

EDITORIALS.

A SINGULAR trial took place at the Parramatta, Australia, quarter sessions, last February. The prisoner was a sculptor named Jones, a man eminent in his profession; his crime was blasphemy. The indictment set forth that the accused, in a public speech of some thirty minutes' duration, had declared that the Bible was a lie, and so immoral as to be unfit for women to read; that Moses was an old wretch and a robber and murderer, &c., &c. When the question, "guilty or not guilty," was put by the court, the accused replied: "Guilty of expressing my utter abhorrence of the many immoral passages in the Old Testament but not guilty of blasphemy." The jury, however, thought otherwise and rendered a verdict of "guilty," and Jones was sentenced to two years imprisonment, and fined £100.

Such a trial and sentence in these days of free thought and religious, or rather irreligious, latitudinarianism is exceedingly anomalous, and smacks strongly of Puritanic times. If such conduct as that of which this man Jones was guilty were punished with like severity in this country, some of the most prominent religious teachers and ministers of the East would be now undergoing far heavier penalties than this Australian layman; for they not only go so far as to reject or condemn the Jewish lawgivers and their codes; but openly avow infidelity to some of the most sacred points of the Christian faith.

There is said to be considerable commotion in Australia over Jones' case, especially among the Unitarians; and one of their ministers has publicly said that he entertains precisely the same views, and wonders why he should be at liberty while Jones is in jail. Public meetings over the case were being held, and it was hoped that the agitation and public indignation would lead to a commutation of the sentence.

The man Jones, it is said, was in every other respect, a most exemplary citizen; but he had been consigned to durance vile, his hair had been cropped, and he subjected to strict prison regulations.

Should the sentence be commuted and he be restored to liberty, his incarceration, if he be a prudent man, will teach him not to make such an unbecoming and unnecessary parade in future of his views with regard to the scriptures, and the worthies who figure most prominently therein.

THE Sultan of Turkey has just made a present of a carpet to cover the floor of the east parlor of the Executive Mansion at Washington. According to the New York Herald this present was made by his Majesty through respect for the motives of the present Administration to carry on the government in the most economical manner; and having learned, something over a year ago, that this parlor needed a carpet, he made an offer of a present of one. His offer was accepted, the dimensions of the room were sent to Constantinople, and the carpet, which has been a year making, and cost between nine and ten thousand dollars, recently arrived, and now covers the floor of the room for which it was designed.

The Herald is evidently disappointed in the quality and appearance of this strange present. It says it is a yellow, red and white striped carpet, with vine work resembling the fantastic drawings of ambitious urchins. It is badly sewed and matched in a dozen places; the colors are too heavy and the design too common for the principal parlor of the Executive Mansion; but it will henceforth be allowed to disfigure the same, because it cost the government nothing and being the Sultan's present, it would be disrespectful to make any other disposal of it; and it will at least serve to show how much Turkey needs the artistic taste of American artisans in working up her expensive material.

THE "Bleeding Girl of Hainault" is the latest Catholic miracle, and is just now being made the subject of numerous newspaper notices, through the country. The condition of the "bleeding girl" presents a curious physiological phenomenon, and as physicians have vainly endeavored to account for it, the priests have made a miracle out of it. The case of the fasting girl of South Wales who, after going without food for many months, died of exhaustion some twelve or fifteen months ago, was one of the strangest on record; but the

bleeding girl of Hainault, is almost as strange and is equally well authenticated. The main facts connected with the latter are as follows: Her name is Louise Lateau, and she is now about twenty years of age. When seventeen years old she went out to service, and shortly after was taken ill, and it seemed as if she were going to her long home; but one Friday morning a slender rivulet of blood began to ooze from her left side, which continued for a short time and then ceased. On the following Friday it re-appeared, but was on the upper surface of her feet. The following week, on the same day, the crimson stream issued simultaneously from her side, feet and hands; a few months later it came from her head; and latest accounts say that every week, only on Fridays, she presents an awful sort of image of the Savior bleeding on the cross. Cataleptic symptoms accompany each recurrence of the bleeding,—the girl going into a kind of trance, in which she says she beholds the scene of the Passion. Tears roll down her cheeks, and she remains insensible to all outward sights and sounds, and cannot be awakened by numerous and powerful electric shocks during the paroxysm, which usually continues from 8 o'clock in the morning till 5 in the evening, blood flowing during the whole time. She awakes from her trance with a leap, falls into a cold sweat, has a rattle in her throat, an imperceptible pulse, and seems on the point of death; but she recovers in about fifteen minutes, and continues in her usual health until the next Friday.

