

near winter, and there is neither foliage nor fruit, then I look up through the leafless branches, as I never could until now, and see the stars shine!"—*Sharpe's Magazine.*

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, AUG. 8, 1857.

MADEIRAINE SMITH.

A criminal trial has been recently concluded at Edinburgh, which is full of warning to youth of both sexes—to females especially—against the indulgence of licentious and unhallowed passions.—The cause may be thus briefly stated. Madeleine Smith, the daughter of a wealthy architect of Blythswood Square, Glasgow, 21 years of age, became acquainted with Pierre Emile L'Angelier, a clerk in a mercantile concern in that city, without the knowledge of her parents. It is a feature in her earlier life, that she received her education in a boarding school at a distance from home, and the absence of parental restraint may have made her wayward and prematurely self-reliant. The acquaintance inspired sudden affection, which grew into lustful desire. Frequent secret interviews between the parties appear to have resulted in the loss to the woman of all modest and virtuous reserve—a clandestine correspondence was kept up, in which the most vicious inclinations predominated—and loss of virtue followed. Filled to this depth of moral degradation, she gloried in her shame and revelled in her impure propensities. Her guilty career was effectually concealed from her friends, and her mother alone seemed to have had some vague idea that the parties were acquainted. But the eye of Omniscience was upon her—and her sin found her out. The fervor of illicit love abates, and L'Angelier comments upon her failings and peculiarities of disposition. The love of the woman cools, and she tells him so. Marriage it would appear was intended by her at the first, but from time to time was postponed, until at length a circumstance occurs, which induces her to break the connection altogether.

At this period there appears upon the scene, a merchant of Glasgow, named Minnoch, an honorable man, who with the consent of the parents, endeavoured to gain the affections of their presumed innocent daughter. The innate depravity of the woman is here conspicuously displayed. Notwithstanding the guilty connection she had formed and which still continued, she looked upon this last with an eye of favour. The acquaintance progressed, an offer of marriage was made and accepted, and the marriage day was fixed. Were it not that we are interested in tracing the gradual progress of sin to its punishment; in the hope that its fearful consequences, to body and soul, may serve to deter others from its commission, we should hesitate to follow this revolting history. In the meantime L'Angelier is informed of the new connection, and is enraged, and upbraids her inconstancy. He determines to prevent the marriage, and threatens to show her letters to her father. The invention of romance is outdone in this case by naked truth.—First she denies her new engagement, and then in passionate terms, prompted alike by fear of its failure, and of open shame, pleads for the restoration of her correspondence, and implores him not to expose her. All this makes no impression upon L'Angelier, who if he will not marry his victim, is determined that none other shall if he can prevent it. He acknowledges to a friend, however, that he is infatuated with the girl, and with a presentiment of what was soon to take place, felt assured that she would be the cause of his death.

The state of Madeleine Smith's mind, at this particular juncture, torn by the conflicting passions that her vices had excited, as seen in her letter to L'Angelier, shows that the punishment of her transgressions had overtaken her. She had sinned and her conscience was strongly awakened to the fearful extent,—but it was a perverted conscience. She sought not to make the only amends in her power to the offended law of God—she never indulged the thought of a confession to her parents—nor engrossing desire was to hide from their eyes the proof of her guilt. She did not humble herself before her Maker, but hardened her heart. Penitence and contrition were open to her even then, but all virtuous emotions were unheeded. She could estimate the sense in others of the enormity of her transgression, but it does not appear that she had the least compunction on her own account. Hers was a character in middle life, of which there are but rare examples in the pages of history. That she was a bold bad woman, needs no further proof.

than we have up to this time recorded. The measure of her guilt was not however exhausted, until she had perpetrated a crime, which although it may escape the vengeance of men, will be required at the hands of whosoever is led to its commission by the offended majesty of Heaven. She now prepared herself for a greater sin. The spirit of evil had taken possession of her heart, and held his conquest with undisputed sway. Satan placed a mirror before her, and showed her, in it what she might have been—a virtuous wife, a tender mother,—and she grasped at the reflection. Thoughts like these may have maddened her, and the juggling Fiend was at hand to soothe her soul by suggesting a means whereby she might yet maintain in the eyes of the world the semblance of a good reputation. She accepted the fearful condition, feigned a love she did not feel, the more effectually to lure her victim, and the tragedy approached its completion.

