

PEOPLE OF THE DAY. No. 1.

MRS. STARR, LATE MOTHER SUPERIOR OF THE CONVENT OF OUR
LADY OF MERCY AT HULL.

THE following is extracted from the evidence given by Mrs. Starr in the Court of Queen's Bench, in the case of Saurin v. Starr and another :—

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“The veil I have on I have worn ten years.”

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“In November, 1850, Miss Saurin entered the convent in Baggot Street. I became acquainted with Miss Saurin at Baggot Street.”

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“From time to time I had reports or statements from Mrs. M'Owen respecting Miss Saurin's conduct. They have been destroyed since this action was commenced.”

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“I don't remember.”

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“I can't remember.”

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“I don't know.”

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“I had spoken to her as to the tone of her letters to her relatives—that they were too tender and affectionate. ‘My ever dearest uncle’ would, I should say, be deemed excessive in affection.”

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“As to kissing the floor, we all do it; I have often done it.”

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“The priest then told me that the week the bishop was holding the visitation of the convent he called upon Father Rigby of Pontefract. In course of conversation Father Rigby said, ‘Do you know the nuns in Hull? what kind are they?’ Mr. Cullimore, from Clifford, was here the other day, and told me the bishop intended to hold a visitation of the convent in Hull, and remarked, ‘Indeed, it is not before it is wanting, as they are a queer lot.’ I immediately understood how the affair was but could not explain it to the priest.”

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“I had perceived a great forwardness in Sister Mary Scholastica's (Miss Saurin's) conduct with regard to one of the priests at Hull, which made me uneasy. I observed that she put herself constantly and needlessly in his way, sought to attract his notice by various little acts, talked to him frequently, though as frequently forbidden to do so, was in a state of excitement which was quite remarkable whenever he was in or about the convent, and, although I could not say positively that there was anything wrong beyond disobedience, yet an indefinable feeling pervaded my mind that all was not right on her side. I believed the priest was completely deceived in her real character and saw nothing more than friendly amiability and good-natured kindness in her attentions to him. He thought highly of her, and spoke of her to many sisters as the saint of the community. I felt very uncomfortable.”