

The Poor Man at the Gate of Paradise.—A Morning Dream.

BY W. WAYBRIDGE, ESQ.

A poor old man died on one bitter cold day,
And directly to Paradise wended his way;
Saint Peter he met—'tis a dream I relate—
With his great shining keys, keeping ward
at the gate.

Now, while standing here, with the Apostle
conversing,
The events of his journey to heaven re-
hearsing,
He sees a rich townsman—the gate is ajar—
Slip quietly by them and in through the
bar.

He listens; he hears peals of music arise
To welcome this man to his home in the
skies;
But on entering himself, though bright vis-
ions fill
His fancy with rapture, all is silent and
still.

"How is this?"—turning back to Saint
Peter, his guide;
In accents of wonder the poor man then
cried:

"When my neighbor went in, sweetest
music I heard;
Why is not the same honor on me now con-
ferred?"

"Dye keep up the distinction here, please
let me know,
'Twixt the rich and the poor that we had
down below?"

"Not at all," said Saint Peter; "oh, no, not
at all;
Just as brothers we live in this banqueting
hall;

"But poor folks like you, I am happy to say,
By hundreds pass through the gate every
day;

About once in a year comes a rich man
along,
Then all Paradise rings with a general
song!"

Christian Union.

The proprietor of a Boston eating sa-
loon advertises a "sacred clam chowder
every Sunday evening."

Of Wilberforce it is said, "He seemed
the brother of every man, and the lover
of every woman."

They tell of a Judge in Washington who
is so small that he never takes a bath
without the fear of being drawn through
the water-pipe.

The Rochester Democrat says: "small
men in the over-coat of the period have to
get out search warrants to find them-
selves."

A London slop-seller lately drew public
attention to his stock, describing the
clothes he made as "being, so to speak,
fitted by anticipation."

A schoolboy has put on paper the fact
that he would "rather be a little girl and
obey his mother than to be a dog and
obey the moon."

In England it is proposed that the
upper classes shall for a while discontinue
eating oysters, in the hope that they may
thus be had some day for less than \$1 a
dozen.

"Thar" lays a man who'd give his last
chaw of tobacco to a starvin' stranger,
and then pay him for spitting," was the
eulogy pronounced on William Hart, of
Tennessee.

A man had better have a mill-stone tied
to his neck and be cast into the sea, than
to promise to marry a Texas girl and then
refuse. The whole country turns out to
hunt him, and he is generally left to grow
up with a tree.

A Philadelphia man says that, when
his wife gets up in the morning with a
jerk, and neglecting to do up her hair,
goes silently about her work, she is mat-
terializing a domestic row which before
night will shake the house to its founda-
tions.

A Paducah, Ky., merchant publishes
the following card in the local newspaper:
"As an incentive to young men who con-
template matrimony, I offer to the first
couple, residing in this city or county, who
shall marry in the year 1875, a nice break-
fast table."

The Chinese have names which corre-
spond in frequency with the Browns and
Smiths of Anglo-Saxon Christendom.
Those most frequently occurring are Ching,
Chang, Wang and Shih, which are the
equivalents of "gold," "long," "prince,"
and "stone."

"I hate," said a French priest, "to con-
fess an Irishman, for there are four ques-
tions I always have to ask before I can get
at the sins:—'"Are you married or sin-
gle?" "Yes, sir." "Are you married or
single?" "No, sir." "Are you married
or single?" "Yes, sir." "Are you a
married man?" "No, sir."

An honest old burgher of Peebles was
enabled by some strange chance to visit
Paris, and was eagerly questioned when
he came back as to the character of that
capital of capitals, to which he answered
that, "Paris, a' things considered, is a
wonderful place; but still, Peebles for plea-
sure!"

A man was seen coming out of a Texas
newspaper office with one eye gouged out
and his nose spread all over his face like a
piece of raw beef, and one of his ears
chewed off. To a policeman who inter-
viewed him, he replied: "I didn't like an
article that 'peared in the paper last week,
an' I went for see the man who writ it.
He war thar, stranger."

Suppressing the Sisters.

SCENE IN THE MEXICAN CONGRESS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PAS-
SAGE OF THE LAW BANISHING
THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.