One morning on the 23d March last, L'Angelier returned to his lodgings, as it was supposed from her presence. He sank at the door in extreme pain, and without strength to turn the latch. He was conveyed to his room, the physician was called and prescribed—he called again—his patient was dead! Suspicion was excited. A note from Madeleine Smith appointing an interview, was found in his waistcoat pocket—she heard of his death and absconded, but was brought back, her plea being that she fled from her father's anger—a post-mortem examination was made of the body—the contents of the stomach were chemically tested—L'Angelier had been poisoned by arsenic! Such was the end of this libertine. It was another exemplification of the Scriptural truth, that "the wages of sin is death."

The tragedy was complete, but the ordeal of justice was still to be undergone. The trial took place at Edinburgh on the 30th June and continued 10 days. It was proved that upon several occasions, between the 19th February and the death of L'Angelier, she had purchased arsenic. Contemporaneously with these occasions, it was proved that he had been attacked with serious illness similar to what might have followed the administration of poison; but as regarded such administration the evidence fell short of positive conviction. The criminal law of Scotland does not admit circumstantial evidence as proof of guilt, and the Jury upon the count of the administration of the poison, gave a verdict of "Not Proven." As honest men they could go no further—but the words show the suspicion that was excited in their minds, as well as their regard for the oath that bound their consciences.

The bearing of the woman under the dreadful accusation was an anomaly that has perplexed many minds. Her able counsel pleaded her innocence. She quailed not before the eager gaze of the curious and excited multitude who thronged from all parts to witness the trial. The powerful will that sustained her in crime, prevented any display of feminine weakness. She neither shrunk nor blanched under the stern realities of the situation in which she was placed. Nay, many of the spectators were favorably impressed with the air of collected indifference she assumed, that looked so like innocence; as though innocence could have been unconcerned under such an array of uncontrollable circumstances; or, as if guilt does not as often manifest itself in unblushing hardihood when detected, as in craven weakness. Reckless now, she may well have been of whatever could befall her. Her good name lost—the scorn of her sex—her friends alienated—her sin evident—and no doubt of her crime in the minds of all who have heard the trial or read its description—certain as she might have been that the scrutiny of man would fail to convict her of the administration of poison—still what had she to live for. In the hardness and impenitence of her heart she may have yearned for the oblivion of death, careless of what shape it assumed, and determined to meet it as she had lived. Known to thousands who had scanned her features on the trial, in what part of the world could she expect to hide the secret of her crime. The brand of "Not Proven" upon her brow, she would go abroad with the Cain-like mark, an outcast, as like him she might have inwardly acknowledged that her "punishment was greater than she could bear." If this were her state of mind her desire even in this extremity has not been accomplished. She has been spared for a time. The mercy of God is greater than her crimes. May she obtain it in penitence and tears.

Here is an example to deter from the first promptings to sin. May our young friends read it to their profit, and early seek the grace that shall preserve them from temptation and deliver them from evil. There have been discovered at times fearful evidence of the existence of crime, springing from unruly passions, in our midst, and analogous to that of

