MURDER OF A PROTESTANT CLERGYMAN!

The Rev. Charles Dawson, of Kilcarry Cottage, Carlow, son of the late Charles Dawson, of Charlesford, County Wexford, Esq., was waylaid last Monday morning by walking on the farm at Balbriggan, in this County, by a band of armed men. He fired at him in the open field, and brutally killed him, with a few!!!

The residence of his brothers, Blyth, in Montford Westrop, where he had been on a visit for a week or ten days, Esq., the Rev. and Gentleman, a few minutes before the atrocity and outrage, was attended by John Lynch, a publican, in that part of the county, and explaining to him some improvements he contemplated on the property which but lately came into his possession, and on which he proposed to fix his residence, when two country fellows with fire-arms approached. The leader, partly disguised in woman's apparel, reduced his gun at Lynch's command, and was on his way home. The murderers, however, pounced upon their prostrate victim, but not satisfied with the bleeding and apparently lifeless body before them, they next fractured his skull in a shocking manner with stones and the butts of their guns, the hind part of the head being completely sunk in!!!

The remains of the Rev. Charles Dawson were removed soon after this to Meath house, where an inquest was held next day before the coroner and magistrates of the district. Lynch, who saw the commencing of the attack, is in custody. One of the shots appeared to have been fired from a gun loaded with flints, which had only the effect of grazing the back in a few places, and tearing the clothes between the shoulders. The other shot was more effective. It must have been fired with the muzzle of the piece near the shoulder of the deceased, as the shirt and waistcoat, etc., were actually burnt by the discharge, while the two bullets, with which the piece was loaded, entered together between the neck and left shoulder, behind the spine in passing, and came out in two separate places on right side of the neck.

The unhappy victim of this monstrous outrage upon human life, of which the Irish peasants are, to their shame be it spoken, characteristically reckless, has left an amiable wife, and interesting daughter, a widow and an orphan, to lament an affectionate husband, and parent, snatched from them by circumstances of atrocity which it is harrowing to reflect on. He was a clergyman, and almost pointing a stranger in the barony of Kerry, a gentleman of elegant manners, and truly benevolent and mild, whose anxious desire it had been to improve the condition of the occupiers of the soil, without recourse to the exercise of any harsh extremities. He had no interest in tythes, which might have created irritation. Yet some persons on the property would not listen to any proposition but what accorded with their own views for its management, and hence must have arisen the nefarious plot which hurried the Rev. Charles Dawson into eternity. In appearance he was a fine, clever, handsome man, and we believe his other qualifications were equally possessing.

We hope to announce before long, the arrest of the perpetrators of this horrid murder. A bill of the name of Leddin was shot on the same lands two or three years ago.

Summer Assizes are expected to commence rather early this year. Munster Circuit the middle of next month.

Saturday night last four sheep belonging to Darby O'Grady, of Linfield, Esq., in this County, were stabbed to death on the lands of Clohogue, by some malicious wretches. A complaint has been made to the Queen's Bench, whereby an indictment has been returned against the offenders.