



HORRIBLE MURDER IN BAVARIA.

In the department of the Isar, in this kingdom, and at some distance from the town of...

The following account of the previous circumstances, and the details of the crime, are derived from the evidence given on the trial, and the confession of the criminal himself.

George Wachs, at the time of committing the crime, only nineteen years of age, was the son of a reputable farmer, and was bound apprentice to a miller, in which situation he was remarkable for sobriety and good conduct until the age of eighteen, when, all of a sudden, his passions developed themselves with frightful energy.

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THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE JEWS.

Whatever guilt, either of secret perfidy or prayer for the success of the invader, might attach to the Jewish inhabitants of the South of France, during the invasion of that country by the Moors of Spain, when the barrier of the Pyrenees was established by the valour of Charles Martel, and by the ability of a new race of sovereigns, who succeeded to the feeble Merovingians, Pepin, and Charlemagne; these monarchs not merely refrained from all retribution, but displayed the more enlightened policy of conciliation towards their wealthy and useful subjects.

The Jews were only restricted in the possession of Christian slaves, subjected to the general marriage law of the empire, commanded to observe the prohibited degrees, and to conform to the general law of dower. The offender was liable to a fine of one hundred sous, and to suffer one hundred stripes. Their commerce was untrammelled, except by a limitation enforced on Charlemagne, rather by the irreligious covetousness of the clergy, than by the misconduct of the Jews.

The superior intelligence and a veneration of the Jews, in a period when nobles and kings, and even the clergy, could not always write their names, pointed them out for offices of trust. They were the physicians, the ministers of finance, to nobles and monarchs; and when Charlemagne, either with some secret political design, or from an ostentatious show of magnificence, determined on sending an ambassador to the splendid Caliph, Haroun al Raschid, Europe and Asia beheld the extraordinary spectacle of a Jew, named Isaac, setting forth on this mission, with two Christian Counts, who died on the road, and conducting the political correspondence between the Courts of Aix-la-Chapelle and Bagdad.

It cannot be wondered if this embassy gave rise to the wildest speculations in that ignorant age, both as to its objects and its event. It was given out that the Caliph granted Judaea as a free gift to Charlemagne; others limit his generosity to Jerusalem; others to the key of the Holy Sepulchre. This secret object probably never transpired beyond the councils of Charlemagne; but it was known that Isaac returned with presents of a wonderful nature from the East. Among these was an enormous elephant, of such importance that his death is faithfully chronicled by the monkish historians; apes, a clock, and some rich robes, doubtless of silk—Isaac acquired himself with such ability, that he was invested by his imperial protector with another mission to the same quarter. The golden age of the Jews endured, in still increasing prosperity, during the reign of Charlemagne's successor, Louis the Debonnaire, or the Pious. At his Court the Jews were so powerful, that their interest was courted by the presents of nobles and princes. His most confidential advisor was a Jewish physician named Ziddislah. The wondering people attributed his influence over the Emperor to magic, in which he was considered a profound adept. The monkish historians relate, with awe-struck sincerity, tales of his swallowing a whole cart of hay, horses and all, and flying in the air, like Simon Magus of old. A sort of representative of the community, the Master of the Jews, resided within the precincts of the Court.

The general privileges of the race were preserved with rigid equity. They were permitted to build synagogues; their appeals were listened to with equal—and their enemies said, with partial—justice; had free power to traffic, and to dispose of real or personal property. They had even interest to procure the alteration of certain markets, which they were customarily held on their Sabbath to another day. Besides their general protection several charters are extant, granting special privileges to certain Jewish communities, and individuals. One to the Jews of Langueudo, securing them the right of disposing of hereditaries, such as land, houses, mills, watercourses, &c.; another to a certain Danat Rabbi and his brother Samuel, granting them exemption from various tolls and taxes, permission to hire Christian slaves who were however not to be forced to work on Sundays and holidays, and generally to deal on slaves. Every litigation with a Christian was to be settled by the evidence of three Jews and three Christians. It forbade all persons to encourage their Christian slaves in disobedience. It took the persons of the above named under imperial protection. Their death was to be punished as the price of ten pounds of gold. They were not to be submitted to the ordeal of fire or water, nor scourged, but allowed in every respect the free observance of their law.

