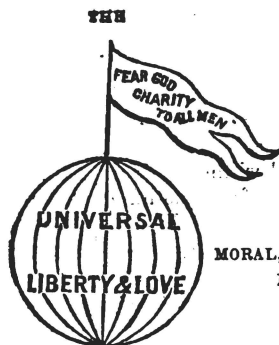


COMMUNITY'S

Or, Standard

A PERIODICAL DEVOTED TO THE POLITICAL.
CONDITIONS OF MEN; CONTAINING
AND DOMESTIC



JOURNAL;

Of Truth.

MORAL, SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS, AND PHYSICAL
HISTORY, SCIENCE, ARTS, FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE, ETC.

PART 6.—VOL. 1.]

For the week ending Saturday, July 25th, 1857.

[PRICE 1D.]

A NEW HISTORICAL TALE.

THE HUT ON THE HEATH; OR, THE OUTLAWED GANG OF THE DEVIL'S DITCH AND THE HERDSMAN'S DAUGHTER.

(Continued from our last.)

No sooner were they within the cave than the robbers bound them hand and foot without asking them any questions or answering any that were put to them; for they felt certain that, by their manner of approach, which the robbers observed, as the men neared the thicket, their errand was to attack them, and their two companions not having returned from their journey to the herdsman's hut, they had begun to expect some mischief, or some discovery had been made, as soon as they saw the rustics approaching. Hence their precaution and surprise of the Newmarket men at their entrance to the thicket. No sooner had they secured the four men than those on the watch observed their companion running over the snow across the heath at a headlong pace. He soon arrived at the cave, almost breathless and speechless, and seeing the four men lying bound, he remained silent, until one of the party questioned him, when he at once related, as briefly as possible, all which had taken place at the hut on the heath, saying, "That his companion and the herdsman had been dragged off to Newmarket prisoners, and that to attempt to remain longer in the cave would be useless, therefore it was time to make preparations for their departure. For, depend upon it," said he, "there will be a force here directly in search of these men, for that foolish herdsman will say all he knows, for I watched them taking him before I left that side of the heath, and be assured he will not screen us to implicate himself, so we had better be off out of this neighbourhood as quick as possible." "And what shall we do with these fellows," observed one of them, pointing to the four men who lay bound in the cave. "Why they're safe enough," replied another, "they can't tell tales while they lie there, and it will be some time before they are found, and we can put a good distance between us and Newmarket before anybody comes to loose them." As he said this, they all gathered together outside the cave, and held a whispered consultation, the result of which was, that four of them loaded themselves with such arti-

cles as they could conceal about their persons, under their huge cloaks, and destroying such things as they could not carry with them, consisting of bottles and stone jugs. They left their prisoners bound in the cave and set out on to the heath, where, on their arrival at the opening from the thicket, another consultation was held, and the four men, who were laden with as much as they could carry without attracting suspicion, separated from their companions, taking the direction of Cambridge, where they agreed to proceed by different coaches to London, and their confederates were to meet them at an appointed place well known to all the parties. They accordingly arrived safe in Cambridge, where, after procuring fresh garments for the purpose of disguise, they engaged seats for two in the London coach, which left Cambridge at mid-day, and the other two took seats in the coach which left Cambridge at five o'clock, and they all four arrived safely, and met together at the appointed rendezvous at nine o'clock the next morning, where we will leave them discussing the events of the two preceding days and nights, and follow the direction of the other two.

After they had separated from their companions, proceeding towards the London road at a rapid walk, their conversation was directed to the project in view. "Are you sure," said the eldest of the two men, "that she did not go with them to the town?" "I am not sure anything about it," said the man to whom this interrogation was put, "and I did not go to the hut to see, but made the best of my way to the cave, to put all of you on the alert after I heard the party leaving the hut, but I could not see all of them; though I know the herdsman himself was one." "Then our errand may be fruitless after all," observed the first speaker. "And it may not," said the other somewhat hurriedly, "at any rate we will try, for we are arrived, and can stand a brush if there should be any one in ambush; and, if they are gone and the girl with them, I will have some sort of satisfaction, if I only burn the old hovel," chuckled the ruffian. "Then you intend taking the girl whether or not," said his companion, eyeing him curiously. "I do," said the other, "if she is within my reach, and when I once get her to old mother Adams's, in West-street, Smithfield, she may chirp like a sparrow in a church, with the windows and doors fast, to about the same effect, she will be safe enough there, and out of ear-shot.

They had now crossed the London-road and entered that part of the heath on which the hut stood, and could see it through the tops of the huge thorns which surrounded it; they then paused to listen, but not a sound

could be heard. They accordingly pushed forward, and a few minutes brought them to the front of the hut, where they found the door open, a few smouldering embers lying upon the hearth, but no soul within sight or sound. The ruffians searched the hut, but found nothing worth carrying away, except the herdsman's old-fashioned heavy silver watch, which usually hung on the chimney breast, over the fire-place, as a guide to Emily; therefore, finding nothing else, the ruffians resolved to set fire to the hut, and stuck some mouldering fire-brands with paper into the thatch, which soon began to smoulder, and which they believed the wind would soon fan into a blaze. Feeling satisfied of this, they left the hut and followed the footsteps of the constable and his party, and before they arrived at the extremity of the heath, they met the unfortunate girl in the secluded avenue. As soon as she saw them she uttered a loud scream and was about to sink upon the snow, when the youngest of the two ruffians rushed forward and caught her in his arms; his very touch had the effect of arousing her and restoring her to her wonted strength, which their sudden appearance had for a moment deprived her of. Stepping back, she said firmly, "Unhand me villain, it is you who have caused my father to be dragged away from our hut like a felon or a murderer, and for your crimes." As he still kept his hold upon her, she endeavoured to raise the bundle she had with her, to strike him, but the other ruffian wrenched it from her hand, when he who held her said, in a mocking tone of voice, "Now my pretty gipsy, prayers or noise will be equally useless, as we shall listen to neither, so prepare yourself to leave this desolate spot at once, for, living or dead, you will have to go, therefore delays or entreaties are useless;" and, seeing that she was about to scream, the villain drew forth a pistol and threatened her with instant death. This terrified the poor girl into implicit obedience. Each of them taking hold of her, they almost dragged her through the avenue on to the London-road and across the heath in the direction of Cambridge, where, on arriving at a lone inn, at a place called Botsom, they informed her of the necessity of keeping strict silence, on the penalty of death; procured refreshment, of which they compelled her to partake, and, for a sum of money to the landlord, who, being liberally paid, asked no questions, was provided with a pony and light spring cart, accompanied by a lad, in which they proceeded to Cambridge at a brisk pace, where they arrived about three o'clock. Being well acquainted with the town, procured lodgings, and secured a place where a strict watch was kept over Emily, by a woman on whose fidelity they could depend, and the next morning she was furnished with a suitable travelling dress of good material, and the two men being also disguised that, on meeting them, she could scarcely recognise them. They were so altered in their appearance, and their manners were so gentlemanly, that Emily for a moment forgot the treacherous and dastardly part they were playing, and for a moment smiled and looked cheerful. But, as the thoughts of her father and the rural hut flashed across her mind, her terrible position recalled to her memory the awful circumstances of the steps she was taking; but the two men behaved exceedingly kind, and

administered everything which suggested itself to them for her comfort, and the youngest paid her marked and polite attention, in the presence of others, and only resumed his cold, stern glances and expressive features when she was with them alone, or when he fancied she looked imploringly at any other person.

At eleven o'clock that morning, they procured seats as inside passengers in the coach from Cambridge to London, where they arrived at nearly midnight, at the coach office in Bishopsgate-street, and proceeded from thence by hackney coach, through the different thoroughfares, until they arrived at Long-lane, thence to Smithfield, across it, until they arrived at the end of West-street, where the coach stopped, and they alighted and walked at a brisk rate about half way down, until they arrived at a house, the door of which was open, and two lighted candles in brackets were hanging, one at the foot of the staircase, and the other near the door. Here they paused and entered, and no sooner were they in the passage than a sort of pannel or shutter was moved back from the inside, and a woman's head thrust out, as she said, "Do you want rooms, gentlemen?" But, as the eldest of the men advanced, she at once recognised him and opened the door, saying, "Are they right?" Receiving an answer in the affirmative, the other man and Emily were also requested to walk in. Before proceeding any further, we will here pause to describe to the reader the nature of the house into which they entered, together with the locality. West-street is a narrow street leading from West Smithfield to the bottom end of Great Saffron Hill, adjoining Field-lane, a neighbourhood which has always been remarkable as the resort of the most desperate characters of both sexes, consisting of several establishments, and what is called Jew fences, where stolen property might be readily disposed of, the said Jews being fully acquainted with nearly all the desperadoes in town and country. West street has always been remarkable for its many brothels of the lowest and most degraded class; but the one into which the persons we have described, entered, was somewhat of a better class, or rather more respectable than the others, and showed more symptoms of comfort; and at the time of which we are writing, was kept by one Mother Adams, whose name figures conspicuously in the Newgate Calendar and other histories of criminals, as being the proprietress of a noted house for the resort of thieves. Having seen Emily safely housed beneath the roof of this female fiend in human shape, we will leave them for a time, and conduct our readers back to the scenes which were still transpiring in the popular little town of Newmarket.

