of an enormous expansion of the world's whole traffic in buying and selling. At the very time when a large increase of coinage of the precious metals was wanted to accommodate the world's expanding commerce, the withdrawal of silver from circulation and its consequent fall in price had caused a tremendous shrinkage instead. And it was argued that the world's growing needs could be met only by devising some means of bringing silver back to its old place as a medium of exchange and standard of value. The world's whole supply of gold being miserably insufficient for the requirements of commerce, it was imperatively necessary that silver be brought into use to make up the deficiency.

In other words, Mr. Goschen proclaimed himself a bi-metallist—an advocate of both gold and silver as standards of values. Of course the *Economist* and other organs of the gold money school were "down" on him immediately; and many links of statistics long drawn out were used to show that he was wrong in his facts, and that no general fall in prices of commodities, such as he affirmed, had taken place. Some of the organs referred to said, boldly and bluntly, that, as England was a creditor nation, it was her interest to keep money scarce and prices of commodities low, and that that should be the end of it, as far as she was concerned. Admitting this to tell in favour of the single gold standard in England, it evidently tells against it everywhere else in the world, from North America to Australia, and from China to Peru.

But Mr. Goschen, who ranks high among financial authorities in England, is not easily put down; and of late many letters sustaining his position have been published in the London papers. Among them is one from Mr. H. R. Grenfell, an ex-Governor of the Bank of England, and the *Economist*, it must be said, does not appear particularly strong in reply. The subject is now before the public, and England's vast interest in India, where silver is the standard, gives it a practical importance which cannot be pooh-poohed. The United States, too, has its silver question, which is every year becoming more pressing. The growing importance of India as a commercial country, the expected opening up of the whole "dark continent," also of China—all these are circumstances showing that the world's circulating medium must be largely increased ere long, if the