Accounts from Bar to Due state that wolves, in large numbers, continue to infest the department De Bar. Three of them were killed recently in one day. After a hunt on last Wednesday week, in the Forest of Brabant, near Tonnais, where a wolf was destroyed by them, the hunters, when their assistants were returning home, when a young man, resident at Bar, who happened to kill the wolf, wished to show his companions how he had shot the animal. He raised his gun for that purpose and presented, when one of the barrels, which was loaded, went off, and the contents lodged in the side of a young man named Jacques Etienne Petit, one of the assistants. The unfortunate man died the same day, leaving a widow and four infant children.

A female, about nineteen years old, in a fit of insanity, escaped from her residence in Westford on Monday evening. Although in poor circumstances, she was well informed, and even in her present deplorable state, will appear to be in conversation. It would be an exercise of charitable feeling by any person who may hear of her to communicate with the police, in order that the wretched creature may be restored to her friends.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY IN MANCHESTER.

A robbery of cash and bills to an amount of between five and six hundred pounds, was committed on Saturday last, between one and two o'clock, in the warehouse of Messrs. J and J Thompson, calico dealers, in McDonald's lane, under circumstances which induce a strong suspicion that the perpetrators of the crime were porters in Messrs. Thompson's employ, and who are now in custody. The men, whose names are Joseph McCormick and Mark Hatfield, were brought up at the Old Bailey yesterday, and Mr. Lavendar stated the fact of Messrs. Thompson's robbery, and the prisoners being in their service. He stated, that there was a chamber to a cellar window, which might possibly have been pushed open from the outside, whereby any person could have gone into the cellar, from which there was an unintercepted communication to Messrs. Thompson's counting house, from whence the money had been stolen. Some slips had been standing in the cellar beneath the window, which any person entering from the outside would have had occasion to remove; they were removed, however, and, as appeared to him, for the purpose of enabling some person inside to open the shutter. From this he was of opinion that the robbery had been committed by some person connected with the warehouse, who had put open the shutter with a view to throw a bolt on the robbery having been perpetrated by some one who had entered from the outside. He was, however, satisfied that the prisoners, from the dock from the following circumstances, were the thieves. He should be able to show, from the evidence of two other parties in Messrs. Thompson's employ, that the warehouse was locked up at the usual dinner hour, about five minutes after one o'clock, they keys taken away by the prisoner Hatfield, as was the regular custom, and that the two prisoners walked away to their respective dwellings. He (Mr. L.) should be able to produce a gentleman, who had occasion to go to their warehouse, and called about twenty minutes after one o'clock, where he found two persons, whom he was able to describe as being dressed like the two prisoners, but was unable to speak to identify further. This circumstance came to Messrs. Thompson's ears after the discovery of the robbery, and led to the prisoners being called on to account for their time during the dinner hour. Mr. L. stated that he went direct home to his dinner, to his father's house in George Light Street. This account was, however, false; for on further inquiry by the police, it was ascertained that his father had brought his dinner to the Spread Eagle tap-room. Hatfield had also his dinner brought to him to the warehouse by a little girl; but it was something extraordinary that he did not avail himself of the opportunity of taking it at the warehouse, but sent it home again, telling the girl that he would shortly follow; and it would be shown that he did not arrive at his house until about some time after the girl had got there. Now the gentleman who had called at the warehouse was not able to speak to the identity of the prisoner whom he saw, but the little girl, who was a relation of Hatfield's, was able to say that the prisoners were the two men who were in the warehouse, and it would then have to be considered whether, having looked up the warehouse, and having immediately returned, they could have been there for any but a dishonest purpose.

Mr. Kay, the gentleman alluded to by Mr. Lavendar, was called forward, and stated that he had a warehouse a few doors south of Messrs. Thompson, and came to see about five or six minutes after one o'clock, standing at the corner he saw a little girl come from Messrs. Thompson's warehouse, carrying something in a basket. Two men were then standing at a door, who were dressed in truck coats, similar to those now worn by the prisoners, and as the girl was going away, another man came to the two men and spoke a few words to them. He could not say that they were the prisoners; he thought they were rather tall.

Mr. Stafield and Mr. Coates each asked a few questions of the last witness on behalf of the prisoners, and his answers were to the effect that he believed the men whom he had seen were taller than the prisoners, and though he was a near neighbour of Messrs. Thompson's, he had not to his knowledge, ever seen the prisoners there.