CHAPTER VII.

Mr. Howard the constable's revisit to the heath — the discovery of the Robber's flight—and the Herdsman's return to the hut.

The men who boast will off' at danger quail,
Though weak and feeble persons off' assail.

It will be remembered at the conclusion of the inquest the Herdsman was liberated, and being restored to his daughter, who received him with the most affectionate

embraces, he informed her that he had some business to transact and requested her, after giving her some money, to make some small purchases and return to the hut, and that he should follow as soon as he possibly could. She accordingly left her father, made her purchases which consisted of a few articles of immediate necessity, tied them in her handkerchief, and with a lighter heart than when she came, she retraced her steps and met with no interruption until she entered upon the heath, where she was met by the two ruffians, and carried off as before described. No sooner had Emily left her father than he was about to leave the inn, when Mr. Howard, the constable, stopped him and requested him, with some half dozen others who were present, to go in search of the other four men whom he had now recollected had not returned. For, in the excitement and confusion which had occurred, the four men had been quite forgotten. The constable and his party accordingly set out and shortly arrived at the Heath, and the Herdsman leading the way, they at once struck off across the Heath, through the furze, in the direction of the thicket where, as the Herdsman was well acquainted with the Heath, they arrived in a very short space of time. No sooner had they reached the opening of the thicket which led to the cave than they heard the voices of men shouting for help, as if in great distress, and being armed, some with forks, sticks, and weapons, they, after a short pause, rushed up the opening, and though in an instant in full sight of the entrance of the cave they saw no one, but broken bottles, stone jugs, and torn garments lay scattered about, and as the shouts proceeded from the interior of the cave, the constable ordered some of the men to enter, but not one amongst them would go first; and although he taunted them with cowardice and chicken hearts, and such like appellations, it was all in vain, till at length, taking out a pistol and holding it at arm's length, he said:—"Follow me!" and moved cautiously towards the entrance, looking behind him all the time to be certain that all the men were close at his back, and he had actually entered the doorway before he himself was aware of it, and was not a little surprised at finding that the only inmates of the cave, were his four gallant townsmen, who were lying bound hand and foot, upon the stubble at the far end of the cave. As soon as they perceived it was Mr Howard, the man who ordered them on the expedition, their cries and groans changed to joyous exclamations. They were soon liberated, and the whole of the party were now inside the cave, numbering about a dozen men, all of whom swore vengeance against the outlawed gang if they could but catch them. On seeing the herdsman and hearing of his singular adventure, their indignation was aroused manifold; and after searching the cave, they set fire to the stubble and all else it contained, and left it, following the footsteps of the robbers, which could be traced in the snow, until they reached the Cambridge Road, where, in consequence of the many tracks arising from much traffic, further pursuit could not be tracked. They accordingly returned by different routes across the heath, and again assembled on the London road; and, as all discovery of the robbers was then given up as hopeless, the herdsman prevailed upon the constable and the whole party to accompany

him to his hut, to which they assented, and where they shortly arrived, when, to their no little surprise and the great consternation of the herdsman, they discovered that a thick black smoke was ascending from the roof, but not out of the chimney. They hastened to the front of the hut, the herdsman rushing in, calling aloud for Emily, exhibiting the greatest fright and confusion, but Emily was not there. They soon discovered that the fire in the thatch was not dangerous in consequence of the thick coat of snow upon it. The firebrands, however, which the ruffians had stuck in the thatch had at first ignited, but the heat which arose from it had so melted the snow, that the thatch around it was literally saturated and could no longer blaze, but continued to moulder and smoke. The fire however was speedily extinguished, and no material damage was done excepting a small hole in the thatch. When the herdsman's excitement had abated, he examined the hut, and discovered that both the sleeping rooms had been ransacked, one of the chairs broken, and his watch gone from the chimney breast, when suspicion and alarm again took possession of his mind, and he exclaimed, "neither me nor my Emily took the watch, what can be keeping her, she ought to have been at home before this," and he stamped his feet with rage, and tore his long hair in distraction. A full half hour in this manner was spent, and various were the conjectures amongst the men; some of them supposing she had not yet returned, and that some mischievous person had tried to set fire to the hut; while others contended that the robber who effected his escape, had returned and taken the watch, and endeavoured to set fire to the thatch, and would have murdered the herdsman, his daughter, or whoever he might have found; and thus they concluded that Emily had not returned. They accordingly all set out to Newmarket, expecting to meet with her on the way, or in the town, but their search, as our readers are already aware, was useless; for the fire, the watch, and Emily's disappearance have already been described. However, on arriving in the Town, they searched in every direction, but in vain. One man, a shopkeeper, where she had purchased some articles, who lived near the end of the town, saw her with a bundle in her hand ascend the hill in the direction of the heath, and no further intelligence concerning her could be gleaned. The herdsman almost heart-broken, continued to run wildly from house to house, but notwithstanding his useless search he could not be consoled; and weeks, nay months, passed away, and no intelligence was received, and he remained in his solitary hut careworn and melancholy, carefully avoiding all company himself, and noticed but little those who visited him to offer him consolation. In the meantime, the discoveries which had been made in reference to the cave and the robber's flight, with the robbery and the attempted firing of the hut, and the abduction of the herdsman's daughter, had removed all suspicion as to the herdsman being in any way connected with the coach robbery, or with the outlawed gang, any further than his explanation at the inquest had informed the authorities; and he was accordingly spared from further interrogations upon the subject. In this melancholy mood the time passed on till the verge of the ensuing

spring, when the talk, which had been considerable among all classes respecting the murder of the guard and the robbery of the passengers of the London and Norwich coach, had somewhat subsided and was forgotten excepting to those who were immediately connected with the circumstances; and, as the spring was the period for the assizes held at Cambridge, fresh excitement arose as to the result of the trial of the murderer. On the day appointed for the trial numerous persons might be seen, some in conveyances, others on foot, wending their way from the surrounding districts towards Cambridge, and from no other town were there more than from Newmarket. After the usual formalities of opening the court according to the custom of the age, and other minor offenders were disposed of, the unknown prisoner was arraigned, and even up to that period he had maintained a dogged silence as to his name or place of birth. On being asked whether guilty or not guilty, and feeling certain that to escape was impossible, he pleaded guilty, and thus disappointed hundreds who expected a lengthy and peculiar enquiry; instead of which, his acknowledgement put an end to all occasions for cross examining witnesses, and in due form sentence of death was passed upon him, in addition to which, his body was to be hung in gibbets near the spot where the murder was committed. This was carried into effect, and his body remained as a spectacle of terror to the passers by, until it dropped bit from bit upon the heath, and the spot where the gibbet post was erected can be traced to this day, though the race-course has greatly altered the appearance of the heath. The appearance on the bank of the Devil's Ditch likewise retains traces of the cave, which, up to this day, frequently serves as a shelter for the shepherds, though much of it has fallen in.

Having thus far shewn the reader the breaking up of the gang, and the execution of the murderer for the robbery and the other heinous offence, we will now follow the fortunes of Emily and the other members of the outlawed gang to London, where many scenes of vice, crime and fortitude occur, as will be described in future chapters.

(To be continued in our next.)

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Letters from Bagdad announce an extraordinary fall of rain on the 14th June, at that place, which, from its bloody hue, gave the surrounding country the appearance of a battle-field. The meteor seen at Malta on the 14th, was likewise observed on the same day throughout Syria and Palestine; and letters from Trebizond, Samsoun, Sinope, Smyrna, and Constantinople, report a heavy fall of rain, and tempestuous weather on that day, to the great alarm of the inhabitants, who had for some weeks been anxiously looking out for the comet crash.—*Malta Times*.

France.—*Conspiracy to Assassinate Louis Napoleon.*—The *Times* correspondent in Paris, writes as follows: "The conspiracy which has been discovered in Paris, is described as the most serious of any that we have as yet

any knowledge of, both from the character of the individuals concerned, the extent of its ramifications, and the object proposed. That it was connected with the late insurrection in various parts of Italy there appears little doubt, and the first act of the great tragedy, of which a great part of southern Europe was to be the theatre, was destined for Paris. It appears that documentary evidence of the most telling kind is in possession of the authorities. A mass of correspondence exchanged between Paris, London, and other parts, has been seized, showing that, during the French elections, the emperor Napoleon was to be assassinated, and most of the letters closed with the words "*frappez—frappez—frappez*" (strike—strike—strike), as the speeches of Cato, in the Roman senate, with, "*Delenda est Carthago*." A chosen band of ten or twelve persons were to take the first favourable opportunity of stabbing the emperor; and in order to make sure of the effect, the poignards were steeped in poison. The members of a provisional government were already named, and were prepared, when the deed was done, to seize the reins of power, and to proclaim the revolution, with all its terrible consequences, all over southern Europe."

Italy.—The Milan Diligence was, a few days since, stopped on the road to Cingia, by a band of twelve robbers, who turned it into a field about 150 paces from the road. The chief then seized the guard by the throat, bidding him give up the keys of the box in which valuables and money were deposited; meanwhile, one of the men fired a carbine at the guard, but missed him. Finding the guard had no keys, they made all the passengers alight, stripped them of every thing of value, and proceeded to break open the box with crowbars and sledge-hammers. In this they succeeded, and having emptied it of its contents, made off.