The day of our visit was one
chosen for the final debate and bal-
lot on the bill for suppressing the
Sisters of Charity. Arriving at the
entrance, we found a regiment of
infantry drawn up before the build-
ing, and guards with fixed bayonets
at all the entrances. Our conductor
spoke a few words to the officer in
charge, and the crowd gave way for
the "Americanos" to pass. The
interior was densely packed with
the best people of Mexico, for it
was a day of great excitement, as
the "Sisters" were the last remain-
ing Catholic order in Mexico, and
their suppression would complete
the abolition of all the orders of the
Roman Catholic Church in Mexico,
excepting pastors of churches. This
fight is not between two religious
bodies, like that which is now go-
ing on in England and Germany,
but is between the Mexican govern-
ment and Rome. The causes of
the bitter feelings against the Sisters
are their continual attempts to
excite the ignorant and lower or-
ders of the population to revolution
and their intriguing against the
government. The priest-trammelled
people of Mexico have borne the
cross of St. Peter in superstition
and ignorance for over three centu-
ries, until the clergy, in their cor-
ruption and tyranny, attempted to
sell their country to the French in-
vaders. This produced a revolution,
which first broke out during the
French occupancy of the country.
This has been growing stronger and
gaining strength every day until
now, and has finally resulted in the
destruction of every order of the
Roman Catholic Church in Mex-
ico.

A few years ago this city and
country swarmed with tens of thou-
sands of profligate nuns and monks,
who once owned one-third of all
the real property in the country.
They lived in the hundreds of con-
vents and monasteries which oc-
cupy the most beautiful sites in the
land, and waxed fat on wines from
Italy and old Spain, and the deli-
cious fruits from the Terra Cali-
fornia. The clergy were the omni-
potent governors of the State, polit-
ically and spiritually. Nine mil-
lions of people worshipped God
through them, and were taxed ac-
cordingly for their support. The
priest exercised a most jealous
guardianship over this ignorant
population lest the "damnable
heresy of Protestantism" should
take root among them. Religious
freedom was unknown, although
the Constitution, which is very
similar to that of the United States,
acknowledged the right of every
man to worship according to the
 dictates of his conscience. Protes-
tants had no rights that a Catholic
was bound to respect.

When a religious procession, with
the image of the virgin at his head,
was passing, all were obliged to
kneel, and woe to the luckless in-
dividual who refused to bend his
knees, for he would be immediately
attacked and knocked down by
some zealous devotee of the church.
Formerly the few Protestants who
resided here were not allowed to
bury their dead in the light of the
sun, and were compelled to deposit
the remains of their loved ones in
the caves which abound in the
mountains.

To-day everything is changed.
In traveling through the country
one is impressed with the look of
ruin and desolation that surrounds
the now abandoned convents that
everywhere dot the landscape, their
crumbling walls half concealed by
the trees that have outlived their
planters and are now green and
vigorous after the holy brothers
who nourished them are gone and
numbered with the passed. These
old monasteries, with their Moor-
ish towers and cracked bells, are
melancholy monuments of the
number, wealth and influence of
their former owners. Around
them are clustered the only trees
that enliven the view, beneath
whose boughs the walks of the gar-
dens may still be traced, though
overgrown with briars and cactus-
ses. Like the walls and the towers,
however, the rare plants and
shrubs that were once trim and
blooming now have a mournful air
of negligence and decay—all being
a sad commentary on the elegant
extravagance of the "padres" who
owned them.

To-day, thanks to the beneficent
labor of the progressive Juarez, and
in spite of the opposition of the
army of bishops and priests of the
church, religious toleration is estab-
lished and defended by law. The
jolly, roystering friars and monks
are dislanted and overthrown. I
am informed by Mexicans, in an-
swer to my inquiry, as to what has
become of these suppressed friars
and nuns, the most of the friars
have become brigands and gamblers,
while some of the nuns were mar-
ried, and the majority are fol-
lowing a life of shame. The over-
throw of the different orders in the
church has been complete, and the
immense property of the church,
with the exception of the churches
and the land immediately pertain-
ing to them, to enable people to
have ordinary religious services,
were confiscated to the State. The
priests having charge of these
churches remain undisturbed, but
are simply tolerated on probation.

This is the work the government
has been engaged in during the
last three years, and the expulsion
of the "Sisters of Charity" is the
finale in this contest between lib-
eralism and patriotism on the one
side, and intolerance, bigotry, and
traitors on the other. For several
days the expulsion of the "Sisters
of Charity" was the cause of a most
animated debate in the Mexican
Congress, and created much excite-
ment among the people. It was
the subject of conversation to the
exclusion of all other topics. The
opposition to the bill, headed by
the clergy, was fierce and protract-
ed, but it was carried by a vote of
112 to 54.

While I was in the House I wit-
nessed an affray which illustrated
the condition of law and order in
this country. During the debate
on the bill for suppressing the "Sis-
ters of Charity," a son of President
Juarez applauded in favor of the
bill. An Indian policeman, a sym-
pathizer with the "Sisters," drew
his sword and struck Juarez several
blows, cutting him on the head,
shoulders and arms, nearly killing
him. Juarez drew his revolver and
fired at his assailant, but missed
him, and killed another Indian
standing by. The crowd were
frightened and fled, and the police
rushed in and arrested the murder-
ous policeman and took him off to
prison. He will be tried and prob-
ably shot.