The most eminent medical men of the locality have examined the case and profess to be unable to discover any trickery or imposture connected with it. One of the doctors has made numerous examinations and experiments, and, having scrutinized the places whence the blood exudes with a microscope, found that on those places the epidermis is very thin, so that the true skin can be seen through it. When the bleeding is going to begin, a little bladder appears on the spots, filled with a transparent, reddish fluid. A rent presently takes place in the cuticle, the serous fluid escapes, and the blood begins to ooze from the surface of the exposed papillae within.

The flow of blood often amounts to nearly a quart; and pending that the doctor has tickled the patient's nose with a feather, tested her sense of smell with ammonia, pricked her with a needle, and passed a strong electro-magnetic current along her arm, all of which she bore without the least manifestation of feeling. On one occasion the girl's hands were encased in well-stitched leather gloves, which were drawn tight at the wrist, and the strings sealed, the object being to detect trickery if any were employed. The Dr. watched the result, which was, that when the gloves were taken off they were found to be full of blood.

The above are the leading items recorded in this singular case, and they seem to be well attested; but despite the evidence as to the absence of all collusion or trickery, there may be some who will doubt it. To all such it need only be said that Hainault is a well-known town in Belgium, and that traveling by railroad and steamer can be done expeditiously and at a tolerably cheap rate.

OUR attention has been called by the visit of Mr. Hawkins, (who is acting as the Financial Agent of Jay Cooke & Co.) to the Northern Pacific Railroad and the progress which is being made in pushing it through. By the charter of this Road the company is authorized to construct and operate a continuous Railroad from "a point on Lake Superior, in the State of Minnesota or Wisconsin, thence westerly by the most eligible railway route within the United States, on a line north of the forty-fifth degree of latitude, to some point on Puget Sound, via the valley of the Columbia river, with a branch from some convenient point on its main trunk line across the Cascade Mountains to Puget Sound." In aid of the work, the charter grants to the company 20 alternate sections, or 12,800 acres, of public land, to each mile of finished track, through the States traversed, and 40 alternate sections, or 25,600 acres, per mile through the Territories. The charter also grants right of way, 400 feet in width, through the public domain, and the privilege of taking, free of cost, from the Government lands adjacent to the Road, all necessary construction material. Iron and coal lands are expressly embraced within the terms of the grant.

The General Mortgage conveys to two trustees, Messrs. Jay Cooke and J.

Edgar Thomson all the property and rights of property of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

Mr. Hawkins informs us that, including the purchase which the Northern Pacific Company has made, it has 475 miles of road now completed, and by September next 100 miles more will be finished. It is the intention to have the road entirely built by 1875. Accounts agree in representing the region which this road traverses as very fine. It has a mild climate, a naturally rich soil, and a fair supply of moisture. At the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad, flowers have bloomed in the open air every month of the past winter, and along most of the fertile belt traversed by the road, cattle readily subsist the year round on the nutritious grass of the plains and valleys. The snow-fall is said to be much less, and the rain-fall much greater along the Northern Pacific route than along the Union and Central Pacific.

THE Catholic church is not the only one which has its institutions of nuns; there are sisterhoods of Protestants in New York who are united together by obligations, and who wear a grave and peculiar dress resembling that worn by the Catholic sisters of charity. But the members of these establishments do not take vows to abstain from marriage, neither are they separated from the world or from the society of home and friends. They have assumed their obligations from choice, are associated in "homes" because they think they can accomplish more good than by isolated effort, and have adopted a uniform because it is both a convenience and a protection. Before becoming "a full sister" in one of these orders, "the Sisters of St. Mary," each candidate must serve "a novitiate" of two years, in order that she may be quite sure of her heartfelt preference for the life she has chosen, as when she assumes the obligations of sisterhood she is supposed to take them for life, although she is at entire liberty to leave the order should she so wish. The members of another Sisterhood, that of "Protestant Nuns," after a "probation" of six months, assume their obligations for no more than three years, at the end of which period they are at entire liberty to remain for another term of service or to return to the world.

Another organization is known as that of the "Sisters of the Good Shepherd." They are united under an "elder sister;" have several "probationers" as their assistants, and are also aided, in their works of benevolence, by volunteers who come for a few days or hours as they can give the time.

These orders of nuns have under their charge a number of charitable institutions for the relief of various classes, and many ladies in attending to them doubtless find room for the exercise of those benevolent qualities for which the sex is noted, and in which they can find a pleasure not to be obtained in a life of frivolity and self-indulgence.