Other dispatches state, that the Neapolitan troops and the Italians having come in contact at Sapri, a bloody battle ensued, and nearly 100 of the latter were killed; but, as yet, the intelligence from Naples is vague and uncertain.

India.—The news from India still wears a gloomy aspect, and the political atmosphere still thickens. From the period of the first symptoms of mutiny amongst the native troops up to the 30th May, thirty-four regiments, including cavalry and infantry, have either deserted their colours, or have been broken up and disbanded, besides several batteries of artillery and the Sappers and Miners. And at the date when the last mail left, new discoveries of disaffection were manifesting themselves, and the whole presidency of Bengal was in a fearful state of excitement. Another letter, dated 4th June, states: "Some two nights ago we had a *dour* to the village of Khyr, where a Rao had possessed himself of the palace and was defying British authority. We fell upon the village (after travelling all night) at about eight a.m., surrounded it, and one party entered and asked the Rao to surrender. He at first refused; but, on being threatened and told that his stronghold should be burst open, he opened the doors, and was immediately taken prisoner with thirteen of his adherents. The little army he had assembled had dispersed early in the morning, not ex-

pecting we should have been there so soon. We walked by the side of the prisoner from the place where he was taken to a *mangoe tope* out of the village, where he was to be tried. We reached it in half an hour, when he was tried and hung for rebellion."

China.—A letter from China has the following: "At present we find everything dull, and matters would be without the least interest, but for the fearful famine which prevails in most parts of China, especially in the neighbourhood of Canton. No military operations will take place until after the arrival of Lord Elgin; and, were troops in readiness even now, the weather would not admit of any active operations until October next, at which time the cold weather sets in, and the condition of the unfortunate inhabitants is wretched in the extreme. In a few days the small steamers and gunboats are expected to open fire upon the fleet of Imperial junks."

Spain.—The revolutionary outbreak in Spain has been suppressed for the moment. The Prime-Minister, Narvaez, gave his explanations, and infused into his speech a dash of cold-blooded malignity which would have made the blood curdle, had it been uttered in the presence of an assemblage of Christian gentlemen. At the conclusion of the explanations, he read to the Cortes the despatch which he had received from the commandant at Malaga: "The band of 150 brigands, which has assumed a discredited political banner, after spreading terror and desolation through the towns of Penna and Utrera, penetrated into the town of Berraozan, where they burned the public edifices and pillaged private houses. The troops under my orders came up with them within a short distance of this town, and, after an obstinate engagement in which twenty of them were slain, I took twenty-two prisoners, whom I shot immediately. The remainder of this horde of bandits has retreated to Serania la Ronda, hoping to escape to Gibraltar, but I have cut off this chance of escape by posting troops to waylay them at Algeiras.—*Manuel Gosset.*" This despatch is brutal and cold-blooded, but listen to the comments of the premier on these summary proceedings: "These men cannot possibly escape to Gibraltar, as troops are posted to waylay them between Algeiras and San Roque; and orders have been sent by me to shoot down all who are caught. I have also despatched orders to the court-martial sitting at La Carolina, not to wait for the formalities of the trial, which has already commenced, but to inflict immediately the extreme penalty on all who have taken part or who are implicated in this revolt. I have ordered the same system to be adopted with all who have raised this infamous standard of socialism." Can anything appear more ferocious, more disgusting, or more contemptible to the eyes and understanding of poor, oppressed, and degraded humanity than the above brutal and cold-blooded remarks of the Prime-Minister at the head of Queen Isabella's government? It may however teach the people of the other European nations how far they may expect to receive, or to what extent the sympathies of the present governments of the continental nations will be given towards the cause of liberty.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

[All letters will in future be inserted under this head, the Editor not being responsible for the principles such letters advocate, so long as they are of public interest and importance].

To the Editor of the Community's Journal.

Sir—In my letter of last week I intimated that a series of prophecies would be laid before your readers; and, as the remarks I then made were applicable to each of the succeeding prophecies, I refrain from occupying your space with any further comment thereon, but at once introduce the lines revealed at the head of the chapter containing the second prophecy, with the said prophecy following, without inserting the introduction. The lines are as follows:—

"Let earthly monarchs tremble,
For it is seen above;
That whene'er they assemble,
They shew no signs of love;
But vile contempt and hatred
Are heap'd upon the poor;
Who drudgeth on good-natured,
Though tyrants goad them more."

After this follows a short introduction as before, then comes the revelation.

Prophecy 2nd.—"Behold! I am again commanded to declare unto thee: Thus saith the Lord! Behold! thou hast been plucked out as one from amongst my people to speak my words unto them, that they may know of the things which await them. Therefore, behold! Thus saith the Lord! Go ye forth into the towns and cities amidst my people, and prophecy and say unto them: Thus saith the Lord God Almighty! Behold! oh ye, my people, I will bring ye forth from the many corners of thy kingdoms, and will gather ye together in multitudes and in many places, and will appoint leaders over thee who shall lead thee to that which I have ordained shall overthrow all authority which has set itself up in defiance of my will; and I will cleanse thee, oh, my people, of all pride, vain glory, hypocrisy, ambition, poverty, crime, and disobedience, that your ranks may be unpolluted by wickedness; so that your armies may be united in the holy strength of righteousness; and with the glorious banner of love and liberty, thou mayest be enabled to trample to the dust all that is an abomination unto mine eyes. And now, therefore, thus saith the Lord! prepare yourselves for that organisation which no earthly power can break or disperse. So that, when the time cometh, and foreign foes shall visit the lands of any, thou shalt be prepared to smite all but those who carry the banners with the emblems of universal charity and love inscribed upon them. And, as the time is at hand when these things shall manifest themselves, let all be prepared! Watch and pray, night and day, for strength and fear of the Lord; and, though the corn may appear plentiful and ripe, at that season shall the calamities come. And though men may retire to sleep with peace upon their lips, they shall arise in the morning with the sound of war upon their ears; for the day of retribution is at hand. Thus saith the Lord!"

Sir—The truthful representation of circumstances, as described in the above prophetic language is of so awful and terrible a nature that any further remarks upon them are unnecessary; therefore I merely give the spiritual revelation as it stands, and refer your readers to the work from which they are extracted for further particulars. Next week, with your permission, I will forward another of the series for insertion in your columns, and with many thanks, subscribe myself,

Yours very respectfully,

W. W.

Birmingham, July 20, 1857.

WORKING-CLASS DISTRESS IN LEICESTER.

To the Editor of the Community's Journal.

Sir—I beg you to allow me a small space in the columns of your journal for the purpose of laying before your readers and the public generally the great distress and privation to which the working classes, particularly the framework knitters in this town, are exposed. There are thousands totally out of employ, and those who have work cannot earn more than from five to seven shillings per week, which sum every individual must be convinced is quite inadequate to pay house rent and support a wife and four or five children. The fact is, our houses are destitute of every comfort, both in furniture and bedding, our wives and children are in rags, and ourselves in a similar plight, and destitute of half sufficient bread, meat being utterly beyond our reach. And would you believe it, sir, when I tell you, that for a Sunday's dinner, our families are glad to procure a pennyworth, and sometimes a half-penny worth of sheep's lights, which the butchers are accommodating enough to sell us, and with this cut up, and a little oatmeal, a kind of broth is made, and the children actually believe it to be meat, and devour it ravenously. Hundreds however cannot get this, and consider even that a luxury. I could enumerate scores of instances where whole families are on the actual point of starvation; and from what does all this misery arise? Why, solely from the oppression of the wealthy manufacturers who encroach step by step upon the rights of the working man, until it is impossible to live by honest labour; and yet we are called Englishmen, the natives of a land which boasts of being the home of the brave and the free. But whatever the opinions of others may be, I think otherwise; and thanking you for permitting this infringement, I subscribe myself,

Yours respectfully,

A WORKING MAN.

Leicester, July 21, 1857

DIVINE REVELATIONS, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

(Letter of Mr. T. C. S. continued from our last.)

his severity. Then how can we believe that he who has taught us to address him as "Our Father," would punish a man for ever who had not known the name of Christ? And yet the scriptures declare that he who

is guilty in one point is guilty of all. If so, Christ's death is made to be of no avail to the great mass of mankind. And, again, the scriptures declare that Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man. Now, if Christ died for all, it must be that our sufferings should not be eternal. Thus he came to seek and save those who would otherwise have been lost. Through which, at his death, the resurrection of the spirits in immortality took place, they rose a step higher in the spheres of immortality, and many reached the realms of eternal bliss. This is the resurrection alluded to by the apostle Paul, called the first resurrection. Another of the corruptions I shall more particularly call your attention to, is the doctrine of a Devil, which is so profusely scattered through the New Testament. Sometimes he is called Satan, Beelzebub, the evil one, a roaring lion, who goes about seeking whom he may devour. Now, modern revelation proves beyond all doubt, that no such being as a devil exists, and divine revelation (modern) also proves that no angel of light, or any of the angelic host, ever did fall, or ever did progress, they being created angels, and not spirits of men made perfect, but have been from everlasting, and will remain in their present state while eternity endures; and that they differ in glory, even as the stars in the firmament exceed each other in brilliancy and glory; but the lowest of the orders of the angelic host execute the will of God, as much as Michiel or Gabriel, they all being the angels of the Lord. The great archangel Michiel has declared through the angel Gabriel, that he knows of no such being or monster as the said devil. Thus, men have been led for centuries to believe in a monster who had power to transform himself even into an angel of light. He is represented as having power to thwart God's divine will, and to set at nought his authority; and it is very plain why this monster has been introduced into the sacred writings, which is, for the sole object of terrifying the people and keeping them in subjection, and teaching them to ascribe all the evils which they, the rulers, pleased to lay upon mankind, to the power of the said devil. But now it has pleased God to restore again to the people of the earth the power of receiving divine revelation as of old; thus the wickedness of the teachers and rulers who inserted this doctrine has been unmasked.