This assault on Juarez created
most intense excitement among
the liberals, who charged that the
adherents of the church were at the
bottom of the attempt to take Ju-
arez's life.

The announcement of the pas-
sage of the bill to suppress the "Sis-
ters" was received with general
satisfaction by the populace. I can
imagine how the people of the
United States, especially the Rom-
ish portion, will be surprised at the
reception of the intelligence of
this suppression of the "Sisters" by
what is supposed to be a Roman
Catholic government, especially so
when that order of nuns are look-
ed upon in so different a light from
what they are in this country.—
*Mexican Correspondence Cleveland
Leader.*

DANCE OF DEATH.

MEMBERS OF THE ILLINOIS LEGIS-
LATURE TRANSFORMED INTO
LAUGHING HYENAS.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., January 20th.
—The numerous murders and sim-
ilar outrages which have taken
place in Williamson county within
the past two years, and which the
officials of the county have been
powerless to punish or prevent, are
matters of record, and are familiar
to the readers of the daily papers.
These outrages have been so flag-
rant, and lawlessness has been so
unrestrained, as to render necessary
some interference on the part of the
Legislature. But when this sub-
ject was broached in the House
yesterday, it was, to the disgrace of
the members be it said, treated
with derision and contemptuous
laughter. The fact that such a
solemn matter should be treated in
such a shameful manner reflects
discredit, not only upon the Repre-
sentatives there assembled, but also
upon their constituents. To L. F.
Plater, Representative from Har-
din county, belongs the honor of
having called the attention of the
House to these outrages, and to
him must be accorded the credit of
having made the first important
speech of the present session. Dur-
ing the proceedings this afternoon
Plater gained the floor and offered
the following resolution:

Whereas, numerous murders and
attempts at murder have been per-
petrated during the two years past
in Williamson county, in this
State, a number of the victims of
which were respected citizens; and,
whereas no earnest attempt has yet
been made to bring the assassins to
justice and restore law and order in
said county; or, if made, has been
unsuccessful; therefore, to the end
that the people of said county may
be relieved of the uncertainty, ap-
prehension, insecurity, and terror-
ism that now render them unhap-
py and discontented, and desirous
to emigrate to some more peaceable
and respectable section of coun-
try;

Be it resolved, by the House of
Representatives, that a committee
consisting of three, from the House,
be appointed for the purpose of in-
vestigating the outrages and assassi-
nations in Williamson county
aforesaid, and to compel the atten-
dance of witnesses to appear before
them and testify upon oath the
condition of affairs there, and to
ascertain, if practicable, the cause
of the lawless condition of said
county, and what measures are
necessary to render life more secure
therein, and report the same at the
earliest day practicable to the
House.

Plater made a most telling and
graphic speech in support of this
resolution. Already he has acquir-
ed wide-spread notoriety by one or
two brief efforts, but this, which is
really his maiden speech, totally
eclipsed all former efforts by him-
self or others. Those who take the
trouble to read it will be impressed
with the absolute necessity of some
remedy being found for the horri-
ble condition of affairs existing in
Williamson county, upon which
Plater showed himself well posted,
and will doubtless fail to see why
the subject should have received
such scurrilous treatment at the
hands of the House. Plater said:

"I would say that in the county
of Williamson there has been in
the last two years twelve or four-
teen murders. These murders, Mr.
Speaker, have been committed by
unknown parties. Midnight assas-
sins have come with their shot-
guns, and have come with their
sabers. Yes, gentlemen, they have
taken the lives of innocent men
who were sitting around their fire-
sides, enjoying the pleasures of
home. [Laughter.] The life of
these men has been taken by par-
ties unknown. No one knows any
thing about them. [Laughter.]
This House may think this is a
laughable matter, but it's nothing
for the General Assembly, or peo-
ple representing them from differ-
ent sections of the country, to
assemble in the State House and
laugh over a matter that has been
the cause of the death of fourteen
citizens of this State of Illinois.
This is a matter for you to take
under serious consideration, and I ask
your hearty concurrence, and that
of every member of the House. I
offer a resolution for a committee
of three to investigate these outrages
in Williamson County, in this
State of Illinois. Congress sends
her committees to Louisiana and
the Southern States to investigate
these outrages which occur in the
the Southern States. Therefore,
when these outrages occur in the
State of Illinois, in one of our sister
counties, the General Assembly
should be willing to investigate
these outrages. For the purpose of
investigating this matter, and find-
ing out who are these midnight
assassins who are taking the lives
of our citizens—" [Plater here re-
freshed himself with a glass of
water.]

