

hoarse roar or back, however, under my very feet, made me execute a pirouette in the air with extraordinary adroitness, and perhaps with more animation than grace. I had almost stepped on a young crocodilian imp, about three feet long, whose hide, small as he was, would have been the reverse of pleasant. Presently the genius of the place made his appearance in the shape of a wizard-looking old Fakier, who, on my presenting him with a couple of rupees, produced his wand—in other words a long pole, and then proceeded to "call up his spirits." On his skouting "Aoi aoi!" "Come! come!" two or three times, the water suddenly became alive with monsters. At least three score huge alligators, some of them fifteen feet in length made their appearance, and came thronging to the shore. The whole scene reminded me of fairy tales. The solitary wood, the pool, with its strange inmates, the Fakier's lonely hut on the hill side, the Fakier himself, tall, swart, and gaunt, the robber-looking Belorhee by my side, made up a fantastic picture. Strange, too, the control our showman displayed over his "lions." On his motioning with the pole they stopped (indeed they had already arrived at a disagreeable propinquity,) and on his calling out, "Batho," "Sit down," they lay flat on their stomachs, grinning horrible obedience with their open and expectant jaws. Some large pieces of flesh were thrown to them, to get which they struggled, writhed, and fought, and tore the flesh into shreds and gobbets. I was amused with the respect the smaller ones showed to their overgrown seniors. One fellow, about ten feet long, was walking up to the feeding-ground from the water, when he caught a glimpse of another much larger just behind him. It was odd to see the frightened look with which he sidled out of the way, evidently expecting to lose half a yard of his tail before he could effect his retreat. At a short distance, (perhaps half a mile) from the first pool, I was shown another, in which the water was as warm as one could bear it for complete immersion, yet even here I saw some small alligators. The Fakier told me these brutes were very numerous in the river, about 15 or 20 miles to the west. The monarch of the place, an enormous alligator, to which the Fakier had given the name of "Mor Sahel," (my Lord Mor) never obeyed the call to come out. As I walked round the pool I was shown where he lay, with his head above the water, immovable as a log, and for which I should have mistaken him, but for his small savage eyes, which glittered so that they seemed to emit sparks. He was 20 feet in length. —*Dr. J. Leves from Young Egypt.*

THE DUTY OF LAWYERS DEFENDING CRIMINALS.

THE WEBSTER CASE.—The management of the defence in the case of Webster, is made the subject of remark in one or two quarters still, to the disparagement of counsel. It is the first time, we suspect, that the discretion and skill of Judge Merrick was ever brought into question upon that point; and even now, few of those who declaim upon the subject would, we apprehend, be able to entertain the public with a greatly superior display of ingenuity from so small a supply of material. The notion that Littlefield's position might have been used by shrewd counsel to Webster's advantage, is occasionally intimated. Such a notion agrees only with that very loose sense of professional integrity, too prevalent both at the bar and in the community.

Within a short time past, the press of London has taken in hand a barrister of England, Mr. Phillips, very justly, for his course in the defence of Courvoisier, tried for the murder of Sir Wm. Russell. He, knowing that Courvoisier was the murderer, conducted his argument before the jury with a view to induce the belief that a maid-servant in the family was the culprit, and supported his argument by the most solemn appeals to the duty which respect to the innocence of his client. The jury, however, found that client guilty; and before his execution he confessed the deed. And it also became known that Phillips was fully informed on that point at the time of trial. The maid-servant was so much effected under the insinuations wrapped around her by the insinuating advocate, that she soon after became a maniac and recently died in a madhouse. This event brought the subject afresh in the public mind, and Mr. Phillips was so severely handled by the press that he retreated to the Bench for protection, and came out with a card signed by the judges who presided on the occasion, in vindication of his course. But the judges fared no better than the barrister, and the press turned its battery without reserve upon them; an enlightened public opinion concurred with the press, and this infamous system of judicial dissimulation has received a shock from which it will never recover.

The idea that a man may do anything for his client although he knows him to be a great rascal unkind, can never be commonly carried into practice without corrupting the public morals. A lie, is as much a lie in the lawyer, as it is in the merchant; yet the merchant who would practice the same duplicity and resort to the same sort of expedients to cheat a customer, as those too commonly used at the bar to defraud public justice, would be turned loose to encounter the contempt of society. That many in every class and calling do resort to guile and cunning, we know very well; but in no profession are these regarded as commendable attributes of character other than that of the law; and there they will soon belong to, and be claimed only by, the pettifogger.

A lie is a lie, whether expressed in plain words, by innuendo, sign or look. Every attempt to produce a belief in the mind of another, whether he is on the street or empanelled in the jury box, contrary to the facts known to the party by whom the attempt is made, is a lie. And every lawyer who does this, however human systems and common custom may warrant the practice and acquit the practitioner, is morally responsible for the falsehood it involves. Who does not know that the *supplicatio verbi* on the part of the prosecution would elicit a storm of indignation; yet the *suggestio falsi* of the defence is a thing of course? But find us the measure of the difference between the two, and we how to a casuistry far more adroit than our own.

