

THE BERTILLON SYSTEM OF DETENTION

Mr. Labouchere, in the current issue of London Truth, discusses at length the Dreyfus case from the handwriting point of view...

A person reading the reports of the evidence that appear in the English papers can form a clear conception of the whole. The English correspondents at Rennes were already deeply pledged to the doctrine of Dreyfus' innocence...

THE SKELLIGS, AN ISLE OF SAINTS.

Mr. T. Digby Pigott addresses to the London Times an extremely interesting letter. He says: Some ten or twelve miles to the west of the coast of Kerry lie two small islands well worth a visit by any of your readers who, prompted by the inducements held out by the 'Tourists' Association, may now be exploring the beauties of Ireland...

The cutter which shoots a stupendous pyramid of water to the west of the open Atlantic, is the rock of St. Michael of the Great Skellig, where St. Columba, the friend and tutor of St. Columban, with a few kindred spirits, settled in the days when the object of the most devoted churchman was 'not to draw, but to escape from congregations.'

Their dry cells become cells and oratories, inland with white quartz crosses and looking from below like a cluster of upside-down martins' nests; the gardens, and wells which never run dry; and the ruddy-clipped stones of the little built-up gray sand walls...

THE MONASTERY WAS DESERTED FOR the more convenient Ballinskelligs on the mainland opposite. The chief colonists since then have been rabbits and sheep.

A puff of air, the morning of our visit had laid an egg, still warm when we found it in a crack over the door of the outer oratory, and halfway up the long flight of steps which zig-zag up the north-west corner of the island...

Change-grooves are apt to run in circles, and if the Church circle, which has little height, is high, the light becomes much more acute, some of us may yet live to see good oldermen flying from the heresies of the archbishops and tyrannical secular courts to the island monasteries.

When that time comes nowhere will a site be found more beautiful or more instinct with the traditions of a primitive Church. But of even greater interest than the island monasteries is the island of the 'Little Skellig'...

THE SMALLER SISTER ISLAND, a triangular slaty rock of some fourteen acres, which rises, with a tilt to the north-west, from a very low point adjacent to the monastery, and supplying fresh eggs and poultry in the summer, and for winter consumption, smoked geese and 'puffin' in the autumn...

TEMPLE OF GIANTS, thrown out of the perpendicular by an earthquake, on the other side it bristles with tall, thin, jagged rocks, and at the north-west corner a flying buttress, under which the water breaks constantly into foam, springs in a quarter circle from half way up the cliff to the sea.

It is at the southwest end that the gannets are massed, crowding together to nest in numbers inconceivable. Two or three solid acres were, at a low estimate, at the time of our visit in May last, as white with living birds as if covered with snow, though scarcely an egg had been hatched, and outlying parties of twentys and hundreds were quartered on every available flat space around. The breeze which blew with the back made the tops wavy with a swell of misty oil, and when a shot was fired, the sky was clouded with black-tipped white wings carrying nearly amidskip, skiff-chaped bodies pointed fore and aft, without any visible means of propulsion...

From the lower ledge gulls rose by hundreds and from every crack and crevice streamed in unbroken lines puffins, gullies, and razor-bills. The lower of the nests, which are slight and built mainly of a black seaweed, lay marked, some fresh and scarcely marked, others cleanly sited, the gannet, unlike the cormorant, which builds in each hole, preferring the fish littoral. The tax on the neighboring shoals must be heavy. But as from 50,000 to 60,000 mackerel had, we were told, been landed from the

the 'garbairt,' by which he meant the sheet of paper with the consecutive lines of 'interest,' and some letters of Matthew Dreyfus, the brother of the accused Dreyfus, others of Esterhazy, written after 1894, and the official reports of Dreyfus, written when he was a member of the General Staff. With the result that numerous words in these documents must, as he said, have been written with a garbairt, having the same key-word of 'interest.'

Mr. Labouchere then goes on to discuss the theories based on these facts, and says: 'I spent a couple of hours testing the Bertillon scheme of detection. I got a friend to write the word "interest." I traced this consecutively, line after line on a sheet of paper, put a second sheet over it, and proceeded to write after the manner that Bertillon insists the document was written. This handwriting one person would have thought was mine, and another person that it was that of the writer of the word "interest." There was a similarity to the ordinary writing of either of us, but not of either. Let anyone try the experiment, and I think that the result will be the same. This is precisely the case with respect to the handwriting of the bordereau. The writer resembles that of Dreyfus and of Esterhazy, but both resemble that of the key-word.'

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fishing-boats. Value the above in the week of our visit, there is, perhaps, no greater number of an immediate extinction of the species.

THE SLATTERY IN TROUBLE.

The English papers make public the fact that the swindler Slattery had been arrested in Australia on a warrant granted at the suit of his nephew, John Slattery, who claimed £200 for work done, and £2,000 as damages for alleged breach of agreement.

