

[We have been favored with a copy of a very fine poem with the above title, published in the Liberator, University of Wyoming, January 19, 1855.]

SELECT MISCELLANY. AN AFFECTING INCIDENT.

Looking over the columns of this journal for the past fortnight, we light upon the following marine item:

THE AGITATOR.

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WELLSBOROUGH, TOGA COUNTY, PA. THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 19, 1855. NO. 15.

"Yes, why do you ask her, and she half turned about themselfs? You must find them, I say, at once, and not all these asking their names. I say, Sir, you must find them; I'm her friend; I have come here without fee or reward to see justice done, and she shall have justice, Sir." And then his stick thundered against the floor again, and he gasped for breath.

"I turned to him and told him I had endeavored to be as patient with him as I could, but as he was so immensely violent, I could feel obliged if he would leave the office, and then I could attend to the woman's business more readily. This staggered him; he left the office," he ejaculated, and he positively seemed about to choke with indignation. He threatened and vociferated for some time, but finally, upon being threatened with arrest, left. I then learned that the woman had come all the way from Vermont, where she had left a husband and three children to meet her other little ones from the old country. I learned that the children's names were John, Annie, and Kate. I hallo, aged respectively 13, 11, & 9 years. Of course they were readily found upon the manifest, but my heart almost turned to ice when I saw written against the name of each: "Washed overboard."

"Fearing to shock the poor mother with too sudden a revelation of her bereavement, I asked her if she had been long expecting her children.

"Oh, yes, Sir, the husband first left off Ireland and came out, and toiled and scraped until he aired money enough for me and the three children that's here, to come out wild. And, Sir, the parting with the other darlings was a sore trouble; but then I knew they'd soon follow us. And when I came here, Patrick, that's my husband, was taken sick, in Vermont, but I worked myself, night and day, and got the bit and the sup for him and the childer. And then I kep' scraping and saving to bring out the others and every shray sixpence I could airn I put away in the old stocking, until I had enough to pay their way out here. I sent them the money, nigh fourteen weeks since, and niver an hour since that I didn't, in my heart, pray to the Blessed Virgin to keep them from har'm. And now, sorra, they're here in this haythensh city, and meself, their own mother, can't find 'em."

A RAT STORY.

The following rat story was related to us by a neighbor, and did it not come from a source which entitles it to the utmost credit, we should feel somewhat dubious about the truth of the matter; but as it is, we believe every word of it:

Many years have gone by upon their wings of light and shadow, but the scenes I have portrayed will come over me at times, with a terrible distinctness. The oak you stand at the base of the precipice, but the limbs are black and dead, and the hollow trunk, looking upwards to the sky, as if calling for drink, is an emblem of rapid and noiseless decay. A year ago I visited the spot, and the spot of my boy's years came mournfully back to me, thoughts of the little innocent being, who fell by my side like some beautiful tree of Spring, rent up by the whirlwind, in the midst of its blossoming. But I remembered—and oh, there was joy in the memory—that she had gone, where no lightning slumbered in the folds of the rainbow clouds, and where the sunlit waters are never broken by the storm-breath of Omnipotence.

GALILEO.

That the eminent astronomer, Galileo, was constrained by the Roman Inquisition of his day to recant and abjure the doctrine, now abundantly demonstrated and universally received, that the sun is the center of our planetary system, and the Earth one among several orbs periodically revolving around the center, has been very widely credited, but not fully admitted. We have repeatedly met assertions that what the Inquisition condemned was not the abstract doctrine of Copernicus and Galileo, but the presumptuous attempts of the latter to base it upon and establish it by texts of Scripture. In Walker's Hibernian Magazine we find a little translation of the sentence actually passed on Galileo by the Inquisitors, together with his abjuration there-in extorted. The Magazine affirms that this sentence had never before appeared in English save in a provincial newspaper a few years before, and that the authenticity and accuracy of the following translation may be relied on.

Whereas, you, Galileo, son of the late Vincent Galileo, of Florence, being seventy years of age, had a charge brought against you in the year 1615, in this holy office, that you held as true and erroneous opinion held by many, namely: That the sun is the center of the world, and immovable, and that the earth moves even with a diurnal motion; also that you had certain scholars into whom you inculcated the same doctrine; also, that you maintained a correspondence on this point with certain mathematicians of Germany; also, that you published certain epistles, treating of the solar spots, in which you explained the same doctrine as true, because you answered to the objections which, from time to time, were brought against you, taken from the holy scriptures, by glossing over the said scripture according to your own sense; and that afterward, when a copy of a writing, in the form of an epistle, written by you to a certain late scholar of yours, was presented to you (it following the hypotheses of Copernicus) you stood up for, and defended, certain propositions in it, which are against the true sense and authority of the holy scriptures.

