

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

W^{HOLE} No. 686.

from the beginning of the week until its end.
The dull Sundays connect the dull

They are dull Sundays which might be so full of the strength and consolation which religion alone can give. But we are marched together to chapel, and, by prison rule, are not allowed to kneel or stand to take part in the service of prayer and praise.

There we sit while the service is said for us, and the sermon read in a perfunctory way without any heart in it.

A few weeks ago a stranger came

It was on the motives for going to Church, and was singularly inappropriate to a congregation of convicts.

I remember a passage of it, the most striking one—"People often go to Church from unworthy motives. Perhaps now, some of you have come here to-day because (a pause, looking ahead, and then in slight confusion), you had nothing else to do, and some (another pause) to meet your neighbours; and some (a longer pause, and with a very red face) to criticise each other's

dress; and some . . . (a pause, and an apparent resolution to extemporize, and then in desperation and utter confusion) because you are wearied by the gaieties of the past week, and are

Oh! how I have longed for some earnest man, to speak to those poor guilt-laden hearts, and to tell them of a Saviour's priceless love, of the ransom paid, and the salvation purchased by His blood.

How many might be moved to repentance!

A new man has come to take the chaplain's duty, who has leave of absence for a while.

Last Sunday was his first, and he

It had a good effect. They say he is a Ritualist, but I do not care. He is an earnest preacher, and evidently means work, and I wish him

God speed." About fifteen months have passed since I came here—it seems an age—and there is no prospect of the mystery being solved and my consequent release.

My poor dear mother—God help her—is almost heart-broken, but her faith in me is not shaken; and Ethel I have not heard from. Her father would not allow her to write to a felon, and she would not disobey his command.

darling, and of those delightful days at Ferncliff.

Shall wrong and injustice always triumph? Shall I never be clear in the eyes of the world, and happy in the realization of my dream of love?

Is there no . . .

I had written my narrative from time to time, as I had opportunities in

my cell, and had got thus far with it Christmas morning, when I was suddenly summoned to the warden's house. I was shown into a room, and found myself face to face with Mr. Morris, who eagerly seized my hands, fell upon his knees, and, with eyes suffused with tears, and voice choking with emotion, implored my pardon.

He said he had discovered my innocence, and had made the only reparation in his power—he had seen the Minister of Justice, and had obtained an order for my release.

I was to ask no questions, but to change my clothes as quickly as possible, and to accompany him in a cab to the station. We would have barely time to catch the train, and he would explain everything on the way.

I was only too ready to follow his instructions, and having said 'Good-

As we were rattling along King Street, Mr. Morris said, thrusting a paper into my hand, 'that will explain all.'

It was a letter and read as follows:
'Albany, April 8th, 18—.

‘DEAR SIR,—Thomas Slogan, a prisoner under sentence of death for a murder committed while engaged in an act of burglary, has made the following confession to me:—

‘On the evening of the 27th August, 18—when the family were on the verandah, he entered your house by the open window

of the dining-room, and concealed himself under the sofa. After the house had been shut up, and the family had retired to rest, he opened the window to effect his escape, in case of surprise, broke open the sideboard, and took out the silver, with the view of selecting the most valuable articles. While thus engaged, he heard a step in the hall, and the next moment a young man entered the room, with a small package.

eyes fixed with the glassy stare of one walking in his sleep. Thus disturbed in his work, he made his escape through the window, on to the hard gravel path below, leaving in his hurry his tools behind him.

He heard of the arrest and trial of the young man, and thought it a good joke that the "Gent" should get a taste of prison life.

He wishes me, moreover, to say that if the young man's counsel had had his wits about him, he would have found out that there was no light in the room when his client was discovered there, and that no man could have done the work at the side-board without one. Slogan carried off his dark lantern with him.

'I enclose the substance of the above, in legal form, together with the affidavits of the witnesses, and remain, yours truly, CHAS. HALL, Rector of Calvary Church.'

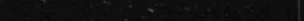
'And now,' said Mr. Morris, when I had finished, 'I am going to take you to Ferncliff. Ethel is dying to see you, and we are all anxious to make you every satisfaction for the wrong we have done. I would not have believed the evidence.'

'Thank you most heartily,' I replied, 'but my mother has the first claim upon me, and no consideration would induce me to rob her of her joy. I must go to Morrisburg.'

'I have thought of that. You will find your mother with us.'

Why should I try to describe that Christ-

All did their best to make amends for the past, and even 'Nero' seemed to know that he had made a mistake, and came and meekly licked my hand.



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