Another of the important facts which divine revelation has brought to light, is, the everlasting duration of the earth. The scriptures, in their present form, appear to point out a period (to use the language given) when the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll, the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth and all that is therein shall be burned up; thus destroying that which God in his wisdom pronounced good, and bringing into chaos and confusion that which he by his almighty power had formed. Does it seem likely that God should cause this beautiful earth to be destroyed? But some say it was once overwhelmed in water, and why not be burned up even as Sodom and Gomorrha. I do not doubt, for a moment, the power of God to bring about such a catastrophe; but, admitting that it was so, there is a wide difference between deluging the earth with water, which the natural course of nature would dry up, and causing

the elements to melt with fervent heat. viz., earth, air, water, &c., which would reduce the earth to cinders, or a mass of lava, which nothing could penetrate, so that neither man, beast, bird, fish, or vegetation could ever exist upon it again, unless the divine Creator should re-model or re-create. And, what would be gained by this beautiful earth and vegetation being destroyed and re-formed, since, if God wishes to purify the people, he has no cause to destroy the earth by fire to accomplish that object, for thus would be destroyed the righteous with the wicked, which God has invariably taken care not to do; for when he had decreed that such and such places should suffer or perish, he has sent his prophets to warn, or his angels to deliver his chosen people before he has poured down his wrath. Modern revelation proves that this earth will be cleansed by the fire of God's wrath, brought down upon it by the tyranny and oppression of those who rule the people, by causing the people who have for ages been trodden down by the rich of the earth, to rise and crush their oppressors; and that power shall be given them from on high to overthrow all power which has raised itself in defiance of God's will, and to trample in the dust every evil which afflicts the earth. Thus will the earth be cleansed and purified by the fire of God's wrath, so that the earth may be fitted for the universal reign of that Saviour who died that all mankind might reach eternal rest and glory, and thus bring about that time which many thousands are looking for, viz., the Millenium era foretold by the ancient prophets, and again confirmed and explained by modern revelation.

As I promised in the former part of my letter to show the means used by God to convey his will to man, though to do this will be found difficult to the satisfaction of the great mass of mankind, because it has been enwrapt in mystery for centuries, and purposely kept in the dark by those whose interests it was so to do. But, notwithstanding the mystery in which it has been kept, there is sufficient left in the sacred writings of the ancient prophets or seers, to convince any enquirer after truth. Another of the difficulties to contend with, is, that the teachers of the present day are either entirely ignorant of this matter, or do not wish the people to understand it: hence they teach the people to shun all enquiry into the subject, and even tell their followers that it is sinful and displeasing to God to enquire into, or search after, revelation. And why is this? There can be no other reason than, that the people may be led to look up to their present teachers as the sole interpreters of the mystery of godliness; thus the people are kept in ignorance of God's eternal will; hence, if the people could obtain the will of God concerning themselves, they would find out the deception and oppression of the present systems of religion, and thus their hypocrisy and false teaching would be exposed, and the people taught to shake off the fetters of fear and dread of eternal torment beyond the grave; and also the fear of that terrible monster which is said to be continually seeking the eternal domination of the human race. Oh, then, I would earnestly request the people to look into this matter, and see why it is that they are terrified with these things, shake off this slavish fear, and seek earnestly by prayer

and supplication to him who ruleth all things, that he may give you his holy spirit to lead and guide you in the path of truth; and, rest assured, if you seek earnestly and desirously for this, laying aside all bigotry and prejudice, you will shortly receive the divine light of heaven to guide and direct you, and when you have found the truth, embrace it firmly, and see that the temptations of the wicked and the vile do not allure you to give up that truth. Then let us look diligently and carefully into this subject, believing that God is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, and remembering that he is the same merciful being as he was in the days of old. And, if this matter is looked into with an unprejudiced mind, I have no doubt of being able to show to the reader's satisfaction the medium through which the will of God was made known to men, even from the present mis-translated edition of the scriptures. And as there appears to be a contradiction concerning this matter, I will show how this has arisen. It is declared in the thirty-third chapter of Exodus, and eleventh verse, that the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. At the twentieth verse of the same chapter it is declared that "No man could see God and live. The New Testament also declares that "No man hath seen God at any time." And to show how this corruption has originated, I would refer you to the eighteenth chapter of Genesis, at the first verse, where it is declared that, "The Lord appeared unto Abraham." in the next verse it says, "He lifted up his eyes and looked, and lo, three men stood by him;" then, in the third verse, Abraham is made to address the men, or angels as they afterwards proved to be, as "my Lord;" thus we find it is evident that Abraham saw three angels, and one spake with him, whom he addressed as "My Lord;" and as the before-named passage plainly shows that it was the angel, and not God, who spoke to him, though no doubt it was by command of God. Thus the frequent repetition of, "The Lord hath said," and, "The Lord said." Now, it would be very natural for Abraham to say he had seen the Lord, when he had no doubt seen the angel of the Lord. And, from the description we find of the angel's majesty and glory, as mentioned in Daniel, he would conclude at once that it was the Lord. In the fifteenth chapter of Genesis, first verse, it is declared that, "After these things, the word of the Lord came unto Abraham in a vision." In the fourth verse of the same chapter, "The word of the Lord came unto him, saying," &c. In the sixteenth chapter it is declared that the angel of the Lord appeared unto Hagar, the bond-woman, to cheer and comfort her for the wrongs she had received at the hands of those who had made themselves her protectors, and should have been her friends. Thus it is evident that the ancients held commune with angels, even in the early ages; and, as no man can see God and live, we must conclude that it was the messenger, or angel of the Most High, that spoke to them, or revealed his divine will to men. Thus, angels were sent to bring Lot by force out of the city of Sodom, before he poured down his vengeance on the wicked inhabitants of the place. In the thirty second chapter of Genesis, and first verse, it reads thus: "And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him;"

and, we are told in the following verse, that Jacob exclaimed; "This is God's host;" no doubt they were sent to comfort Jacob concerning the meeting of his brother, though it is not recorded what was their errand to Jacob; but, as angels are ministering spirits to the inhabitants of the earth, no doubt they were messengers of comfort to Jacob. If we look into the life of Joseph, there is much mystery about the interpretation of dreams. We find Joseph explaining and unravelling the dreams of the butler and baker of Pharaoh. Now, can we suppose that a youth like Joseph had this knowledge, of himself, to give the exact interpretation of the dreams or visions of these men? And then we find Pharaoh dreaming extraordinary dreams, and applying to his magicians and wise men for the interpretation of the same. It is very evident that the Egyptians possessed some knowledge or science by which they could interpret dreams, or foretell future events, or Pharaoh would not have sent for them; but it is also evident that this young Hebrew possessed some knowledge which the Egyptians did not; or, why could this stripling interpret these dreams? There is a remarkable fact connected with it, that the interpretation given by Joseph was truthful; thus, the chief butler had proved the truthfulness of the interpretation given by Joseph, hence he says, "And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was." After hearing the statement of the butler, Pharaoh sends for Joseph and wishes Joseph to give him an interpretation, but what is his answer? "It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace." Thus we see the difference between the magicians or wise men of Egypt, and the means that the young Hebrew possessed. Joseph's interpretation was an answer from God. Here then, we see the difference between the two, for even the wise men could not give an interpretation to it. Now, if they had been in the habit of giving interpretations to dreams by their own wisdom, why did they not give an interpretation to this also, as the explanation of this was not difficult for Joseph, it is evident that the interpretation had been withheld from the so-called wise men, and it is only by searching carefully that we shall be enabled to find out the means used by the two nations, the Egyptians and the Hebrews, for there can be no doubt but that the means of communing with God through his holy angels, had been handed down from Joseph's forefathers, and it is evident that Joseph was a diviner or foreteller of future events, hence his interpretation of the dreams of the butler and baker of Pharaoh, and the prediction of the famine in Egypt. Another proof that Joseph knew something about divination, is the words he commanded his servant to make use of: "Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth;" again addressing his brethren, "Wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?" Thus it is evident that Joseph had a knowledge of divining or prophecy, and would no doubt have been considered a wicked man had he lived in our day, and would have been charged by the sceptics as a fortune teller, or one who dealt with evil spirits. But the very name given to it shows that it is of divine origin.

To be continued.

PREJUDICE, BIGOTRY, AND SCEPTICISM.

To the Editor of the Community's Journal.