This holy tribunal, desiring, therefore, to provide against the inconveniences and mischiefs, which have issued hence, and increased, to the danger of our holy faith; agreeable to the mandate of Lord N., and the very eminent doctors, cardinals of the supreme and universal inquisition, two propositions respecting the immobility of the sun and the motion of the earth, were adopted and pronounced, as under:

That the sun is in the center of the world, and immovable in respect of local motion, is an absurd proposition, false in philosophy, formally heretical, seeing it is expressly contrary to holy scripture.

The earth is not the center of the world, nor immovable; but moves even with a diurnal motion is also an absurd proposition, false in philosophy, and, considered theologically, is at least an error in faith.

But, whereas, we thought fit in the interim to proceed gently with you, it was agreed upon in the holy congregation held before D. N., on the 25th day of February, 1616, that the most eminent lord cardinal Bellarmine should enjoin you entirely to recede from the aforesaid false doctrine, and should not teach it to others, nor defend it, nor dispute concerning it; to which command if you would not submit, you should be cast into prison; and in order to put in execution the same decree, on the following day you were gently admonished in the place before aforesaid most eminent lord cardinal Bellarmine, and afterward by the same lord cardinal, and by the commissary of the holy office, a notary and witness being present, entirely to desist from the said erroneous opinion; and that thereafter it should not be permitted for you to defend it, or teach it, in any manner, either by speaking or writing; and, whereas you promised obedience, you were at that time dismissed.

And to the end that such a pernicious doctrine might be entirely extinguished, and spread no farther to the serious detriment of the Catholic faith, a decree was issued by the holy congregation of cardinals, prohibiting the printing of books, which treat of such sort of doctrine, which was thereupon pronounced, false, and altogether contrary to holy divine scriptures. But the said book first cited appeared at Florence, published in the year 1630, and the inscription of which was, as a Dialogue of Galileo Galilei concerning the two systems of the world, the Ptolemaic and the Copernican; and that the said book, which was printed in the city of Florence, was afterwards brought to the city of Rome, and there sold in the shop of the printer, who was named Antonio Zanchetti.

Slavery Extension.

The following is the subject of Slavery in from the Spectator, number of February 1855. It is a paper of great interest, and we are glad to see it in our hands. It is a paper of great interest, and we are glad to see it in our hands. It is a paper of great interest, and we are glad to see it in our hands.

Having invoked the most holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of his most glorious mother, the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, we, by this our definitive sentence, by the advice and judgment of our most reverend masters of holy theology, and the doctors of both laws, our counsellors respecting the cause controverted before us, between the magnificent Charles Sinebrus, doctor of both laws, Fiscal procurator of this holy office, on the one part, and you Galileo Galilei, defendant, questioned, examined, and having confessed, as above, on the second part, we say, judge and declare, by the present professional writing, you the above, said Galileo, on account of those things which have been adducted in written process, and which you have confessed as above, that you have rendered yourself liable to the suspicion of heresy by this office; that is, you believed and maintained a false doctrine, and contrary to the holy and divine scripture, namely, that the sun is the center of the orb of the earth; and that it does not move from the east to the west, and that the earth moves and is not the center of the world; and that this position may be held and defended as a probable opinion, after it had been declared and defined to the contrary to holy scripture; and consequently that you have incurred all the censures and penalties of the holy canons, and other constitutions general and particular, enacted and promulgated against such delinquents, from which it is our pleasure to absolve you, on condition that first, with sincere heart and faith unfeigned, you abjure, execrate and detest the above errors and heresies, and every other error and heresy contrary to the Catholic Apostolic Roman Church, in our presence, in that formula which is hereby exhibited to you.

But that your grievous and pernicious error and transgression may not remain altogether unpunished, and that you may hereafter be more cautious, serving as an example to others, that they may abstain from like offences, we decree that the book of the Dialogue of Galileo be prohibited by public edict, and we condemn yourself to the prison of this holy office, to a time to be limited by our discretion; and we enjoin, under the title of salutary penance, that, during three years to come, you recite, once a week, the seven penitential psalms, reserving to ourselves the power of moderating, changing, or taking away entirely, or in part, the aforesaid penalties and penitencies.

And so we say, pronounce, and by our sentence declare, enact, condemn, and reserve, by this and every other better mode of formula by which of right we can and ought.

ROADSIDE CONFAB.

"And so, Squire, you don't take your county paper?" "No, Major. I get the city papers on much better terms; and so I take a couple of them." "But, Squire, these county papers prove great convenience to us. The more we encourage them the better their editors can make them." "Why I don't know any convenience they are to me." "The farm you sold last fall was advertised in one of them, and you thereby obtained a customer. Did you not?" "Very true, Major, but I paid three dollars for it." "And made much more than three dollars by it. Now, if your neighbors had not maintained that press and kept it ready for use, you would have been without the means of advertising your farm. I saw a notice of your daughter's marriage in one of those papers, did that cost anything?" "No, but—"