which we have portrayed the outline,—and there are amongst us those who have not hesitated to imbrue their hands in the blood of their offspring—the offspring of sin—and who still walk abroad unsuspected and unpunished—yet not unseen by that Eye which neither slumbers nor sleeps, which marks their ways, and sooner or later will award to them a just recompense. There may be others vain, giddy, ardent, just opening in their manhood or womanhood upon the world, with whom the story of Madeleine Smith ought to bear an impressive admonition, teaching them to curb unhallowed desires, and to walk in the paths of religion and virtue. With what a trumpet voice does the end of L'Angelier speak to the libertine, the fornicator, or the adulterer, of the misery they bring upon society and upon themselves. Nor is the moral less pregnant with solemn reflection to all. It is one of those momentous cases which at times are brought to the knowledge of mankind for their especial consideration, to teach them to eschew evil and learn to do well. It is the natural result, too often lost sight of—sin and its consequent punishment. It is the visible operation of that Divine Providence, whose eye is upon all the works of the children of men, who cannot look upon sin and will in no wise spare the guilty.

The Revd. Mr. Ditcher has made an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the Ditcher & Denison case:

"The appeal is on the only point ruled by Sir J. Dodson, viz.: that the proceedings of Mr. Ditcher had not been commenced within the two years prescribed in the Act. If this is reversed by the Judicial Committee, the case will probably go back to Sir John again, for a consideration on the doctrinal points involved: and from that there will be another appeal to the Judicial Committee. So the case may be considered as good for another year yet at the least."

The late attempt at insurrection in Italy was instigated by the Italian patriot Mazzini. The plot had extensive ramifications. France and the death of the Emperor, are said to have been included in it. The usual result of want of concentration followed. It failed at every point. The attempt manifests considerable preparation, and had it been confined to one locality where success might have been insured, would perhaps have been the signal for a general uprising.

Emigration from Lower Canada to the Western States is causing the complete decimation of the population in certain districts. It is the same with Nova Scotia. Boston, New York, and the State of Maine, absorb a considerable amount of its population. In fact they get all our best men, from the premium that high civilization, high wages, and intellectual improvement, offer to minds prepared for and able to realize these advantages. We occasionally get a few of them back, when they are wanted for any important object, but they are generally not appreciated as they ought to be, and find nothing in the country of their birth to induce them to make it their home. Our population is fast becoming exotic, and still maintains its inferiority; and as a country we are really far behind most other countries, in every thing that can exalt a nation.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

A telegraph despatch was received at the Merchants' Exchange Rooms, on Wednesday last, announcing the arrival at New York, same day, of the R. M. S. *Persia*, from Liverpool, with dates to 25th ult. Subjoined is the gist of the despatch:—

Cotton has an advancing tendency. Flour dull and depressing. Wheat dull and declining. Corn Market steady. Provisions inactive. Sugar market quoted steady. Consols for money 91 1/4 to 91 1/2. Spain has accepted the mediation of England and France, for the settlement of all existing difficulties with Mexico. No further news of interest.

The Revd. H. DeBlois, being about to remove from Bridgewater to the Albion Mines, Pictou, requests that all Letters and Papers be addressed to him at that place.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

Rev. J. Read—subscription to P. P.'s, 6d per ann. We do not take subscriptions for Lit. Churchman, but have sent you a specimen—have none of Mission Field, nor any of the Parker's Publications required. Rev. Mr. Drumm—directions will be attended to. Jonathan Harley, Esq.—the Book has been sent per Mr. Messenger, Capt. Atwater. Revd. J. Alexander—attended to. W. Fowler, Esq.—money received, and will be attended to.

NOTES AND NEWS.

At Windsor, on Wednesday, 29th ult., by Rev. Thomas Maynard, A.M., WILLIAM H. BLANCHARD, Barrister at Law, to MARGARET MARIA, fourth daughter of the late Thomas Timlin, Esq.

At Eastport, on Sunday, 26th ult., by Rev. Mr. Eden, Mr. Geo. E. Ritchie, Merchant, of this city, to LIZZIE NORTON, daughter of S. B. Woodsworth, Esq., of the former place.

At Sackville, N. S., on Thursday, the 23rd ult., by the Rev. J. H. Drumm, Mr. Richard Peverly, to Miss JOHANNA M. STUART.