Sir—Never was there a time when Bigotry, Prejudice, and Scepticism, were more prevalent than in the present day. Prejudice is a principle which almost every person who is spoken to upon the subject will condemn as injurious; but only profess yourself to have a leaning towards anything which he feels it to be his interest to oppose, and he will show you that he is both bigoted and prejudiced against it; while, on the other hand, if you endeavour to set forth a principle or subject which he does not understand, he will, without hesitation or investigation, condemn it as a delusion. Now is it consistent with justice or charity for any person to condemn anything as a delusion, without first endeavouring to prove whether or not it is such. Is it not justice for a man who will give himself the trouble to condemn, to first give himself the trouble to investigate, and after an impartial and unprejudiced investigation, then give judgment accordingly. Were this principle generally observed prejudice and bigotry would soon fall to the ground, and the sceptic would find no society with whom he could associate. But, sir, bigotry and prejudice in the present day have got fast hold of the people, who, through the ambition of their teachers, are bigoted against everything which the said teachers endeavour to conceal from them by mystery, and amongst no classes are these principles more manifest than amongst the religious and wealthy. The religious will pretend to believe nothing but what the scriptures in their present form hold forth, and yet they openly deny and set at defiance its most sacred doctrines and precepts, which are "The fear of God and charity to all men, and to love thy neighbour as thyself." The rich will believe nothing but what the scriptures teach in their present form, because they shew forth tyranny and oppression by the rich on the poor, even by the chosen men, or men after God's own heart; while they too deny the doctrines of the scriptures in reference to charity and love to their neighbours. Hence they are sceptic on any subject that may arise for the purpose of enlightening the minds and understandings of the poor, by shewing them there is no eternal punishment or no hell fire, and that it is not God's will that they, through fear and these threats, should submit to be grovelling in wretchedness, ignorance, and poverty, while their rulers and teachers are revelling in luxury and wealth. But, sir, the people cannot see how they are bamboozled into this ignorance and unbelief; for those who are their superiors in station make it a point in principle to teach them to ridicule and treat with contempt every subject which may be opposed to the said rulers. And the people, for the sake of gaining favour with those in power over them, they unhesitatingly scoff, jeer, condemn, or treat with contempt and ridicule, the efforts of any person who may labour, even disinterestedly, to alleviate their social or moral condition; and before doing this they will not trouble themselves to investigate, but condemn without a hearing, or without any knowledge of the subject they so ignorantly repudiate. This, sir, is particularly the case in reference to the important subject of spiritualism and divine revelation, which is now creating so much excitement in various parts of the kingdom. And as its

whole tenor or doctrine is devoted to the welfare and alleviation of the present condition of the poor, no wonder that the wealthy and religious classes rail against it, for the present system of embracing the religious doctrines now taught is the first step which leads to ambition, wealth, and oppression; and by the people's silence and consent they assist imperceptibly in their own incarceration, degradation and misery. Therefore, let every one investigate the truths of spiritualism with pure motives of doing good, and they will soon be enabled to detect the fallacy of the present taught creeds, and become a people enlightened and united in heart and soul in the promotion of the welfare of each other.

J. G. H. BROWN.

CAPTURE OF A SHARK.

In the island of Barbadoes, West Indies, a short time since, a large shark measuring eighteen feet, was captured under the following circumstances. The garrison slaughter house being close to the water's edge, the refuse of the slaughtered animals, which are not made use of as in England, are thrown out and washed away with the tide. This creates a harbour for sharks, with which the bay swarms; and on the morning alluded to, one of these monsters being off his guard and anxious for his breakfast, was thrown up by a wave upon the sand, and as the tide was going out, he was left upon the sand, and the waves could not again reach him. He was accordingly soon discovered by a party of soldiers from the barracks, who hastened to the spot, and with their muskets and bayonets, after much difficulty, despatched him, and he proved to be a monster of unusual size.

The Community's Journal;

OR,

STANDARD OF TRUTH.

Saturday, July 25, 1857.

THE BOASTED PROSPERITY OF ENGLAND, AND THE STARVING CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

In another column of this journal a letter is given from a working man in Leicester, in which he describes the misery, destitution, and wretchedness of the great mass of the working classes in that town, especially amongst the framework knitters. Were Leicester the only place in which wretchedness and poverty are so prevalent, England might then have some cause to boast of her prosperity; though if even that one town was suffering from want and destitution, the boast of English prosperity would

then be a mockery to that people. But we are sorry to say that Leicester is not the only town in which poverty and distress are raging; for in Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Derby, and, in fact, in every large town in England, poverty and destitution rages to a greater or less extent. In every town hundreds of men who are able and willing to work, are walking the streets destitute of employment, while their houses are void of every comfort, and their families enduring the pangs of gradual starvation, clothed in rags, and their features pinched and careworn. Many of those who have work cannot realise sufficient to procure themselves and families the commonest necessities of life; while those who are more fortunate, and are placed in better circumstances by more remunerative wages, are taught by the wealthy manufacturers to scoff and ridicule at the misfortunes of their oppressed and downtrodden fellow creatures, who, should they attempt to raise a cry in defence of their rights, or to better their condition, their better-paid and better-fed fellow-workmen are the first to assist their employers in crushing those who are called the discontented, instead of sympathising with them and assisting them to obtain their rights. Thus the people, instead of being taught to benefit the condition of each other, are instructed to oppose and oppress each other, until nine-tenths of the population are driven to poverty, destitution, or crime, and are not permitted to live by honest industry. And yet, with all this discontent, all this poverty, wretchedness, misery, and crime, all these vices, rags, and careworn features, which can be met with in every part of the kingdom; our Queen can come forward at the opening of Parliament, or her ministers can address large meetings, and blaspheme the name of God by thanking Him that the people are in so prosperous a condition and so contented. Can any thing be more audacious, or more galling to the minds of the suffering masses, than such base and false assertions? Is it not a mockery of the people's sufferings, when a public boast is made of their prosperous and contented condition, when hundreds, nay thousands, are perishing for want, and instead of being contented, they are becoming

weary of the chains which bind them to their degrading position, and see, that instead of England being the home of the brave and the free, it is the prison of the hireling, the coward, and the slave.

THE OUTCAST FAMILY;

OR,

THE VICTIMS OF TREACHERY;

(Continued from our last).

was restored, the clerk of the court read over the indictment, which charged the two prisoners, Seargent and Smith, with feloniously entering a field in the occupation of one Mr. C., a farmer, of the parish of B. Green, and stealing therefrom one sheep, the property of the said farmer C. To this indictment the prisoners were asked, "Are you guilty or not guilty?" when they both pleaded in a loud and firm tone of voice, "Not Guilty." The court was intensely crowded, and many persons who were aware of the conclusive evidence which had been adduced against them, expected that they would have pleaded guilty, knowing that the sheep was discovered in the same premises where they were arrested; but when they pleaded not guilty, a little curiosity and anxiety was aroused in those who fancied they knew the circumstances connected with the case. The evidence was then proceeded with, and farmer C. was the first sworn. He gave his evidence with the same coolness as when before the magistrate, and which was to the same effect; and Dick, and the constable's evidence were in the same strain as that already related, as given before the magistrates; so far the evidence for the prosecution ended, and every thing appeared so plain that the prisoners up to that period were pronounced guilty in the minds of the whole assemblage in court. The judge then asked the prisoners what they had to say in their defence, when Seargent said, "It is true, my lord, that we brought the sheep from the fold, and if your lordship will hear us speak, the whole truth from beginning to end shall be laid before you." The judge then ordered them to make their statement as briefly as possible, and Smith related to the court that, on the Saturday night of the robbery, he and Seargent were in his cottage, having no thoughts of committing a robbery, or of going from home on that night, when, as soon as it was dark, Dick, the butcher, came in, and being familiar with him, entered freely into conversation, in the course of which he told them he wanted a hare. But I will not detain the reader with a recapitulation of what has already been described, but let it suffice that every circumstance was minutely detailed, the supper at the White Hart, Dick's proposals, his offer of payment, their rejecting and refusal, till at length they consented to assist him; his return to Brinkley and meeting them with the pony and cart at the College Field gate, their riding home together, his leaving them under pretence to fetch beer, and his return with the constable, and their arrest. The recital of this created great sensation in the court, amidst which the counsel for the crown

arose, and addressing the court said, "My lord and gentlemen of the jury, I wish to call your particular attention to a few circumstances connected with the case now before you. In the first place the witness J., meaning Dick, has sworn that one of the prisoners visited his house at half-past nine on Saturday night in Newmarket, and that he returned with the prisoner Smith on the road towards B. Green, until Smith ordered him to stop, when he alighted, entered through a gateway, and shortly after returned with Seargent, bringing the sheep, and they all returned to Newmarket. Now, although the prisoners have acknowledged to stealing the sheep, there is some mystery connected with the affair, which wants unravelling; for the witness J. has sworn that he was not at B. Green, nor at Brinkley; and, as the College Field gate is beyond B. Green, and the latter place must be passed through from Newmarket before the College Field gate can be reached, I should like to know at what gate, by the road side, the witness J. took up the sheep and prisoners into his cart. With these remarks the learned gentleman took his seat, amidst great applause from the crowded audience. The witness J. was again called, and asked on his oath, at what part of the road he stopped to take up the sheep: when he positively stated that he could not swear at what gate, or at what part of the road, as the night was extremely dark. Without further questioning, he was ordered down. The prisoners were then asked if they had any witnesses, when they replied that they only knew one person who had seen them together, which was the landlord who had provided them all with supper, and he had sworn falsely. "Is he here?" demanded his lordship. The publican was again seen pushing his way to the witness-box, and before the oath was administered he was cautioned as to the graveness and wickedness of swearing falsely; and, after kissing the book, he was asked by a jurymen, on his oath, whether he did or did not see the witness J. and the prisoners together at his house on the night of the robbery? When, being conscience-stricken, notwithstanding the oath he had already taken before the magistrate, said, "Well, gentlemen, I really cannot swear who was or was not in my house at the time you mention; I have frequently seen them all three together, but not at that time. As he uttered these words, hisses and groans could be heard throughout the court, which took some time to quell, and the judge, after severely reprimanding him, ordered him out of court. At this juncture, a youth not more than sixteen years of age, attired in a new smock-frock thickly ornamented upon the breast with needlework of white thread, could be seen pushing his way to the witness-box, just as the counsel for the crown rose a second time, and addressing the court again, said, "The mysteries of this case thicken, and my remarks, as to what part of the road, or at what gate the prisoners entered the witness J.'s cart, has not yet been satisfactorily answered, when the youth alluded to, whose name was John C., and who was a farm servant living at the next village, stepped forward, and, in the broad dialect of his country said, "Ise com'd apupas to zay what I knaws." "What is your name?" enquired the clerk. "John C." he replied. He was then sworn, and on being asked what he had got to say, he stated as

