

consistent with the mother's evidence that he was happy and jocular. Granting the premises, his conduct was but natural. He was proud of being thus employed by God himself. He expected to return to earth in about three months, recreated, and his wife would accompany him as his helpmeet, both of them endowed with extraordinary powers. Had he committed a murder, and written no letters, the evidence of the under-gardener and of the mother would have left the impression on the minds of a jury that he was a responsible being, and the judge would have laid down the law, with characteristic emphasis, that unless the jury were satisfied that he did not know the nature and quality of the act which he had committed, they must find him guilty.

In regard to the letters themselves, it may be said that, while affording ample proof of insanity in Adams, in England, in the year of grace 1887, they would not have necessarily been so in all other persons, in every country and in every age. A Mahdi might arise to-morrow in the Soudan, who might write a letter to the same effect, and immolate himself for what, to him, would be a great cause, and the carrying out of a Divinely-appointed commission, and yet possess a brain entirely free from any pathological changes. On the other hand, a case like this of Adams is an illustration of what some religious fanatics may really have been in all ages and countries. They are yet far from having disappeared from the face of the earth.

The Houghton Tragedy.

The event described in the following paragraph in the daily papers, is decidedly unusual, and as such seems worthy of being placed on record. It has reference to the death of McCann, the murderer of a miner on New Year's Eve last.

THE HOUGHTON TRAGEDY.—THE DEATH OF McCANN.—On Saturday morning, an inquest was held in the Chief Warder's office in Durham Gaol, before Mr. John Graham, coroner, on the body of John McCann (31), miner, who, as already stated, died in the prison infirmary on the previous day.—Chief Warder Proctor identified the body as that of John McCann, who was admitted to the gaol on the 15th January last, on the charge of the wilful murder of John Dixon, miner, at Houghton-le-Spring on New Year's Eve. He was tried before Mr. Justice Day on the 26th January,

was found guilty, and sentenced to death. Subsequently, he was reprieved, and the death sentence was commuted to one of penal servitude for life. McCann was a native of Lanarkshire. In regard to the circumstances of his death, the first symptoms of mania exhibited themselves about ten days previously. At first he was quiet, but more acute symptoms quickly developed themselves, and on the Saturday previous he was placed in the infirmary, where every attention was paid to him by Dr. Treadwell, the prison surgeon. He gradually got worse and refused food. On the Wednesday he was so violent that he broke a large square of glass, and he had to be put into a "straight" waistcoat, and liquid food was pumped into him. He never recovered, and died at a quarter past nine on Friday morning from acute mania.—Dr. Treadwell corroborated the chief warder's evidence and said the mania was of a religious kind. He made a post-mortem examination of his head that morning, but found nothing unusual, and that there were no indications that McCann had been an intemperate man.—Mr. Robertson (a juryman) said the evidence at the trial of McCann bore out that statement.—After some further conversation, the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

PART II.—REVIEWS.

The Life and Work of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.
By EDWIN HODDER. Three Vols. Cassell and Company,
London, Paris, New York, and Melbourne. 1887.

It is a striking proof of the many-sidedness of Lord Shaftesbury's labours, that while the work he performed in relation to the insane presents itself to those interested in their care and treatment as the great work of his life, it is found to constitute but a fraction after all of the multitudinous services he rendered to humanity. One of his peers paid a tribute in the "Times" after his death to his memory, but omitted any reference to his action in regard to lunacy legislation. This circumstance we mention merely to emphasize the truth we have above stated, and which accords with the fact that a very large proportion of the contents of the biography before us is devoted to other paths of service in the interests of mankind than that which led him to pursue a course of beneficent action justly endearing his name