Hopkins of Cook here said: "I
move that the water be strength-
ened." [Uproarious laughter.]

Plater resumed his speech as fol-
lows: "I desired the water so that
the gentleman might hear me bet-
ter. But, as I said, how does it oc-
cur? It seems disreputable for
Southern Illinois. We are not in
favor of Ku-Klux, we are not in
favor of guerilla, we are not in fa-
vor of citizens having their lives
taken at the midnight hour. We
are opposed to any such thing.
And that is why we offer this res-
olution and ask the members of the
Assembly to concur with us and
appoint a committee of three. We
are in favor of State's rights in all
the States of Illinois. We are in
favor of a committee going to Wil-
lamson county to summon every
man or individual that knows any
thing about these outrages, and
make them tell the circumstances
of this affair. Let me relate, gen-

tlemen, one little thing. You may
go to Williamson county, and you
can't find a man that will tell you
anything about these affairs. Why?
Why? Simply because if he does
not more than to-night, when he
gets assembled in his own house he
will get a load of shot from a
double-barreled shot-gun. [Continued
laughter.] Let me say that
this is no laughing matter. If you
have got the heart of a human be-
ing in your body you will never
laugh at this matter. If you are a
man of principle you will never
laugh, but take it into deliberate
consideration. Why do we find
fourteen of our citizens murdered
in Williamson county? Nobody
knows anything about it. True,
we have got a criminal law that
protects these parties, but go there
and you can't—"

Mr. Claffin—"I would like to ask
the gentleman within what time
these murders have occurred?"

Plater—"Within two years four-
teen murders have occurred. Not a
single officer in Williamson county
will execute the duties the statutes
impose upon him. The grand jury
won't take any action. Why? Be-
cause it is afraid that they will be
shot down in their houses at mid-
night. In the name of God, what
kind of thing is this for a civilized
country? [Laughter.] Now gentle-
men, I have offered this resolution,
and ask your concurrence because
I believe it is right. Now we are
living here in Sangamon county,
and in every county, and should
take some measures to investigate
these midnight murders. Who
stands with his shotgun in his
hands? [Boisterous laughter.] You
may laugh, but I am a State's
Rights man. I believe when citi-
zens of our country are shot down
at the midnight hour the General
Assembly ought to take some ac-
tion on it. Go to Williamson coun-
ty to-day and you will find at least
twelve or fourteen widows there,
with a house full of children, that
their husbands have been shot
down at the midnight hour. Are
you in favor of that? [Laughter
and confusion.] I don't wish to
continue my argument any longer.
[Cries of "Go on" from all sides.]

A member asked if they had
county officers in that county.

Plater—"I have nothing to do with
that county. I don't live there."

Member—"Is Williamson county
organized?"

Plater—"The State of Louisiana is
organized, and has all the officers."

Member—"But is Williamson
county organized?"

Plater—"Yes. I have one remark
to say to you, gentlemen. We pro-
pose sending a committee to in-
vestigate these outrages."

Wilcox—"I would like to know
if the gentleman thinks it safe for
a committee to go down there. I
don't want to go. [Laughter.]

Plater (after drinking deliberat-
ly)—"If that gentleman wants to go
there with me I'll guard him down
there, or will ask the privilege of
the House to appoint 'three or
more' policemen. [General laugh-
ter and great confusion.] I am not
much of a talker, but I know how
to express my views. I ask you to
reflect upon this thing of fourteen
citizens being laid in the tomb by
midnight assassins."

It was moved to refer the resolu-
tion to the committee on militia,
which was amended by suggesting
the committee on fish and game.
Plater objected. Merritt proposed
a reference to a committee of one,
Plater to be chairman, not wishing
the other members to be engaged
in such a dangerous business. The
resolution was finally referred to a
select committee of five, to be
hereafter appointed, and Plater's
friends hastened to congratulate
him on his marked success.—*Cor.
Chicago Post.*

The State of Illinois is in a fair
way to become the reproach and
the laughing stock of the whole
nation through the partisanship,
obstinacy, ignorance and incapacity
of the coalition Speaker of the
Assembly. If Mr. Speaker Haines
is the only sort of fruit that is like-
ly to proceed from the Democratic
Independent conjunction, those
two parties, for the credit of the
State, had better hereafter take
separate beds. It is due, however,
to the better portion of Democrats
and Independents in the Legisla-
ture to say that they are decidedly
sick of their Speaker. In fact, his
conduct is regarded by all parties
as simply villainous. Moreover, it
is revolutionary, and unless the
Speaker shall see fit to alter his
hand, the Legislature is liable at
any day to break up in a row.—
Quincy Whig.