follows: "As I was a comin along the road toward B. Green, at daylight on Sunday morning, when I got to the College gate, I seed a cart, or siffin with wheels had been off the road, and stopping under the hedge, against the gate, and when I got to B. Green, about an hour arter, I heard that somebody had stole a sheep out of the College Field, and I told 'em where I was, that I'd zeen th' fresh print of horse feet an' wheels again th' gate; so when I heard as how Dick said th' cart didn't come to B. Green, I thought as how I'd com' here an' zay as how he did, cos I zeed the track on't." "Then," said a jurymen, "some cart must have been there," when farmer C. again stepped forward and said, "I had been there on the Sunday morning with my horse and gig, but it was near ten o'clock, and there were no prints of any other cart visible at that time," and as no other witnesses could be found to prove that Dick had been seen, the judge addressing the jury, said, "That although there was no doubt that the witnesses and the prosecutors had sworn to things which they could not substantiate, yet, under existing circumstances the subject of the cart was unimportant, since the prisoners had acknowledged to the court that they had stolen the sheep, and as this was a capital offence, no matter under what circumstances it was committed, it was for the jury to consider whether they thought the defence of the prisoners was a sufficient plea for mitigating the penalty, or whether they thought that the prisoners had been made the victims of a plot, and so allured into the commission of this crime against their will. There is evidence before you," said his lordship, "which proves their bad characters, having been in prison for poaching, and that neither of them obtained their living by work, which, coupled with their own confession of stealing the animal, is decidedly against them. Therefore it is for you, gentlemen of the jury, to decide as to what your verdict shall be." Before consulting, it was asked whether any persons were present who could give them a character as honest men, but no one stepped forward, and the jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of guilty. The judge, after a brief address, in which he showed the prisoners the folly of being allured to the commission of crime, stating that there could be no justifiable excuse for the men who listen to, or receive a bribe for the purpose of plunder, and that such bribery in no way diminished their guilt, and he should therefore sentence them to be transported beyond the seas for the whole term of their natural lives. As he uttered these words the two unfortunate men fell in a swoon upon the floor of the dock, and scarcely a dry eye was visible in the whole court. From the exposure elicited, it was now evident to all that Seargent and Smith were the victims of treachery and revenge. They were removed from the dock and conveyed to their cells amidst the stifled murmurs of a crowded court, who groaned and hissed as the parties connected with the prosecution left the court-house.

CHAPTER IX.

The removal of the prisoners to the Hulks, at Chatham—their labour in the docks—their first experience of the hardships of a convict's life.

For several years after the trial of Seargent and Smith the inhabitants of B. Green and the adjoining villagers

looked upon farmer C. with disgust and contempt; and whenever Dick, the butcher, had occasion to pass through the village, he was hooted and shouted, while the landlord, who had sworn falsely, was treated in a similar manner, and his house was for a long time almost deserted; for the exposure which had occurred at the trial, in reference to his false swearing, and the dispute about the road, and gate and cart, had caused general suspicion amongst the minds of the rustics, that Smith and Seargent were in reality the victims of some treacherous plot. This prevailing sentiment proved of benefit to poor Mrs. Smith; for when the people felt satisfied that some plot had been laid to entrap her husband and Seargent, they changed their manners and conduct towards her, and offered her friendship with sympathy and consolation; so that her condition, although effectually separated from her husband for life, was not so wretched and melancholy as before the trial, at least to all outward appearance.

The spring was now getting far advanced, it was now six weeks since the trial, which took place in March, therefore the month of April was nearly ended, when Mrs. Smith, as she was one morning preparing for her day's work, received a letter from Cambridge, informing her that her husband, Seargent, and several other convicts were about to be removed from Cambridge on the following Monday, and in this letter her husband requested her to come and witness his departure, and take a last farewell of each other. Accordingly, the day on which she received the letter being Saturday, she, at an early hour on the Monday morning set out on foot for Cambridge, which was a distance of thirteen miles from B. Green. She arrived in that town about half-past nine o'clock in the morning, and after some refreshment proceeded to the jail, where, after waiting till nearly eleven o'clock, she gained admission to the court-yard, where eleven men were seated on a bench, all chained together, and amongst them were her husband and Seargent. As soon as she recognised her husband she flew towards him, fell upon his breast almost fainting, as her husband caught her in his arms. The sight was an affecting one; and yet, even as they were thus embracing each other, one of the jailers came and with violence pulled the weeping woman from her husband and thrust her from him, saying as he did so, "That sort of work is all over with him while in this country, so it's useless hanging or crying around him," and he would not allow them to touch each other again. Several other persons, who were either wives, friends, or relations of the convicts, had now arrived, but would only be let to speak to their unfortunate relatives at two or three yards distance. At length the gate was opened, and the coach was seen standing in front of the steps, and immediately the men were ordered out, guarded by several officers, when they with difficulty, on account of their chains, ascended the coach. The chain was so arranged that it passed through a ring fastened to one of each of their legs, so that it was long enough for them to ascend the coach one at a time, and take their seats in succession, when the chain was drawn tight through the rings and their legs pulled close together. A heavy padlock was hung on the loose end, which lay on the foot-rest of the coach. Two officers then mounted in rear of the coach, and when the words

"All right," were given, the coachman drove off at a rapid speed through the streets of Cambridge, and was soon lost to the sight and sound of the convicts' relatives, whom they left almost heart broken at the front of the jail. The coach proceeded on its journey without any obstacles occurring, arriving by succession at Chesterford, Little Bury, Bishop Stortford, Epping, Leightonstone, Stratford, and thence to London, changing horses at the above-named places, where the prisoners were furnished with refreshment. Arriving in London, they proceeded at once to the Old Bailey, where the prisoners alighted from the coach, and where they remained several weeks before they were sent to the hulks; at the expiration of which time they and several others from different parts of England, were conveyed in prison vans, heavy ironed, to the London Bridge Wharf, shipped on board a steam boat, from whence they proceeded to Gravesend, where they landed, and were conveyed from thence to Chatham by stages, and arrived at the Dock-yard, Chatham, about three o'clock in the afternoon, where they were received by the officers and governor of the convict hulks, and conducted on board, and the next morning were supplied with the convicts' dresses, and had their fetters duly rivetted upon their limbs, and then commenced the hardships of a convict's life.

The same afternoon the new arrivals were distributed throughout the several gangs according to the nature of their offences, and sent to work in different parts of the dock yard under a guard of soldiers. They at first found that the life of a convict was much easier than they anticipated, though subject to many restrictions which in time become irksome and almost past bearing. For in addition to their heavy chains and hard work, silence must be strictly kept, no smoking or no conversation with any of the persons employed in the dock yard, till at length this continued suppression makes the convicts reckless, and frequent disobedience of these rules follows—the result of which is, that they are conducted from their work on board the hulks, tied up to the gratings, and receive from two to four dozen lashes on their bare backs with that infernal instrument of torture known as the "Cat-o-nine-tails." Scarcely six weeks had elapsed since the period of Smith and Seargent's arrival at the hulks before they committed acts both of disobedience and insult to the keepers over them, for which they were both severely flogged; which, instead of making them more docile and obedient, had the effect of making them more reckless and violent in their manners, until they were looked upon by the authorities as violent and insubordinate characters. During their stay in Chatham they received one letter each from their friends, and a short time after a number of the worst characters were selected, by order from the home office, to be drafted on board a ship under escort for Van Dieman's Land. A few days after, two hundred and fifty convicts left Chatham and proceeded to Gravesend, under a strong guard, where, upon their arrival, they were conveyed in large boats to the barque "Anna," a ship chartered by government for Hobart Town, for the purpose of conveying a detachment of the —th regiment to join the service companies of that regiment, which had already proceeded thither some months previously.

Two companies of the regiment in question were already on board, having embarked the day before, numbering about a hundred and seventy, rank and file, with non-commissioned and officers in usual accompaniment. Smith and Seargent were amongst the convicts who embarked on board the "Anna," where they remained, the vessel still at anchor, till about two o'clock the next morning; when, the tide being high and the wind fresh and fair, the anchor was weighed, the sails braced and loosed to the breeze, and the "Anna" leaving her anchorage in the Medway, entered the Thames, and with a gentle breeze, dropped down with the receding tide to Sheerness, where, on arriving in the channel, they passed Margate, Ramsgate, Deal, and Dover; and passed through the Downs before mid-day.