Driven out of Europe and America by force of public opinion, the ex-prize thought to find in Australia a happy hunting-ground where he might pursue his career of swindler and infamy unchecked. In certain Australian towns, notably in Melbourne, there is a large Orange element and to the sons of William

THE EX-CONVICT looked for protection and support. He took with him to Australia the woman who passes as his wife, and who falsely describes herself as 'formerly Sister Mary Elizabeth.'

The acts of Slattery's disgraceful career followed him across the Southern Ocean, and when he arrived in Australia he found himself an object of loathing and suspicion to all decent people. One Malyon, a Protestant minister in Melbourne, took up the cudgels in Slattery's behalf, and announced, among other things, that the swindler was a life tetter, and that he 'came out from Rome because of certain spiritual misgivings. Of course, these statements were received with unbounded derision wherever Slattery's career of crime was known. A gentleman named Winter, writing in the Melbourne Advocate, recapitulated the history of the swindler's life and his alleged wife, and challenged them to proceed against him for libel. Of course

SLATTERY RAN AWAY from Mr. Winter, just as he ran away from our challenge issued when he was stamping Great Britain with a large Orange element and to the sons of William Slattery, and when he arrived in Australia he found himself an object of loathing and suspicion to all decent people. One Malyon, a Protestant minister in Melbourne, took up the cudgels in Slattery's behalf, and announced, among other things, that the swindler was a life tetter, and that he 'came out from Rome because of certain spiritual misgivings. Of course, these statements were received with unbounded derision wherever Slattery's career of crime was known. A gentleman named Winter, writing in the Melbourne Advocate, recapitulated the history of the swindler's life and his alleged wife, and challenged them to proceed against him for libel. Of course

It will be remembered that during his British tour Slattery was accompanied by a person named John, a dwarf of enormous strength, who acted as 'chickens' for the swindler's meetings. John's second name was Slattery and he is a nephew of the ex-convict. The notorious pair are now at each other's throats, money, of course, being the cause of war. John refused to pay. John threatened to reveal the nest, especially some dark things at Ballinrimmon. Slattery remained obdurate. Thereupon John had him arrested and placed in the cells at Ballinrimmon. Slattery's name is in the Practice Court in Melbourne, the plaintiff, John Slattery, published a letter to the lecturer, in which the former said if he was not fairly met he would fight the matter out in the Law Courts. The article concluded as follows: 'If I intend to publish all I know about you, concerning all that took place in Ballinrimmon—you know what I am alluding to.

I WILL NEVER TELL I HAVE EXPOSED YOU. In every colony you may travel in, before you reach Sydney, Orangeism and Protestantism in general will have known a little of your career. The application to the court for a writ against Joseph Slattery, travelling lecturer, was again under consideration in the Practice Court. The defendant had been arrested at the suit of John Slattery, his nephew, for breach of agreement to pay £200 for work done and £2,000 damages for breach of agreement but was liberated from custody pending the result of the application.

Mr. Justice A'Beckett, addressing Mr. Fasson and Dr. Kaufmann, suggested that the parties should agree to an order being made to set aside the writ, and that the action down for hearing in the County Court, the costs up to this date to be costs in the action. Mr. Fasson was informed that the application would be proceeded with.

Mr. Bryant read affidavits from the parties. There was an additional affidavit from Slattery, in which he declared that he had never been to Melbourne for Sydney at any moment. He had been accustomed to advertise his lectures several days in advance, but such advertisements had now ceased. The defendant frequently told the plaintiff he was not to let people know he (the defendant) was about to leave the colony. Counsel added that plaintiff's motive in bringing the action was certainly

BLACKMAIL. A second affidavit stated that defendant had frequently informed defendant that two other ex-prize were about to come out to Australia, and that if they got to Sydney before him they would 'spoil his houses.' (Laughter.) Counsel then addressed His Honor in support of the application. Mr. Justice A'Beckett: If plaintiff got a heavy judgment against defendant the latter might settle the colony. Mr. Bryant: If we started on affidavits, he will not be likely to leave these happy hunting grounds. (Laughter.) Mr. Justice A'Beckett: But after the judgment he may not make anything like that. (Laughter.) After hearing arguments, Mr. Justice A'Beckett said this was an application to set aside an order he had made directing that defendant should be held to bail in a sum of £250. He believed that when plaintiff applied for the writ he understood that defendant was going

TO LEAVE THE COLONY. He was also satisfied from the affidavits now filed, that at the time of the order defendant had no immediate intention of leaving Victoria; but circumstances might arise that would induce him to do so, and he would be held to bail to answer a further writ if he did so. He would not make anything like that. (Laughter.) After hearing arguments, Mr. Justice A'Beckett said this was an application to set aside an order he had made directing that defendant should be held to bail in a sum of £250. He believed that when plaintiff applied for the writ he understood that defendant was going

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