

CONFESSION OF A MURDERER.

As we have already stated, two men, Andrea Hall and Barney O'Donnell, were hanged at Troy on Thursday last, one for killing and robbing a Mrs. Smith, the other for the murder of an Italian music boy.

The condemned—by this time the deceased—was 42 years of age last May. He was a vicious and unrepentant boy, early addicted to theft and drunkenness. Still he had a conscience, as his recollection and remorse for the theft of a string from his grandmother, of fruit from his companions, &c., which are detailed with penitence minuteness, show to the world.

In 1847, from revenge, he murdered, near Troy, a companion, whose body he plundered; and the recital of this bloody deed, and of the attempt to conceal the body, is most disgusting. Thefts, burglaries, attempts at arson, and unexpected plans of murder for revenge and plunder, occupied his time for the year preceding the murder for which he was convicted. He was engaged to be married; but at this time, reflecting on the crime which had forfeited his life and would, if discovered, disgrace his friends, he felt remorse, and contemplated and prepared for suicide.

He was only turned from one crime to fall into another. He started amid thunder and lightning to Petersburg, and there slept in a barn at a distance from Smith's house. He knew that Smith had money, and had often been tempted to think of murder as the means of getting it.

SMOKING AND SHUFFLING.—A French legislator has proposed to the Assembly to pass a law—asked leave to bring in a bill, as we say—to tax smoking and snuffing, the proposition being, that every person intending to smoke or snuff shall obtain a license to do so, the price of which will be fixed at five francs—fifty cents.

A tax on tobacco chewing, smoking and snuffing, at the French rate, would produce in the U. S. not less than six or seven millions of dollars per annum, upon the supposition that not a great number would relinquish the indulgence in preference to paying the tax.

BRANKING INTO A "HELL."—The New Orleans police, about ten days since, made a sudden descent upon a noted gambling house. The Piqueuse says:—Upon forcing the door, the scene that ensued beggars description.

THE MURDER OF FREDERICK.—The day before the adjournment of Congress, Mr. D. Federal member of the House from Kentucky, from a select committee, made a report that the powers exercised by the President in establishing a tariff of duties at Mexican ports during the war, and appropriating the money in a way not designated by the act of Congress, are not warranted by the constitution and the laws, and are in derogation of both.

MURDER BY A MARRIAGE.—A most revolting murder occurred at Parkersburg, Va., on the 18th ult. It appears that some three years ago, a poor boy, in a very destitute condition, made his acquaintance in that country, and was supposed by many to be deranged. He was taken by Mr. Butler, with whom he lived until the occurrence we are about to relate took place.

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THE LATEST FROM CALIFORNIA.

From the Boston Evening Traveller. We stated in Friday's Traveller, that we had seen a private letter from San Francisco, dated January 20th, which contained statements in respect to the gold mines, exciting and arousing the marvellous interest of former accounts.

Dear Uncle, I get myself down to write a few lines, to let you know that I am in the land of the living, and that I am now enjoying tolerably good health. While I was in the gold diggings, my health was bad for a month or so; for there we had no houses, and for the most part had to sleep on the ground under rocks, where we could get a place.

As for gold, I have gold, I have got plenty. I have got about 700 pounds. It sells here for from 12 to 16 dollars the ounce. I was in the diggings three months and a half, and if I had had something to wash out the dirt clean, I should have got as much again; for we can get nearly all of it out.

I want you to come out here; you can get just as much gold as you want. I know where there is a ledge, that is almost solid gold; but I shall not tell any body, nor work at it, till my friends come out. I found it out by one of the Indian Chiefs, whose life I saved, when he was about to be murdered.

The gold country is immense. I have been five hundred miles up the country; and the further we go, the thicker the gold is. I think on the river where I was, the fountain head is in the mountains; but it is awful travelling to get up my ledge. I know where there is plenty of water in the mountains.

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CALIFORNIA GOLD—MORE REPORTS.

The New York Tribune publishes extracts from two letters from California, from Commercial correspondents of a house in New York, the writers of which seem to be well informed in the matter.

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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER.

ERIE, PA. SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 31, 1849. "IS HE HONEST?" According to Gen. Taylor's professions before election, this question was all he would ask an applicant for office.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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