MIRACLES OF THE PAPAL CHURCH.

All acquainted with the publications of members of the Roman Catholic Church, whether in former or in present times—many of them sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Book Society of Dublin, must be aware that they are actually crowded with miracles, most absurd and ridiculous. Who can think of images falling from heaven, and moving, and weeping, and talking, and working miracles, and annually drawing hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to the spot where they are manifested, as in Italy;—who can think of these things, and not see that they must at once weaken the mind, and shake confidence in the stability of nature, which is so essential to true science?

An intelligent writer, the author of "Rome in the Nineteenth Century," who is not only not adverse, but favourably disposed to the Italians, and who resided among them for a considerable time, says, "I might write a book of miracles, were I to relate the hundredth part of all that take place every year, nay, every day, in Italy." (Vol. i. p. 201.) So lately as 1817, when at Rome, the writer mentions that one took place. An image of the Virgin Mary spoke to an old washerwoman, and found great fault with the comparative neglect with which the chapel in which she was worshipped was treated. In expectation that the Virgin would speak again about four o'clock in the afternoon, for this seemed to be her favourite time for conversation, the writer saw thousands crowding to the chapel at this season—not only of poorer people, but multitudes well dressed, nay, with handsome equipages, of all sorts—so as to give the scene the appearance of a fair. (p. 194.) I do not speak of the utter falsehood of popish pretences to miracles—a striking proof of which is afforded in the fact stated by the same writer, that there were no miracles wrought in Italy, when the French held possession of the country—perhaps for the reason, that these sceptics might have been disposed to act, as one French soldier is said to have acted, who commanded a priest to show him the melting of St. Januarius' blood on another day than that of his anniversary under the penalty of having his own blood shed if he refused—and the miracle, of course, was wrought—I do not speak, I say, of the truth or falsehood of the popish miracles, but simply of their unmeaning prodigious number, for the most unworthy, inappropriate ends; and this, I contend, is injurious to that confidence in the regularity of nature which lies at the foundation of all true science.

Nor is it the popish miracles, strictly so called, which alone are injurious to science. The absurd and incredible tales to which the Church of Rome lays claim, and which she presses on the faith of her adherents are exceedingly prejudicial to mind, both disconcerting, where received, a weak and blunted state of intellect, and also perpetuating the mental debasement. Who, without a shock to reason, could believe in the reality of such tales as the following, which the author to whom I referred saw exhibited at Rome, in the Church of St. John, on Holy Thursday:—The heads of St. Peter and St. Paul encased in silver busts; a lock of the Virgin Mary's hair, and a piece of her petticoat; the robe of Jesus Christ, sprinkled with his blood; some drops of his blood in a phial bottle; some of the water which flowed out of the wound in his side; some of the sponge; the table on which the Saviour ate the last supper; the pillar from which the cock crowed on Peter's denial. At Mantua, the birth-place of Virgil, in the north of Italy, a bottle of Christ's blood is liquefied every year; which bottle, it is said, was dug up in a box about two hundred years ago, with a written assurance that it had been deposited there by a Roman centurion who had witnessed the crucifixion, and became converted, and fled from Judea to Mantua, with this bottle of blood; and after lying sixteen centuries in the ground, the box, the writing, the bottle, and the blood, were as fresh as if placed there only the day before. (Vol. iii. p. 201, vol. ii. p. 234.)—*National Protestant.*

A HARD HIT.—A speaker, in a meeting not long since, enlarging upon the rascality of the devil, hit him off in the following pithy words.—"I tell you, brethren, that the devil is an old liar! For when I was about getting religion, he told me that if I did get religion, I could not go into gay company and lie, or any such thing, but I have found him out to be a great liar!" This produced a spontaneous outburst of indignation on the wicked intrigues of the devil and the meeting broke up amid the congratulations of the audience upon the "dear brother's" resistance to temptation.

A minister at church, approached a little urchin about twelve years old, and, laying his hand upon his shoulder, thus addressed him.

"My son, I believe the devil has a hold of you."
"I believe he has too," was the significant reply of the urchin. The preacher, about that time, *vamosed*.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.—A man five feet six inches high on the seashore, or on level ground, can see about three miles distant.

A piece of fir two inches in diameter bears seven tons; a rod of iron, one-third of an inch in diameter, bears three tons; and a hempen rope of the same size will carry 1000 lbs.

A fall of three inches from the centre to the sides is sufficient in a road of thirty feet wide.

There is iron enough in the blood of forty-two men to make a ploughshare weighing 24 lbs.

The human brain is the twenty-eighth of the body, but in the horse but a four-hundredth.

Ten days per annum is the average sickness of human life.

The chirp of the cricket is produced by rubbing its legs together.

A standing tree is measured by squaring one-fourth of the girth and multiplying it by the height of the trunk.

IN A BAD FIX.—The editor of the St. Mary's Beacon says that he is so badly poisoned that one eye is closed, and that he can scarcely see out of the other. He also has the cow-itch, and says that six men and a boy could not keep his hands still.