Leaving them to follow their course, still in sight of the Western coast, we will return to the parish of B. Green and describe the circumstances of Mrs. Smith, over whose fortunes we pass some three or four years, during which nothing of great importance occurred. Her children were growing off of hand, and the eldest was at work, and her circumstances had gradually improved. The remembrance of her husband's melancholy fate had almost subsided, and she had now shaken off her melancholy mood, and assumed her wonted cheerfulness; and being still young, traces of rustic beauty and simplicity were yet discernible, and many of the wild and reckless young men both in B. Green and other parishes, had endeavoured to allure her from the path of virtue and morality, some offering her marriage, knowing at the same time that such an event could not take place. Still they endeavoured to shew her that to ever expect to see her husband again was useless, for he was dead to her. She however for a time resisted all overtures, until she became acquainted with a family whose name I forbear mentioning, as the persons who are principally concerned in this narrative are still living. Suffice it to say, that the young man of the family alluded to succeeded in winning the confidence of Mrs. Smith; and, being a tradesman, and in better circumstances than she had been accustomed to, the prospect appeared good, and has since proved to be so; and though he could not marry her in the eyes of the world, yet they plighted their faith together, and have since that period resided together as man and wife, and have reared a family. But I believe since the knowledge of her husband's death, which was nearly eight years after his conviction, they have been married and are still living in the parish of B. Green, where they are well respected, and as they are no further concerned in the circumstances connected with this narrative, at least for the present, we leave them enjoying happiness and comfort, hitherto unknown to Mrs. Smith during her marriage life with her former husband, the misfortunes of whom, and Seargent, we follow across the stormy ocean in the ship Anna, bound for Hobart Town, Van Dieman's Land.

CHAPTER X.

The storm, the wreck, and the plot and mutinous conduct of the convicts.

We left the barque "Anna" pursuing her course outwards, still in sight of the Western coast, as described

in our last chapter; and as the gallant vessel ploughed the bosom of the deep, the sight which presented itself from the shore, even though at a considerable distance, would, to any other persons, have been one of beauty and admiration. But both the soldiers and convicts were leaving the shores of their native land for a far distant country, the convicts doomed upon their arrival to a life of drudgery, and the soldiers to the narrow chances and diversified character of a soldier's casual life; therefore as the distant hills of England became overspread with blue mist gradually sinking below the horizon, as the vessel stemmed her course, leaving no traces of land but the resemblance of banks of cloud which appeared dark under the reflection of the setting sun. The sea was calm, the evening clear, and the wind fresh, and the noble vessel cut her way through the smooth water at a rate scarcely credible. Several weeks were spent, and the vessel proceeded without interruption, and nothing since leaving England had occurred worthy of particular notice; till at length one evening about six o'clock, dark clouds were seen rising above the western horizon, and as the wind increased and blew high, its hollow sound rattling though the rigging, the sailors on deck unhesitatingly expressed their opinion that a fearful storm was approaching.

(To be continued in our next).

THE GRADUAL BUT CERTAIN GROWTH AND SPREAD OF SPIRITUALISM.

To the Members of the Community of the Great Organization.

We are happy to learn that our brothers in this great cause are using their exertions for the establishment of an organization, the principles of which being founded on justice and truth, we have no doubt will, in a short time, like ourselves, have numbers of friends to the cause flock to their standard, which, though its present principles may somewhat differ from those of the Great Universal organization founded on the 4th day of May, 1857, yet we ascertain that, as it is a spiritual work, ultimately all societies founded on the truths of Spiritualism will be united, so that the organization will be universal.

Our members who are enrolled, have all received instructions for their guidance, similar to those delivered from the prospectus by the secretary of the society, who held their meeting in the rooms of Mr. Whittaker, Newman Street, Oxford Street, London, on Wednesday, July 8th, and we are happy to find that organizations are forming for the purpose of diffusing knowledge, wisdom, and understanding amongst the great masses of the people, teaching them the sacred principles of fearing God, with charity and good will towards all men, that by embracing the divine doctrines taught by the spirits, the people will henceforth labour for the promotion of the comfort and happiness of each other, acknowledging all as brethren of the great human family, and God as the Father of all, no matter what their opinions, dispositions, grades, station, or intellect may be; and we shall feel happy to give publicity to any instructions these societies may feel desirous of making known to the people, by inviting them to enrol

themselves, and at once become members of the Great Organization, feeling certain that the ultimate end of each spiritual society is one and the same. And, at the same time, the public are respectfully informed, that a printed Code of Rules, with pledge for signature to become members of the Great Universal Organization, will be sent post-free to any applicant, whether male or female, who may be desirous of becoming a member of the Great Organization, and so be a people prepared to embrace the doctrines as taught by the spirits, which are the genuine doctrines diffused by Christ and his apostles. Therefore, whoever feels desirous of embracing the true and genuine doctrines of spiritualism, can receive the printed rules for signature, by applying to the circle, addressed to J. G. H. Brown, Walker-street, Saeinton Nottingham.

Signed in behalf of the Circle,

J. G. H. BROWN, *Medium.*

T. P. SLRATH, *Secretary.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Atlantic Telegraph.—At a banquet given by the American chamber of commerce, at Liverpool, on Saturday evening week, to the officers of the United States' frigates, Niagara and Sasquehannah, master C. J. Bright, engineer to the company, reported that eight hundred miles of the telegraph cable was safely coiled on board the Agamemnon at Greenwich, and six hundred on board the Niagara in the Mersy. The manufacture of the 2500 miles was completed and he saw no reason why they should not meet together before the end of the month, so as to commence actual operations early in August, the best period for the undertaking. The announcement was received with loud cheers.

France.—The refugee question is becoming very serious, France making common cause with other governments, intends to exercise a pressure upon the English Cabinet, which is expected to be irresistible. The "Pays" says, that such a state of things calls for repression. It is from London that all these attempts emanate, and it is in London that the evil must be attacked at its source and if it be proved that London has become the principal theatre of conspiracies, directed against all continental governments, that assassins are enlisted there, for the democratic and social war, that arms and ammunition are manufactured there for the purposes of assassination and civil war; energetic measures are called for, to give satisfaction to the interests of nations allied with England, and to the public conscience, which has been so long outraged by revolutionary excesses. And what is really meant to be asked for in a threatening tone is nothing less than, the abandonment of the old English rule of hospitality to political offenders.

Three of the Republican candidates, who were elected have refused to take the oath of alliance to the Imperial dynasty.

The cost of the Chinese War.—The sum required to be devoted by parliament, this session, towards defraying the expence of the naval and military expenses in China, beyond the the ordinary grant for navy and army services, is estimated at. £500,000.

Collision in the Chanel.—We regret to announce the collision off Holyhead, of the Austrian barque *Grazidio*, on her passage down the channel, bound from this port to Trieste. She was run into at 6 a.m. on Monday, by the ship *Carlyle*, Captain Simpson, from Liverpool to New York, and sank in two minutes. She had on board a crew of nineteen men, out of which six met a watery grave.

Rebuilding of Sebastopol.—By the last accounts received from Sebastopol, the rebuilding of that devoted city was going on with great activity, and it was gradually rising from its ruins. The Governor is indefatigable in his endeavours to restore every thing to its former state, and when the balance of the fleet is raised, or the harbour cleared of such part of it as is not worth raising, there will be no traces of the havoc of war remaining, but the ruins of the magnificent docks, which it will require years of labour to rebuild.

Capture of a Boa Constrictor.—During my American rambles, I once met with an adventure not easily forgotten. It occurred while proceeding with some travelling companions up a large river. In passing along, the eye rested with pleasure on the fine forms of the trees in the adjacent forest, or followed the flight of numberless water-birds,—many of them new to us,—especially the large white gulls called “garce,” or the white egrettes and divers, with flesh coloured heads, with which the air and water seemed alive. Count Bismark shot a “*Mergultho*,” (a bird between a goose and a duck), and Count Oriolla a large white bird of prey. I was just loading my fowling piece, when I observed an object on the white mud of the river, which gleamed in the sun’s rays like a coil of silver: it was a serpent basking in the sun. We rowed towards the spot, and Count Oriolla fired at it from a distance of thirty to forty paces, he missed it with the first barrel, but wounded it in the tail with the second, which was charged with large shot. This seemed to rouse the creature: our boat grounded almost at the same moment a little higher up than where the serpent lay, but some intervening bushes prevented our keeping it in sight. We all eagerly jumped into the river, followed by most of the crew; Counts Oriolla and Bismark were overboard in a minute, but as the real depth of the water seemed to me problematical, I leaped quickly on to a withered branch of an enormous prostrate tree, which served as a bridge to the shore. Though I had little hope of coming up with the serpent, I advanced as fast as I could along the slippery trunk, a thing by no means easy, on account of my large india-rubber shoes, which the swollen state of my feet had obliged me to wear for some weeks past. Just then I heard the report of a gun on my left, and instantly jumping into the morass warm from the sun’s heat, sinking into it up to my knee at every step, and leaving one of my shoes in the mud, I hastened in the direction of the sound. Count Oriolla, who was the first to leap out of the boat, ran to the spot where he had wounded the serpent, and caught a sight of the reptile as it was trying to escape into the forest. Suddenly it glided into the mud under the trunk of a prostrate tree, and at that instant the Count struck it with a cutlass, which, however merely raised the skin; he then threw himself at

full length upon the creature as it was sliding away, and thrust the steel into its back a few feet from the tail. The count vainly tried to stop the monstrous reptile, which dragged him along, though the cutlass had pierced the body and entered the ground beneath. It was fortunate that the serpent did not bend backwards and entwine its bold pursuer in its folds; nor less so that Count Bismark, the only one armed with a gun, came up at this critical moment; climbing over the trunk of a tree, he faced the enemy, which, hissing, lifted its head erect in the air, and with great coolness gave it a shot through the head, which laid it apparently dead on the ground.