THE Pall Mall Gazette relates an instance of a girl fifteen years of age, who had a passion for killing cats, birds, children, &c. She was in service with a family named Beer, living in Newington-Buffs, London, and on Good Friday her master and mistress went out for an evening's visit, leaving her at home in charge of three children. On their return home, between 11 and 12 o'clock in the evening, they found one of the children lying on the floor beside the bed, without any clothing, and another one dead, on the floor between the bed and the wall, the appearance of the body indicating that the child had died of suffocation. The girl was arrested, and on her examination testimony was produced which went to show that murder was a passion with her, and that in several families with whom she had resided previously, strange and sudden deaths of children, and domestic animals had occurred. At one place a friend of the mistress came to visit, and placed her baby on the bed, and shortly afterwards it was found dead. At the same place while this girl lived there, three dogs, a cat, a parrot, a number of goldfish and upwards of a dozen fancy birds were found dead at various times, there being, seemingly, no cause for death. In another situation she brought home a child insensible, which she said had fallen out of her arms; the child recovered, but about a week after, she brought it home, from another sitting, dead. When residing in another family, one of the children, seven years old, awoke with a choking sensation,

and afterwards told his father that the girl had placed her hand over his mouth, and then given him some money not to say anything about it. In the same family several domestic animals suddenly died. In another situation, a child, of whom she had charge, was found insensible in bed, and evinced the greatest terror on beholding her, after its recovery; and finally, it was testified that while at service with another family, she locked up a child in a wardrobe, then took it out and put it to bed, and shortly after it was found dead.

The whole of the preceding was given in evidence before the Coroner, but he did not consider it sufficient to hold the girl for the murder of the Beer child; but the parents instituted proceedings against her in the Lambeth police court, preferring a charge of murder against her. Throughout the investigation, which took place on the 29th ult., the prisoner was apparently unconcerned, and declined to say anything. At the close of the proceedings she was reminded that further evidence might be obtained if possible.

AN essay was read at the last monthly meeting of the Pennsylvania Society for promoting Agriculture by General Pleasanton, which contained some strange statements. The paper had for its subject the chemical effect of different rays of sunlight, or, more properly, the effect of the sun's rays upon animal and vegetable life when transmitted through different colored glass. Light transmitted through blue or violet glass, according to various experiments which have been made, produce wonderful results.

The following experiment with a graperly was the first in which the effect upon vegetation was first noticed. The graperly in question was 84 by 26 feet, and 16 feet high at the ridge. Into the glazing of the graperly at every seventh row of panes of white glass, a row of violet glass, blue not being procurable at the time, was introduced, alternating on opposite sides of the roof, so that a violet beam should fall eventually on every leaf in the graperly. The cuttings planted grew rapidly and new wood was noticed daily. In a few weeks after planting, the walls and inside of the roof were closely covered with luxuriant foliage. Experts pronounced the vines thus treated as far superior to those grown in the usual way. Cuttings were planted in 1861—in 1862 they produced a wonderful crop of grapes. So much so, that the small building was found to contain twelve hundred pounds of grapes. In 1863, the amount of fruit was equally large, and has continued thus, season after season, since, without abatement, the vines seeming to require no time to rest.

The effect upon vegetation having been so marvelous, the idea was suggested of trying it upon animal life, and, ludicrous as it may seem, the result was similar. A glazed roof, half white and half violet, was placed over the building used as a piggery, the growth and thriving of the animals exceeds any previous efforts in hog culture. Still more miraculous: An Alderney calf, so puny and feeble that its life was despaired of, was placed in a pen under violet glass. In twenty-four hours a marked change had occurred; the animal could stand, took food eagerly, and manifested great vitality. In a few days its feebleness had disappeared, it began to grow, and developed more rapidly than any of the healthy animals on the farm. The same principle has been applied to the raising of poultry with the most remarkable success.

In dwelling upon this curious theory, the Iron Age, asks: "If pigs, calves and chickens can be developed so amazingly, why stop with the lower animals, but subject man to the same treatment? Seriously, if the effect of such light upon delicate and puny animals is so invigorating, how cheap and easy a cure for puny children, and what a specific for the scourge of marasmus, which heads the list as the cause of infantile mortality. If good for sick calves and babies, why not for sick men, and why not have blue glass roofs to hospitals and infirmaries?"

If light transmitted through blue glass have such a wonderful effect, blue or violet glasses ought to have a restorative effect upon the eyes. If the statements made concerning these experiments be true, and reported upon such authority there ought to be some truth in them, there is a fine field for experiment. Experiments can easily be made, by which the facts can be demonstrated, upon fruits, flowers or even live stock.