AN ACT

To establish the amount of certain Silver Coins that shall be taken in payment as a legal tender in this Province.

Passed 26th April 1850.

"Whereas the aliquot parts of certain Foreign Silver Coins in circulation in this Province are found materially deficient in weight, and it is necessary to limit the amount thereof to be taken as a legal tender:

I. Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council and Assembly, That from and after the passing of this Act, the aliquot parts of all Silver Coins other than those of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the United States of America, shall not be deemed a legal tender in this Province beyond the amount of five shillings in any one payment, unless of full weight, any law or usage now in force or to become in force in this Province to the contrary notwithstanding.

II. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be and continue in force until the first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty two.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this excellent institution was held at Exeter-hall, London, on Wednesday last. The Earl of Harrowby presided. The annual report reviewed the foreign operations of the society, directing attention first to the continent of Europe, where its operations embraced France, where 108,238 copies of the Scriptures had been issued during the past year, and 2,728,968 since the first establishment of the society; Belgium, Holland, and the Rhemish provinces, where upwards of 76,000 copies had been distributed; Germany, Hungary, Italy, Prussia, Malta, India, Greece, China, South Australia, Sierra Leone, the West Indies, and British North America.—Returning to its domestic operations, the report proceeded to congratulate the society on the circumstance that Prince Albert had lately constituted himself a life governor of the institution by a donation of £50. The total receipts of the year had amounted to £91,634 12s. 7d., not so large as last year, which included, however, upwards of £7000 of a special fund, contributed towards the society's extraordinary operations on the continent, which fund this year had only been increased by £1314 8s. 2d., so that the regular income of the year showed an increase of £2023 14s. 7d., over the preceding year. The total sum applicable to the general purposes of the society was £44,135, 2s. 11d.—The free contributions from auxiliary societies had amounted to £31,413 1s. 7d., the donations to £5566 3s. 4d., and the legacies to £4348 1s. 1d. The sales of the year had amounted to £46,185 1s. 6d., and the payments had been £97,246 1s. being £3415 0s. 10d. more than the payments of the preceding year. The list contained some noble donations; amongst them were Miss Jane Cook, Chertsey, £1000; an 'Anonymous Friend,' £500; Mr. Durant, Cophthall, £500, &c. The issues of the year had amounted to 1,136,695 copies, being 29,177 more than on the previous year. The total issue from the commencement of the society amounted to 21,110,050 copies. The engagements of the society amounted to £63,555 18s. 2d. The number of new societies established during the last year was 132, making the total of societies now existing 3182.

The total receipts of the Wesleyan Missionary Society last year, were £111,685 13s. 6d., and the total expenditure £109,168 10s. 7d., leaving a balance of £2517 2s. 11d., to be applied in reduction of the debt of £12,358 16s. 1d.

The imprisoning of British subjects of color in the Southern States, while the vessels to which they belong are in port, was brought before Parliament on the 29th April, in consequence of Capt. Waddington, of the Mary Ann, of Liverpool, having had to pay £20 gaol expenses, at Charleston for one of his crew, and also, his full wages. Lord Palmerston stated that the subject was not a new one to the government, and that remonstrances had been made in 1847 to the government of the United States against a law which was not only inconsistent with the comity of nations, but at variance with the treaty of 1815; and the answer was, that the Federal government had no power to induce the legislature of South Carolina to alter its municipal law; and that if the British government insisted on its rights under the treaty, the government of the United States would find the matter so difficult, if not impossible to deal with, that it would be obliged to take advantage of the stipulation which gave liberty to either party to put an end to the treaty of 1815, upon twelve months' notice.

SINGULAR OCCURRENCE.—The Steamer Osprey, which arrived on Tuesday last from Philadelphia, while on her passage, struck against some thing which gave the vessel such a shock as to induce Captain Dickenson to suppose that he had touched upon a shoal or large log. Upon examination, nothing could be discovered, but the speed of the boat was materially lessened.

About six hours subsequently, Captain Dickenson, upon getting over the bow of the steamer for the purpose of securing a dolphin, discovered an object hanging to the cutwater, this he soon made out to be a huge turtle, which took all hands, including the passengers, to haul on board. —*Charles Mercury, May 2.*

We learn that a soldier named Wilson, a prisoner in the Penitentiary, put a period to his existence yesterday by cutting his throat with a razor; the man had been complaining of illness for some time past and perhaps his head was deranged at the time.—An inquest will be held this day.—*St John Courier, May 25.*

Messrs. Bertrand and Heath, of Isle of Verte, have addressed an interesting letter to Mr. Tache, M. P. P. for Kamouraska, on the subject of a Canal or Railroad, from Isle Verte or Trois Pistoles to Lake Temiscouata and from the Lake and river Madawaska to St. John, by which Canada will be put into communication with the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic.—*Id.*

"Och, an' what's your honor agoin' to give me, seem' as it's myself that saved yer honor's house from turning to ashes entirely?" "How so, Pat?" "An' sure, when it cotched afire, wasn't I the second one that hollered fire first?"