The little girl was then brought forward, and stated herself to be going in years of age, and Mr. Foster here spoke a few words to Mr. Lavendar in private, after which he said he should not take any further examination to day, but returned the prisoners until Thursday. —Manchester Mercury.

The Protestant Bible Society of Paris distributed, at gifts, during the year 1828, 22,116 Bibles and 3147 New Testaments. In the same year they sold, at a very low price, 3676 Bibles and 2708 Testaments, making together 5922 Bibles and 6155 New Testaments. Since the period of its first foundation the Society has circulated 103,710 copies of the Scriptures.

The following curious letter appears in the Times:—Sir—You will much oblige me by contradicting the statement in the Queen's-square Police report, in your Paper of December 29, of Miss Gough being seduced by Capt. Gough, which is an absurdity, as it was by an officer in the same regiment. Louise Gough, Sovereignist.

Denmark overflows with titles, decorations, and petty privileges. Almost every respectable dressed person that you meet in the street has a star or a cross on his breast, a ribbon at his button hole, or a medal dangling from his waistcoat.

GUNPOWDER PLOT IN NEWGATE.

Notwithstanding the decent external demeanour of the convicts under sentence of death in Newgate, there are very frequent conspiracies entered into and plans made in order to effect their escape from the prison. Of all the plans laid by persons so situated as the convicts who have been so long in confinement awaiting the Recorder's report, perhaps the following is the most novel. It was concocted some time ago, and although discovered, was kept back from public view from motives of humanity.

The plan of escape was to blast the wall of the Post-yard, the end of which communicates with Newgate-street; and in order to carry it into effect, the mortar with which the stones are cemented was to be removed so as to make recesses, in which gunpowder was to be introduced; and from these depôts a train was to be laid to the stair case leading to the upper condemned room, up which the prisoners were to run at the moment of explosion, and when the aperture was made, they were to effect their escape during the general confusion.

Strict watch is always made of persons visiting prisoners in the goal; but, in order to introduce the powder undisturbed, the plan was, for a signal to be made by a halfpenny being thrown over the wall, and then the powder was to follow, wrapped up securely in paper—and so far had they communicated their scheme that two parcels had been actually thrown over before the plot was discovered.

Several, one of the young men who is ordered for execution tomorrow morning, was one of the ring-leaders in this plot, and being a person of bold enterprise, he was put in strong bonds, in which he yet remains. Had the scheme been fully effected, the consequences would, in all probability, have been dreadful, as, during those hours of the day when the convicts work the yard, persons are passing in great numbers, by that part of the prison to which the wall alluded to above, and which is more vulnerable than any other exterior part of the prison. —London Paper of Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS PART.—According to ancient custom, Mr. Roberts, of the Sportsman's Group, in Falduta, has received a large quantity, as a treat, to his friends at this season of festivity; it contains thirty rabbits, 3 cones of pork, 2 legs of mutton, and 11 steaks of beef; measures 3 feet 5 inches in length, by 2 feet in width, and weighs nearly sixteen stones. Mr. St. John Yates, of the Phoenix Inn, in the Pett, has also provided a similar treat for the same purpose, although it is only half the weight of the other, can boast of greater variety in its composition; viz. 3 cones of beef, 1 leg of mutton, 2 legs of pork, 2 geese, 1 rabbit, 2 brace of birds, 1 brace of partridges, and 1 brace of Great Tits; has been displayed, and much labour spent in their raising out of the way, and notwithstanding their ponderous weight and large dimensions, they are remarkably well baked, the crust of each being of a regular brown appearance. —Sheffield Paper.

