

THE
HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF
CURRENT EVENTS,

(FOR THE YEAR 1854,)

BEING
A MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT TO HOUSEHOLD WORDS,

CONDUCTED BY
CHARLES DICKENS.

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them. Being satisfied of their intentions he took them into custody. The prisoners protested their innocence. They lived at St. Alban's, and had only come up for a day or two, to see London sights. They were going back to their farm the next day if they had not been so shamefully suspected by the police. The magistrate appeared inclined to believe their story, considering how strongly it was corroborated by their appearance and country accent. Inspector Chadwick begged to be allowed to give the particulars of a dialogue which passed between the prisoners in the cells of the station house in Vine street, which he had overheard, and had made a memorandum of, thinking it might be of service in determining the true character of the prisoners. The Inspector then detailed the following conversation, the prisoners being in separate cells, giving explanations for the benefit of the court.—Woman: Hallo! old fellow, it's a bad job. Do you think we shall get a drag (three months' imprisonment)?—Man: No.—Woman: P'raps a deuce (two months)?—Man: No, not if you keep dark (say nothing).—Woman: Well, if we get a mooner (one month), I'll make it all right with the screws (picklocks). If we'd a bloke (a solicitor), we should get off. You mind that I cracked to the peeler that we'd been from St. Alban's a week.—Man: You're a fool to crack anything. When you're nicked (taken up), never holler.—The magistrate was of opinion that the familiarity with the swell mob slang indicated a connection with the swell mob gang, and therefore remanded the prisoners, to give time to the detectives to make inquiry.

The *Liability of Societies for Public Objects to Poor-rates* was tried in two cases in the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 31st ult. The parochial authorities of St. Anne's, Westminster, sought to recover a rate from the Linnean Society in respect of the house occupied by the society in Soho Square. As originally rated, the house belonged to Sir Joseph Banks, who devised the remainder of the lease to Mr. Brown, who underlet a part to the society. When the term expired, the society took the whole, underletting a portion to Mr. Brown. The society's housekeeper also occupied two rooms. On the part of the parish, it was contended that the society was not supported by voluntary contributions; and that by Mr. Brown's and the housekeeper's occupation the society had a beneficial interest in the premises. Lord Campbell decided that the society should be exempted, as it is supported by voluntary contributions, and the letting of the rooms to Mr. Brown is not for purposes of profit; but the rooms which he occupies are liable to a rate. The occupation of the housekeeper is necessary for the purpose of carrying on the society, and therefore she is exempted. The second question was, whether the Zoological Society was rateable to the parish of Marylebone in respect of its gardens in Regent's Park. Lord Campbell said, the society deserved the highest commendation, but was not entitled to exemption, because its sole and exclusive object is not the advancement of science, nor was it supported by voluntary contributions within the meaning of the act. His learned brother, Mr. Justice Erle, was a great promoter of science, but when he became a fellow of the society, he probably thought of the advantage which he himself, as well as his family and friends, would gain thereby, and that he made a good bargain by becoming a fellow. Rate affirmed.

A dreadful case of *Murder* by a man apparently insane has come before the Southwark Police Court. Rosina Murray, a widow, let the rooms of her house in Mead's Place, Newington, to many lodgers; among them to an advertising agent, Henry Simmons. She slept in the back and he in the front parlour. Very early on Wednesday morning, the lodgers were roused from sleep by screams; and one of them running out to the staircase, saw Mrs. Murray, in her night dress, trying to crawl up the stairs, and then fall backwards, Simmons standing by with a bloody knife in his hand. Puxtey, the lodger, instantly ran to the nearest surgeon, Mr. Johnson; but he would not come. Puxtey fetched the Police, and one of them brought a surgeon, Mr. Fleming, but it was too late—Mrs. Murray was a corpse. The body was dreadfully hacked with a knife; there was a wound on each thigh, in one case severing a large artery,

which led to death from loss of blood. Simmons did not run away. When Puxtey came down stairs, he said, "The great bear is dead;" and on hearing this mentioned in evidence, he said, "The cat flew at me, and I took a knife and stuck it." When told that Mrs. Murray was dead, he said, "I know better than that; she can change herself into any shape." Mr. A'Beckett remanded Simmons, in order that the evidence of a little girl who slept with Mrs. Murray may be taken, if she be able to give evidence. At the Coroner's inquest, a verdict of wilful murder against Henry Simmons was returned.

A case of *Brutal Assault* by a military officer on his mistress was tried in the Court of Common Pleas on the 31st ult. Ellen Walsh was the plaintiff, and John Hutton Keane the defendant. The declaration contained two counts, one for assault and the other for detaining the plaintiff's clothes. The defendant pleaded not guilty to the first count, and to the second that he had not detained the clothes. Mr. Sergeant Shee said that his client in this case was a beautiful girl, only sixteen years of age, but although so young he was sorry to say that she had led an immoral life, she having been seduced at the early age of fifteen years. When the case was expected to be tried about three weeks ago, she was in court waiting to be examined, but on last Sunday she left her home in an unaccountable manner, and had not been heard of by her friends since, and therefore he should be unable to produce her to give evidence to-day. The defendant, Captain Keane, was a man of fortune, about twenty-five years of age, and he resided at Loughton, in Essex. In August, last year, he met the plaintiff at a place in the neighbourhood of Leicester-square, which was a cigar shop, and he apprehended was a house of ill-fame as well. He stayed there all night, and he induced the plaintiff to go with him to Loughton; but in a few days she returned again to London. The defendant, however, again induced her to live with him, and she remained at his house at Loughton until the 7th February last, when she was taken by a child, who was the daughter of the defendant's gardener, to a cottage in the neighbourhood. She had been beaten in a frightful manner, and was bruised and bleeding in various parts of her body, as the witnesses would more particularly detail. The day afterwards her mother saw the defendant and reproached him with his brutal treatment of her child, which he did not deny, but accused her of being unfaithful to him, and threatening to do for her when he caught her in London. Under these circumstances the present action was brought to recover damages for the assault, and also for some clothes which had been detained from the plaintiff. Mrs. Hutt deposed that she was a laundress at Loughton. On the 7th of February last the plaintiff came to witness about ten o'clock in the morning accompanied by the daughter of defendant's gardener, and witness consented to let plaintiff stop there until her mother came. She was in a very bad condition, and appeared as if she had been dragged about by the hair of her head. There was a wound in her left cheek, her face was bloody, her left ear was quite discoloured, her face was all bruised, there was a mark as if of a whip fall round her neck, and witness thought her left shoulder was bleeding. There was a great bruise on her knee, her teeth seemed to be loose, and she could not take anything while she was with witness. She stayed from ten o'clock in the morning until the evening next day, when her mother came in consequence of having been sent for. The plaintiff's ankles were cut as with a whip, and her night clothes were saturated with blood. Mrs. Welsh and a surgeon deposed to the condition the girl was in after the assault, and the jury almost immediately found a verdict for the plaintiff—damages 100l. for the assault, and 1s. upon the other count.

The well-known case of *Lumley v. Gye* was finally decided on the 5th instant, in the Court of Queen's Bench. The Judges concurred in the opinion that the rule for a new trial should be discharged. The evidence alleged to have been improperly received at the last trial consisted of letters from Mr. Gye and Miss Wagner; but the Judges held that they were necessary to explain the hurried visit of Mr. Gye to Hamburg, and the hasty