

THE DEATH WARRANT OF CHARLES I.

Messrs. Thoms and F. D. Pulgrave have lately unearthed some very curious facts in relation to the Death Warrant of Charles I. It has been almost universally taken for granted of late years, owing to the influence of Carlyle, that, though the tribunal before which the hapless monarch was brought was an illegal one, the forms of law were as far as possible rigorously observed; in other words, that, though the Judges might be fanatical and the proceedings violent, there was nothing of littleness or deception about the trial. It now appears from some valuable contributions to late numbers of the *Athenæum*, that the warrant had been signed by the Judges *before* the trial was concluded. As, however, the trial dragged longer than was expected, a new warrant had to be made out. For this purpose, the old warrant was altered by erasures of dates. "Recopying would have entailed signing and sealing afresh on the part of the Commissioners who had already executed it; and that was, perhaps, not to be accomplished," because "men, who possibly repented of what they had done, might have hesitated to sign a second time." This will take many people by surprise, but will hardly astonish those who recollect the accusation of *treachery* that Lingard brings against Cromwell in the matter of the siege of Wexford—a charge which has never been disproved. Cf. Lingard, *Hist. of Engl.*, Vol. viii. App. Note SSS.

NOTES AND NEWS.

—On March 8th, the boys of the McTavish Street School gave a highly successful musical and dramatic entertainment in the Mechanics' Hall. The proceeds, which came to nearly \$100, are to go to found a school library. This is the proper place to notice the curious history of this institution. Founded six years ago as a Proprietary School in McTavish Street, after having undergone three successive changes, and failed on each occasion from various causes, (though not without having sent forth some promising pupils), it has become a brilliant success as a private school in the hands of the present proprietor, Mr. Lyall. There are more than a hundred boys at the institution, some of whom are boarders. The old name has clung to it, though no longer appropriate as its buildings are on Mansfield Street, and on the corner of Drummond and Sherbrooke.