

An English exchange calls attention to the fact that an extraordinary claim of privilege was made recently in County Longford, Ireland, by a parish priest who had been summoned to give evidence as to the handwriting of the prisoner, who was one of his parishioners. He objected to giving evidence on the ground that he was an American citizen and that, therefore, the court had no jurisdiction over him. He said that he had given his allegiance to the American government and had "renounced all allegiance to every foreign prince, potentate and power." While the privilege was what the English exchange refers to as "ridiculously untenable," the prosecutor in this case, who felt the hardship of compelling a clergyman to give evidence against one of his own flock, did not press the matter. An attempt was then made to prove the handwriting of the prisoner by calling his solicitor as a witness, but the latter also pleaded privilege and refused on that ground to give evidence—a contention with which the magistrates agreed. Our English contemporary is doubtful, however, whether they were right. It adds: "There are a great many exceptions to the privilege of communication between a solicitor and his client, and one of them seems to be that a solicitor may be called to prove his client's handwriting, even though he be acquainted with it only from having seen him sign documents in the case." (*Hurd v. Moring*, 1 C. & P. 327.)—*Albany Law Journal*.

According to a recent compilation made by the New York *Herald*, there were from 1848 to 1897 twenty-eight attempts, many of them successful, on the lives of royal personages and rulers. The list follows: Pietro Acciarito tried to kill King Humbert on April 22, 1897. Four attempts were made to assassinate Napoleon I. Queen Victoria's life has been attempted three times. Two efforts were made to kill the Prince of Wales. Napoleon III was frequently shot at but died in bed. The King of Prussia was twice fired at in 1851, but escaped injury. King Victor Emmanuel of Italy narrowly escaped death at an assassin's hands in 1853. King Ferdinand of Naples was stabbed by a soldier in 1856. Queen Isabella of Spain was attacked by Fuentes in 1856. The Queen of Greece, was shot by a student in 1862. Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, died on April 15, 1865, from a bullet fired by Wilkes Booth the night before. One attempt on the life of the German Emperor in 1873 and another in 1878. King Alfonso of Spain was shot at in 1878. Alexander II of Russia was assassinated on March 13, 1881, in St. Petersburg. Unsuccessful attempts on his life had been made in St. Petersburg in 1866 and in Paris in 1867. President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau on July 2, 1881, and died on September 19. President Carnot of France was stabbed to death by Caserio Santo in Paris, June 24, 1894. A bomb was thrown at President Faure of France June 13, 1897.—*Albany Law Journal*.