My travelling companions described the creature’s strength as wonderful, writhing in immense folds, and flinging its head from one side to another in its efforts to escape the well-aimed stroke of Count Oriolla; but a few moments after the shot, which carried away its lower jaw and a part of the head, the serpent seemed to arouse from its stupefaction, and Count Bismark hastened back to the boat to fetch Mr. Theremin’s gun. All this was the work of a few moments; I had hardly left the boat more than two or three minutes, when I stood beside Count Oriolla, on the trunk of the tree, with the serpent coiled up in an unshapen mass at its roots. I could scarcely wait to hear what had passed, but seized a heavy pole from one of the men who gather round, to have a thrust at the creature’s head. Raising itself up, it now seemed to summon its last strength, but it vainly strove to reach us on the tree. I stood ready, armed with a cutlass, to thrust into its jaws, while the count stirred up the serpent, provoking it to the fight; the creature’s strength was however exhausted. Count Bismark now returned, and shattered its skull with another shot, and it died in strong convulsions.

Though I could not share with my valiant companions the honour of the day, I was fortunate enough to arrive in time for the “hallali.” Our prey proved to be a large boa constrictor, measuring sixteen feet two inches in length, and one foot two inches in circumference. In skinning and dissecting it, a dozen membranaceous bags or eggs were found in its body, containing young serpents, some still alive, from one to two feet long. The count kindly presented me with the beautiful skin, which was spotted with white, yellow, and black, and covered with small scales; this trophy of their valour now forms the chief ornament of my residence of Monbijou. As soon as the task of skinning was accomplished, which the thickness of the animal’s scaly covering rendered very difficult, we again set sail, soon after twelve o’clock, and continued the ascent of the Amazon, carrying off the skin of the boa in triumph spread out to dry upon the roof of our boat.—*Waldemar’s Travels in America.*

SELECT VARIETIES.

A country schoolmaster interrogating a lad, said, “Why did Adam bite the apple?” “Because he had no knife to cut it,” replied the urchin.

An odd thought in a young mind.—A little Swedish girl, while walking with her father on a starry night,

absorbed in contemplation of the skies, being asked of what she was thinking, replied, "I was thinking if the wrong side of heaven is so glorious, what must the right side be!"

The Comet.—A correspondent of the American *Cincinnati Times*, thinking it not impossible that the comet may be open to persuasion, addresses it thus, in a recent letter:—"What's he got against us? What have we done that he should, directly or indirectly, in his *Wandering Jew* style of perambulating, trespass on our premises, and frighten Mr. Buchanan's people out of their senses? Why can't he pitch into one of his own size?—say a North River steam-boat—or lash his elongated fiery narrative against the seven wonders of the world, and let us alone? Mr. Comet, what is the use of acting in this way? Go along about your business. We are not ready to go yet, and if we were, we are not so absent-minded as to forget to ask Gabriel to blow his horn. You know there's plenty of other planets. What are you foolin' round here for? Go to the Arctic regions and melt things, that Yankee enterprise may find Sir John Franklin, without losing 'pride of soil.' Go to Jupiter—go home—go home—go anywhere! you old, insinuating, good-for-nothin', dilatory, slothful, negligent, elongated astronomical, out-of-the-way, municipal wanderer. Where's your eyes? Can't you see us? Do you want to run over a body? Now, Mr. Comet, don't!"

Mutual forbearance.—That house will be kept in a turmoil where there is no toleration of each other's errors, no lenity shown to failings, no meek submission to injuries, no soft answer to turn away wrath. If you lay a single stick of wood in the grate, and apply fire to it, it will go out: put on another, and they will burn; and half a dozen, and you will have a blaze. There are other fires subject to the same conditions. If one member of a family gets into a passion, and is let alone, he will cool down, and possibly be ashamed and repent. But oppose temper to temper; pile on the fuel; draw in others of the group, and let one harsh answer be followed by another, and there will soon be a blaze, which will enwrap them all in its burning heat.

Water falling downwards no wonder.—An odd-looking person from the Emerald Isle, who had visited the Canadas, had journeyed upwards to see some friends who lived at Drommonville, a village situated a little below the great falls and near to the banks of the river, one day visited the falls for the purpose of gratifying his eyes with the sight of one of the seven wonders of the world, when, upon his arrival, and gazing upwards at the immense sheet of water which was rolling incessantly over the precipice, the noise of which can be distinctly heard at Niagara, fourteen miles distant. He assumed an air of disappointment as he turned towards his friend and shook his head.

"What is the matter, Pat," said his kinsman, "are you frightened?"

"Arrah! no," said Pat, "but do ye call that a wondher?"

"Yes," said his kinsman, "that same fall is one of the greatest wonders in the world!"

"Faith!" says Pat, "it is no wondher at all, not a bit of it, for if you put wather up any place it will fall down again, but I always thought that the falls of Niagara fell up; as such a wonder is made about it, when it is not a wondher at all at all."

How to get a Feather Bed.—The following extract is from Lover's *Handy Andy*:—"In carrying off the small thing of a feather bed, Jake Take, the old burglar, showed the skill of a high practitioner, for he descended the stairs backwards."—"Backwards!" exclaimed Harry Hogan. "what's that for?"—"You'll see by and by," said Croggins. "He descended backwards, when suddenly he heard the door opening and a female voice exclaiming—'Where are you going with that bed?'—'I am going up stairs with it, ma'am,' said Jake, whose backward position favoured his lie, and he began to walk up again.—'Come down,' said the lady, 'we want no bed here, man.'—'Mr. Sullivan, ma'am, sent me home with it himself,' said Jake.—'Come down, I tell you,' said the lady in a rage, 'there's no Mr. Sullivan here.'—'I beg your pardon, my lady,' said Jake, who turned round and marched off with the bed fair and easy."

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS, AND THE PUBLIC GENERALLY.

Our readers and the public generally are respectfully informed, that it is the intention of the proprietor of this Journal to further enlarge its size, as soon as its circulation will warrant such a step. In compliance with the promise made in our first issue, we have already increased it from eight to sixteen pages, and we in confidence solicit our subscribers to use their exertions in promoting its circulation amongst their neighbours, so that, if each subscriber can obtain an additional one, and thus spread this Journal amongst the classes whose interests it advocates, we pledge ourselves in a few weeks to make it equal in size, interest, and workmanship, with any periodical of the day. But we have not yet, like the "London Journal," effected a circulation exceeding half a million of copies weekly. We hope only for a liberal share of patronage, and which, by strict attention, punctuality, and selections of matter of important interest, shortly to obtain. And all persons who find it difficult to obtain this Journal from their regular booksellers, are requested to forward their names and address to the Nottingham Agent, Mr. J. G. H. Brown, Walker Street, Sneinton; or to the London Agent, with stamps as follows:—for four stamps, three journals will be sent post-free to any part of the united kingdom; or, if one month's subscription be sent in advance, four journals will be sent post-free to every subscriber, at the expiration of each month; or, if six stamps be sent, the journals shall be forwarded weekly, so that the postage will be defrayed between the subscriber and the proprietor. But this can only be effected by addressing to Mr. J. G. H. Brown, as above, who has received this instruction from the sole proprietor. Observe! six stamps sent in advance, will insure four journals every month, one a week regularly on the day of issue; thus, wishing to place the journal within the reach of all, the proprietor will divide with the subscribers the expense of postage.

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N.B.—*All letters of interest will be inserted if space admit, the Editor not being responsible for the principles such letters advocate.*

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The Community's Journal ; or Standard of Truth, may now be had in monthly parts with embellished wrappers, price 6d. Part I, for July, now ready, and will be sent to any address, on application to the Nottingham agent, Mr. J. SWEET, Goose Gate ; or to Mr. J. G. H. BROWN, Walker Street, New Sneinton, Nottingham.

Now ready, in neat wrappers, stitched, 64 pages, demi octavo, price 1s.—**Revelations from the Spirits of Swedenborg, the Swedish Spiritualist, and Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet.** This work shews the truths as set forth by Swedenborg, and the hypocritical delusions of the Mormon doctrines, as described by the spirits of both men. London: HOLYOAKE & Co., 147, Fleet Street ; or from Mr. J. G. H. BROWN, Walker St., Sneinton, Nottingham, and all booksellers.

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N.B.—All communications for the Editor of this Journal must be addressed—"To the care of Mr. S. E. HACKETT, Printer, Maypole Yard, Market Place, Nottingham."

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