As there are various reasons for supposing that the name of the Emperor of Brazil will be pretty frequently mentioned in the course of the approaching Parliamentary Session, we are tempted to give an anecdote, which we do not pretend to authenticate upon personal knowledge, but which we certainly have heard from high authority. When a diplomatic character, who now exercises a similar function with great distinction in a distant European capital, was Ambassador at the Court of Rio Janeiro, he occupied a Palace to which the Emperor took a liking, considering it a suitable residence for a person whom he honoured with his especial favour. A Brazilian Nobleman was deputed to sound the British Ambassador as to the probability of his being induced to give up his residence, and remove his establishment, to consult the convenience of the favourite. A prompt negative was the reply; and soon after the Emperor is person renewed the application. The Ambassador, respectfully, but firmly, persisted in his original resolution, and the Emperor apparently piqued, observed that it was unusual, according to received etiquette, to show repugnance in gratifying the expressed wishes of the Sovereign or of any member of the Royal Family—and the Ambassador remained fixed in his purpose, and in the course of the conversation he took occasion to remark that he himself had the honor to trace his descent to the Sovereigns of his own country. In fine, he retained his residence until the period of his recall. About this time a special mission had been sent to the Court of Brazil, and the Emperor Pedro, upon learning that Lord Ponsonby was appointed to succeed the former uncompromising representative of Great Britain, asked the Nobleman to whom the special mission was confided, from which of the three British Kingdoms the new Ambassador derived his birth—the answer was, "from Ireland." "I do not rejoice to hear that," cried Don Pedro the First, "for I would rather forego the alliance altogether, than have another obstinate descendant of the St. John King's sent here to maintain it." —Courier.

M. Casaccia, Professor of Practical Chymistry, at the Conservatory of Arts and Sciences, at Madrid, has arrived at Paris, charged by the King of Spain with a commission relative to that branch of science which the Professor has laboured cultivated. It is to be presumed that this learned person, who is about to return some months at Paris, will not return without being amply provided with all the instruments and scientific improvements which have of late years been discovered, so that he may be able to give a wider range, and embody more information in his lectures, which, even if their former necessarily imperfect state, were attended with a facility by the most distinguished persons in Madrid. This branch of instruction, novel for that country, is a manifest proof of the desire of the King of Spain to cultivate, more and more, the useful arts in his kingdom. —French Paper.

The largest customer for distilling glass ever manufactured has been made for Mr. Hooges, by Mr. Joseph Hall, of copper, and weighs upwards of five tons. Its height is fourteen feet six inches, its dimensions eight feet. It is to make tea gallons per minute, or 6000 per day.

POST-OFFICE INQUIRY.

HENRY STREET POLICE OFFICE DUBLIN. It has, we believe, been rather generally known that for many months past, a government inquiry has been in progress, respecting the pecuniary concerns of this Public Establishment. It is said that there were heavy defalcations on the part of several respectable officers. Their names were given by rumour, but we conceived it would be indelicate on our part to state them. However, as the matter has been brought under the notice of the Police Magistrates, we have to mention that on Wednesday evening a warrant was issued for the apprehension of a gentleman who held a situation in this establishment, of the name of Robert Harrison who was on Thursday taken into custody in Clontarf, by peace-officer Payne. He was brought to this office on the charge of embezzling property of the Post office, amounting to £139. This charge was founded on information received from, or documents sent forward by the Postmaster of Limerick. Mr. Harrison was committed to Newgate.

On Friday, Counsel on behalf of Mr. Robert Harrison, who had been remanded on Thursday for further examination, on a charge of embezzling £157 in the post office, where he held a respectable situation applied to the Magistrate to have him either fully committed for trial at the Commission which opens this day, or admitted to bail.

The application was resisted by the Solicitor for the Post Office on the grounds that the prisoner had been only arrested on the preceding day, and could receive no injury by the application being refused; that further information had been since sworn, and that more was preparing, and consequently, the charge against him was in its present state incomplete.

After a great deal of discussion, the further hearing of the application was postponed.

REVENUE LICENSES. HEAD POLICE OFFICE, DUBLIN.—On Thursday, Mr. B. Murphy, who has, it seems, held a highly respectable grocery establishment in Ballsbridge, Dublin, for a very twenty-five years, was summoned before the Magistrate for not having taken out a wine license for the last year, though it appeared by his sign that he was licensed to sell grocery, wine, and spirits.

Mr. Murphy, in his defence, stated that it was chiefly owing to the illness of the Inspector of the watch, and his (the Inspector's) opinion that he would not (knowing his character as a steady and honest man) be licensed to sell grocery, wine, and spirits.

The Magistrate said they were aware of the responsibility of Mr. Murphy, but they were law bound to fine him.

The penalty in a case of this kind is £20; but the Magistrate gave the custody of reducing it to one fourth. Mr. Murphy's plea was accordingly reduced to £5, which was paid.

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